

# COST OF LIVING

# MANIFESTO

This manifesto has been coproduced by voices within the VCSE sector, as well as by funders. It is designed for those with an active interest in the VCSE sector (funders and commissioners) and the communities it serves.

## Commitments from the sector

1. Using existing networks to further communicate our activity - avoiding duplication of services, improving signposting, and assessing where we can make joint funding bids.
2. Sharing knowledge and experience to help smaller organisations and groups start new services.
3. Sharing existing resources and practices – to save each other time creating from scratch.
4. Share assets such as office space to reduce costs and encourage collaboration.
5. Support each other through the crisis, looking after the wellbeing of all staff and volunteers, particularly those delivering frontline support.

All the offers above show a commitment from the sector to further streamline operations, increase efficiency and reduce costs during this time of crisis. These new ways of working will increase the time the sector can spend directly supporting those most affected, representing great value for money for funders and commissioners.

However, these changes can only be effective if funders and commissioners make a similar level of commitment – we all need to change the way we work in times of crisis and the asks below will support the sector to deliver a powerful and effective response.

## Asks from the sector

1. A joined-up approach between funders, developing shared systems for applications and reporting - helping the sector to work efficiently and focus on their impact.
2. Allow organisations to rebuild their reserves - by allocating additional unrestricted funds for such sustainability, even within restricted-purpose grants/funding/contracts.
3. Invest in time purely for organisations to work together in partnership - leading to actual innovation and real return on this investment.
4. Recognising that the sector is best placed to provide grassroots insight, work with them to deliver services by the communities, for the communities.
5. Commit to longer-term funding – recognising the value in providing the stability for organisations to retain expertise and fully succeed.

Please contact Voscur's Policy, Research & Communications Manager Ian Hudson-Murt for more information at [ian.hm@voscur.org](mailto:ian.hm@voscur.org)

All the asks above will support the VCSE sector to continue to address increasing levels of poverty and inequality. By committing to these changes, together we can form a dynamic response to the cost-of-living crisis.

