

GREATER MANCHESTER VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE (VCSE) DEVOLUTION REFERENCE GROUP

The VCSE Devolution Reference Group seeks to promote the role and involvement of the VCSE sector and communities in devolution. It comprises individuals from voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise organisations from across Greater Manchester.

Objectives of the group

1. To champion VCSE engagement in devolution across Greater Manchester by promoting the vital role the sector plays in working towards a more equal society
2. To act as a point of contact for those working within Greater Manchester devolution and Greater Manchester's VCSE sector
3. To share information and opportunities, operate transparently and think beyond individual organisations
4. To promote positive change and collaboration within the VCSE sector through devolution
5. To create a social movement for change that empowers the communities of Greater Manchester

The Reference Group works to support sector engagement across Greater Manchester's devolution agenda and with the Mayor. It has signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership and works closely with Alex Whinnom, CEO of GMCVO, who represents the sector on the Health and Social Care Strategic Partnership Board and is a member of the Reference Group.

The Reference Group is not a representative structure but individuals are nominated by their own networks and are held accountable to their network and/or the Reference Group by a signed protocol agreement. Members of the Reference Group are expected to be 'catalysts and connectors' on behalf of the sector.

The Reference Group aligns its activity to that of the GM VCSE Assembly, a meeting forum for all sector organisations in Greater Manchester who wish to engage with devolution.

Our key messages

- **We are many.** The army 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 can 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.** We can help drive people-powered change, harnessing social action and **bridging the gap** that can exist between public services and the people they serve

Working in partnership:

**GREATER MANCHESTER VCSE
DEVOLUTION REFERENCE GROUP**

GMCA GREATER
MANCHESTER
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

NHS

in Greater Manchester

GM VCSE DEVOLUTION REFERENCE GROUP MEMBERSHIP, BY TYPE

INFRASTRUCTURE

Regional

Alex Whinnom
GMCVO

Local

Mike Wild
MACC
Alison Page
Salford CVS

Liz Windsor-Welsh
Action Together

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Chris Dabbs
Unlimited Potential

Priti Butler
Big Life Group

SPORT

Louise Robbins
GreaterSport

FAITH

Charles Kwaku-Odoi
GM Faith Community Leaders

CARERS

Lynne Stafford
Gaddum Centre

HEALTHWATCH

Peter Denton
Greater Manchester Healthwatch

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Ben Gilchrist, **Action Together**
Graham Whitham, **GM Poverty Action**

SECRETARIAT

Chair
Warren Escadale, **VSNW**

Secretariat Lead
Karen Conway, **VSNW**

PROVIDERS

Bernadette Conlon
Start in Salford

Joanne Walby
Mustard Tree

Paul Martin
LGBT Foundation

Simone Spray
42nd Street

Priscilla Nkwenti
BHA

Michael Stephenson
GM Citizens Advice

EQUALITIES

Jackie Driver (interim)
Breakthrough UK
(linked to GM Coalition of Disabled People)

Suzanne Hilton
Age UK Bolton
(linked to Ambition for Ageing Equalities Board)

Khadija Tily
KYP
(linked to GM BME Network)

CONNECTING TO THE GROUP

Members of the group are connected to a range of regional and national networks, many of which provide routes to engage.

10GM Network

Alison Page, Mike Wild and Liz Windsor-Welsh

GM VCSE Assembly

Alex Whinnom

GM BME Network

Khadija Tily

GM Coalition of Disabled People

Jackie Driver

GM Healthwatch Network

Peter Denton

Northern Soul Social Enterprise Network

Chris Dabbs

Ambition for Ageing Equalities Board

Suzanne Hilton

NW Leaders Board, DoH/ NHS England/ PHE VCS Strategic Partners Programme and Health Equity North

Warren Escadale

Cancer Champions Network

Ben Gilchrist

For more information about the VCSE Assembly and to receive updates, contact:

E. nathalie.long@gmcvo.org.uk

T. 0161 277 1026

W. www.gmcvo.org.uk/health-and-social-care-devolution

For more information on the Greater Manchester VCSE Devolution Reference Group contact:

E. karen.conway@vsnw.org.uk

T. 0161 276 9300

W. www.vsnw.org.uk

To find out more about devolution in Greater Manchester, visit:

VSNW

www.vsnw.org.uk/gmdevo

Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership

www.gmhsc.org.uk

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority

www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk