

Our Manchester VCS Funding Co-design

Session: 1

10th October 2016

Co-design group

- Nicola Rea, Manchester City Council
- Liz Goodger, MCC
- Claire Evans, 4CT
- Elizabeth Mitchell, MCC
- Lynne Stafford, Gaddum Centre
- Martin Preston, Macc
- Helen Hibberd, Chorlton Good Neighbours
- Mark Rainey, MCC
- Juliet Eadie, CCG
- Frances Davies-Tagoe, Tree of Life
- Val Bayliss-Brideaux, CCG
- Rachel Bottomley LGBT Foundation

Apologies

- Michael Salmon, MCC

Also present

- Sara Todd, MCC
- Donna Grimshaw, Manchester City Council
- Nigel Rose, Macc

Background

Three workshops were held during August and September 2016 to begin the discussion on a new approach to supporting the voluntary sector in the city, which is tied to the Our Manchester way of working.

The presentation and the key messages from table discussions at the workshops were sent out to all providers, including providers who were unable to attend any of the three workshops. All co-design participants also received the key messages.

Summary of Session: 1

Our Manchester scene setting (Sara Todd)

Sara briefly outlined the Our Manchester Strategy. To deliver the strategy the Council and other partners will need to work much more closely together, building on the assets we already have in our communities and taking a strengths-based approach.

This co-design process is an important early part of the Our Manchester work and the Council is fully committed to working in partnership with the VCS on this.

Overview of the co-design process (Liz Goodger)

Current VCS funding from the Council is in separate programmes which do not connect to each other, or to places in the city, or to other funders. The co-design group will need to think as widely as it can as to how the future funding model can support the resilience of the voluntary sector in Manchester.

There are four initial co-design sessions which will help the group generate options for new funding models. These options will then be consulted on with the wider VCS, and Members of the Council.

After the consultation is closed, the co-design group will reconvene to develop and refine the model based on the outcomes of the consultation.

Summary of co-design group work – session 1

The group asked: 'How can we use VCS funding to further the aims of Our Manchester?'

The key themes to come out of the discussion are in bold below:

Community Hubs

- Community hubs across the city, bringing people together and providing support and services at a neighbourhood level
- Community hubs supporting a whole range of voluntary sector organisations.

Sharing of buildings and facilities

- Using buildings for multiple uses that are environmentally sustainable and good quality
- Sharing of buildings and facilities across voluntary organisations
- Provide different services in each others' buildings
- Not one size fits all around support
- Organisations could provide back office support for other organisations (lead provider)

Equitable

- Equitable services that are geographically placed to meet the needs of people

Strengthening the sector

- How can we keep strengthening the sector and build resilience into the system?
- How can we get the sector working together? But we do not want a small number of large organisations to "gobble up" the smaller ones.
- There is a need to be careful as organisations can't be forced to be collaborative
- Funding for full cost recovery as organisations are not getting core costs from elsewhere.

Funding Model

- Need a longer term commitment to funding
- Do not want to lose locality / diversity of smaller groups
- How do you recognise and reward success?

City wide / local funding

- Importance of the local level but don't lose the city wide element
- What should be funded at a City and at GM level, and make sure it is linked with the local needs
- How do you link organisations aims with the City Council's aims?

Volunteers & staffing

- Increasing the number of volunteers and supporting them

Mapping Information

- Do we need to do mapping to see gaps and overlapping?
- Need to have something to ensure we share data
- Build on innovation - don't want to only fund new, but also what is currently working

Prioritise Funding

- How do you prioritise funding against different themes?
- Money will never be enough and so do we need to decide what to focus the money on? What is happening elsewhere?

Advice

- Sharing Information about what is happening in neighbourhoods should be part of the outcomes

Additional funding streams (such as the Police or Registered Providers)

- Can we link with the CCGs and others to increase the size of the pot?
- Should be working to the same outcomes
- How can we design a system to allow others to link in

Organisations

- What about organisations that are not Manchester organisations, but are delivering services and supporting people in Manchester?
- Also ones that are not funded by MCC
- Need to be real partners delivering with the City Council
- Links to national organisations and the relationship with local organisations

GM devolution and Prevention

- Link to GM devolution sector and delivery

Outcomes and Outputs

- Outcomes versus outputs – how do you retain key priorities
- How do you formulate outcomes and outputs so things can be monitored appropriately.
- How is monitoring worked with, collected and used?

Quality Assurance

Additional Issues identified

- Key communication channels
- How we communicate to the wider VCS - funded and unfunded

Communication

The group agreed the importance of transparency and accountability in this co-design work and the need for effective communication channels so the wider VCS can feed into the co-design.

The name of each representative on the co-design group will be made available on Macc's website, alongside the rationale on how the co-design representatives were chosen.

The co-design group is representing the sector, and can be contacted, so people can feed into to the co-design and can give their thoughts on the key themes.

A summary of each of the four sessions and other relevant information about the co-design will be published on Macc's website so the wider VCS can access the information and feed into the co-design. The information will be communicated in a timely manner and with reasonable timescales for feedback so information can be prepared for the next session

Co-design reps will also share the co-design work with partners at relevant board and other meetings.

Focus for the Next Session

The group identified three main themes they would like to concentrate on for the next session:

- **Strengthening the sector**
- **Citywide / local funding**
- **Funding models**