



## **Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

Date: Wednesday, 4 November 2020

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Virtual meeting - Webcast at

[https://manchester.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/485329](https://manchester.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/485329)

### **Advice to the Public**

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

Under the provisions of these regulations the location where a meeting is held can include reference to more than one place including electronic, digital or virtual locations such as internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers.

To attend this meeting it can be watched live as a webcast. The recording of the webcast will also be available for viewing after the meeting has concluded.

## **Membership of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

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### **Councillors –**

Sameem Ali, Alijah, Cooley, Hewitson, T Judge, Kilpatrick, Lovecy, McHale, Madeleine Monaghan, Reeves, Reid, Sadler, Stone (Chair) and Wilson

### **Co-opted Members -**

Ms S Barnwell, Ms Z Derraz, Mr L Duffy, Ms J Fleet and Mrs J Miles

## Agenda

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- 1. Urgent Business**  
To consider any items which the Chair has agreed to have submitted as urgent.
- 2. Appeals**  
To consider any appeals from the public against refusal to allow inspection of background documents and/or the inclusion of items in the confidential part of the agenda.
- 3. Interests**  
To allow Members an opportunity to [a] declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and [b] record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax/Council rent arrears; [c] the existence and nature of party whipping arrangements in respect of any item to be considered at this meeting. Members with a personal interest should declare that at the start of the item under consideration. If Members also have a prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of the item.
- 4. Minutes** 7 - 12  
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2020.
- 5. Update on Opening of Schools for All Children and Young People** 13 - 20  
Report of the Director of Education  
  
This report provides a further update on the full reopening of schools for all pupils in the Autumn term with a specific focus on school attendance.
- 6. Children and Young People's Plan 2020 - 2024** 21 - 30  
Report of the Strategic Director of Children's and Education Services  
  
This report presents the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2020 – 2024. It provides an overview of the process that was undertaken in collaboration with children and young people in Manchester and members of the Children's Board. It highlights how the final product is aligned to other strategic plans and identifies sharper and more ambitious, key priorities, ways of working and measures of success.
- 7. Learning and Impact from the Quality Assurance Framework** 31 - 50  
Presentation of the Strategic Lead for Safeguarding

This presentation provides an overview of the learning and impact from the Quality Assurance Framework.

**8. Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and Strategy for 2021/22 - to follow**

**9. Budget Options for 2021/22 - to follow**

**10. Overview Report**

51 - 60

Report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

This report provides the Committee with details of key decisions that fall within the Committee's remit and an update on actions resulting from the Committee's recommendations. The report also includes the Committee's work programme, which the Committee is asked to amend as appropriate and agree.

## Information about the Committee

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Scrutiny Committees represent the interests of local people about important issues that affect them. They look at how the decisions, policies and services of the Council and other key public agencies impact on the city and its residents. Scrutiny Committees do not take decisions but can make recommendations to decisionmakers about how they are delivering the Our Manchester Strategy, an agreed vision for a better Manchester that is shared by public agencies across the city.

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee reviews the services provided by the Council and its partners for young people across the city including education, early years, school standards and valuing young people.

In addition to the elected members the Committee has seven co-opted member positions. These are:

- Representative of the Diocese of Manchester – Vacant
- Representative of the Diocese of Salford – Mrs Julie Miles
- Parent governor representative – Ms Samantha Barnwell
- Parent governor representative – Vacant
- Parent governor representative – Ms Zainab Derraz
- Secondary sector teacher representative – Mr Liam Duffy
- Primary sector teacher representative – Ms Joanne Fleet

The co-opted members representing faith schools and parent governors are able to vote when the Committee deals with matters relating to education functions.

The Council wants to consult people as fully as possible before making decisions that affect them. Members of the public do not have a right to speak at meetings but may do so if invited by the Chair. If you have a special interest in an item on the agenda and want to speak, tell the Committee Officer, who will pass on your request to the Chair. Groups of people will usually be asked to nominate a spokesperson. The Council wants its meetings to be as open as possible but occasionally there will be some confidential business. Brief reasons for confidentiality will be shown on the agenda sheet.

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Agenda, reports and minutes of all Council Committees can be found on the Council's website [www.manchester.gov.uk](http://www.manchester.gov.uk)

Smoking is not allowed in Council buildings.

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## Further Information

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For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact the Committee Officer:

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This agenda was issued on **Tuesday, 27 October 2020** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 3, Town Hall Extension (Lloyd Street Elevation), Manchester M60 2LA.

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## **Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2020**

**This Scrutiny meeting was conducted via Zoom, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Stone – in the Chair  
Councillors Sameem Ali, Alijah, Cooley, Hewitson, Kilpatrick, Lovecy, Madeleine Monaghan, Reeves, Reid and Wilson

#### **Co-opted Voting Members:**

Ms S Barnwell, Parent Governor Representative

#### **Co-opted Non Voting Members:**

Mr L Duffy, Secondary Sector Teacher Representative  
Ms J Fleet, Primary Sector Teacher Representative

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children and Schools  
Jordan Navarro, Manchester Parent Carer Forum

#### **Apologies:**

Councillors T Judge and McHale

### **CYP/20/36 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2020.

### **CYP/20/37 Update on Opening of Schools and Colleges For All Children and Young People**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education which provided an update on the full reopening of schools for all pupils in September and the current challenges faced by schools. It provided an overview of the work that had taken place in Manchester to support school leaders at this time. The report also noted that, through the learning and education system, children were informed about and understood environmental issues and the negative impact of carbon; promoting safe and healthy lives.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report, which included:

- Attendance;
- Infection control;

- Workforce and wellbeing;
- Newly Qualified teachers (NQTs);
- Remote learning;
- Post-16; and
- Our Children (Looked After Children) and the Virtual School.

Some of the key points and themes that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- To thank schools staff for all their work in re-opening schools to all pupils;
- To recognise the support that the Council's Education Service was providing to schools;
- The additional challenges and pressures on school staff, including head teachers and senior leadership teams, and how their mental wellbeing could be supported;
- That schools were taking different approaches to the 'bubbles' of pupils who were in contact with each other and what was being learnt about what was and was not working in terms of infection control;
- Remote learning, including how this was being monitored and evaluated, and noting that some children did not have their own laptop and did not have access to a reliable internet connection;
- The increase in families deciding to home educate their children and how much of this was due to fears over sending their children to school during a pandemic;
- The availability of tests for COVID-19; and
- The impact on pupils in Year 11 and Year 13 who were due to take examinations in the summer of 2021.

The Director of Education reported that more was being learnt about how to reduce infection risk and what worked well and that best practice was being shared regularly with all Manchester schools. She advised the Committee that the Council's Health and Safety Team was working with her service and schools to reduce the risk. She reported that the more information schools held, for example, on children's playtimes and where they had sat for lunch, the more schools could narrow down who had been in close contact with an infected pupil, therefore, reducing the number of pupils who needed to self-isolate.

The Director of Education informed Members about the new statutory duty for local authorities to monitor and evaluate remote learning and outlined how her service was doing this through visits to schools by independent Quality Assurance professionals. She advised Members that a number of options were being looked at to help pupils who did not have access to wifi, such as dongles and providing paper copies of materials.

The Director of Education advised Members that, during lockdown, some families had found that having their children learning at home worked well for them but that some of the requests to home educate did stem from anxiety about sending children back to school. She outlined the approaches being taken, stating that many parents were ringing the Council's attendance helpline to talk through the situation and their



options. She advised Members that conversations were also taking place between the school and the family, ensuring that they understood the full implications of home education, such as losing their child's school place, and looking for solutions, which in some cases, particularly in special schools, could include some remote learning. The Executive Member for Children and Schools praised the work of the Council's Attendance Team in advising parents who were anxious about sending their children back to school.

The Director of Education informed Members that all schools which were members of the Manchester Schools Alliance (MSA) could access an Employee Assistance Scheme, including counselling and other mental health support, for free and that the MSA and her service were looking at how to promote this more; however, she reported that a few schools were not members of the MSA and discussions were taking place about how to ensure these schools were providing appropriate support to staff.

The Director of Education informed the Committee that every school had been sent ten COVID-19 testing kits which they could use where there was difficulty in accessing tests through the normal channels and that these could be re-ordered through the Department for Education (DfE) as necessary. She advised Members that she shared their concerns about the impact of the pandemic on Year 11 and Year 13 pupils, noting that in areas such as Manchester where infection rates were higher, pupils were more likely to have to spend part of the academic year isolating at home but would be compared and competing with other pupils nationally who had been less affected. She commented that even good quality remote learning was not the same as being at school and that some children faced additional challenges, such as not having a quiet space at home where they could study. She informed Members that she would be raising this with Ofqual and through other forums.

## **Decision**

To agree that future updates will focus on school attendance data and any new developments or significant changes to the current situation.

[Councillor Alijah declared a personal interest as a deliverer of initial teacher training.]

## **CYP/20/38 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Update and the Response to COVID-19**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education which detailed the actions taken by the Council, health services and education settings to support children and young people with SEND and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report, which included:

- Changes in Government legislation in relation to children with SEND;
- Participation and co-production with parents/carers;
- Young people's experiences, views and engagement;
- The Local Offer and the Information Advisory Service;

- Multi-agency working and joint commissioning;
- Quality and impact of Education, Health and Care assessments and plans;
- Elective Home Education;
- Inclusion;
- The continuum of provision in Manchester;
- Transition Planning Team;
- Short breaks and personal budgets;
- Workforce development; and
- Regional networking.

Jordan Navarro, Chair of Manchester Parent Carer Forum explained the role of the Forum. He informed the Committee that Forum members were all parents or carers of children with SEND so other parents felt able to approach them and they were able to represent the views of this group in meetings with the Council. He reported that the Forum had always had a good relationship with the Council's SEND Team and that, during the pandemic, this had strengthened further and they had also developed relationships with other Council teams which had had a positive impact.

Jordan Navarro highlighted that some children with SEND found it difficult to attend a COVID-19 testing centre (for example, autistic children who found the number of people and the queuing difficult) but families had sometimes struggled to access home testing kits. He reported that the Forum had carried out a survey on COVID-19 testing centres and children with SEND, the results of which he would share with the SEND Team.

The Head of School Quality Assurance and Strategic SEND informed the Committee that nurses had visited the homes of children with complex SEND to carry out COVID-19 tests and that this had worked well. She reported that her service had communicated to the DfE the success of this approach and the challenges being experienced by some families in getting their children with SEND tested. Schools, including special schools, were also now able to provide home testing kits to families where necessary. She acknowledged that this has been a challenging area, although there had been some improvements and she welcomed the opportunity to see the results of the survey Mr Navarro referred to and hearing any suggestions from parents of children with SEND on how this could be improved.

In response to a Member's question on how children with autism were affected by the changes in how schools were operating, the Head of School Quality Assurance and Strategic SEND reported that so far it seemed that the increased structure and calmer atmosphere, for example, around lunchtime and in school corridors was beneficial for children with autism. She highlighted that the number of exclusions since pupils had returned to school was lower than in previous years.

In response to a Member's question about Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), the Head of School Quality Assurance and Strategic SEND advised Members that, although the timescales for completing these had been relaxed during the pandemic, the Council had still aimed to complete them within 20 weeks. She reported that, although many families were still waiting longer than this at present, changes had been implemented to improve the timeliness and quality of the plans, new staff had been recruited and progress was already being made. A Member

welcomed the changes being made, including engaging with parents at an earlier stage in the process.

The Chair thanked everyone who had been involved in supporting children and young people with SEND during the pandemic.

### **Decision**

To note the report and that the Committee would continue to monitor support for children and young people with SEND.

### **CYP/20/39 Responding to the Needs of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children**

The Committee received a presentation from Children's Services which provided information on responding to the needs of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC).

Officers delivered the presentation which referred to:

- Presenting issues;
- Increasing demand in related areas;
- Manchester's multi-agency offer;
- Education and attainment outcomes;
- The Council's pledge to Our Children and Young People (Looked After Children and Care Leavers) affected by Brexit immigration changes;
- Partnership working; and
- Case studies.

Some of the key points and themes that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- Concern that local Ward Councillors had not been informed about asylum seekers housed in a hotel in their area, noting that Ward Councillors could provide help to these people;
- Concern that an application for settled status had been refused because the child had a criminal conviction;
- Educational attainment of UASC;
- Trafficking of children; and
- Age assessments of asylum seekers.

The Chair requested that Members be provided with a briefing note about the hotel which was accommodating asylum seekers.

The Executive Member for Children and Schools praised the Council's work in this area and the commitment of staff. He reported that the Immigration Aid Unit had praised the Council's work in relation to the pledge and young people affected by Brexit immigration issues. He advised Members that, although the pandemic had affected people's ability to provide documents and secure their status, the government had not allowed for this by changing their deadline for settlement

schemes. He suggested that the Committee might want to look at this issue as the deadline approached next year.

The Service Lead informed Members that trying to keep children within Manchester, living with Manchester-based foster carers, led to the best results, partly because of the role of Manchester's Virtual School in supporting Our Children. She reported that the children were assessed before they started school so that they were placed in the right ability group and support was provided for any special needs. She informed the Committee that, of the UASC leaving care, around 86% were in Education, Employment or Training. She reported that her service was mindful that some children might be trafficked into the country or vulnerable to modern day slavery, that she was a member of the multi-agency Modern Day Slavery Partnership Group working to address these issues and that staff in her service received training on modern day slavery. She advised Members that her service had a robust, legally sound process in place for age assessments, noting that adults could try to present as children but also that children could attempt to present as adults.

The Chair thanked officers for the presentation and their work.

### **Decision**

To request that Members be provided with a briefing note about the hotel which is accommodating asylum seekers.

### **CYP/20/40 Overview Report**

A report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit was submitted. The overview report contained key decisions within the Committee's remit, responses to previous recommendations and the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to approve.

A Member requested an update on the issues raised at the Committee's February 2020 meeting regarding non-Manchester children being placed in children's homes in Manchester and about training for Members on child sexual exploitation. The Chair asked that the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services update Members on this.

### **Decisions**

1. To note the report and agree the work programme.
2. To ask that the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services update Members on the issues raised at the Committee's meeting in February 2020.

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - 4 November 2020

**Subject:** Update on opening of schools for all children and young people

**Report of:** Director of Education

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### Summary

This report provides a further update on the full reopening of schools for all pupils in the Autumn term with a specific focus on school attendance.

### Recommendations

The committee is asked to recognise the challenges faced by school leaders at this time and discuss the measures being taken by schools and colleges to increase school attendance whilst reducing the risk of infection within the school community. The committee is also asked to comment on the support provided by the Local Authority to encourage school attendance.

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**Wards Affected:** All

<b>Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city</b>
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Through the learning and education system children are informed and understand environmental issues and the negative impact of carbon; promoting safe and healthy lives.
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Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	It is important we build a safe, healthy, happy and successful future for all of Manchester's children so that they can benefit from and contribute to the sustainability of Manchester thriving, economically diverse and successful. Children and Education Services work with all schools and early years settings in Manchester to promote children's learning and engage with those children and their families who need help, support and protection. The aim is for children to be safe, healthy and make progress in terms of education, training, social development so that they are successful and contribute and benefit from living in Manchester.

A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Children and young people matter in Manchester. The work of the Children and Education Directorate is driven by a commitment to provide opportunities and achieve positive outcomes; building a safe, happy, healthy and successful future for all of the city's children and young people
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Increase the influence Manchester's children and young people have on decisions that impact on them by supporting and enabling their voice to be heard; promoting a fair and inclusive place to live and work.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	A safe and effective children and education system is important to promote the awareness and inclusion of children in the engagement of wider societal issues; which together with a successful education offer make Manchester a place parents choose to visit, live and work.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Continually improve outcomes for all children and 'reduce the gap' against the national attainment average

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

September opening of schools and colleges for all children and young people - paper presented to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee 5th September 2020

Update on opening of schools and colleges for all children and young people - paper presented to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee October 2020

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In Manchester, throughout the COVID-19 crisis, the majority of schools have remained open to vulnerable pupils and children of key workers and all schools and colleges have retained contact and an overview of their pupils/students. This has included a significant number remaining open for vulnerable children and key workers during the school holiday periods with many schools staying open during bank holidays as well. Following the easing of lockdown restrictions in June, Manchester schools safely increased the numbers of children who were able to access school and this offer by 13th July 2020 had increased to approximately 12 % of the school population. Following Government Guidance issued in July and subsequent Guidance in August, all schools were required to open to all children and young people in September 2020. In Manchester, all schools were allocated 2 additional training days to enable them to fully brief staff and prepare the learning environment and some schools then had a phased opening for their pupils. All schools were open to all of their statutory school age pupils by 14th September and overall attendance has increased to be between 78% and 83% despite rising infection rates.
- 1.2 Manchester has high numbers of disadvantaged children who have been particularly adversely impacted by the extended lockdown and continue to be impacted by the high infection rates in the North West leading to schools having to close bubbles or indeed year groups following positive cases.
- 1.3 From September, Manchester schools and Manchester Education Services have worked on improving the remote learning offer with schools attending webinars, sharing good practice and a Quality Assurance process focussed on the quality of the leadership, the curriculum and remote learning. The Government has now introduced legislation from 22nd October that all schools have a duty to provide immediate access to remote education when children cannot attend school due to COVID19. However, for a whole variety of reasons linked to disadvantage, including lack of digital access, lack of quiet spaces, food poverty, many children in the City will not be able access high quality learning, linked to national expectations when they are not in school, despite the best efforts of schools and families. There is also likely to be an impact on their physical and mental health. It is therefore important that we continue to support our schools and colleges to remain open for all children and young people, wherever possible.
- 1.4 All schools in Manchester have provided detailed risk assessments of the strong control measures that they have in place; for maintained schools these have been reviewed by our Health and Safety team and advice and support provided where these need to be strengthened. A sample of 10% of schools have now been visited by Manchester's Health and Safety team and in addition some schools have requested visits from the team to provide advice and support. The Health and Safety Executive have also been doing on site visits to schools in Manchester. Overall feedback from these visits has been positive about the measures being implemented in our schools to reduce the risk of infection. Learning from these visits is shared across schools and the

robust measures in place have led to proportionate response and has meant that when positive cases occur in schools the number of children and staff having to self isolate is mitigated.

- 1.5 In addition, where schools have had a significant number of positive cases across groupings, have needed to close for a short period of time or have experienced other complex issues, there have been Outbreak meetings. These have been held with school staff and other services including Public Health, Health and safety Team and senior Education officers to review the measures put in place at the school and consider any additional actions which need to be taken in order to increase safety and reduce the risk of infection.
- 1.6 By being in school, children and young people are in a managed and highly controlled environment for most of the week. School also provides an opportunity for education about containing the virus and control measures such as handwashing and good hygiene, maintaining physical distance, face covering for older children to be reinforced on a daily basis so that they become habitual.
- 1.7 However, most importantly by being in school, children have access to high quality lessons, the opportunity to learn and the opportunity to increase knowledge and skills.

## 2.0 Weekly School Attendance

- 2.1 Overall, headteachers are continuing to report that schools are very calm with children responding really positively to the changes and engaging well with their learning. Since schools have fully opened, attendance across the City has been over 80% each week. Please see table below:

Week Beginning	Overall Attendance
14th September	81%
21st September	80%
28th September	83%
5th October	84%
12th October	83.5%

These overall attendance figures include schools which have had to have partial closures due to positive covid-19 cases. However, as previously stated, these figures are taken from the DFE portal which is not a statutory requirement for schools to complete and therefore it is expected that these may change once validated attendance data is available.

- 2.2 Approximately, two thirds of schools at any one time in Manchester are fully open and do not have 'bubbles' at home self isolating due to COVID.



Attendance within these schools has been 88- 89% which compares favourably to a national figure of 89.6%. For example on the 7th October Manchester attendance for fully open schools was at 89% compared to 89.6% nationally.

- 2.3 The proportion of children with Education, health and care plans attending school is currently 76%, which is similar to the North West average of 76.1%. The proportion of children known to social care attending school each week averages 78 %, compared to 78.1% North West average. Currently comparison with national rates are not possible due to reporting changes.
- 2.4 The attendance team introduced an attendance helpline for professionals and parents/carers at the end of August; the team were available to answer any specific concerns or queries around attendance including being able to provide detailed information on each school's risk assessment. The attendance hotline has received positive feedback including from parents of children attending Special Schools and has received 230 calls to date. The main thematic reason for non- attendance is parental anxiety about Covid-19 and there has also been an increase in enquiries about elective home education. Schools, attendance officers in the Early Help hubs and the attendance team are all continuing to work to alleviate concerns and support children back to school.
- 2.5 In addition, to support school attendance, the Local Authority has provided translated versions of FAQ for schools and front line services to distribute to families, a model attendance policy and provided all schools with Welcome Back banners for railings over the summer so it was clear to communities that school were open in September. All front line Council services were also briefed and asked to support the return of all children to schools in September and this continues to be a focus for staff working with families.

## **2.6 Impact of COVID19 on school attendance**

Between 9th October and 15th October there were 58 new positive cases of COVID across school pupils and 64 new positive cases of staff in school. Overall 56 state funded schools reported positive cases - this is 30.4% of state funded schools in the City. However, this number has increased considerably in the last week.

- 2.7 These positive cases resulted in pupils and staff having to self isolate across the school system. Staff from the GM testing and tracing hub, Community infection team and Education are working with school leaders to minimise the impact on the school community and minimise the numbers of children who need to self isolate following a positive case in school. This for example has included reducing the size of bubbles, reducing opportunities for bubbles to mix at break times and the beginning and end of the school day and being able to provide detailed information such as seating plans for classrooms. This is resulting on a reduced number of adults and children being identified as a close contact of a positive case in many schools.

### 3.0 School Closures

Senior staff are working directly with school leaders to support them to keep schools open. This has included arranging support from neighbouring schools to provide school meals when kitchen staff have needed to self isolate and brokering leadership support for schools when school leaders have had to self isolate. However, during this term there have been times when schools have made the decision to close for a limited period of time because of staff shortages or to do a deep clean of the school. In total five Manchester schools have fully closed for a limited number of days during this period. In these cases, the Local Authority have worked with school leaders to minimise the closure time. This has included holding outbreak meetings where appropriate, securing leadership support for the school (in one case providing the leadership so the school could re open) and site visits from the Health and Safety team.

### 4.0 Virtual School

There has been a positive school attendance picture since the start of the Autumn Term for Our Children and Young People in Reception to Year 11. Where Our Young People are absent for coronavirus related reasons the Virtual School is asking Designated Teachers to provide more information within the young person's electronic PEP about the reasons for their absence and about the remote learning offer that they are accessing whilst unable to physically attend school. The breakdown of school attendance up to 16.10.20 across sectors is below:

School Type	Our Young People attending Manchester Schools	Our Young People attending Schools outside Manchester	Total attendance for all Our Young People
Primary	93.7%	93.8%	93.7%
Secondary	84%	88.6%	86%
All	88.8%	90.4%	89.5%
Special (extracted from data above)	78%	74.4%	78.9 %

### 5.0 Elective Home Education (EHE)

5.1 As previously reported, the numbers of families requesting to home educate their children has continued to increase and is 50% higher than previous years. Most parents/carers are citing anxiety about COVID19 as the reason for choosing to home educate. The total number of EHE new requests received since term started is 94. Since October 1st the overall number of children home educated is 473. Initial analysis suggests an increase in the proportion of families from black, asian and minority ethnic backgrounds choosing to

home educate and an increase in numbers of parents of children with special educational needs choosing to home educate, in particular where children have been diagnosed with Autism or have medical needs, including both physical and emotional. There is also an increase in numbers of families that are deemed to be providing a suitable education for their children following discussion with Local Authority officers. This could be that parents are more knowledgeable and confident following their experiences of having to educate their children during lockdown.

- 5.2 We have asked our headteachers to work with parents to ensure that they fully understand that by electing to home educate, their child will be removed from a school roll and will therefore not access the school's remote learning offer. All new cases are then being contacted by officers from Education who also discuss with parents the reasons why they want to home educate and ensure that parents who are not sending their child to school because they are anxious about this, understand their options and the implications of home education. The team also provide information to parents on home education and establish whether the education provided by the parent is suitable for the child.
- 5.3 For parents who do want to home educate, Manchester has a strong policy on EHE which is in line with DFE guidance for Local Authorities and for parents. Education officers contact all families both on initial notification of the decision to home educate and at least on an annual basis to assess suitability. Information is requested from Social Care, Health and previous school, as well as from parents, as part of the assessment. Parents are also sent newsletters and invited to networking events.
- 5.4 Arrangements are in place through the Admissions Team to return children to school should elective home education be deemed as unsuitable.

## **6.0 Exclusions**

- 6.1 As previously reported, schools are consistently reporting that behaviour in schools is good. For many children the arrangements in place to reduce the spread of infection which includes fewer classroom changes, staggered dining times and break times, use of separate entrances and exits in school etc have reduced times when pupils often feel anxious and/or are more likely to break school rules.
- 6.2 This continues to be reflected in the number of permanent exclusions which is much lower than usual for the Autumn term 1. To date there have been 8 permanent exclusions of Manchester children; 5 pupils from 4 Manchester Secondary schools and 3 pupils from schools outside of Manchester. There have been no permanent exclusions from primary schools. At this point in 2019 there had been 23 permanent exclusions from school; in 2018, there had been 18 permanent exclusions by the end of October and in 2017, there had been 37 permanent exclusions before work began on the Inclusion Strategy.

6.3 However, there has continued to be a high number of fixed term exclusions with 425 fixed term exclusions in September 2020 compared to 426 fixed term exclusions in September 2019. Reducing fixed term exclusions continues to be a priority.

## **7.0 Conclusion**

7.1 It is important that our schools continue to stay open for all pupils because of the long term impact of missing education, despite rising infection rates in the North West. The control measures in place in schools are working but this does mean that as part of their business as usual 'bubbles' of children will be sent home in response to a positive case when appropriate and that these children will access remote learning while at home. Very occasionally this has resulted in a full school closure, however these have been limited and schools encouraged to open as quickly as possible.

7.2 By being in school, children and young people are in a managed and highly controlled environment for most of the week. School also provides an opportunity for education about containing the virus and control measures such as handwashing and good hygiene, maintaining physical distance, face covering for older children to be reinforced on a daily basis so that they become habitual. This should impact on the implementation of these measures in households and the wider community.

## **8.0 Recommendations**

The committee is asked to recognise the challenges faced by school leaders at this time and discuss the measures being taken by schools and colleges to reduce the risk of infection within the school community and support all children and young people to continue to access education while in or out of school. The committee is also asked to comment on the support provided by the Local Authority to ensure that schools and colleges have the information, guidance and tools to put these measures in place.

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

<b>Report to:</b>	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 4 November 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Children and Young People’s Plan 2020 - 2024
<b>Report of:</b>	Strategic Director of Children’s and Education Services

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## Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the refreshed Children and Young People’s Plan 2020 – 2024.

Guided by the Our Manchester Strategy that sets the sustainable economic growth and success of the city as a place of choice to live and work. Children and young people matter in Manchester and it is vital that we invest in the next generation to build a successful, world class city that is full of opportunities. Manchester's Children and Young People’s Plan has brought together key partners and agencies to develop and deliver a series of priorities to build a safe, healthy, happy and successful future; whilst the key areas of focus (safety, health, employment, education, training and welfare) remain relevant today, the consensus amongst the partnership we can go further in our collective ambition for the City’s children and young people; driven by their views/voice and engagement.

The report provides an overview of the process that was undertaken in collaboration with children and young people in Manchester and members of the Children’s Board. The report highlights how the final product is aligned to other strategic plans and identifies a sharper and more ambitious, key priorities, ways of working and measures of success; which have young people and relationships at their heart of the approach and Our Manchester behaviours/principles so that together we will continue *‘building a safe, happy, healthy and successful future for children and young people’* in Manchester.

## Recommendations

It is recommended Scrutiny Committee members:

1. Note the completion of the Children and Young People’s Plan;
  2. Acknowledge the strategic importance of the document and consider the contents therein (plan on a page);
  3. Seek an annual progress report; and
  4. Provide their continued support to promote the plan throughout their civic duties to the wider Council and its partnerships, thus promoting a safe, happy, healthy and successful future for Manchester’s children and young people.
- 

**Wards Affected:** All

**Environmental Impact Assessment** - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

One of the key priorities for the Children and Young People's Plan is for children and young people to be able to live in a society where environmental issues are intrinsic to decision making. Key outcomes, including the reduction in hospital admissions for young people with asthma, can only be achieved if the plan has a specific focus on what can be done to improve the environment in which our children and young people live.

Our Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Innovation, creativity and learning are key themes that will be at the centre of the work done throughout the lifespan of the plan and we will look to inspire our children and young people to be in a position to fully contribute towards a thriving and prosperous economy.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	A thread running through the plan is to improve the education offer for children and young people and provide opportunities for high level skills to be developed which will ultimately result in a highly skilled, home grown and motivated workforce, which will provide a readymade talent pool that will be the bedrock of the future workforce for Manchester.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	The aim of the Children and Young People's Plan is for everyone in the City to have the same opportunities, life chances and potential to lead safe, healthy, happy and fulfilled lives, no matter where they are born or live.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	A key aspect of the Children and Young People's Plan is that we want all children and young people to be proud and passionate about living in Manchester and through the delivery of the identified priorities we will be able to ensure that Manchester remains a desirable place to live for the current and future generations.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	A generation of young, healthy, talented, innovative and highly skilled children and young people will provide an organic population and workforce which will enable Manchester to be a successful, world class City that is full of opportunities.

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

Manchester's Children and Young People's Plan 2016 - 2020

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Children and Young People's Plan articulates the Children's Board collective vision for children across Manchester and it underpins the work of the key stakeholders and agencies as the constituent membership. The refreshed plan provides a clear direction, priorities and outlines the measurable goals that need to be reached if the children's services partnership is to deliver its vision; Our Manchester – building a safe, happy, healthy and successful future for children and young people'.
- 1.2 Before starting work on the plan members of the Children's Board discussed what we wanted to achieve from the plan. The previous plan had been very well written and, from a strategic perspective, it covered all key areas and clearly outlined the Board's vision. However, it had limited impact in the wider community that we would have anticipated and when research was undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of how the plan had been communicated to stakeholders it became apparent that we had struggled to reach our intended audience – children and young people.
- 1.3 Given the above the Board challenged itself to come up with a document that not only helped us achieve our vision but was something that key stakeholders were not only aware of but were actively involved in promoting; connecting better to the views and aspirations of the city's children and young people. There was also the desire from the Board to not only move away from the previous format but also to produce a plan that was much more ambitious than the previous plan and one, which when implemented, would demonstrate the increasingly visionary and innovative nature of the Board and the wider partnership. The Children's Board has continued to challenge itself, develop and mature into a strong strategic partnership and the new Children's and Young People's Plan is reflective of the good work the Board has undertaken over the past couple of years.
- 1.4 To achieve our aim the Board agreed that rather than produce a plan in a more traditional format we would focus on a 'plan on a page' This one page plan would be precise and targeted and it would consist of our priorities, how we were going to implement them and the outcomes we were looking to achieve. The key decision as to why to take this approach was that the Board wanted this document to be a visual aid that was public facing and on display in schools, youth centres, Sure Starts and other prominent locations where young people frequent; a message that they have been listened to and a commitment to deliver what matters to them and improves their future. Through using this approach we will also ensure that the Children's Board will be held accountable by children and young people on the delivery of the priorities.
- 1.5 The development of the new plan, which can be found at **appendix 1**, was undertaken through a strategic planning process which fostered collegiality and created an opportunity for discussion on the direction of the plan and central to this was the input of children and young people.



- 1.6 Over a period of three months (towards the end of 2019) a number of workshops took place with groups of young people who represented a broad spectrum of youngsters from across Manchester. Groups, including the Pupil's Parliament, The Youth Council and the Youth Forum at Manchester Children's Hospital, identified what they wanted to be the key priorities for the plan under the headings happy, healthy, safe and successful. A vast number of ideas were proposed and the most popular suggestions were selected and these have formed the basis for the priorities that are core to the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan.
- 1.7 The priorities chosen were carefully selected to ensure close alignment with the Our Manchester Youth Offer Strategy 2020 - 2023 and during the consultation period a key emphasis was placed on providing young people with a platform to engage in the democratic process and affect change.
- 1.8 We had originally intended to launch the Children and Young People's Plan in early 2020 but the onset of Covid-19 impacted significantly on the timescales for the project and this has resulted in a slight delay in the relaunch. Despite the unexpected events the Children's Board have continued to discuss, amend and finalise aspects of the plan to ensure that the final version provides a document that will ultimately enable us to achieve our vision for the children and young people in Manchester.

## **2.0 Background - The Children and Young People's Plan**

- 2.1 The identified priorities were chosen after a significant period of consultation with partners and children and young people and they cover a wide spectrum of key issues that need to be addressed across social care, education and health. Having priorities that cover these areas highlights the broad range of work that falls under the remit of the Children's Board and it emphasises the strategic importance and value of the Board.
- 2.2 The value placed on the opinion and input from young people is clearly evidenced in priorities that focus on key issues such as e-safety, the environment and a significant focus on emotional and mental health provision. Through listening to and acting on the wishes of children and young people we have been able to develop a plan that not only can they relate to but one where they can also feel a sense of 'ownership'.
- 2.3 Involving children and young people is central to not only the plan but to all the work undertaken by the Children's Board. Board meetings are regularly co-chaired by a representative of the Youth Council and this enables the voice of children and young people to not only be heard but to also provide the platform to enable them to input into key strategic decisions that are being made that will ultimately impact on their peers.
- 2.4 Whilst identifying the key priorities the Board also wanted to challenge itself to identify a small number of 'passions' that would remain central and drive the work of the Board throughout the duration of the plan. The key criteria for the areas that we would be passionate about were:

- it must be achievable and measurable
- it would be something that would not be accomplished in the first year - it would need to run for the majority/duration of the plan
- it would 'make a difference' to children and young people in Manchester.

After much discussion we agreed on the 4 areas that have been identified in the plan. Whilst the aims are ambitious the Board believe that there is the collective skill, experience and determination within the partnership to ensure that we can work towards successfully achieving our goals.

- 2.5 Throughout the duration of the plan the Board will work steadfastly to ensure that we can implement strategies that will enable us to achieve our priorities and passions. The 'How we will do it' section on the plan highlights the key principles that will be followed which will allow us to translate our vision into reality.
- 2.6 The principles follow a strength based approach and they align closely to the strategic direction and methodology that is being adopted across the Council. There is a clear acknowledgement from the Board that we cannot achieve our aims through working in isolation and it will require the input from all stakeholders to ensure we reach our goals. Given this we have incorporated the 'Our Manchester' behaviours into the plan as these will help us to achieve buy in from others and help us to ensure we can make a difference.
- 2.7 As well as the alignment to the 'Our Manchester' strategy the Children and Young People's Plan has been developed to ensure that it also dovetails with other key strategic plans that have been developed, such as the refresh of the Manchester Locality Plan – Our Healthier Manchester 2019/2020. In addition recognising the challenges for many families associated with disadvantage and poverty; brought into greater focus as a result of the Covid19 pandemic.
- 2.8 The Calibration with the Manchester Locality Plan – Our Healthier Manchester 2019/2020 was done specifically to ensure that, at a strategic level, key partnerships across Manchester are working to achieve similar outcomes. This will enable the work of organisations to dovetail and provide the opportunity to pool resources and work as a collective to address the issues that are impacting on children and young people in Manchester.
- 2.9 A key focus of the Children and Young People's Plan is the 'How do we know if we have made a difference' section. In essence the metrics in this form the Outcomes Framework that will be used by the Board to measure progress against our key priorities and passions.
- 2.10 Working closely with the performance and research teams from Manchester City Council, Manchester Population Health Team and Manchester Health and Care Commission we were able to identify a significant number of key metrics that could be used to track the progress against our set targets. The metrics identified were presented to the Board and the members were then tasked with selecting the metrics that they wanted to form the basis of the Outcomes Framework.

- 2.11 A key rationale behind the board's decision making on which metrics to chose was wanting to focus our energies on outcomes which could be clearly measured and if achieved would make a positive and significant difference for children and young people. As a result of this it was agreed that the refreshed framework would be a significantly slimmed down version when compared to its predecessor.
- 2.12 Although there are less metrics in the new Framework, the ones selected will enable us to track and provide regular updates on progress. Another significant difference is that the metrics chosen will be listed on the C & YPP and therefore the work of the Board will be open to the scrutiny of children, young people and families in Manchester.
- 2.13 The Children's Board meets six times a year and at each of these meetings the latest data will be monitored and specific action plans will be designed and implemented to ensure we have a rigorous process in place that will enable the Board to monitor progress.

### **3.0 Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Children and Young People's Plan is ready to be launched. Originally the plan was to have a big launch event, which involved schools, members of the Children's Board and local media. However, the current situation has meant that this has had to be put on hold for the foreseeable future. Instead the plan will undergo a 'soft' launch before the end of this year, with the intention of having a full launch event, Covid-19 permitting, in 2021.
- 3.2 The immediate priority will be to get the new plan launched and shared within Manchester City Council, amongst the wider partnership and distributed to schools, colleges, youth centres and other identified locations. The ask of the Scrutiny Committee is that they fully endorse the Children and Young People's Plan and provide their strategic support throughout the duration of the plan.

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# Our Manchester, Our Children

## Manchester's Children and Young People's Plan 2020 - 2024

Building a safe, happy, healthy and successful future for children and young people

### Our Vision

Children and young people matter in Manchester and it is vital that we invest in the next generation to build a successful, world class city that is full of opportunities. The Plan highlights how agencies and organisations will work together with children and young people to ensure that they can enjoy a safe, happy, healthy and successful future.

### Priorities

Our key priorities over the next 4 years will be for all children and young people to:

- feel safe in their community and have a trusted adults they can speak to
- have an improved knowledge around e safety
- be able to access affordable, cultural, leisure, youth and sports opportunities
- have their voices heard and be recognised for their contributions and achievements
- be able to have quick and accessible access to emotional and mental health support
- have better education around physical and mental health issues
- be able to live in a society where environmental issues are intrinsic to decision making
- attend an education setting that is judged to be good or better and has high quality pastoral support
- be able to develop skills for life and access high quality careers advice and support

### Passionate about;

We know having a safe place to live, economic stability, literacy and good Health is important to having a successful future. This is why are passionate about:

- 1 – children living in safe, supportive and loving families
- 2 – reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training
- 3 – promote a love of reading from birth to adulthood
- 4 – reducing childhood obesity



**Our Manchester Behaviours**  
in everything we do we'll make sure that...

- > We work together and trust each other
- > We're proud and passionate about Manchester
- > We take time to listen and understand
- > We 'own' it and aren't afraid to try new things

### How we will do it

1

#### Place children and young people at the centre of everything we do.

This means not only the way we work directly with children through our services, but as a city as a whole. It is our ambition for Manchester to be a truly child-friendly city, and partners from statutory and voluntary and community sector organisations will work together to achieve this.

2

#### Listen to and respond to children and young people.

We will recognise and value the voices of children and young people in all areas of our work, listening to them and responding to what they tell us. Children and young people will have the opportunity to be active participants in shaping both policy and practice, as well as the future city.

3

#### Focus on strengths and building resilience.

We will focus on children's strengths and provide them with the support to build resilience and overcome obstacles. As part of this we will celebrate our children's and young people's successes and encourage them to reach their full potential. We will ask children what is important to them and what is good in their lives. We will then use this to help families build strength-based networks that capitalise on both human and community assets.

4

#### Emphasise the importance of prevention and early intervention.

We will intervene early through a range of universal and specialist services to ensure that every child and young person has the opportunity to thrive and succeed. A particular focus will be prevention and early help and tackling a range of issues centred around the child by providing a whole-system, multi-agency approach. 'Early help will be everyone's business'.

5

#### Provide the best start in life.

We will focus on improving outcomes in the first 1,000 days of a child's life. This period is critical to child development and if a baby's development falls behind in the first years of life, it is more likely to fall even further behind in subsequent years than to catch up with those who've had a better start. Through the effective integration and collaboration of frontline services at a local level we will look to break the cycle of health inequalities.

6

#### Innovation, creativity and learning will be at the centre of our planning and decision making.

Learning from research, practice and the experiences of children and their families are critical to informing how we develop and improve the way we engage and deliver services. We will embrace the knowledge, skills, and the experience of practitioners and Manchester's residents to ensure we continually improve the experiences and outcomes for children.

7

#### Working at a locality level we will deliver excellent support for vulnerable children and young people.

Through developing meaningful relationships and having an empowered, well trained, capable and stable workforce which is passionate about continually improving outcomes for all children.

8

#### Challenge poverty.

Our aim is for everyone in the city to have the same opportunities, life chances and potential to lead safe, healthy, happy and fulfilled lives, no matter where they are born or live. We need to work with these families to lift them out of poverty. We want all children and young people growing up in the city to achieve their potential.

### How we'll know if we have made a difference

- 1 – Number of children in need (LAC, CP, CiN)
- 2 – Number of children with a plan of permanence that is agreed and delivered within 18 months of receiving a specialist children's service
- 3 – Number of children and young people on a child protection plan
- 4 – Emergency hospital admissions for asthma in 0-19 year olds per 100,000
- 5 – Emergency hospital admissions for diabetes in 0-19 year olds per 100,000
- 6 – Emergency hospital admission rates for mental health related issues in 0-19 year olds per 100,000
- 7 – Reduction in the number of CYP aged 0-19 attending A&E departments with no follow-up required
- 8 – Infant mortality rates
- 9 – Reduction in hospital admissions for dental caries (tooth decay) at age 0-5 years
- 10 – Healthy weight – reduction in children in reception and year 6 classified as overweight or obese
- 11 – Under-18 conception rates
- 12 – Schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted
- 13 – KS2: % achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (all children)
- 14 – KS2: % achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (LAC)
- 15 – KS4: % achieving a good pass in English and Maths
- 16 – Increase in the number of schools who achieve silver/gold status as Rights Respecting Schools
- 17 – % Care Leavers known to be NEET % of LAC aged 16-17 known to be in EET
- 18 – Reduction in fixed and permanent exclusions from school
- 19 – Number of completed Early Help Assessments and Team Around the Family meetings



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# Learning and Impact from the Quality Assurance Framework



Julie Daniels Strategic Lead for Safeguarding 15th October 2020

**Our Journey:**

**COMPLIANCE**



**GOOD PRACTICE**

**Key Message** - No Magic Formula - QAF built on core belief of a skilled and confident workforce.



# Manchester Children's & Education Services

Working safely, effectively and efficiently to build a future for our children where they are safe, happy, healthy and successful.



Our Principles

Our Approach

Our Behaviours

Our Impact

“Our Story”

Our Principles

**Relationship Focused Practice**

The basis for change lies within the child's family relationships and network. Relationship focused practice engages with existing networks to build resilience and capacity to resolve difficulties and end harmful behaviours. It is non-judgemental, respectful engagement that honours children's, families and our own experiences, building on strengths and working together, with our partners, to develop empowered supportive and problem-solving networks.

We work together with children, residents and local services, and across public services like schools, health services, housing and the police, to do everything we can to build a safe, happy, healthy and successful future for Manchester's children and young people and their families.

Our Approach

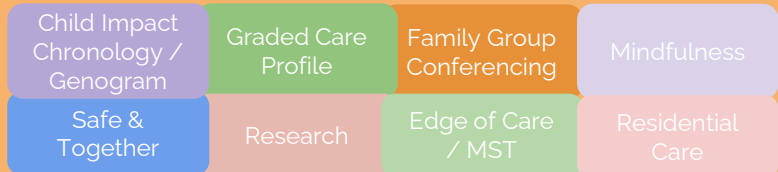
**Signs of Safety**



**Evidence Based & Knowledgeable**

Signs of Safety has been adopted by Manchester City Council Children's Services as the overarching practice framework for all of its work with children and families. This purposeful and collaborative way of working recognises families strengths and expertise to develop their own solutions to promote the safety and wellbeing for children and young people. Applying a stance of critical inquiry, asking our best questions to gain detailed, behavioural information, with examples, not making assumptions, remembering every family functions in it's own, individual environment.

Our work is informed and purposeful through the use of tools, complementary models, and research to evidence decision making and the most appropriate support and interventions.



Our Behaviours

**Intentional & Passionate**

**We Work With:**

↳ Children, families, our partners, communities and each other with a shared understanding.

**We Work skillfully:**

↳ Asking our best questions and taking time to listen to children, families, and partners to understand their stories,

**We Work to enable:**

↳ Using our knowledge, professional curiosity, making the best of opportunities to promote impactful. change.

**We Work to Strengthen:**

↳ Identifying, and building on what is working well. Being open, informed and responsive, validating strength and using healthy challenge,

Our Impact

**Goals & Objectives**

↳ For all children to have the opportunity grow up having fun, opportunities to take part in leisure and culture activities, and having good social, emotional, and mental wellbeing.

↳ Provide stability for children to allow them to have healthy, meaningful and supportive relationships, with less children living away from their families.

↳ To build increased resilience within children and families, ensuring children have a voice and opportunities to contribute in their community.

↳ Ensure children and families are safe, can aspire, succeed, live well and grow up healthy and happy.

# Manchester Children and Education Services Golden Threads

**WORKING WITH, NOT DOING TO**

**Signs of Safety**



# Quality Assurance Framework Background:

- Framework was revised through consultation with the workforce
- Implemented September 2019.
- Inclusive framework - incorporates Social Work, Early Help, Youth Justice, Complex Safeguarding.
- Ownership and engagement at every level of the service.
- The focus is on quality not just compliance.
- The framework is designed to drive the quality of practice.
- Reflective learning is an integral feature of the framework.

Month	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
September	0	7	0	1
October	2	19	35	5
November	1	3	10	1
December	0	3	9	1
January	1	19	37	4
February	0	5	8	2
March	1	5	3	2
April	6	29	30	3
May	1	5	7	1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12 (5%)</b>	<b>95 (36%)</b>	<b>139 (52%)</b>	<b>20 (8%)</b>

The table opposite relates to the outcomes recorded in the audits completed between: **Sep 2018 to May 2019** -

**\*\*NB This version of the framework had a greater emphasis on 'compliance'.**

Month	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
September	1	28	31	11
October	0	16	44	10
November	0	28	33	12
December	3	30	32	8
January	0	30	32	12
February	1	22	45	6
March	1	26	40	8
April	1	25	40	9
May	1	29	36	11
June	1	28	45	3
July	1	28	46	4
August	4	33	33	7
<b>Total:</b>	<b>14 (2%)</b>	<b>323 (36%)</b>	<b>457 (51%)</b>	<b>101 (11%)</b>

The table opposite relates to the outcomes recorded in the audits completed between:  
**September 2019 - August 2020**

**\*\*NB The revised framework has a greater emphasis on 'quality, impact and outcomes'.**

## Key findings from the last twelve months:

- Framework fully embraced and embedded within workforce.
- Enhanced assurance and oversight of practice.
- Framework enables learning at every level, from worker through to local assurance.
- Audit themes and findings have driven the training plan and targeted activity (dip samples).
- Consistent approach to the framework taken throughout the last twelve months-engagement from all has been as strong throughout Covid19 as the previous twelve months.

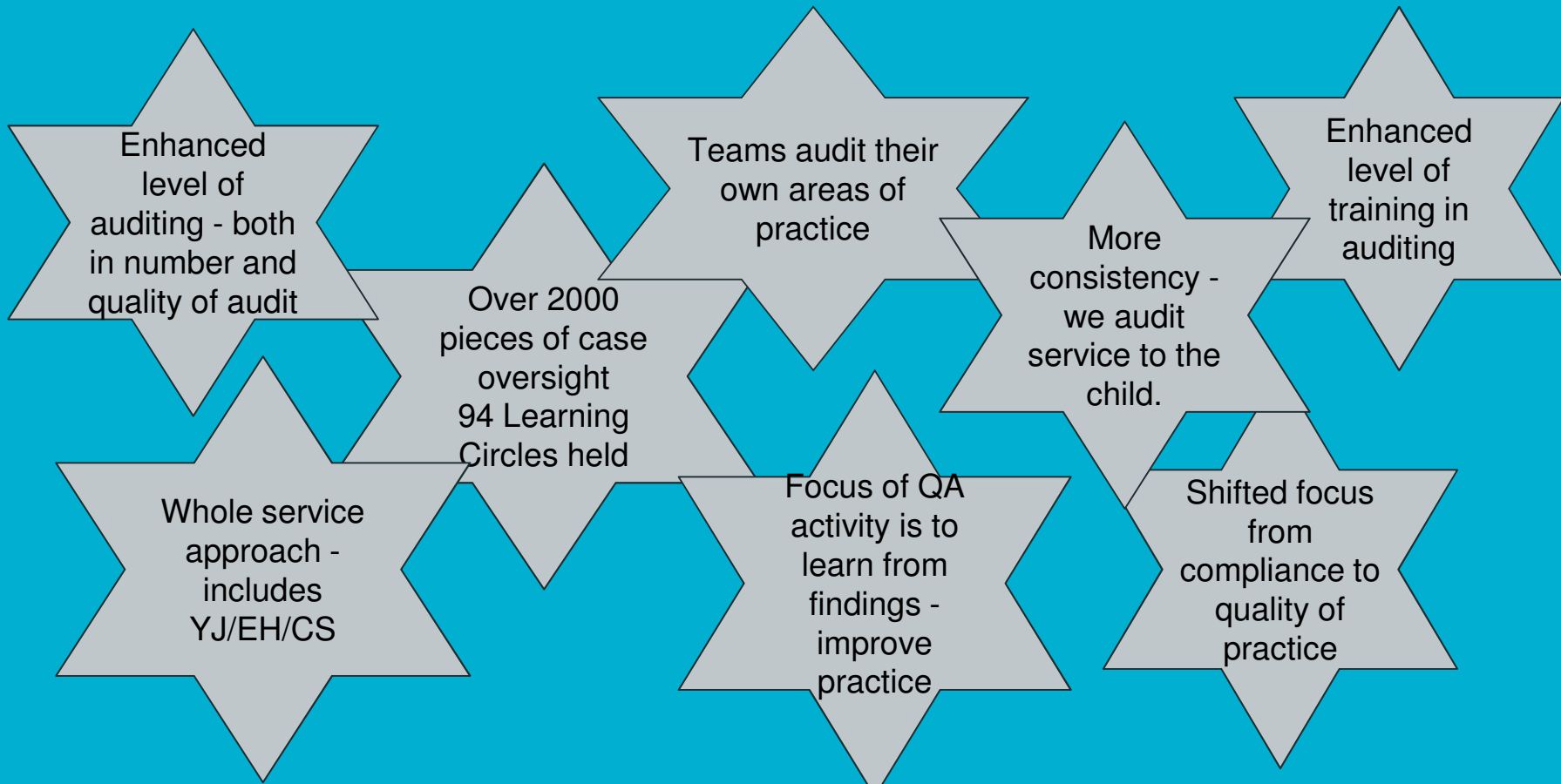
**INCREASED OWNERSHIP, & CONSISTENCY IN APPLICATION OF STANDARDS HAS BEEN UNDERPINNED BY A FRAMEWORK SUPPORTING COMPLIANCE & CONFIDENCE IN JUDGEMENTS.**

## Key data from the last twelve months:

- 2019/20- 895 Audits completed versus 2018/19, 266 (236% increase).
- 2019/20- 100% of Audits have been quality assured (moderated) by senior management.
- One audit system now focuses entirely on golden threads.
- 83% of all audits completed with key worker involvement- key shift in culture!
- 38% of children's records were judged as either Good or Outstanding.

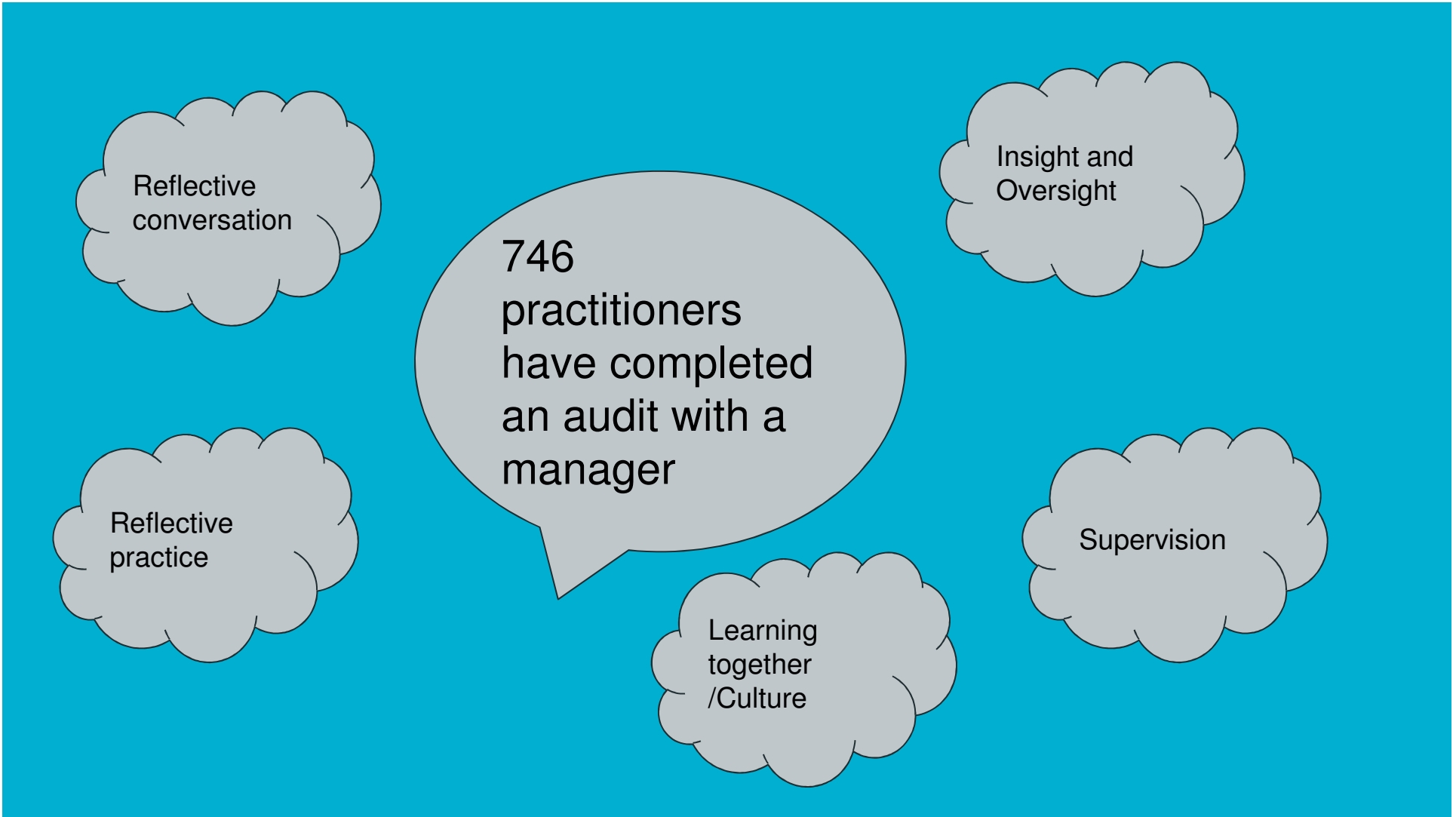


# The Impact.....



# QA ACTIVITY WALL:





# What are our strengths identified through the Quality Assurance Framework.

- Strong evidence of direct work with children
- Engaging families well
- Working in partnership with families
- Workers know their cases
- Supervisions are taking place regularly
- Impact chronologies are seen on child's file which tells their story
- Workers are showing a good understanding of practice models and tools (eg SOS)
- Informs plan, assessments and intervention.



## What are the themes for continued focus from the Quality Assurance Framework?

The following are highlighted as areas of focus across the directorate:

- Timeliness and quality of assessments
- Quality of plans and planning “with” families
- Permanence planning - From day one.
- Life story work
- Reflective Management oversight

**\*\*We should not be surprised as these are central to the ‘golden threads’ and framework.**

**A CONTINUED AND RELENTLESS DRIVE ON QUALITY OF PRACTICE IN THESE KEY AREAS.**

## How the QAF is influencing learning accross Children's Services.

- Developing a learning culture in Children's Services
- Informs and targets training
- Informs Social Work Consultant input directly with practitioners
- Locality meetings focused on the outcomes and Golden Threads
- Practice Improvement Forum
- Allows for targeted auditing which informs policy and planning
- Creation of a bank of Good or Outstanding Practice Audits
- Close the Loop Activity
- Appreciative Inquiry/Strengths based approach to learning,

## The Continued Journey. What next?

- As a service we continue to understand our practice and know ourselves well (hold the mirror up - reflect, review, respond)
- Gaining feedback from children, families and partners to enhance practice
- Learning from good practice (shift from deficit model to a learning model)
- Wider learning network and evidence of **impact** from findings from QA - (Localities, City wide, Partners)
- Inclusive learning



# Practitioners Experience of the Quality Assurance Framework.

- Embracing QA and being assured -  
The difference it makes.
- Impact on teams/services
- Impact on child/family

Tricia Ramarozafy  
Youth Justice

Elizabeth Hadfield  
Social Work Consultant



# Questions

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**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 4 November 2020  
**Subject:** Overview Report  
**Report of:** Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

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**Summary**

This report provides the following information:

- Recommendations Monitor
- Key Decisions
- Items for information
- Work Programme

**Recommendation**

The Committee is invited to discuss the information provided and agree any changes to the work programme that are necessary.

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**Contact Officer:**

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**Wards Affected:** All

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**Background Documents (available for public inspection):**

None

## 1. Monitoring Previous Recommendations

This section of the report contains recommendations made by the Committee, responses to them, if they will be implemented, and if it will be, how this will be done.

Date	Item	Recommendation	Action	Contact Officer
8 January 2019	CYP/19/05 Youth and Play Services	To request the needs analysis ranking information for the 32 wards in Manchester.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be circulated to Members by email.	Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education
9 October 2019	CYP/19/39 Skills for Life	To request that the Council work to ensure that, as far as possible, all settings are involved in Skills for Life, including independent schools, and that officers look into how Skills for Life could be incorporated into the contracts when Our Children are placed in non-Council-owned residential settings.	A response to this recommendation will be reported back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education
6 November 2019	CYP/19/46 Ghyll Head Outdoor Education Centre	To recommend that officers look into how Ghyll Head could be used by families whose children are on the edge of care.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be reported back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Neil Fairlamb, Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure, Events and Youth)
6 November 2019	CYP/19/46 Ghyll Head Outdoor Education Centre	To request that consideration be given as to how Members and the Friends of Ghyll Head can be engaged in the work of the Stakeholder Board.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be reported back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Neil Fairlamb, Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure, Events and Youth)
6 November	CYP/19/47 Youth Strategy	To request demographic information on the young	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be reported	Neil Fairlamb, Strategic Lead

2019	and Engagement	people accessing youth services, particularly the youth hubs, including by ward.	back to the Committee via the Overview report.	(Parks, Leisure, Events and Youth)
6 November 2019	CYP/19/48 Youth and Play Services - Young Manchester	To request that clear information on the availability of toilet facilities, for example, in park cafes, be included on signage in parks.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be reported back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Neil Fairlamb, Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure, Events and Youth)
5 February 2020	CYP/20/11 The Council's Updated Financial Strategy and Budget reports 2020/21	To request a short note in a future Overview Report on the tendering process for the Educational Psychology service.	A response to this recommendation will be reported back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education
4 March 2020	CYP/20/16 Improving Children's Outcomes Through Collaboration and Working in Partnership in a Locality	To request further information on how the Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust is dealing with smoking around its hospital sites and to note that the Executive Member for Children and Schools will circulate a briefing note on work that is already taking place to address smoking in pregnancy.	A response to this recommendation will be reported back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Paul Marshall, Strategic Director of Children and Education Services
22 July 2020	CYP/20/26 Manchester's Transformation Plan for Children and Young	To request that school governors be included in the plans for schools and that CAMHS and the support on offer be included on the agenda of a future Chair of Governors	A response to this recommendation will be reported back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education

	People's Mental Health and Wellbeing	briefing.		
7 October 2020	CYP/20/39 Responding to the Needs of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children	To request that Members be provided with a briefing note about the hotel which is accommodating asylum seekers.	A response to this recommendation was circulated to Members by email on 15 October 2020.	Paul Marshall, Strategic Director of Children and Education Services

## 2. Key Decisions

The Council is required to publish details of key decisions that will be taken at least 28 days before the decision is due to be taken. Details of key decisions that are due to be taken are published on a monthly basis in the Register of Key Decisions.

A key decision, as defined in the Council's Constitution is an executive decision, which is likely:

- To result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates, or
- To be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the city.

The Council Constitution defines 'significant' as being expenditure or savings (including the loss of income or capital receipts) in excess of £500k, providing that is not more than 10% of the gross operating expenditure for any budget heading in the in the Council's Revenue Budget Book, and subject to other defined exceptions.

An extract of the most recent Register of Key Decisions, published on **23 October 2020** containing details of the decisions under the Committee's remit is included below. This is to keep members informed of what decisions are being taken and, where appropriate, include in the work programme of the Committee.

## Register of Key Decisions:

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Background documents	Officer Contact
<p><b>Capital Investment in schools Ref: 2016/02/01D</b></p> <p>The approval of capital expenditure in relation to the creation of school places through new builds or expansions.</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 1st Mar 2019		Business Case	Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education a.corcoran@manchester.gov.uk
<p><b>Early Years &amp; Education System (EYES) - Additional Funding (2020/09/01A)</b></p> <p>The approval of revenue expenditure for additional costs attributed to the implementation of the Liquidlogic EYES module, funded by a transfer to the revenue budget from the Capital Fund.</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 30th Sep 2020		Checkpoint 4 Business Case	Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education a.corcoran@manchester.gov.uk
<p><b>Young Manchester Funding (2019/12/06A)</b></p> <p>To finalise the contract value for the continuation of funding to Young Manchester</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 4th Jan 2020		Manchester Youth Offer Strategy	Lisa Harvey Nebil lisa.harvey-nebil@manchester.gov.uk
<p><b>Youth Offer Strategy (2019/12/11B)</b></p> <p>To agree a Youth Offer Strategy for the next 3 years and complete</p>	Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)	13 Jan 2020		Manchester Youth Offer Strategy	

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Background documents	Officer Contact
the production of the strategy document					
<p><b>Future model of care for Lyndene Children's Home (2020/07/24C)</b></p> <p>To agree a new model of residential, short breaks and edge of care support care at Lyndene Children's home.</p>	Strategic Director - Children and Education Services	Not before 22nd Aug 2020		Report and Recommendation	Sarah Austin sarah.austin@manchester.gov.uk
<p><b>Contract for the Provision of Children's Residential Care Services in Manchester (2020/07/24D)</b></p> <p>The appointment of a Care Provider to deliver Children's Residential Care Services in Manchester following a tender exercise.</p>	Strategic Director - Children and Education Services	Not before 22nd Aug 2020		Report and Recommendation	Sarah Austin sarah.austin@manchester.gov.uk
<p><b>Contract for the Provision of a Children's Core Purpose and Outreach Service (2020/10/14A)</b></p> <p>The appointment of Providers to provide Children's Core Purpose and Outreach Services</p>	Strategic Director - Children and Education Services	Not before 1st Jan 2021		Report and Recommendation	Mike Worsley mike.worsley@manchester.gov.uk
<p><b>Q20347 Consultant for EYES data Migration. 2019/04/25A</b></p>	City Treasurer	Not before 1st Jun		Report and Recommendation	Jon Nickson j.nickson@manchester.gov.uk



<b>Subject / Decision</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Decision Due Date</b>	<b>Consultation</b>	<b>Background documents</b>	<b>Officer Contact</b>
Contract is to support Manchester City Council with the migration of their Education Management System away from Capita One towards the Liquidlogic EYES solution.	(Deputy Chief Executive)	2019			

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee  
Work Programme – November 2020**

<b>Wednesday 4 November 2020, 10.00am (Report deadline Friday 23 October 2020)</b>				
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Executive Member</b>	<b>Strategic Director / Lead Officer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
COVID-19 Update	To receive a further update, to focus on school attendance data and any new developments or significant changes to the current situation.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall/Amanda Corcoran	
Children and Young People's Plan	To receive a report on the Children and Young People's Plan.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	
Quality of Social Work Practice	To receive a report on the quality of social work practice.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	
Update on the 2021/22 budget position and options to close the budget gap	To receive an update report on the 2021/22 budget position and options to close the budget gap.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall/Amanda Corcoran	
Overview Report	The monthly report includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.		Rachel McKeon	

<b>Wednesday 2 December 2020, 10.00am (Report deadline Friday 20 November 2020)</b>				
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Executive Member</b>	<b>Strategic Director / Lead Officer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
COVID-19 Update	To receive a further update, to focus on school attendance data and any new developments or significant changes to the current situation.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall/Amanda Corcoran	
Proxy Indicators	To receive a presentation of the proxy	Councillor	Paul Marshall/ Sean	See June 2018 minutes

	indicators outlined in the report considered by the Committee in June 2018 and to request that these presentations also include information on school attendance and exclusions.	Bridges	McKendrick/ Amanda Corcoran	
Offer For Children During the Summer School Holidays and Half Term	To receive a report on the offer for children during the summer school holidays and half term.	Councillor Rahman	Fiona Worrall/ Lisa Harvey-Nebil	
Budget-related item	Precise details to be confirmed.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall/Amanda Corcoran	To be confirmed
Overview Report			Rachel McKeon	

<b>Wednesday 13 January 2021, 10.00am (Report deadline Thursday 31 December 2020)</b>				
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Executive Member</b>	<b>Strategic Director / Lead Officer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
COVID-19 Update	To receive a further update, to focus on school attendance data and any new developments or significant changes to the current situation.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall/Amanda Corcoran	
School Governance	To receive a report on school governance to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment including vacancies for Local Authority Governors and recruitment of Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) governors</li> <li>How Parent Governors can be supported to play a full role in the governing body</li> </ul>	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	
Overview Report			Rachel McKeon	

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