

JUNE 2022



GMCLH Membership Offer

E: contact@gmclh.org

T: 07570 002033

W: www.gmclh.org

**Greater Manchester Community Led
Homes Ltd.**

CBS Reg. No. 8713

St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green
North, Manchester, Greater
Manchester M12 6FZ

The journey so far...

When the government announced the new Community Led Housing Fund in 2019, Community Led Housing (CLH) groups in Greater Manchester were already starting to network and come together to support each other and to promote the benefits of CLH to a wider audience.

Housing Futures: Community-led Alternatives for Greater Manchester was a research partnership running from 2017-2019. It sought to advance understanding about the current and future potential of community-led housing to contribute to a more equitable, inclusive and democratic housing landscape in Greater Manchester. Through learning exchanges, networking events, and public debates, they built a Greater Manchester Community-led Housing Network made up of individuals and organisations interested in taking action.

Building on this grassroots movement, **GMCA** worked in partnership with **Irwell Valley Homes** to access the Community Led Housing Fund to create a fledgling 'Hub' in 2019 in order to provide support to any CLH group in GM.

By early 2022 the Hub had five Board members drawn from community led housing groups and the voluntary sector, three paid members of staff and a pool of advisors or enablers.

The Hub was working with 27 of the 47 CLH known groups across GM at various stages.

A common purpose

The aim of the Hub is to:

1. Support the development of community led housing groups enabling them to thrive and grow
2. Support the delivery of new community led homes across Greater Manchester
3. Empower people to steward, manage or own their own housing community
4. Create sustainable housing communities
5. Be a sustainable organisation offering long term support to community led housing groups

Our Values and Principles

Our values reflect our commitment to member led governance and participation. We will:

- Be informative
- Be responsive
- Be transparent, open and honest
- Work collaboratively
- Listen and learn
- Be accountable

The Hub has adopted the guiding principles of the International Co-operative Alliance. These are guidelines by which co-operative community organisations put their values into practice.

What the Hub already provides

- ✓ We send out **regular newsletters** to everyone on our mailing list.
- ✓ We host **open forums** which provide opportunities for networking and learning.
- ✓ We support the **development** of community led housing groups at all stages.

Current projects being supported include housing co-ops · cohousing · Community Land Trusts · tiny homes · mutual home ownership · self-build · modular homes · affordable homes. Also supported living models for people who are younger, older, in between ages, homeless, students, LGBTQ+, from defined communities, key workers and veterans...the list goes on.

We are proud that GM is showcasing that community led housing can provide solutions for all sorts of people in all sorts of ways.

A sustainable future

We formed a Community Benefit Society to provide the Hub with a sustainable future.

It allows us to:

- ➔ Apply for grants and fundraise
- ➔ Trade as a business
- ➔ Provide a variety of services to community-led housing groups

The Society's objects define its purpose and the scope of its operations, to ensure its activities and services remain of benefit to people who live in or want to live in Community Led Housing in Greater Manchester.

The society's main objects are to:

1. Provide information to, and to enable and support, groups developing community-led housing
2. Buy, build or convert and to maintain and manage mixed tenure, community-led housing, including Social Housing as a Registered Provider.

Why become a member?

This is an invitation for you to share the next stage of the journey and become a member of the Society. Our members will help make sure the Hub continues to be of benefit to the CLH groups it serves.

- ✓ Together we can **create opportunities** to exchange knowledge and experiences
- ✓ Help us **celebrate** the power of collaboration and co-operation
- ✓ With your support we can **develop** a wider culture of community led housing in GM

How the society works

The objects are incorporated in a set of monitored by the Financial Conduct Authority and HMRC. The Society is governed according to these rules by a Board of Directors that is elected by its members to run the Society.

Membership is open to any individual (aged 16 and over), or organisation, that supports Community Led Housing. Members purchase a non-withdrawable share in the Society known as a membership share. It has a nominal value only, gives no financial return, but entitles each member to a vote at Annual General Meetings.

Your £1 membership fee includes:

- ✓ £1 membership share in the society
- ✓ A vote at Annual General Meetings and to elect the Board of Directors
- ✓ Opportunities to shape the future of the Hub

Three steps to membership

1. Send us your completed membership application form
2. The Board of Directors approve your membership
3. The Hub sends you your share certificate and welcome instructions

You can fill in and submit your membership form here <https://forms.office.com/r/9z7bCpEQhj>

If you have any questions or would like us to send you a downloadable form please get in touch with us at **contact@gmclh.org**

A final thought...

“Of all the housing co-ops that were set up in Greater Manchester in the 70s and 80s half of them have disappeared because they didn’t have support.”

We’re here to stop that happening!
