



Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund

Annual Impact Report 2020 - 2021

Prepared for AGMA Statutory Functions Committee



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About Forever Manchester

Forever Manchester is the only charity that raises money to fund and support community activity across Greater Manchester. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to be happy and we'd love everyone to become part of this growing movement.

In every neighbourhood across Greater Manchester, there are thousands of people involved in community activity. In fact, at any given time, there is an unbelievable 20,000 local grassroots projects of varying sizes and interests taking place. We work with local people in our communities to inspire and encourage projects that they want to see, to make their neighbourhoods happier and safer places to be.

All of the money raised for Forever Manchester is used to fund and support over 1,000 community projects in Greater Manchester each year. Since Forever Manchester was established in 1989, we have delivered over £53 million into local communities, benefiting 1.2 million people. This means we will have helped community activity within one mile of your home or business if it's in Greater Manchester.

Every year we raise money by hosting a wide range of innovative and enjoyable fundraising activities. The remainder comes from generous donations from individuals and local business alike. With your generosity and support we can continue to help Greater Manchester's communities become even greater.

Join the movement. Get involved. ForeverManchester.com

The Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund

The Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund (GMDRF), formerly known as the Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Trust, was transferred in its entirety for management and delivery to Forever Manchester in April 2009. The total amount transferred was £475,646.38.

As part of an Endowment Match Challenge, a one-off payment of £100,000 was made from GMDRF to Forever Manchester's endowment fund and matched pound for pound by the Government's Grassroots Grants Endowment Challenge. The return on this investment of £200,000 is transferred into the fund each year to create a sustainable funding stream.

The remaining £375,646 was kept for grant-making, with the aim of keeping £200,000 in flow-through funds for emergency grant-making. Investment income from the endowed sum is added to the flow-through account on a quarterly basis.

As with all disaster funds, the facility for the public to donate to the fund either in general or in response to specific events was established, so that the potential for future growth of the fund is encouraged.

Since its inception as the GMDRF in 2009, Forever Manchester has distributed £367,276 from the Fund, however the combined Fund value (endowment investment and flow-through bank account) currently stands at £406,912, evidencing the value of this model of investment and delivery.

Financial Review of Investment

Forever Manchester's investment managers are appointed for periods of three years, although any appointment can be reviewed sooner – and the appointment terminated - if the Board endorses any such recommendation from the Investment Committee.

The Investment Committee, under delegation from the Board, is responsible for overseeing the performance of the investment(s), the investment managers and all other aspects of investment policy.

Following a significant drop in the value of the endowment as the markets reacted to the early stages of the Covid 19 pandemic at the end of the financial year 19-20, the endowment balance for the GMDRF has returned to almost pre-pandemic levels.

Date	Endowment Market value
31.03.2021	£210,359
31.03.2020	£179,204

Fund Information

Balance of distribution funds in the bank account at 31st March 2021 was £196,553 (31st March 2020 £192,322).

Following a reduction in the balance due to the award made in November 2019 to support those affected by the Cube fire in Bolton, the amount available is now almost back to the desired level of £200,000.

Awards Made 2020-21

No awards were made from the GMDRF in the financial year 2020-21.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Forever Manchester worked closely with UK Community Foundations (UKCF) to distribute more than £3 million of funding raised through the National Emergencies Trust (NET), across Greater Manchester. During this period, we liaised regularly with representatives from GMCA and the 10GM voluntary sector partners, to share information on needs and funding.

We have since entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with NET, which means that if any future events occurring in or affecting Greater Manchester have the national profile to trigger a NET fundraising appeal, Forever Manchester would be approached to distribute these funds.

The GMDRF therefore remains protected and able to be used to support events which trigger the Fund criteria but may not attract significant levels of alternative funding support.

Monitoring

Those Local Authorities who receive an award are sent an award agreement which includes monitoring requirements.

Bolton Council Fire Monitoring Information

Following the Bolton Cube Fire on the 15th November 2019, Bolton Council applied to Forever Manchester for funds to support (1) students evacuated as a result of the fire from the Cube and (2) residents evacuated as a result of the fire from properties

adjacent to the Cube. The total application and subsequent award made was £40,000. This sum was added to donations made directly by members of the public to Bolton University, and to donations from other independent fundraisers, increasing the total sum available for distribution to £51,027.

A board of trustees was appointed to administer this total fund. The board consisted of representatives from University of Bolton, Bolton Council, the British Red Cross, and Bolton University Student Union. The trustees named the fund the Bolton Cube Fire Relief Fund.

In order to access the fund, Cube and non-Cube residents were required to submit an application form. Application forms were (1) e-mailed to students by Bolton University, and (2) hand delivered to non-Cube residents by Bolton Council on the 29th November 2019.

Funds were administered based on set criteria determined by the board of trustees. For both Cube residents and non-Cube residents, the award methodology allocated different weightings to each section of the application subject to the board's determination of hardship and need. For Cube residents a greater weighting was placed on students resident in the Phase II block over the Phase I block etc. with different weightings then being applied to other areas. For non-Cube residents, the greatest weighting was allocated to the number of days displaced from home, with lower weightings applied for the other items on the application form.

In total, the Fund received 145 applications from Cube residents, and 45 applications from non-Cube residents.

All applicants were allocated an award from the Fund. The majority of awards were paid by faster payment by Bolton Council on 19th December 2019, with the remainder paid later in December / in the new year on receipt of accurate bank details. The full Fund - £51, 027 – was distributed.

Appendix 1

Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund Guidelines

Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund

Forever Manchester, The Community Foundation for Greater Manchester, (charity registration number 1017504) manages the Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund, which was previously administrated by the Association for Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA).

The Fund was established as the Greater Manchester County Disaster Relief Trust in 1979 in response to the Manchester Woolworth's fire tragedy. Its aim was to provide financial support to victims of this fire and other large-scale disasters who were experiencing distress, sickness or other disability as a result of a tragedy. Since then, the Fund has provided financial support to those affected by a number of major incidents across Greater Manchester.

Purpose of the Fund

To give monetary support for the relief of **immediate financial need**, as a result of a **disaster/emergency** involving loss of life or injury to multiple people or property within Greater Manchester.

To be eligible, an incident must be recommended as appropriate to apply for financial support from the fund by one of the following recognised individuals:

- Chair of GM Resilience Forum
- GMP Force Duty Officer
- Head of AGMA CCRU

Indicators of Eligibility

To be recommended as eligible to apply to the Fund, it is expected that an incident would have triggered one of the following:

- A Civil Contingencies Act declared emergency:
 - (a) an event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare in a place in the United Kingdom,
 - (b) an event or situation which threatens serious damage to the environment of a place in the United Kingdom, or
 - (c) war, or terrorism, which threatens serious damage to the security of the United Kingdom.

- A multi-agency emergency declared by Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, North West Ambulance Service or one of the Greater Manchester local authorities. A multi-agency Strategic Coordinating Group or a multi-agency Tactical Coordinating Group formed with a Gold Strategy agreed.

What CANNOT be supported?

- An incident which does not trigger any of the above, and/or which is not recommended as appropriate by one or more of the recognised individuals.
- An incident where the majority of those affected reside outside of the ten boroughs comprising Greater Manchester.

Who can Apply

Once an incident has been recognised as eligible, Forever Manchester would invite applications to be submitted by the Local Authority where the incident occurred. If an incident affects multiple Local Authorities, all affected Local Authorities can apply but they must liaise with other applicant Authorities to ensure there is no duplication. The Fund can only support applications for incidents which occur within, or have significant impact upon, one of the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester.

The use of the Fund is for cases where there is no possibility of gaining financial assistance from elsewhere. The application needs to demonstrate that this is the case.

How much can you apply for?

There is no upper limit on amounts that can be applied for, however the Fund will only support costs relating to **immediate and/or short-term needs** caused by the disaster, which cannot be funded through any other source. The applicant authority will need to clearly outline how they meet these criteria within their application.

Appendix 2

GMDRF Process

- When an incident occurs which has the potential to need support from the fund, the Greater Manchester Civil Contingencies and Resilience Unit will contact us, or if Forever Manchester becomes aware of an incident which we believe may trigger a need for the Fund, we contact the CCRU directly.
- Dependent upon the obvious scale of the incident, Forever Manchester may wish to open an appeal.
- As per the guidelines the CCRU or one of the other agreed posts (see fund guidelines) must confirm in writing that the incident is suitable to be considered for support from the fund before any application can be assessed and submitted to panel.
- An application is submitted by an affected local authority to Forever Manchester via the CCRU Unit, assessed, processed and emailed out to panel members as soon as possible. This includes official confirmation of the eligibility of the relevant incident, as per the GMDRF guidelines.
- Any panel member who may have a conflict of interest regarding an application should advise Forever Manchester accordingly.
- Panel members will be advised of available funds and asked to consider the request in light of the outlined impact and need, as well as financial resources available.
- Panel members read the information provided and make a recommendation to Forever Manchester by email. A recommendation should be made to either support or not support the application and to advise of any amendments to the amount requested, if it is felt that the request is too much/too little, or would use up too much of the available funding in the context of other need. An email discussion may occur between the panel members. Panel members may also advise Forever Manchester if they feel any conditions should be attached to awards made. We ask for a response from panel members as soon as possible or within 48 hours.
- Once a majority decision is reached (or 4 responses with a majority decision), a ratification recommendation is prepared and sent to the Forever Manchester Board of Trustees for ratification.
- As soon as a recommendation has been ratified Forever Manchester will inform the applicant and arrange payment.
- Applicants are required to report back to Forever Manchester regarding spend and impact relating to the award made.