



# Summary: Greater Manchester VCFSE Accord (2026–2035)

This summary is for everybody across public and VCFSE sectors in Greater Manchester to understand our shared priorities and commitments and our underpinning values to collaboration.



## What is the Accord?

The Greater Manchester VCFSE Accord (2026-2035) is a collaboration agreement between the public sector, including the health and care system, and the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector (VCFSE) in Greater Manchester. It aims to improve things for our residents, communities, places and the environment.

## Why do we need the Accord?

The Accord recognises that to build a thriving Greater Manchester where everyone can live a good life, we need to work together as equal partners. **The Accord helps us by setting out what we should work on, how we should work together and redressing power and resource imbalances** to make our partnership as effective as possible.

The Accord specifies our shared priorities for partnership work across Greater Manchester and serves as a key route to deliver the [Greater Manchester Strategy](#) and the [10 Year Health Plan](#).

## Accord shared values

As partners, we commit to keeping these values at the heart of all our shared work:



### Honesty

We create spaces where honesty is encouraged.



### Ambition

We always strive for better results.



### Accountability

We take responsibility for our actions. We are open, fair, and focused on positive impact.



### Trust

We create conditions of shared trust and understanding.

## The Accord focuses on three main 'areas of change'

1. Involve & Devolve
2. Resource & Enable
3. Recognise & Value



# 1. Involve & Devolve

We will give more power to communities by building participation approaches with people and VCFSE organisations, so that people can shape their own futures, rather than be recipients of decisions made elsewhere.

We will make sure the VCFSE sector is **involved** in more decision-making groups, boards and programmes, with support for VCFSE representatives.



## We will

- **Put communities first** and focus on their strengths and potential.
- **Ensure diverse leadership**, with leaders that help challenge unfair systems.
- **Ensure people with lived experience** are involved in decisions at every level.
- **Reduce barriers** that stop small or grassroots groups from taking part.
- **Build collective leadership** that supports our shared priorities.
- **Support communities to own assets**, such as community centres, in their area, or lead development projects in their community.



## 2. Resource & Enable

**We will increase the proportion of public money that goes to VCFSE organisations so more money stays local, directly benefitting the area.**

We will use the [Fair Funding Protocol](#) (or equivalent agreement) to support financial fairness, transparency and accountability.

### We will

- **Work together** to increase long-term and flexible investment in VCFSE organisations and groups.
- **Give communities greater control** of funding and involvement in decisions on how public money is spent.
- **Build systems** that allow VCFSE groups to manage funding and influence design and delivery.
- **Identify where skills and capacity** are needed and work together to put these in place.
- **Help public sector staff** with responsibility for budgets and financial decisions understand the commitments in this Accord, and in turn help VCFSE staff understand public sector pressures.

# 3. Recognise & Value



We will **recognise** the wide range of work VCFSE groups do and their significant contribution to Greater Manchester.

We will value VCFSE insight, evidence and data, and use it to shape policy and services.



## We will

- **Recognise that VCFSE organisations naturally create social value** and reflect this in funding decisions.
- **Support safe, legal and ethical sharing of data** and insight between sectors.
- **Treat VCFSE and public sector workers as one workforce.** We will support leadership development, learning and mentoring across sectors.
- **Recognise our shared duty** to protect the environment.
- **Maximise the potential of the VCFSE sector** in taking on more and wider roles.
- **Be open about the legal responsibilities** that belong to public bodies.
- **Make sure staff across our partnership** know about the Accord and how to use it.

# Signatories

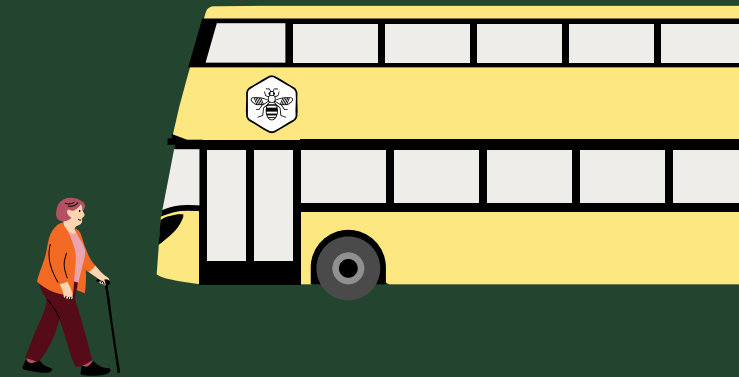
- **Greater Manchester VCFSE Leadership Group**  
(on behalf of the VCFSE sector in Greater Manchester)
- **Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)**
- **NHS Greater Manchester (NHS GM)**
- **Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM)**
- **Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS)**
- **The 10 Local Authorities in Greater Manchester**  
(Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, and Wigan).

**This Accord is open to welcoming additional signatories.**

**Find out more about what the Accord means for your organisation and read the agreement in full.**

[Explore the full agreement](#) on the Greater Manchester VCFSE Leadership Group website.

[Read more about the Accord](#) on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Website.



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