

Greater Manchester VCFSE Accord Delivery Highlights

Q1 (Apr-Jun) 2025-26

Greater Manchester
VCFSE Leadership Group
The sector's voice in devolution

GMCA GREATER
MANCHESTER
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

 Transport for
Greater Manchester

Greater
Manchester
Integrated Care
Partnership


Greater Manchester
Integrated Care

Accord Priorities

Greater Manchester
VCFSE Leadership Group
The sector's voice in devolution

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Population Health & Live Well



Commissioning & Investment



Data & Intelligence



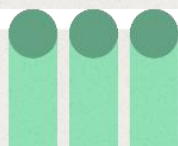
Communication



VCFSE Ecosystem & Localities



Equalities



Inclusive Economy & Integrated Settlement



VCFSE Involvement and Influencing

Population Health & Live Well



Liz Windsor-Welsh
Co-chair of Population
Health Group, CEO of Action
Together and 10GM Director



Charles Kwaku-Odoi
Co-chair of Population Health
Group, Chief Executive of
Caribbean and African Health
Network



Kassandra Banks,
Secretariat, Partnerships
Officer, VSNW
kassandra.banks@vsnw.org.uk



Sarah Hudson, Responsible
Officer, Population Health
Strategic Lead,
10GM
Sarah.Hudson@10GM.org.uk



<https://www.VCFSEleadershipgm.org.uk/population-health/> <https://www.10gm.org.uk/population-health.html>

Population Health & Live Well – Q1

- **Live Well National Lottery Community Fund bid** submitted, supported locality partner contributions. Scoping increase of bid timescales to 5 years, with increased investment.
- **GM Live Well Co-Design Workshop:** Resourcing vibrant voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) & Community ecosystems - delivered in April to scope Live Well centres and spaces.
- **Delivered locality Live Well sessions** focused on centres/neighbourhood model/lottery bid and disseminated briefings to Local VCFSE Infrastructure organisations (LIOs)
- Ongoing **work with GM Population Health Network to strengthen strategic alliance with LIO Strategic Network** to map funding into VCSE sector including social prescribing - organising workshop for Autumn.
- Attended **GM Live Well Programme planning meetings** to continue strategic influencing to ensure VCFSE is central to local model.

Commissioning & Investment



Alison Page
Co-chair of Commissioning &
Investment Group, CEO of
Salford CVS and 10GM
Director



Paul Martin
Co-chair of Commissioning &
Investment Group, Chief
Executive of LGBT Foundation



Susie Wright
Responsible Officer, Strategic
Lead, 10GM
susie.wright@10gm.org.uk



Kassandra Banks,
Secretariat, Partnerships
Officer, VSNW
kassandra.banks@vsnw.org.uk



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Commissioning & Investment– Q1

- **Paper finalised on Market Development Strategy to GM Integrated Care Board (ICB) on 16th July**, co-led by Warren Heppolette, NHS GM, and Leigh Vallance, GM VCFSE Leadership Group member, with input from Commissioning & Investment sub-group members, including NHS GM Commissioning Principles and Commissioning for Inclusio. [Read more here.](#)
- **GMCA continues to explore how [Fair Funding Protocol](#)** can be adopted / implemented through practice. VCFSE scoping of mechanism to collate contract issues for escalation. Proposal going to September Commissioning & Investment sub-group .
- **First in a series of [Primary Care and VCFSE sector Round Table meetings](#)** was held Thursday 19th June to form better relationship with this part of the GM health system and explore partnership working.
- **Acute Trust Round Table** being planned with Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) to influence this element of GM health system.
- **Commissioning for inclusion** re-committed to in [ICB report](#) in July.

Data & Intelligence

This work is being led by 10GM for peer data network, and by all Accord officers this year as it cuts across all working groups and Accord delivery.



Sarah Hudson,
Strategic Lead,
10GM

Sarah.Hudson@10GM.org.uk



Susie Wright
Strategic Lead, 10GM
susie.wright@10gm.org.uk



Anna Cooper
Programme Manager,
VSNW

anna.cooper@vsnw.org.uk



A joint venture to
support the local
VCSE sector in
Greater Manchester



- **Delivered prototype programme with GMCA Research Team** to match a VCFSE organisations with University of Manchester [Q-Step](#) students to undertake summer internships support with organisational data and research skills development. This comes following successful relationship built via the [VCFSE Data and Intelligence Peer Learning Network](#). If successful, there is potential to widen out availability to broader VCFSE sector in Q4.
- **Peer Learning Network session planned in Q2 (27th August 2025)** focusing on '[how to approach data in smaller and/or less resourced VCFSE organisations](#)' with expert workshop delivered by Data Orchard CIC building on outputs from [VCSE Data and Intelligence Maturity Report](#). *No funding is secured for ongoing sessions beyond Q2.*
- **Plan to use Accord officer meetings to scope how next Accord might focus on data & intelligence** and what we want to build together.

Alternative Provider Collaborative (APC)



Edna Robinson
Executive Chair of the APC



Franky Procter
Project Manager APC,
franky.procter@gmapc.org.uk



www.gmapf.org.uk/

Alternative Provider Collaborative (APC) – Q1

- **APC is now a Community Interest Company** – Expression of Interests for its board have been received with initial appointments in place. Informal gathering of board scheduled for late September, business plan to follow.
- **Primary Care Board (PCB)** initial conversations through roundtables. Working group of officers to build on this.
- **Raising profile of provider voice and national profile of APC** – NHS Confed spotlight on APC providers. Raising profile with The Kings Fund, Presenting on GM landscape for University College London, working with NHS England to support thinking around how 'the centre' engages with social business. Joined Social Enterprise UK (SEUK) (inc. health and care network). Nominated for HSJ Provider Collaborative of the year, shortlisting announced early September.
- **Membership demand is outstripping capacity** - recently onboarded GM Women's Support Alliance (WSA), Locala, DISC, Rochdale Connections Trust. 5 further applications in progress.
- **Delivery solutions:**
 - Ongoing, new commissioning framework for Translation /Interpretation services in Primary Care delayed but work continues, study visit to Everyday language Solutions in the pipeline.
 - Children and Young People and Neurodevelopmental Disability (CYD ND) Provider Collaborative generating interest and 3 successful events held. Working to identify joint delivery opportunities and support NHS in redevelopment and standardisation of current statutory pathway.

Communications



Lucy North
Communications and Policy Officer,
VSNW

lucy.north@vsnw.org.uk



Anna Cooper
Responsible Officer, GM Programme
Manager, VSNW

anna.cooper@vsnw.org.uk

**Voluntary
Sector**
North West



Communications – Q1

- [Definitions of 'Prevention'](#) published to ensure consistency in understanding.
- [Profile of the GM Ethnic Communities Network](#) published on the website to ensure they have a presence there.
- [Small Charities week mini campaign](#) to highlight and grow awareness of relevant resources and work under the Accord.
- Views and perspectives from GM LG members shared through comms channels, e.g. NHS Confed Conference & the Spending Review.
- **Continued growth of communications channels:** Excellent engagement with monthly ebulletin for the wider sector, and on LinkedIn.
- Public sector mailing list ([sign up here](#)) for the Accord is now in-house at VSNW so we can now monitor reach and engage with public sector colleagues across NHS, GMCA & local authorities, for example.
- Continued **'socialisation' of principles to including the voice of lived experience in policy making** through communications materials (social media graphics, online workshop).
- Continuing to share **comms to define 'Inclusive Economy'** (i.e. promoting the Inclusive Economy portfolios).
- **16** [news items](#) published in total this quarter.

Equalities (led by GM=EqAl)



Jules Palfreyman
Chair of GM=EqAl



Ayisatu Emore
GM=EqAl Partnership Coordinator
ayisatu.emore@vsnw.org.uk



Equalities – GM=EqAL – Q1

- Finalised Grants and Contracts with:
 - GMCA/Greater Manchester Police for **Justice Engagement, Whole System Approach to Diversion.**
 - GMCA/NHS for **Live Well Community Fund for Geographically Dispersed Communities.**
- Completed **Phase 1 of GM=EqAL self determination exercise with Team Away Day and a Skills and Representation Audit.** GM=EqAL membership agreed to be hosted by VSNW till March 2026 (arrangements to be reviewed then)
- Key Principles for Involving the **Voice of Lived Experience in Policy Making** [launched with a Webinar and interactive in-person/virtual workshop](#) developed and offered to Public and VCFSE Sector.
- **Continued Engagement with Stakeholders across the Accord Ecosystem:** Policy Custody work, Get Britain Working, GM Green agenda, Live Well Fund, Victims and Justice Group, VCFSE Work and Skills
- *GM=EqAL still in recovery phase.*

Inclusive Economy & Integrated Settlement



Liz Windsor-Welsh
GMCA Strategic
Advisor, CEO of Action
Together and 10GM
Director



John Hannen
Work & Skills Lead,
VSNW
john.hannen@vsnw.org.uk



Anna Cooper
Responsible Officer,
GM Programme
Manager, VSNW
anna.cooper@vsnw.org.uk



Lucy North
Communications and
Policy Officer, VSNW
lucy.north@vsnw.org.uk

www.VCFSEleadershipgm.org.uk/inclusive-economy/



Inclusive Economy and Integrated Settlement – Q1

- Feedback on refreshed [Greater Manchester Strategy \(GMS\)](#) taken on board, leading to Accord pledge that says expanded and increased investment.
- **GM Environment** scoping project underway for 25/26 by Groundwork GM.
- [Economic Inactivity Trailblazer](#) - secured VCFSE role to support 25/26.
- GMCA presentation on **Greater Manchester Integrated Settlement** at June Leadership Group meeting with follow up conversations organised through the VCFSE Strategic Influencing Group.
- News and blogs shared on **Greater Manchester [Integrated Single Settlement April deal](#)**, and The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill.
- **Continued comms on** the portfolios of Good Practice for an Inclusive Economy – “[Trading for Social Good](#)”; [Community Ownership](#); [Net zero: A Just Transition](#); [Good Employment](#)

VCFSE Involvement and Influencing

This work is being led by the GM VCFSE Leadership Group and all officers as it cuts across all working groups and accord delivery. Chair and officer responsibility sits with VSNW.



Warren Escadale
Chief Executive at VSNW and
Chair of the GM VCFSE Leadership
Group

Anna Cooper
Responsible Officer, Programme
Manager at VSNW
anna.cooper@vsnw.org.uk



VCFSE Involvement and Influencing – Q1

- VCFSE Accord cited as first [case study in National Civil Society Covenant](#).
- **VCFSE Strategic Influencing Group** strengthened with new membership representing good employment, real living wage, and housing to help respond to opportunities for sector involvement in integrated settlement opportunities
- **Two** [Greater Manchester Land Commission VCFSE representatives](#) recruited, attended first meeting in June.
- **VCFSE Representation presented at GM Ethnic Communities Network.**
- **Met with Asylum & Migration Response Group reps and GMCA** on recruitment process and improving communications links with this part of the sector
- Rob Bellingham commissioned work on “influencing health” plan for GM VCFSE sector resulted in first in a **series of Primary Care Roundtables and planning for Acute Trust Roundtable** underway
- [GM Respectful Research Charter published](#)

VCFSE Ecosystem & Localities



Susie Wright
Responsible Officer, Strategic
Lead, 10GM
susie.wright@10gm.org.uk



George McConnachie
Responsible Officer, Project
Manager, 10GM
george.mcconnachie@10gm.org.uk



Anna Cooper
Responsible Officer, GM
Programme Manager, VSNW
anna.cooper@vsnw.org.uk

This work is being led by 10GM with the local VCFSE infrastructure organisation leads network on behalf of the Leadership Group but cuts across all working groups and Accord delivery. Coordination is also cross-cutting but the VCFSE Grant Leads agencies have oversight of this work collectively.

www.10gm.org.uk/locality-engagement.html | www.VCFSEleadershipgm.org.uk/locality-engagement/

Ecosystem & Localities– Q1

- Monthly **local VCFSE infrastructure organisation collaboration spaces** at a strategic and operational level. Live Well, Prevention Demonstrator, National Lottery Bid, meeting regional Lottery Team re new priorities, commissioning relationships and challenges, NHS engagement grant, social economy strategy, external evaluation of infrastructure development programme, state of sector proposals.
- **Ad hoc collaboration sessions** planned on priority and time sensitive topics, including:
 1. Design and lead on VCFSE-led lottery bid
 2. Learn from design and implementation of Community Live Well Fund.
 3. Develop state of sector proposals
- **Collaboration on design of a national Lottery bid**, led by 10GM and local infrastructure well underway.
- **Review of all VCFSE locality strategies** undertaken to identify shared priority areas for use in future Accord planning.
- **GM Network Connect** met to discuss digital platform for network of networks information sharing.
- **VCFSE Forum in Stockport** in July

Rapid Summary Q1

Two big things:

1. [NHS GM sector stability paper](#) signed off by GM Integrated Care Board (NHS GM) – including Commissioning Principles.
2. Refreshed [Greater Manchester Strategy](#) – including Accord pledge and commitment to increased investment.

Small, but beautiful things:

1. ‘[Voice of Lived experience in policy making guide](#)’ cross sector [webinar](#) and engagement, work on how this is being taken through the GMS. Requested to include in equality and human rights toolkit for Scottish Government.
2. Work & Skills GM ‘Economic Inactivity Trailblazer’ commitment secured – briefing published .
3. First in series of VCFSE & Primary Care Roundtables.

One concern: landing Accord in system churn - new programmes, processes in GMCA & NHS reform.

Future areas:

1. Live Well – geographically dispersed communities investment fund & localities funds
2. Integrated Settlement processes through Strategic Influencing Group
3. Accord Refresh Planning

Risk	Mitigation/ Control
High level of system churn (in NHS and GMCA) - Trying to land Accord in context of new programmes and dramatically shifting system context, muscle memory and loss of relationships.	
Acute Trusts being responsible for commissioning in future – lack of relationship and understanding with VCFSE/ not cited on Accord.	Acute Trust Roundtable being planned.
GM Integrated Care Board paper – need for clarity on process/ implementation moving forward due to NHS restructures.	This work is being picked up through C&I group, Warren Heppolette, Sara Roscoe and Sarah Harris
- Likelihood of increased audit and scrutiny on contracting moving forward for VCFSE organisations.	
- Increased risk of delayed commissioning decisions.	
Stakeholder buy in to Accord refresh process – local authorities, and other parts of system such as NHS as it changes	Engagement plan to encourage local conversations. Local authority spots on the steering group.
Language ambiguity – e.g., ‘community’ and ‘prevention’	<u>Prevention definitions</u> reminder given in context of prevention demonstrator.