

# **Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Funding for the Management of the Street Engagement Hub**



**Prospectus 2026/29**  
(subject to funding being available)

# Manchester City Council

## Voluntary and Community Sector Grant for the management of the Street Engagement Hub: 2026/29 Prospectus

### Key Information

- Application forms are available from: 11 September 2025
- Closing date for applications: 28 October 2025
- Panel meet to consider the applications: 5 November 2025
- A decision will be made by: 15 December 2025
  
- Only voluntary and community sector organisations can apply for this funding.
- Organisations must be based in Manchester and/or mainly working with Manchester residents.
  
- Up to £100,000 is available for each of these three years subject to funding being available:  
2026/27 funding must be spent by 31 March 2027  
2027/28 funding must be spent by 31 March 2028  
2028/29 funding must be spent by 31 March 2029
  
- Quarterly monitoring is required which includes details of activity, outcomes, challenges, and spend.
- An annual end of year evaluation is also required every April. The evaluation will include details of successes, challenges, and a financial breakdown of spend.
  
- Applications can be from individual organisations **or** from organisations working together in a partnership with one organisation acting as lead.
  
- Contact person in Manchester City Council: Joanne Davies  
([joanne.davies6@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.davies6@manchester.gov.uk))

### The Grant

Subject to funding being available, the grant will run for three years from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029. You can apply for up to £100,000 for each of the three years for managing the Street Engagement Hub. The Hub contributes towards the delivery of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Plan which aims to:

- Keep people safe and support victims
- Reduce harm and offending
- Strengthen communities and tackle inequality

The purpose of this funding is to deliver activities or projects that support the work of:

- Manchester City Council's Antisocial Behaviour Action Team (ASBAT)
- Manchester City Council's Rough Sleeping Support Service
- Greater Manchester Police (GMP)
- Commissioned support services
- Other partner organisations

to improve safety for residents, businesses, and visitors across Manchester. The grant is to be used to target some of the challenges faced from crime, antisocial behaviour, and begging across Manchester during the day and at night.

We would like to hear about what you think would help to:

- improve community safety
- intervene early and prevent people becoming involved in crime, antisocial behaviour, and begging
- protect and engage with people with vulnerabilities across Manchester
- strengthen trauma informed practice for the Street Engagement Hub Partnership

The funding will be awarded to one successful organisation or partnership with one organisation acting as the lead, accountable organisation. Organisations must be Manchester based or mainly working with Manchester residents.

## **Grant Objectives**

Grant applications must meet the following objectives:

- Use data and information to deliver interventions that help to reduce crime, antisocial behaviour, and begging
- Improve data collection and monitoring systems to capture the longer-term outcomes achieved from the Street Engagement Hub
- Ensure that service users have a voice and are involved in the design and review of services
- Manage the Street Engagement Hub indoor and mobile outreach sessions, coordinating organisations to deliver consistent, trauma informed services
- Develop an action plan to strengthen the work of the Street Engagement Hub Partnership based on the recommendations of the Manchester Metropolitan University Street Engagement Hub Evaluation 2025
- Strengthen the trauma-informed approach of the Hub to include a review of training needs and practice
- Engage with local governance structures to ensure resources are allocated most appropriately recognising some of the clients may be being supported by other funded support services.

All first-year activities or projects must be completed by the 31 March 2027.

## Activities and organisations we will fund

### Background:

Residents, businesses, and communities have repeatedly raised concerns about crime, antisocial behaviour, and begging. People feel harassed and intimidated by begging at traffic lights, aggressive begging, and open drug use. There has been a rise in reports to GMP and an increasing number of hotspots across the city where crime, antisocial behaviour, and begging is common. Manchester City Council and partners are aware of the challenges and tackling these issues is a priority. This project is designed to respond to these concerns and increases.

The Hub runs twice a week indoors. Since September 2020, Mustard Tree has supported and accommodated the Hub at their centre on Oldham Street. Activity continues to take place in the city centre and across Manchester's neighbourhoods, particularly in begging hotspot areas. In recognition of the move by some people out of the city centre, a mobile community vehicle is used to support those begging/rough sleeping in neighbourhoods.

Organisations involved in the Hub include:

- Coffee4Craig
- Manchester Action on Street Health (MASH)
- The Rough Sleeping Support Service
- DWP
- The Big Issue
- Change Grow Live (CGL – Manchester's drug and alcohol treatment service)
- Greater Manchester Probation Service
- St John Ambulance

GMP and ASBAT can refer people into the Hub while Riverside currently provide a triage service, asking people what their needs are and signposting them to services. The Hub also works with the Council's Entrenched Rough Sleeper Social Work Team.

The Council recognises that it takes organisations such as the Council, healthcare, and other public sector services, charities, faith groups, businesses, institutions, and the citizens of Manchester to end homelessness. At the heart of the Street Engagement Hub approach, homeless people are and will continue to be key partners. The Council supported the development of the Manchester Homelessness Partnership, led by partners in the voluntary and community sector. In 2016 the Manchester Homelessness Partnership (MHP) was formed. This was in response to growing concerns about high levels of rough sleeping in Manchester and indicators showing that homelessness was on the rise across Manchester at a rate higher than the national average. The MHP brings together organisations and people with lived experience to tackle homelessness in Manchester. In May 2016 the MHP launched the Manchester Homelessness Charter developed with people with lived experience. In 2022, the MHP was relaunched after the COVID-19 pandemic, recognising the need to continue to work together to put an end to homelessness in Manchester. Details of the Charter including its values can be found here:

[Manchester Homeless Charter | Manchester Homelessness Partnership](#)

In 2021 Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) were commissioned to evaluate the effectiveness of the Street Engagement Hub. The recommendations led to establishing a Street Engagement Hub Steering Board to provide strategic overview and governance. A Street Engagement Hub Operational Group was also established to discuss day-to-day issues, concerns,

and areas for improvement. In 2024 MMU were recommissioned to carry out a second evaluation of the Hub and look at which of the original recommendations had been implemented and progressed. The evaluation also looked at how the Hub impacted on health outcomes and wellbeing of service users. These further recommendations now need to be considered and will form the basis of an action plan. The plan will be overseen by the Steering Board.

### **What is required:**

We are looking for an organisation that will:

- Develop and implement a Street Engagement Hub Action Plan. This should include an Equality Impact Assessment
- Chair the Street Engagement Hub Operational Group and actively take part in the strategic Street Engagement Hub Steering Board
- Coordinate a range of organisations, supporting them to deliver their services in line with the vision and values of the Manchester Homelessness Charter
- Ensure that the Hub and mobile outreach are coordinated, and services are accessible
- Support people to attend the Street Engagement Hub on a mandatory basis when appropriate, for example when a person is sentenced at court and meets the criteria for a Manchester Street Engagement Project Rehabilitation Activity Requirement or when a positive requirement is attached to an antisocial behaviour intervention.
- Ensure that there is good communication and cooperation between Hub services and a consistent approach is taken across services
- Strengthen trauma-informed practice across the Street Engagement Hub Partnership
- Ensure that people using and delivering services are safe from harm and treated in a respectful way
- Triage service users and identify appropriate person-centred positive interventions
- Support people sleeping rough to move away from the streets and into safe and secure accommodation with access to healthcare and other key services
- Make referrals to and present cases at the Multi-Agency Prevention and Support meetings
- Pro-actively engage with local governance and resource allocation structures
- Demonstrate an ethos of collaborative working with partners and other service providers
- Ensure that service users are involved in the review and design of services and oversee the development of a Service Advisory Panel
- Ensure that data is collected, including service user equality information, and monitoring and evaluation reports are submitted when required
- Use partnership data to inform activity, direct resources, and tackle issues and challenges experienced in the city
- Work with the Council's Entrenched Rough Sleeper Social Work Team
- Review the objectives at the end of each year and refresh if required.

### **What can be funded:**

Services that can be funded include, but are not limited to the provision of:

- Key worker services
- First Aid/healthcare
- Support to access accommodation, identification, bank accounts
- Support for alternatives to begging
- Support for safety

What we will fund:

- Staff salaries
- Volunteer expenses
- Training
- Utility costs
- Transport costs
- Room hire
- Accommodation costs relating to the Hub
- A proportion of core costs, clearly related to the scale of activity delivered under this funding

**What cannot be funded:**

We will not fund:

- Delivery of street-based services such as soup kitchens
- Purchase of vehicles or property
- Building renovation/repair costs

All costs must be reasonable.

To be eligible for the grant your organisation must:

- Have a constitution
- Be based in Manchester and/or mainly working with Manchester residents. You must be accountable to the community that you are predominantly delivering services to.
- Be a not-for-profit organisation. This includes voluntary, community, and faith organisations, co-operatives, and mutual societies. It also includes non-governmental organisations which are value driven and which principally invest their surpluses to further social, environmental or cultural objectives
- Be representative and inclusive of the community you will be working with.

You cannot apply if you are:

- A private sector, or “for profit” organisation
- A public sector organisation such as local authority, education institution, health authority, etc.

TUPE may be applicable.

There should be opportunities for the people who you are supporting to be involved in your work. This may be by volunteering in your service and/or being part of your management committee or other body.

## Funding

There is a maximum of £100,000 available annually for three years for one successful applicant to spend on meeting the objectives set out in this prospectus (subject to funding being available).

Funding will be paid following evidence from the successful applicant showing how they are meeting the objectives of the grant programme and of successful outcomes achieved. Quarterly monitoring of activity, outcomes, and spend is required. This should include equality monitoring of service users. Annual end of year evaluation is also required in April every year.

### Indicative timetable for monitoring

The timetable below indicates monitoring and evaluation periods for the three years and when this is due:

Year	Monitoring and Evaluation Period	Date Due
<b>2026/27</b>	01/04/2026 to 30/06/2026	17 July 2026
	01/07/2026 to 30/09/2026	16 October 2026
	01/10/2026 to 31/12/2026	15 January 2027
	01/01/2027 to 31/03/2027	16 April 2027
	2026/27 End of Year Evaluation	30 April 2027
<b>2027/28</b>	01/04/2027 to 30/06/2027	16 July 2027
	01/07/2027 to 30/09/2027	15 October 2027
	01/10/2027 to 31/12/2027	14 January 2028
	01/01/2028 to 31/03/2028	14 April 2028
	2027/28 End of Year Evaluation	28 April 2028
<b>2028/29</b>	01/04/2028 to 30/06/2028	14 July 2028
	01/07/2028 to 30/09/2028	13 October 2028
	01/10/2028 to 31/12/2028	19 January 2029
	01/01/2029 to 31/03/2029	13 April 2029
	2028/29 End of Year Evaluation	27 April 2029

## How to Apply

- Please make sure that you read the application guidance notes
- The deadline for applications is 5pm on 28 October 2025
- You will receive an acknowledgment of our receipt of your application

## Further Resources

You may find it useful to look at the following resources before completing the application:

### Manchester Community Central

<http://www.manchestercommunitycentral.org>

### Directory of Social Change

<http://www.dsc.org.uk>

## **Big Lottery**

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/funding/funding-guidance/applying-for-funding>

## **NVCO**

[Help and guidance | NCVO](#)

### **How will the decision be made**

All applications will be scored and ranked by a panel made up of senior representatives from the Council, GMP, and Greater Manchester Probation Service.

### **What will happen after the decision has been made**

All applicants will be notified by email as to whether their application has been successful or not and written feedback will be provided upon request. There is no appeals process.

We expect to make a decision and notify applicants by 15 December 2025.

The successful applicant will be required to submit the documents listed in the application form. We will send you a grant agreement with our terms and conditions for you to sign and return. If we need to ask you to change your approach to fill a gap, we will arrange to meet with you.

The funding will be paid as stated above and all payments will be made by BACs.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

- We will expect you to keep records of the activities you carry out, including how many people and organisations you work with.
- You must keep financial records and show how you have used the grant funding.
- You must submit quarterly monitoring returns showing the impact your project has made.
- As well as submitting an annual end of year evaluation that reports against the objectives, please provide case studies where relevant.

### **Getting Help**

If you do not understand anything in this guidance, or on the application form you can contact Joanne Davies ([joanne.davies6@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.davies6@manchester.gov.uk))

Please note that Joanne cannot help you complete your application form or offer advice on the likelihood of your application being funded.