

DECISION NOTICE

Decision author and proposer: James Carrick, Project & Policy Officer, VRU

Subject: VRU Funding Award to Mandem Meetup
--

Type of decision: Funding Agreement
--

Deputy Mayor's decision		Chief Officer's decision	X
--------------------------------	--	---------------------------------	----------

In all case this will need to be approved by the Director Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire.

The decision is that:

A funding amount of £10,000 from the Violence Reduction Unit is to be awarded to Mandem Meetup in Q2 2024 via a grant funding agreement.
--

The reasons for the decision are:
--

Mandem Meetup is a grassroots charity promoting, correcting and improving the conversation around men's mental health and wellbeing. It provides an open, inclusive community for all those who identify as a man, integrating a range of social, holistic and more 'traditional' forms of clinical support, ranging from psycho-social interventions and recreational activities to practical advice and guidance, as well as talking therapy and more. To date, 1700+ men have received interventions from Mandem Meetup.

Mandem Meetup are part of the umbrella network of organisations within the Greater Manchester Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) and Trauma Responsive programme, which the VRU has co-funded extensively since both its- and the TR programme's- inception in 2019. Within the GMCA, the GM Reform Board & VRU work with the GM NHS Integrated Care Board to promote a shared understanding of the concept of trauma-responsive care, recognising the prevalence of trauma in people's lives and acknowledging potential effects that this can have on individuals, families, networks & communities. On 9 th January 2024, 550 colleagues from across the GM system attended a VRU-sponsored event to hear about work that has been happening across Greater Manchester to achieve our goal of being an ACE and trauma responsive city-region, of which Mandem Meetup attended and participated at in partnership with We Are Survivors. This activity is central to the Greater Than Violence strategy, within which becoming a trauma responsive city region is one of 5 core principles.
--

Given their proximity to the VRU's activity via Trauma Responsive GM and the terms of reference of all VRU delivery groups, Mandem Meetup have been awarded £10,000 in grant funding from the GM VRU to support the delivery of Mandem Meetup Trauma Responsive activity in 2024, and this Decision Notice seeks authorisation to proceed with this funding award.

In return for the funding, the VRU will require Mandem Meetup to report on outcomes per schedule 1 of the grant funding agreement.

This decision will contribute to priorities of the Greater Manchester strategy in the following ways:

This programme of work will impact the following GM Strategies

- All four priorities in the [Standing Together plan](#)
- All priorities of the [Greater Than Violence Strategy](#).
- The [GM Integrated Health And Justice Strategy](#)

Procurement Comments:

No Procurement concerns. Small grant to support local VCSE organisation. However, should proposals arise to expand the scope of the arrangement, please revert to Commercial Service for further support.

Please note that as a grant is being provided, the appropriate Subsidy Control process should be followed.

Commercial Services file reference: GMCA 1000.

Financial comments:

A one-off payment will be made to Mandem Meetup upon receipt of an invoice funded from the VRU's commissioning reserves.

Legal comments:

As noted above, a GFA between Mandem Meetup and the GMCA/GMVRU has been drafted with the support of the Manchester City Council Legal service to award the £10,000.

Grants are excluded from the definition of a Contract in the Contract Procurement Rules, and therefore are not subject to the same requirements, but are now affected by the Subsidy Control Act and as such, a subsidy analysis has been undertaken by the VRU Team.

Legal advice has been sought from the Shared Legal Service on the preparation of the Grant Agreement and the Agreement is being drafted currently by the Commercial Legal team.

The GM VRU/GMCA will need to seek further Legal and Procurement advice for any future funding to Mandem Meetup.

Risk Assessment:

Any amount not spent under this allocation will be returned to the GM VRU and will be lost to implementing effective interventions and activity within the pilot areas. The GM VRU will be seeking to ensure that key outcomes and outputs are achieved as part of this funding. Mandem Meetup has robust, established safeguarding procedures in place, beyond statutory requirements, therefore no risks are perceived.

Under the Subsidy Control Act, GMCA will need to demonstrate that they have considered whether this grant funding is considered a subsidy. To assist, in view of the nature of the project, it could be said that the recipient is not an enterprise, they do not offer goods and services on a market, funding is provided for a targeted organisation to support the terms of reference of VRU funding, and the financial assistance will not have an effect on competition or investment that is more than incidental or hypothetical. Accordingly, the grant funding would not be considered to be a subsidy.

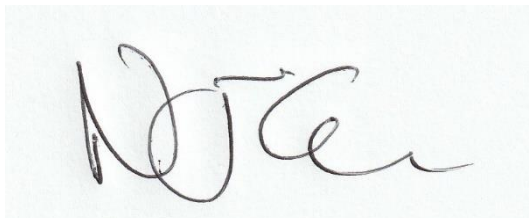
Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:

Mandem Meetup's activities and interventions are provided to men over the age of 18, however within this, robust safeguarding procedures are in place across the organisation. Therefore, we are satisfied that all safeguarding procedures conditional to any VRU funding award have been fulfilled.

Is safeguarding of vulnerable adults relevant and has this been considered:

Noted above. Mandem Meetup has a Modern Slavery Statement.

Agreed by Director – Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire



Signed...

.....

Date...10th April 2024.....

Agreed by GMCA Treasurer

Signed.....

Date.....

Agreed by Deputy Mayor

Only required for a Deputy Mayor Decision on amounts of £50,000+

Signed:

Date: