



**We Love MCR Charity  
Covid:19 Community  
Response Fund**



**6 Month Impact Report**



## **We give heart, hope and opportunity to the people of Manchester, when they need it most.**

We Love Manchester Charity (WLMC) is immensely proud of the speed of its response and the differences we have made across Manchester during the pandemic.

Grants awarded through our WLMC Covid:19 Community Response Fund have provided hope, comfort, support, food and access to vital services, offering a lifeline to our neighbours when they needed it the most.

Our Fund is now exhausted, but Manchester's needs will continue as the pandemic continues.

If you'd like to help, you can donate or fundraise for us here -  
[www.justgiving.com/campaign/mcr-response-fund](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/mcr-response-fund)

If you'd like to discuss how you can support us, please email us here -  
[welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk)

**Thank you.**

**Registered Charity No. 1066972**

## **WE FUNDED**

---

### **£965k**

---

Over £965k awarded in grants addressing the needs created or exacerbated by the Pandemic

### **300**

---

Over 300 grants awarded to frontline community groups and charities to enable them to continue, grow, adapt and plan

### **98%**

---

Our beneficiaries report that our simple application process enabled 98% of grants to be awarded quickly enough to respond to urgent needs

### **48hr**

---

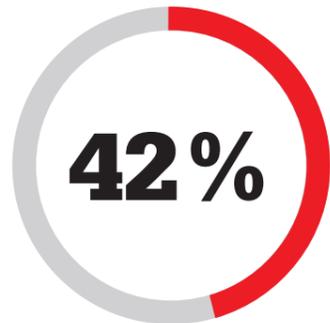
Our fund offered a response-in-principle to applications for support within an unprecedented 48 hours

# WE SUPPORTED

---



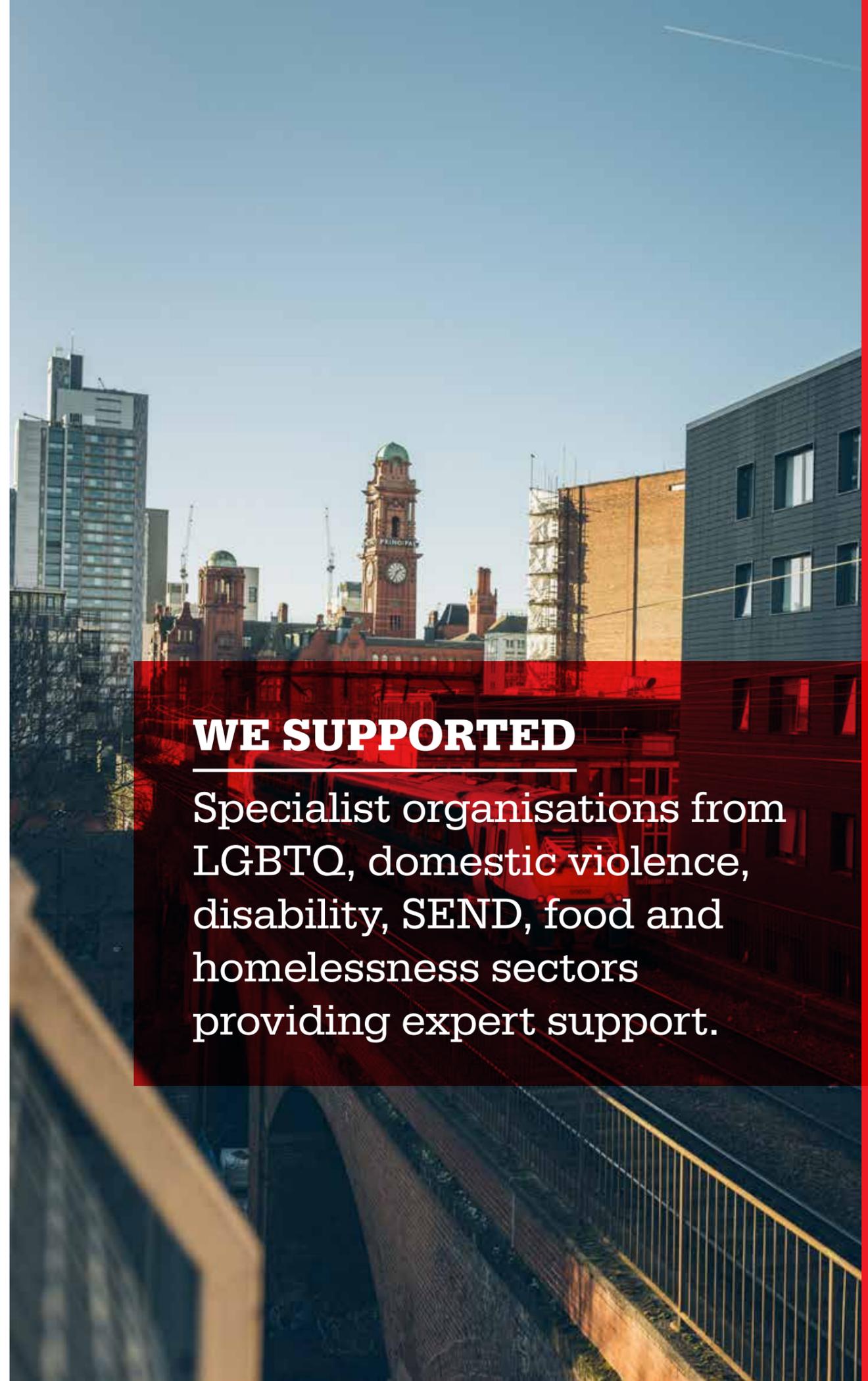
Over 50,000  
local people



76 (42%) of groups to deliver  
a city-wide operation



50 (28%) of groups who  
identified themselves as  
a B.A.M.E-led organisation



## WE SUPPORTED

---

Specialist organisations from  
LGBTQ, domestic violence,  
disability, SEND, food and  
homelessness sectors  
providing expert support.

# WE CHAMPIONED

---

**£427,000**

## **Food Poverty and Distribution**

Awarded £427,000 to fund over 25,500 food parcels and 139,000 cooked meals, as well as funding vital infrastructure such as equipment, PPE and refrigerated vehicles to support operations.

**£192,000**

## **Positive Engagement with Children and Young People**

Over £192,000 awarded to frontline organisations to ensure children and young people were supported, connected and able to stay engaged, healthy and safe.

**£180,000**

## **Mental Health and Wellbeing in Isolation**

Awarding over £180,000 to specialist mental health groups. This enabled vulnerable people to access counselling services and specialist support, and isolated people to stay digitally connected and engaged in structured activities and services.

**£150,000**

## **Advice and Protection Services**

Funded a variety of groups with over £150,000 to provide urgent advice services and protect our most vulnerable citizens.

This Report is dedicated to all the frontline community groups, charities and organisations we have proudly supported, and every individual, organisation and business that donated to the We Love MCR Covid:19 Community Response Fund.

---

# We, like them, Love Manchester.

# PURPOSE & APPROACH

**The potential for immediate and profound adverse impacts across Manchester, particularly to vulnerable communities, was evident.**

As the impact of COVID:19 started to unfold, and the country approached a national lockdown, We Love MCR Charity (WLMC) knew that communities across Manchester would need substantial, urgent help.

The charity immediately released £175k from its reserves, to establish the WLMC COVID:19 Community Response Fund.

The Fund launched on 24th March 2020, inviting frontline community groups, organisations and charities to apply for Grants of up to £3,000, to relieve problems arising from or exacerbated by the pandemic.

The Fund was designed to address urgent needs across 4 core themes:

## **Mental Health & Wellbeing in Isolation**

### **Advice and Protection Services**

(focusing on vulnerable children, victims of domestic violence, destitution and tenants at risk of eviction)

### **Positive Engagement of Children & Young People**

### **Food Poverty & Distribution.**

The Charity launched a simple application form and process, which was designed to support communities with funds immediately at a time of unprecedented need, and to avoid distracting groups from their urgent frontline work.

We Love MCR boldly committed to approving Grant applications within 48 hours. The Charity and Trustee Board pivoted quickly, to be able to take decisions remotely, and to approve Grants virtually, enabling applications to be approved and paid out at speed.

The WLMC COVID:19 Community Response Fund received two major donations, from **The Hut Group and the Savannah Wisdom** as well as numerous public donations and fundraising contributions to its fundraising campaign.

WLMC also released a second tranche of funding (bringing the total to £350k from its reserves) to top up the quickly-depleting Fund.

**The WLMC Covid:19 Community Response Fund has played a critical role in supporting vulnerable and at-risk individuals and families, and to date has awarded over £965k to community groups, organisation and charities.**

**In most cases, applicants received funding into their accounts within 5 working days of approval, enabling organisations to deliver their work in the community with immediate effect.**

SAVANNAH WISDOM



THEHUTGROUP



As we understood more about the emerging needs across Manchester, we also introduced a larger grant scheme of up to £30,000. This was for organisations delivering major and longer-term projects to support vulnerable people.

We also worked in partnership with Manchester City Council's Food Response Coordination Hub, to ensure we could target accurately our large scale grants to charities responding to Food Poverty and Distribution needs.

At the time of publication, there is just over £5,000 remaining in the Fund. Donations can be made here - [www.justgiving.com/campaign/mcr-response-fund](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/mcr-response-fund)

**We will continue to address real needs across Manchester, with your support.**



**We will continue to address real needs across Manchester, with your support.**

# SOCIAL IMPACT

The pandemic has significantly affected the charities we partner with. They, like us, have had to rapidly adapt their services. We know that the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector has been significantly impacted by the pandemic, with many having to move their services online whilst seeing an increase in demand for their services. At the same time the VCSE sector has suffered a substantial reduction in their fundraising income, putting them at risk. A study by the Institute of Fundraising found that charities are reporting a projected loss of 48% to their voluntary income.

**Funding received from We Love Manchester Charity has offered a lifeline to many charities and organisations, helping them to keep going and to continue responding to Manchester's needs.**

The WLMC Covid:19 Community Response Fund was launched at speed and priority was placed on awarding funding to groups and organisations who were able to support their communities immediately at a time of unprecedented need. A simple application form was released which initially **required no specific monitoring or feedback commitments**. WLMC wanted awardees to concentrate on the urgent good work they were doing in their communities. A subsequent survey was created to capture feedback from grant recipients. Feedback has already been received from 181 of the groups we funded.

**We cannot improve on their heartfelt eloquence, so our Impact Report allows them to express in their own words the differences we have helped them to make.**

The next section of this report provides a snapshot of how the funding received enabled community groups, organisations and charities to deliver their work to support individuals and communities in need.

The feedback we received from Groups told us that when lockdown was announced, they were initially concerned about not being able to continue their vital work in the community.

Many reported that our Grant simply enabled them to continue, demonstrated here succinctly by a comment from Nephra Good Neighbours:

**“At a time of great uncertainty, We Love MCR Charity’s Grant has enabled us to say to our members: “We are here, we are staying here and we will be continuing to run”**

**“THE FUND ENABLED US TO CONTINUE”**

In the first instance, many Groups needed vital I.T. equipment to enable them to provide remote support when national measures meant that face-to-face support was no longer an option.

### Here are examples of what they told us:



#### Greater Mcr Law Centre:

*“The Grant funded two laptops that have allowed us to work remotely during lockdown.*

*The two recipients were a trainee lawyer undertaking cases on Homelessness, and our Director who has coordinated our Employment Protection clinics over the past 6 months. 84 cases were dealt with directly by these two individuals - this would have proved very difficult without the Grant. The laptops have allowed us to offer a full advice service to clients via video and email at a time when face-to-face support has been impossible.”*

#### Gateway M40:

*“The Grant has literally been a lifeline - without it we wouldn't have been able to run our food pantry or keep our advisers working from home, offering telephone advice to our service users. It quite literally means we have been able to ensure our clients have food and fuel and much needed advice to deal with the growing financial issues they face.”*

#### Mcr Rape Crisis:

*“The funding enabled us to carry on providing information and support to women who had experienced rape or sexual violence. The impact it had ensures that victims of sexual violence and those supporting them had access to appropriate information and support, enabling them to make informed choices about their recovery.”*

#### Lifted Carer Centre:

*“The Grant has enabled us to continue to connect with families at a time when we've not been able to open our centre. We were able to ensure we had the correct equipment for staff to work from home, with access to ICT, safe data storage and smartphones. We quickly realised we were getting an increase in the numbers of Carers wanting advice and support, not just linked to our regular service but also information and emotional support around the Pandemic. Having the right equipment at home enabled us to do this swiftly, with no break in our provision.”*

#### Levenshulme Inspire Centre:

*“We appreciate the award you gave us - it helped us financially at a time when the landscape was very uncertain. We were able to be very practical in the help we gave people at a time when everyone was quite fearful. Thank you very much for helping us to do that.”*

# RESOURCE TO GROW

Evidence from our Survey indicates that funding from WLMC has **supported some groups not only to survive, but to grow.** The Fund has supported a number of groups to increase and build their capacity and so to respond to the increasing demands.

## Visit from the Stork:

“The Grants you gave us helped us so much at the beginning of lockdown when we received 300 referrals in just two weeks. We were able to pivot our work to be able to deliver much needed essentials to these families. In addition, you supported us to pay for our volunteers’ expenses for mileage, enabling us to be able to deliver all over the city - with particular hotspots in Gorton and Longsight. Doing this work has connected us with so many services in Manchester and once we had this grant we were able to apply for others; we have now been funded to carry on for another 6 months. Your Grant really helped kick-start a new chapter for Visit from the Stork CIC.”

## FC United:

“The Grant has enabled us to grow the number of volunteers at a time when all the football club staff were furloughed - being so used to delivering community projects that then had to be put on hold meant that furloughed staff and volunteers were able to get their teeth into something else. The group of volunteers came from a wide range of local residents who had been furloughed, friends of FC United and business members of North Manchester Business Network. The Grant has helped us all, not just the recipients of the food parcels. It has given us purpose and the positive feedback we have received from service users has kept everyone motivated to do more.”



## Age Exchange:

“It has enabled our organisation to extend the service we provide. This has included allowing us to retain a staff member who supports this service, recruit and train volunteers, and increase the hours of support we provide directly to those in need.”



**Dynamic Support of Greater Manchester:**

“We Love Manchester’s Grant has increased the number of service users in our organisation, and increased the level of trust from our beneficiaries. This Grant has helped our organisation to create a lot more opportunities for many people who became our volunteers. Our teamwork has improved positively.”



**L'Chaim Foodbank:**

“The vital funds have allowed us to reach more people in the most essential way. Knowing that you are behind us has been a huge morale booster for volunteers who realise that we are all part of the same project.”



**Can-Survive UK:**

“The Grant helped CSUK to expand its services to community members. The organisation was able to go further and help people diagnosed with cancer through what was a worrying and uncertain time. The Grant became a lifeline for our service users - some of whom were experiencing desperate financial struggles. We are proud to say that with the help of We Love Manchester, we were able to respond to the needs and requests of our service users effectively and efficiently. The Grant helped the organisation to achieve another level of service user satisfaction.”



# ENCOURAGEMENT TO ADAPT

---

Some groups told us that the WLMC Covid:19 Community Response Fund **enabled them to Adapt**, to be creative, flexible and able to develop new ways of working to support the longer-term needs of their communities.



## **LGBT Foundation:**

“The funding has helped us to adapt to remote delivery methods, which we plan to continue into the future.

The funding has allowed us to see the benefits of offering a remote service, and we have been able to engage a new audience. We’ve also been able to work with a broad range of new volunteers who have all brought their own skills and knowledge. We will continue to work with these volunteers to help them develop their skills and to look for further opportunities.”

---

## **Manchester Youth Zone:**

“Through the one-to-one work it has become apparent that young people with additional needs require intensive support during this current climate. Key themes have emerged such as the growth in the worker’s relationship with the whole family. Some partners have previously only worked with young people, but throughout this project the development of family work has increased. This has allowed workers to understand the needs further and address them.”

---

## **Levenshulme Youth Project:**

“We Love Mcr enabled us to adapt to the challenges and opportunities presented by the pandemic. We traditionally work face-to-face with young people. The Fund helped us to develop an online presence, where we could maintain contact with our members and create innovative ways of working that enabled young people to flourish both during and hopefully after the pandemic.”

---



## **Manchester South Central Foodbank:**

“We Love MCR has supported the foodbank in not only being able to scale-up it’s services through increasing the number of food parcels we can provide, but also to adapt and respond to the changing environment. In response to Covid-19 we had to alter our services to a delivery model only, and increase our operational days, all of which was supported by funds like the We Love MCR Grant.”

## **SENDCode:**

“We Love Mcr’s funding allowed us to develop a new way of working with our initial referrals. As a result we have also been successful in other bids for funding, partly due to the fact that we could reference our We Love Mcr programme. It has helped us to secure the services of another staff member, on a part-time freelance basis, which has further supported our growth.”

---

## **Wythenshawe Safespots:**

“The grant has enabled us to be flexible in how we support women. Most of our funding is restricted and wouldn’t have covered the emergency purchases we made during Covid. The grant allowed us to react quickly and support our community in a time of crisis.”

---

# SPACE & TIME TO PLAN

Feedback highlighted how the Grants have allowed groups and organisations to plan and to look forward to the future, giving hope to them and their communities. Groups have told us the Grants have supported them to adapt to a new way of delivery and prepare for the future.

## Salutem (Wellbeing Café):

“We can now start planning workshops that support mental health and wellbeing and can offer sheltered outdoor seating so people don’t get wet when waiting for an order or accessing Salutem for anything else. We are small indoors so this gives us security to still offer under-cover seating to customers.”

## Gateway M40:

“Our advisers have been able to take up training for the tsunami of financial issues we know are coming. Although there has been a financial amnesty - that is a temporary relief - once lifted our community will need us more than ever. The We Love MCR Grant has helped us become battle ready.”

## Healthy Minds, Healthy Communities:

“The Grant has helped us to meet the growing costs of being COVID compliant, and to meet the ever-changing and growing needs emerging within our neighbourhoods. It enables HMHC to listen to these emerging needs and work collaboratively with partners to devise new solutions.”

## Venture Arts:

“The generosity of We Love MCR and others has meant that Venture Arts is still in a relatively healthy financial position for the time being. We fear that learning disabled people will be amongst the hardest hit by the impending recession, so it’s absolutely vital that we keep supporting and empowering them through arts and culture.”



## Chorlton Good Neighbours:

“This Grant will make an incredible difference, as it means our older residents can come together in an outdoor space that is new, safe and really pleasant to be in. The small easy-clean tables and pop up gazebo mean we can continue to meet even in the rain. Currently we are having to meet our older people outside in cafés which is fine, but most of our members much prefer the security and safety of a space organised by CGN.”

Beyond the core benefits of Groups being able to **Continue, Grow, Adapt and Plan**, they told us that with the support from We Love MCR Charity Grant they have **raised the profile of their organisation in their communities** and some have been able to **develop and embed Partnerships with other organisations.**

The Grants have allowed some Groups to reflect on their services and how they could develop going forward. In some cases (e.g. Mcr Youth Zone) the **support from We Love MCR Charity will fundamentally change the way they work.**

# BEYOND THE CORE BENEFITS OF THE FUND

## North Manchester Partnership (Led by Manchester Youth Zone):

*"The partnership has told us that the work they are doing now is 'Some of the best engagement work they have ever done - We are going to carry on using Zoom / social media following this funding. It is making the workers more accessible for young people and it has made the service more inclusive. It's made us think about how sessions are run at the Youth Zone, and how we can carry on with the positives of this situation."*

## The Place at Platt Lane:

*"We feel that we have been sharing some hope and compassion in a time of great need. When this is all over we will have started the building of a new community spirit and understanding, that we can come together to do things to support one another. We understand that, through our work in this community effort, local people will continue to understand that The Place is a local organisation that people can always trust for support. We have always been here to empower local people to improve their health and wellbeing, and feel that your Grant has helped us demonstrate this to our community."*



## Heart and Parcel:

*"We have managed to locate hard to reach individuals that weren't aware of us before through this new online format. We've been able to bring communities together across Manchester through our weekly classes. We have been able to promote the work that we do with ESOL learners across the city in a much easier and more instant way. We have developed and challenged ourselves to think outside the box in terms of pedagogical approaches to ESOL and the relationship between online learning and ESOL."*



## Greengate and Hollingwood Neighbourhood Watch:

*"As a local scheme, neighbours have pulled together with offers of help. It certainly raised our profile, which I am hoping to build on."*



## The Proud Trust:

*"The Grant has enabled the LGBT+ Centre, which is closed, to continue to operate and engage new people in our work. It has extended our reach as an organisation and community hub, strengthening our community development work with all ages. We have increased our profile in Manchester, the UK and internationally. In addition we have provided ongoing support/hangout sessions and one-to-one video calls with our most vulnerable volunteers, ensuring they have access to a supportive person and signposting other services when needed."*



## Benchill Community Centre:

*"We have been able to extend our reach within the community and have made new connections, working in partnership with a range of agencies and organisations, supporting the most vulnerable and isolated people living in Wythenshawe."*



# SIMPLICITY AND SPEED

Groups also told us very clearly that they appreciated the simple application form, direct contact with the charity team and the speed with which Grants were paid into their accounts, to enable them to activate their vital work:

## **Caritas Salford St Joseph's befriending service:**

*"We Love MCR was one of the first emergency grants we were awarded and was ever so simple – it was a blessing at such a scary/uncertain time – to be able to access funds without a tricky form to complete! And you let us know and paid us the funds within about 48 hours. That was truly amazing and meant so much to us to be able to support our clients."*

## **The Booth Centre:**

*"From the grant application process, to receiving funds, to emails with Marie and the opportunity to provide an update within this Response form, the whole process has been simple and supportive. We are so grateful for your help at such a difficult time."*



## **Ronald McDonald House Charity:**

*"Just a massive thank you. The application process was so well organised, and the team were so lovely to deal with throughout. The funds arrived within a matter of days and we are so grateful of your support."*

## **The Boaz Trust:**

*"We really appreciate all of your support, thank you! Thank you too for good communication and good conversations all the way through the process of applying for this Grant. At all times there was mutual appreciation and understanding, and it has felt like a genuine partnership."*

### Caribbean and African Health Network:

“Thank you I really valued the opportunity to talk through our needs with Marie and Elaine. This was important so that there was a full understanding about needs and how these needs were wrapped in cultural requirements that provide a sense of normality as people tried to get through the difficult and challenging times. We would like to say thank you to We Love MCR for this provision, and meeting this demand.”

### WAST:

“Thank you for the friendly, speedy and efficient way you have helped us, including allowing us to provide cash support to the women we have been helping. This has been the only practical way to get support to vulnerable women, many of whom would not have been able to access support from other sources.”



### Chorlton Good Neighbours:

“The quick response after submitting the application was absolutely fantastic. The form was also very easy to fill in and felt proportionate to the sums being applied for. Thank you for that.”

### Abbey Taphouse:

“We applied unsuccessfully for several funds to fund Taphouse TV Dinners. We Love MCR was by the far the easiest and most straightforward and understanding of our set-up and requirements. Many funders didn't seem to acknowledge what a hard time it has been for small charities and social enterprises, so it was refreshing to have such a positive response from a funder who seemed to understand the urgency.”

### Salvation Army Openshaw:

“It was a brilliant, timely Grant that kept the flow of food parcels going when we thought we would have real problems, especially in the early stages of the lockdown when our food bank had to run up to 2000-3000% normal capacity. It was fantastic to know that we weren't alone.”

We knew that all sectors of society had been impacted by Covid:19. The WLMC Community Response Fund awarded Grants under four broad themes:

- Food Poverty & Distribution
- Mental Health and Wellbeing in Isolation
- Advice and Protection Services
- Positive Engagement with Children & Young People.

We asked Groups to tell us about the impact Covid:19 had on their communities, and how the WLMC Community Response Fund was able to support them to deal with that impact.

# THEMES OF THE COVID:19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND.

# FOOD POVERTY RELIEF GRANTS

The WLMC Covid:19 Community Response Fund **awarded over £428,000 to community groups and organisations under the theme of tackling Food Poverty and Insecurity.** Grants were varied and included awards not only for food stocks, but also for equipment, PPE, vehicles and volunteer & staff costs to keep operations running.

We Love MCR celebrates that the Fund has ensured that 25,583 food parcels and 139,042 hot meals were delivered to people who needed them.

**We have helped to prevent hunger spreading with the virus.**

**25,583**  
Food Parcels

**139,042**  
Hot Meals

Groups told us that limited access to food (due to financial difficulties, shortages in shops, and people shielding for health reasons), was a huge issue in their communities at the peak of Lockdown.

Grants were made to large and small foodbanks, larger-scale organisations providing hot meals, groups making packed lunches and community groups delivering food parcels to their neighbours.



As can be seen from the feedback below, **the provision of food was often just the beginning of longer-term support:**

## Abraham Moss Community School Foodbank:

*"We closed our school on March 20th, having emptied our food bank shelves and used up almost all our remaining funds to provide additional supermarket vouchers to 17 families in need of financial help as we entered lockdown. These were families who would not have coped with the additional costs of having children at home all day and who, over the past 12 months, had received regular food parcels to help them during the school holidays. The We Love Mcr Charity grant meant that we were able to work with a local primary school who remained open for children of key workers, to source and deliver food every week to the families."*

## Open Kitchen:

*"We've provided meals for older people who are isolated, people who were street homeless and found themselves in hotels during lockdown, families in crisis and lots more. Beyond the obvious nutritional benefits, we hope that the meals helped people to feel safe and cared for, that they'd not been forgotten."*

The WLMC Covid:19 Community Response Fund also **supported a number of organisations to provide culturally appropriate food**, supporting the needs of different communities:

## CAHN:

*"By providing ethnic foods, it has allowed us to meet the cultural needs of the Black community. This has alleviated food poverty for a significant group of people. Many of the beneficiaries were on low income and with no recourse to public funds. At the start of the pandemic, the community were very anxious about the impact it would have on them, especially with the high numbers of people that could not go to work because they worked within security or domestic services and buildings had closed. The We Love MCR Grant provided this much needed emergency service to the Black community who were trying to feed themselves and their families and did not see the food bank as an option."*

**We Love MCR's support enabled many groups to provide further support in addition to Food, such as activity packs and much needed human contact:**

**Parish Church of the Apostles and St Cuthbert's:**

*"We have supported a woman who is suffering from a brain tumour and therefore shielding and also has a ten year old son. The family did not have a working fridge so couldn't store much fresh food. We were able to supply both ambient food and some frozen meals that could be heated up in a microwave. We also took some activities for the family. The family sent me a text "WOW! WOW! WOW!! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!"*

**Make Lunch South Manchester:**

*"We were able to be there for them at a time when there was so much uncertainty and anxiety. We soon realised that providing meals was just a small part of it."*



**The Lalley Centre:**

*"Having the Grant has meant that when we have been low on food we can comfortably purchase items that were needed. With the help of the Grant the Lalley Centre has not run out of food. We have also been able to purchase foodbank-inspired recipe books that have meant we could create food parcels showing full meals that could be created from tinned food only. During lockdown we were also able to print off workbooks for adults and children."*

## Cracking Good Food:

*"We have become the lifeline for so many families and individuals who would otherwise have simply gone without food. Our volunteers were shocked by what levels of poverty they saw. They were able to talk to people who were isolated - many who so desperately needed to have that human contact. Without the Grant we simply would not have been able to pay our limited team members to run the huge relief operation that it became."*



# MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING GRANTS

**The WLMC Covid:19 Community Response Fund has awarded nearly £180,000** to Groups supporting the mental health of their communities. Awards were made to keep people connected digitally by providing I.T. equipment, phones and data to people in need, for craft and activity packs and for volunteers and staff costs to ensure vital support of isolated communities continued.

**We have also funded vital counselling services and mental health specialist support for our most vulnerable residents.**

Charities and Community Groups told us that members of their communities felt scared, alone and isolated.

One **Homestart** service user said *“When the country went into lockdown I didn’t know how I would cope. I have no family or friends here and I have 2 children with medical needs putting them in the high risk group”*

**Many groups identified that they wanted to support people to stay (or become) connected digitally, to reduce isolation within groups who may not have access to technology:**

## Back on Track:

*“Covid-19 made us all aware just how reliant we are on technology, particularly when it comes to accessing services and getting support. Digital isolation is a particular barrier for homeless people and rough sleepers’ the grant from We Love MCR enabled us to buy handsets and data for our digitally excluded service users which allowed them to access benefits and stay in touch with vital services such as the housing services, benefits and drug & alcohol services. It also helped us to stay in touch with really vulnerable people on a daily basis, reassuring and supporting them, helping them get and maintain safe accommodation.”*



## Barlow Moor Community Centre:

*“The We Love Manchester Charity Grant helped us to address digital exclusion for some of the most vulnerable people we work with; it has helped to reduce loneliness and isolation, giving people the ability to access key information and stay connected with friends, family and essential services.”*

## Venture Arts:

*“We sent eight new iPads to the homes of learning-disabled artists - many of whom had no other access to computers - and we got them hooked up to the internet where necessary. It’s meant that eight more people, who were isolated, distressed and bored at the start of lockdown, have been able to have regular art sessions with Venture Arts staff. They’ve been given creative things to do at home, and they get to see and chat to a friendly face each week.”*



*beyond expectations*

## Henshaws:

*“One volunteer befriender told us about how appreciative some people were to just have someone to talk to whilst they couldn’t attend their local groups or community centres. “Over a few weeks I called about 30 people who had said that they would welcome further contact. Most of the people I spoke to are in their 80s or 90s and live alone. They were all immensely appreciative of the practical support they are receiving on a daily basis, but without exception they were pleased to receive a call and have a chat lasting anything from 5 minutes to an hour. Most of the time our conversation meandered around the tales of people’s lives, relationships, romances, families, homes, work, hobbies, politics, and historic and current events”*

**Other groups were able to support people through craft and activity packs to keep residents and families engaged in structured activities:**

## The Booth Centre:

*“Thanks to We Love MCR’s support, we were able to provide creative Activities Packs to over 180 people affected by homelessness. Whilst we had to close our activities programme on site at the Booth Centre, we designed a new programme to support people in their accommodation as we knew how lonely and isolated people would be feeling. Our Activities Packs gave people something meaningful to do with their time, and provided a creative outlet during such difficult months.”*



**Other organisations knew that their community was already suffering from isolation before the lockdown compounded this further, so ensuring continuing support was even more vital:**



#### **Manchester Deaf Centre:**

*“British Sign Language (BSL) is the first language of the majority of our clients. BSL is a visual language, therefore having visual aids is an extremely important part of empowering the community. The new iPads have enabled our staff to deliver technology training to the deaf/hard of hearing community in addition to supplying them with an iPad when needed to reduce isolation and access information.”*

#### **MAD Theatre Company:**

*“The Grant has had a great impact on the people we support, providing much needed activities for people who were lonely and isolated in lockdown. They described the project as a ‘lifeline’ for them as many of them were on their own and could not go out and meet family and friends due to underlying health conditions. They wrote poems and devised monologues which they felt helped to express their feeling about the terrible situation.”*

#### **LGBT Foundation:**

*“This Grant has supported the launch, running and management of our Telephone Befriending Service, helping us to develop a support offer to those most in need. Named, ‘Rainbow Brew Buddies’ we have been able to support LGBT communities and help alleviate feelings of isolation during the pandemic. A couple of people have commented that the service was a “lifesaver” for them at this time of increased isolation, and another person told us that this was the first time they have ever felt they could access a service at LGBT Foundation as delivery was completely remote over the telephone.”*

## **Reuben’s Retreat:**

*“We have been able to support vulnerable families self-isolating with complexly ill children. This has reduced their feelings of social isolation, reduced stress & anxiety levels and improved the overall welfare of the family. We are exceptionally proud that together with We Love MCR, we’ve been able to have a positive effect on their mental health and wellbeing.”*



# ADVICE AND PROTECTION GRANTS

---

Many groups told us their communities felt they did not have access to vital information, which compounded their isolation further.

**The WLMC Community Response Fund awarded just over £150,000 to support Advice and Protection services for communities.**

WLMC recognised the heightened risk posed to victims of domestic abuse during lockdown, and were able to support seven specialist domestic abuse charities across the city (specifically thanks to the kind donation from Savannah Wisdom). These seven organisations (Manchester Women's Aid, Independent Choices, The River, The Children's Society, Safespots, Safety 4 Sisters and Olive Pathway) have been able to provide vital safe accommodation, practical support to move to safety and expert advice to promote the safety of women and children. The funding has also paid for essentials for victims such as food, travel and phone credit – all vital to maintain safety.

---

## Safespots:

*"Covid has been a really difficult time for all of us. But for our women, staying home is not always safe. The grant has enabled us to be flexible in how we support women. Most of our funding is restricted and wouldn't have covered the emergency purchases we made during Covid. The grant allowed us to react quickly and support our community in a time of crisis."*

## Manchester Women's Aid:

*"We've been able to contribute to the Manchester Covid:19 response by providing life-saving refuge spaces during the pandemic, and we have been able to secure affordable, safe permanent homes for families traumatised by domestic abuse. This has been a key motivator for our staff and volunteers during the darkest days of lockdown. Thank you for responding so quickly. This has been an amazing project and without your funding so many more families would have been left locked in with their perpetrator, living in fear of domestic abuse."*

**Awards included technology to enable communities to access information online and for vital support to continue:**



## Roy Castle Lung Foundation:

*"By maintaining staffing levels and developing remote access to the Ask the Nurse Service, the Grant enabled us to provide beneficiaries with a point of contact, helping and supporting patients and carers who were dealing with changes to their cancer treatment, facing a new diagnosis and facing cancer recurrence. The majority have had their diagnosis and treatment disrupted by the impact of Covid-19. By providing up to date and tailored information on how lung cancer services are being managed during Covid-19, we have been able to ensure people have accurate details on how their treatment plans are being adjusted. This has offset some anxiety amongst patients who were anxious about changes and who had less access to NHS staff to explain and support them through this process."*



## The Boaz Trust:

*"The grant from We Love MCR has enabled us to provide our clients with a comprehensive package of support during this difficult time. Be it supporting clients to access healthcare provision, help them to make progress with their asylum status, or encourage engagement with wellbeing opportunities, being able to continue providing this care remotely has made a huge difference to our clients during this time. One of our clients, T recently said to us: "I would like to thank Boaz for providing me with accommodation. Where would I be in this time of lockdown if it was not for them helping me. Plus, the support they gave and continue to give up to the present. I don't take it for granted."*

## Somali Advice Link:

*"We supported more than 20 single homeless clients to be rehoused by Housing Association, sheltered homes and private landlords over the months. We supported a 59 years old single man, to be rehoused, who exhausted all the avenues for support and found himself in a very difficult situation."*

## Henshaws:

*"As well as already being at high risk of isolation and depression, 41% of the people we spoke to did not receive any of the public health messaging about coronavirus/Covid-19 in a format which was accessible to them. One quarter of respondents were in fact at very high risk from coronavirus (extremely vulnerable and should be shielding)."*

## Migrant Destitution Fund:

*"The money is a crucial additional level of support that helps provide individuals with a limited amount of life's essentials whilst the charities and groups try to support the destitute migrants in other ways, e.g. with mental health and interpersonal support, finding temporary accommodation, support with the asylum application process."*

## Hope for Justice:

*"Our ability to speak with clients in their first language through telephone interpreting services has enabled victims of trafficking to understand current government advice, keep safe and ensure basic needs are met."*

# POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE GRANTS

Lockdown impacted children and young people in a number of ways - the unprecedented closure of educational establishments, youth centres and vital support services and the cancellation of exams. This was compounded by the closure of facilities within parks, and youth leisure facilities where young people spend their time together.

One of the largest awards was to City in the Community (CITC). In partnership with CITC and jointly-funded by The Premier League, We Love MCR was able to support a large-scale project reaching over 12,000 young people.

**The WLMC Covid:19 Community Response Fund has awarded over £192,000 to ensure Children & Young People can be supported, stay connected, and stay healthy and safe.**

The project gave **every Year 6 student** in Manchester (all 7,350 of them) a book, provided **110 young carers with I.T. equipment** (such as phones, laptops and data) and **produced 4,000 Workbooks for young people of all ages.**



**CITY IN THE  
COMMUNITY**

#### **CITC says:**

*"The Grant from We Love MCR was a key part in enabling us to deliver this project. Without it this would not have been possible so it has had a huge impact on our charity, and in turn on the impact we were able to have on thousands of young people throughout the pandemic. It was great to work with a local charity who shares such a drive and passion for supporting our local communities across Manchester."*

Other organisations told us our Grants enabled them to ensure young people stayed connected through the provision of I.T. equipment (for both their own staff and for young people). This supported their mental health and wellbeing and it also enabled young people to stay connected to other vital sources of support:



*"The We Love MCR Grant helped us to reduce stress and isolation for young people in insecure living conditions. For some, the technology we provided enabled them to continue receiving vital mental health support, others used it to entertain bored children and continue their learning while schools were closed. We were also able to provide phones to people who have been on the edge of rough sleeping, so that we can do everything in our power to get them into other accommodation, and let them know where this accommodation is. This is impossible with people who have no means of contact."*

#### **Diane Modahl Sports Foundation:**

*"We were able to identify what support was required for children and young people in the most critical need, regarding their nutritional, mental and physical health. The We Love MCR Grant enabled us to develop engaging and inclusive digital projects that enabled our young people to meet their friends every Monday, and take part in DMSF Debates and online video chats to discuss weekly topics that may be affecting them during this isolating lock-down. On Wednesdays our Life Skills project enabled young people to learn new skills that they told us they didn't have before, such as cooking homemade pancakes, plaiting, and making a stand for their phones! Fridays was our GET up and GO live fitness sessions and our aim here was to ensure that young people had the opportunity to get active and stay healthy."*

Numerous organisations told us that **giving out creative and activity packs has kept young people entertained and also provided focus and development for young people:**

**Pursuing Individual Excellence:** “150 learning packs were delivered to young people at three Manchester High Schools. These packs included reading books, stationery, felt tips and even an Easter egg! - The PIE Slice challenge was set for 90 students, which involved students being set weekly tasks for eight weeks to complete at home. Each task linked to the PIE slices: Communication, Digital, Project Management, Community Links and Cultural Capital.”

**Moss Side Millennium Powerhouse:** “We were able to provide much needed play activities for primary aged children from vulnerable households. We worked with 7 Primary schools to target those most in need and they were over the moon with the Play Bags. We also used the opportunity to insert useful information about our free play scheme and free lunches for children over the Summer. Manchester Libraries also donated a free book for every child!”

## Odd Arts:

“The young people we reach are some of the most vulnerable, high levels have experienced adverse childhood experiences, trauma, and have experienced mental ill health. Isolation is a highly stressful time for them, putting them at increased risk of self-harm, anxiety, depression, online grooming and loneliness. Odd Arts tried to find ways to communicate with them effectively and in a meaningful way. The We Love MCR Charity grant enabled Odd Arts to put together the Creative Packs initiative for the most vulnerable young people we work with.”



Organisations have told us that in some cases, their support has been **life changing for young people:**

### SENDCode:

“For the young people we worked with, and are still working with, the impact for both them and their families has in some cases been life changing. The two young people that have now had all their sessions are going on to further education and training. The other young people engaged currently have all increased their resilience and digital skills over the last few months and feel more positive about their futures.”

### The Movez Movement:

“One of the youths who started our project this summer (during We Love MCR funding) was depressed, isolated and experiencing anger issues. He has now enrolled into college doing engineering, and has expressed the 1-1s have helped him start to manage anger. He also stated our creative sessions have boosted his confidence in socialising with peers.”

### Simply Cycling:

“We have had comments such as: ‘Having this bike has been life changing’; ‘I never thought we’d be able to go out as a family on bikes and now I know we can’; ‘what a relief- my son has not been out of his room for two months and now he is out on the bike every day’. We have been overwhelmed by the difference having an adapted bike has made - not just to the disabled person but for the whole family.”



### Great Minds Together:

“We have been working with a particular young person who had been out of education for some time prior to Covid-19, did not achieve any GCSEs, and had extremely low confidence and anxiety as well as a number of additional needs that meant she was unable to engage in any form of structured learning. We supported her emotionally, and particularly through lockdown where there was a very close loss in the family and lack of routine. We delivered our Growth Mindset programme virtually and were in contact daily, working on increasing self-confidence to enable her to achieve her aspirations. This week she enrolled and started college, studying health and beauty whilst studying for her GCSEs alongside, and most importantly she did so with a smile and wanted to attend! We are very proud of this young person and the work her mentor did with her.”

# INDIVIDUAL CASE STUDIES OF PEOPLE HELPED BY GROUPS FUNDED BY THE WLMC COVID:19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND

---

**The impacts reported by the Groups we have funded are a powerful testimony to the overall impact of our Fund. But sometimes, the stories and words of individuals who have been supported personally by these Groups with our funding help to express how our Fund has improved, protected and saved lives.**

## Citizen's Advice Bureau:

---

Jessica\* called us after receiving a decision of a nil award for Universal Credit, leaving her with little income and struggling to cope financially. She had tried to resolve this herself but had had no success. Our adviser, Carole, checked Jessica's circumstances and found that she should be entitled. Because Jessica was quite upset at this point, Carole helped her to make a 3-way phone call to the DWP to query the decision. They agreed that something didn't look right but needed to speak to Jessica again later when the decision-maker was available, so Carole prepared a list of all the things that Jessica would need to say during the phone call to help her feel confident to manage on her own. Following that call, Jessica's Universal Credit award was granted, and she received an £800 back payment for the time she had missed, helping her to get her finances back on track - she was over the moon! \*Name has been changed.'

## On Top of the World:

---

We introduced a digital inclusion project. 'J' - an elderly man without reading skills who attends our drop-in every week. A staff member slowly took him through how to use a smart phone using voice activation. A whole new world has opened up to him. Facebook, youtube, music apps... He said "I used to wonder why the young ones never lifted their heads from the phones on the bus, well I know why now! I look down at me phone and before I know it three hours have gone", giggling and smiling as he enjoyed his new world, skills and face time with his family abroad.



## Visit from the Stork:

One of our first clients was a lady called Ann. She was placed in temporary accommodation in Cheetham Hill with her 22 month old daughter. Over lockdown we supported her with baby food, milk, nappies and clothes for her daughter. This reduced her stress and anxiety and meant she could afford to buy food for herself, knowing her daughter was clothed and fed. Ann has now had her asylum claim accepted which means she can claim benefits, look for work and place her daughter in a local nursery. She has found permanent accommodation and is much happier. She says she feels 'blessed to have had the support you gave us' and will always remember our kindness.

## Rainbow Haven:

J is a Zimbabwean single mother of two school age children, who was referred to us by a worried health visitor. She had been living precariously on a zero-hours contract before the Covid-19 emergency, but suddenly found herself without a job and completely unable to make ends meet at the point of lockdown. When we first phoned her, she was utterly beside herself with anxiety about how she would cope - especially as she is severely asthmatic and one of her children, R, struggles with autism, and they live in a cramped flat. The advice team sprang into action, working with our volunteer team to deliver an emergency cash Hardship Grant so she could pay for electricity, and supporting her to apply to lift the restriction she has on accessing welfare support. As with many children with autism, R will only eat certain foods, and our Doorstep Delivery team have been able to put together bespoke food parcels so that J can avoid devastating meltdowns each meal time. Soon the family will be receiving a special toy and craft kit to enrich their time at home. J said 'Thank you for the help. This feels like a gift from heaven'.

## Chatterbox Project:

During Covid we received a referral from another agency pleading for our help. A family that had fled severe domestic violence had been left with nothing and they requested a food parcel. Upon visiting the family with the food it became apparent that there was much more help required. Laundry products, washing up liquid, toilet rolls and personal care items were non-existent. The parent was even sleeping on the floor. No gas supply to the house. We made another very generous delivery to cover all the items they were lacking as well as items we have in stock through our 'Helping Hands' section of Chatterbox - bedding, clothing, shoes etc. We then were able to make a referral to Mustard Tree who are now supporting the family too. The impact that this is making to the family is immeasurable. And it all started because we had funds to purchase cleaning and self-care products. Thank you We Love MCR.

## Age Exchange:

Sally was widowed last February, losing her husband of 56 years to complications associated with his dementia. Previously, Sally and Fred (her husband) had attended our 'club', a weekly group that met for social support and the engagement in arts, movement, music and reminiscence.

The group was a life-line for the couple, their only means of social contact with 'the outside world'. It was devastating when lockdown happened, not only had Sally just been bereaved and was facing life on her own, she was also then forced to stay at home on her own, all day, missing our group and the friends she'd made there.

The We Love Manchester Fund has enabled us to continue supporting Sally. She loves the activity boxes and looks forward to our staff member dropping them at her doorstep each month. She says they give her something to look forward to and take her mind off things. She also benefits from weekly phone calls where she is able to talk about anything concerning her, but also have a laugh and recall the good times she and Fred had. If it wasn't for this funding Sally would have largely vacant hours spent in solitude without the friendship, connection and impartial advice she really needs.



## Revolution Youth, King's Hostel:

Jay's story: Earlier this year Jay (not their real name) was rough sleeping in the city centre, begging and misusing substances – limiting their life chances, making them very vulnerable and compromising their physical and mental health. Jay has a long history of homelessness and rough sleeping, and wasn't using any support services. Over the months our outreach team regularly met Jay on the street and started building a relationship.

We got increasingly worried as Jay's situation was getting worse – they needed strong support to make positive changes and take the opportunities offered. When Covid hit we got even more concerned, making a concerted effort to engage Jay. Funding from We Love MCR enabled us to buy Jay a phone and some data which allowed us to stay in contact with Jay even when we had to shut the office. With others, we pulled together several kinds of support and persuaded Jay to take a COVID hotel place offering medical treatment and support for substance mis-use. Although reluctant at first, Jay saw that the non-judgmental and supportive staff were there to offer holistic support, tailored to their complex needs. Life has taken a new direction for Jay at the Covid hotel.

They have welcomed the support, taken the first steps to overcoming their substance mis-use and joined the waiting list for detox and rehab. Jay is now looking for a permanent, stable home of their own and is keen to help others in their community who need support.



## SENDCode:

One young person we have been working with is 23 and had not been leaving the house at all for the last year. During his time on the programme he has not only completed the digital skills tasks, such as producing a short video, the iDEA Award and began to work on coding, but has also improved his sleep routine, began to exercise and started to consider his future by researching careers and courses. His parent said "My 24-year-old son with Asperger's syndrome has been working with Seamus at SENDCode since June 2020. Thanks to the skill, understanding and patience Seamus has shown my son, in these few short weeks Saif has gone from a reluctant, anxious participant to an enthusiastic partner in this process to equip him with the skills, knowledge and confidence to explore a career within the digital economy. Having spent the last 3 years in complete social isolation unable to leave home independently, he is starting to look forward to working towards a viable career with the support of Seamus and SENDCode. He finally has a goal and a future career to work towards. Thank you SENDCode for your support so far!"

## Rueben's Retreat:

We have one beneficiary who was struggling with her mental health and was exceptionally worried about caring for her children during covid, one of whom has a rare genetic disease and the virus would most definitely prove fatal. I share her testimonial words with her permission: 'I have been slowly crumbling under the uncertainty for days, wondering how I am going to cope as a single parent on lock down for 12 weeks. More mentally than anything else but I have just received the most wonderful phone call from the incredible team at RR. My heart feels a lot less heavy and more hopeful with the promise of support that came from a beautiful, honest and real charity, like a guardian angel.' We were able to help Jenny multiple times over the last few months and she is forever grateful for the support in navigating this terribly difficult time.





# CONCLUSION & THANKS

## Continue, Grow, Adapt and Plan

The feedback received reveals how the WLMC Covid:19 Community Response Fund has supported community groups and organisations to respond quickly to the needs in their communities, and with the flexibility they needed at a time of great uncertainty. The application process was simple and straightforward and were paid out rapidly.

The simple fact that funds were made available quickly has enabled our voluntary sector to **Continue, Grow, Adapt and Plan**, in the face of the immense challenges posed by the pandemic.

**Groups and Charities have benefitted from over £965,000 of urgent funding.**

**These groups have contributed immeasurably to the quality of life in Manchester – their decline would be a huge loss to our city.**

**We Love MCR Charity is proud to have created and delivered this Fund, and is delighted to report on the countless way this has improved and protected lives across our city.**

**Our friends at The Place express this beautifully:**

## The Place At Platt Lane:

*“We feel that we have been sharing some hope and compassion in a time of great need. When this is all over we will have started the building of a new community spirit and understanding, that we can come together to do things to support one another. We have always been here to empower local people to improve their health and wellbeing, and feel that your Grant has helped us demonstrate this to our community”.*

Many of the projects funded by the WLMC Covid:19 Community Response Fund are still operating, and further feedback and impacts will be gathered to reflect this in the New Year.



**The Fund remains open, and is accepting donations here:**  
[www.justgiving.com/campaign/mcr-response-fund](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/mcr-response-fund)

**We would like to take this opportunity to recognise the collective effort and dedication from our Board of Trustees, the We Love MCR Charity team, Manchester City Council staff, the community groups and charities we have proudly funded to deliver frontline services, and every individual, organisation and business that has made a donation to our Response Fund.**



# Thank you!

# A TO Z OF ALL COMMUNITY GROUPS, CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS FUNDED

42nd Street

4CT

A6 Partnership

Abbey Taphouse /  
Steam Hubs Pub

Abraham Moss Community  
School Foodbank

African Voices Moston

Age Exchange

Age UK

AKT (Formerly Albert  
Kennedy Trust)

Ananna (Bangladeshi  
women's organisation)

Anson Community Grocer

Antz Junction

Apostles and St Cuthbert's Church  
- Church of the Apostles

Aquarius Centre

Ardwick and Longsight Food Bank

ARMR Community Stores

Ashraf Union Trust

Authentic City Church

Back on Track

Barlow Moor Community  
Association

Barnabus

Barrakah Food Bank

Being There

Benchill Community Centre

Bideford Community Centre

Big Issue North

Big Manchester Partnership  
(Lead partner is Barnardo's)

Blossom Foundation

Boaz Trust

Bridging the Gap

Burnage Good Neighbours

Cancer Care Diaspora

Caribbean and African  
Health Network

Caritas Older People's Service

Caritas Refugee

Hits Cash for Kids

Ceebee Gold International  
Foundation

Centrepont

CHALK (Community Health  
and Lifestyle Knowledge)

Charlestown Action Group

Chatterbox Project

Cheetham Hill Advice Centre

Chorlton Good Neighbours

Christian Restoration Manchester

Church of England Wythenshawe

Church of The Apostles /  
Barnabus

Citizens' Advice Manchester

City in the Community (CITC)

Communities for All

Community Revival UK

Compassion Food Bank

Cornerstone

Cracking Good Food

Creative City England

CSTAR

De Paul

Diane Modahl Sports Foundation

Dynamic Support of Greater  
Manchester

East Manchester Play and Youth  
Partnership (Lead partner 4CT)

Edo Diaspora UK

Emerge

Emmeline's Pantry

Ethnic Forum

Europia

Families Against Violence

Family Action

Family Action Food Club

FC United

Friends of Fletcher Moss Gardens

Gaddam

Gateway Debt advice M40

GMCDP

Gorton Visual Arts Group

Great Angels Foundations

Great Minds Together

Greater Manchester Community  
Chaplaincy

Greater Manchester Law Centre

Greater Together Manchester

Groundworks

Healthy Me, Healthy Communities

Heart and Parcel

Henshaws Society for Blind People

Higher Openshaw Rainbows,  
Brownies & Guides

Highway to Hope

His Church

Homestart

Homes of Hope

Hope for Justice

Hope Mills Theatre

House of Praise

Humankind

Humans MCR

Igbo Association

Independent Choices

Indian Association Manchester

Irk Valley Community School

Justlife Foundation

KYSCO

L'Chaim Foodbank

Lakeside CIC

Levenshulme Inspire

Levenshulme Youth project

LGBT Foundation

Lifted Carer centre

Light in the Darkness

Living Stones Educational Trust

Louise Da-Coccodia  
Education Trust

MAD Theatre Company

Make Lunch South Manchester

Manchester Cares

Manchester Congolese  
Organisation

Manchester Fountain  
of Life Church

Manchester Metropolitan  
University

Manchester Migrant Solidarity

Manchester Mind  
Manchester Mind -  
Good Food Mood  
Manchester Rape Crisis  
Manchester Refugee  
Support Network  
Manchester Secondary PRU  
Manchester South Central  
Foodbank (TT)  
Manchester Urban Diggers  
Manchester Vineyard Church  
Manchester Women's Aid (MWA)  
Pankhurst Trust  
Manchester Youth Zone  
MASH  
MCR Cares  
Melissus Project  
Memody CIC  
Migrant Destitution Fund  
Mind  
Mood Swings  
Morning Star Hostel  
Moss Side Millennium  
Power House  
Moston Muslim  
Community Centre  
Mr D Healthy Body  
Healthy Mind CIC  
Myriad Foundation  
NACRO  
Nasfat  
Nephra Good Neighbours  
NESTAC  
Newton Heath Brownies  
North Manchester Group  
Partnership  
North Road Living Social Groups  
North West Youth Theatre  
Northmoor Community Centre  
Nurturing Foundations

Nwandomema 1  
Odd Arts  
Old Hall Quilters  
Olive Pathway  
On Point Fitness  
On Top of the World  
Open Kitchen  
Parish of the Good Shepard and St  
Barnabus  
Pathfinder Church  
People First Manchester  
PIE (Pursuing Individual  
Excellence)  
Project Inc  
Proper Job Theatre Company  
Proud to be Parents  
Quid In Community Shop  
Rainbow Haven  
Rainbow Surprise  
Rapid Relief Team  
Reach out to the Community  
Reuben's Retreat  
Revive  
Revolution Youth King Church  
Ronald McDonald House  
Roy Castle Lung Foundation  
Safety for Sisters  
Salutem Coffee Shop  
Salvation Army  
SENDCode  
Sheikh Nazim Helping Hands  
Sierra Leone Organisation  
of Greater Manchester  
Simply Cycling  
Smile Aid  
Smithy's Bereavement Group  
Somali Advice Link  
St Ann's Hospice  
St Cross Food Bank

St Francis RC School  
St Pauls C of E  
Starling  
Step Together  
Streetleague  
Talbot House  
The Bread and Butter Thing  
The Children's Society  
The Church of the Apostles  
(Community Kitchen)  
The Clay Studio  
The Lalley Centre in Collyhurst  
The Manchester Deaf Centre  
The Men's Rooms  
The Movez Movement  
The Mustard Tree  
The Open Kitchen  
The Place at Platt Lane  
The Proud Trust  
The River  
The Shaw Centre  
Thick Skin Production  
Thomas Regan Social Fun  
Thrive  
TLC - Talk, Listen, Change  
TLC ST Lukes  
Together Dementia Support  
Together One  
Tree of Life Centre  
Trinity House  
Unity Radio  
Utopia  
Venture Arts  
Visit from the Stork  
Voice of Albinism  
Wythenshawe Good Neighbours  
Walking with the Wounded  
Warm Hut

WAST  
Wesley Community Furniture  
Westcott Community Centre  
Whalley Range Community Forum  
Widow's Empowerment Trust  
Will Griffiths Tenants' Association  
Withington Assist  
Women Matta  
Wonderfully Made Women  
World Harvest Christian Centre  
Wythenshawe and South  
Manchester Movement Initiative  
Wythenshawe Black Belt Academy  
Wythenshawe Community Farm  
Wythenshawe Safespots  
Yarran North West  
Yes Manchester

---



We can only do what we do with the generosity of countless supporters, companies and fundraisers. They can all be hugely proud of themselves.

**Thank you.**

We wish to acknowledge and celebrate two major donations which have made an immense difference, funding over half the Grants awarded by the Fund. Our huge thanks go to The Hut Group and to Savannah Wisdom, for their incredible gifts.

Covid-19 has not gone away. We can only continue to support Manchester's frontline with your help.

If you can contribute to our Fund, please donate here [www.justgiving.com/campaign/mcr-response-fund](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/mcr-response-fund) or email us to discuss support or fundraising ideas at [welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk)

**We Love MCR Charity**  
c/o Manchester City Council,  
Town Hall Extension Level 1  
Manchester, M60 2LA

 [welovemcrcharity](https://twitter.com/welovemcrcharity)

 [mcr\\_charity](https://www.instagram.com/mcr_charity)

 [WeLoveMCRcharity](https://www.facebook.com/WeLoveMCRcharity)

## 6 Month Impact Report

**Telephone: 07815 550631**

**Email: [welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk)**