

An update for staff from public sector organisations; regional and national third sector infrastructure; independent funders; and others with a strategic interest in the local voluntary and community (third) sector in Greater Manchester.

# GMVSS Newsletter

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## Our Work

Over the next 18 months we are working on a number of projects that aim to improve support for frontline voluntary and community organisations in Greater Manchester...

## Building Links

This newsletter aims to keep you informed about what **GMVSS is doing to strengthen and support the local voluntary and community sector (VCS) across Greater Manchester.**

We want to build connections with our partners to better support local communities within the current economic climate, and we believe local voluntary and community organisations have a major contribution to make in return.

In 2007 we launched an ambitious programme to

transform the nature of infrastructure support in Greater Manchester.

This newsletter outlines some of the current projects we are working on. We welcome your interest and feedback.



## What is GMVSS?

**GMVSS (Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support)** is a high level strategic partnership of organisations who work to support and strengthen the voluntary and community sector (VCS) across Greater Manchester.

As local infrastructure organisations (LIOs), GMVSS members work behind

the scenes to ensure that local VCS groups and organisations get the support they need and are brought together through a common vision (above).

Many of our members provide support with setting up a group, accessing funding, organisational development, and volunteering opportunities.

## Equalities and Human Rights



The Greater Manchester Equalities and Human Rights Parliament takes a pan-equalities approach based on the removal of barriers to inclusion and participation.

It brings together 20 equalities experts from the local voluntary sector to address controversial or difficult inequality and human rights issues.

The pan-equalities approach means that the parliament identifies common issues and supports campaigners to address persistent inequalities across all

equality strands.

The parliament has developed position statements on Public Sector Commissioning, Community Cohesion / Engagement, and the Equality Bill.

It has also advised AGMA on its proposed Equality and Human Rights Policy and Charter which aims to promote the principles of equality and human rights throughout Greater Manchester.

For more information email: [shakirah.ullah@gmcvo.org.uk](mailto:shakirah.ullah@gmcvo.org.uk)

## Performance Monitoring

**Developing a database to monitor and track the support that we offer.**

In 2007, GMVSS set about tackling a crucial task: to gain a better understanding of the local voluntary and community sector and its contribution to the communities around us.

We have been jointly developing a sophisticated, multi-functional database that is easy to use and is consistent across Greater Manchester by infrastructure organisations.

The project is being developed with

the [Merseyside Infrastructure Consortium](#) and it is being aligned to the NAVCA quality standard and NCVO's 'Value of Infrastructure Programme'.

The database is currently being implemented and will be used to manage contacts, events, membership, grants, newsletters, interventions and reporting.

By capturing data in a consistent and co-ordinated way, we strengthen understanding of the sector, track changing support needs, and can use it to inform service delivery and strategic planning.

## Did you know that Greater Manchester...

- ◆ Has the largest and most diverse VCS outside London
- ◆ Makes up **35%** of all VCS groups and organisations in the North West.
- ◆ Accounts for **5%** of the Greater Manchester workforce and employs over **67,000** paid staff and **283,000** unpaid staff and trustees
- ◆ Is worth **£3.85 billion** of the Greater Manchester economy.

## A Portfolio of Support

**A set of essential support services that will be available to support frontline groups - no matter who or where they are in Greater Manchester.**

GMVSS is co-ordinating the delivery of support services across Greater Manchester to ensure that all voluntary and community organisations have access to the support that they need.

The project will incorporate changing needs and ensure that the services are consistently available.

We have consulted with GMVSS members and are now gathering intelligence and putting a proposal together. We will next be seeking input from people working in the public sector. If you would be willing to complete a short survey or a telephone interview please contact [adrienne.hunter@gmcvo.org.uk](mailto:adrienne.hunter@gmcvo.org.uk)



# Funding Information Portal - for Greater Manchester

**An accessible and central place to go to for the latest funding opportunities, information and advice**

GMVSS has developed a Funding Information Portal for voluntary and community groups in Greater Manchester that will:

- ◆ Enable VCS organisations to access up to date tailored funding information
- ◆ Endorse good practice
- ◆ Effectively signpost to appropriate support from GMVSS members (governance, quality etc)

- ◆ Ensure a consistent and reliable level of support and improve efficiency

Voluntary Community Action Trafford (VCAT) is working with GMCVO and with funding information officers across Greater Manchester to further develop the portal. Training is being delivered to support funding advisors to use the database.

The portal will be launched at our event on **9th February 2010.**

## GMVSS Market Place

**A collaborative purchasing project for the third sector that will reduce the costs and time spent on buying goods and services**

We are working to source commonly used goods and services at a reduced cost for voluntary and community organisations.

The project aims to increase purchasing power, to influence the supply chain and to invest locally and ethically. It will also save back-end administration costs and resources to

use on service delivery. GMVSS Market Place also celebrates a more co-ordinated and collaborative working approach between GMVSS members and other local voluntary and community organisations to strengthen the sector.

For more information please contact: Ian Taylor, Tel: 0161 277 1040.



**Tuesday 9th February**  
10.00am – 12.30pm

St. Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North,  
Manchester M12 6FZ

**Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support (GMVSS) is holding a FREE half day event to launch a series of new projects.**

Please come along and see what we are doing to strengthen and support the Voluntary & Community Sector across Greater Manchester..

- . Keynote speakers including Matt Leach, Capacitybuilders
- . Case Studies from GMVSS members
- . Greater Manchester Project Launch including: the Funding Information Portal, Modernising Volunteering project, and the GMVSS Market Place
- . FREE Networking Lunch

**For more information** contact Adrienne Hunter on 0161 277 1008, E: [adrienne.hunter@gmcvo.org.uk](mailto:adrienne.hunter@gmcvo.org.uk)  
**To book your FREE place** contact Annie Ejgierd on 0161 277 1032, E: [annie.ejgierd@gmcvo.org.uk](mailto:annie.ejgierd@gmcvo.org.uk)

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support  
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Greater Manchester  
Voluntary Sector Support

**St. Thomas Centre,  
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[www.gmvss.net](http://www.gmvss.net)**

## About Us

GMVSS (Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support) is a high level strategic partnership of 37 organisations that provide infrastructure support to the local voluntary and community (third) sector across Greater Manchester.

The GMVSS vision represents a co-ordinated approach to strengthen our sector by ensuring groups have access to the support that they need. As the lead body for the consortium, GMCVO takes overall responsibility for GMVSS and helps drive our vision forward with GMVSS members.

GMVSS was formed in 2005 in response to the national government 'ChangeUp' programme and is funded by Capacitybuilders. Membership is open to all local infrastructure organisations in Greater Manchester, providing that they can demonstrate their accountability to frontline voluntary organisations.

## GMVSS Members

Our members include the Councils for Voluntary Service (or equivalent) across each of the ten districts of Greater Manchester, a number of providers of specialist support, and organisations that work with particular communities of interest such as disabled people or people from ethnic minorities.



For more information on members, please visit: [www.gmvss.net/GMVSSmembers](http://www.gmvss.net/GMVSSmembers)