

# GREATER MANCHESTER VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE (VCSE) DEVOLUTION REFERENCE GROUP

**The VCSE Devolution Reference Group seeks to promote the role and involvement of the VCSE sector and communities in devolution. It comprises individuals from voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise organisations from across Greater Manchester.**

## Objectives of the group

1. To champion VCSE engagement in devolution across Greater Manchester by promoting the vital role the sector plays in working towards a more equal society
2. To act as a point of contact for those working within Greater Manchester devolution and Greater Manchester's VCSE sector
3. To share information and opportunities, operate transparently and think beyond individual organisations
4. To promote positive change and collaboration within the VCSE sector through devolution
5. To create a social movement for change that empowers the communities of Greater Manchester

The Reference Group works to support sector engagement across Greater Manchester's devolution agenda and with the Mayor. It has signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership and works closely with Alex Whinnom, CEO of GMCVO, who represents the sector on the Health and Social Care Strategic Partnership Board and is a member of the Reference Group.

The Reference Group is not a representative structure but individuals are nominated by their own networks and are held accountable to their network and/or the Reference Group by a signed protocol agreement. Members of the Reference Group are expected to be 'catalysts and connectors' on behalf of the sector.

The Reference Group aligns its activity to that of the GM VCSE Assembly, a meeting forum for all sector organisations in Greater Manchester who wish to engage with devolution.

## Our key messages

- **We are many.** The army of staff, volunteers and supporters across the sector are a **catalyst for change and a connector of people**
- Our role is **critical for the economic success** of devolution in Greater Manchester but also for the equally important **cultural and social devolution** that will help build a truly equal region
- We can devise, develop and **deliver solutions to some of the most challenging problems** faced by Greater Manchester, breaking down barriers and building community confidence and cohesion, and ensure we **move from crisis resolution to anticipation and prevention**
- **We understand our communities.** We can help drive people-powered change, harnessing social action and **bridging the gap** that can exist between public services and the people they serve

Working in partnership:

**GREATER MANCHESTER VCSE  
DEVOLUTION REFERENCE GROUP**

**GMCA** GREATER  
MANCHESTER  
COMBINED  
AUTHORITY

**NHS**

in Greater Manchester

## GM VCSE DEVOLUTION REFERENCE GROUP MEMBERSHIP, BY TYPE

### INFRASTRUCTURE

#### Regional

Alex Whinnom  
**GMCVO**

#### Local

Mike Wild  
**MACC** Liz Windsor-Welsh  
**Action Together**

Alison Page  
**Salford CVS**

### SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Chris Dabbs  
**Unlimited Potential**

Fay Selvan  
**Big Life Group**

### EQUALITIES

Jackie Driver (interim)  
**Breakthrough UK**  
*(linked to GM Coalition of Disabled People)*

Suzanne Hilton  
**Age UK Bolton**  
*(linked to Ambition for Ageing Equalities Board)*

Hanif Bobat  
**Ethnic Health Forum**  
*(linked to GM BME Network)*

Priscilla Nkwenti  
**BHA**

### PROVIDERS

Bernadette Conlon  
**Start in Salford**

Joanne Walby  
**Mustard Tree**

Paul Martin  
**LGBT Foundation**

Simone Spray  
**42nd Street**

### FAITH

Rabbi Jonathan Guttentag  
**GM Faith Community Leaders**

### SECRETARIAT LEAD

Warren Escadale  
**VSNW**  
(non-voting member)

### SPORT

Louise Robbins  
**GreaterSport**

### CARERS

Lynne Stafford  
**Gaddum Centre**

### HEALTHWATCH

Peter Denton  
**Greater Manchester Healthwatch**

### SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Ben Gilchrist, **Action Together**

## CONNECTING TO THE GROUP

Members of the group are connected to a range of regional and national networks, many of which provide routes to engage.

#### 10GM Network

Alison Page, Mike Wild and Liz Windsor-Welsh

#### GM VCSE Assembly

Alex Whinnom

#### GM BME Network

Hanif Bobat

#### GM Coalition of Disabled People

Jackie Driver

#### GM Healthwatch Network

Peter Denton

#### Northern Soul Social Enterprise Network

Chris Dabbs

#### Ambition for Ageing Equalities Board

Suzanne Hilton

#### NW Leaders Board, DoH/ NHS England/ PHE VCS Strategic Partners Programme and Health Equity North

Warren Escadale

#### Cancer Champions Network

Ben Gilchrist

**For more information about the VCSE Assembly and to receive updates, contact:**

**E.** [nathalie.long@gmcvo.org.uk](mailto:nathalie.long@gmcvo.org.uk)

**T.** 0161 277 1026

**W.** [www.gmcvo.org.uk/health-and-social-care-devolution](http://www.gmcvo.org.uk/health-and-social-care-devolution)

**For more information on the Greater Manchester VCSE Devolution Reference Group contact:**

**E.** [devolution@vsnw.org.uk](mailto:devolution@vsnw.org.uk)

**T.** 0161 276 9300

**W.** [www.vsnw.org.uk](http://www.vsnw.org.uk)

**To find out more about devolution in Greater Manchester, you can visit:**

VSNW

[www.vsnw.org.uk/gmdevo](http://www.vsnw.org.uk/gmdevo)

Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership

[www.gmhsc.org.uk](http://www.gmhsc.org.uk)

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority

[www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](http://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)