

<b>Chair:</b>	Dee Luckza	<b>Notes:</b>	Farzana Patel
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1. Welcome
<p><b>Present:</b> Dee Luckza, Elaine Butt, Nick Russell, Karen Arkwright, Vicky Shenton, Leah Edwards, David Kenyon, Cindy Kelly, Lisa Forrest, Sam Reyani, Denis Hyams-Ssekasi, Gary Foxtrot, Akintola Bankale, Hannah Olapade, Olubukolo Popoob, Heather Henry, Lesley Hewell, John Greenhalgh, Neil McCall, Claire Price, Ayaz Bhuta MBE, Cihan Sahin, Mustafa Said Acor, Kelly Wray, Andrew Bailey, Hansa Mistry, Sue Desai, Ruxmani Patel BEM, Nirmala C Patel, Muktaben Patel Nirmala B Patel, Karina Royales, Debbie Ryder, Ana Olukubola, Hava Yacoobali, Premala Tailor, Lilrana Widocks, Lee Higson, Pat Dickson, Sam Hawksley</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Dave Bagley, Olwyn Holgate</p> <p>Dee welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>

2. Highlights from the Chair	Lead
<p><b>Live Well update</b> Live Well is Greater Manchester's commitment to ensuring great everyday support is available in every neighbourhood.</p> <p>It is a partnership between GMCA, NHS GM Integrated Care and the VCSE sector across Greater Manchester to ensure people get the support they need, at the right time, in the right place through equal, connected and consistent support offers - bringing together the best of our public services and local VCSE groups.</p> <p>Look out in our e-bulletins for invites to join workshops/conversations about opportunities to be involved in the Live Well movement.</p> <p><a href="#">Bolton Food &amp; Drink festival</a> 22-25 August: let's help promote it!</p>	Dee Luckza reported

3. Trauma Informed Communities	Lead
<p>Dee and Lisa shared their experience and learning having participated in the Compassion Circle. The purpose of this it: To embed healing-centred and trauma-informed practices across VCSE organisations in Bolton.</p> <p>Question for reflection: what do we all do to look after ourselves?</p> <p>Lots of useful tools and resources on the website: <a href="https://brilliantthing.co.uk/">https://brilliantthing.co.uk/</a></p> <p>This toolkit is the result of a 12-month consultation and co-development. Asking how do we design our systems so healing is at the centre? How can we share compassion across Bolton? How do we turn pain into power and make brilliant things happen?</p> <p>The full presentation can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	Presented by Dee Luckza and Lisa Forrest

4. Bolton CVS New Members	Lead
<p>Karen talked about becoming a member of Bolton CVS, the process and benefits of becoming a member. The full presentation can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>New Bolton CVS members that were welcomed:</p> <p><b>1. Bolton Neighbourhood Watch</b> This group encourages crime prevention through public involvement and strengthens community–police relationships. They also focus on broader social issues such as loneliness, well-being, and community cohesion.</p> <p><b>2. BreathChamps CIC</b> BreathChamps CIC improves lung health through fun and social activities like singing, dance, and forest bathing. They also offer creative asthma education for children and training for community groups.</p> <p><b>3. Can-Survive UK</b> Can-Survive UK offers culturally sensitive cancer support tailored to diverse communities, including counselling, support groups, and wellbeing therapies. Their services extend to family members and carers through a wide range of activities and practical help.</p> <p><b>4. Densal Global CIC</b> This youth-led initiative promotes environmental awareness by teaching sustainable practices like upcycling and garment recycling. It empowers young people with skills and platforms to engage in the circular economy and community-building projects.</p> <p><b>5. Directions for Men CIC</b> Directions for Men creates supportive spaces where men can share experiences, tackle societal pressures, and improve mental health. Their peer groups and activities like walking football promote wellness and connection.</p> <p><b>6. Making Space</b> Making Space supports unpaid carers with tailored guidance, one-to-one help, counselling, and access to social activities. They run support groups and provide practical assistance like benefits advice and advocacy across Bolton.</p> <p><b>7. Migrant Haven</b> Migrant Haven supports migrants' integration into UK life with a focus on health, housing, and employment. They host social events and drop-ins to build community and well-being through lived experience-based support.</p> <p><b>8. Revive CIO</b> Revive CIO assists refugees and asylum seekers through practical help like legal advice, housing, and employability training. With a growing Bolton user base, they aim to expand local services to reduce the need for travel.</p> <p><b>9. Scope</b> Scope champions equality for disabled people by offering support, resources, and youth-led community initiatives. In Bolton, they have been empowering young people to drive positive change through monthly meetups and community projects.</p> <p><b>10. Shekinah Music Ministry</b> This faith-based group uses gospel music to bring hope, faith, and unity to communities. They run concerts and outreach initiatives while offering essentials like</p>	<p>Led by Karen Arkwright, Bolton CVS</p>

food and toiletries to those in need.

### 11. Oldham's Church (Antioch Network)

Oldham's Church supports the local community with a wide range of spiritual and social activities such as youth groups, mental health support, and Bible studies. Their presence on the Oldham's Estate in Bolton fosters faith, connection, and well-being.

### 12. The Co-op Group

The Co-op Group supports local community initiatives in Bolton, helping co-ops connect and promoting Fairtrade and sustainability. They provide funding and resources to local VCSE groups and host events like the Bolton Eco Festival.

### 13. Time to Help (UK)

This charity addresses poverty and social injustice through global and local efforts, including food distribution, refugee support, and homeless outreach. Their Manchester branch is expanding into Bolton with plans for coffee mornings and local aid programs.

### 14. Women Together

Women Together fosters community cohesion by offering workshops, pampering sessions, and learning opportunities. Their goal is to empower women through confidence-building activities, mentoring, and volunteering.

### 15. Humans MCR

A charity that does amazing work around food poverty, providing assistance and support to people across Greater Manchester. They have a food bank and a grocery service with great care taken to provide an accessible and supportive service.

## 5. Funding Update

### Lead

**Non-CVS (external) funding** – support will now be provided by the Development Team. This includes:

- Supporting groups to be ready for funding
- Accessing Open4Community for member organisations
- Identifying funders for non-members
- Checking bids and offering tips on how to strengthen applications. Bid writing is not included
- Support can be requested either by emailing [info@boltoncvs.org.uk](mailto:info@boltoncvs.org.uk) or by calling 01204 546010

### NEW WhatsApp Group for funding updates: for Bolton CVS members only

- If you need to check if you are a member organisation, please contact [info@boltoncvs.org.uk](mailto:info@boltoncvs.org.uk)
- If you are a member organisation and would like to sign up to the WhatsApp group, contact [funding@boltoncvs.org.uk](mailto:funding@boltoncvs.org.uk) and will send you the link to the sign up page

### Bolton's Fund

Karina shared key information about [Bolton's Fund](#) around eligibility, assessment questions, partnership grants, and how to apply.

The full presentation can be found [here](#).

Presented by Karina Royales, Bolton CVS



# Notes and action points

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise  
Sector Forum

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025

6. Any Other Business	Actions
BreathChamps Forest bathing workshops. Free and open to everyone. Opportunity to learn about forest bathing and set up your own forest bathing group: <a href="https://www.breathchamps.com/forest-bathing">https://www.breathchamps.com/forest-bathing</a>	All

Date of next meeting:
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2025, 10.30am – 12.00pm at The Bolton Hub