



## Key messages for VCFSE Representatives

Messaging to support you in your work and meetings representing the Greater Manchester (GM) voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector.

### Greater Manchester VCFSE sector priorities

1. **Embedding the VCFSE sector as an equal partner** in devolution and public service delivery to address key challenges.
2. Making Greater Manchester **a leading force in co-design**.  
*[Visit here](#) to read our set of key principles and considerations for including the voice of lived experience.*
3. **Embedding VCFSE in public service delivery**.  
*Social businesses and charities who are members of the [Alternative Provider Collaborative](#) provided NHS services to over 2million people last year.*
4. **Building resilient and caring communities**.  
*Our sector needs more resources for our role in tackling prejudice, discrimination and violence.*
5. **Building community wealth and community ownership**.  
*We want to see charities, social enterprises, and employee-owned businesses have a stronger share and more say in local economies and developments.*
6. Championing, valuing, and investing in our workforce. Providing **good employment**, including a **commitment to the Living Wage**.  
*We need commissioning frameworks which offer long-term investment that meets costs and needs of services and workforce.*

#### Further reading:

- [GM Manifesto 2024-2028 \(2024\)](#)
- [GM VCFSE Leadership Group: Our work](#)

### What the VCFSE sector in Greater Manchester can offer

1. **A positive shift for a thriving society**. The VCFSE sector represents the fabric of society. We offer our commitment to the vision in which all GM residents are valued, included and safe to lead good lives.
2. **Our ability to engage, inform, consult, support and mobilise** residents and communities due to significant levels of trust.
3. **Our knowledge of the barriers to attaining equality** which are experienced by different communities, and **our ability to overcome them**.
4. **Our expertise in social and economic innovation** and our experience delivering more socially impactful ways of conducting business.
5. **Our independent resources** including volunteers and funding which we can align with public and private sector resources to achieve common goals.

#### Further reading:

- [GM Manifesto 2024-2028 \(2024\)](#)
- [The Role of the VCFSE Sector \(2025\)](#)

Visit the [Greater Manchester VCFSE Leadership Group](#) website to find out more about our work, our members, sector news, and further resources designed to support our sector to carry out its work.

## Further key messages and resources

- [VCFSE Sector Instability \(click to read more\)](#)

### The headlines:

- **We want commissioners to work with our sector to support and protect us at a time of significant instability** due to contracts that fail to keep pace with inflation and relevant pay scale, delayed decisions, a lack of funding uplifts, a lack of long-term funding, and lack of a level playing field in commissioning decisions.
- This is alongside new financial pressures such as the recent National Insurance increase which disproportionately impacts our sector.

*A conservative estimate of the cost increase on GM VCFSE organisations was forecast as an additional £20k–£50k annually per organisation, amounting to £38M for the sector as a whole.*

- [What we mean by ‘prevention’ and the VCFSE sector’s role \(click to read the full document\)](#)

### The headlines:

- **The VCFSE are experts in prevention.** We believe in emphasising individual agency, relationships, and community assets to improve their quality of life – helping people live, independent and healthier lives.

**Prevention is a health issue and an economic issue.** It’s linked to social, environmental, and economic conditions. Distributing wealth and opportunities is key to prevention.

- [Social Value & the VCFSE sector: key messages for our commissioners \(click to read full document\)](#)

### The headlines:

- Commissioners process and guidance should reflect that **social value is already built into the delivery of VCFSE organisations.**
- Commissioners should **prioritise funding social business and local organisations** that employ local people, use local supply chains, and know their communities well.

- [Including the voice of Lived Experience in Policy making \(click to read full document\)](#)

### The headlines:

- Policy makers should **actively devolve power and control** to people with lived experience.
- Treat people with lived experience as **partners** – not advisors or consultants.
- People with lived experience should be **setting the agenda** AND identifying solutions.
- People should be **remunerated at the appropriate level.**
- A commitment should be made to be **inclusive and accessible** in all situations.

- [What is GM Live Well? And what is the role of the VCFSE sector in Live Well? \(click to read full document\)](#)

## Statistics: The GM VCFSE sector (State of the Sector 2021, 10GM)

