

## Report to Cabinet



Date of Meeting	23 November 2021
Portfolio	Councillor Neil Emmott Leader of the Council
Report Author	Kuiama Thompson – Director of Public Health
Public/Private Document	Public

### **Greater Manchester Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) Accord**

#### **Executive Summary**

- 1 A report was tabled at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on Friday 24th September 2021 on the new Greater Manchester Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Accord (GM VCSE Accord) for approval.
  - 1.1 The Accord is a tri-partite agreement between the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership and the Greater Manchester VCSE Leadership Group on behalf of the VCSE sector in the region, with a purpose to further develop collaborative working with VCSE organisations to improve outcomes for local communities. It is anchored on a relationship of mutual trust, of working together and sharing responsibility.
  - 1.2 The Accord was signed by the Mayor of Greater Manchester and a recommendation was made for the Accord to be referred for recommendation to each local authority in the region in recognition that a number of elements within the Accord are to be delivered within localities, including by local authorities.

#### **Recommendation**

2. That the borough confirms commitment to the new GM VCSE Accord.

#### **Reason for Recommendation**

3. To facilitate both the refresh of the Greater Manchester Strategy and the development of the Integrated Care System.
  - 3.1 It would be advantageous to have a unified way of working between the local authorities, GMCA, the Integrated Care System and the GM VCSE sector, represented by the GM VCSE Leadership Group. This would allow a single conversation with the sector in relation to all aspects of the GMS and

its partner strategies. It would also enable a focus on sustaining their valuable work in communities and creating a more resilient VCSE sector.

### Key Points for Consideration

4. In November 2017 and on behalf of the GMCA, an Accord was signed by the Mayor of Greater Manchester with the VCSE sector, which set out new, improved standards of working with VCSE organisations. The Accord acts as a framework for the delivery of the vision set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy and as a result, the VCSE sector is engaged in the development, governance and delivery of the GMS including relevant consultation and co-design.
- 4.1 VCSE leaders in GM have come together to form the VCSE Leadership Group, which seeks to promote the role and involvement of the VCSE sector and communities in devolution and has given a broader group of VCSE leaders with which to work.
- 4.2 The GM VCSE Leadership Group also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Health and Social Care Partnership, which has seen £1.2m of Health and Social Care Transformation Funding flow into the VCSE Leadership Group and the wider sector over the last 4 years.
- 4.3 As part of the delivery of the VCSE Accord, in January 2020 the GM VCSE Leadership Group published a Policy Paper for the future development of the sector, which is entitled 'Voluntary organisations, Community groups and Social Enterprises (VCSE) in Greater Manchester – the next 10 years'. The paper describes the role of VCSE anchor organisations and local VCSE infrastructure organisations which support and facilitate the operation of the wider sector, as well as that of the specialist groups and organisations which support, represent and champion particular communities of identity or experience.
- 4.4 As part of the delivery of the VCSE Accord, in January 2020 the GM VCSE Leadership Group published a Policy Paper for the future development of the sector, which is entitled 'Voluntary organisations, Community groups and Social Enterprises (VCSE) in Greater Manchester – the next 10 years'. The paper describes the role of VCSE anchor organisations and local VCSE infrastructure organisations which support and facilitate the operation of the wider sector, as well as that of the specialist groups and organisations which support, represent and champion particular communities of identity or experience.
- 4.5 During the Covid-19 pandemic, the response of VCSE organisations has been incredible in its strength, its depth and the speed at which it has mobilized. Furthermore, community volunteers have offered and continue to provide their support and are integrating with emergency support structures at this time. The VCSE sector has been quick to adapt at pace and with a huge degree of accuracy and efficacy to meet the needs of GM communities.

- 4.6 However, this response has not been without its challenges, and VCSE leaders have identified a number of risks and issues which are inhibiting their capacity to work effectively as part of the emergency effort. On 29th July the GM State of the VCSE Sector Report was published, providing a snapshot of the role and health of the VCSE sector in GM. The report shows that Greater Manchester is home to around 17,000 voluntary, community and social enterprise groups and organisations, and nearly 500,000 volunteers giving a total of 1.4 million hours each week. These groups, organisations and volunteers are well-networked with strong, distributed leadership, established communications channels and have evidenced their ability to convene and act together in the interests of Greater Manchester's communities. 71% of the VCSE sector are micro-organisations with an annual income under £10,000, and 57% of organisations work across specific neighbourhoods and communities across Greater Manchester. However, despite an increase in both the number of VCSE organisations and of volunteers since the last report in 2017, the overall turnover of the sector has decreased in real terms.
- 4.7 The revised Accord is a three-way collaboration agreement between the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership and the GMVCSE Sector represented by the GM VCSE Leadership Group, based in a relationship of mutual trust, working together, and sharing responsibility. It will act as a framework for collaboration involving VCSE leaders and organisations in the delivery of the GMS and in the thematic strategies and delivery plans that will exist to deliver the GMS vision, including the strategic plan of the new GM Integrated Care System.
- 4.8 The purpose of this Accord is to further develop how we work together to improve outcomes for Greater Manchester's communities and citizens. The agreement is intended to work in a number of ways:
- Through a shared understanding of the contribution that VCSE organisations make towards tackling inequality in society, creating a more inclusive economy and addressing the climate crisis.
  - Through the building of effective partnerships and relationships between the statutory sector with VCSE organisations across different geographies (for example GM-wide, district-wide, or in neighbourhoods and communities)
  - Through a shared vision, ways of working principles and set of commitments which underpin these partnerships and relationships
  - Through a 5-year iterative programme of enabling and developmental activities driven at a GM-wide footprint, which aims to maximise the ability of VCSE organisations to deliver beneficial outcomes in communities and localities.
- 4.9 The 5-year iterative programme of enabling and developmental activities driven at a GM-wide footprint will be outlined in an Implementation Plan supported by annual delivery plans which contain actions, responsibilities, timescales, targets and outcomes for delivery. This Implementation Plan will be used as the basis for a partnership funding agreement between the

GMCA, Health and Social Care Partnership and the GM VCSE Leadership Group, which will cover the length of this Accord agreement, but be subject to annual review and confirmation of budgets for the GMCA and GM Integrated Care System.

- 4.10 The VCSE Accord will be signed off through individual 'governance' structures but will be owned jointly by the GM Combined Authority, the GM Health and Social Care Partnership (with approvals through the GM Partnership Executive Board and Health and Care Board) and the GM VCSE Leadership Group.

### **Alternatives Considered**

- 4.11 To not support the new GM VCSE Accord and confirm endorsement on behalf of the borough.

### **Costs and Budget Summary**

5. To support this work, a budget of £228,400 was approved by the GMCA in September 2020 from the Cultural and Social Impact Fund, with approval delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Community, Co-operatives and Inclusion Portfolio Leader and Chief Executive to award grant agreements, subject to final agreement of GMCA budgets for 2021/22 onwards.
- 5.1 The GM Health and Social Care Partnership has also agreed to provide £180,000 in the current financial year towards delivery of the new VCSE Accord.

### **Risk and Policy Implications**

6. The VCSE Accord is a partnership agreement which will involve all parties offering to bring resources (financial and non-financial) into the arrangement. It builds on the 2017 accord between the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the VCSE sector. The Council is a signatory to the accord. The accord will strengthen shared delivery and shared accountability, as well as shared risk for the actions taken across the VCSE Leadership Group, GMCA and Health and Social Care Partnership.

### **Consultation**

7. Further information in relation to consultation undertaken is available via the following external link to the Greater Manchester VCSE Leadership Group.

<https://www.gmcvo.org.uk/HSCEngage>

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
8. Information about GM VCSE Leadership Group and VCSE Policy Paper	<a href="https://vcseleadershipgm.org.uk/our-work/">https://vcseleadershipgm.org.uk/our-work/</a>
<b>For Further Information Contact:</b>	Michael Garraway 01706 924718 <a href="mailto:michael.garraway2@rochdale.gov.uk">michael.garraway2@rochdale.gov.uk</a>