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GMVSS Newsletter

An update on voluntary sector support in Greater Manchester

A collaborative future for support providers

In the changing political and economic context, GMVSS is developing a model for the future delivery of support across Greater Manchester.

We have identified **a set of essential services** to support voluntary and community organisations in Greater Manchester.

From there, members have been working together to co-ordinate and improve services where they can. For example by introducing a training co-ordinators network to map current training provision and where we might benefit from sharing best

practice and filling gaps.

In September, members agreed on an initial proposal for how they might collaborate post March 2011. We are now working on how this might be implemented.

The Portfolio of Support is **our offer to the sector**, and our response to the current spending



cuts - both individually and collectively - as a partnership of support organisations.

www.gmvss.net/portfolio

GMVSS is a partnership of organisations in Greater Manchester.

Individually and collectively we provide support to the voluntary and community sector.

We work together to improve and strengthen our services through a collaborative approach.

Find out more about who we are, what we do and why we are here, visit

www.gmvss.net

Improving access to support

The Greater Manchester funding portal attracted over 1100 registered users in its first nine months

Officially launched in February 2010, the portal offers access to the latest funding opportunities, information and guidance.

Groups are able to identify appropriate funding opportunities from over 5,000 funding schemes through an online, step-by-step questionnaire. They are also able to request follow-up support, find further funding advice and view the latest funding news. Any progress and user friendliness is monitored through a steering group and a set of funding factsheets are also being developed for the new year. For more information visit: www.gmfunding.net



Saving the sector money on goods and services

We have been working to save time and money for voluntary and community organisations by negotiating bulk purchasing deals. Any voluntary, community or faith group in Greater Manchester can register to access exclusive deals on a range of goods and services. These include insurance, stationery, IT services, telecoms and more. The Market Place is also developing information and training on a range of subjects including ethical purchasing, negotiation skills and more. Over 50 organisations have registered since its launch in September.

Visit www.gmvss.net/marketplace

Helping the voluntary and community sector in Greater Manchester to find the support that they need



www.gmvss.net offers information, advice and guidance to help voluntary and community organisations set up, develop and grow. Find out more about our members, news and events.

Developing the sector together

We have successfully piloted a range of new learning opportunities for the voluntary and community sector in Greater Manchester. Over 50 individuals have benefited in the past six months. iLearn offers a range of informal learning opportunities, which include tailored work shadowing, action learning, mentoring or coaching. Individuals are able to assess their own learning needs through iLearn, and then be matched to someone who can offer solutions to those needs.

The pilot has represented a great way of improving the skill base of the sector and we are considering how we might continue this service beyond March 2011.

www.gmvss.net/iLearn



Helping the voluntary and community sector adapt to change

Our members have collaborated to help voluntary and community organisations respond to the changing environment.

Through a series of events, groups have been able to consider the risks and options from collaboration, to strategic alliances to 'thinking the unthinkable'. A follow-up series is currently being arranged up until Christmas. **"We recently ran a successful Thinking the Unthinkable event with Voluntary and Community Action Trafford (VCAT)... which benefited organisations across the whole of Salford and Trafford"** Lynne Elliot, Chief Officer, Salford CVS

What next for equality, diversity and human rights? 9th December, Manchester



In these times of economic austerity, equality has never been so important. A conference for anyone interested in the future of Equality & Human Rights, with a focus on influencing and campaigning - public sector welcome. www.gmvss.net/node/1838

Celebrating the success of our members

Salford CVS becomes the fourth member to achieve the NAVCA Quality Award

Salford CVS, under its new Chief Officer, Lynne Elliot, has underlined its commitment to deliver quality local support in Salford by working towards and gaining this award. It joins three other GMVSS members who have been through the process, which involves an external audit and interviews with service users and funders.

Bolton CVS, Tameside Third Sector Coalition and the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) have already achieved the award.



**NAVCA
Quality
Award**

“Salford CVS has demonstrated that it delivers high quality services to the voluntary and community sector in Salford”

Kevin Curley, Chief Executive, NAVCA

T3SC is announced as a sustainable funding beacon!

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) has chosen six local strategic partners to deliver its sustainable funding programme for 2010 – 2012, supported by the Big Lottery Fund. Each organisation will provide skills, knowledge and tools to help their local voluntary and community organisations to adopt a sustainable funding approach.



As one of the selected partners, Tameside Third Sector Coalition with Voluntary Action Oldham, will be developing a tailored programme, which includes a needs analysis, training, resource development and capacity building around sustainable funding. www.gmvss.net/node/1818

Voluntary and Community Action Trafford (VCAT) celebrates ten years of development support

At its recent AGM in October, VCAT celebrated ten years of support to voluntary and community groups in Trafford. Their support includes advice and information on how to set up, develop and fund community activities. VCAT led on the development of the Greater Manchester funding portal and are in touch with over 500 voluntary and community groups in Trafford. In the past year they have given direct support to over 70 groups, provided 300 training places and delivered a variety of forums for their members. **“Without VCAT’s support our group would not have been established. Their training, advice and support were invaluable”** taken from the VCAT Review, 2009-2010

Turning ideas into action for a sustainable future

Over the last two years MERCI has engaged with over 120 third sector organisations across Greater Manchester to help turn ideas into action for a sustainable future.

Funded by the Big Lottery, MERCI have helped organisations to rethink the way that they work and to operate in a more sustainable way - environmentally, socially and economically. Support has been provided through a series of workshops, events and sustainability audits under their Sustaining Change programme.



They are now working as a mentor to support four 'trailblazer' organisations who will disseminate their learning to other organisations. www.merci.org.uk/sustainingchange

Working in partnership to improve commissioning in Wigan and Leigh

Wigan and Leigh CVS has been working with the local authority to improve their commissioning process, in particular to help the engagement of local third sector organisations. As part of this work they have developed a 'commissioning improvement' plan for the district. They are increasing the understanding of both the commissioning process itself - and of the valuable role of the voluntary and community sector within it.

Over 60 people attended their recent 'commissioning – cuts – personalisation' event, which improved understanding between commissioners and the local voluntary and community sector through direct engagement. The event demonstrated how partnership working can help to achieve common goals and build the foundations for better commissioning at all stages of the process. Staff at Wigan and Leigh CVS are already using the feedback to plan future training and support. www.cvswl.org

Bolton CVS was shortlisted for a national Social Change award

The BIG Bolton Fund was shortlisted by the Directory of Social Change for the 'Great Giving Funders Award' category. Delivered by Bolton CVS, the Fund provides grants for local community and voluntary groups to help them make a huge difference to the lives of people in Bolton.

Bolton CVS used their understanding of the community and funding environment to offer clear guidance and support to ALL applicants. They also offer access to further development support once an application has been submitted. Social Change Award winners are based on the public's vote, with winners announced at an annual ceremony.

Celebrating the success of our members

Back in June, The Lesbian and Gay Foundation's campaign, "Enough is Enough" was named Digital Campaign of the Week by Third Sector magazine.

The campaign was launched on 17th May, the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. The campaign encourages people to take positive action against

homophobia and it features Coronation Street actor Antony Cotton (pictured above) and screen and stage legend Sir Ian McKellen (both LGF Patrons). To find out more and to join the movement against homophobia visit: www.lgf.org.uk/enough



Community Foundation for Greater Manchester were crowned the winners of the Grantmaking category at the national Charity Awards, that took place in London. The

star-studded awards ceremony was hosted by comedienne Jo Brand. The organiser of the Awards said "It is a fantastic organisation and the award is thoroughly deserved." It was also announced recently that the Community Foundation have

maintained the **Investors in People award** and achieved **Bronze status**. Visit: www.communityfoundation.co.uk

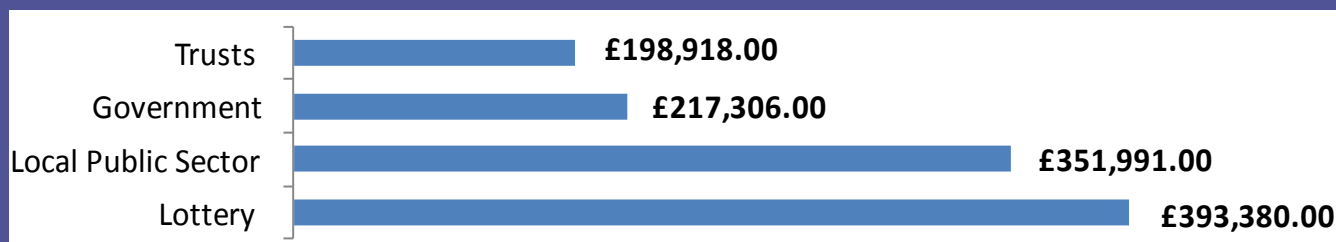
New support service for voluntary and community groups in Stockport

Stockport Council has awarded a new three-year contract to Synergy Stockport to provide support services for local voluntary and community groups across the district. The announcement came in October as part of Stockport Council's Boost campaign to increase funding for local voluntary and community groups.

Synergy Stockport is a charitable company and social enterprise made up of voluntary and community groups. They have taken a consortium approach and its members are local voluntary and community groups. The previous contract was held by Stockport CVS. For the full article, please visit: www.gmvss.net/node/1876

Over £1.1 million of funding secured for voluntary groups in Bury

Bury Third Sector Development Agency (B3SDA) runs a development and funding service which offers practical guidance on starting up and developing third sector groups in Bury. Every year B3SDA evaluate their service and monitor the groups they have supported. In the last financial year a total of **£1,161,595.00** was secured by organisations that B3SDA supported (2009-10). A breakdown is outlined below:



Supporting the sector through cuts in Rochdale

CVS Rochdale is supporting voluntary and community organisations as announcements of funding cuts have sent shockwaves around the borough. Their Community Conference and AGM helped to equip voluntary and community groups in Rochdale as they face perhaps the biggest challenges in their history. The conference featured six seminars and workshops that included: a guide to the commissioning process, what to do in a 'worst case' scenario, collaborative working, meet the funders, the government agenda, and volunteering. The event is part of a series of 'thinking the unthinkable' events being delivered by GMVSS members across Greater Manchester.

Oldham and Bury have been awarded the Green Flag status for their Compact and Partnership working

Cath Cook, Engagement Officer at Voluntary Action Oldham (VAO) has led the work in Oldham since the Compact was launched there 12 months ago. She says, 'The Compact in Oldham has made a phenomenal change to the way all partners work together.' Compact Voice (the national voice on the Compact) is highlighting and promoting productive relationships between local public bodies and voluntary, community and faith groups through the Green Flag award.

Providing the 'front door' to access support in Manchester

Since its launch in January 2010, Manchester Community Central has supported over 170 community and voluntary sector groups to access a basic level of support in Manchester. A further 250 have benefited from information and signposting through their central support number – 0333 321 3021. Their service is built upon the ethos of partnership working, which has recently been recognised with an award by the Open University. Visit their website:

www.manchestercommunitycentral.org



Greater Manchester
Voluntary Sector Support

GMVSS is a partnership of organisations that provide support to the voluntary and community sector in Greater Manchester

The partnership was formed in 2005 in response to a national government programme called 'ChangeUp'. GMCVO takes overall responsibility as the lead and accountable body.

Contact the GMVSS team:

- Chris Heard (Manager)**
0161 277 1030 chris.heard@gmcvo.org.uk
- Shakirah Ullah (Diversity and Access)**
0161 277 1012 shakirah.ullah@gmcvo.org.uk
- Adrienne Hunter (Consortium Development)**
0161 277 1008 adrienne.hunter@gmcvo.org.uk
- Annie Ejgierd / Andy Rawling (Administration)**
0161 277 1032 annie.ejgierd@gmcvo.org.uk
0161 277 1009 andy.rawling@gmcvo.org.uk



Members

Our members include local infrastructure organisations such as: Councils for Voluntary Service (or equivalent), specialist support services (e.g. Community Accountancy), or organisations that support a specific community or equality strand (e.g. disabled people or ethnic minorities).

