

Key messages for VCFSE Representatives in Greater Manchester, February 2026

Messaging to support you in your work and meetings representing the Greater Manchester (GM) voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector. These 'crib-sheets' are provided throughout the year with our latest key messages. This version was updated February 2026. Previous versions: [July 2025](#)

(new) The GM VCFSE Accord 2026-2035

Our major VCFSE and public sector collaboration agreement is being refreshed. It is being signed off by all partners March 2026.

The public and VCFSE sectors in Greater Manchester are re-committing to long-term partnership based on shared values of trust, honesty, ambition and accountability, and building on a decade of collaboration agreements to improve outcomes for communities across the city-region.

The new Accord sets out three key 'areas of change':

1. **Devolve & Involve:** We commit to shifting power closer to communities by involving the VCFSE sector and people with lived experience earlier and more consistently in decision-making.
2. **Resource & Enable:** Public sector partners will commit to fair, transparent and long-term investment in VCFSE organisations and to increase the total proportion of public sector funding invested in VCFSE groups and organisations.
3. **Recognise & Value:** We recognise the range of roles VCFSE organisations can play, and will use VCFSE evidence, insight and community leadership in shaping policy, commissioning and service design.

All signatories as part of the agreement, will embed the Accord within governance and accountability structures to deliver a consistent, system-wide approach and measurable change over the next nine years.

Further reading: [The Role of the VCFSE Sector in Greater Manchester](#) | [Greater Manchester Strategy 2025-2035](#)

(new) The Greater Manchester Strategy, the Prevention Demonstrator and Live Well

The **Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) is the base strategy** that establishes the foundations for good lives with good work, secure housing, accessible transport, and everyday support through **Live Well**. The **Prevention Demonstrator will underpin GMS implementation** through testing and evidence end to end approaches to **prevention** and public service reform.¹

VCFSE key messages on prevention:

1. We believe in an approach that emphasises individual agency, relationships, & community assets to help people live independent & healthy lives.
2. Preventing physical and mental ill-health alone does not enable people to live well whilst inequitable conditions remain unaddressed. We call for quality of life to matter as much as length of life.
3. Rebuilding trust is key for this approach to work. This can only be built over time by listening, and acting upon what communities tell us is most important to them.

Further reading: [The Prevention Demonstrator explainer \(December 2025\)](#) | [What we mean by prevention? \(2025\)](#) | [Live Well GMCA webpage](#) | [Greater Manchester Strategy 2025-2035](#)

¹ Papers for Prevention Demonstrator National Advisory Group, January 2026

(new) Community Cohesion

1. Anti-racism and anti-discrimination programmes need to be coordinated across all public services and institutions e.g. [NHS North West anti-racism framework](#)
2. **Partnership working** with the VCFSE sector is key when it comes to emergency and resilience planning.
3. **Local coordination** is key for gathering insight, reporting tensions, and building relationships to tackle hate.
4. **Visible Solidarity and Leadership is needed:** We need to deliver inclusive, unified messaging from political and community leaders to reassure communities
5. **Invest in long-term cohesion and youth engagement** to address root causes of community tensions.

Further reading: [Greater Manchester VCFSE Leadership Group 10 areas for action to tackle rising community tensions](#).
| [See the full range of 'Community Cohesion' resources on our website](#)

Greater Manchester VCFSE sector priorities

1. **Embedding the VCFSE sector as an equal partner** in devolution and public service delivery, and making Greater Manchester a **leading force in co-design**.
2. **Embedding VCFSE in public service delivery.** *Example of this in practice:* Members of the [Alternative Provider Collaborative](#) provided NHS services to over 2million people last year.
3. **Building resilient and caring communities.**
4. **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.
5. **Championing, valuing, and investing in our workforce.** We need commissioning frameworks which offer long-term investment that meet costs and needs of our services and workforce to provide **good employment**.

Further reading: [GM VCFSE Manifesto 2024-2028 \(2024\)](#)

Key figures

The overall sector in Greater Manchester ([State of the Sector Research, 10GM, 2021](#))

17,494 VCFSE organisations operating in Greater Manchester		There are 496,609 volunteers (including committee members and trustees), who give 1.4 million hours every week
71% are micro-organisations (incomes of less than £10k)	There are 75,610 paid employees in the VCFSE sector	The total income of the sector in 2019/2020 was £1.2billion .

Social Enterprise in Greater Manchester ([State of Social Enterprise in Greater Manchester, SEUK, 2024](#))

6,812 social enterprises in Greater Manchester, creating around 127,600 jobs for the region	They generate ~£68 million in annual profit, re-investing £57 million into achieving their social mission
Social enterprises generate around £3.5bn in turnover - equivalent to 4% of city-wide GDP	

Other useful reading & resources

- [GM=EqAl Key Principles to meaningfully including lived experience](#)
- [Social Value and the VCFSE sector: key messages for our commissioners](#)
- [Understanding the VCSE sector: a shared language for thriving communities \(NAVCA, 2026\)](#)