

Greater Manchester Social Enterprise Network (GMSN) Leadership Group – Terms of Reference

BACKGROUND

The GMSN Leadership Group replaces the GMSN stakeholder group and has been reconfigured by its active members to meet the current needs and ambitions of the social enterprise sector in Greater Manchester.

The Group has formal links to

- The GM VCSE Leadership Group <https://vcseleadershipgm.org.uk/>
- The GM VCSE Inclusive Economy group
- The Social Enterprise Advisory Group (SEAG), convened by GM Combined Authority (February 2020)
- The GM Social Value Network (hosted by Macc)
- The GM Co-operative Commission
- The GM BAME Network
- The GM BAME Social Enterprise Network
- Social Enterprise UK

PURPOSE

Our vision is a strong social enterprise movement as part of a thriving and productive economy in all parts of Greater Manchester. The GMSN exists to showcase social enterprise across Greater Manchester and to connect social enterprises with each other, with the networks and organisations who can support them and with opportunities for business and growth. We also want to help businesses and organisations connect with this exciting and developing sector and find the right SEs to provide them with excellent products and services while delivering impressive social impact.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To enable conversations and practical action on a GM footprint (facilitation role);
- To give a voice and profile for social enterprises a GM level, based on wide and deep connections across the movement and its support system, and strategic links into other relevant forums;
- To provide a space for peer support;
- To encourage the formation of additional networks in places, within communities of identity, and within economic sectors, where these do not yet exist.

MEMBERSHIP

The GMSN LG will function as a network of individuals and organisations who share its Aims and Objectives and undertake to take practical action to support them. These may include:

- Co-ordinators of social enterprise networks active in GM
- Other social enterprise leaders who have energy, ideas and some time to spare
- Others may attend by agreement (for example people who act as connectors with the public or business sector)

The initial membership will comprise those people previously involved in the GMSN steering group who have the capacity to make the necessary commitment. The GMSN LG welcomes additional people. Anyone who meets the criteria above may apply to join the Group and will be admitted with the agreement of existing members. If you are interested in joining, please contact info@gmsn.net. Should the Group become too large it will review its structure.

To ensure that the LG remains open and transparent, it will hold an annual open meeting for stakeholders, at which its Terms of Reference and practical arrangements will be reviewed.

The Group will seek to ensure that at all times one or more of its members are also in membership of the linked groups named above. People providing this link will be asked to agree to convey information to and from the Group to facilitate joined up thinking and collaboration.

All members of the GMSEN LG agree upon joining to act according to its code of conduct.

MEETINGS

The GMSEN LG will meet monthly (physically or virtually) with an agenda. Meetings may be cancelled with the agreement of the majority of the members, if there is nothing of substance on the agenda. Any papers will be provided one week in advance. Discussions between meetings are encouraged.

The Agenda may include:

- reports or information-sharing from the other groups with which the Group has formal links
- updates about practical actions over which members are collaborating
- opportunity for informal discussions and peer support and learning
- other items as appropriate.

Members are expected to attend regularly and may be asked to leave the Group if they are unable to do so. It is important that members have the capacity to contribute.

The Network will serve for 12 months and have a rotating meeting facilitator from within the group. The Network will review and evolve its structure within this period.

GMCVO will maintain the GMSEN website and Twitter account, provide the secretariat for meetings and support the Leadership Group with the development and subsequent on-going delivery of a communications plan.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Members of the GMSEN LG will:

- act with and on behalf of the whole social enterprise sector;
- work collaboratively with each other and with others who support its Aims;
- seek to be transparent, accountable, fair, consultative and inclusive;
- respect the confidentiality and intellectual property of other members;
- declare any conflict of interest arising from any matter discussed at any meeting, and where appropriate withdraw from the debate;
- participate proactively in the development and delivery of activities, including sharing out the workload arising from meetings fairly and evenly.