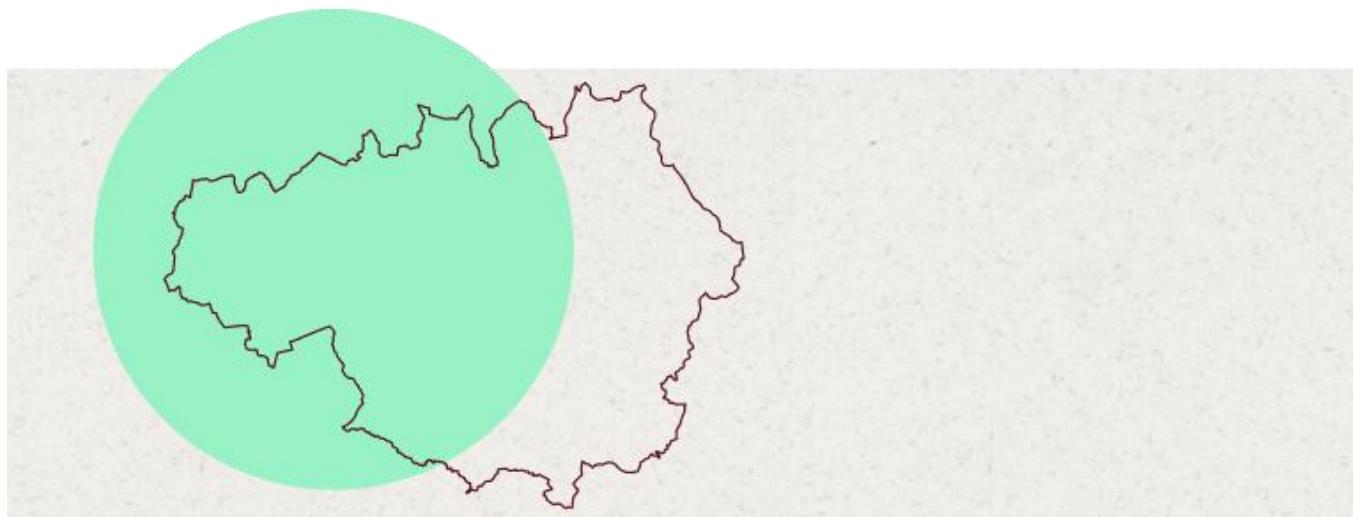


The Role of the VCFSE Sector in Greater Manchester

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Secretariat

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Title of paper	The role of the VCFSE sector in Greater Manchester
Author (s)	Anne Lythgoe (GMCA)
Purpose of paper	This paper describes the potential role(s) that might be taken by the VCFSE sector in activities which deliver the commitments and outcomes in the Greater Manchester Strategy.
Scope of paper	This paper has been developed for public sector officers from the VCSE Policy Position Paper ¹ published in 2020 and has been informed by work to deliver the VCFSE Accord over the last 3 years across Greater Manchester.
Summary of content	<p>The paper contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A definition of the VCFSE sector • Facts and figures from the State of the Sector research • Explanation of how the sector is organised and main characteristics • An overview of potential roles that the sector might play in the work of public sector organisations – organised around engagement, delivery and social change • An overview of the GM VCFSE Accord • An analysis of issues & barriers faced by the sector at the current time • Analysis and ‘where to start’ in building relationships with the VCFSE sector • A locality overview of VCFSE arrangements and infrastructure contacts
Overview of stakeholder engagement in paper development	<p>This paper was adapted from the VCSE Policy paper published by the GM VCFSE Leadership Group in 2020.</p> <p>Various Accord officers and Leadership group members were involved in its development</p> <p>VCFSE Leadership Group discussions in November 2024 with feedback from both these discussions embedded in the briefing. Both sets of detailed feedback can be viewed in Leadership Group minutes.</p>
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¹ <https://www.vcfseleadershipgm.org.uk/resources/greater-manchester-vcse-position-paper-the-next-10-years>

The Role of the VCFSE sector in Greater Manchester

1. Introduction

This paper has been developed **for public sector officers** from the VCSE Policy Position Paper² published in 2020 and has been informed by work to deliver the VCFSE Accord over the last 3 years across Greater Manchester. It describes the role of the VCFSE sector in activities which deliver the commitments and outcomes in the Greater Manchester Strategy and has been written with an audience of officers within policy teams at NHSGM, GMCA and TfGM in mind.

Insight has also been drawn from conversations with VCFSE representatives, GMCA and TfGM staff, and feedback from officers working across Greater Manchester's 10 local authorities.

However, this paper **does not** provide details of the geographic variations in the sector across and between the individual local authority areas. Section 9 gives examples of where to start if a more detailed level of understanding is required.

2. What is the 'VCFSE' sector?

'VCFSE' is a collective term used to describe a 'sector' containing voluntary organisations, community groups, faith-led organisations, and those social enterprises / inclusively owned businesses where profits will be reinvested in their social purpose. All will have social aims / values at the heart of their operation, although it must be noted that there are 'grey areas' – not all will be 'not for profit' and some will operate at arm's length to the statutory sector.

Appendix 1 contains a more comprehensive list of VCFSE 'businesses' which was developed for the 'Support for the Social Economy' UKSPF programme.

The Combined Authority has acknowledged the significant role of Faith and Belief in society and the support faith organisations provide, often to the most disadvantaged, both in terms of spiritual wellbeing and practical services. Therefore, GMCA will use the term **VCFSE** when referring to the sector and its work.

The VCFSE sector is a positive force as part of the 'system' which will strive for change and improvement in the future of Greater Manchester, delivering the new Greater Manchester Strategy. The VCFSE sector is a primary partner in all our work.

3. Facts and figures - The 'State of the Sector' in Greater Manchester

Greater Manchester is home to around 17,500 VCFSE groups and organisations whose work will play a part in tackling inequalities and improving the lives of local people. These organisations are active across every aspect of the work of GMCA including crime and disorder; sport, culture and leisure; skills, employment and enterprise; health and social care; housing and transport; environment and carbon reduction; poverty reduction; and inclusive economy. Social, environmental, and economic action is the backdrop to everything that the sector does.

The following table contains statistics about the VCFSE sector in Greater Manchester drawn from the 2021 State of the Sector Report³. A new version of this report is to be published in 2026.

² [GM-VCSE-Position-Paper-Final.pdf](https://vcseleadershipgm.org.uk/GM-VCSE-Position-Paper-Final.pdf)
(vcseleadershipgm.org.uk)

³ State of the Sector 2021, 10GM
<https://10gm.org.uk/10gms-work/stateofthesector/>

- **17,494** - Estimated number of constituted voluntary organisations, community groups, faith-led organisations and social enterprises in GM. Of which, 71% are micro-organisations with a turnover less than £10,000 and 19% self-identify as a 'social enterprise'.
- **£1.2 billion** - Total income of the sector (2019/20). Diverse income based, with 75% of organisations have at least one source of non-public sector funds. Some evidence of financial stress - 32% report they have used their reserves in the last 12 months (2021).
- **75,610** - Estimated number of employees working within the sector, with 74% of organisations who employ staff indicating they pay at least the Real Living Wage. Note that 62% of paid staff are employed by the 500 larger (greater than £1m turnover) organisations in the city region.
- **496,609** - Number of volunteers contributing towards the 1.4 million hours volunteered each week, with an estimated (social) value of £692 million to the Greater Manchester economy.
- **21.9 million** - Estimated number of interventions, activities, and personal contacts with people in Greater Manchester each year.

4. Developing stakeholder relationships - How the 'sector' is organised

Scratching beneath the surface of the VCFSE sector uncovers a complex picture of organisations and groups. There are, however, some general facts that should be borne in mind.

- **71% (around 12,400 organisations) Micro organisations with a turnover of less than £10,000**, generally small, single-issue community or faith groups operating within a limited geography. Many will not have a formal legal status or be a registered company or charity and will often rely on their own fundraising activities. As such, unless these organisations are members of a local infrastructure body (like Bolton CVS), it will be very difficult to contact them or track their activities – although we know they are there doing fantastic work in our communities.
- **16% (around 2,800 organisations) Small VCFSE organisations with a turnover of less than £100,000** – small charities, community interest companies and other not-for-profit organisations often with a single purpose or group of beneficiaries. Most will operate using grant funding or direct fundraising. As noted above, these are likely to be registered with the Charity Commission or Companies House.
- **10% (around 1,750 organisations) Medium sized VCFSE organisations with an annual turnover of less than £1m.** More complex charities or enterprises delivering grant-funded activities in communities or contracted to deliver services by public agencies.
- **3% (around 500 organisations) Large VCFSE organisations with a turnover in excess of £1m.** These will be delivering contracted services, larger grant funded projects and will include organisations operating outside of Greater Manchester (GM is home to several very large, national VCFSE organisations).

The majority of VCFSE organisations in Greater Manchester are **very small**.

Composition of GM's VCFSE Sector

- Very small community / faith groups (T/O less than £10k)
- Small charities, CICs and other not for profit organisations (T/O less than £100k)
- Medium sized VCFSE organisations (T/O less than £1m)
- Large VCFSE organisations - charities and social enterprises (T/O over £1m)



The **sector is very diverse** and there are 'groups and organisations' in every community. The sector's leadership and activities truly reflect the diversity of the Greater Manchester population and the complexity of the VCFSE sector is its strength, adding enormous depth of size, scale and function.

But there is an element of structure to this complexity. VCFSE organisations naturally come together based on:

- **Geography** - the focus on what happens in a place, of any scale (eg local authority area or neighbourhood)
- **Experience** - shared needs, assets and ambitions, thematic interests, life experiences (eg around tackling poverty)
- **Identity** - how people identify in different situations (eg around disability)

There is a '**support infrastructure**' within the VCFSE sector which includes Local Infrastructure Organisations (eg Bolton CVS or Action Together), interfaith networks, thematic networks and support organisations for a single community of identity (eg GM Coalition of Disabled People or LGBT Foundation).

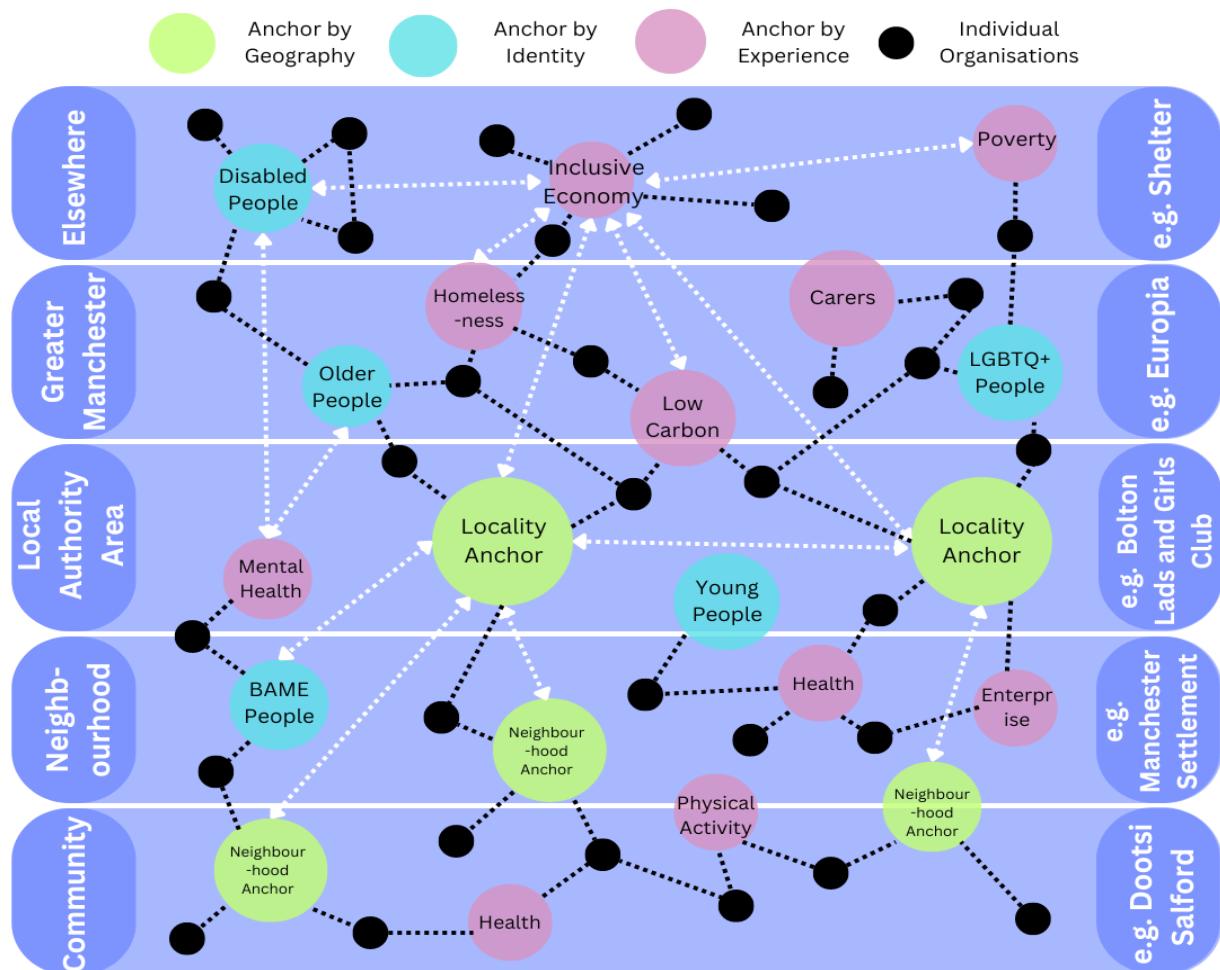
The VCFSE sector can helpfully be thought of as an '**ecosystem**' with a complex web of relationships and interdependencies built around a network of 'anchor organisations' and having shared leadership. This creates a structure to allow interaction, dialogue and mobilisation at scale, as happened in response to the Covid Pandemic when vast numbers of VCFSE organisations worked together to support people in our communities.

The strength of the ecosystem is created by a 'scaffolding' of **VCFSE 'anchor' organisations**. Each anchor is a multi-purpose, independent, community-led organisation. They will have a recognised

purpose to lead on either a geographic focus for service design and delivery; have a specialist area of expertise; or represent a particular community or identity. These anchors will have a recognised function within the VCSE sector, will have a leadership role in place-based working, with and on behalf of communities.

The **VCFSE sector is naturally collaborative**. Each organisation provides a crucial role within its community, locality, Greater Manchester or within the sector itself, delivering for residents either directly through service provision or through wider support to other organisations within and outside of the sector. It is within this 'scaffolding' that organisations work together, supporting each other to deliver their specific and additional roles.

The following diagram shows how the relationships might look across experience, identity and geography. Please note that this is schematic and for illustrative purposes only.



We probably only engage with the tip of ice VCFSE iceberg. Many organisations within the VCSE sector engage almost entirely with other VCSE organisations, however some also engage with public sector and private sector bodies including councils and GMCA. While it is these organisations that policy officers will have most direct contact and engagement with, this is not to say that the spheres of interaction and influence do not go on beyond this into the intra-sector engagement. Using a methodology that includes

coproduction and hearing from lived experience would enable policy officers to reach out into the sector and constituent communities via some smaller grassroots organisations.

5. Role of the VCFSE sector - What do VCFSE organisations do?

Across our policy development, commissioning or engagement with the VCFSE sector, it is important to **think through and understand what the potential role of the sector might be in our work, and why we might want to involve them in it**. It is important to distinguish between engaging with the VCFSE sector as a way to reach specific communities or service users – and engaging with VCFSE organisations as providers of services and activities themselves.

Our GM VCFSE sector offers⁴:

- 1. A positive shift for a thriving society.** We offer our commitment to the vision of a city region in which all residents are valued, included and safe to lead good lives. The VCFSE sector represents the fabric of society, communities of locality, identity, experience and interest.
- 2. Our ability to engage, inform, consult, support and mobilise residents and communities** as they exist, not just at scale but also at a granular level – we reach the nooks and crannies not reached by politicians or the public sector.
- 3. Our wide and deep knowledge of the barriers to attaining equality of outcomes**, which are experienced by different communities, and our ability to overcome them.
- 4. Our expertise in social and economic innovation and our learning from trialling new approaches** to difficult problems; we have evidence and the expertise to innovate, the ideas have just not been mainstreamed yet.
- 5. Our independent resources including volunteers and funding** which we can align with public and private sector resources to achieve common goals.

The following table describes some of the detailed **roles and functions played by VCFSE organisations** which might be relevant to your work:

	VCFSE Role / Function	What this might include
Community Engagement – enabling reach into communities for the public sector	Amplifying community voices	Advocating and organising to allow others to understand the needs, opinions and ambitions of diverse communities. Enabling co-design of public services for people in communities by facilitating the input of people with 'lived experience' of an issue or identity
	Cohesion – connecting people and communities	Connecting individuals and groups, creating networks across real and perceived divides, by geography, experience or identity

⁴ [Voluntary Sector North West](#)

	Building trust and relationships	Taking difficult conversations into communities and building trust and working relationships between communities and public partners.
	Campaigning within communities	Working with public sector partners to promote and advocate on key issues such as cancer awareness, digital exclusion and gender-based violence, for example
Delivery – running activities in communities and places in GM	Catalysing community action and power	Acting as a mechanism for local leadership, community action and support to enable volunteering
	Leading / convening activities within communities	Organising activities and projects involving local people – some of which will be funded, and some of which may be more informal
	Supporting community resilience	Responding to crises and critical demand, supporting the VCFSE sector to mobilise in emergencies
	Commissioning 'services'	VCFSE organisations can act as 'commissioners' of other VCFSE activity – funded either through service contracts, grants or collaborative partnerships. This is particularly relevant where services are best 'co-designed' with communities.
	Providing 'services'	Providing support, care and services for people in GM, either commissioned or grant-funded, across a wide range of thematic areas or for specific communities
	Providing mutual support and enabling each other to thrive	Providing local infrastructure support, building partnerships and collaboration, enabling sector leadership and advocacy, building capacity and supporting volunteering, for example. Also improving standards of delivery and providing quality assurance.
	Channelling funds into VCFSE activities	Managing grant schemes and neighbourhood budgets, fundraising, enabling philanthropy, social investment funds, and circular economy.
	Driving an inclusive economy	Actively building wealth in communities through support for social enterprise, co-ops, or other forms of inclusively owned business,

		as well as community-owned buildings and spaces.
Social Change - leading policy, innovation and work to address inequality	Responding, adapting and innovating to societal change	Developing activities, services and social businesses which respond to new situations and new pressures
	Policy, insight and intelligence	Providing research, insight or policy about the VCFSE sector and its work, or about specific issues such as poverty and inequality
	Campaigning and lobbying on behalf of VCFSE organisations and their beneficiaries	Seeking parity of both conditions and esteem with statutory providers of services, influencing public sector decision-making, system change, influencing government, and working with the business sector, for example.

6. GM VCFSE Accord

However, to achieve the functions described above, VCFSE organisations need:

- Fair and sustainable funding
- A resilient support ecosystem and local infrastructure
- Robust support arrangements for their workforce and volunteers
- A clear understanding of the value of the work that they do
- Influence through partnership working, and involvement in strategic discussions and decision-making.

In 2021, GMCA put in place the **GM VCFSE Accord** and alongside NHS GM and TfGM, and agreed to 8 'Commitments' which should underpin all our work with the sector:

1. To create a permanent reduction in inequalities and inequity
2. To enable VCFSE as a key delivery partner of services
3. To provide a financially resilient VCFSE sector
4. To make GM a truly inclusive economy

5. To develop the best VCFSE ecosystem in England
6. To ensure that co-design of local services is the norm
7. To build productive relationships between sectors
8. To provide a comprehensive workforce programme for VCFSE organisations

The GM VCFSE Accord is a three-way collaboration agreement based in a relationship of mutual trust, working together, and sharing responsibility. The purpose of the Accord is to further develop how we work together to improve outcomes for Greater Manchester's communities and citizens.

It has also been approved by the executive structures in all 10 GM local authority areas.

A new Accord will be launched 1st April 2026 following a period of consultation and development.

Furthermore, GMCA has put in place a **'Fair Funding Protocol'**, which is a supplementary agreement to the Accord covering activities and services that the VCFSE sector carries out in communities which are funded by the GMCA's budget in Greater Manchester. The Protocol applies to new projects and programmes from

October 2023 and represents a shared ambition within the confines of the conditions on external funding pots. It also sets out the GMCA's intent to further collaborate with the sector through the GM VCFSE Accord on future strategic planning and commissioning. GMCA accepts that under the current terms and conditions associated with its funding there is often little room to manoeuvre but will use this protocol to set a direction of travel for future funding negotiations. The aim is to maintain an open, honest and regular dialogue between the CA and the VCFSE sector about the challenges we are all facing and how we can help each other.

Further information about the Accord and Fair Funding Protocol can be found
www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/communities/voluntary-community-faith-and-social-enterprise-accord/_and
www.vcfseleadershipgm.org.uk/work/the-accord

As part of the early work around the Accord, GMCA worked with NHS partners on a **Commissioning Framework and Delivery Plan for the VCFSE sector**. Further information can be found at
www.vcfseleadershipgm.org.uk/work/commissioning-and-investment

7. Barriers and issues faced by the VCFSE sector

It is clear from the activities around the VCFSE Accord that there is a range of pressures and risks faced in the sector which are affecting the capacity to respond. These include the fact that a significant volume of VCFSE provision is delivered on short-term funding. Furthermore, the overall level of public investment into the sector has been reduced due to deficits faced by public sector bodies. These reductions have led to cuts in NHS funded contracts and social prescribing for example, whilst at the same time there is

increased demand on other sources of grant funding.

The scale of demand is too great for the current VCFSE provision, with workforce capacity stretched and access to funding to meet the demand on food and advice, for example, is severely limited. Furthermore, inflation costs have hit the sector hard, affecting what groups can buy/provide for money they have. Pay and conditions in the VCFSE sector workforce are usually benchmarked with the public sector and pay reviews for staff are squeezing budgets, particularly where these are not reflected in uplift of contract or grant amounts. Rent, energy, and staff pay increases mean that the money is not stretching as far, and these uplifts in costs are not reflected in increases in contract/grant value.

Unfortunately, the current funding environment has led to VCFSE organisations being less collaborative than they would normally, as they are forced to pitch against each for a smaller piece of the available funding.

A further example of the pressures which exist in the sector relate to the role of local VCFSE infrastructure. Local infrastructure both supports the wider sector, providing information, advice and guidance, and facilitates community or locality-based and thematic conversations with VCFSE groups and organisations as well as the people that they support. When budgets are tight, it has been a false economy to focus on frontline delivery and withdraw funding from infrastructure bodies that network, support, and enable activities across the wider VCFSE sector.

Finally, the potential impacts on the VCFSE sector of recent announcements in the Budget of October 2024 around Employers' National Insurance and rises to the Real Living Wage and National Living Wage are currently being investigated. Many VCFSE staff are part-time, and it appears there is a significant additional premium on employing part-time workers as the ENI increase is predominantly per person

employed rather than Linked to a Full Time Equivalent. Whilst most VCFSE organisations aim to pay the Real Living Wage, it appears that this is increasingly becoming unaffordable where grant agreements and contracts do not rise in line with wage increases.

8. 'So what?' - Relevance for GMCA and TfGM

Active involvement of voluntary and faith-based organisations, community groups and social enterprises in places and neighbourhoods will be key to Greater Manchester being able to respond to financial pressures and drive growth in the economy, while addressing the priorities of tackling inequalities, building confidence, and co-design of a resilient city region.

As such VCFSEs should be considered **key stakeholders in our work** – and not just because they can help us hear from the people of Greater Manchester. Section 5 listed some of the potential roles that VCFSE organisations could take to support our work. As well as these roles, there are aspects of 'added value' from working in partnership with VCFSE organisations, including:

- Their ability to lever in 'match' funding from charitable sources or fundraising
- Their focus on social (public) values, aims and objectives
- Their democratic / inclusive governance and ownership arrangements
- Their specialist knowledge and community reach
- Their ability to adapt to specific and often intersectional needs of their communities
- Their invisible strength - the fact that they exist through the enthusiasm and action of community members, to help out in a crisis, or bring people together, or improve people's lives.

- The fact that they are embedded in and run by local people and communities, and they are trusted by those communities

However, the VCFSE sector is facing a perfect storm of reduced resources and increased demand, and there is a need to **take a practical approach where responsibility and risk are shared**, and the public and VCFSE sectors work together to support places and communities.

To do this, across all policy areas we should work with representatives from the GM VCFSE sector to:

- identify strategic ambitions/priorities that we share, identifying common ground to work with and build from
- think about the full range of functions and additional value that the VCFSE sector could bring towards achieving shared ambitions and priorities
- work through how the VCFSE sector can help us to engage a fully diverse range of communities in policy development, co-production and delivery
- discuss the support requirements, enabling work and resources needed to maximise the contribution of the VCFSE sector (and / or where they should just be left to get on with it).

9. Where to start?

As described throughout this paper, the VCFSE 'sector' is a complex ecosystem of groups and organisations varying in size, scope and reach. However, there are ways to engage with all, with help from:

- The **GM VCFSE Leadership Group**, which is dedicated to promoting the role and involvement of the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Greater Manchester. The Group can also provide and help with recruitment of VCFSE people into the programmes, board and

partnerships across GMCA - contact Kassandra.banks@vsnw.org.uk

- **Local Infrastructure Organisations** (LIOs) – which support the VCFSE sector in their individual localities, convene local networks and partnerships; offer capacity building to the sector; enable communities to influence decision-making, and encourage volunteering opportunities. Although the VCFSE Infrastructure offers differ for each local area and organisation, these are an invaluable route into the VCFSE sector. The [10GM website](#) holds links to each locality's infrastructure organisation (or equivalent).
- **Pan-GM, VCFSE Accord lead organisations** - are commissioned to support the delivery of the VCFSE Accord and wider GMCA programmes. As conveners of thematic delivery groups and projects, they are a useful route into the VCFSE sector. They include following organisations:
 - **10GM:** Contact for work around the Accord on VCFSE local infrastructure, Commissioning and Investment, Population Health, Workforce, Cancer and Inequalities, GM Moving, Changing Futures
 - **Voluntary Sector North West (VSNW)** – the Accord overall, [VCFSE Leadership Group](#), VCFSE Working Groups, VCFSE representation, and Accord Communications.
 - **Thematic 'anchors' and networks** exist at both a locality and pan-GM level. Locality thematic networks and anchors can be accessed through the [local infrastructure organisation](#) for that area. If you are unsure about pan-GM thematic networks, the first enquiry should be sent to the [GM VCFSE Leadership Group](#).

- **Community of identity lead organisations and networks** exist at both a locality and pan-GM level. Locality community of identity networks and anchors can be accessed through the [local infrastructure organisation](#) for that area. You can find out more about pan-GM Community of identity lead organisations and networks through the [GM=EqAI](#) (pan-equalities), the [GM Ethnic Communities Network](#), [GM Equality Panels](#) and [GM VCFSE Leadership Group](#).
- The [Alternative Provider Collaborative](#) is a partnership of charities and social businesses (providers) operating across the Greater Manchester Integrated Care System. They can be a valuable route to access VCFSE providers of healthcare services.
- [Our Business](#) is a partnership project between 10GM, Local Infrastructure Organisations and Cooperatives UK, [supporting Greater Manchester's growing social economy organisations](#) to deliver an alternative way of doing business in Greater Manchester. Collectives, these partner organisations may offer a route to social economy organisations such as cooperatives, social enterprises, community businesses and registered charities
- The [GM VCFSE Accord](#) work also has a range of thematic working groups around population health, inclusive economy, commissioning and investment, communications, and data and insight. Those groups welcome involvement of VCFSE officers.

For further information contact Anna Cooper at anna.cooper@vsnw.org.uk

10. Locality picture of the VCFSE sector

The **State of the VCSE Sector 2021 Survey** included eight key sections, which encouraged respondents in each of the 10 Greater Manchester localities to describe their organisations, workforce, volunteers and impact, the work that the VCSE sector undertook in each of those localities and the impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic on their work and communities. Read the full report for further information. Plans are under way for a 2026 Survey and the results will be shared just as soon as these are available.

The following table summarises information received from each of the GM local authorities about their work with the VCFSE sector.

Local Authority area	Lead Council Department	Infrastructure support	Council grant funding for the sector (beyond infrastructure support and commissioned services)	VCFSE Sector 'Strategy' or shared objectives
Bolton (est. 1,672 VCFSE orgs ⁵)	Corporate Strategy Team	<p><u>Bolton CVS</u> is a charity that works with voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in Bolton. It offers grants, training, advice, advocacy and networking opportunities to the local sector.</p> <p>Chief Executive: Dawn Yates-Obé info@boltoncvs.org.uk</p>	<u>Bolton's Fund</u> (administered by Bolton CVS – around £5m in the last few years)	Currently working on the co-design of new VCFSE Strategy for Bolton
Bury (est. 1,249 VCFSEs)	Strategy and Transformation directorate	<p><u>Bury VCFA</u> enhances local community and voluntary action by developing the capacity of Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations in Bury to provide support and deliver quality services. We will do this through effective strategic engagement with our statutory partners and by forging alliances with local businesses and communities.</p> <p>Chief Officer: Helen Tomlinson admin@buryvcfa.org.uk</p>	<u>Let's Do It! Community Fund</u>	No VCFSE Strategy, but VCFSE integral to <u>Let's Do It! Strategy</u>

⁵ From the GM VCSE State of the Sector 2021 (all locality data apart from Wigan which is from 2017)

Manchester (est. 3,871 VCFSEs)	Our Manchester Communities Team	<p><u>MACC</u> provides place lead and infrastructure support through a contract with MCC. As the sector is so large, there are also other 'infrastructure' bodies and networks across particular communities and themes.</p> <p>Chief Executive: Mike Wild info@macc.org.uk</p>	<u>Our Manchester VCS Grants</u>	No VCFSE Strategy, but MCC is refreshing its City Strategy and wants to better involve and engage the sector in this. There's an aim to move towards a Community Power model.
Oldham (est. 1,326 VCFSEs)	Public Health Team	<p><u>Action Together</u> CIO is the infrastructure organisation for the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Oldham, Rochdale, and Tameside.</p> <p>Director: Laura Windsor-Welsh Chief Executive: Liz Windsor-Welsh info@actiontogether.org.uk</p>	<u>One Oldham Fund</u> (administered by Action Together)	No VCFSE Strategy or shared vision with the VCFSE sector (VCFSE Strategy in the pipeline)
Rochdale (est. 1,239 VCFSEs)	Public Health Team	<p>Contracted to <u>Action Together</u> - the infrastructure organisation for the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Oldham, Rochdale, and Tameside.</p> <p>Director: Maddie Hubbard Chief Executive: Liz Windsor-Welsh info@actiontogether.org.uk</p>	<u>Rochdale Communities Fund</u> (administered by Action Together)	No VCFSE Strategy or shared vision with the VCFSE sector at this time
Salford (est. 1,665 VCFSEs)	Strategy and Policy Directorate	<p><u>Salford CVS</u> is the city-wide infrastructure organisation for the VCFSE sector; providing specialist information, advice, development support and opportunities for influence and collaboration; training for staff, volunteers and trustees; and a Volunteer Centre.</p> <p>Chief Executive: Alison Page office@salfordcvs.co.uk</p>	<u>Devolved Budgets</u> <u>Community Grants Scheme</u> ‘Crowdfund Salford’ platform <u>NHS Salford ICP Grant scheme</u> (via Salford CVS)	<u>Salford VCSE Strategy</u>

Stockport (est. 1,672 VCFSEs)	Communities and Inclusion Team	<p>Contracted to <u>Sector 3</u>, which is the charity infrastructure support service for voluntary, community and faith-based groups, social enterprises and charitable organisations in Stockport.</p> <p>Chief Executive: Jo McGrath info@sector3sk.org</p>	<u>Stockport Local Fund</u> <u>Match My Project</u> brokerage platform for social value	<p>3 strategic priorities in a clear and co-designed VCFSE Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment • Capacity building • Community Power
Tameside (est. 1,223 VCFSEs)	Infrastructure contract managed by the Adults Directorate however, other Directorates involved namely, Population Health and Operations and Neighbourhoods.	<p>Contracted to <u>Action Together</u>- the infrastructure organisation for the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Oldham, Rochdale, and Tameside.</p> <p>Director: Anna Hynes Chief Executive: Liz Windsor-Welsh info@actiontogether.org.uk</p>	Seasonal funding allocated to the wider VCFSE sector via Adults Commissioning to support vulnerable people during winter months.	Development of a Corporate Prevention Strategy and Strategic Lead discussions taking place.
Trafford (est. 1,622 VCFSEs)	Corporate Policy Team	<p>Contracted to <u>Trafford Community Collective</u>, as of 1st October 2025 -</p> <p>The Collective voice of the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Trafford.</p> <p>info@traffordcollective.org.uk</p>	Direct grant support to Community Hubs (this replaced former VCFSE grant funding).	<u>Trafford Strategy for the VCFSE sector – 2022 - 2027 (progress review under way)</u>
Wigan	Communities Team	Contracted to Wigan Borough Community First - a VCFSE collaborative that is dedicated to supporting and strengthening the voluntary sector across the Wigan Borough. They provide valuable resources and services to both new and established community groups, including	<u>Brighter Borough Fund</u> <u>Supporting Communities Fund</u>	Currently working with IPPR North and Collaborate on the Next Phase of The Wigan Deal

<p>(est. 1,566 VCFSEs⁶)</p>	<p>guidance on governance, funding advice, and the facilitation of collaborative networks. Chief Executive: Karen Parker info@wbcf.co.uk</p>	<p><u>Match My Project</u> brokerage platform for social value.</p>	
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⁶ GM VCSE State of the Sector 2017

11. Appendix 1

Support for the Social Economy – definition VCFSE businesses.

For this (UKSPF E26) programme, the social economy is taken as including organisations having 'inclusive ownership' - locally owned and socially minded organisations with models of enterprise ownership that enable wealth created by users, workers and local communities to be held by them, rather than flowing out as profits to shareholders.

This would include - social enterprises, trading charities, companies limited by guarantee, community interest companies, social firms, credit unions, community benefit societies, worker co-ops, consumer co-ops, mutuals, community businesses (for profit but social purpose), employee-owned private businesses and entrepreneurs.