

Greater Manchester Victims Capacity and Capability Fund

Prospectus: Framework and Small Grants Scheme

This document explains the grant process and guidance on how to submit applications. Please read this document thoroughly and make note of the allocation criteria. The Evaluation Panel cannot consider awarding grants to organisations that do not answer all the questions within the grant application.

Introduction

This prospectus outlines the grant process for Element 1 of the Deputy Mayor's Greater Manchester Victims Capacity and Capability Fund.

Overview

The Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester has committed to providing a 3-year small grants programme prioritising victims and witness within Greater Manchester based VCSE victim support organisations.

The objective of this funding is to support organisations in Greater Manchester that provide essential services to victims of crime whether reported the crime or not. The funds can be used to cover expenses related to the priority funding themes detailed below. This financial support aims to enhance the capacity of victims' services organisations to deliver their services effectively and of a high quality.

There will be three discrete elements to the fund:

1. Small grants to be awarded to community organisation who support victims (Max £5,000)
Such as - Cost of living grant for victims – to provide personal budgets and personal funding for victims with cost-of-living pressures
2. Cost of living grant for organisations working with victims (Max £2,000)
3. Grant to organisations working with victims (Max £ 5,000) Supporting Community development and collaboration

Victims service organisations play a crucial role in providing much-needed support to victims of crime in Greater Manchester. Recognising the importance of their work, the Deputy Mayor is committed to assisting these organisations in their mission. Through the Victims Capacity and Capability Fund, the Deputy Mayor aims to strengthen the support network for victims and ensure they receive the help and support they need.

Priority Funding Themes for Element 1 - small grants

The funding amount available for element 1 of the fund – small grant is £120,000 per annum with individual grants reaching up to a maximum of £5,000. Funding will be a one-off payment and will have to be spent within 6-12 months following receipt of grant.

The Deputy Mayor welcomes applications from organisations who support victims whether they have reported a crime or not and who have a key role such as support workers to support victims to cope and recover. This may include mentoring, befriending and/or a therapeutic element. It is recognised locally based services are best placed to support victims in their communities' targeting individuals at risk and in need. We wish to see the services:

- develop victims' self-esteem,
- reduce isolation within the community,
- have positive peer influences,
- address health and wellbeing needs,
- foster economic and social independence.

The funding themes for element 1 of the Victims Capacity and Capability Fund are:

- Victim access to volunteering to support cope and recovery
- Increase volunteering capacity within the organisation
- Impact on the cost of living
- Supporting communities of identity - supporting access to services, improving the understanding of cultural and community needs and tackling racial disparity
- Supporting lived experience development
- Enabling sector collaboration
- Tackling inequality – improving access and awareness

1. Access to volunteering as a route into work

There are two themes of the volunteering element within the Victims Capacity and Capability Fund. The first theme is centred around empowering victims to obtain volunteering opportunities within or outside of the sector to support their recovery and the second is increase volunteering capacity within the VCSE organisation. This will not only create a valuable learning platform for volunteers but also allow them to contribute to the organisation's mission and aims. By working in such a critical and sensitive area, volunteers can gain significant experience and develop a unique set of skills which can assist in improving the calibre, experience and expertise of individuals working within the victims' support sector.

This hands-on experience and the expertise gained can be instrumental in bringing individuals from different backgrounds and individuals with different ways of thinking and skill sets into the victims' support sector. This relationship between victims'

services organisations and volunteers could be beneficial to both and create a cycle of development which improves the services on offer to victims in Greater Manchester.

2. Impact on the cost of living

It is acknowledged that there is a significant strain that victims' service organisations are currently experiencing. This strain is largely due to the escalating cost of living expenses, which has been driven and exacerbated by inflation which has consistently remained above average over the past two years.

Due to the escalating cost of living expenses, victims' face financial pressure that has put a burden on their resources which could potentially impact the quality and extent of the support and opportunities they can receive.

In response to this strain, this priority funding theme has been designed to provide financial relief to victims. Funding can be utilised to help victims manage their expenses, thereby allaying some of the financial pressure they are under and alleviating the fear of an impact on the quality of the support and opportunities they can receive.

3. Communities of identity

The grant funding is designed to bolster and enhance the existing services accessed by victims', especially to victims from minority groups or backgrounds. This financial support empowers victims' organisations to improve and expand their current service support, thereby providing more comprehensive support to victims from minority backgrounds.

The funding can be utilised in a multitude of ways, each aimed at improving the accessibility and inclusivity of these services for victims. For instance, it could be used to broaden the range of their services, catering to the unique needs and challenges faced by victims from diverse backgrounds. This could involve the introduction of new support programs tailored to the specific needs of these minority groups.

This grant funding serves as a crucial resource for victim services organisations to improve their services and make them more inclusive. By doing so, they can ensure that their services are not only well-publicised and accessible but also responsive to the needs of the diverse population they serve. This ultimately contributes to a more effective and supportive environment for all victims of crime.

4. Supporting lived experience

The Victims Capacity and Capability Fund provides financial resources that can be utilised for a wide array of both existing and proposed initiatives and programmes. These are specifically designed to incorporate the valuable insights of individuals with lived experience in the process of shaping the services and ensuring support meets the needs of victims.

This approach recognises the unique perspective and understanding that these individuals bring to the table. Their firsthand experience with the challenges faced by victims of crime makes them uniquely positioned to contribute to the design and

delivery of services. By involving them in the process, services can be tailored more effectively to meet the specific needs of victims.

The funding can be used to facilitate this involvement in various ways. For instance, it could support consultation processes, workshops, or focus groups that seek to gather input from these individuals. It could also be used to develop roles or positions within organisations that are specifically for individuals with lived experience.

5. *Enabling sector collaboration*

A fundamental aspect of enhancing services and support available to victims in Greater Manchester lies in fostering increased collaboration and cross-functional practices among the various victim services organisations in the city region. By working together, organisations can share knowledge, resources and best practices, leading to a more comprehensive and effective support system for victims.

This collaborative approach creates a comprehensive approach to victim support, where organisations can complement each other's services to address the diverse needs of victims.

Recognising the potential of such collaborative efforts, the Victims Capacity and Capability Fund has identified enhancing collaboration as a priority funding theme. By prioritising collaboration, the fund aims to create a more integrated and efficient victim support network in Greater Manchester which not only improves the quality of services on offer but ensures victims have access to the correct support they need.

Outcomes

It is expected that the funding provided to victim's services organisations achieves the following:

- To fill gaps where there is unmet need and enhance access to existing services
- Support sustainability of services
- Reduce the impact of the cost-of-living crisis
- Focus on supporting victims to cope and recover
- Protecting and safeguarding vulnerable people
- Involve victims in service delivery and participation opportunities
- Improvement in social capital including volunteering
- Reduction of vulnerability/people at risk of exploitation
- Increased victim satisfaction and confidence
- Improvement in communication and engagement including connectivity across services

Process

1. The Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester is inviting applications from organisations within the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector only. This invitation is part of the grant allocation process specifically

designed for victims' services organisations that are based in and deliver services within Greater Manchester.

2. During the application period a market engagement session will be held. All prospective organisations are encouraged to attend this session. It will provide comprehensive information about the Victims Capacity and Capability Fund, and the application process and will also offer an opportunity for organisations to ask for additional information.
3. Due to the holiday period an extended application period will open in November 2024 for victims' services organisations to apply for funding up to a maximum of £5,000. An integral part of this application process is the grant agreement, to which organisations must consent to proceed with their application.
4. After the application period concludes, an Evaluation Panel, comprising officers from the Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire team, will review all submitted applications. This review will be based on the allocation criteria and scoring matrix detailed at Appendix B. Organisations which are successful in securing grant funding will be notified once the Evaluation Panel has made its decision in February 2025.
5. If a successful organisation is not already registered with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), a registration process will be initiated. Registration with GMCA is necessary to facilitate the distribution of the grant funding.
6. Organisations must have a bank account as payments cannot be made to individuals. Due diligence processes will be established to ensure probity. Where a grant is awarded, this will be made by bank transfer or cheque. Grant conditions will need to be agreed before payment is released.
7. Funding has to be spent within 6-12 months of grant receipt, it could be also less than this depending the proposal. In August 2025, a review process will begin. This review is designed to ensure that the funding has been utilised in accordance with the grant agreement and the key priority funding themes. The review is not designed to be lengthy and burdensome and will consist of organisations presenting invoices and receipts as proof that funding has been spent in line with the grant agreement and priority funding themes.
8. Funding exclusions apply to capital proposals, such as building or construction work, with the exception of small proposals, at the Commissioner's discretion, statutory organisations such as local authorities, hospitals, schools and colleges, unless they are supporting the application of, or applying on behalf of, another organisation or group of people, commercial enterprises, activities where the primary aim is to promote religious or political beliefs or medical research and equipment.

Timescales

Application process open	18 th November 2024
Online Market Engagement Event	27 th November 2024

Application process close	6 th January 2025
Decision notification	Week commencing 10 th February 2025
Release funds	Week commencing 10 th February 2025

Appendix A Application Form

Appendix B Scoring Matrix

Appendix C Grant agreement

Appendix D GMCA New Supplier set up form