

Making the most of our money

Our mission is 'Creating opportunities, transforming communities, changing lives' and we measure our success not only by our financial viability but by looking as to whether this has been achieved. The Value for Money assessment for 2015/16 reflects the activity and achievements of One Manchester in its first year for our customers and the wider community. We have highlighted some of this information here and the full report can be viewed on our website at onemcr.net/vfmreport16

Serving the community

A £60k bid from the JP Getty Trust was successful along with further funding of £10k to deliver an innovative three year project tackling social isolation in multi-storey living in partnership with the Royal Exchange Theatre. A bid for Heritage Lottery funding of £60k was successful for Reel Manchester to run a film project called 'Hulme Sweet Hulme', where One Manchester residents and customers will help produce a documentary, a commemorative poem and an exhibition about the transformation of Hulme to develop their confidence and learn new skills.



Work and skills

Our Opportunities team, Tpas National Team of the Year, continue to get local residents into jobs and boost skills, experience and confidence through a wide range of training and volunteering opportunities. In 15/16 we secured £6k funding to support assisted job search sessions at The Place – our community library and resource centre – delivered by our Opportunities team.

Training and placements

One Manchester has jointly won a £353k contract to deliver accredited employment, training and placement opportunities within Greater Manchester. Eleven housing associations have formed a company, Manchester Athena, and the Skills for Employment Programme, funded by the Local Growth Fund (LGF) and European Social Fund (ESF) marks the first use of this company to secure a contract. We expect 12,000 local people to benefit from the support it will provide over the next three years.

Helping with debt

Our Money Mentors team assisted over 800 tenants with £1,195,158 worth of debt. Tenants were assisted to gain £1,740,688 in benefits and £867,486 worth of rent arrears were dealt with. The team also secured £90k Building Better Opportunities Big Lottery and ESF funding (2016-18) for the provision of debt advice to marginalised groups as part of a Building Better Opportunities Greater Manchester-wide bid.

We continue to take local authority Troubled Families referrals and assisted 23 families, which has helped regain control of debts worth £153,082 and secured £74,811 of benefit gains.

Providing money advice

Our Mind Your Money project has assisted 2,500 people including 363 in Job Centres, helping the most vulnerable stabilise their financial situations. We have partnered with the South Manchester Credit Union and opened 77 bank accounts so people are job-ready or able to have benefits paid. 124 staff and volunteers have been trained so more organisations can offer low-level assistance on money issues. We have delivered money skills courses to parents at local primary schools and the Parent Engagement Network to increase awareness of benefit changes. The water meter promotion with United Utilities has provided water discounts for customers totalling £16,600. New tenants have been assisted with furniture by working with a Manchester charity and we have supported local food banks.

Value for Money highlights

Overview area

Recurrent savings for the business going forward – either through changes in the way we work, savings, time savings, tenders, how we work or by working more effectively with others.

Activity where we have secured new business or sourced other areas of funds.

Example

Fleet rationalisation, In-house gas servicing instead of using subcontractor, Sheltered scheme cleaning brought inhouse

HCA funding towards 10 new build properties
Grant funding for insulation works
LA funding for aids and adaptations work for tenants
Employability programmes

Value for Money gain 15/16

Totalling 4,132,000

210,000
234,000
253,000
353,000

Worked with community groups by securing grants or on projects where they benefit including energy savings. It also includes life skills, training, culture and education.

Tenant support – benefit entitlement
Funding for social isolation project
Heritage Lottery funding for Hulme Sweet Hulme project
Funding for youth projects
Job search funding
Debt advice funding
Energy savings to tenants as result of cavity wall insulation programme, loft insulation programme and water discounts

2,276,000
70,000
60,000
15,000
6,000
90,000
118,000

