

BREXIT – NOTE FOR GREATER MANCHESTER VCSE ORGANISATIONS: February 2019

GMCVO would recommend that VCSE organisations give some thought to the practical impact of Brexit and take some time to review the risks and plan what to do about them.

There is still a lack of clarity at national level, but GMCA and local government are making preparations. It is expected that there will be economic and social impacts, and these will affect our organisations and the people and communities we work with.

This briefing outlines short and medium term risks, outlines the preparations being made in Greater Manchester, and gives links to guidance published by the Office for Civil Society.

1. SHORT TERM RISKS, ESPECIALLY AS FEAR OF 'NO DEAL' RISES

- Panic buying of food and fuel could have an impact on business continuity e.g. staff unable to attend work
- Reduction in donations as people focus on their immediate needs
- Rise in hate crime and fear of hate crime (as seen at the time of the referendum)

These issues have been brought to the attention of the GM Brexit Readiness group (see below).

GMCVO and the VCSE Reference Group have made an offer of support: *'Our sector tends to pick up intelligence quickly on the ground, especially about effects on our most disadvantaged residents. It can also mobilise to help with emergencies, as you have seen at recent incidents like the Arena bombing and the floods. Longer term, our sector will be a vital element in repairing fractured relationships and tensions'*.

We have also asked for some thought to be given about the possible impacts of Brexit on the VCSE sector itself.

2. MEDIUM TERM ISSUES TO KEEP UNDER REVIEW

Legislation:

on Data Protection (GDPR); Accounting and audit; VAT; State Aid; Public procurement and Workplace rights is all due to be incorporated into UK law unaltered, so in the medium term there should be no change.

European citizen employees or volunteers:

- All organisations have a duty not to discriminate against EU citizens in employment; 'right to work' checks continue as currently
- Individual people affected need to apply to the European Settlement Scheme; there is no requirement for employers to advise or support anyone to do so, but you may want to ensure people are informed

EU funding:

The UK will continue to take part in all EU programmes post 29 March 2019 for the rest of the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework, and government has said it will guarantee EU projects agreed before we leave the EU.

Social and Economic Impact on Greater Manchester:

This is being closely monitored by GMCA through regular reports. These are in the public domain on the GMCA website; the latest is 25th January

https://www.gmcameetings.co.uk/meetings/meeting/647/greater_manchester_combined_authority

3. BREXIT PLANNING IN GREATER MANCHESTER

A GM Brexit Readiness Group has been meeting regularly led by Simon Nokes at GMCA; GMCVO is connected to it. There is a GM Brexit Readiness Action Plan, which covers:

- Government engagement (with a strong clear position – no deal not OK, would back a people's vote if no other solution found)
- Civil contingency (there is a separate paper outlining risks, actions and Command, Control & Communications Structures (C3) for Civil Contingencies impacts).
- Infrastructure (including waste and fuel)
- Points of entry (includes M/c Airport)
- Health and social care (including medicines and workforce)
- Business support and competitiveness
- Skills
- Higher education
- Organisational readiness
- Data (including cyber security)

4. GUIDANCE FROM OFFICE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY (JAN 2019)

1. [The Office for Civil Society's \(OCS\) role in EU exit](#)
2. [Public information campaign on EU exit](#)
3. [Data protection in a no deal scenario](#)
4. [Settled status scheme](#)
5. [EU funding](#)
6. [Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps - updated technical notice](#)
7. [Further guidance](#)