



COVID Response update/assessment

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To date...

1. GM VCSE Leadership Group meetings weekly since 25th March:

- Identified and addressing gaps in membership relating to Women & Girls and Refugee & Asylum

2. Circulated *GM VCSE Leadership Group Key Messages Statement*, highlighting 7 issues including serious equalities concerns

- Sent to... Andrew Lightfoot, Andy Burnham & Eamonn Boylan; Sarah Price, Warren Heppolette, Rob Bellingham & Giles Wilmore

3. Plugging VCSE representation gaps in emergent structures

- Out of Hospital Cell Group (2 x Infrastructure, 2 x Provider); Humanitarian aid group, GM Ageing Leads Group; GM Funders Forum (John Hannen), Economic Resilience Group and representation across all Mental Health Response Cells across GM
and in discussion in relation to the newly formed Recovery Cell
- Regular informal comms route via Commissioning subgroup with Warren Heppolette and Rob Bellingham
- Addressing gaps in connections to GMCA – Ben Gilchrist, Anne Lythgoe, and Andrew Lightfoot invited to commissioning group

4. 10GM work to coordinate volunteering – central portal established at www.volunteergm.org

5. Highlighting Funding issues and solutions via Commissioning subgroup:

- Request for access to Statutory Covid19 response expenditure fund available to Public Sector;
- Highlighting risk to operations and inconsistency in Commissioners assurances to the Sector in relation to post April 20 contracts and grants
- Identifying three stages of funding investment required (Response, Redesign and Recovery) and working with Commissioning Leads to develop asks.

6. Submission made to DCMS Select Committee on The Impact of Covid-19 on the Charity Sector on behalf of GMCVO and the VCSE Leadership Group

GM Leadership Group COVID Response Statement - summary

PRAISE FOR FRONTLINE AND LOCAL VCSE ACTION	URGENT NEED TO ADDRESS EQUALITY ISSUES
ENSURE VCSE REPRESENTATION IN EMERGING GM COVID-STRUCTURES	PPE and TESTING for FRONTLINE VCSE STAFF, CARERS, VOLUNTEERS, PAs
ECONOMIC IMPACT – COLLECTIVE LOBBY for GM & VCSE INVESTMENT	VOLUNTEERING – COORDINATION & SAFEGUARDING
RESPONSIVE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT: for target communities & VCSE Frontline Staff, carers, volunteers	REDEPLOYMENT: best use of VCSE staff, skills and resources

Next steps

1. **Promote** VCSE Leadership Group Statement and work with Local & GM public sector leaders
2. **Inequality:** EIAs being rolled out urgently across GM, ensure VCSE input
3. **Comms:** Enhance our sector's own Locality-with-GM/GM-with-Locality comms mechanisms
4. **PPE:** Establish PPE Task & Finish Group on issues/access for VCSE frontline groups, carers + personal assistants
5. **Recovery:** Ensure VCSE sector engaged in GM's Recovery Coordination Group – activity, thinking, info, & representation
6. **Emotional and MH Support:** Discussions underway to target most affected communities
7. **Investment:** Coordinated GM-lobby for GM and VCSE investment