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NIHR

National Institute
for Health Research



VOCAL

Bringing people &
research together



VOCAL

Who are Vocal?

Creating
opportunities for
people to find out
about and have a
say in research



Vocal Values

Our ambition is that **all home-grown research** in Greater Manchester and across the North West is developed **in partnership** with people and communities, and its outcomes are invested back into the population through **better health and social care**.

Our Vocal values are:



Working
Together

Everyone
Matters

Driving
Excellence

Innovating

Vocal's Approach

Collaboration is vital in health research, to help make research more **equitable**.

Involvement

Research done
“with” or “by”
people, not “to”,
“about” or “for”
them.



Engagement

Sharing research
with wider
audiences, to
stimulate interaction
& dialogue.



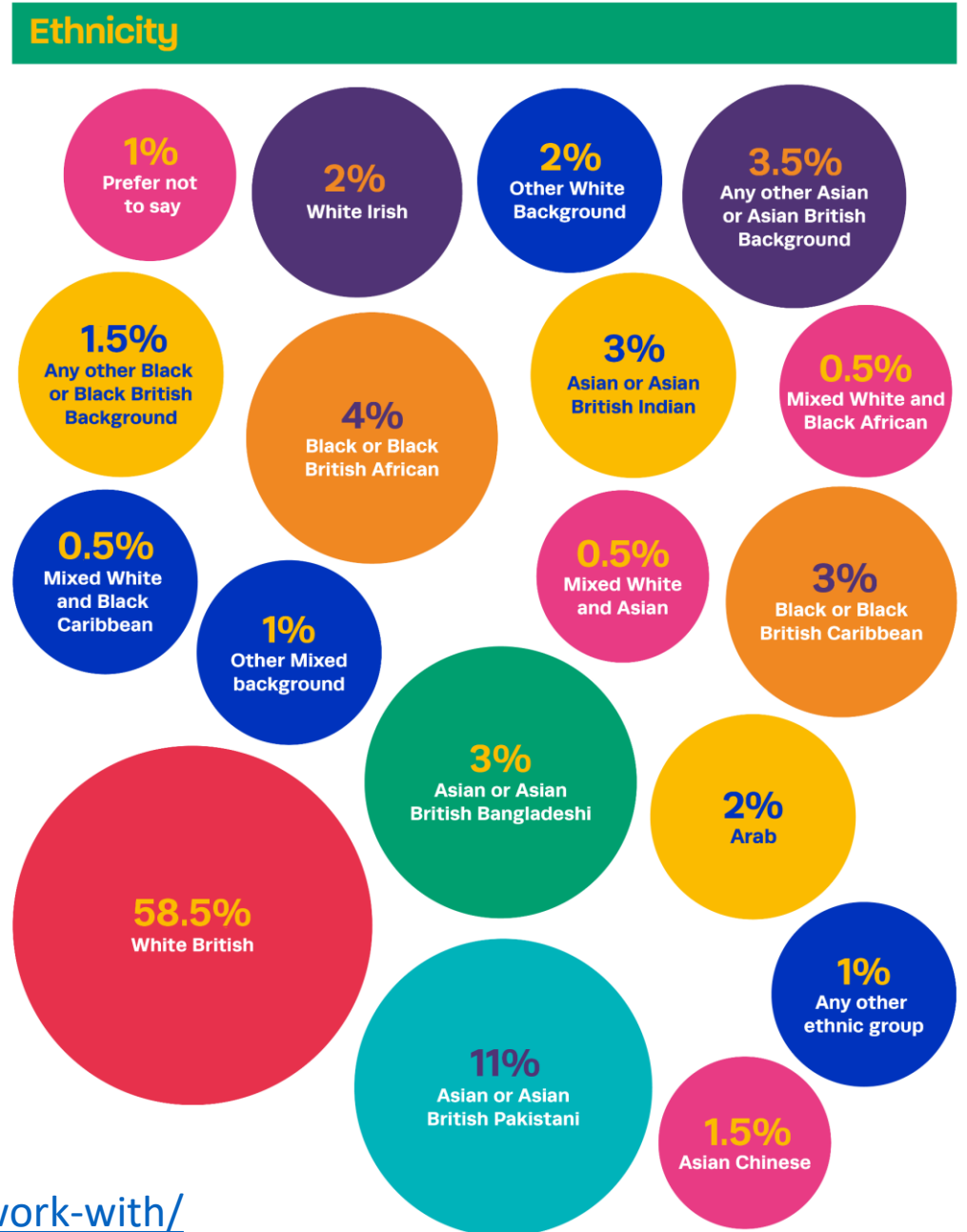
Benefits of getting involved in research

- **People's sense of themselves and their agency.** Empowerment, skills, knowledge & confidence
- **More diverse research perspectives:** researchers having their eyes opened to new ways of thinking; research is richer.
- **Trust between researchers and communities,** by fostering respectful and reciprocal relationships.
- **Implementation and change,** by supporting how research findings can change health service delivery and policy



Who we work with

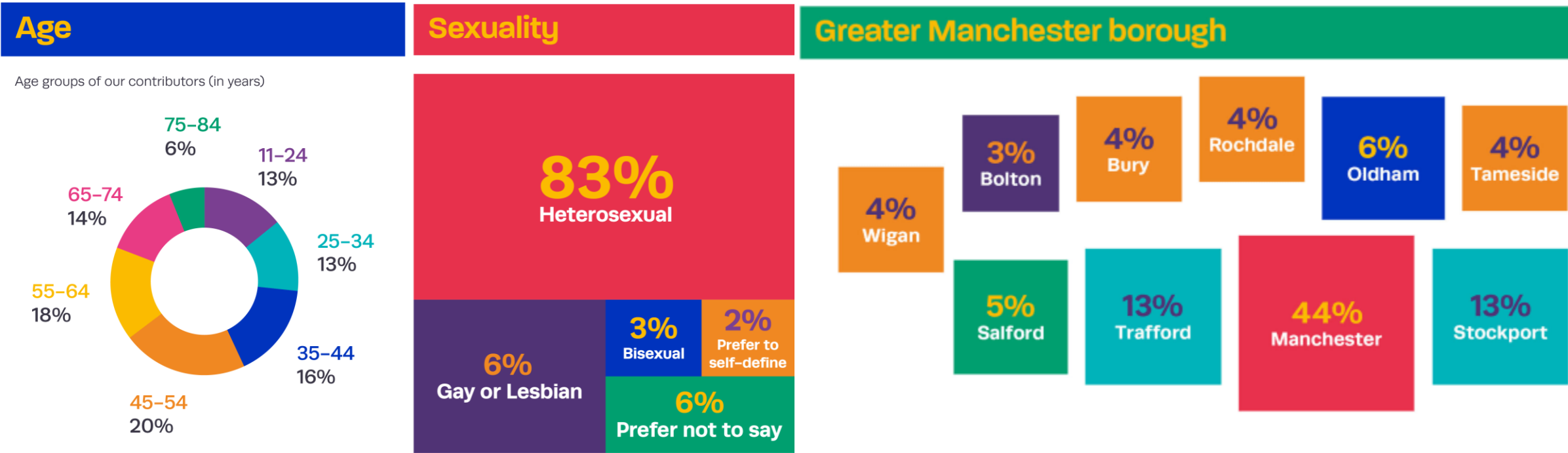
- We prioritise **diversity** and **inclusion** in our work
- Understanding what difference we're making to research and the people involved in our work is important to us.
- We invite people to provide information about themselves - people don't have to share this information with us and they can still join in without providing it.



More info here: <https://wearevocal.org/wlrs/listen-up/the-people-we-work-with/>

Who we work with

This is a snapshot of who we currently work with – this informs our work on an ongoing basis. If we identify that we’re not reaching a group of people, we make extra efforts to engage them.





**How might we work
together?**



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Working with us

- Equitable relationships between voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) organisations and research institutions are a foundation for **inclusive** research
- We will always start with **listening** and work with you to understand your interests and priorities
- There's different ways that we can **work together**
- You can find out how we're partnered with different organisations here:
<https://wearevocal.org/wlrs/latest/>

Staying
updated
about Vocal
opportunities

Partner with
Vocal on a
research
project

Share Vocal
opportunities
with your
networks

Co-develop a
funding bid

Working with us – what we can offer you

- Our partnerships are built on **equality**, everyone's role is valued
- Our partners time, resource, skills and knowledge are **recognised and reimbursed**
- **Reciprocity** is important – we'll work with you to understand what you want from the partnership.
- Many of our partners go on to take part in lots of different Vocal activities – we'll always look to create a **sustainable** way of working.

Have a voice
in health
research

Mutually
beneficial
partnerships
built on trust

Long-term
relationships
and future
opportunities

Reciprocity,
respect &
renumeration



**What does
involvement in
research look like?**

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What we do

Share Power

Europaia: we worked with Europaia's cultural expertise and community connector to help researchers to engage Roma women on the sensitive topic of cervical screening to shape research about how cervical screening kits could be improved.

"I now know the importance of cervical cancer screening and why it is beneficial to women's health. But most importantly I feel empowered to know that my voice can make a difference in how the screening process will look for the women in Manchester and even further.

- Workshop participant



What we do

Community Conversations

LGBT Foundation: We held creative workshops which brought the LGBTQIA+ community, a researcher and an artist together to explore cancer experiences, health inequalities and data, to co-produce a zine to be shared digitally and with GP practices in Manchester.



What we do

Actively involve communities in shaping research

PALOH: We brought together researchers with parents of babies on NICU to get lived experience input into the study design, recruitment strategy, ethics, consent process, patient information and sharing of research results. The genetic test that was designed and tested in this study is now saving babies' hearing.

“I wouldn't think of doing a study without patient input now.” – Professor Bill Newman



Thank you

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 @letsgetvocal

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wearevocal.org

Collaborate with researchers
to evaluate the design and
outputs

Identify topics for
research

Prioritising/
Shaping
Research

Research
Design

Clarify the Research
question

Evaluation

Have continued
involvement in study to
maintain focus

Grant
Development/
Gaining funding

Ensure methods are
ethical

Implementation

Develop patient
information for new
services

Define outcome
measures

Recruitment and
Conducting
Research

Help write patient study
protocol/consent forms

Dissemination

Jointly present findings

Analysing and
Interpreting

Inform researchers how they
interpret the data

