Spirit of Manchester awards open for nominations!

We had another fantastic awards evening last year highlighting and rewarding all the brilliant work in Manchester’s voluntary and community sector. This year’s Spirit of Manchester Awards are now open for your nominations so make sure you don’t miss the chance to show the great work you are doing and gain recognition.

It is easy to apply just write up to 200 words on our online form as to why your volunteer or organisation meet the categories criteria and should be shortlisted.

For the criteria and guidelines and a link to the application form go to: [http://bit.ly/1AasPvQ](http://bit.ly/1AasPvQ)

**The deadline for nominations is:**

**Friday 3 July 2015**

All shortlisted applicants will have a short two minute film made about their work which will be shown on the evening of the awards and voted on to determine the category winner. They can also then use these films for future promotion.

If you have any questions about your application please contact Hannah, on 0161 834 9823, or email: [hannah@macc.org.uk](mailto:hannah@macc.org.uk). Good luck!
Updates from us

8 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MACC’S WORK IN 2014

#1. In 2014 Macc provided 1203 hands on support to 1203 groups
#2. In 2014 Macc helped groups bring in £1,895,196 of additional funding
#3. In 2014 Macc helped 3183 Manchester residents get involved in volunteering
#4. 263 people took part in our Voluntary Sector Assembly events
#5. In 2014 Macc promoted 4763 volunteering opportunities
#6. In 2014 Macc delivered 54 training sessions to 595 people in Manchester
#7. 3795 people subscribe to our weekly ebulletin and we have 6494 twitter followers
#8. In 2014 Macc spent over 800 hours representing the local voluntary sector at meetings, events and conferences

Sign up to become a member of Macc

Membership of Macc is free!

Members can take advantage of discounts on hiring our meeting rooms. We have excellent rooms available in different sizes to suit your needs at affordable rates.

Members also receive discounts on attending our training and we have lots of exciting courses coming up.

Members are also signed up to receive our weekly ebulletin which is packed full of news, events, training and job opportunities to keep you up to date with what’s happening in Manchester’s voluntary sector.

Registering is easy, complete our online membership form at: www.macc.org.uk/becomeamember
Chief Executive’s update

In our sector, it’s that time of year when we go through all the changes which come every March - reductions from last year’s budgets, new projects starting, lots of staffing changes.

Naturally, we pay a lot of attention to the resilience and sustainability of our organisations and activities - from the smallest community group to the largest regional and national charities there’s always a drive to keep going, keep running, not to let down the people we’re here to support. For a lot of local groups that’s been getting tougher and tougher in recent years.

Just as people have dipped into their financial reserves to keep activities and services going, so many of the people involved are using up their physical reserves: I see lots of people who are working harder and harder to keep the show on the road and fend off the effects of cuts.

We have seen paid staff in local groups cutting back on hours and salaries as they try to meet pressure from funders to cope with savings. This is hollowing out our organisations: leaving no capacity to spend time on developing new projects, pursuing new funding opportunities and exploring partnerships.

I wonder how much longer this can go on and how much more we can take. We’re trying to make funders and commissioners aware that this is a long-term issue for the sector as cuts continue to bite. It’s essential that in supporting other people, we look after all our workers - paid and voluntary.

Mike Wild, Chief Executive, Macc

Printed newsletter ends – the future is electronic

As you’ll be aware, Macc is having to make savings in our organisation due to reductions in our funding. The printing and postage of the newsletter currently costs us around £2,300 per year, even with a very limited print run. With the costs of printing and postage rising and our income reducing, we simply can’t afford to continue this. This is therefore the last printed edition of the newsletter.

But the newsletter itself will continue! We’re still producing a newsletter every quarter but from now on it will be sent out by email. Actually, most people prefer to receive our newsletter electronically. You will also be able to download a copy of our newsletter on our website: http://bit.ly/qnewsarchive

We regret having to make this change. We know that not everyone is able to receive newsletters electronically. We have protected the printed version for as long as we can but reductions in our funding mean we cannot continue.

Everyone on our postal mailing list which we have an email address for will be transferred to our enewsletter distribution list, but to make sure you still continue to receive our newsletter you can email us at: info@mcrcommunitycentral.org
Volunteer Centre Manchester VERA database training

Do you advertise opportunities with us? We can now train you on our new VERA system which you can use to manage volunteer opportunities as well as applications. Our staff will be happy to attend a location which is best for you and provide informal training, as well as demonstrating the significant enhancements VERA has over other competing systems.

A few benefits VERA can offer are:
- Fast, free and easy recruitment
- Instant application notifications
- Proactive marketing of opportunities / training
- Collection of feedback on your organisation
- Collection and monitoring of data for funders
- Volunteer reward and recognition scheme

If you would like to take advantage of this offer please visit: [http://bit.ly/1HmtUCF](http://bit.ly/1HmtUCF) and we will be in touch to arrange a meeting.

Volunteers’ Week 2015 - Get involved now!

Thank you to everyone who got involved in celebrating the 30th anniversary of Volunteers’ Week in 2014, it was fantastic to see so many of you recognising the outstanding contribution volunteers make to Manchester. Without your involvement the week would not have been a success. In 2015 Volunteers’ Week will again take place from the 1-7 June and we want to make it even more special for volunteers in Manchester. [http://volunteersweek.org/](http://volunteersweek.org/)

To increase your profile during this time, there will be a week full of roadshows, hopefully replicating the success of the events in early 2015. These would culminate in a Reward and Recognition event for Manchester volunteers whose tireless effort throughout the year helps us all.

At this stage we would like to gauge interest in who would like to be involved in the roadshows and an event to celebrate volunteers’ contribution. Please visit: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Y5V878H](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Y5V878H) and answer a few simple questions about your involvement. Once we have an idea of numbers, we will be in contact with more information.

If you attended one of our roadshows in January/February we would be grateful if you could give us some feedback at: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VCMRSHOW14](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VCMRSHOW14)

Don’t forget you can follow us on twitter @VolunteeringMcr and use the hashtag #volunteersweekmanchester for Volunteers’ Week related information.
Have you got an activity for student volunteers?

**Singaporean Nurses Summer School**
Every year The University of Manchester welcomes over 90 nursing students from Singapore who engage in volunteering activities as part of their studies. Small groups of students participate in two one-off volunteering activities: an outdoor environmental project and a cultural activity session. The volunteers share their own culture with residents of Manchester and have the chance to explore Manchester and learn about UK culture.

For environmental projects, the students are available on: 26 June, 30 June, 9 July, and 13 July. For activity sessions, the students are available on: 2 July, 8 July, 17 July, and 21 July.

If you have an environmental project that could benefit from 20+ extra pairs of hands, or an activity group that would like to participate in a cultural session delivered by a small group of Singaporean students, email Cath: catherine.foster@manchester.ac.uk

**Challenge Days**
As well as the Singaporean summer school, The University of Manchester run over 150 Challenge Days with students during the academic year. Typical Challenge Days are jobs where not much specialist knowledge is needed, just lots of pairs of hands. For example it could be painting a community centre or a mural, planting trees, clearing undergrowth, gardening, shaking buckets as a fundraiser or stewarding an event.

The University of Manchester can provide transport for the volunteers, a member of staff to supervise the volunteers on the day and even some gardening and painting tools.

The University are booking in Challenge Days for the new academic year starting in September, for further information and to get involved, contact 0161 275 2851, or email: volunteers@manchester.ac.uk

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**Volunteers needed for Home Start Manchester**
Do you have parenting experience and have two to three hours spare each week? Why not visit a family with children under five who may need support because they feel isolated, have low self-esteem, and need help to build confidence with parenting or need an extra pair of hands to get out and about.

To get involved contact Julie at Home-Start Manchester South, on 0161 945 6832, or email: admin@homestartsouthmcr.org.uk
Voluntary and community groups approach Macc for various types of support but it won’t be a surprise to hear that the most common support requests relate to finding and applying for funding.

And it’s a fact that when applying for funding, most funders expect charities to demonstrate good governance through accountable and transparent decision making and record keeping.

Successful contract holders also have to demonstrate good governance. Charities are governed by the Charities Act and regulated by the Charity Commission and both of these demand that trustees ensure good governance through complying with the three duties of a Trustee: Duty of Care, Duty of Compliance and Duty of Prudence.

So why is governance often the last priority on the list for charities or even missed off altogether?

Time and other pressures are a frequent factor. In the current climate, many organisations are fire fighting to keep going in the face of funding cuts and simply don’t have the time to stop and assess the strength and effectiveness of their Board of Trustees/Directors/committee. Often people joining committees simply aren’t aware that the organisation is in fact a charity, making them a trustee of that charity. They are not aware of their responsibilities and the risks involved.

The question is: can you recognise a charity? Is your organisation a charity?

Ask this question and one of the main responses is usually that a charity ‘has to have a charity number’.

This is true of registered charities but this doesn’t make the organisation a charity, it’s about an income threshold.

- Do you know what your objects are?
- When did you last read or even see your governing document?
- Are all of your objects charitable?
- Does your organisation pass the public benefit test?
- Do you know what can happen if you don’t manage your charities finances adequately or in furtherance of your charitable objects?
- When did you last update your knowledge on being a trustee?

Good governance is key to protecting charities, the work they do and the trustees who run them.
If you are unsure of the answers to the questions then it’s advisable to read the Charity Commission’s guidance on What Makes a Charity: http://bit.ly/1GhRqBh

If you think you may be a trustee of a charity or you know you are, but want to know more about your role and responsibilities, then read the Charity Commission publications: The Essential Trustee - http://bit.ly/1G6r56A and What’s Involved - http://bit.ly/1QiDCMy

For further help, contact the Capacity Building Team on 0333 321 3021, check out our factsheets and look out for Macc’s upcoming training ‘Trustee Roles and Responsibilities’.

If as a Board of Trustees you are confident in your governance, then perhaps you could use the Governance Checklist (a self-appraisal for Boards) and revisit it annually to ensure you continue to strengthen and maintain your effective Board and charity. Email the Capacity Building Team to request a copy: info@mcrcommunitycentral.org

European Programme 2014-20 briefing

We have produced a briefing on the European Programme 2014-20 - Opportunities for the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to deliver the Greater Manchester European Structural Investment Funding (ESIF) plan.

This briefing provides a summary of information available to date on the European Programme, it includes what the routes in to funding are for voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations, the main investment funding areas (lots) of most relevance to our sector and an indicative timetable, how to register interest in specific lots, what organisations need to do now to prepare and links to more information.

Read our briefing here: http://bit.ly/1DdTetE
Workshops happening in May and June

Manchester Community Central Funding Portal
Thursday 14 May 2015, 10am-12.30pm

CIEH L2 Emergency First Aid at Work (1 day)
Tuesday 26 May 2015, 9am-4.30pm

Trustee Roles and Responsibilities
Tuesday 16 June 2015, 6pm-8pm

Trustee Recruitment
Tuesday 23 June 2015, 10am-12pm

Automatic Workplace Pension Enrolment
Wednesday 24 June 2015, 10am-12pm

Social Media Surgery
Friday 26 June 2015, 12.30pm-2pm

Introduction to co-production
Tuesday 30 June 2015, 10am-2pm

Upcoming courses (dates to be confirmed)
• Social Media for Beginners
• Understanding health and social care integration in Manchester

For further information and to book a place, visit: http://bit.ly/1jVhL0x

Learning Zone
E-learning modules developed specifically for the voluntary community sector covering Volunteer induction; Trustee training; Staying safe; Raising your profile; and You’re in charge.

Licences cost £18 plus VAT per person - if you are interested please visit: http://bit.ly/1pt4cCJ, or contact 0333 321 3021 or email: training@mcrcommunitycentral.org

In-house training
We can tailor and deliver training sessions specifically for your organisation. In-house training can often be more cost-effective to voluntary organisations as it allows larger numbers of staff / volunteers within your organisation to be trained at the same time and is arranged at a date and time convenient to you.

If you are interested in discussing how you could benefit from an in-house training session please contact us.

Contact us
Tell us what training you are looking for, register your interest in a workshop or comment on a really good training programme that you have attended - we would like to hear from you call us on 0333 321 3021, or email: training@mcrcommunitycentral.org
Policy and Influence news

Policy and Influence at Macc - Informing, engaging, and connecting Manchester’s voluntary and community sector to encourage creativity and bring about positive change

Mike Wild, Chief Executive

Council Budget Consultation
Obviously this has been the main work in recent months. I think it’s important to remember that from a Councillor perspective, this is seen as the most open budget consultation they’ve ever done. A lot of groups feel there was a great deal of room for improvement – so we should use this opportunity to take the conversation further. We have to continue to challenge the perception that the voluntary and community sector is simply a contracted provider of services rather than a local partner which plays a massive role in communities all across the city. That’s the focus of the Voluntary Sector Assembly’s work over the coming months.

Change for Good
During 2014 an independent national commission was established by NAVCA to look at the future of support for the voluntary sector at a local level. I’m pleased to say Macc was cited in the report as an example of innovative practice for our work on Civil Economy looking at how the voluntary and community sector is part of shaping local places. You can see the full report at: www.navca.org.uk, (great to see our neighbours at Salford CVS praised as well for their work on equalities).

Work and Health
As a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board, I’ve been involved in a group looking at how employment relates to health. I’ve been highlighting the fact that employment quality is important and often over looked. It’s surely obvious that those good outcomes depend on having a job which provides a reliable and sufficient income and that employers understand issues such as mental health. It’s my hope that local public and voluntary sector employers can work together to show some leadership on this.

For further information, contact 0161 834 9823, or email: mike@macc.org.uk
**Beth Plant, Policy and Influence Manager**

**Housing Association round table**
Members of Macc and local housing associations came together to look at how we could collaborate more closely around health and wellbeing issues, this is the start of a programme of work to develop a strong working relationship with housing associations to improve outcomes for Manchester residents.

**Early Help**
I have been working with Manchester City Council and voluntary sector groups to hold a series of summits to improve the way that partners can work together to provide the best support for children and families early on so that less children end up going into care.

**Chinese Government delegation visits Manchester to learn about the voluntary sector**
Macc, Wai Yin and Women's Aid had a really interesting meeting with Chinese officials, explaining how the voluntary sector works in the city and how local groups support women with families. This was followed by a really interesting discussion about the differences and similarities between Chinese and English approaches.

For further information, contact 0161 834 9823, or email: beth@macc.org.uk

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**Nigel Rose, Strategic Lead Commissioning**

**One-team**
One-team is Manchester’s approach to integration health and social care in 12 patches across Manchester. I worked with the development team to produce the community outcomes and then presented them at the One-team launch event.

**European Structural and Investment Funds**
I am working with GMCVO and others across Greater Manchester to influence how the programmes work with the voluntary sector in the region. I successfully influenced the procurement writers to incorporate social value into the specifications for European funding.

**Carers’ Commissioning**
I am working with Manchester City Council to facilitate a co-design process between themselves, the voluntary sector and other public bodies on the re-commissioning of carers services.

For further information contact 0161 834 9823, or email: nigel@macc.org.uk
John Butler, Mental Health Development Worker

**Work Capability Assessment campaign**
I am co-facilitating the campaign which brings service users, carers, welfare rights groups, community and faith groups to challenge the assessment, share campaigning ideas and highlight the impact it is having on local people. On 24 March we had a public meeting to launch our new campaign ‘it could be you’ to build solidarity in Manchester.

**Mental Health Liaison Group**
This is a new cross sector project which brings together people who use mental health services, commissioners and service providers to talk about developments in Manchester’s mental health services.

**North Manchester Single Regeneration Framework Board**
The Board, which is led by Manchester City Council, brings together a range of public and voluntary sector agencies to co-ordinate activities in North Manchester. At the moment it’s looking at how to integrate Manchester City Council teams and how they can work more effectively with communities on the ground. I attend to contribute a voluntary sector perspective.

For further information contact 0161 834 9823, or email: john@macc.org.uk

Mary Duncan, Health and Wellbeing Worker

**Voluntary Sector Safeguarding workshop**
I co-facilitated the event with the Director of Adult Services at Manchester City Council. The aim of the event was to identify ways we can develop a stronger strategic partnership between voluntary and public sectors. One of the outcomes of the meeting was that Macc would develop a Voluntary Sector Adult Safeguarding Leaders Group – if you would like to be involved please contact Mary on 0161 834 9823, or email: mary@macc.org.uk

**Co-production - a smokescreen for the withdrawal of public sector responsibility for quality services or the beginnings of radical change between service providers and service users?**
I have been working with statutory partners on the Living Longer Living Better Co-production Group. The aim is to develop an approach that will devolve power and share responsibility and enable users of services to be active agents in delivering change rather than passive beneficiaries of public services. We have been developing a framework for professionals and service users to work in a co-productive way.

For further information contact 0161 834 9823, or email: mary@macc.org.uk
Local news and events

Challenge Manchester to raise £400,000 for four charities

Challenge Manchester is hosting their first ever event in Manchester, bringing together business communities in the North West to take part in four challenges in the city centre to help raise £400,000 for four Manchester charities.

Manchester businesses can enter a team of 10 employees or company clientele to represent them in the first ever City of Manchester Challenge.

Organisers Anna Moss and Kelly Bentley are looking for 80 teams to take part in the challenges in order to raise £400,000 for the Manchester charities: Mustard Tree, Duchenne Now, Dogs Trust and Challenge Cancer UK. All proceeds will be equally distributed between the charities.

The four challenges to participate in include:

• A Crystal Challenge on Thursday 10 September based on the popular Crystal Maze television show
• An Abseiling Challenge on Thursday 17 September and Friday 18 September involving a high rise abseil
• A ‘Get Me Out of Here’ Challenge on Thursday 3 September and Friday 4 September based on the reality TV show
• A Peak District Challenge on Thursday 10 September and Friday 11 September that takes place between the White and Dark Peaks

For more information and to register, visit: http://challengemanchester.org/

Teams of young people available to volunteer in September

National Citizen Service (NCS) is a government-backed programme that helps young people build skills for work, life and the transition to adulthood. It is an intense programme for 16 and 17 year olds and comprises of physical and team challenges and community based social action projects.

NCS are looking for organisations or charities that would be interested in hosting 13 young people (and trained mentors) to work on a project in September that would benefit your group.

The project should be achievable with about five hours work from the team. If you have a larger scale project in mind, there are multiple teams available on several dates.

For more information and to express an interest, email: emma.leyland@the-challenge.org
**Charity Collection for Francis House Children’s Hospice**

Francis House Children’s Hospice have a charity collection at the Etihad Stadium before the match between Manchester City FC and Southampton on Sunday 24 May. Francis House Children’s Hospice will be collecting from 12pm-3pm when the match kicks off.

If you would like more information or to take part in this collection, contact Chris Swinton, on 0161 443 2200, or email: chris.swinton@francishouse.org.uk

**The British Red Cross International Family Tracing service**

The British Red Cross International Family Tracing (IFT) service helps those separated from their family members through armed conflict, disasters and migration to re-establish contact.

Predominantly their service users are asylum seekers and refugees but the service also works with those seeking information about family members whom they were separated from through World War Two.

If you know of anyone who might need the service, contact Wei Lynn or Victoria, on 0161 888 8908/9 or email: GMIFT@redcross.org.uk

**Read On. Get On.**

Read On. Get On. is a national campaign to get every child in the UK reading well by the age of 11.

Everyone can do something - just ten minutes reading a day with a child makes a huge difference and helps them fall in love with reading. It will take everyone, parents, grandparents, business, volunteers, teachers, celebrities and politicians, to crack this problem once and for all.

Get out with your children, your nieces and nephews or grandchildren and upload your best pics. Use Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to carry on the conversation, using hashtag: #ReadOnGetOn. For more information, visit: www.savethechildren.org.uk/born-to-read

**Hard Rock Café over 50s monthly coffee morning**

Hard Rock Café invite over 50s to their monthly coffee morning on the first Thursday of every month, 10am at the Hard Rock Café, Printworks' Manchester. Free refreshments will be provided and you can make new friends in a friendly atmosphere.

For more information, contact Sue Nzilani, on 0161 833 3944, or email: sue.nzilani@ageukmanchester.org.uk
ME1 Positive Personal Development Ltd supports vulnerable and disadvantaged young people from different backgrounds aged 11-25 years old. They do this through innovative and age relevant engagement programmes to empower individuals and help them in their transition from adolescence to adulthood.

The Director Lisa Samuels founded the organisation and was inspired by her own journey having grown up in disadvantaged, gang affected parts of Manchester. She said: “I can relate to why some young people lose sight of building a positive future. We were not all fortunate enough to have positive role models”.

Through the projects they deliver their aim to encourage others to set and achieve goals. Lisa has accessed support from Macc via the Volunteer Centre to help recruit volunteers needed to support delivery of their projects and also various training programmes.

They have recently been successful in securing grant funding with help from the Capacity Building Team. The funding is to deliver free budgeting and money management skills training to 16-24 year olds to help empower them with practical financial skills needed in everyday life.

Lisa Samuel said: “We are very grateful, appreciative and happy! We could not have done it without Macc support, many thanks from me and the Me1 Team.”
We are frequently approached for support and guidance on trusteeship.

On a wintry Tuesday evening in late January we delivered a combined two hour training session tailored specifically to Trustees focusing on two areas: **Trustee Roles and Responsibilities** which looked at ensuring trustees understand the role and responsibilities associated with being a trustee particularly around governance for the organisation and as employers for staff and volunteers.

**Recruiting Trustees** focused on steps involved when looking at recruitment to your board, looking at a skills audit toolkit, writing and advertising the role and ensuring diversity and inclusion in your recruitment.

A number of interesting discussions took place with plenty of examples and stories shared with one another which certainly put participants mind at ease knowing that they are not on their own.

Feedback comments include:

“Good to meet people in the same boat”
“Interesting discussion on liability”
“Roles and responsibilities was excellent – only been a trustee for over a year so was very helpful”
“More time needed for discussion”

Working with this feedback we have decided to split the session in to two workshops to ensure that adequate time is given to each of these areas and allow questions and discussions to take place.

We have also begun to deliver these sessions in-house to boards of trustees which often works better as the date can be arranged to meet availability of the whole board, allowing the learning to be focused directly on your organisation and for current issues to be addressed.

Comments from a recent in-house course include:

“The attendees thoroughly enjoyed themselves and feel refreshed for the continued challenges ahead. Working with Macc has been really productive”
“Presented clearly and concisely nice calm manner and was able to take in and retain”
“[I] didn’t know how relevant and useful it would be beforehand”

If you are interested in attending the trustee sessions visit: [http://bit.ly/1jVhL0x](http://bit.ly/1jVhL0x)

If you would like more information on the costs for us to run a tailored session directly to your board of trustees please contact Cheryl McAlister, on 0333 321 3021, or email: [training@mcrcommunitycentral.org](mailto:training@mcrcommunitycentral.org)

**Trustee manual**

In addition to the training we have developed a trustee manual which we are currently piloting with local groups. The manual is intended to be a resource for trustee boards which can be tailored to meet the needs of your charity and used to support newly recruited trustees.

If you would be interested in joining the pilot group for the manual please email Sarah Whitelegg at: [sarah@macc.org.uk](mailto:sarah@macc.org.uk)
Do you want your news / event included in our newsletter? Let us know by emailing: info@mcrcommunitycentral.org

Do you want your own copy of this newsletter?
If you’re reading this in a library or at another organisation and you would like to receive your own copy of the newsletter then email us at: info@mcrcommunitycentral.org