

VCSE School Readiness Task and Finish Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE V0.1 (JUNE 2018)

1. Context

We want every child in Greater Manchester to have the best start in life. This means that every child grows up in an environment that nurtures their development, derives safety and security from their parents / care givers, accesses high quality early years services and has a belief in their goals and their ability to achieve them. Our ambition is that every child in GM acquires the skills necessary to negotiate early childhood, primary and secondary school and education and employment.

To help achieve this ambition, Greater Manchester is addressing School Readiness as a key priority through a range of related policy, including the GM Start Well: Early Years Strategy, GM Population Health Plan, GM Children's Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Greater Manchester Strategy.

To co-ordinate efforts across partners, a new 2-year work programme has been established with 4 key objectives:

- support parents to give their child a healthy start, with good early development
- ensure high quality Early Years services
- provide our children with excellent places to play, develop and learn
- provide strong leadership and systems infrastructure

Delivery of the work programme is being overseen by the GM School Readiness Board. The Board comprises of senior leads from across the GM Early Years system, including representation from the VCSE sector.

Community engagement and supporting families to take greater charge of their own lives is a key priority of the Board.

2. Purpose of the VCSE School Readiness task and finish group

To harness, co-ordinate and seek opportunities to develop the VCSE contribution to improving school readiness in GM.

3. Objectives and Key Functions

To inform and support implementation of the GM School Readiness Work Programme.

To provide a method of enabling VCSE organisations to collaborate productively on a GM footprint in relation to School Readiness.

To establish a clear point of reference for the GM School Readiness Board and School Readiness Wider Reference Group to engage with the VCSE sector.

To champion and communicate effectively what the VCSE sector can contribute to improving School Readiness.

To support broader VCSE engagement in the School Readiness agenda and provide communication channels to the broader VCSE sector.

To provide a mechanism for promoting innovation, transformation and best practice delivered across and by the sector; and foster knowledge transfer to enable the sector to thrive in Greater Manchester.

To promote and support the development of VCSE relationships and engagement in the Early Years system at locality level.

4. Governance

The VCSE School Readiness Task and Finish Group will report to the GM School Readiness Board via the Chair of the group.

5. Membership and Meeting Arrangements

The group will be Chaired by the VCSE representative on the School Readiness Board. This is Rukhsana Ahmed, Principal of Longsight Community Primary School and member of the Big Life group. The deputy Chair of the group will be xxxxx.

The group will comprise of approximately 10 VCSE organisations. The group currently comprises of the following members: Xxxxx

Meetings will take place bi-monthly.

6. Administration

Administration will be provided via (TBC)