

## **Q&A – Manchester VCSE Covid 19 Update:**

### Answered Questions:

#### **1. How can VCSE groups access the discretionary grants from MCC?**

It was explained that these were currently under review however since the webinar further information has now been released.

#### **Manchester City Council Discretionary Grants**

The Government has introduced additional grant funding aimed at small businesses with ongoing, fixed property-related costs who didn't qualify for the Small Business Grant or the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant due to either not having a rates liability or not meeting the Government-set criteria. Manchester City Council have been allocated £5.4million. In order to support as many businesses and charities as possible grant payments will be limited to a maximum of £5k per applicant.

The Council is prioritising the following:

- Start-up and micro businesses
- Businesses within Enterprise Zones
- **Charities and Co-operatives**
- Independent retail businesses

To apply you must meet the following essential criteria:

1. Ongoing fixed building-related costs of more than £1,500 per year that were in place at 11th March 2020
2. Trading at the start of the pandemic on 11 March
3. Eligible types of business
4. Suffered a significant fall in income as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak

**Applications for Discretionary Grants for Small Businesses are now open. Grants will not be issued on a first come, first served basis, so there's no need to rush your application, the deadline is 10pm on 10 June.**

You can find out all the information relating to this grant at the following:

[https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/500361/coronavirus/7935/coronavirus -  
\\_businesses and employers/11](https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/500361/coronavirus/7935/coronavirus_-_businesses_and_employers/11)

#### **2. Any thoughts about Our Manchester additional funding or extensions for groups whose plans and projects have had to shift in response to Covid?**

All Our Manchester funded groups are talking to their grant officers who have been clear in the message that current grants are flexible with an understanding that groups may need to refocus monies in whichever way necessary.

Budgets are in the pipeline for discussion and until the budget is set there cannot be any confirmation around what any additional funding or extensions will look like.

**3. Is there any way we can access some PPE? We could probably re launch our hospital transport service if we could.**

Clearly, this is a challenging area not only locally but nationally. The procurement hub has been set up so any group experiencing issues with obtaining PPE are encouraged to get in touch with Manchester City Council.

**4. We await more info on PPE. As a nursery it has been very difficult to order glove/aprons which are needed.**

As above – anyone experiencing difficulties should contact the council for further support

**5. Are there any talks around digital support for people who previously did not have any access to this area, for example the supply of internet or tablets?**

There is ongoing work around the area of digital inclusion and support particularly within libraries and schools. With a clear focus in ensuring that as many people as possible are supported to get online this work (and more) will continue in the future.

**6. It would be great to have reassurance regarding post Covid-19 and post emergency funding, regarding longer term multi-year funding for the VCSE, can you update us on this?**

**Budget discussions are ongoing. It is clear that resources** will not be as available as ideally we would like therefore there is a need to work together and be realistic in what post Covid-19 funding will look like moving forward