

Greater Manchester VCFSE Accord Delivery Highlights

Q4 2025/26 (Jan – Mar 2026)

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



Population Health & Live Well



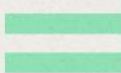
Commissioning & Investment



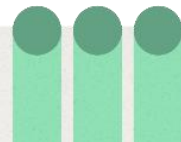
Communication



VCFSE Ecosystem & Localities



Equalities



Inclusive Economy & Integrated Settlement



VCFSE Involvement and Influencing

Population Health & Live Well



Liz Windsor-Welsh
Co-chair of
Population Health
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Population Health & Live Well – Q4

- **'Spaces of Hope and Connection' £16.5million programme** was funded by The National Lottery Community Fund on 22nd January following an extensive period of answering additional questions after bid submission.
- Beginning to mobilise programme.
- Panel representation at the Live Well Creative Health Event at the Live Well Spring Festival
- Successful launch of the programme at the Live Well Spring Festival on 12th March with attendees from across the VCSE and public sectors. Mayor Andy Burnham and Dame Julia Cleverdon, The National Lottery Community Fund joined speakers from across the VCSE sector including partners at GM=EqAI and VCSE reps for the Live Well Board.



Commissioning & Investment



Alison Page
Co-chair of Commissioning &
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Commissioning & Investment– Q4

- **Social Value** focused Commissioning and Investment session, with presentations from Salford, Manchester, Alternative Provider Collaborative, and input from wider group.
- **Fair Funding Protocol built into the refreshed Accord.**
- **VCFSE reps for the NHS GM Market Development Strategy** working group have been agreed and shared with NHS GM.
- NHS GM Commissioning - **ongoing lobbying in collaboration with Health Influencing Group and Primary care group.**
- **Commissioning for Inclusion Pilots** - Chair has met with lead GM commissioners to explore establishing board to drive this work forward.

Alternative Provider Collaborative (APC)



Edna Robinson
Executive Chair of the APC



Franky Procter
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www.gmapf.org.uk/

Alternative Provider Collaborative (APC) – Q4

- GM APC CIC – further developing infrastructure and strategy.
- Successful Social Value lunch and learn webinar.
- Hosted senior NHS Confed Leadership.
- **New partners** – Proud2BParents, Primary Eyecare Services.
- **Development of GM Provider Collaborative** with Trust Provider Collaborative and Primary Care Board.
- Supporting development of social business collaboratives nationally.
- Supporting ongoing **GM VCFSE / Primary Care Board Roundtables.**
- Continue to champion quality and expertise of social business providers in GM System.

Communications



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Communications – Q4

- Refreshed Accord comms supported through **cross-sector comms group weekly meetings**, with consideration to restrictions related to upcoming local elections
- **Marked Race Equality Week and GM Hate Crime Awareness Week** by adding a [new 'Community Cohesion' tag](#) to the GM VCFSE Leadership Group website. This will help VCFSE colleagues search resources for related resources to, for example, support safe event delivery, support conversation around asylum-seekers and housing, guides for charities targeted by the far-right, tackling mis-information, and more.
- **Promoted the 10GM State of the Sector survey**, to capture a true picture of the VCFSE sector in Greater Manchester.
- **Promotion of a new role of primary care providers booklet** in Greater Manchester, reflecting our ongoing collaboration with primary care colleagues.
- [Good Growth Fund briefing for the VCFSE sector](#)
- 12 [news items](#) published this quarter.

Equalities (led by GM=EqAl)



Jules Palfreyman
Chair of GM=EqAl



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GM=EqAl - Q4

- Focus on consolidation, delivery quality and system positioning.
- Successful bid by 10GM with [GM=EqAl as Equity Partner alongside the 10 local infrastructure organisations for Live Well Spaces of Hope and connection.](#)
- Transition from design → delivery across priority workstreams.
- Completion of [Inclusion and Wellbeing Partnership fund](#) (Live Well Community Fund Pilot). Over 25 grants delivered to a range of community organisations to support health and wellbeing of dispersed and underrepresented communities.
- Increased emphasis on accountability, learning and sustainability of change
- Preparatory work for April 2026 GM=EqAl Conference.

This quarter reflects GM=EqAl developing primarily as an equity delivery partner rather than a solely consultative body.

Inclusive Economy & Integrated Settlement



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

Inclusive Economy and Integrated Settlement – Q4

- [Good Growth Fund briefing for the VCFSE sector](#)
- **Review of Strategic Influencing GMCA future priorities taken place** with recommendation to use as a space to co-work with CA colleagues.
- **GM VCFSE environment scoping now developed into GMCA proposal** led by Groundwork GM
- [News article on how Employment Rights Act 2025](#) will support **a more inclusive economy** – a key commitment in the Accord.
- **Work & Skills: [Economic Inactivity Trailblazer](#):**
 - GM provider event understand development needs - clear message that improved commissioning approaches would unlock more capacity than traditional capacity building approaches
 - two sets of masterclasses with Sector3 and the Booth Centre looking at key delivery barriers of employer engagement & data collection respectively.
 - The Trailblazer formal programme has now ended. Further activity will be led by the 10 Local Authorities and funding passed to them as part of a consolidated grant for employment support integrating existing strands. A final report is in development with tailored briefings for LIOs and VCFSE leaders – to be published in May 2026.

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
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VCFSE Involvement and Influencing – Q4

- **New nine-year Accord Agreement formally agreed, [signed at 27th March GMCA meeting](#)**
- **New reps action plan created** to build in new ways of supporting VCFSE representatives on GM boards and steering groups.
- **[Updated Key message briefing](#)** to support representatives published, including messages on the new Accord
- **GM VCFSE Leadership Group annual review** taken place – including of membership, thematic gaps with actions to recruit new members and to clarify group processes.



VCFSE Ecosystem & Localities



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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– Q4

VCSFE Infrastructure Collaborative Spaces:

- **Strategic conversations undertaken** around the Live Well Implementation Fund, Live Well Spaces of Hope and Connection Bid, Live Communities Fund, Live Well Assembly, Pride in Place, Community Cohesion and the role of Local Infrastructure, State of the Sector Research, Crisis and Resilience Funding, Economic Resilience Group.
- **LIO Strategic Network has nominated a rep, Jo McGrath from Sector 3, to attend the Live Well Board** and has established communication mechanisms to feed into Board discussions.

Collaborative work including:

- **State of Sector** - regular working group and comms group meetings, survey rolled out across localities, actions identified to increase response rate in certain localities and additional support put in place, analysis currently taking place and launch event planned for September 2026.
- **Live Well Spaces of Hope and Connection** programme - launch event held for sector and initial comms developed and shared. **Co-designing of Theories of Change** within each locality and at GM level to begin May 2026.
- **Infrastructure Development survey** rolled out to LIOs to identify strengths and areas for learning. Regular comms manager meeting facilitated by 10GM.

Year Highlights

Accord Refreshed for 2026-2035 and signed, with 750 consultation responses, and:

1. Led by 10GM – [4-year, £16.5m Live Well Spaces of Hope and Connection](#) funding from the National Lottery Community Fund.
2. [GM=EqAI](#) survived & thriving, able to ensure geographically dispersed communities focus for key programmes – Live Well Spaces of Hope and Connection.
3. [Primary Care Board Collaborative Partnership with VCFSE](#) with Memorandum of Understanding developed and joint action planning
4. [NHS Commissioning Principles for VCFSE agreed at July 25 Integrated Care Board meeting](#), including commissioning for inclusion.
5. [‘Voice of Lived experience in policy making guide’](#) cross sector [webinars](#) and engagement
6. [Community cohesion 10 areas of action](#) published by GM VCFSE Leadership Group
7. ' Work & Skills GM [‘Economic Inactivity Trailblazer work](#)
8. [Community Led Housing Vision](#) created and endorsed by GM VCFSE Leadership Group.
9. GM Environment scoping work resulting in proposal to GMCA.
10. Alternative Provider Collaborative constituting as a CIC with a board, and being part of the new GM Provider Collaborative with Trust Provider Collaborative and Primary Care Board

Future/current area of development: Refreshed Accord delivery plan for 2026-2029.