

GMCVO

Voice

Strategic Guide: **An overview of GMCVO's** **involvement with AGMA and** **the Greater Manchester** **Combined Authority**



AGMA and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority¹

Following the abolition of the Greater Manchester Council in 1986, the local authorities of Greater Manchester continued to work collaboratively under the aegis of the *Association of Greater Manchester Authorities* (AGMA). Over recent years, Greater Manchester level working has increased further. Starting with bringing together a cross-sector forum, we have since seen a Greater Manchester Multi-Area Agreement and the establishment of a formal city region. Finally, the *Greater Manchester Combined Authority* (GMCA) was established in April 2011 to co-ordinate key economic development, regeneration and transport functions to boost economic performance and help deliver a brighter future for Greater Manchester sub-region.

The *GMCA/AGMA Executive Board* is the decision-making body for sub-regional governance in Greater Manchester. It consists of the 10 leaders of the Greater Manchester local authorities and also representatives of the Greater Manchester Fire and Civil Defence Authority, Police Authority and Waste Disposal Authority. The Board is supported by the Wider Leadership Team comprising the relevant chief executives. AGMA will continue to act as the voice of the 10 local authorities of Greater Manchester but as part of a much stronger partnership with GMCA.

Although structures and meetings at Greater Manchester level are still very much fluid due to public sector reform and restructuring, [GMCVO](#) tries to ensure we have relationships within any entity that is likely to be relevant to the Greater Manchester voluntary sector. GMCVO has a wide range of long-standing relationships with AGMA and the GMCA and with their various committees and working groups on behalf of the Greater Manchester voluntary sector.

Local Enterprise Partnership²

The *Local Enterprise Partnership* (LEP) is locally-owned partnership of the 10 local authorities and the business sector of Greater Manchester. LEPs are set up to play a central role in determining local economic priorities and undertaking activities to drive economic growth and the creation of local jobs. Because of the existence of the GMCA and the Business Leadership Council which already partly fulfils this role, the LEP's role will be a little more complex.

Members of the LEP are individuals and do not represent organisations or interest groups; however, there is a voluntary sector member from Rathbone. GMCVO has regular meetings with her, and can also engage with the LEP more formally as needed.

Transport for Greater Manchester Committee³

The *Transport for Greater Manchester Committee (TfGMC)* is a joint committee of GMCA and the 10 local authorities in Greater Manchester. TfGMC is responsible for advising the GMCA on transport policy, recommending how much money is spent on supporting public transport and monitoring the quality and performance of transport services across Greater Manchester.

Transport for Greater Manchester⁴

The *Transport for Greater Manchester executive (TfGM)* is the ‘delivery arm’ of the GMCA, responsible for putting the transport strategy and policy into practice and investing in transport services and facilities across the Greater Manchester sub-region. GMCVO through its [Transport Resource Unit](#) works alongside TfGM colleagues on a number of shared priorities including growing the capacity of local community transport, gathering intelligence, evidence about unmet local transport needs and developing local solutions.

GMCA/AGMA Scrutiny Committee⁵

The *GMCA/AGMA Scrutiny Committee* is made up of 30 elected representatives, three from each local authority within AGMA. It exists to achieve greater public accountability over decisions made and services delivered for the whole of Greater Manchester. GMCVO is occasionally called to give evidence on voluntary sector issues.

AGMA Commissions⁶

AGMA has established six commissions, with delegated responsibility from the GMCA/AGMA Executive Board for overseeing delivery and the development of specific strategic work against the aims and objectives set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy. The commissions in operation are:

- Environment;
- Improvement and Efficiency;
- Health;
- Planning and Housing;
- Public Protection;
- New Economy.

GMCVO engages with each of the AGMA commissions and their associated executives bodies and workstreams in different ways and at many levels. With the support of our policy networks we promote the voluntary sector, provide knowledge about it, and ensure relevant organisations can contribute to policy. Sometimes we also undertake

very practical projects, such as working with the Environment Commission on the Low Carbon Challenge, or with the Health Commission on public health. The commissions themselves vary greatly in how they operate, but in some cases we have a formal position at governance and/or executive level.

Public Service Reform Executive (Inc Community Budget Pilots)⁷

The *Public Service Reform Executive*, comprising Chief Executives and senior officers from partner organisations across Greater Manchester has been set up to oversee the delivery of public service reform across the city region, including the delivery of the Greater Manchester 'whole place' Community Budgets. As part of their role the executive is responsible for providing strategic direction and challenge to the thematic areas of work and the pilot overall. They are themselves responsible to the AGMA Wider Leadership Team and Leaders through the AGMA Executive and Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

Greater Manchester is one of the four areas piloting a 'whole place' Community Budget approach (others are Cheshire West, Essex and Westminster tri-borough). The 'whole place' Community Budget approach involves joint purchasing based on shared outcomes, creating cashable savings by taking demand out of the system and involves local authorities, NHS, police, probation and others, plus nine Whitehall departments led by the Communities and Local Government department.

Four key thematic areas are being progressed through the Greater Manchester pilot:

- Taking **troubled families** out of dependency through joint agency working and integrated commissioning, identifying effective sequencing, prioritisation and integration of support. This links to the original complex families community budget, focusing on interventions that can support and reduce the number of *troubled families* (also called 'complex' families) and is working through a number of pilots at local level.
- Improving **early years** provision focused on school readiness to deliver long-term increases in earnings and workforce productivity and short-term benefits on cost avoidance from reduced demand on services and potential reduction in looked after children.
- **Reducing re-offending** by working across criminal justice agencies, health, and local authorities, building on small-scale exemplars such as intensive alternatives to custody and greater use of conditional discharge. This links to the original Transforming Justice community budget, which focuses on *reducing re-offending* and the demand on criminal justice services, and is working on a Greater Manchester footprint.

- The focus of **health and social care** is of meeting the needs of vulnerable people, promoting independence, reducing demand, and ensuring good quality, financially sustainable services.

The voluntary sector is seen as a key partner and GMCVO is involved at strategic level. Its Director sits on the *Public Service Reform Executive* and is a member of the cross sector delivery team. We are trying to ensure the Greater Manchester voluntary sector is well placed to respond to challenges and opportunities, and commissioning from local voluntary groups is seen as an important solution in addressing the four themes.

Finally, GMCVO also sits on the Reducing Reoffending / Transforming Justice executive and is leading on the 'Point of Release' element of the Greater Manchester Reducing Reoffending Strategy. For this we are currently contacting and mapping organisations delivering services to vulnerable people and ex-offenders.

Business Leadership Council⁸

The role of the *Business Leadership Council (BLC)* is to advise AGMA and the GMCA on its ongoing policies and priorities and to conduct reviews on the areas it believes will determine the future well-being of the Manchester city region. The BLC is a private sector board in the AGMA governance structure. Members come from across a variety business/industry sectors and sizes (including higher education) throughout Greater Manchester most of whom are at CEO, director or board/chair level. GMCVO can engage with it as necessary.

Greater Manchester Police Authority⁹

The *Greater Manchester Police Authority (GMPA)* provides governance for the Greater Manchester Police. GMCVO acts as independent adviser to the Greater Manchester Police Confidence and Equalities Sub-committee which was created by the Police Authority to improve communities' confidence in and experience of their contact with Greater Manchester Police. *However, from November 2012 the GMPA will be replaced by an elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).* The PCC will hold office for four years and will be responsible for:

- Appointing the Chief Constable and holding them to account for the running of their force
- Producing a five-year Police and Crime Plan setting out local policing priorities
- Setting the annual policing precept component of local authority Council Tax, and the annual police force budget
- Co-operating with the criminal justice system in their area

- Working with partners and funding community safety activity to tackle crime and disorder by making grants to organisations that support their objectives.

GMCVO has created a [Safer Future Communities Network](#) for the Greater Manchester region which will engage, inform and influence the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Safer Future Communities Network will also support the voluntary community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector to engage with and influence the forthcoming PCC and the new commissioning landscape in which they will operate.

We will also support the Greater Manchester VCSE sector during the run-up to the PCC elections and in the period November 2012 – April 2013 when the PCC will be formulating their crime and policing plans. At present, GMCVO has scheduled a series of events with our local CVS partners to make the local voluntary sector aware of the role of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner.

Greater Manchester Skills and Employment Partnership¹⁰

The *Greater Manchester Skills and Employment Partnership* derives its powers from the Combined Authority and has only recently been established. It is led by New Economy, the agency charged with creating economic growth and prosperity across Greater Manchester. Its governance brings together a range of stakeholders from the public, private and education sectors; it has two executive committees, one focused on people in work and the other on those who are not. GMCVO's Director has regular meetings with the Skills and Employment Partnership Director, and is a member of the Future and Potential Workforce Group.

For more information about GMCVO's strategic engagement please contact:

Nasir Hussain, nasir.hussain@gmcvo.org.uk, 0161 277 1024

