Chief Executive’s Update

By the time you read this, the City Council’s consultation will have closed and Councillors will be preparing for their final meeting to set the budget for 2015/16. We all know there are no pain-free options. With the levels of poverty, the need for care and support and tackling deep-rooted inequality we have in Manchester, you simply cannot take £50million out of the budget without people losing out. I’ve said it before but I still can’t see how anyone can describe as ‘fair’ a situation in which Manchester loses a much greater chunk of its Central Government funding than more affluent areas. However, that’s not a policy we can influence right now: our focus has been on how the local spending reductions can and should be achieved. The statement from the Voluntary Sector Assembly is included in this newsletter.

During the consultation, I think the sector has, perhaps ironically, had a louder and stronger voice than we’ve had for many years. We’ve not agreed with all the responses from Councillors but at least there has been real conversation. It’s been great to see groups standing up to talk about what they do, the people they work with and the impact budget cuts will have in local communities. This newsletter captures some of those case studies and shows what local voluntary action contributes to the city and what will be lost if it is not properly understood by those who set priorities and make decisions.

No matter what government we have after the General Election, it’s likely that none of the cuts made so far will be reversed. The best I think we can hope for is that the ‘pie’ doesn’t get any smaller. So once the Council has set their 2015/16 budget, we need to move the conversation forward: with the Council, NHS, Police, funders like Big Lottery, the private sector and the general public. We need to talk about how the role of the voluntary and community action in this city is changing and where that sits as part of tackling poverty and inequality, protecting the environment and making sure that the benefits of Manchester’s economic success are shared by everyone.

Lastly, on behalf of my colleagues I want to thank everyone who has voiced their support for Macc during this period as our own funding position is affected. We’ve spent the last few years transforming Macc into the kind of support organisation we believe local groups and volunteers need – but it is for you to say how well we’re doing and whether that should still be a priority alongside so many other pressures.

Mike Wild, Chief Executive, Macc
Statement on the City Council Budget Cuts from the Voluntary and Community Sector

This statement was agreed at an Emergency Voluntary Sector Assembly held on 11 December 2014.

We, the voluntary and community sector of Manchester, are proud of our long history in the city. We will continue to campaign for equality and justice, to advocate the needs of the poorest and most disadvantaged and to support those that are discriminated against to advocate for themselves. We will continue to provide advice, support and assistance to the many geographical communities and communities of interest and identity that make up the increasingly diverse city of Manchester. We will continue to be creative and innovative and find new ways of responding to need and in helping people in Manchester to thrive and prosper.

We greatly value the support that Manchester City Council gives to us through grants and contracts. It is a hugely important part of our funding. However, year after year of cuts and the steady depletion of reserves has left many organisations in a critical state. Some of our key voluntary and community sector organisations are at breaking point.

We oppose the cuts and share the anger of Councillors at the unfair and disproportionate cuts to public budgets that Manchester faces. We offer our support in challenging Central Government.

We believe that cuts to voluntary and community sector groups are a false economy that will cost the city and the people far more than they save. We bring in from external sources at a minimum twice as much funding as we receive from the Council. We play the key role in maximising the income of the poorest. We work with many of the people with the most complex needs in the city. We play a huge role in prevention, saving costs to more expensive statutory services.

We acknowledge that Manchester has had considerable economic success, but the benefits have not been shared with the poorest and most disadvantaged. We are one of the most unequal cities in the country with chronically high levels of deprivation. We need to invest more in our communities and in the people who live in the city and regain a vision of Manchester as the compassionate city.

We ask you to:

- Prioritise funding the voluntary and community sector because of the huge extra value we bring to the city and look again at other options
- Use the £11m windfall that Manchester City Council has received from Manchester Airports Group to maintain funding of the voluntary and community sector
- To demonstrate civic leadership through reducing the pay differential within the Council by reducing the salaries of the most highly paid officers
- Convene a meeting between councillors, other key stakeholders and the voluntary and community sector to discuss the statement
This statement has been prepared by many of the voluntary, community and faith sector organisations who currently receive grant funding for equality projects from Manchester City Council.

Manchester has a proud history as a flourishing, vibrant and diverse city. The Manchester City Council Equalities Fund is a key mechanism to translate Manchester’s commitment to equality into real action. In 2013-16, this has enabled 21 diverse, community based organisations to develop, extend and maintain vital front line services to Manchester residents.

Grant funding is an essential vehicle by which Manchester City Council can enable local, grassroots organisations to benefit from an accessible funding process which is a good value approach to funding services. Grant making reaches organisations which are closest to the communities who are less likely to access statutory services and who experience multiple disadvantage and discrimination.

Recurring grant programmes are an essential tool in ensuring we respond effectively to changing demographics and need across the city. The Equalities Fund enables innovation and promotes creative approaches to best meet need. For every £1 brought into the sector via statutory funding, such voluntary sector organisations create £9 of economic value. In addition, the equalities-funded organisations create significant social value, creating benefits across wellbeing, health, inclusion, poverty, education. This produces long term impact and turns City Council investment into long-term outcomes for Manchester residents.

Whilst we recognise that equality should be embedded across all funding streams, we believe that it is essential to recognise that without specific funding which targets the most marginalised and vulnerable communities, their needs will not be effectively met and their voices remain unheard.

The Equalities Fund enables those organisations which already reach marginalised communities to further target their services to reach unheard or hidden and vulnerable people in the city and to extend and deepen the impact of their current work. The work enables individuals to become more resilient, build skills and access appropriate services.

This fund enables organisations to do vital research which extends our knowledge base and supports the local authority and statutory services to more effectively meet the needs of all Manchester residents.
Volunteer Co-ordinators Forum

Our next Volunteer Co-ordinators Forum will be on Wednesday 25 March, 10am-12noon at Macc, 3rd Floor, Swan Buildings, 20 Swan Street, Manchester, M4 5JW. Come along for a chat!

To book visit: http://bit.ly/1uvaBQu

Radio training for over 60's

In early 2015, ALLFM is running a radio training project for people over 60. The project will train older people in radio production and broadcasting and leading a live show.

The training will culminate in a live one hour broadcast on ALL FM 96.9 and it’s free. A show for older people by older people.

Additionally ALLFM will offer everyone the opportunity to become volunteers with them with the aim of them hosting a regular show aimed at older people in the community.

Interested? Contact Ed Connole on 0161 248 6888, or email: ed@allfm.org

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) is currently recruiting Apprentice Operational Support Officers and Administration Support Apprentices across Greater Manchester

GMP would like to attract a wide range of young people from different backgrounds reflecting its communities.

The apprentices will provide a range of services to internal and external customers, GMP colleagues and other parties. Key features of the role include administrative support, excellent communication skills and significant use of IT.

These are demanding roles, which require working to high standards under pressure, whilst treating people with respect and compassion. Honesty and integrity are also essential to the role.

For more information contact Damar Training on 0161 480 8171.

Have you volunteered for a sporting event? Would you like to help with some research?

If so respondents are required for a research study to ‘Analyse and evaluate the motivation and satisfaction to volunteer for a sporting event’.

The research is for a university dissertation for Manchester Metropolitan University, and it would be much appreciated if you could complete the questionnaire to assist in this valuable piece of research.

Visit: http://svy.mk/1wxOHf9 to take part.
Volunteering news

**Morning, afternoon or night!**

Keep in touch with voluntary activity in Manchester and get social with Volunteer Centre Manchester on Twitter, Facebook and other social media... A weekly bulletin is great! Keeping in touch throughout the week is better!

We regularly post updates, information and content about volunteering opportunities across Manchester. Why not like us on Facebook or give us a follow on Twitter. It’s a fun way to receive additional updates regarding great volunteer opportunities, exciting events, news, upcoming training courses, campaigns and jobs.

All you have to do is follow us on Twitter: @VolunteeringMCR or like us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/VCMOfficial.

If you want to volunteer please visit us at: http://bit.ly/1JNzDS5

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**Volunteering with a criminal record: Some inspiring stories and information from Back on Track**

Back on Track change lives through learning and skills and aims to provide a user-friendly experience of training and education for those who would never otherwise access mainstream colleges or employment. They run a busy training and education centre in Manchester city centre, as well as outreach courses and mentoring in hostels, day centre and probation settings.

The aim of this publication is to provide inspiration and useful tips for anyone interested in volunteering who has a criminal record.

It is especially useful for those who are advising and supporting ex-offenders, organisations that involve volunteers and potential volunteers. You can read the booklet at: http://bit.ly/1zar7td

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**Universal Credit partner toolkit - Working with people claiming Universal Credit and welfare**

This toolkit contains important public information about Universal Credit and the changes it brings. It is designed to help partner organisations who want to explain Universal Credit to claimants.

To view the toolkit visit: http://bit.ly/1uRFg0I
What’s the funding situation?

If you have been reading the newspapers, watching TV or following the budget developments in the last three months you could be forgiven for thinking that the age of austerity and cutbacks will be the end of the voluntary sector as we know it.

In Manchester the call was for cuts of £50million in 2015/16 and possibly there might be between £20-40million cuts in 2016. These figures are not yet clear, as the Council has not set a two year budget but looking at only a one year budget. See Sir Richard Leese’s comments at: http://bit.ly/1JhcIjD

Whatever the final outcome, it will be much clearer in the coming weeks, I wanted to make some points about the sectors resilience and the possibilities of funding from trusts and foundations and some broader points on fundraising.

From a report on funders produced by IDOX, the organisation who runs Grantfinder, there is some interesting reading about 2014 which might offer some encouragement for 2015 and 2016.

There are more than 8,000 trusts and foundations offering grants of about £2.1billion per year to charitable causes. This is about 10% of the funding coming into the sector. This doesn’t include the Big Lottery which gives annually about £1.6billion to the sector.

35% of respondents to the IDOX survey said that they were confident of being able to satisfy the applications they receive at between 80-90% of the request, 13% of respondents to the survey said that they were unsure if their budget would be fully allocated. That would amount to about £130million that may be available to the sector.

There are some key principles that should be observed when making applications for funding from trusts and foundations.

Are you eligible?
Check the criteria carefully, be aware of restrictions for organisations who are not registered charities.

Be clear about whether the trust/foundation will fund your specific activity.

When is the closing date?
Check carefully that your application will reach the decision makers before any closing dates. If you are applying to an open programme check the dates of any panel meetings.

Make contact with the funders.
Research the funders, look at what they have funded previously. Look at the success rates for applications, check their rejections and reasons why. Pick the phone up and call the funder, explain who you are and what you are asking for. Build a relationship with the funder.

Proof read your application.
Have you completed the forms correctly, have you enclosed the information they have asked for? Don’t miss important key details, names, addresses, contact numbers etc. More than 25% of applications which are rejected are because the form is incomplete.
Don’t be discouraged by rejection. Ask for feedback and check if they will accept another application or if you can rework your application.

See our resources page for more guidance about submitting funding applications: [http://bit.ly/1t5sfyO](http://bit.ly/1t5sfyO)

If you still need encouragement about funding and fundraising think about this, in March 2014 a report showed that charitable giving by individuals was worth £10.4billion, which was an increase of £1.1billion on the previous year’s figure.

The question we should be asking is how much of that giving is coming to your organisation?

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**BUT... you are not alone**

The Capacity Building Team has been helping groups facing challenging situations for a number of years and we have various ways in which we offer our support.

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**Hit the panic button to access our resources**

This guidance, on our website, is designed for organisations which find themselves confronted by a major reduction in income.

Managing a funding crisis can be extremely stressful, but it can also provide an important opportunity to review and restructure your organisation, making it stronger for the future.

We also recognise that unfortunately for some organisations, there is no recovery from a severe funding cut and the only realistic option is closure. For organisations in this position, there are certain obligations and responsibilities to manage, particularly if you employ staff. Hit the Panic Button deals with what you need to do in this situation and how to close down properly.

Hit the Panic Button covers the following topics:
- Liability of committee members
- Risk assessment
- Insolvency
- Strategic review
- Challenging a decision
- Fundraising
- Cost reduction and restructuring
- Collaboration
- Merger
- Redundancy
- Closing down a project or an entire organisation

To view the resources, visit: [http://bit.ly/1yMFbKZ](http://bit.ly/1yMFbKZ)

Information and support is also available through our dedicated telephone information service 0333 321 3021, or email us at: info@mcrcommunitycentral.org
This quarter sees Macc delivering a programme of practical training workshops focusing on supporting voluntary community organisations in the city of Manchester.

We have kept charges as low as possible however the cost to attend any training is reduced considerably for members of Macc.

Membership is currently free, if you are interested in becoming a member of Macc and taking advantage of this discount please visit: http://bit.ly/1yCkBws

We are also able to deliver these programmes as bespoke training to organisations, if you are interested please contact 0333 321 3021, or training@mcrcommunitycentral.org to discuss this further.

**Upcoming Training**

26 February – Social media for beginners
A new workshop looking at some of the most popular current social media platforms, demystifying them and giving some practical tips on how you could use them. For more information visit: http://bit.ly/1zD0oIK

26 February – Radical approaches to commissioning public services
This workshop draws on the thinking in a broad range of recent reports by national think-tanks. The focus is on how to bring about long-term sustainable and positive change in commissioned health and welfare public services. For more information visit: http://bit.ly/1zD0oIK

Coming up in March

5 March – Manchester Community Central – Funding Portal
Looking at the revised funding portal and offering hints and tips on applying for funding. For more information visit: http://bit.ly/1CYQSNV

10 March – Using local evidence in strategic development
This new workshop will focus on how to use publicly available data on health and welfare to improve the ability of services to meet the needs of people in Manchester. For more information visit: http://bit.ly/1yCiCs2

12 March – Introduction to video
A taster session in using film to tell your story. This training is accredited by the Institute of Community Reporters. For more information contact: training@mcrcommunitycentral.org

26 March – Thinking about an asset transfer...key considerations
Training specifically developed for members and representatives from voluntary and community groups in the city of Manchester looking to own and manage a building. For more information visit: http://bit.ly/1CJGYPQ
Coming up in April

16 April – Introduction to commissioning and procurement
Aimed at Manchester voluntary and community sector staff, volunteers or trustees with responsibility for applying for contracts from public authorities and public sector staff with involvement in commissioning and procurement. For more information visit: http://bit.ly/1xJpQXx

22 April – Understanding strategic commissioning in Manchester
This workshop covers some of the key strategic priorities influencing health and welfare commissioning in Manchester and how this links to Greater Manchester strategy. The aim is to help participants understand how and why public bodies commission in the way they do. For more information visit: http://bit.ly/1uCp7LW

The following workshops are to be confirmed and will be advertised shortly:
• Trustee roles and responsibilities
• Trustee recruitment
• Introduction to co-production
• Understanding health and social care integration in Manchester

To register your interest please email: training@mcrcommunitycentral.org

Learning Zone

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

Licences cost £18.00 plus VAT per person – if you are interested please visit: http://bit.ly/1Cg4qrp, contact us on 0333 321 3021, or email: training@mcrcommunitycentral.org

Volunteer Centre Manchester training programme – coming soon

Details of training dedicated to volunteers and voluntary organisations will be available at: http://bit.ly/vcmtraining

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
People with mental health issues are more likely to be out of work than people in any other disability group. This happens for a number of reasons but a key one is stigma and discrimination.

Manchester Mind receives Equalities Funding to address these issues through provision of good quality volunteering opportunities with support, supervision and training, so that people can gain confidence and skills, fill gaps in CVs and improve their mental health. Manchester Mind also provides mental health awareness training to community groups and individuals in Manchester – people with lived experience sharing their experiences with others.

This year we have worked with 132 people through volunteering and training with 953 volunteer hours being contributed to Manchester Mind. 97% of people have a personal or family experience of mental health issues. 29% of volunteers have moved back into paid employment.

“The one to one support I have received whilst volunteering has really helped me build up my skills for my CV I feel much more confident about going for interviews now”.

“I thoroughly enjoyed the mental health awareness training and it was very well presented. It was delivered in such a way that I didn’t feel I was being judged or made to feel like I was mad/crazy through my mental health problems, many thanks”.

Loss of Equalities Funding would make it difficult to sustain the level of support that people desperately need when they are first moving into a volunteer role. Our outcomes, particularly in helping people moving back into work, clearly meet City Council priorities.

Manchester Deaf Centre receives funding from the Equalities, Work Fund and Youth fund, therefore the cuts would have significant impact on the services that MDC offer especially in our youth department.

MDC’s beneficiaries are people with hearing impairments and we provide advice and support to deaf people who face daily barriers in terms of accessing simple information that affects their lives e.g. receiving information from energy companies about their bills. Most of them come to the Deaf Centre to have the information relayed to them in their language which is the British Sign Language (BSL) even if the information is in basic English.

MDC also support diverse groups of deaf people: deaf BSL user; deafened (those who lose their hearing due to accident, illness or ageing); hard of hearing; and those affected by Tinnitus (noise in their ear). Cuts to the Equalities Funding would force us to stop supporting these groups and our aspirations to reach out to deaf people out in the Manchester community who need us.

Research has shown that 90% of deaf children are born to hearing parents and only 14% of the parents learn sign language to be able to communicate with deaf children. Research also has shown that the average reading age of deaf children upon leaving school is nine years old. Due to this, the young deaf people who attend our Youth Service not only have difficulty with literacy but are also affected by stigma and low self-esteem as they have internalised the difficulty as being their own fault.

When these young deaf people undergo transition into adulthood there is no one better to support them through the transition than Manchester Deaf Centre, which has the expertise, resources and knowledge.
Gaydio provides a unique service to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans* (LGBT) community in Manchester by broadcasting not just uplifting music – but tailored LGBT news, interviews and documentaries all fronted by out and proud LGBT presenters. We continually have emails from listeners telling us how the station makes them feel empowered and how it’s helped them come to terms with their sexuality or gender identity. All of this great radio is produced entirely by volunteers.

The equalities funding has been essential here at Gaydio as for the first time we have been able to fund a volunteer co-ordinator. This means that new volunteers to the station can have their needs properly assessed and receive the right training and encouragement. Many of our volunteers are from other minority groups, have disabilities or are unemployed. The funding means that we can spend quality time with volunteers, teaching them new skills. We have recently started assessing our volunteers experience and 90% said volunteering at Gaydio had increased their employability. Furthermore, 100% agreed that volunteering with us had increased their skills and experience.

One volunteer who is helping us redesign our website said: “It certainly has increased my confidence in terms of using my skills. It’s also served to ease myself back into the work place”.

Another volunteer who has been helping produce shows said: “Volunteering at Gaydio has given me new confidence in meeting new people, as well as meeting other LBGT people. Gaydio have made it possible for me to believe in my abilities more”.

That’s just a very small snapshot of some of the sometimes venerable people we are able to help here at Gaydio thanks to our funding.

The Romani Wellbeing Project is supported through the Equalities Fund and forms part of the work that BHA carries out with Roma communities in the City.

The grant provides for a small family support outreach service that provides information and support on access to education, housing and benefits issues, parenting and access to healthcare.

We have already been able to provide outreach support in this year to over 50 families – well above our total target of 30 cases. There is evidence of continuing high demand for the service particularly in supporting children and young people access school and college education. We have a particular focus on ensuring that young Roma women have equal access to education.

Our successes in the year have not just been about providing advice but about empowering young women and men. Two members of the community who had been supported through the project have now moved in to full-time employment as teaching assistants and have, realistic aspirations to become teachers. Other members of the community work for BHA as interpreters and are moving on to develop their leadership skills.

Funding of this project has allowed us to develop others and draw in money to the City from charitable trusts and the EU. A new ‘Roma Voice’ programme, in partnership with Salford University and the Roma Support Group in London, will launch in 2015 to develop a community voice led by Roma people. BHA and Roma communities in Manchester are taking the lead on a bid to the EU EUROCITIES initiative to develop Roma links across the continent.

To draw together the work in 2015 we will be providing training events within schools on how they can best support Roma students and understand their needs and aspirations better.
SASCA was initially set up to respond to the needs of the Somali community. It has now become a centre for diversity and provides advice and counselling to many different people. The SASCA Centre receives regular requests for assistance and advice from a range of different communities including: Somalis; Ethiopians; Eritreans; and other Asian people.

SASCA helps at least 100 people every week on different issues such as: social security; housing; immigration; utilities; and basically anything that affects their daily lives. The majority of the people that SASCA assists are elderly and very vulnerable people.

The number of people coming to SASCA every day for assistance is increasing due to the squeeze on benefits and that many other organisations that used to offer similar counselling and advice services have reduced their work or stopped offering any assistance.

If our grant ceases it will mean that we will not be able to pay the rent of our office, pay the telephone and the electricity bills; continue the research and we won’t be able to pay the travel expenses of our volunteers who are the backbone of our organisation. As the result of this we will not be able to assist the vulnerable members of our communities and this will have a negative impact on them.

The Council should consider the fact that SASCA receives only a small grant compared to the work it does for its clients and that the people who benefit from SASCA’s assistance are the most vulnerable members of our society.

Finally, we believe that the council will continue supporting SASCA and that our co-operation will be as strong as before.

Impact on groups

Offending by women is often the culmination of a long journey of marginalisation and disadvantage involving severe social exclusion problems (much greater than male offenders), and high levels of child abuse and domestic violence. WIP service users are incredibly vulnerable women whose support needs have led them to Criminal Justice System involvement which only exacerbates the exclusion and problems they face.

WIP aims to prevent women becoming entangled in the criminal justice system by providing support to those deemed ‘at risk of’ offending, by nature of their chaotic lifestyle and Vulnerabilities. WIP does this via it’s ‘Women’s Community Service’, funded exclusively by the Equalities Grant. 1-to-1 support, advocacy and advice is provided, alongside a weekly drop-in and group sessions, filling the gap in Manchester for a holistic women’s centre.

Without the Equalities Grant WIP would only be able to support women who were already involved in the Criminal Justice System. This would result in no preventative work being undertaken, and we would have to turn away vulnerable women in need of support. The loss of the weekly drop-in would be the loss of the only safe-haven for vulnerable women in Manchester where they can just turn up and access necessary help and support in a women-only, safe environment, as the service-user quotes below demonstrate:

“If it wasn’t for the people who work at the drop-in I don’t know what I would have done.”
“I always feel so much better after coming…it’s the only time I have to be me.”
“Attending the drop-in is the first time I have been out of the house in 2 months.”
“This group is a life-line for many women.”
Our Manchester Disabled People’s Project provides training, information and support to disabled people, their families and supporters, on a wide range of independent living issues. The aim is to break down the myths and barriers that prevent disabled people getting involved in mainstream activities. 518 people have used the project to date. Of concern to us is an increase in the numbers of people requiring intensive support to resolve more complex issues.

Case Study
M1 is a 28 year old disabled person, initially referred to the project by a trade union representative as he was facing disciplinary action at work and was at risk of losing his job. On meeting with him it quickly became apparent that he was experiencing a number of difficulties, not only relating to his employment issues. These included a history of financial abuse, poor housing conditions and difficulty communicating his needs to others because of the fear of negative consequences.

GMCDP’s Manchester Disabled Peoples project was able to provide intensive support over a period of time. He was supported to understand what the disciplinary process entailed and supported him to give his own perspective on the events that led to it; this resulted in him keeping his job. The Housing Association were made aware of the extent of the problems being experienced; appropriate action was taken following referral to their tenants support services.

M1 was also referred to Adult Social Care regarding safeguarding issues and support needs and an assessment was carried out. M1 was supported to get a concessionary travel pass, enabling more independent travel.

GMCDP is a pan-impairment organisation and supports disabled people from many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Loss of this project will reduce the amount of specialist support available to disabled people in Manchester.

MASH has been providing support to sex workers for over 23 years. The MASH Centre is in the heart of the city centre red light district ‘the beat’ and primarily reaches street sex workers. The Equalities Fund grant has enabled us to increase our contact with women who work in massage parlours. This group of women is particularly hard to reach. Many live very isolated lives due to the stigma of their work (in some cases even husbands or partners are unaware of their work). Many migrant women work in Manchester and are even more isolated due to language issues, and a lack of knowledge of their rights or of the services available to them.

MASH has a highly trained team of volunteers who visit the women in the parlours distributing condoms, providing support with safety and sexual health and encouraging women to engage with services at MASH or in the community. The volunteers are supported by the MASH nurse, caseworker and interpreter and are able to support women to access counselling at the MASH centre. The Equalities Fund grant contributes to the cost of these services.

Through the Equalities Fund grant we have been able to gain valuable information about this group of women. We conducted research into the impact of the recession which confirmed that women are working longer hours and undertaking more risky behaviour in order to maintain their income. We are currently looking at sex workers take up of main stream health provision to look at how we can increase this.
#Keep the Youth Fund

Voluntary Youth Manchester (VYM) is coordinating a campaign to keep Manchester City Council’s Youth Fund that currently supports voluntary and community sector organisations to deliver a mixture of open access and project based activities that address various identified needs of young people.

After more than two months of campaigning, it is now clear just how effective your actions have been in influencing the decision making processes at the Town Hall.

At an early morning meeting led by Sir Richard Leese on 8 January, he confirmed that with some additional funding having become available (including Airport dividends) the Council “is now minded NOT to cut £737,000 from the Youth and Play Budget” and follow up questions suggested that this would mean that the Youth and Play Funds would be protected in 2015/16.

It should be noted that the Council is now only planning for a one-year budget; worse could still come in 2016/17; and a further £1m of cuts still need to be found from the merged Youth and Play Budget. So, you still need to ensure that the voluntary youth sector’s voice is heard with regard to Council plans for both cuts and application of resources.

For more information, visit: [www.vymnetwork.org.uk/keep-youth-fund-campaign/](http://www.vymnetwork.org.uk/keep-youth-fund-campaign/)

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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 voluntary sector.

Registering is easy, complete our online membership form at: [www.macc.org.uk/becomeamember](http://www.macc.org.uk/becomeamember)
Manchester Citizens Advice Bureau call on Manchester City Council to reconsider their proposals to cut funding to advice services and the community and voluntary sector

The proposals announced by Manchester City Council outline major funding cuts of 50-75% to advice services and the voluntary and community sector. They include ceasing all funding for the City Wide Universal Advice Service currently delivered by Manchester Citizens Advice Bureau and Cheetham Hill Advice Centre which helps over 30,000 people per year.

The proposed cuts will mean the closure of:

- The three CAB’s located in Moston, Moss Side and Wythenshawe – these provide trusted face to face support and assistance to access online services and free phone access to the advice line and other services
- The city wide telephone advice service – this currently deals with over 3,500 calls per month
- The face to face outreach service – this service takes advice to vulnerable groups and individuals at 32 venues in their local community such as GP surgeries, libraries and children centres

The level of these cuts will seriously risk many of the advice services ability to operate and it will remove access to free advice for the vast majority of Manchester residents.

Funding to advice services has been progressively reduced in the past five years and combined with the reduction in Legal Aid this has severely limited access to free advice.

These proposed cuts will mean the majority of people will have no access to independent advice services and there will be no safety net for the vulnerable people currently helped by the Universal Advice Service and other voluntary sector organisations. The people of Manchester need to have advice services that are adequately funded and effective and an advice sector that is able to raise additional funding for the city.

Manchester Citizens Advice Bureau call on Manchester City Council to reconsider their proposals to cut funding to advice services and to instead provide a level of funding that will meet the needs of the people of Manchester.

For more information, visit: http://chn.ge/1DOZuHG
Get in touch

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Twitter: @VolunteeringMcr

Our funders:

Do you want your news / event included in our newsletter? Let us know by emailing: info@mcrcommunitycentral.org

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