



GMCVO

Working to drive social and economic
inclusion in Greater Manchester

GMCVO

2023 Prospectus

GMCVO

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Registered charity no. 504542. Company limited by guarantee registered in England no. 122344. Registered office as above.

GMCVO will drive economic and social inclusion in Greater Manchester through effective collaborations and supporting other organisations to achieve their goals.

GMCVO will support better decision making by increasing the accessibility and diversity of learning and insight.



Contents

Foreword	3
Introduction	4
Partnerships	5
Policy and Research	7
Social Enterprise and Social Investment	9
Work and Skills	11
Our Staff	13

Foreword

from our Vice Chair, Richard Dyson

I introduced our last Annual Review by describing the year as “turbulent” and clearly this is the one thing that hasn’t changed since then. However GMCVO has been working hard to develop its role around economic inclusion and, in particular, looking beyond the short term to ensure we become a more stable platform for economic development in the VCSE sector.

We have seen great achievement by our projects at a difficult time for all but in this report we want to go beyond the here and now to describe the work we wish to undertake in the future. We believe it is important as a membership organisation that we seek the views of our members and partners in the design of our work and want this to be the start of a conversation with you.

We would like to thank retiring Board Members Pritti Butler and Atiha Chaudry for their strong support and commitment over the years. We’re pleased that they are both still linked to the work of the organisation as it moves forward but their support and advice was critical in GMCVOs progression and development in recent years.

Thank you also to our staff, volunteers, members, investors and partners for working with us as we develop new ways of working. I am pleased to see our management team support greater collaborative leadership within the VCSE sector and within the organisation itself and we see this as the means by which we will create lasting change.

Introduction

from our Chief Executive Officer, John Hannen

This prospectus replaces the annual review that we have historically produced at this time of year. Rather than just report on our past activity, we also think it is important to take a forward look. We still want to celebrate our successes and share the work we have done in the past 12 months, but we want to give you more than that - we also want to give you a sense of the projects we may develop in the future. Building on our track record of work with you is important to us but only if we can apply it to meet the future challenges faced by the communities you support.

We present this prospectus as a consultation document and as a statement of our intent, and are keen to understand whether you think this is the right direction for us to take. More than this, it's an invitation to work in partnership and we'd also like to hear from you if you are interested in the same areas of work.

We passionately believe that leadership and support of the sector should be a shared endeavour.

We support voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations because of their ability to generate collective action to solve problems that communities face, and so we want to adopt the same approach in our own work. Ultimately, the changes that need to be made to ensure Greater Manchester becomes more inclusive can only be delivered by a movement, not by any one organisation.

Each section of this document focuses on one of GMCVO's teams/areas of work. We outline the role of each team, its activity in the last year and aims for the future. We have also included contact details of the staff leading on planning and development for each area of work so you can get in touch.

We hope you find this new format useful, please don't hesitate to contact us with your thoughts and ideas.

To get in touch with John please email: john.hannen@gmcvo.org.uk



In July 2022 we were joined by Access to Growth investees to celebrate their achievements and impact.

Partnerships

Our Partnerships team focuses on the development, support or servicing of partnership delivery related to GMCVO's mission.

We carry out GMCVO's role as a funder, designing and delivering funding programmes, acting as an intermediary on behalf of the funders to communities across Greater Manchester. We also provide consultancy on community development functions, microfunding and place-based work.

As part of this work we also facilitate Greater Manchester Funders Forum, with GMCVO being a member, co-designing the offer with other members. The forum enables independent grant makers, social investors and public sector funders to collaborate and coordinate programmes and come together to share learning. We support the GM BAME Network with administrative support and a place for them to host their network meetings so organisations can come together to build links.

What work are we building on?

We have been building on and sharing our knowledge of grants development and management, including sharing a [good practice guide on microfunding](#). Our grants management work in partnership with Greater Manchester Integrated Healthcare Partnership has included work on Mental Wellbeing Grants, Developing Trauma Responsive Communities and Inclusion Grants to support Deaf and Disabled People and has enabled us to build on our learning of how to create accessible and inclusive grants processes.

Supporting the [Greater Manchester Funders Forum](#) has resulted in the formation of a face to face collaboration group of 16 funders and distributors of



St Andrew's Church in Eccles received a grant to support mental wellbeing

funders to communities across the city-region. The group have been discussing how to work more closely on creating a supportive environment for grass roots organisations to thrive in Greater Manchester and identify ways or working together to make funding more accessible and appropriate for these organisations who know their communities so well.

We have been using the skills of our team to create accountable body processes for a number of partnerships and across a breadth of service delivery. In the future we will be supporting the GM BAME Network with an accountable body type approach to support in their development.

What are we looking to do next?

We seek to find commonality at a Greater Manchester level and bring people and organisations together to explore new ways of working. Where appropriate we can act as the accountable body for a group of organisations in a partnership bid, and can be involved right from the beginning to help design and shape the bid writing process and design of the partnership and processes.

We can use our expertise and knowledge to develop new models of funding and ensure that the distribution of funding to organisations is carried out in an accessible way. We can be the link to communities for those organisations that want to build direct links with the communities they fund.

To get in touch with our Partnerships Team please email: gavin.owen@gmcvo.org.uk



St John's Centre in Trafford received a grant in 2021 to support local older people.

Policy and Research

Our Policy and Research team help decision makers in Greater Manchester make better informed plans.

We bring together 50 representatives of marginalised communities across Greater Manchester and connect them with policy makers to influence policy making through the [Greater Manchester Equality Alliance \(GM=EqAl\)](#).

We develop and design research projects (both within wider GMCVO projects and in their own right) that support strategic decision making.

We also campaign for the role of communities and the VCSE sector in the development of an Inclusive Economy.

What work are we building on?

As part of our role in leading the inclusive economy element of the [VCSE Accord](#) we are in the process of delivering a series of ‘weeks of action’ that showcase the VCSE sector contribution to an inclusive economy, network organisations with shared aims and support organisations

to articulate their role in contributing to the commitments made in the Greater Manchester Strategy.

GM=EqAl has worked closely with the new integrated care system to help ensure tackling inequality is at the heart of its approach and with other Greater Manchester stakeholders such as Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Greater Manchester Police to provide support around specific issues.

We have continued to use our networks to help us gather insight and intelligence to influence Greater Manchester policy and practice. This year we conducted a follow up exercise on the Big Alcohol Conversation, finding out about the impact of the pandemic on alcohol misuse and the effect this has on communities. The recommendations from this work will feed directly in to the new Greater Manchester Drug & Alcohol strategy.



Stitched Up in Stretford hosted an event as part of the Communities in Control week in July 2022

What are we looking to do next?

We will continue to deliver the VCSE Accord in partnership, building the evidence base to support the VCSE sector's role in building in an inclusive economy, and preparing for a recovery from the current economic crisis that will focus on tackling inequality in the city-region.

We are building relationships with academic institutions to enable co-research with communities. We are particularly keen to look at research into how social connections and community organisations help build local economies.

We will develop a framework for improving practice in relation to tackling inequalities across Greater Manchester, using the expertise within communities and channeling these voices through GM=EqAl.

We will also create practical guidance for decision makers on ensuring the voice of lived experience is not only heard in policy making, but supported, accessed and resourced appropriately and reflects best practice.

**To get in touch with our Policy and Research Team please email:
beth.sharratt@gmcvo.org.uk**



Manchester Urban Diggers (MUD) hosted an event as part of the Communities in Control week in July 2022

Social Enterprise and Social Investment

Our Social Enterprise and Investment team work to enable social enterprises to grow their social impact.

We manage and oversee social investment programmes across Greater Manchester. We connect to other social investors and provide practical support and guidance to raise investment. We work with partners to innovate new investment models to broaden the range of communities that can access investment and support.

We provide support that is accessible and tailored to meet the needs of more marginalised communities. We identify the barriers to affordable investment for all communities and develop practical approaches to removing them or reducing their impact.

We also develop activity to support the capacity building of local community based groups and organisations wishing to develop trading activity.

What work are we building on?

Our [Access to Growth](#) social investment fund ran from July 2017 to March 2022 and provided £3.2 million of social investment to 64 social enterprises, trading charities and community businesses across Greater Manchester.

Our [Connecting BAME* Entrepreneurs to Social investment project](#) has supported the creation of a BAME Social Entrepreneurs Network called [BASE Network](#). It also provided capacity building support and physical social enterprise hubs to help BAME social entrepreneurs access appropriate support.



Sow the City received £41,900 in social investment to develop their space.

Our partnership with Resonance, through their Community Developers Fund, has eight active community led sports and housing projects. We have supported the creation of the Greater Manchester Community Led Homes hub and several Community Land Trusts.

In partnership with Transport for Greater Manchester, we are working with London and Continental Railways, Network Rail and Northern Rail to bring unused rooms/

buildings at four Greater Manchester stations into use for social enterprises. We have piloted a partnership approach with Trafford Housing Trust where we demonstrated the effectiveness of working closely with a social landlord to raise awareness of social enterprise and social investment.

What are we looking to do next?

We will continue to increase the amount of developmental support, both advisory and financial, available to social entrepreneurs to enable them to establish and grow their social businesses. Our new Proper Good Social Investment fund works with local partnerships in Bolton, Oldham, Stockport and Wigan. It is providing £6.25 million in social

investment in addition to the £2 million of development support being provided to the partnerships to build on the social economy in those areas.

We will continue to increase the amount and type of social investment available to social businesses across Greater Manchester. In early 2023 we expect to launch a new £3.5 million Greater Manchester wide fund to build on the success of Access to Growth.

Where GMCVO is unable to help organisations with social investment from our own investment funds, we will signpost to other social investors nationally.

To get in touch with our Social Enterprise Team please email: cathryn.chrimes@gmcvo.org.uk



Manchester Bike Kitchen received £17,000 social investment to grow and sustain their work.

* GMCVO uses the BAME abbreviation as we believe it is widely understood, but we acknowledge many feel this term is inadequate and limiting. We are therefore currently reviewing our use of the term. Our principle is to refer to individuals, organisations or networks by the terminology they themselves prefer.

Work and Skills

Our Work and Skills team lead on projects supporting the provision of education, employment and skills delivery.

Programme work is collaborative with VCSE providers who specialise in supporting a particular cohort, demographic or community. We work to identify opportunities to reduce employment inequality within Greater Manchester by recognising barriers to sections of communities, sourcing appropriate funding, and identifying appropriate partners to support suitable employment pathways.

What work are we building on?

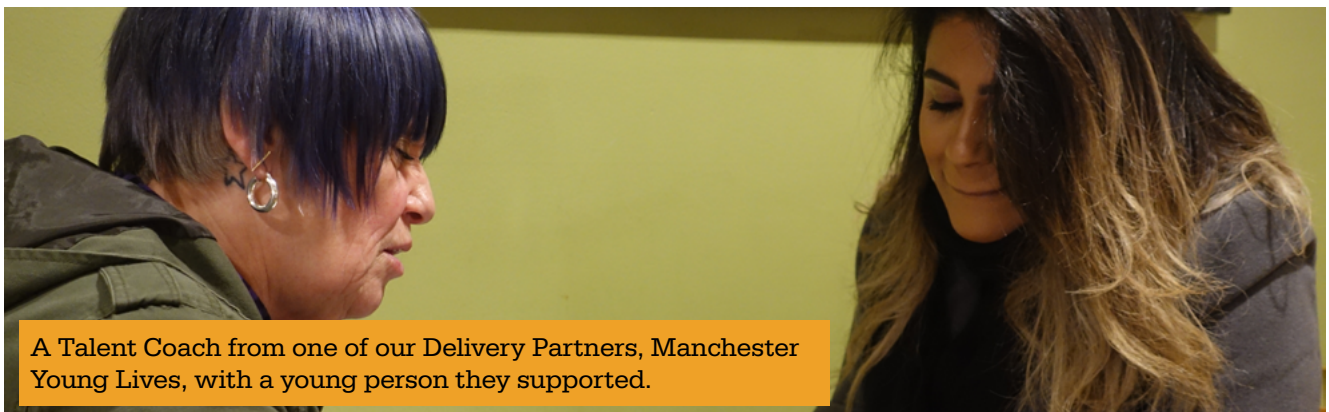
We have recently managed two work and skills programmes; Improving Access to Psychological Therapies and Greater Manchester's Hidden Talent.

Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) was funded by the Integrated Care Partnership to widen the number and demographic of people across Greater Manchester who are supported in their mental health by IAPT. We sought applications from VCSE mental health providers that engage with specific cohorts who have not traditionally been supported by IAPT. Successful provider organisations work with people with learning disabilities, autism, LGBTQ+ communities and Black & Afro-Caribbean

communities. The providers employ staff who are completing the Post Graduate Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner degree at the University of Manchester. The providers will then be commissioned by the Integrated Care Partnership to deliver an IAPT service.

Greater Manchester's Hidden Talent was a youth employment programme working with young people aged 16 – 24, funded by the UK Government through the UK Community Renewal Fund, and led by GMCVO. Delivery took place from January 2022 to June 2022. Our Talent Coaches, based in community-based employment support organisations across Greater Manchester, provided strength-based and holistic support to young people. Other programme partners include Greater Manchester Youth Network (GMYN) who facilitated our Youth Panel, and Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce who co-ordinated employer engagement.

As well as meeting outcome targets for numbers of young people finding employment, education, training, qualifications and gaining life skills, the testimonials from young people was also extremely positive.



A Talent Coach from one of our Delivery Partners, Manchester Young Lives, with a young person they supported.

What are we looking to do next?

Continuing on the work from Hidden Talent, we are working with GMYN to carry out a peer evaluation of Prince's Trust Future Workforce Fund programme with young people facilitating focus groups for young people as well as 1:1 interviews.

We will be collaborating with Greater Manchester Combined Authority to implement the recommendations from the GM's Hidden Talent evaluation report including setting up Youth Hubs in each borough in Greater Manchester.

We have been identifying employment inequalities within individual boroughs and are working to secure funding and relevant partners across Greater Manchester to address those gaps.

[Click here](#) to read Greater Manchester's Hidden Talent final evaluation report.

To get in touch with our Work and Skills Team please email: gavin.owen@gmcvo.org.uk



An event in November 2022 shared findings from GM's Hidden Talent final evaluation.

Our Staff

Adam French, St Thomas Centre Coordinator

Adebukola Adepoju-Ojo, Support Administrator (BASE)

Alana Borkwood, Investment Manager

Alison Crush, Senior Investment Manager

Ayaa Mohamed, Investment Manager

Beth Sharratt, Programme Manager

Cat Chrimes, Head of Investments

Dawn Segun-Toluhi, Project Assistant

Ellie Smith, Project Officer

Gary Millar, Chief Operations Officer

Gavin Owen, Programme Manager

Hanif Alli, Senior Officer (BASE)

Hannah Berry, Project Officer (GM Equality Alliance)

Helen Butler, Project Officer

Isabel Rivera, Investment Officer

Jackie Cowman, Finance Officer

John Hannen, Chief Executive Officer

Lisa Brown, Deputy Centre Manager

Lucas Wood, Project Officer

Lucy North, Communications Officer

Matt Dickinson, Investment Fund Administrator

Mike Thomas, Finance Manager

Nathalie Haslam, Programme Manager

Owen Hewson, Officer (Social Enterprise)

Rudra Sanyal, St Thomas Centre Coordinator

Sharon Summers, Project Officer

Sinead Griffiths, Investment Officer

Sittu Ahmed, Organisational Support Officer

Susanne Martikke, Researcher

Tanya Coutts, Operations Manager

Tekla Szerszynska, Investment Officer

Thea Monk, Programme Manager

Vicky Maher, Communications and Project Assistant

Viki Lee, Communications Manager

The following also worked for us during 2021/22

Aisha Osman, Apprentice Administrator (BASE)

Chigozie Emeka, Apprentice Administrator (St Thomas Centre)

Estifanos Semere, Social Policy Officer (Ambition for Ageing)

Kat Rado-Barnes, Senior Administrator

Lauren Gordon, Apprentice Administrator (BASE)

Liz Douglas, Project Manager (GM Local Access Partnership)

Mary Merritt, Administrator

GMCVO Volunteers 2021/22

David Sutcliffe
Susan Barrett

Members of GMCVO Board (December 2022)

Anwar Ali
Phil Arnold
Thomas Berry (Hon. Treasurer)
Kathryn Cheetham
Richard Dyson (Vice Chair)
Jesse Garrick
Mark Lee (Hon. Secretary)
Cllr. Tom McGee
Julie Nicholson

Finance and Personnel Committee

Thomas Berry
Mark Lee
Kathryn Cheetham

Directors of GMCVO Trading Ltd.

Thomas Berry
Richard Dyson

Directors of St Thomas Centre Ltd.

Kathryn Cheetham
Priti Butler

Directors of Access To Growth Ltd.

Priti Butler
Richard Dyson

Thanks to the following who served on the GMCVO Board during 2021/22

Atiha Chaudry
Priti Butler

GMCVO

St Thomas Centre

An accessible, attractive and unique conference and meeting venue.

St Thomas Centre is a renovated Grade 2 listed converted Georgian church offering all you need for a successful event including exceptional customer service.

Discounts for GMCVO members and voluntary organisations.

For more information about the centre and room rates visit our website: www.stthomascentre.org.uk

All profits from St Thomas Centre go back into the parent charity, GMCVO, to support activity that benefits voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in Greater Manchester.



Office and desk space to rent at St Thomas Centre

A convenient location close to Piccadilly station and major road networks with secure car park and cycle shed.

For more information please get in touch with tanya.coutts@gmcvo.org.uk

