**Invitation to express interest the provision of a Community Engagement Project – The Real Benchill**

1. **Background Information relating to the project**

Overview of the Real Benchill Project

Benchill is a distinct neighbourhood within East Wythenshawe, Manchester which approximately includes 1,400 individual homes. The area presents some challenges;

* Benchill is in the Top 1% most deprived in Manchester and UK (Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015)
* Deprivation scores particularly high on health and income (ranks better for Housing and the Living Environment)
* 60% of households income of less than £20k, 35% earn below £15k
* In comparison to Manchester disproportionately high number in the following categories:
  + Worklessness (ESA)
  + Repeat Domestic Violence
  + Referrals to Children's Services

However underneath these headline figures is a thriving and growing neighbourhood (ONS records 5,500 people living in Benchill, which represents a 26% increase from 2001 ONS) with an abundance of excellent facilities on offer; a well-run and utilised Benchill Community Centre including outdoor facilities, a very engaged and involved local primary school, an Enterprise Centre that provides facilities, support and advice for budding business entrepreneurs and start-up businesses – the ONS records show there are 3,550 people of working age in Benchill . There are many other well used and well established local facilities such as a boxing gym, dance troops and green space.

Over the last 10 years, following some particular negative national and unfair headline press about the area, a range of partners such as the local housing provider, Wythenshawe Community Housing Group, the City Council and Local Stakeholder services set up a ‘Real Lives’ Programme. This coordinated approach was put in place to ensure that the ‘real’ stories of Wythenshawe were told and that a coordinated approach to creating brighter futures by improving lives, neighbourhoods and prospects was put in place. People are proud to say they live in Benchill and this can be best summed up in the true words of a local resident:

*“If I won the lottery I wouldn’t move, I love it here”*

1. **The Real Benchill Project Team**

During summer 2016, Manchester City Council launched the city-wide *‘Our Manchester’ Strategy* which many partners had been involved in helping to develop. Within the strategy there is a programme of Integrated Neighbourhood Management (INM) projects – The Real Benchill is one of 3 pilots running across the City.

There is a core Real Benchill team made up of representatives from the City Council, Wythenshawe Community Housing Group, Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue, Greater Manchester Police, Youth workers, Education and Health professionals.

The project has developed its own partnership agreement:

* We will speak positively about Benchill
* We will focus on what we can do, not what we can't
* We will start with a blank mind
* We will be courageous
* We will be accountable to each other
* We will respect each other's backgrounds, skills and experience

1. **The Real Benchill Project**

The project commenced in April 2016 and during this time, the project team have carried out a number of community activities and assisted the community to get a number of projects that mattered to them of the ground.

Real Benchill is a community led approach, where the community identify their own priorities and aspirations for their neighbourhood and the project team support them in developing their own solutions.

Below is a flavour of some of the work the project team along with some involved residents which include children from the local primary school, a group of mums and a teenagers group and together so far we have:

1. Held a Partner Making it real day – sharing knowledge and improving partner connectivity
2. Carried out a community audit – over 50 partner volunteers involved and spoke to over 20% (404) people living in the community
3. Held focused days with residents to start to develop their priorities
4. Held a front line workers event – over 50 attended to talk about Real Benchill
5. Have worked with the community to set up 3 distinct projects; Real Benchill off road bikes campaign, Real Benchill Environmental and Real Benchill Community Celebration events.
6. The community have secured £15,000 of funding for two of the projects

**Purpose of Invitation to submit interest**

As Stage 1 of the Real Benchill Project nears completion, we have now turned our attention to the next stage, which we have developed into two distinct areas;

* Consider the development of a Collocated multi-disciplinary team to focus on improved service delivery to achieve a one front door approach - this will be led by the Real Benchill Project Team.
* Consider putting in place, initially for one year, a Community Builder role to work in the Benchill neighbourhood, building and developing community capacity along with sustainable solutions and strong effective partnerships with the overall aim of moving from dependency into independence – we invite interested submissions for this role.
* Act as a Community Builder and continue the journey that’s already commenced to ensure Benchill is a great place to live where people can achieve their full potential as a community member
* Further develop the distinct project groups already underway outlined in section 3
* Identify community priorities and develop an overall Real Benchill Community Action Plan
* Build community involvement, empowerment and capacity
* Carry out an asset map for Benchill and develop an information line to the community
* Connect Benchill up to area and beyond
* Help to support and develop a strengths based neighbourhood, that is resilient, able and skilled, ambitious and resourceful
* Work with community and partners to help develop strategies aimed at turning negative community issues around
* E the champion and voice for Benchill whilst creating Benchill voices to be heard.

1. **General Matters and Submission Timetable**

Subject to a positive decision to go with an external resource and obtaining the necessary funding, we would be looking to have the right resource in place by April 2017, days and working hours to be agreed as part of each submission. We would expect the Community Builder resource to be located within Wythenshawe, spending most time within the Benchill neighbourhood and working closely with the Manager of the Benchill Community Centre. Overall the role will be accountable to the Real Benchill Project Team and will be required to provide verbal and written submissions on work streams, developing plans and progress.

* We are looking for a dedicated Real Benchill Community builder who provides a clear point of contact for the community and all stakeholders
* We require a community led action plan to be developed along with a delivery plan, clear outcomes and success measures
* We require an inclusive engagement and communications plan for the local community, local stakeholders and key partners
* We require funding streams that support the community aims and priorities to be sourced and provide assistance in placing bids

We invite interested organisations to provide a written submission by no later than 4pm on Monday 6th March 2017, emailed to: Sarah Klueter at [sarah.klueter@wchg.org.uk](mailto:sarah.klueter@wchg.org.uk) outlining:

1. What experience they have of delivering Community Builder/capacity projects using a coproduction model – what difference they made
2. Outline ideas for taking the project forward based on all the criteria and information provided in this brief and what you believe the main success measures would be
3. Submit a proposition that outlines how much capacity you feel a project like this would need, with timescales and costs
4. State any additional benefits your organisation would bring to this project
5. Outline how you think the Community Builder role would work best with a Collocated team working to improve services via a one front door model

If you wish to have an informal chat prior to an interested party submission then please in the first instance contact via email; Sarah Klueter [Sarah.klueter@wchg.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.klueter@wchg.org.uk) Vicky Clarke [v.clark@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:v.clark@manchester.gov.uk) so that a mutually agreeable telephone conversation can be arranged. Please mark your email: **Real Benchill Community Builder Submission.**

**Workforce Development**

We will be asking anyone who is interested in submitting an interest in the Real Benchill Community Builder role to provide a separate price for providing community builder training to approximately 50 staff:

* Developing Community Connect skills
* A strengths based approach rooted in an asset based approach
* Coproduction skills

We would be interested in your view of what kind of skills staff working in the Benchill area would need to work within the ethos of Real Benchill.