



Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP)

Oral Histories Consultancy Opportunity

Timescales: September 2025 – April 2027

Budget: £2500

Reporting to: CEO of GMCDP

Closing date: Sunday 19th October 2025

Notification date: Week commencing Monday 27th October – TBC

About; Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP)

We are a disabled people's organisation, 100% run and controlled by disabled members. We campaign for the rights and inclusion of disabled people and promote the Social Model of Disability. We bring disabled people across our region together to fight discrimination, influence local policy, and preserve our movement's heritage. Our mission statement is:

“To promote the full inclusion of disabled people in society and challenge the discrimination and oppression of disabled people.”

www.gmcdp.com

About; The Disabled People's Archive

The Disabled People's Archive (DPA) is run in partnership with Archives+ and records the history of disability activism in Manchester, Britain and around the world. This collection is the largest disabled people's archive in England, and is hosted by GMCDP and stored at the Manchester Central Library. The project exists to give disabled people access to their own history, and to work with other archives, libraries, and other services to make heritage more accessible. Recently, the Disabled People's Archive team has catalogued a significant part of the collection and is working towards presenting this history in an accessible way to disabled people across Greater Manchester.

About; The Accessing Our Hidden History Project

Funded by The National Heritage Lottery Fund

August 2025 – April 2027

GMCDP has recently secured £237,928 in support from The National Heritage Lottery Fund to ensure this important collection is now showcased and fully accessible to disabled people - ensuring our history does not remain hidden.

We aim to launch our project in late 2025 during GMCDP's 40 years anniversary celebrations, celebrating the work of individuals, groups and organisations within the Disabled People's Movement. We will do this through a series of events, workshops, archive sessions and a community archive outreach programme, blending in-person, hybrid and online opportunities throughout. We will also be carrying out opportunities to contribute to our archive, including through oral histories activities. There is an action learning approach embedded within our project.

About; Consultancy Opportunity

GMCDP seeks a qualified oral historian to support our project in its entirety through providing oversight, guidance and advice in our approach to oral histories. It is important to us that oral history interviews (and associated activity) are carried out by disabled people, with disabled people, to ensure representative interviews. Capacity building is therefore an important

element of this project, building skills across our project staff team, volunteers and active members in GMCDP.

We wish to ensure we are developing these skills as an organisation, facilitating embedding of learning, and creating a legacy outcome of this project. GMCDP staff, volunteers and members will access oral histories training, at the onset of the training, to provide them with the knowledge and skills to begin to deliver oral histories interviews (at least 18 across a 20-month project). Given our organisation is building the skills knowledge and experience in this new area, we seek to ensure our newly trained interviewers are supported and guided, to ensure industry standards in our approach, design and delivery of oral history work.

This consultancy post will provide:

- Guidance and expertise in the design and approach of our oral histories project activities as part of our development phase, ensuring industry standards are embedded from the onset (September–December 2025)
- Ongoing support, advice and guidance to the GMCDP team as a “point of call” in delivery and approach
- Participate in four of our project evaluation sessions; to enable action learning and ensure our delivery, approach and quality is to industry standards

Applying for this role:

Please specify, in no more than 4 sides of A4:

1. Your experience and knowledge, e.g.:

- Knowledge of oral history theory and methodology
- Experience of oral history interviewing
- Experience of oral history projects
- Knowledge of ethical and legal considerations connected with oral history
- Knowledge of the key requirements to prepare oral history material for archiving, including metadata and informed consent
- Practical knowledge of digital recording technologies
- Experience of using audio editing software
- Experience of video oral history
- Experiences of working with communities

2. The approach/ methodology you would use to meet the aims and objectives of the work
3. How you would support GMCDP in increasing its oral history knowledge, skills and approach, in an accessible and inclusive way

Please send this to info@gmcdp.com no later than noon on Sunday 19th October 2025. Please mention the job title in the email subject line.

GMCDP will use the following criteria in assessment:

- the degree of understanding of the issues demonstrated by the bidder
 - the appropriateness of the proposed methodology and methods
- the degree of experience to complete the work demonstrated by the bidder

This role has been made possible through funding by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

