Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund

Annual Impact Report 2015 - 2016

Prepared for AGMA Statutory Functions Committee
About Forever Manchester

Our job is to fund and support community activity throughout the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester. We do this through generous contributions from individuals, families and businesses. People like you.

The impact of this support is real. It is the impact of community activity. It is the impact that ordinary people have when they do extraordinary things together. It’s about a hand up, not a hand out, it’s about focussing on what’s strong, not what’s wrong and it’s about recognising that there is no us and them…only us.

Community activity is a unique resource, helping to improve mental and physical wellbeing, reducing social isolation, developing confidence to try something new, raising aspirations and employability as well as providing an opportunity to meet and connect with each other.

We live in a ‘find it, fund it, fix it’ world. A culture dominated by a glass half empty mind-set that assumes we’re all too dumb or incapable of sorting things out ourselves and by policies that consign people to being passive recipients of state funded services, creating increased dependency not a culture of independence or empowerment.

We’re at a unique point in time. A time when our generation needs to recognise that we need to look after our communities and make sure that they are great places for future generations to live, work and love.

And if this is currently the norm then just think what the immediate future might hold – life expectancy rising faster than imagined, with people expecting to live until they’re 90 by the year 2030 and research suggesting that most students will still be paying back loans from their university days in their 40s and 50s and inevitably more austerity measures.

Life is going to look very different if we carry on hurtling forward at this speed without stopping to take stock. We need to start thinking about the future in far longer terms than we currently do, recognise what might lay ahead and understand the implications and start to put the building blocks in place now to ensure that society is in a fit state to look after itself.

So whether you think of your community as where you live, where you work or where you play, let’s recognise that we’ve all got unlimited potential, assets, skills and talents and that if we pool them all together we will become stronger and we will build a movement of people who choose to take action for the common good.
Al Mackin, Forever Manchester Chairman

“"It feels like I’ve been part of the Forever Manchester family forever, but I can still vividly remember the first time I came across the charity in 2011. Since then I’ve gone from being an Ambassador, to a Board Member and now I’m very proud to be Chairman of a great charity that has a huge heart. And one that beats to a distinctive, Manchester rhythm. My role is partly legal, partly supportive and part rabble rouser, and I’m a small cog in a charity that supports thousands of wonderful individuals. The real power of Forever Manchester comes from everyone who has said “I want to be part of this,” the staff, the Ambassadors, the supporters, the groups, the Board, our President and our Vice Presidents and most of all the people involved in community activity on a regular basis. An army of unique and talented Mancunians (and adopted Mancunians) who want to make this great region even greater.”
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 the an Endowment Match Challenge, a one off payment of £100,000 was made from GMDRF to Community Foundations 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 in to 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.

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.

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.

A copy of Forever Manchester’s Report to the Trustees for the year ending 31st March 2016, prepared for us by Barclays Wealth & Investment Management, is attached to this report. It is worth noting that whilst the overall performance of the endowment has been erratic in the last year, dividend performances remain strong.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Endowment Market value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31.03.2016</td>
<td>£213,205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fund Information

- Balance of distribution funds in the Bank Account at 31st March 2016 was £136,059

Awards Made 2015-16

The following awards were made through the GMDRF in the 2015-16 financial year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Amount Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolton Council</td>
<td>Boxing Day Floods Recovery</td>
<td>£10,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bury Council</td>
<td>Boxing Day Floods Recovery</td>
<td>£35,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester City Council</td>
<td>Boxing Day Floods Recovery</td>
<td>£1,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochdale Borough Council</td>
<td>Boxing Day Floods Recovery</td>
<td>£32,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salford City Council</td>
<td>Boxing Day Floods Recovery</td>
<td>£43,269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wigan Council</td>
<td>Boxing Day Floods Recovery</td>
<td>£4,002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Purpose of the Fund

The primary purpose is to pay money for the relief of financial need or disability as a result of a disaster, including loss of life or injury to person(s) or damage to property within Greater Manchester.

After transfer to Forever Manchester, the Fund criteria was tightened, but continued to accept applications from individuals experiencing personal disaster as well as from larger scale incidents.

Following relatively significant donations made from the Fund to support those affected by the Irlam and Shaw gas explosions, and ongoing personal emergency grants, the Fund fell below £160,000, significantly below the £200,000 minimum desired. With advice from AGMA, Forever Manchester worked with the Civil Contingencies and Resilience Unit (CCRU) to review the focus and purpose of the Fund.
Fund Review

The review of the Disaster Relief Fund explored:

- The overall purpose of the fund
- The definition and declaration of emergencies for the purpose of accessing funds
- The membership of the panel recommending payment or otherwise of funds to applicants
- Donations to the fund
- Publicity for the fund

Review outcomes

The major outcomes arising from the review were submitted to the AGMA Statutory Functions Committee in November 2015, as follows:

1. for the fund to be reserved for use in emergencies affecting communities rather than for individual cases of hardship arising for other reasons
2. the definition of a qualifying emergency to include the definitions within the Civil Contingencies Act 2004; National Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) guidance and the Greater Manchester Resilience Forum’s Generic Response Plan but also to allow for a judgement to be made in specific emergencies based on expert assessment at the time by either the Chair of GMRF; the duty Assistant Chief Constable; or the Head of AGMA CCRU
3. the application form to be strengthened to allow for greater clarity about the purpose for which funds are sought, recognising that in an emergency precise details may not be clear, together with encouraging staged payments as needs emerge rather than large payments upfront
4. the expert panel that provides recommendations to Forever Manchester on the payment or otherwise of funds to applicants to be reconstituted with the panel consisting of individuals who have prior knowledge of civil contingencies and the management of emergencies; have had financial responsibilities at a senior level; and who have a connection to Greater Manchester. In addition to 3 – 4 independent panel members, this panel is also recommended to include the Chair or Deputy Chair of the Statutory Functions Committee, the lead AGMA Leader for Civil Contingencies and the lead AGMA Chief Executive for Civil Contingencies. In order to avoid conflicts in interest in recommending payments whilst ensuring there are sufficient panel members to exercise the function, where these positions fall to one local authority, appropriate delegation mechanisms should be used to identify an appropriate deputy in agreement with Forever Manchester. Forever Manchester will retain the right to appoint alternative panel members.
5. to seek appropriate approvals for the Chair of the Statutory Functions Committee, together with the lead AGMA Leader and the lead AGMA Chief Executive for civil contingencies, to sit on the panel
6. to ensure staff within the AGMA CCRU have the knowledge to recommend that local authorities consider recourse to the fund to support their communities in an emergency
7. to enable reporting on spend post allocation to allow for any unspent monies to be returned to the fund
8. to encourage local authorities who may establish a charitable fund in an emergency to allow for any unspent funds post-emergency to be transferred to the Disaster Relief Fund for the benefit of people affected by disasters in GM

6.0 Decision Process

6.1 Expenditure within the Fund is determined by the Board of Trustees of Forever Manchester. The arrangements for the Fund propose to continue the current process, albeit refreshing several areas for purposes of assurance and audit:

1. An application is made on behalf of an affected community by the local authority concerned
2. In the absence of the declaration of a formal major incident or an emergency, rapid advice on the nature of the incident is sought from a key responder (see item 2 above)
3. The application is circulated to the expert panel to make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees
4. Board of Trustees reviews panel recommendation and ratifies
5. Payment is made to the applying local authority

6.2 These proposals seek to meet a number of principles including:

- rapid transfer of funds to those in need
- assurance for the Board of Trustees that they have consulted appropriate experts
- protection of the Fund for the purposes for which it was established

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 The Committee is recommended to:

1. note the contents of this report and to agree the proposal for a representative of the Statutory Functions Committee (Chair or Deputy
Chair), together with the lead AGMA Leader for civil contingencies to sit on the panel.

2. refer the proposals for the panel to Forever Manchester's Board of Trustees to consider and agree.

At the Forever Manchester Board Meeting on 27th November 2015, the Trustees formally approved the outcomes of the review and the new process.

The new Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund Guidelines are attached (appendix 1).

**Boxing Day Floods**

On Boxing Day 2015, devastating floods occurred across much of the North West, affecting the majority of the Boroughs of Greater Manchester.

Forever Manchester staff made contact with staff from Greater Manchester Civil Contingencies and Resilience Unit on Boxing Day evening and set in motion the agreed Greater Manchester Disaster Relief processes. On the morning of 27th December Forever Manchester launched the **Greater Manchester Flood Recovery Appeal** to raise money for people affected by the floods.

A news story was published on our website, [http://forevermanchester.com/gm-flood-recovery-appeal/](http://forevermanchester.com/gm-flood-recovery-appeal/) as well as the appeal on JustGiving. The story was covered well on social media and Nick Massey, Chief Executive of Forever Manchester, did an interview on BBC Radio Manchester. The Greater Manchester Police press office also circulated information about the appeal to all their local press agencies. [https://twitter.com/gmpolice/status/681124287730835456](https://twitter.com/gmpolice/status/681124287730835456)

Whilst the appeal was underway, Forever Manchester and the CCRU worked closely together, supporting the affected local authorities to submit appropriate applications. Once submitted and assessed, as per agreed processes, applications were forwarded to the expert panel for review and their recommendations were put to the Forever Manchester Trustees for ratification.

By 31st December 2015 this process was complete and the following awards had been agreed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Borough</th>
<th>Estimated Number of Affected Properties</th>
<th>Amount Awarded</th>
<th>Purpose of Awards (Information Taken from Submitted Applications)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolton</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>£10,776</td>
<td>On Boxing Day, substantial quantities of rain fell in Greater Manchester causing both fluvial and pluvial flooding. Homes and businesses were affected in 8 Boroughs in Greater Manchester: Bolton; Bury; Manchester; Oldham; Rochdale; Salford, Trafford and Wigan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bury</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>£35,025</td>
<td>There is a desperate need for people to restore their properties to a habitable standard and to start to introduce some normality to everyday life. Research has demonstrated that the longer people are left to deal with the consequences of flooding, without access to sufficient resources, this of itself becomes a secondary stressor and a significant factor in prolonging the welfare, physical and psychological impacts of flooding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>£1,617</td>
<td>Each Authority is drawing up a set of local eligibility criteria, based on the experienced of disbursement of funds in Cumbria following the Cumbrian floods. Learning from Cumbria demonstrates that a flat rate payment to eligible people that they can then spend on alternative accommodation, repairs, replacing damaged goods etc. according to individual need is an effective approach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochdale</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>£32,330</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salford</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>£43,269</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wigan</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>£4,002</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>2,363</td>
<td>£127,019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fundraising appeal remained open and by 5th February 2016, £93,378 had been raised. Forever Manchester submitted an application to DCLG for match-funding and on 29th March 2016 we were notified that this application had been successful. The award of £93,378 was deposited in the GMDRF bank account in April 2016.

**Monitoring**

Those Local Authorities who received an award were sent an award agreement which included the requirement to submit a monitoring report to Forever Manchester by 31st May 2016. If all awarded funding had not been spent by this date, they would be asked to provide an update of monies spent and to submit a further report no later than 31st October 2016. The report(s) submitted should demonstrate the impact of the award as described below:

- Total amount spent and breakdown
- Eligibility criteria for support drawn up by the local authority
- Numbers of households supported through the GMDRF award
- Numbers of businesses supported through the GMDRF award
- Numbers of individuals supported through the GMDRF award
• Overall effect of the award on the community
• Personal feedback from individuals supported
• Any other feedback, either from the perspective of the local authority or those supported

Forever Manchester are currently collating these reports and will provide full details in next year’s report to the Statutory Functions Committee. We would like it noting at this stage, that the timeliness and quality of reporting received has been inconsistent and in some cases, not of the quality that we would expect.

We would also like it noting that without the support of Kate Green of the CCRU, who has liaised with the local authorities, we would not have yet received any reporting from some authorities.

Current Status

Although not falling in the reporting period, there has been further activity with the GMDRF since 1st April 2016, which is summarised here and will be reported on in full in the 2016-17 report.

An award of £17,500 has been made to Stockport Council following flooding in the borough in early June.

Two applications from Bolton and Oldham Councils are, at the time of writing, being considered by the GMDRF panel. As money received in match-funding from DCLG must be spent supporting the victims of the floods, but the initial emergency phase is over, we have been working closely with the CCRU to understand which areas are most in need of this additional support.

The total requested is £42,238. There is currently £209,400 in the Fund, which includes the residue of funding from monies raised through the flood appeal set up after the Boxing Day floods. If both applications are supported in full, it would leave approximately £167,400 in the Fund account, which is roughly £2,000 above the pre-Christmas 2015 level.

Forever Manchester would like to thank the Civil Contingencies and Resilience Unit for all their support throughout the application and monitoring processes, they have been instrumental in the partnership work that enabled such a swift response over the Christmas holiday period. We would particularly like to thank Kate Green and Kathy Oldham.

Forever Manchester July 2016