

About the Greater Manchester Equality Alliance (GM=EqAl)

Greater Manchester Equality Alliance (GM=EqAl) is a coalition of individuals drawn from a wide range of communities of experience and identity, and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations across Greater Manchester. GM=EqAl serves to connect communities to policy makers, and vice versa, to assist with strategic equality and diversity work in Greater Manchester. We bring together the voices and experiences of people and communities who face disadvantage, prejudice and marginalisation to ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion are at the forefront of decision making at the highest levels in all governance structures across Greater Manchester.

GM=EqAl Aims

To ensure equality, diversity and inclusion are at the forefront of decision making at the highest levels in all governance structures across the Greater Manchester sub-region

To ensure transformational change in the way that issues are considered, information collected and acted upon, and to be led by the expertise coming from communities and grassroots organisations.

Context

Inequalities of power, resource, health and opportunity are entrenched in the UK, and getting worse. Yet with the right levers, insights and priorities in place, Greater Manchester could turn this around. Knowledge of what is not working, what is needed and what would get us there, exists within the communities which bear the brunt of inequality, and the organisations which support them.

GM=EqAl seeks to channel the expertise of grassroots groups, equality organisations and inclusion champions into decision making at the highest levels. GM=EqAl is unique in taking a pan-equalities approach, focusing on the intersections between different forms of inequality, channeling multiple perspectives and building trust through dialogue.

The GM=EqAl Working Group comprises of 30+ VCSE equalities experts drawn from a wide range of communities of experience and identity across GM (see [Who We Are](#)). An elected chair and small Steering Group of 7-10 members provide an executive function alongside a small staff team based at GMCVO. We are funded through the GM VSCE Accord, a joint project of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care (GMICP), and the Greater Manchester VCSE Leadership Group.

A network hosted by GMCVO

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Join the GM=EqAI Working Group

We are looking for new members whose skills and knowledge will complement those of our existing VCSE members and who will increase our coverage geographically and in terms of connections to different structures and networks.

Members are selected for their links to marginalised or minoritised communities, enthusiasm for policy influencing, ability to articulate strong challenges to the status quo, and insights into particular issues, problems and solutions. The group is not just concerned with protected characteristics, but with all areas of systemic inequality. You do not have to already be involved in strategic work to apply – we want people from a wide range of backgrounds within the VCSE sector to be involved. We aim to involve individuals who represent a broad range of communities and localities.

We are particularly keen to hear from individuals who can represent the following localities and communities, as these are currently underrepresented in our membership:

Localities:

- Trafford
- Salford

Communities of experience and identity:

- LGBTQ+
- Carers
- Particularly disadvantaged young people (for example, care experienced young people)
- Older people
- Those who experience multiple disadvantage (substance use, homelessness, domestic violence/abuse, and/or being involved in the criminal justice system).

Role and responsibilities

Role eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You work for a VCSE organisation or consultancy operating in Greater Manchester.• You are able to contribute your time and expertise.
Skills, knowledge and motivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have detailed knowledge and experience of equality, diversity and inclusion issues.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have an in-depth understanding of particular disadvantaged communities. You have enthusiasm for policy and influencing work. You have the ability or potential to contribute to high level meetings.
Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To attend a monthly 2-hour daytime meeting – with an expectation that members attend a minimum of 9 out of 12 per year. To spend approximately 2 hours per month preparing for meetings, completing any actions arising from meetings, attending other groups/networks on behalf of GM=EqAI, and replying to requests for consent, information, ideas etc. Commit to sharing your expertise in relation to a particular community of identity or experience in meetings and other collective endeavours. To link GM=EqAI to other forums, networks and grassroots communities when needed. To continually learning from one another, to consciously build a shared understanding of inequality and disadvantage in our communities: the issues people face, the causes, and the practical and political action that is needed to effect change. To engage constructively and positively with decision makers to educate and influence.
Support provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new members will receive a full induction followed by a trial period of 3 months to ensure the role is right for you. An annual bursary of £750 per year is available to those who would otherwise face financial barriers to getting involved in work outside their organisation.
Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for expressions of interest: 19th February 2024 - 12pm

To register your interest in the role, [please complete our expression of interest form here](#)

If you have any questions or would like to arrange an informal chat about the role, please contact Rory Campbell (GM=EqAI Project Officer) rory.campbell@gmcvo.org.uk