

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee - 5 September 2019

**Subject:** Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector grant programme update

**Report of:** Director of Policy, Performance and Reform

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**Summary**

This report provides an update on the Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector fund and the ongoing programme of work being delivered by the Programme Team, Our Manchester Funds.

**Recommendations**

The Communities & Equalities Scrutiny Committee are asked to: Agree the recommendations as set out in the report

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**Wards Affected:** All

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<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

<b>Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS</b>
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector (OMVCS) work detailed supports the growth and sustainability of the VCS including its workforce, volunteering and relationships with business.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	The OMVCS work and wider VCS in Manchester provides volunteering pathways into education, employment and training and develops local home grown talent (of residents) to make active contributions to city life and their communities.

A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	The OMVCS work and wider VCS in Manchester work collaboratively with other key stakeholders to find new ways of reaching those communities that remain untouched by Manchester's success, creating resilient and vibrant communities of people.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	The OMVCS work and wider VCS in Manchester and other partners reflect and celebrate diversity, engage communities and engender pride in the city.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	The OMVCS work provides information and support via a number of channels that helps to improve local connectivity between VCS organisations and the public and private sector

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

**Appendices:**

April - Key facts for Members – Population Health Targeted Fund FINAL  
June - Key facts for Members – Population Health Targeted Fund FINAL  
Targeted Fund Eligible Groups 02.05.19  
The North Inquiry Executive Summary

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Council invests in the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) through a wide variety of contracts and grants including Housing Related Support, strategic grants to large arts organisations, grants to cultural organisations and small grants for sports and campaigning activity (Hate Crime Awareness, International Women's Day etc.) The total amount of Council funding to the VCS is estimated to be over £30m.
- 1.2. The Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector (OMVCS) fund, was developed in recognition of the role the VCS has in the city, investing £2,466,033 a year for 3 years (£7.4m in total) into 62<sup>1</sup> organisations. The programme went live in April 2018 after an almost 2 year co-design process that involved representatives of the VCS, Members and Council and Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC) officers.
- 1.3. An OMVCS Programme Board, chaired by Cllr Sue Murphy, Deputy Leader of the Council and consisting of representatives from MHCC, Young Manchester, Macc (infrastructure provider), Southway Housing and The Big Lottery, oversees the fund and the work of a centralised Programme Team. The team are responsible for the day to day management of the fund, the citywide VCS infrastructure contract and specific development pieces of work across the city.
- 1.4. The OMVCS fund is now in year 2 of its 3 year funding cycle. During the first year of the fund the Programme Team has continuously engaged with the organisations to establish positive working relationships, using the Our Manchester behaviours as an underpinning approach to the work. This has been supported by the development of a communications strategy (including twitter handle) and regular opportunities for the organisations to get involved in shaping the fund as a whole, which has been overwhelming positively received.
- 1.5. A key piece of work that the team have taken forward over the past year is the recommendations of the Members Task and Finish Group, established by this Committee following the awards of the funding - to look at how Members could be more involved in the process going forward. The group had the following objectives:
  1. To explore Members' issues with the process used for the first round of funding applications
  2. To identify and explore the issues VCS groups experienced.
  3. To recommend improvements to address these issues in future funding rounds. To include consideration of:
    - a) How local intelligence, including Ward Councillors' knowledge, could be incorporated into the process.
    - b) How information and decisions can be communicated to Members in a timely and appropriate way.

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<sup>1</sup> There are now 63 organisations on the programme due to the withdrawal from the programme of one organisation which allowed 2 further organisations from the reserve list to be funded.

c) Any other mechanisms which could be built into the process to improve it.

- 1.6. The final report of the Members Task & Finish Group was circulated to this committee in January 2019. The recommendations that have been taken forward are described further down in this report in the Population Health Targeted Fund (point 2) and North Inquiry (point 3).
- 1.7. The OMVCS fund provides the ability to centrally extract and provide regular monitoring information, as well as case studies demonstrating some of the impact and outcomes being achieved by the organisations. Using monitoring data provided by the organisations across the first year Q2-Q4 (Q1 being a test period), some examples are:
- The reported OMVCS fund number of Manchester resident service users in 2018/19 was 113,068.
  - The reported number of volunteers supported by funded organisations was 6,013, equating to 208,176 volunteering hours.
- 1.8. In the first year organisations have also reported the following:
- ‘Over the past months Whalley Range Community Forum has received Buzz Community Champion Awards - and the Forum worker applied to the Greater Manchester Mayor’s Age-friendly Challenge. We were successful and now Whalley Range is officially recognised as one of 32 Greater Manchester Age-friendly Neighbourhoods of 2019.’
  - ‘It has allowed us to provide a development worker dedicated to Manchester. They have been able to review our current work and identify priorities for the future in line with the Manchester Family Poverty Strategy for example targeting north Manchester and school holiday provision’ - *Fareshare*
- 1.9. As part of the monitoring OMVCS funded organisations are asked what other funding they have successfully secured during the reporting period. The total amount in Year 1 was £3.96m. If you compare this to the amount invested by the fund (£2.4m) then for every £1 invested in the organisations, £1.65 was generated in additional income. Given that these figures represent 75% of 2018/19 data, the actual figures are likely to be higher. This further increases when the overall Council investment in the VCS, described in point 1.1 of this report, is taken into account.
- 1.10. An example that highlights the impact that this is having from an organisation perspective is from Moodswings, who reported the following – “The three years of funding have given us security and enabled us to plan ahead in terms of our service provision. We are currently building an extension to our building which will hold a community hub and café and house a training programme for people with mental health problems. ***We have sourced funding for this new project and our ability to do that has been helped massively by the fact***

***that our current services are safely funded for three years.*** It is easier for us to apply for further funding from other funders because they know that with some longer term funding in place we are a sustainable organisation which is worth investing in.”

- 1.11. In addition the main OMVCS fund, the OMVCS Programme Board has overseen the development of a further 3 pieces of work over the past 15 months - The Population Health Targeted Fund and the North Inquiry, which are being covered in this report and the VCS infrastructure service contract which will be part of the update report scheduled for the committees meeting in October 2019.

## **2. The Population Health Targeted Fund**

- 2.1. Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC) is investing £2.165m into the OMVCS fund for the delivery of the ‘Population Health Targeted Fund’. The targeted fund builds on the aim of the OMVCS fund, to support VCS organisations to carry out activities that make a valued contribution to meeting the outcomes of the Our Manchester Strategy. In particular, the targeted fund will focus on two priorities set out in the Manchester Population Health Plan 2018-2027.

- Improving outcomes in the first 1,000 days of a child’s life
- Creating an age friendly city that promotes good health and well-being for people in mid and later life

- 2.2. The priorities have been developed into two grant funding streams which have built on a business case and scenario planning process (for the age friendly priority) and a co-design process (for the first 1000 days priority) involving representatives from the VCS and other key stakeholders connected to this area of work. A consultation and engagement process covering both grant funds has been completed and to date has included:

- On-going dialogue between individual members of the Implementation Team and VCS organisations, Integrated Neighbourhood Leads (INTs), Health Development Coordinators (HDCs), Buzz workers and officers across the Council in Neighbourhood Teams.
- A comms sheet circulated to all of the organisations eligible to apply for the funds (OMVCS, Young Manchester (Youth & Play) and the Council’s Cultural Partnership Agreement) programmes; notifying them of the fund/grants.
- An information event held in April 2019, open to all of the organisations eligible to apply for the funds, providing more detailed information and an opportunity to raise questions.
- Circulation of the FAQs and additional information to VCS organisations across the city.

- Two key factsheets sent to all 96 local Councillors (April and June 2019), providing key information and facts about the fund/grants to date; with further communications to local Councillors planned to be issued at key stages throughout the process (See the Appendices for further details).
  - Information fed into the North Inquiry Panel - separate piece of work being overseen by the OMVCS Programme Board to help to develop sustainable VCS organisations and infrastructure in the North of the city, detailed below in point 3 of the report.
  - The OMVCS annual network event held in June 2019, provided an update on the targeted fund including co-design, scenario planning, forthcoming consultations and engagement opportunities.
- 2.3. Feedback from the consultation process is currently being reviewed and will be released in consultation reports in the coming months. This will be fed into the prospectus and application forms for the grants, with the launch of both grant funds scheduled for September/October 2019 and project delivery go live date of January/February 2020.

### **3. The North Inquiry**

- 3.1. Work on strengthening the VCS in North Manchester has completed its first phase. An inquiry panel met over 6 sessions across February – June 2019 and a separate report documents the recommendations that emerged from this process that will be taken forward as part of the next phase.
- 3.2. The panel was made up of 18 members and represented:
- VCS organisations and groups operating in North Manchester
  - Northwards Housing Association
  - GP federation
  - MHCC
  - Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO)
  - North Manchester General Hospital
  - MCC including North Neighbourhoods Team
- 3.3. The panel was chaired by Anne Taylor, Strategic Lead for North Manchester (MCC) and co-chaired by Greig Lees, Head of Regeneration at Northwards Housing. The inquiry process was facilitated by Nigel Rose, Strategic Lead for Commissioning at Macc and supported by officers in the Programme Team (Our Manchester Funds).
- 3.4. Each session was independently facilitated by Macc and included time for input, gathering information, exploration of the issues and time for panel members to understand and share their own perspectives.
- 3.5. Each session identified contributors who could give evidence to move the discussion forward. These contributors were engaged in a variety of ways,

including being invited to attend sessions to share their experiences inquiry panel members going out and conducting interviews and reporting back to the panel or through requesting written submissions. Further contributors have been identified over the course of the inquiry who could help inform the development of the recommendations.

- 3.6. The inquiry panel approach was further supported by the views of residents and local Councillors. A resident survey was conducted to understand their experiences of the VCS in North Manchester and the motivations and barriers to volunteering, interviewing residents in Harpurhey and Charlestown. The panel included Councillor Shelley Lanchbury and all Councillors from across North Manchester were invited to give their views at various points in the development of the report, at two separate focus sessions and via email for those who could not attend.
- 3.7. The panel's recommendations were grouped into five themes - Organisational Development, People, Funding, Communications Information and Networking Long-term strategic approach. These areas of work will be taken forward into implementation by a working group supported by the Programme Team. Work is currently ongoing to establish this working group and the implementation phase is expected to begin in the autumn and report back in January 2020.
- 3.8. The Executive Summary from the report is included, however to request a copy of the full North Inquiry report please email [omfunds@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:omfunds@manchester.gov.uk).

#### **4. Next steps**

- 4.1. The OMVCS Programme Board have prioritised the following pieces of work over the coming months:
  - Delivery of the Population Health Targeted Health Fund - launch, application process, assessment, recommendations, sign off, communication, grant agreements and go live
  - North Inquiry - next phase, development of a locally owned working group to focusing on prioritising the recommendations and phases of delivery.
  - Development of approaches with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) VCS organisations and communities to be progressed
  - Development Fund work, with organisations given one year funding during 2019/20
  - OMVCS Year 1 report (annual report)

All of the areas of work above rely heavily on the Programme Team, who are leading and/or supporting this work on behalf of the OMVCS Programme Board.

## **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1. The Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee are asked to note and comment on the contents of this report and the appendices.