

VOCAL

VCSE Forums facilitated
by Salford CVS

Environment Forum



Friday 7th October
9.30am – 1.00pm
Ordsall Hall

Number of people registered: 39

Speakers

Kieron McGlasson (Sow the City)
Rachael Bennion (Petrus)
Simon Robinson (Salford CVS)
Joanna Green (Salford Community Leisure)

Salford CVS staff present

Martyn Willcock (chair)
Helen Johnson (minutes)

Martyn Willcock (Salford CVS) opened the event, welcomed all attendees, who then introduced themselves and their area of work.



Growing Manchester – Community Food Growing Network

Kieron McGlasson from Sow the City shared a presentation about Sow the City and the Growing Manchester food growing network.



Sow the City is a social enterprise based in Moss Side and has been running since 2012. It has worked on a number of projects in Salford over the years helping communities to grow and live sustainably.

There are many projects being run through the Boiler House in Moss Side including – men’s shed, women’s shed, beginners’ day, repair café, art courses and a bike repair workshop.

Kieron is the advisor for Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund across Manchester and Trafford, Nina Agnew from RHS Bridgewater is the advisor for Salford.

Sow the City currently have programmes in Salford such as the Achieve Asset Fund, which has been running since 2019 in Lower Broughton, Healthy Schools Partnership Challenge with 3 different primary schools, the Emotional Wellbeing Fund with Greater Manchester Mental Health and the Connect Community Centre. The growing projects reflect the 5 Ways to Wellbeing.



Growing Manchester

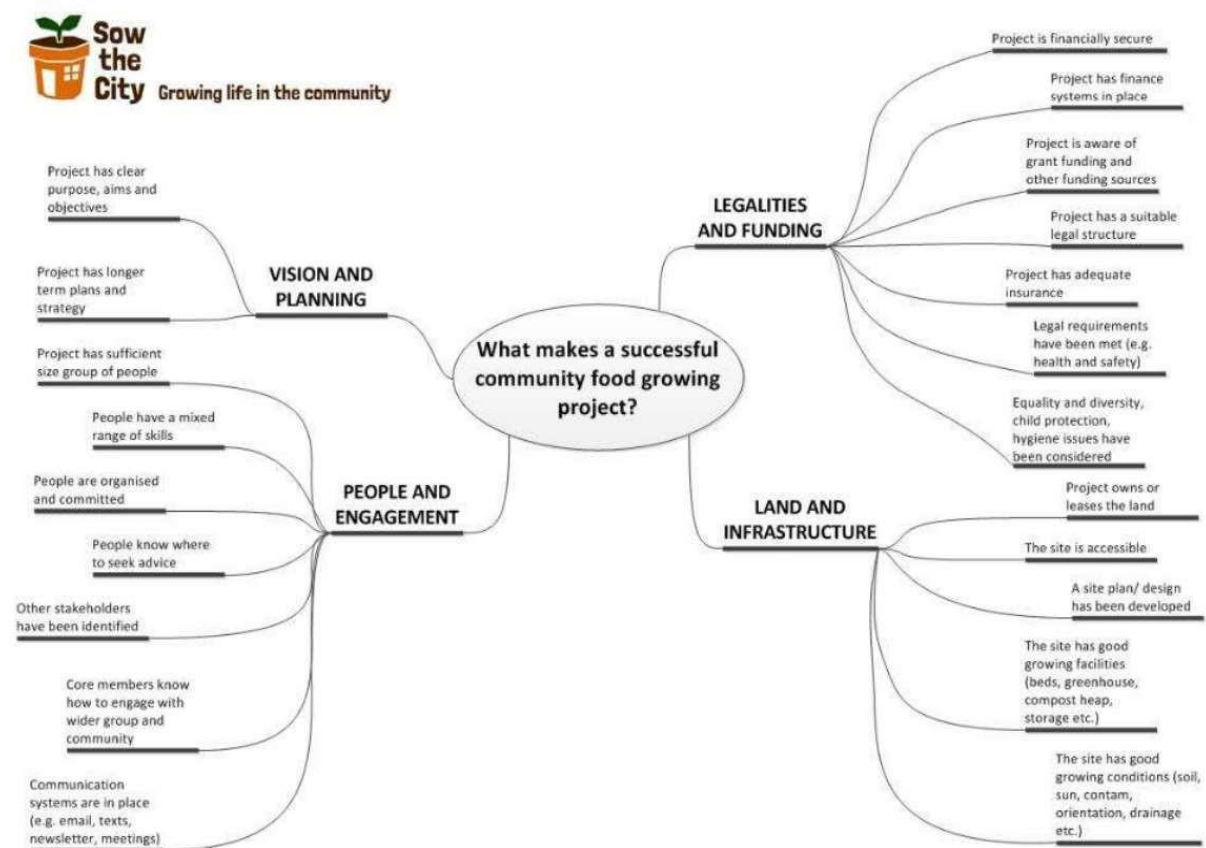
Growing Manchester is now paid for by a grant from Manchester City Council. The social impact of this project is huge and the Population Health team keeps recommissioning it. The equivalent of 7 football pitches of growing space has been created and they have taught around 17,000 people.

Growing Manchester supporting community food-growing projects. It aims to:

- Help projects to realise their long-term aims and ambitions, to achieve long-term financial sustainability, and to be resilient
- Increase access to sustainable, locally grown food
- Improve the health and wellbeing of people involved in the projects and their wider communities
- Increase awareness of the effects of food production on climate change

More information about Growing Manchester can be found here:

www.manchester.gov.uk/growingmanchester

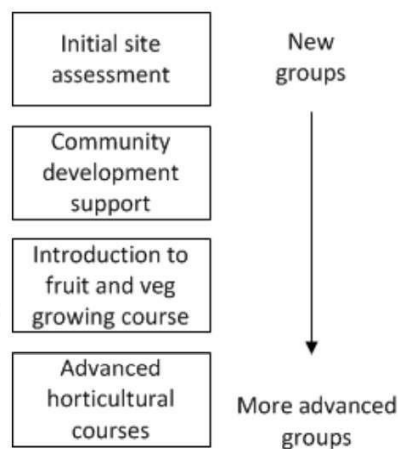


Support is structured around

- vision for the group
- what people they have and engagement
- legalities
- funding and land

The Growing Manchester programme has grown rapidly over the last 10 years to include 130 groups. Half of these groups are open groups so people can volunteer, the other half are closed groups such as schools and homeless centres. The programme supports a diverse range of hard to reach and vulnerable groups experiencing food poverty, mental health, social isolation, drug addiction, homelessness, as well as general community groups and clubs at schools/hospitals etc.

Groups have support to get started with their projects, funding, skill building, site assessments, soil testing and site designs.



Growing Manchester projects support community development and Sow the City facilitates volunteer days, goes into schools and have helped around 15 groups pull in £63,725 Of funding. There are courses available, which are accredited via AQA so certificates can be awarded to those who want to develop their skills.

Sow the City are the Manchester partner of NHS England Green Social Prescribing. There are some Nature for Health sessions taking place at 7 community gardens in Manchester

Where are sessions taking place?

Sessions are taking place at 7 community gardens in the Manchester locality.

- 1 Crumpsall Park Community Gardens
- 2 The Lalley Centre
- 3 The Grange Community Garden
- 4 Cornbrook Medical Practice
- 5 Ryder Brow Community Allotment
- 6 Platt Fields Market Garden
- 7 Manchester Mind Allotments



The Growing Manchester project has worked well and has been developed for over a decade. It is a low annual cost but has massive social impact. It has contributed to strategic aims around environment, climate change, health, wellbeing, skills and new pilots such as green social prescribing.

Q&A

Q: Please explain the payment and referrals.

A: We put in a bid, including 7 of the grass roots groups – we get the funding and then redistribute some of it to the groups to host workshop activities. Payments are made on a per client basis, with a minimum amount to host a workshop.

To discuss the Growing Manchester project, you can contact Keiron at kieron@sowthecity.org

Peer Support Groups

Small roundtable discussions took place about three different Peer Support Groups – Food Growing, Friends of Groups and Bee Keeping. The attendees thought about how these networks will work in Salford and then fed this back.

Community Food Growing – Ian Bocock



Ian Bocock fed back that the conversation was positive about galvanising together as a group so that communication can be less formal. We Dig Salford existed a few years ago – and the idea is to keep this as it had a social media presence. There is a need to try and find some flexi funding to support these projects.

Bee Keeping – Amber McCormack



Amber McCormack fed back that there was a good discussion, and it was nice to hear a lot of good feelings about bees. People have sites and spaces to keep bees on but are not sure how to start. These groups should work with Manchester Beekeepers Association and pair up beekeepers with sites. Sometimes there is a confidence gap, for example, someone may have done a course but are not confident with having their own hives - Bee Corner can help with this. There was further discussion about engaging with schoolchildren and education groups about how to engage working with bees, perhaps having a hive with glass pane installed in various spaces? There are some biodiversity concerns over driving out populations of bees – the key to this is education and using different styles of hives and different methods of bee keeping. There was also discussion about social prescription and the challenges. A solution to this is to work more directly with social prescription and GPs so they know what's on offer and get excited about beekeeping.

Friends of Parks – Lydia Dayes



Lydia Dayes fed back that she asked the Friends of Groups what they want, and they suggested support tools and support with funding advice. There are ideas to recreate a network of friends of groups where they can talk, share ideas and share problems – more face to face rather than virtual.

Therapeutic Horticulture in Rochdale

Rachel Bennion from Petrus shared a presentation about the work they do.



Petrus is a homelessness charity that started in 1972 in Rochdale, which has now branched out to Oldham and Bury. Front line services take place at Petrus Hub, which includes service area social prescribing and volunteering. Front line services reach initial needs to combat homelessness and the need to reach out to communities.

Petrus was initially funded by the CCG in 2013. Since then, the health and wellbeing agenda has grown and has become recognised at a strategic level and thus extending the service to anyone who wants to be engaged.

Being out in nature has opportunities to draw attention into passive engagement and so has connection to the 5 ways to wellbeing connection. Service user feedback shows that the charity brings structure and meaning to people's lives.

Rochdale Active Health offers gardening on prescription. There are lots of challenges around not getting referrals so this process has to be reconsidered. A consultation took place to find barriers and a pilot project was created from this for social prescribing in Rochdale. Rochdale Active Health covers a lot of activities including fishing, walking, and even setting up groups to meet people's wants. In over 18 months there are 157 people who regularly access activities through the green social prescribing pilot.

Those people that attend include

- 32% from BAME communities
- 17% are supported by homelessness services
- 31% have engaged through activity within GP surgeries
- 73% require higher levels of wrap around intensive support provided by partner organisations in the pilot and could be identified as being at risk from health conditions.

PIER community garden is a project for gardening on prescription and is part of RHS In Bloom and RHS Communities and Environment Project. The RHS involvement makes people feel like that they are part of something bigger than just locally.

Petrus have exhibited 3 times at RHS Tatton Park Flower Show. This was coproduced with service users from very beginning each year. 46 people volunteered to build on site last year.

Referring into the service is reducing demand on NHS staff and it is all about collaboration, coproduction, confidence (rebuilding confidence of referral partners too).

Q&A


Q: What qualification experience do your session delivery have?

A: My background is mental health and I have worked on CAMHS wards. Governance, compliance, supervision – Petrus works with people with very complex support needs, substance misuse, mental health etc by being within that framework we can access lots of training and support. We are trying to tackle this through green social prescribing – how do other VCSE deliver to these support needs without this governance? Is the right provision there that can be done safely and correctly? Our staff have a variety of different qualifications but the structure around it is what supports it.

Salford CVS Grants

Simon Robinson, Grants Manager at Salford CVS talked over the grants available for members of Salford CVS.





There are a wide amount of grants at Salford CVS, there is a limited amount of “green” grants but lot of grants are focused on health outcomes. Environment is a method of improving mental and physical health. Some groups who were at today’s meeting have benefited from the Big Ideas Fund and over £460,000 has been given to projects across Salford, many had an environmental aspect.

Wellbeing Fund – Grants of up to £1,000 – closes 14th October but there will be another round next year.

GM Walking Fund – Grants of up to £2,000 – rolling programme, so can apply any time. This grant is to support the sector in encouraging those who don’t walk much and have a lack physical exercise, try to change their behaviour to build walking into their lives.

Grow Well Fund – a new round to be launched on 31st October and closes 19th December 2022 – grants of up to £2,000 to get Salford growing. This is in partnership with RHS and Salford Integrated Care Partnership for such programmes as food growing, floral displays, community gardens, tree planting, greening back alleys, community orchards, wildflower planting, gardening competitions.

Impact Fund (Tackling Health Inequalities) – Grants of up to £15,000 – to be finalised.

<https://www.salfordcvs.co.uk/live-grants>

TCV’s Community Network – opportunities for cheaper insurance, advice support etc. <https://www.tcv.org.uk/communities/join-community-network/>

Q&A

Q: Are Salford CVS trying to push holistic approaches to environmental projects on grant applications?

A: Social Value looks at how we can support local economy, support local people and local environment and there is an opportunity to highlight this in the applications. Salford CVS are mindful that there is need some for some awareness training in this. An example of this could be a walking project that includes a litter pick.

Q: Do you have a bank of resources through CVS e.g. what organisations do, support, signpost to?

A: This is often thought about, but how do we keep this updated? We’ve not cracked this yet. Forums like this is a great opportunity to network.

Tour of Ordsall Hall Gardens

Jo Greene the head gardner at Ordsall Hall took some of the attendees on a tour of Ordsall Hall gardens.



Next Meeting

Date 6th February 2023
Time 10am – 1pm
Location Veterans Garage, Barton Airport.