

## **Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund Bolton Student Flats Fire Appeal**

### **1.0 AIM**

Forever Manchester manages the Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund and has established the Bolton Student Flats Fire Appeal. This is for charitable purposes in connection with the relief of hardship within Bolton for those affected by the fire which took place at The Cube student accommodation on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The priority for awards is to support those students who were displaced by the fire.

We are working closely with the Greater Manchester Civil Contingencies and Resilience Unit and other agencies involved; funds will be applied for and distributed by Bolton Council

### **2.0 APPEAL TARGET**

It is difficult to assess the likely financial requirements so soon after the fire. Forever Manchester will commit a minimum of £20,000 from the Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund and is appealing to the public to donate further funds. Any money donated above eligible financial needs identified will be deposited in the Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund account, to be used for any future applicable emergency within Greater Manchester, however the aim is to distribute all funds raised directly to those affected.

### **3.0 IMPACT AND NEED**

Although it is too soon to assess the full impact of the damage it is clear that this is a major incident. Those affected currently only have the clothes they were wearing when the fire took place. At this point it is unknown if any of the 223 students affected will be able to recover any of their belongings and many are certain to have lost the entire contents of their rooms. Everything from clothing, toiletries and study materials is likely to be needed.

### **4.0 THE HALLMARKS OF THE FUND**

The Bolton Student Flats Fire Appeal has been set up to be managed within the Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund.

The Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund (GMDRF) is governed and managed by Forever Manchester (registered charity no.1017504). Forever Manchester work closely with the Greater Manchester Civil Contingencies and Resilience Unit (CCRU) to define the purpose and processes of the Fund, as well as to ensure that existing Funds and monies raised through this reach those in greatest need.

The primary purpose of the Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund is to award funds 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.

Whilst managed within the Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund, monies raised through this appeal will be informed by Charity Commission Publication CC40 Disaster Appeal: Guidance on starting, running and supporting charitable disaster appeals August 2012:

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/359658/CC40text.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/359658/CC40text.pdf)

In operating, the Fund bears these hallmarks:

- It provides a specifically Greater Manchester focus for donations
- It provides a central 'clearing house' for requests for charitable support
- It operates a simple grant application procedure and responds speedily
- It attracts support locally and nationally where appropriate
- It is locally managed and accountable.

## **5.0 FUND RAISING FOR THE FUND**

The Fund has been established with an initial £20,000 from the Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund's existing funds.

Funds will be sought from:

- Individuals
- Businesses
- Existing trusts and national funding programmes if relevant
- Community fundraising events

Forever Manchester will make special mention for major donations as required.

Donations from tax payers can be made via Gift Aid, increasing the value of each £1 donated by 25p. All details of how to donate can be found on our website [www.forevermanchester.com](http://www.forevermanchester.com)

## **6.0 AWARDS FROM THE FUND**

Application forms are available by telephone (0161 2140940) or e-mail ([awards@forevermanchester.com](mailto:awards@forevermanchester.com)) for eligible local authorities.

The criteria are informed and guided by Charity Commission Guidance; Public Benefit: the public benefit requirement September 2013 and guidance given in Charity Commission booklet The Prevention or Relief of Poverty for the Public Benefit (December 2008).

The current criteria are contained in Appendix 1.

An application is made on behalf of an affected community by the local authority concerned. The application is assessed for eligibility by Forever Manchester staff and is then circulated to an expert panel consisting of individuals who have prior knowledge of civil contingencies and the management of emergencies. The panel will consider the application and make funding recommendations to the Forever Manchester Board of Trustees for ratification. Funds awarded are passed to the applicant authority who will distribute directly to those in need.

In the event of it appearing that the purposes of the appeal have been fulfilled as far as may be, and the Forever Manchester Board of Trustees so resolving, any balance then remaining from the appeal shall thereupon be held within Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund for future any future applicable event.

## **7.0 ABOUT FOREVER MANCHESTER**

Forever Manchester is the only charity that raises money to fund and support community activity across Greater Manchester. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to be happy and we'd love you to become part of this growing movement. We work with local people in our communities to inspire and encourage projects that they want to see, to make their neighbourhoods happier and safer places to be. All of the money raised for Forever Manchester is used to fund and support over 1,000 community projects in Greater Manchester each year.

## **8.0 THE FUTURE**

It is still too soon to know how much damage has been caused, nor the extent of its adverse effects. A flexible response is therefore required. The Trustees of Forever Manchester are determined to do all in their power to meet needs in the fields in which monies from the appeal will be applied. They are ready to continue with the appeal as needed and to modify the organisation of the appeal and award making to satisfy emerging needs.

## Appendix 1

### Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund

Forever Manchester, The Community Foundation for Greater Manchester, (charity registration number 1017504) manages the Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund, which was previously administrated by the Association for Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA).

The Fund was established as the Greater Manchester County Disaster Relief Trust in 1979 in response to the Manchester Woolworth's fire tragedy. Its aim was to provide financial support to victims of this fire and other large scale disasters who were experiencing distress, sickness or other disability as a result of a tragedy. Since then, the Fund has provided financial support to those affected by a number of major incidents across Greater Manchester.

### Purpose of the Fund

To give monetary support for the relief of **immediate financial need**, as a result of a **disaster/emergency** involving loss of life or injury to multiple people or property within Greater Manchester.

To be eligible, an incident must be recommended as appropriate to apply for financial support from the fund by one of the following recognised individuals:

- Chair of GM Resilience Forum
- GMP Force Duty Officer
- Head of AGMA CCRU

### Indicators of Eligibility

To be recommended as eligible to apply to the Fund, it is expected that an incident would have triggered one of the following:

- A Civil Contingencies Act declared emergency:
  - (a) an event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare in a place in the United Kingdom,
  - (b) an event or situation which threatens serious damage to the environment of a place in the United Kingdom, or

(c) war, or terrorism, which threatens serious damage to the security of the United Kingdom.

- A multi-agency emergency declared by Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, North West Ambulance Service or one of the Greater Manchester local authorities. A multi-agency Strategic Coordinating Group or a multi-agency Tactical Coordinating Group formed with a Gold Strategy agreed.

### **What CANNOT be supported?**

- An incident which does not trigger any of the above, and/or which is not recommended as appropriate by one or more of the recognised individuals.
- An incident where the majority of those affected reside outside of the ten boroughs comprising Greater Manchester.

### **Who can Apply**

Once an incident has been recognised as eligible, Forever Manchester would invite applications to be submitted by the Local Authority where the incident occurred. If an incident affects multiple Local Authorities, all affected Local Authorities can apply but they must liaise with other applicant Authorities to ensure there is no duplication. The Fund can only support applications for incidents which occur within, or have significant impact upon, one of the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester.

The use of the Fund is for cases where there is no possibility of gaining financial assistance from elsewhere. The application needs to demonstrate that this is the case.

### **How much can you apply for?**

There is no upper limit on amounts that can be applied for, however the Fund will only support costs relating to **immediate and/or short-term needs** caused by the disaster, which cannot be funded through any other source. The applicant authority will need to clearly outline how they meet these criteria within their application.

## **How to complete the Application Form**

Please complete all sections of the application form in full. The Fund aims to provide a response as quickly as possible, and any missing information may delay decisions and relevant payments.

## **Contact Details**

Please give all your contact details accurately as we aim to keep our records as complete as possible. With Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund applications, where possible, we try to communicate via the telephone to ensure the swift progress of the application.

## **Finances**

Please give full details of the bank account into which any monies awarded should be paid. Funds will be paid directly into the bank account indicated on the application form once approved.

Only affected Local Authorities can apply for the Fund. If successful, Forever Manchester would pay the Local Authority directly and the Local Authority would be responsible for distributing to individuals as required.

## **Reporting**

Local Authorities receiving monies through the Greater Manchester Disaster Relief Fund will be expected to report back on how funds have been spent and provide evidence. Any funds not spent in line with the award offer must be returned.

## **Application support**

Applicants will be provided with direct contact details for a senior member of the Forever Manchester team who will be able to support them with their application.

## **Submitting your application**

Once the application has been fully completed, please submit it to [awards@forevermanchester.com](mailto:awards@forevermanchester.com), and call 0161 2140940 to confirm that you have submitted your application. This will allow us to ensure your application is processed as quickly as possible. For submissions likely to be submitted outside of office hours, alternate contact details will be provided to the applicant.