

Update - GM Policy and the VCSE Sector

This short update is intended to give an overview of some important GM policy developments, and show how the VCSE sector has been or is likely to be involved or affected. The list is not comprehensive!

It is encouraging to see how much VCSE organisations and leaders have been able to shape these policies and the language used in them, and the extent to which our sector is recognised as crucial to the delivery of them. As always, although there is some GM-level top-down decision-making, GM policies also play out within each locality, where they may be interpreted in different ways, and with different levels of resource or degrees of success. This means it is important for GM organisations to understand what is happening in localities, and vice versa, and to try to support each other.

GM Strategy: Our People Our Place		
ENVIRONMENT	GROWTH	REFORM
Spatial Framework	Independent Prosperity Review	GM Model of Public Service
Transport 2040	Local Industrial Strategy	Taking Charge next 5 Years
Housing Plan	Employment & Skills Strategy	Leading in GM
Green Summit	Good Employment Charter	
VCSE Strategic Paper		

1. Greater Manchester Strategy: Our People, Our Place 2018

The GM Strategy is the framework for all GM strategy and policy. GMCVO is a co-owner on behalf of the VCSE sector. The Accord commitments www.gmcvo.org.uk/accord-between-mayor-and-gm-combined-authority-and-vcse-sector are built into it. www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/ourpeopleourplace

2. In January 2019 The GM Mayor and all ten GMCA Leaders came together to launch their ‘vision for Greater Manchester’

and a number of important strategies www.gmcvo.org.uk/gmca-future-gm-statement. GMCVO and other VCSE people were present. Bev Hughes (Deputy Mayor) gave a powerful endorsement of the importance of partnership with our sector.

3. Spatial Framework (revised)

This might appear a dry topic but it is extremely relevant to VCSE organisations: it will affect everything else that happens in GM, with implications for the kind of economy that can thrive; access to work, services and facilities; housing; neighbourhood infrastructure; community spaces and places; green spaces and the environment. A VCSE forum gave feedback on the first draft and GMCVO made a formal response. Another phase of consultation starts autumn 2019. www.gmcvo.org.uk/gm-spatial-framework-%E2%80%93-please-respond-18th-march

4. Transport 2040

Consultation on this was completed in 2016, but the live document is the draft Delivery Plan 2020-25, which links to the Spatial Framework. <https://tfgm.com/2040> GMCVO and VCSE organisations continue to lobby for transport to be made accessible, affordable and useful (i.e. going to the right places).

5. Green Summit

A second Green Summit was held March 2019 www.gmcvo.org.uk/gm-mayor%E2%80%99s-green-summit-2019 and a Five-year Environment Plan was launched. There is strong VCSE involvement in the summit steering group. A VCSE-led group is developing a Sustainable Food Strategy for GM https://feedinggtrmcr.org.uk/sites/feedingmanchester.org.uk/files/GM_Sustainable_Food_Strategy_V3.pdf

6. Local Industrial Strategy

Greater Manchester is a pilot area for developing a LIS. The structure is set by government, which must also approve the LIS www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-industrial-strategy-greater-manchester-progress-statement. The GM LIS clearly focuses on inclusive economic growth, with explicit reference to the role of the VCSE sector in achieving this. GMCVO and the Inclusive Growth Analysis Unit www.mui.manchester.ac.uk/igau/ have been involved throughout the development. A VCSE forum contributed to the development of latest draft and GMCVO made a formal response to consultation.

7. Independent Prosperity Review

Some people may remember the Manchester Independent Economic Review in 2006. A new review was undertaken in 2018/19; GMCVO and other VCSE organisations contributed. The report notes that further devolution is essential, identifies strong links between health and productivity, identifies a clear role for VCSE organisations in the economy and innovation, and recommends social enterprise as an essential element in the mix <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/independent-prosperity-review/>

8. Good Employment Charter

This has been developing over the last year and will go live in July 2019 with a pilot group of employers, with a view to a full launch in November www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/economy/greater-manchester-good-employment-charter/. GMCVO along with other employer umbrella organisations sits on the steering group, and we made formal responses to both consultations. www.gmcvo.org.uk/have-your-say-%E2%80%93-greater-manchester%E2%80%99s-plans-good-employment-jobs-and-growth The standards if met would make a big dent in in-work poverty and accessibility of work and we recommend VCSE employers support it if possible. We continue to lobby for:- targeting employers of the workforce demographics least likely to experience good employment; stronger emphasis on equalities, unfair discrimination and inclusion; ensuring the Charter is accessible to SMEs.

9. GM Model of Public Service (White Paper)

This should be read alongside the GM Taking Charge policy, as they cover similar territory. The GM Model www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/1676/greater-manchester-model.pdf has emerged from the public service reform movement, and reflects the more recent emphasis on place-based, person-centred working and collaboration across institutions of all kinds – all positive.

10. NHS Prospectus and GM Taking Charge, the next Five Years

This should be read alongside the GM Model paper, as they cover similar territory. Taking Charge, the next Five Years builds on the original Taking Charge strategy www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/health/documents/ which covers health and social care devolution 2016-21 and is a GM response to the national NHS Prospectus. The VCSE sector is already delivering elements of Taking Charge through the Memorandum of Understanding www.gmcvo.org.uk/HSCEngage/TheMoU

Both documents have had considerable VCSE sector input, especially through the VCSE Reference Group, and both are clear that VCSE organisations are part of the ‘system’ with specific roles to play.

www.gmcvo.org.uk/opportunity-have-your-say-two-important-greater-manchester-public-health-strategies Both accept in principle the need to shift funding ‘upstream’ into wellbeing, early intervention and swift recovery, and that much of this is best delivered by VCSE organisations. They also acknowledge our roles in co-design, co-production, innovation and critical friendship.

11. Leading in GM

A public sector leadership programme (third year just ending), intended to encourage collaboration and relationship-based working. <http://leadersingm.org.uk/> GMCVO has been involved from the start in shaping the programme, which is also open to carers, volunteers and VCSE staff. Over the last year VCSE leaders have delivered elements of the programme www.gmcvo.org.uk/learning-exchange. Recently Leading in GM and the Health and Social Care Workforce Development programme are working together and planning for year four is underway.

12. VCSE Strategic Paper (name TBC)

Under the Accord, a VCSE lead is employed by GMCA (Anne Lythgoe). Anne has been supporting the VCSE Reference Group to develop a VCSE Paper which will sit alongside the above GM papers, and will be launched alongside them in July. The paper includes: description of the VCSE ‘ecosystem’ and what we do; our ambitions for GM; what we can and could contribute; what we need from other partners. ‘Soft’ consultation is underway and a draft will be shared shortly.