

**DRAFT**

**Greater Manchester Victims Capacity and Capability Fund**

**Prospectus: VCFSE Leadership Development Programme:**

**Eligibility Criteria:** This opportunity is open to VCFSE leaders operating at a senior leadership level within domestic abuse/sexual violence support services within Greater Manchester (female only services).

**Application form is available as separate document**

**Please submit this completed document to [matt.berry@greatermanchester.gov.uk](mailto:matt.berry@greatermanchester.gov.uk)**

**CLOSING DATE: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

This document explains the grant process and guidance on how to submit an application. Please read this document thoroughly and make note of the suitability requirements. Applications which aren't fully completed will not be able to be considered.

**Introduction**

This prospectus outlines the grant process for Element 2 of the Deputy Mayor's Greater Manchester Victims Capacity and Capability Fund: VCFSE Leadership Development Programme:

**Overview**

Supporting victims and witnesses is a key priority for the Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester. In order to deliver this, a commitment of funding is being made to provide a 3-year small grants programme within Greater Manchester based VCSE victim support organisations.

The objective of this funding is to provide opportunities to GM CVSE victims' support organisations that require some additional capacity to enable lead officers to pursue development opportunities. We are looking for applicants that are willing to support the development of Victims Strategy in Greater Manchester, but who may require additional capacity in their organisation to allow them to spend time on the strategy and/or access to leadership coaching and support to build their personal capacity and skill set.

Victims service organisations play a crucial role in providing much-needed support to victims of crime in Greater Manchester. Recognising the importance of their work, the Deputy Mayor is committed to assisting these organisations in their mission. Through

the Victims Capacity and Capability Fund, the Deputy Mayor aims to strengthen the support network for victims and ensure they receive the help and support they need.

The focus of the first year of this initiative will be tackling **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**. We want to promote and encourage the voice of the support sector in Greater Manchester that provide support to female victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Leadership in the sector is vital to the next stages of the GM Victims Strategy development. We are in unknown territory, following the June 2025 Spending Review and responding to the requirements of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024. This is alongside potential wider changes in government policy and in particular, the changes in the criminal justice system emerging out of the Sentencing Review.

The Deputy Mayor and Combined Authority (CA) recognise that it is not solely the responsibility of organisations to develop leadership capacity. This this fund is being released in part to demonstrate that commissioners have a responsibility to support building capability and capacity, if we want services to act as an eco-system of provision against a strategic vision. Some of the aspects will include:

- Skillsets to develop confident leadership
- Building bridges to small and diverse organisations
- Creating effective networks and strengthening and sustaining relationships
- Strategic Priority for year 1 is Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) services/ enhancing VAWG within Victim Strategy Board

A key part of enhancing services and support available to victims in Greater Manchester lies in encouraging increased collaboration among the various victim services organisations in the city region. There are already some good examples of alliance in Greater Manchester and this fund aims to build on that.

By working together, organisations can share knowledge, resources and best practice, leading to a more comprehensive and effective support system for victims. This collaborative approach creates a thorough approach to victim support, where organisations can complement each other's services to address the diverse needs of victims.

## **Outcomes**

It is expected that the funding provided to victim's services organisations achieves the following:

- Enhance and boost GM VCFSE's ability to deliver person-centred support, building on the strengths of individuals, supporting and empowering them to be in control of their wellbeing.
- To enable those with existing leadership skills to further develop and enhance this to the benefit of both the host organisation and wider victim support sector

- To ultimately assist with development of strategic aspirations for the provision of support to victims of crime as outlined within the Standing Together Police and Crime plan 2024-2028
- We are looking for individuals who see the benefit of an effective Victims Strategy board and their role within this, and ultimately who see the needs of victims and improving the system that supports them as their main focus
- Building on existing VAWG strategy and delivery

### **Who We Are Looking For:**

- The Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester is inviting applicants that are based within organisations from the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector only. This invitation is part of the grant allocation process specifically designed for victims' services organisations that are based in and deliver services within Greater Manchester.
- We are seeking applications from individuals currently operating at a senior leadership level, with some experience of navigating the victims strategic landscape, with ample drive, agency, and ambition to expand this skillset
- We are specifically looking for representation from the domestic abuse/sexual violence support for female only services in order to support commitments to the tackle gender-based violence and VAWG.

### **This Opportunity:**

- This funding will be ring-fenced to resources that will free up internal capacity to pursue mentoring /coaching /or other training opportunities or capacity to work on strategic policy area for the Victim strategy Board
- There is capacity for successful applicants to receive up to £35k in pursuit of the above, per person per year, for 2 years.
- The funding will allow back-fill costs for 2 years, with a suggested approach to focus on coaching for the 1<sup>st</sup> year.

### **Application Process**

- The application period is open from 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 for applicants to apply for funding from £20k up to a maximum of £35k.
- Principles of eligible costs are broadly those that will directly/indirectly contribute towards the applicants progression of leadership and management development. Costs could be related to undertaking training / coaching opportunities. This could also be for additional staffing cover to enable pursuit of

applicant to undertake upskilling activity such as mentoring, coaching and other strategic roles.

- In terms of the percentage breakdown of the above proposed costing activity, this is flexible. We are interested in hearing from applicants with proposals that utilise opportunities that would work and are open to them, working with their current employment pattern
- Applicants are welcome to check eligibility of their proposal with us prior to the close of the application period
- After the application period concludes, a final interview stage will assess shortlisted candidates by a panel including representation from both the GMCA and the civil voluntary sector.
- Successful candidates will then need to agree and sign a grant funding agreement which will outline the requirements as outlined in this document
- If the successful applicant's host organisation is not already registered with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), a registration process will be initiated. Registration with GMCA is necessary to facilitate the distribution of the grant funding.
- Organisations must have a bank account as payments cannot be made to individuals.
- A due diligence check will be undertaken on host organisation as required by the CA's procurement regulations to seek assurance on medium term financial sustainability.
- Where a grant is awarded, payments will be made by bank transfer or cheque. Grant conditions will need to be agreed before payment is released.
- Funding must be spent within 6-12 months of grant receipt, timescales will also be driven by the nature of the proposal(s)
- In order to measure ongoing success of the programme, successful applicants will be required to engagement in periodic collaboration and reflection sessions to share progress and reflections.
- In April 2026, an initial informal review of the programme will be undertaken as part of routine monitoring and reporting. This review is designed to ensure that the funding is being in accordance with the grant agreement and the key priority funding themes. The review is not designed to be lengthy and burdensome and will consist of organisations presenting invoices or receipts as proof that funding has been spent in line with the grant agreement.

**If you have further questions surrounding this process, or have additional requirements such as for accessibility which you would like to discuss, please reach out to [matt.berry@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:matt.berry@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)**

## Timescales

Application process open	30 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Application process close	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Interview Final Round Stage	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026
Decision notification	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Release funds	20 <sup>th</sup> March