

# Refresh of GM VCSE Accord

Summer 2021

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# Background

- Original GM VCSE Accord (2017) – 5-year agreement between Mayor of Greater Manchester / GMCA, with the VCSE sector.
- Memorandum of Understanding (2017) between GM Health & Social Care (H&SC) Partnership and the VCSE sector focussed on improving health and wellbeing in Greater Manchester.
- New Accord agreement will **replace** both the original Accord and the H&SC MOU
- January 2020 - the GM VCSE Leadership Group published its VCSE Policy Paper, which focusses on supporting and transforming the sector

# Background

## **New Accord agreement will be informed by:**

- **Reflection** - Learning from the original VCSE Accord and MOU, as well as evaluation of the GM VCSE Engagement Programme
- **Engagement** - structured conversations with key stakeholders from across the VCSE sector in Greater Manchester, as well as officers and politicians representing the GMCA and Health and Social Care Integrated Care System. (*this session is part of that work*)
- **Recent experiences** - our learning and reflections from the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 report of the GM Independent Inequalities Commission, the Marmot report 'Building Back Fairer in Greater Manchester', and the creation of the new the GM Integrated Care System

# What is the GM VCSE Accord?

## Purpose:

- A **collaboration agreement** between the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Combined Authority and the Greater Manchester Integrated Care System with the VCSE sector based on a relationship of trust
- Framework which describes VCSE sector role in the Greater Manchester Strategy and future Integrated Care System

## Scope:

- Involvement of VCSE organisations and groups in the development and delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy, the Integrated Care System Strategic Plan and any strategies which have a GM footprint.
- All projects and programmes led by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and through the Integrated Care System, including collaborative work across districts.
- VCSE sector leadership, infrastructure and support which takes place at a GM footprint.

# What is the GM VCSE Accord?

## Who is involved:

- Three-way agreement between
  - the Greater Manchester Combined Authority,
  - the Greater Manchester Integrated Care System,
  - and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector in Greater Manchester, represented by the GM VCSE Leadership Group.

## Timescales:

- New Accord agreement will be for period of five years commencing on 1st October 2021

# DRAFT content of the refreshed Accord Agreement

## Shared Vision:

Good lives for all - to make Greater Manchester one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old, and in which to invest, do business, study and visit.

- Together, the partners to this Accord agreement want to co-deliver and co-develop the vision and aims of the GMS and co-create:
  - A resilient GM
  - A prosperous GM
  - A healthy GM
  - An equitable GM
  - A vibrant GM
  - A sustainable GM

# DRAFT content of the refreshed Accord Agreement

## Principles:

Greater Manchester VCSE Leadership Group has set out four aims:

- We are many. The huge number of staff, volunteers and supporters across the sector are a catalyst for change and a connector of people.
- Our role is critical for the economic success of devolution in Greater Manchester but also for the equally important cultural and social devolution that will help build a truly equal region
- We work with other sectors to devise, develop and deliver solutions to some of the most challenging problems faced by Greater Manchester, breaking down barriers and building community confidence and cohesion, and ensure we move from crisis resolution to anticipation and prevention
- We understand our communities because we are an intrinsic part of them. We help drive people-powered change, catalysing social action and bridging the gap that can exist between public services and the people they serve



# DRAFT content of the refreshed Accord Agreement

## Principles:

GMCA and the GM Integrated Care System commits to supporting the GM VCSE Leadership Group to achieve these aims, and will...

- Employ best practice standards of working with voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations
- Create new partnerships and build on existing ones to encourage diverse voices across Greater Manchester to have an active role in shaping and challenging policy
- Facilitate involvement and engagement of the VCSE sector in the development, governance and delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy including relevant consultation and co-design, embedding the objectives of the VCSE Policy Paper into the refreshed GMS
- Identify areas within the GMS in which the VCSE sector can take the lead, working in partnership with the public sector
- Facilitate co-creation of services, including the involvement of service users/experts by experience in service design
- Support and drive the cultural change required to enable effective collaborative working
- Carry out community and VCSE sector impact analysis as part of its decision-making, using this to promote a community wealth building approach
- Develop an investment approach based on long-term, core funding to support strategic VCSE capacity and infrastructure in delivering the visions of the GMS and GM Integrated Care System
- Provide funding to support the delivery of the GM VCSE Accord agreement

# DRAFT content of the refreshed Accord Agreement

## Shared Objectives:

- **Value and maximise the impact from the role of the VCSE sector** in the development and delivery the Integrated Care System Strategy, the GMS and its partner strategies which have a GM footprint.
- **Transform the VCSE sector** by delivering the GM VCSE Policy Paper 2020 , enabling the Greater Manchester VCSE Ecosystem Model which aligns with the arrangements of the Unified Public Services, creating a co-ordinated approach based on people, place and prevention as part of an inclusive, local, and productive economy.
- **Create an effective leadership, support and delivery arrangement** for the VCSE sector at a GM footprint.

# How will this Accord Agreement be delivered?

## **Role of the GM VCSE Leadership Group:**

- Take responsibility on behalf of the VCSE sector to drive forward the Accord agreement and the work to implement it.
- To be fully accountable to the wider VCSE sector of the whole of Greater Manchester for delivery of the Accord agreement

## **Implementation plan:**

- Activities which will deliver the shared objectives set out in the Accord agreement
- 5-year vision and objectives will be underpinned by annual delivery plans - agreed actions, responsibilities, timescales, targets and outcomes

# How will this Accord Agreement be delivered?

## **Funding agreement:**

- Partnership funding agreement between the GMCA, Health and Social Care Integrated Care System and the GM VCSE Leadership Group – for delivery of Implementation Plan.
- Subject to annual review and confirmation of budgets

## **Governance / management arrangements for the Accord:**

- Owned jointly by the GM Combined Authority, the GM Integrated Care System and the GM VCSE Leadership Group.
- VCSE Accord Management Group to review progress made towards the shared objectives and targets set out in the Implementation Plan
- Evaluation and review on an annual basis

## Questions for discussion:

- *Are the purpose and scope of the draft GM VCSE Accord clear? Can you suggest any improvements?*
- *Has this accurately described the potential role of the VCSE sector in a partnership with GMCA and the GM Integrated Care System?*
- *Will this Accord agreement support your work and your ambitions for collaboration between the GM VCSE sector, GMCA and the GM Integrated Care System?*
- *Is there anything that you would remove, change or add into this agreement? Why?*
- *What specific actions / activities should be included in the Implementation Plan that supports this Accord agreement?*
- *Any other comments?*

# **Accord Engagement Sessions feedback and response August 2021**

The Greater Manchester VCSE Leadership Group is a collaboration between VCSE leaders in Greater Manchester.

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# Overview

The original GM VCSE Accord was signed in November 2017 by the Mayor of Greater Manchester on behalf of the GMCA, with several hundred representatives of the VCSE sector. Similarly, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership and the VCSE sector in GM was signed in January 2017, setting out a new way for VCSE organisations and the health and social care sector to work together.

The new GM VCSE Accord will set out an agreement between the Greater Manchester Mayor, Combined Authority and the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board with the VCSE sector, based on a relationship of trust.

The GM VCSE Leadership Group, GMCA, and GMHSCP, have been working together to review and renew the Accord and MoU into a single, forward facing agreement, building on the substantial engagement undertaken with our sector to produce the VCSE Policy Paper, which was published in January 2020 and sets out a 10 year vision for the VCSE sector in Greater Manchester.

The new Accord also takes into account our learning and reflections from the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 report of the GM Independent Inequalities Commission, the Marmot report 'Building Back Better in Greater Manchester', and the development of the GM Integrated Care Board (ICB).

The Accord will act as a framework for the VCSE sector's role in the delivery of the GMS vision and in the thematic strategies and delivery plans that exist to deliver the GMS vision. The VCSE sector will be involved in the development, governance and delivery of the GMS including co-design of relevant activities.

Representatives from the Accord working group have been facilitating engagement sessions across local infrastructure organisations and key GM VCSE networks, as well as with the GMCA, ICS and other key public sector partners. We brought along a first draft of the Accord and asked for feedback. We're grateful to everyone who has attended and shared their ideas and thoughts. We received a wide range of responses which have been incorporated into the next version of the Accord.

So that you can see how your feedback has been responded to we have organised the responses into a range of broad themes and detailed how we have responded to each area.

Broad Theme	You said	We did
Language and audience	Language feels 'system led' and not the language of the VCSE sector- feels vague and overly complex	We have aimed to remove unnecessary jargon and use language already adopted by the VCSE Sector- eg. From the VCSE Policy Paper and State of the Sector reports
	There are too many commitments- there should be fewer commitments that are more tangible	The commitments have been redrafted to a much simpler set of 8 shared commitments jointly shared by all signatories.
	Needs a clearer articulation of the big challenges- ending inequality and poverty, impact of austerity on communities.	The shared vision has been re-worded to explicitly reference our overall goal of ending poverty and closing the inequalities gap. Commitment 1 now references 'a permanent reduction in inequalities over the next five years'
Describing the VCSE Sector	Accord needs to emphasise the breadth and complexity of the VCSE sector and not to present the sector as a single thing	'Role of the VCSE sector' section has been strengthened with more detail on breadth of the sector added, including statistics from the 2021 State of the Sector GM report.
	Wording doesn't feel relevant to smaller organisations/organisations working at locality/neighbourhood level	Under each commitment we have now named specific priorities/areas of work so all parts of the sector can easily see which commitments and work areas are most relevant to them.
Describing the relationship	There needs to be something about the 'way we do business together' focusing on responsibilities and behaviours.	Under the shared vision we have added a paragraph focusing on 'how' we will work together and the expectations on all partners.
The commitments	The economic role needs to be much more clearly articulated in the Accord- 'more than just doing good jobs, we build things, make things, bring money into local economy'	Commitment 4 is specifically about the VCSE role in the GM economy. Other commitments also reference the economic impact of the VCSE sector (for example as a Living Wage employer)



	A commitment to effective commissioning with the VCSE sector, especially long term grants and contracts (5+ years is essential)	Commitment 3 focuses on the importance of the financial resilience of the sector including 'an investment approach based on long-term, core funding'
Accountability	There needs to be clear accountability measures against each of the commitments, otherwise the Accord is just a piece of paper	Under each commitment we have listed some of the key priority areas of work. The Accord will be supplemented by a detailed annual implementation plan with KPIs with oversight from a VCSE Accord management group who will also lead on evaluation.
GM/locality working	The consistent issue impacting at locality level is that there is too much variation between local authorities. Want to see a minimum guarantee of support to VCSE sector in all 10 boroughs, recognising the ambition as a joint endeavour not just at GM level but adopted by localities.	Under commitment 5 we describe 'Agreement of minimum standards of involvement for leaders from VCSE organisations in partnerships and delivery governance across each of the 10 local authority areas'  We have also clarified the scope of this agreement in the Accord Annex:  "The role, function and purpose of the VCSE within new Provider Collaboratives and partnership arrangements both at GM and Place level."  "All projects and programmes led by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and through the GM Integrated Care System, including collaborative work across districts."