



Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday, 10 March 2021
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Virtual meeting - Webcast at
<https://vimeo.com/518247452>

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

Councillors –

Abdullatif, Sameem Ali, Alijah, Chohan, Cooley, Hewitson, 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, Mrs J Miles and Dr W Omara

Agenda

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

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2021.

7 - 12

5. COVID-19 Update

Oral report of the Director of Education

To include information on any new developments or significant changes to the current situation, particularly in relation to schools.

6. School Governance Update

Report of the Director of Education

13 - 20

This report outlines the support and future planned developments that the Council will provide to assist with fostering effective school governance across the city including governor recruitment, governor training, development and resources.

7. Responding to the Needs of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and the Children of Manchester who are Affected by the European Union Settled Status Scheme

21 - 32

Report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services

This report summarises the offer and outcomes being achieved in relation to our children who are affected by European Union

Settled Status (EUSS), Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and all children in our care who are not British Nationals.

- 8. Lyndene - Re-modelling and Next Steps** 33 - 40
Report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services

The report provides an overview of plans for Lyndene Children's Home to be repurposed to provide outreach help and support alongside a short break package; thus enabling children and young people to remain within or move back to their family environments (parents or foster care) as well as providing close family support during this time.

- 9. Overview Report** 41 - 50
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

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 – Dr Walid Omara
- 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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Further Information

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This agenda was issued on **Tuesday, 2 March 2021** 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 10 February 2021

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 Abdullatif, Alijah, Chohan, Cooley, Hewitson, Kilpatrick, Lovecy, Madeleine Monaghan, Reeves, Reid and Wilson

Co-opted Voting Members:

Ms S Barnwell, Parent Governor Representative
Ms Z Derraz, Parent Governor Representative
Dr W Omara, 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

Apologies:

Councillor McHale

CYP/21/06 Minutes

The Chair informed the Committee that the Executive had agreed with the Committee's views on the proposed revised parenting commission and that this budget proposal would not be taken forward. He also informed Members that, as agreed at the last meeting, he had written to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Education but, as yet, he had not received a response.

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2021.

CYP/21/07 Update on Schools and Settings and their Response to COVID-19

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education which provided a further update on the impact of COVID-19 on schools and settings in the city. The report also provided some information collected during the autumn term from children and young people about the impact of COVID-19. The report outlined the support that continued to be provided to schools and settings and also to families through the use of the winter COVID grant. The report stated that through the learning and

education system children were informed and understood environmental issues and the negative impact of carbon; promoting safe and healthy lives.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Numbers of positive cases of COVID-19;
- Numbers of children on site;
- Early Years settings;
- Lateral Flow testing;
- Remote learning;
- Safeguarding;
- Mental health and wellbeing;
- Free School Meals during term time;
- COVID winter grant; and
- Children and young people's views and COVID.

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

- To recognise the important role that the Council had been playing in supporting schools during this time;
- Engagement with remote learning, including how this was being monitored and how lack of engagement was being addressed;
- Children attending school during lockdown, including the level of demand for places;
- Request for a breakdown by ethnicity of children who had tested positive for COVID-19 and were having to self-isolate;
- Were nurseries reluctant to offer places to new children in the current situation and were some children, therefore, unable to access Early Years provision;
- The COVID winter grant;
- Concern about inconsistency between schools about staff being on site and that teachers were being treated differently from other schools staff; and
- The inappropriate use of laptops provided to pupils, that the cost to individual schools of purchasing software to prevent this was very expensive and whether the Council could facilitate a large-scale purchase of this software at a lower cost.

A Member who was a Primary School Teacher Representative outlined the challenges schools had faced regarding the number of children who were eligible to access on-site learning during lockdown, advising that headteachers had had to make difficult decisions, taking into account the needs of vulnerable children and staff safety. She also informed Members how children learning at home were being supported by schools, including schools loaning laptops, helping parents to access Google Classroom on a range of devices, providing paper copies of work where necessary, monitoring how families were managing with remote learning, having screen free days and providing certificates and postcards to pupils to help to motivate them. She highlighted that children were still receiving an education during this period and that the area that they would most need to catch up on post-lockdown was their social and mental well-being.

The Director of Education advised that most schools had been able to meet demand for on-site places for the children of critical workers but that there were four schools where the level of demand had been very challenging and headteachers had had to make decisions, taking into account a number of factors, for example, that staff also had to provide remote learning to pupils who were not on site and the number of staff who were able to come into school each day, as some were Clinically Extremely Vulnerable and some had to self-isolate. She reported that schools were offering on-site provision for vulnerable children, including those who they had identified as not having coped well with being at home during the first lockdown and those who could not access remote learning. She confirmed that schools were monitoring whether pupils were accessing remote learning and that some pupils had been asked to come back on site because they were not accessing the remote learning. She advised Members that the data on the number of pupils who had tested positive for COVID-19 was provided by Public Health and that she would ask whether it was possible to provide this information broken down by ethnicity.

The Director of Education reported that a high number of private, voluntary and independent sector early years settings in the city were open and that she was not aware of any issue with children getting places but that she would look into this. She advised that early years settings would be experiencing the same issues as schools in terms of staff availability and that there were strict staff to children ratios in this sector.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Education reported that arrangements had been put in place for COVID-19 tests for staff at schools and settings in the area where the COVID-19 variant of concern had been identified. In response to another question, she informed the Committee that there was no update as yet on the plans for summer examinations, including vocational qualifications.

The Director of Education informed the Committee that a reminder had been sent out to schools earlier this week about the COVID winter grant and how they could refer families for this and that her service would continue to remind staff, schools and settings about this. The Deputy Director of Children's Services reported that 291 payments had been made from this fund, in relation to 422 children. He advised that the grant system had only been in place for two weeks but that he supported work to re-publicise this. In response to a Member's question, the Executive Member for Children and Schools confirmed that the COVID winter grant could be used to help families with obtaining internet access.

The Executive Member for Children and Schools reported that the Council had been meeting regularly with trade unions which represented teachers and other schools staff and that the issue of equal treatment between different staff groups had been raised. He informed Members that the Council had made clear its position that all staff should be given equal consideration and that, where staff were able to work from home, they should be allowed to; however, schools had highlighted the additional difficulties they were facing due to more children being on site during this lockdown than during the first lockdown. He reported that trade unions could contact the Council's HR specialist advisers who were liaising with schools regarding any issues.

In response to a Member's question on the use of Lateral Flow Tests in secondary schools and colleges, the Director of Education reported that the Department for Education was supplying these directly to schools, along with guidance on their use. She advised that schools were currently using these to test staff and that some were using them to test pupils who were coming on site but that schools did have some concerns about the logistics of the testing once they had high numbers of pupils on site. In response to a question about childminders, she informed the Committee that children who were with childminders during the day would be expected to access remote learning from their school, as they would if they were at home with their family. She reported that she would look into the issue raised about centrally sourcing software for laptops provided to children and young people to ensure that they were not accessing inappropriate material.

Decision

To thank schools staff and officers in the Directorate for their hard work and to ask the Strategic Director for Children and Education Services and the Director of Education to pass on the Committee's thanks.

[Councillor Alijah declared a personal interest as the parent of a nursery-age child who did not have nursery place.]

CYP/21/08 Children and Education Services Budget 2021/22 **CYP/21/09 School Budget 2021/22**

The Committee received two reports of the Strategic Director for Children and Education Services. The first report provided updated Children and Education Services 2021/22 budget proposals that reflected the feedback and decisions from the scrutiny and Executive meetings that were held in January 2021. The second report provided a summary of the confirmed Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation from the 2021/22 settlement announced on the 17 December 2020 and the budget allocation across individual school budgets and the Council's retained schools budgets which was reported to the Schools Forum on 18 January 2021.

The main points and themes within the Children and Education Services Budget report included:

- Background and context;
- Revenue Strategy;
- Directorate Revenue Budget 2021/22;
- Our Corporate Plan and Business Plan;
- Impact on Workforce, Residents, Risk Management and Legal Considerations; and
- Consultation.

The main points and themes within the School Budget report included:

- DSG 2021/22 settlement;
- Distribution of the grant across educational establishments and Council retained budgets; and

- High needs pressures.

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

- To thank the Executive for taking on board the Committee's concerns about the proposal for the revised parenting commission and to welcome that this proposal had been removed;
- Concern about the longer-term impact of the pandemic on the Council's budget and on children and families;
- Trends in terms of the number of Looked After Children (Our Children) and the associated costs of placements; and
- The impact of the proposed cut to funding for interventions to support the improvement of maintained schools.

The Strategic Director for Children and Education Services informed the Committee that none of the proposals were without risk but that officers had tried to manage and mitigate that risk and were working within a clear strategy of early intervention and improved, targeted commissioning to avoid higher costs later on. He advised that it was difficult to predict future trends, particularly the long-term impact of COVID-19, and that relatively small changes in the number of children who were Looked After, particularly those requiring external residential provision, would have a large impact on the budget. He informed Members that significant savings had already been made due to a reduction in the number of Our Children who were placed in external residential provision. He reported that, since the start of the pandemic, there had been an increase in requests for Early Help and lower level interventions and that steps were being taken to strengthen this area which, he advised, should help to prevent the escalation of needs to the point where statutory intervention was required. He outlined how the budget from the decommissioned Families First service had been reinvested to strengthen early intervention. He suggested that the Committee scrutinise the service's work on the key areas of early intervention, prevention and care planning over the next 12 to 18 months to assess how much impact this work was having. He advised that the number of children becoming Looked After had decreased and that this was likely to be because the service's strategy was working; however, he recognised that there were unknown factors, particularly with so many children not being in school, although he advised that schools were working very hard to engage with children who were not in school and that decisions had been taken to enable vulnerable children to attend school during lockdown.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Education clarified that the proposal at 4.36 in the report related to interventions where there was a concern about a maintained school and did not affect the grants which schools received to fund work around subjects such as Physical Education and Music.

Decisions

1. To thank the Executive for taking on board the Committee's views about the proposal for the revised parenting commission.

2. To express concern at the current financial situation which necessitates these budget reductions and the lack of certainty over the Council's future position and to note that it is hoped that next year the Council will be able to set a longer-term budget to enable the service to plan more effectively for the longer term.

[Ms Samantha Barnwell declared a personal interest as a member of the Manchester Parent Carer Forum.]

CYP/21/10 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.

The Chair drew Members' attention to the items on the agenda for the March meeting. He informed the Committee that he would not be standing for re-election in May so the March meeting was due to be his last meeting. On behalf of the Committee, a Member thanked the Chair for the way he had chaired the Committee over the previous three years.

Decision

To note the report and agree the work programme.

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 10 March 2021

Subject: School Governance Update

Report of: Director of Education

Summary

This report outlines the support and future planned developments that the City Council will provide to assist with fostering effective school governance across the City including governor recruitment, governor training, development and resources.

Recommendations

To note the report and make any comments about the work that has taken place and is planned to support effective governance.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city
Effective Governance strives to support a learning and education system that enables children to be informed and understand environmental issues and the negative impact of carbon; promoting safe and healthy lives.

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	Effective school governance strives to support improved educational outcomes which will enable Manchester's young people to contribute to the economic growth and take advantage of the job opportunities created
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Supporting effective school governance in the City to increase accountability of schools in order to increase the quality of education and educational outcomes for children and young people. Improving educational outcomes amongst the Manchester school population is essential for young people to gain qualifications and contribute to Manchester's economic success.

A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	School governors are volunteers and the role assists residents to increase their employability skills and become actively involved in their communities. Effective school governance strives to ensure all children and young people have the opportunity to fulfil potential and therefore make a contribution in their communities and beyond.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Effective school governance strives to increase the quality of education provision which will make Manchester an attractive place to live and work and create schools of choice. Investment in modern, energy efficient and high quality education infrastructure drives reductions in carbon across the estate of schools.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Effective school governance strives to increase the quality of education provision which will enhance the City's attractiveness to potential residents and contribute to the development of high quality neighbourhoods.

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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.

- Report to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - 5 March 2019, School Governance Update

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The City Council recognises the high level of expectations and challenges that face governors in the City, especially through the recent Covid-19 pandemic. There has been a plethora of new government guidance and revisions released over recent months for governors to understand and navigate their way through. This has been necessary in order to understand the changes required throughout the national lockdowns and to manage all pupils safely back into the school environment, along with managing the impact on school budgets and the mental health and well-being of our staff and pupils. Governors have successfully adapted to develop virtual solutions to maintain their role in holding our school leaders to account and have provided a high level of support to leaders through these extra ordinary times in order to ensure that our children and young people are safe, well and able to learn at home or in school.
- 1.2 The City Council is fully committed to supporting school governors and trustees and wishes to thank this large volunteer workforce for the continued commitment, professionalism and expertise that they provide in Manchester. In addition, the City Council recognises the support provided by a range of employers in the City who support their staff to contribute to this vital role, along with supporting their development.

2.0 Governor Recruitment

- 2.1 Local Authority (LA) governor applications are made through the Manchester Jobs Website, which contains a job description and fact sheet to assist prospective volunteers to understand the role. Candidates are invited to interview with two senior officers and vetting checks are undertaken. The process provides an opportunity to understand more fully the skills and qualities of the prospective governors, to support appropriate LA governor nominations to be made to maintained schools and to meet their skills requests. Feedback from recent applicants has been that they have found the interview very enjoyable and it has enabled them to meet Council staff and find out more about the role. All volunteers who are interviewed are provided with induction training to support them to understand the governor role and Manchester's priorities.
- 2.2 In addition, to nominating LA governors to maintained schools, schools and academies also approach the School Governance Unit directly for assistance with co-opted governor and academy board vacancies.
- 2.3 Governor recruitment was paused between March 2020 - July 2020 as there was reduced capacity across the Education Department due to the support being provided to schools in the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the School Governance Lead was leading on communications to schools.
- 2.4 Since September 2020 we have undertaken 21 virtual interviews, 14 (67%) of the applicants are now in the process of being nominated and appointed by

governing bodies. We are currently progressing and inviting 16 applicants to interviews in March and April.

- 2.5 There are currently 7 LA governor vacancies in the City: Charlestown Primary, Crosslee Primary, St Dunstan's RC Primary, St John's RC Primary, St Luke's CE Primary, St Malachy's RC Primary and St. Philip's CE Primary. In addition, 7 maintained schools have registered co-opted governor vacancies with us and 7 academies have also asked for support in sourcing board/trust members.
- 2.6 There are currently 11 LA governor vacancies, 4 co-opted governor vacancies in maintained schools and 2 vacancies in academies in progress.
- 2.7 The following tables outline the data with respect to governor recruitment since September 2018:

Governor Recruitment Sept 2018 – Feb 2021

Application Stage	Sept 2018 to Sept 2019	Sept 2019 to Sept 2020	Sept 2020 to Feb 2021
Applications in total	23	34	23
LA governors placed	5	6	0
Co-opted governors placed	2	0	0
Academy governors placed	2	0	0
Placements in progress	3	7	7
Awaiting placement	0	7	2
Invited to interview March/ April	0	6	10
Withdrawn/unresponsive	11 (48%)	8 (24%)	4 (17%)

Applications by Ethnicity Sept 2018 – Sept 2020

Ethnicity	Sept 2018/2019	Sept 2019/2020
Total number of applications	23	34
White British	16 (69%)	13 (38%)
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	0 (0%)	2 (6%)
Asian or Asian British - Chinese	0 (0%)	1 (3%)
Asian or Asian British - Indian	1 (4 %)	5 (15%)
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	2 (9%)	3 (9%)
Black or Black British - Black African	0 (0%)	5 (15%)
Black or Black British - Black British	0 (0%)	2 (6%)
Black or Black British - Black Caribbean	2 (9%)	1 (3%)
Other Ethnic Backgrounds - Any other ethnic background	0 (0%)	1 (3%)
Other Ethnic Backgrounds - Unknown	0 (0%)	1 (3%)
Prefer not to say	2 (9%)	0 (0%)

2.8 The diversity of applications received has increased with 22% in 2018/2019 compared to 63% in 2019/2020 being from BAME groups.

2.9 The School Governance Unit is planning to engage with The National Governance Association who are working with a range of partners including Diverse Educators to examine their work and research. In addition, a local focus group of governors will be formed to explore ways to reach out further and support governors from a diverse range of communities.

3.0 Governor Support

3.1 Chairs' briefings continued virtually in the Summer and Autumn Terms 2020. Two 1 hour sessions were offered in place of the 3 hours sessions that normally take place at three venues across the City termly. Each governing body is invited to send along two people and governors do not need to be a chair to attend. The main focus at recent meetings has been on the support required throughout Covid-19 including: risk assessments, safeguarding, head teacher and staff well-being, finance and approaches to virtual governance. Feedback has been positive with many people saying that the virtual environment has made attendance easier, however people do miss the face to face interaction and lively debate.

3.2 Attendance at chairs' briefings has improved on last year when we had an average of 62 governors attend sessions each term and 50% of schools and academies represented across the academic year at meetings.

- Spring Term 2020 - 82 Governors
- Autumn Term 2020 - 83 Governors
- 57% of schools and academies represented across the 2 meetings

3.3 Chairs' briefings in the Spring and Summer 2021 terms will explore: the continued support and role of governors required during the Covid – 19 pandemic, headteacher, staff and pupil mental health and well-being, financial impact, recovery planning and future ways of working for governors.

3.4 In addition, we have been providing regular email updates to governors across the City to keep them abreast of the DfE guidance changes and support being provided by the LA to support schools throughout the pandemic. Guidance for governors has been provided around the DfE requirements for remote learning. The [Schoolshub Website](#) now has a dedicated area with resources and information to support governors and school leaders with Covid-19. The School Governance Lead and the Senior School Quality Assurance Officers (SSQAs) have been available to provide bespoke support and advice to schools when required.

3.5 The Council offers all schools and academies in Manchester, an annual Quality Assurance Report which is undertaken by an external quality assurance professional, to examine their self-evaluation and development priorities against the Ofsted Framework. The report in the Autumn Term 2020 this year focused on Leadership and Management and the Quality of

Education, including the continuing challenges of working with Covid-19. From a school governance perspective, it explored how schools had adapted their governance model to ensure that their scrutiny role was still effectively taking place.

Information from the Quality Assurance Reports and feedback from governors outlines the following points about how governance has been progressing this year in response to Covid-19:

- Governing bodies have developed virtual approaches to their role and responsibilities
- Governing body meetings have been shorter and more focussed at times
- Most governing bodies have seen increased attendance at meetings
- Some governing bodies have maintained committees and others have covered all business within full governing body meetings during this period
- Leaders have provided more detailed updates to governors as school visits have not been possible
- Many chairs of governors have provided weekly support to head teachers when it was felt this would be supportive
- Governing bodies are considering continuing with some remote meetings e.g. for urgent business and committee meetings
- Many governing bodies feel that face to face full governing body meetings is the preferred approach, along with school visits to inform and support their work

3.6 We have supported the development of 2 federations in the City since March 2020. There are now 7 federations in the City. A federation is when two or more maintained schools operate under a single governing body, holding the Executive Head Teacher to account for the performance of both schools. Federating schools maintain their DfE number and are inspected as individual schools by Ofsted.

3.7 The School Governance Unit is planning to develop a range of resources to support governing bodies with respect to governor induction, building on the work already provided to governors who are interviewed through our governor recruitment programme. In addition, we are going to develop a focus group of parent governors and head teachers in the City to examine the challenges faced with recruiting and supporting parent governors to understand their role. This will inform the development of a range of resources to support schools and parent governors specifically.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 There will undoubtedly continue to be further challenges for governors to navigate through during the Covid-19 pandemic. Support will be required to assist governors through the recovery phase including examining the financial impact on their school budgets, ensuring that the school workforce and all pupils are able to safely and effectively be on site and that high quality education is provided. It is clear however, that we have a dedicated group of volunteers in the City who have embraced the challenges and continued to

support our schools, developing virtual solutions and maintaining their role with a high level of professionalism.

4.2 Priorities for the School Governance Strategy in the City over the next 12 months will include:

- Support to governing bodies to address priorities in the recovery phase of the Covid- 19 pandemic through chairs' briefings, email updates and resources on the Schoolshub Website.
- Development of governor induction resources and guidance.
- Development of resources and guidance for schools to use to support with parent governor recruitment and understanding of the role.
- Continued monitoring of the recruitment of BAME governors and exploration of the work and research being undertaken by The National Governance Association and their partners to ensure we are reaching out and engaging volunteers from a diverse range of communities.
- Continued challenge to governing bodies to review the diversity of their membership.
- Continued focus in School Quality Assurance Reports on governance to maintain and challenge the role that school governance plays as part of the leadership and development priorities in school development plans.

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**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - 10 March 2021

Subject: Responding to the Needs of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and the children of Manchester who are affected by the European Union Settled Status Scheme

Report of: Strategic Director of Children and Education Services

Summary

This report summarises the offer and outcomes being achieved in relation to our children who are affected by European Union Settled Status (EUSS), Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and all children in our care who are not British Nationals.

Attached in the appendix is a complementary report by Greater Manchester Immigration Unit (GMIAU).

Recommendations

Children and Young People Scrutiny members are invited to:

1. Consider the Council's response to UASC;
 2. Consider the progress for children who are affected by EUSS;
 3. Acknowledge the partnership work with our UASC and the issues for young people who have insecure immigration status and are entitled to leaving care support; and
 4. To note the input from Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit and their work supporting children with insecure immigration status.
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Wards Affected: All

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

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	Effective specialist services are critical to ensuring the most vulnerable citizens are able to connect and support the drive towards a thriving and sustainable City
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Ensuring the most vulnerable in our society are given the opportunity to access and achieve in the City is supported by the delivery of a strong and cohesive partnerships.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Relationship based services help build the resilience of children and families which they need to achieve their potential and be integrated into their communities
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Improving outcomes for children and families across the city helps build and develop communities
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Specialist services support families to be successful who are then able to deliver continuing growth in the City

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

There are no background documents.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report details the support offered to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Manchester and the improved outcomes for those children, it also considers the progress made for our children who are eligible for EUSS, UASCs and our children who are not British Nationals who may have insecure immigration status. The report reflects the strong partnership approach and the joint working with GMIAU in improving outcomes for children. The GMIAU report by Amanda Shah is attached in the appendix.

2.0 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

- 2.1 At the time of the last report to this committee 7th October 2020, the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) was 103 aged under 18 years, currently there are 109 children aged under 18 years and 189 aged 18-25 years. The majority of our children continue to present spontaneously in Manchester and usually present in the first instance to the police. In response to the increasing numbers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, a specialist city wide team was established in March 2020, to build a stronger multi agency offer and deliver improved outcomes.

3.0 Progress and outcomes

- 3.1 Outlined below are the progress and outcomes being achieved in relation to our USAC children and the specific issues they experience.

3.2 Health

- 3.2.1 Children who are unaccompanied asylum seekers, can have complex health needs, requiring support from both physical and mental health services. Children who have travelled the world, often have not had the same early life care as children who have been born and raised in the UK, they may have not had immunisations, they are likely to have been living in poor unsanitary conditions in refugee camps which leaves them vulnerable to diseases that are not common in the UK.
- 3.2.2 To respond to this appropriately, all our children in addition to their standard initial health assessment have blood born virus tests and screenings. This is for diseases such as Tuberculosis and Hepatitis. UASC have the support of dedicated UASC LAC nurses who have specialist knowledge of the needs of UASC children. Our Manchester behaviours ensure as a partnership we work with children rather than doing to. We have developed young person friendly safety plans, so they feel empowered to take control of their own health needs. Our children are also registered with GPs to ensure they have all their health needs met.
- 3.2.3 This group of children have often experienced trauma of some kind. By the very nature of being a UASC they are seeking asylum which means they were not safe in their home country and have experienced challenging journeys.

Having said this, despite experiencing trauma they are not all traumatised. In considering the voice of the child, through the experiences of our children we recognised the procedure of referring to Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) does not meet the needs of all UASC and there are things that social workers, education and key workers can do to support on a day-to-day basis. Direct work addressing sleep, hygiene and support with managing emotions is delivered to all children by the social worker informed by CAMHS input Work to support young people to understand their feelings, honouring and respecting their experiences and being able to reflect, naming their emotions is all part of the social work support to young people to understand themselves and relate that to their experiences.

- 3.2.4 There is an excellent relationship between social workers and the named lead in the looked after CAMHS team, training has been delivered to a multi-agency team to support UASC and increase understanding of need. The council, through the Migrant Children's Team, CAMHS and education have set up multi-agency consultation/ supervision arrangement to consider complex cases and agree a partnership approach. This ensures that the right children are referred to the right services at the right time. Which in turn improves the support the children receive and makes it more meaningful for them.

3.3 Education

- 3.3.1 Many of these children are very resilient and they have great aspirations and education is important to all of them. All our children want to be in education, and as most of our young people present at 16 and over, they are mostly of college age. As a council we ensure that all our children have a place in college or school, when a young person presents who is 16 and is year 11, an assessment of their needs is completed to understand whether a school or College placement is the most appropriate. The virtual school is instrumental in this and works directly with social workers, foster carers and accommodation providers to ensure an appropriate educational placement is found.
- 3.3.2 This cohort of children have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. There have been significant delays in children receiving equipment often as they are new arrivals to the UK, and the virtual school have been working with colleges to expedite this. We have ensured that all children have had access to their lessons through technology in their placements. However, English to Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) and learning another language does not lend itself to virtual learning, lockdown is reducing the interactions and opportunities our children have for learning English which then restricts their move on into A Levels or other qualifications. There is support for ESOL from the third sector and the Refugee Council offer ESOL and group support which some of our young people access

3.4 Managing Risk

- 3.4.1 Manchester City Council has been part of the roll out of Operation Innerste, a joint operation from the police and the Home Office, to reduce the risk of

children going missing when first in care and to reduce the impact of traffickers and those who have been victims of modern-day slavery. The Migrant Children's team have been working directly with GMP and the lead officers to ensure a good working relationship which enables us to offer the best care from the first moment of contact with any vulnerable young person. The response from police has been excellent with these procedures being carried out across every new contact. The team are working with the Greater Manchester complex safeguarding hub to promote this way of working across the GM (Greater Manchester) authorities. Where there are concerns regarding trafficking the team work closely with Barnardo's independent child trafficking advocates to support young people ensuring safety.

3.5 Accommodation

- 3.5.1 Manchester City Council have commissioned providers who have specialist skills in working with UASC. There are a range of providers who deliver various levels of support, this offers choice to reflect the needs and abilities of a young person and supports the transition to adulthood. Having a stable and secure placement enables the other work outlined to take place. Placements are available to receive emergencies and will inform assessment.
- 3.5.2 As there is a brief period to work with UASC until they are 18 it is essential that there is a clear move on plan to leaving care. If a young person is still awaiting a decision from the Home Office, the Manchester City Council continue to support in all areas.
- 3.5.3 This group of children have been through so much; social workers regularly talk of the privilege of being able to offer them safety and improved life outcomes. We asked some young people for their feedback on their homes and being in the UK and what this offers them.

'I like in general all of UK and Manchester, also the people, they are nice and quiet. I really like the people here in Manchester and my home. I feel safe and good here. I also enjoy learning English, I started college recently. It is online but I like it. I never had laptop before, but my social worker gave it to me' - HM

'My trip to the UK was very difficult and unsafe. Now I am in Manchester everything is good. I feel safe in this house and it is very comfortable, I like all the staff here because they talk to me.' - MJA

'Before I came here, I was in France and it was dangerous, and I was very unhappy. I am much happier in Manchester; I have freedom here.' - AK

'About a year ago I came to England from Ghana on a plane, I was detained, at the time, I felt very bad. A year later I feel much better, I am safe now. I actually like the weather here and enjoy winter. I do not have my status yet but If I get it I will stay in Manchester for the rest of my life, there are lots of opportunities here, I want to study law and become a solicitor, this is the perfect place for me to do that.' - BA

3.6 Leaving Care

- 3.6.1 Leaving care provides equal opportunities for young people who have come to the United Kingdom from other countries, as far as the law permits. If the Home Office has not reached a decision on a child's immigration status by the time, they are 18, then Manchester City Council continues to support that young person financially in addition to their leaving care entitlements. This continues until such time that they receive their leave to remain and have access to benefits or they have reached the end of their appeals process and a Human Rights Assessment has been completed and no further duties are assessed as being due. Leaving care will always ensure that that a young person is supported into provision by the adult services and Migrant help.
- 3.6.2 COVID has impacted on the timeliness of the decision making of the Home Office asylum claims and we have young people who have not yet been interviewed. Manchester City Council have been working with the Home Office to highlight this issue and have agreed to pilot virtual interviews, in the hope of progressing this work. GMIAU have also been supporting our challenge with this which is identified within their report. Unfortunately, not only does this delay impact upon the care planning for these children, but the stress and upset from not knowing and being in a state of limbo is having a significant impact on their emotional and mental wellbeing, in all these cases the social workers and personal advisors are writing to the Home Office to raise our concerns and advocate for our children.
- 3.6.3 Currently there are 188 young people aged 18-25, of these there are 20 who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or not in contact with their PA (Personal Adviser)., evidencing a high percentage of UASC remain in education, training, or employment post 18. There are also nine young people who are at university. UASCs do not have a family or connected person support network around them, so their relationships with professionals are essential. We reached out and asked some young people about their experience of this; DK said about his Personal Advisor *"just that you are the best, you have been helping me through home stuff and work that I don't have any idea about what they are, more important you are so kind with me."* UASCs have to learn a lot in a short period of time not only English but about life in the UK, systems, and issues that their relationships with their PAs (Personal Adviser) is essential.

4.0 European Union Settle Status (EUSS) Scheme

- 4.1 The report from Greater Manchester Immigration Aid (attached) unit breaks down the pledge regarding the recommendations, Manchester City Council has continued to support social workers who have children who are EU (European Union), EEA (European Economic Area) or Swiss nationals in their care. The support of the pledge has helped to drive forward this work. Having the capacity to address immigration needs solely has supported social worker understanding and practice in this area. The response by Manchester City Council continues to be spearheaded by the Migrant Children's Team who continue to raise awareness and review and monitor those children who are in

care, the council have continued to identify children who are subject to these arrangements.

- 4.2 At the time of writing the report there has been an increase in numbers as children continue to be identified. At the time of writing this report there are;
- 64 children under 18 identified as eligible for the EUSS, of that number 16 have been given settled status and 7 have pre-settled status, there are 5 children who have been adopted so have British nationality. There are current applications in place for all the other children or there is a plan for a paper application to be completed.
 - There are 25 care leavers identified; 10 who have settled status and 2 with pre-settled status, there are 3 young people who have had their status declined. The rest awaiting decisions or applications are being made.
- 4.3 This is reviewed regularly, and continued identification of children is being carried out through questions at legal gateway and through continued awareness raising sessions. Some of our children have been declined settled and pre settled status, we have referred these children to GMIAU to receive independent legal advice about their immigration. We have raised directly with the home office our concerns about the vulnerability of this cohort and where appropriate social workers and personal advisors will write letters of support for children and young people. The reality is that the decision remains with the Home Office and if appeals are unsuccessful, these young people may be deported. Through meetings with the Home Office about EUSS we have also asked questions about those children who will miss the deadline, due to no fault of their own as their parents did not complete on their behalf. We have been given verbal reassurance that these children will be considered as vulnerable and as having extenuating circumstances, allowing for paper applications to be completed after the fact. As a council we do not only want to focus on the children who are in our care but all our Manchester children. To do this we have been reaching out to partner agencies and delivered briefings to schools, health, and multi-agency partners to encourage and promote the application with all families who will be affected by this scheme.
- 4.4 The work of Manchester City Council in this area has been recognised on a national level and the team have been invited to contribute to a Home Office training for social workers nationally. As we near the deadline we will continue to work to for our children to ensure they have settled or pre-settled status. This will be an ongoing project that will continue to consider the impact of immigration on a child's future. As within the report from GMIAU, we will continue to review children who are EU, EEA or Swiss nationals or those who have a right to claim through other routes.

5.0 Our Children who are looked after and are not British Nationals

- 5.1 Following on from the work with EUSS the spotlight on immigration has led to ongoing work with GMIAU to consider the forward planning for those of our children who are not British or EU, EEA or Swiss nationals and how we address their immigration as part of care plan and plan for permanency. Our

Permanency Policy is current under review and immigration status will be included within this review. GMIAU have recommended that British Citizenship is part of our permanency planning, Manchester is committed to ensure that we secure the immigration status for all our children in our care. Every child is unique in their own situation and nationality raises complex questions relating to identity, age and understanding in relation to development for children, their choice for themselves and what they want now and the future.

- 5.2 We are working to identify how many children are affected at this time. The report from GM IAU outlines how immigration is impacting on people in the UK and this is a new presenting issue, it is also an opportunity for Manchester to be leaders in an emerging area of practice for social work.

6.0 Summary

- 6.1 The presentation of unaccompanied seeking children within Manchester has increased over the past 5 years, Manchester's UASC children now make up over 0.07% of the total child population, indicating that as a Local Authority we are supporting a higher number of UASC. In recognition of this a specialist children's team was established in March 2020. The team deliver an effective partnership offer to better identify and meet the needs of UASC. This partnership approach supports children for their future in Manchester by drawing on a multi-agency services to support these children into a successful transition to adulthood.

7.0 Recommendations

Scrutiny Committee members are invited to:

Consider the experience of our unaccompanied children and note the partnership offer to unaccompanied children and the improved outcomes this offer delivers.

Note the progress made delivering the pledge to children in care and care leavers affected by Brexit immigration changes.

Consider the wider impact of immigration on our children.

Consider the recommendations made by the GMIAU report.

Appendix 1. GMIAU Report

The pledge

On 4 March 2020 Manchester City Council pledged its commitment to all children in care and care leavers in Manchester affected by Brexit immigration changes:

'To our children in care and care leavers affected by Brexit immigration changes

In Manchester our looked after children and care leavers will not become part of the next Windrush generation because of Brexit immigration changes.

We will:

- *Identify all our looked after children and care leavers affected by Brexit*
- *Connect them with legal advice so they can make the most appropriate immigration applications*
- *Support those who are eligible to apply for British citizenship'*

The context

The UK's first lockdown began two and half weeks after Manchester City Council's pledge was signed, and the pandemic continues to define the context in which the pledge is being delivered. COVID-19 has unequivocally hindered Manchester's children and young people securing status through the EU Settlement Scheme. However many of the problems we have seen were pre-existing flaws in the Scheme, only exacerbated by the pandemic.

Since the pledge, we've supported Manchester's Director of Children's Services and his team to explore at a corporate level the systems, structures and specialist legal advice needed to fulfil the Council's commitments. The learnings and models of best practice developed through this partnership work have been of interest to voluntary and statutory sector organisations nationwide. We've also worked with the Department for Education and the Home Office, using our experience in Manchester to show how children and young people are being left behind.

By autumn 2020, a [Home Office survey of local authorities](#) across the UK found only 46% of children in care and care leavers identified as affected by Brexit immigration changes had applied to the EU Settlement Scheme. Only 820 had successfully applied for Settled Status.

Despite the data, the acknowledged difficulties brought by COVID-19, and persuasive arguments made in parliament about the [need for automatic status](#), the Home Office continues to hold the line. ***Manchester's children and young people affected by Brexit immigration changes who have not made successful applications by 30 June 2021 will be in the UK unlawfully. Assurances made by Ministers*** [about late applications](#) leave all the risk on children and young people. This side of the deadline they are also untested and are not an effective safeguard.

Support for Manchester's children

The key protection for Manchester's affected children and young people is to make an application and secure status within the next four months. Action now will determine the size of Manchester's population of children in care and care leavers without status in July 2021. The next four months must see an all-out push to:

Commitment One: 'Identify all our looked after children and care leavers affected by Brexit'

- The process of identifying affected children and young people is key. It needs to keep being reviewed and must continue after the June deadline.
- Children and young people with (temporary) Pre-Settled Status need identifying and supporting to make applications for Settled Status as soon as they have evidence of five years' residency in the UK.
- Identifying affected young people accessing leaving care services is particularly urgent so that they don't face the full range of hostile environment policies when they turn 18.
- Specific attention must be given to the complex task of identifying children and young people who are not EEA nationals but who have their immigration status affected by Brexit immigration changes.

Commitment Two: 'Connect them with legal advice so they can make the most appropriate immigration applications'

- Children and young people should continue to be referred for legal advice to assess their most appropriate immigration application and to challenge refusals, for example where young people have applications rejected because of youth offending.

Commitment Three: 'Support those who are eligible to apply for British citizenship'

- Support with citizenship applications should be embedded in the Council's permanency policies and rolled out through care planning.

Manchester's leadership role

Flaws in the EU Settlement Scheme mean that despite best efforts some of Manchester's children and young people will miss out. They will join Manchester's existing group of children in care and care leavers with insecure immigration status. At 18, they will face a raft of hostile environment policies, limiting their access to benefits and services, employment or higher education, putting them at risk of detention or deportation.

Against this backdrop, the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman has found against local authorities in [London](#) and the [West Midlands](#) for failing in their duties towards children in care with insecure immigration status. In 2020 [Ealing Council](#) faced significant criticism for failures towards Darrell and Darren Roberts – London-born twins facing deportation to two different countries because citizenship applications were not made when they were in care.

Manchester has a leadership role to play in stepping up for its children and young people where the government fails to do so. The commitments in the pledge have

resulted in good work that is getting nationwide attention as a model of best practice. There is a strong understanding within the Migrant Children's Team that the measures embedded to protect children and young people affected by Brexit also protect those with broader immigration issues.

We would like to see the Council update its pledge commitments, building on its learning from supporting the 'Brexit generation'. After the EU Settlement Scheme deadline, these children and young people will still be the Council's responsibility, regardless of their immigration status. An updated pledge would reflect this while also providing an opportunity for Manchester to demonstrate national leadership and voice on behalf of its children in care and care leavers. We would encourage the Council to commit:

'To our children in care and care leavers, learning from our support to children and young people affected by Brexit immigration changes, we will:

- *Identify all our looked after children and care leavers with insecure immigration status*
- *Commission legal advice so they can be supported to make the most appropriate immigration applications and challenge immigration refusals*
- *Support those who are eligible to apply for British citizenship*
- *Continue to provide access to leaving care services'*

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**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - 10 March 2021

Subject: Lyndene - Re-modelling and Next Steps

Report of: Strategic Director for Children and Education Services

Summary

Lyndene is currently used as a children's home to care for and meet the identified needs of Manchester's looked after children. The service is commissioned and delivered from a property owned by Manchester City Council that is located in Wythenshawe. The site is a large detached property with significant grounds making it ideal for the proposed use.

A refreshed commissioning approach in 2019/20 that is based on 'relationships' and seeks to embed an outcomes-based commissioning approach and shared understanding of expected outcomes with providers whilst working collaboratively with health partners to identify provision that meets the needs of children with complex health problems and children with Special Education Needs or Disability has seen the use of External Residential placements reduce by 10% since April 2020. Therefore the children's home has been operating under capacity in its current format.

The proposed service delivery model is reflective of the Our Manchester, Our Children Strategic priorities. In summary, the property will be repurposed to provide outreach help and support alongside a short break package; thus enabling children and young people to remain within or move back to their family environments (parents or foster care) as well as providing close family support during this time.

Children, Young People and their families have played a key role in developing the concept and vision. It is from their feedback on 'what would make a difference', that has enabled Manchester City Council and Manchester Health and Care Commission (MHCC) to have a real opportunity to draw down NHS England capital funding to refurbish and re specify the facility. This will result in a service that better responds to the needs of children and their families whilst offering a more efficient use of current resources and value for money.

This report which for ease of reference is structured as follows:

- Section 1 Background and context
- Section 2 Proposed Funding Model
- Section 3 Needs of children and their families/carers
- Section 4 New Model
- Section 5 Proposed timeline
- Section 6 Progress
- Section 7 Conclusion

Recommendations

Children and Young People Scrutiny members are invited to:

1. Recognise the importance of the project in meeting the needs of Manchester's children, young people and families;
2. Consider the content of this report and comment on the propositions, challenges, priorities and opportunities which are outlined throughout the body of the report; and
3. Request a 12 month impact report from the commencement of the service.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the decisions proposed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

All capital projects are reviewed throughout the approval process with regard to the contribution they can make to Manchester being a Zero-Carbon City. Projects will not receive approval to incur costs unless the contribution to this target is appropriate.

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of the contribution to the strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Continuing to improve edge of care and short breaks provision will contribute to improving educational outcomes, aspirations and job opportunities for young people with autism and/ or Learning Disabilities and contribute to Manchester's young people becoming happy, safe and successful adults.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Improving outcomes for young people with autism and/ or Learning Disabilities and continuing to improve the experience and opportunities for children and young people with SEND will better enable them to gain qualifications and contribute to Manchester's economic success.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Continuing to improve provision, through co-production, for children and young people with autism and/ or Learning Disabilities will ensure increased opportunities and outcomes for one of our vulnerable groups - children with SEND
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Mechanical survey completed on the property to review the potential of providing executive level budget cost for providing a Low Carbon solution

	<p>for the existing building and the future proposed extension.</p> <p>Thermodynamic Solar System to be installed as part of the project which could lead to significant savings</p> <p>The estimated carbon (CO₂) emission reduction in a given year is:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Electric = 143 kg/year Gas = 729 kg/year Total = 872 kg/year</p> <p>Larger savings on the electric services could possibly be made by utilizing more PV panels with PIR sensors, LED lighting etc. however, the cost effectiveness would need to be considered in the finalized proposal.</p>
<p>A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth</p>	<p>Investment in family support and social care provision will enhance the City's attractiveness to potential residents and contribute to the development of high quality neighbourhoods.</p>

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

There are no background documents.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Lyndene Childrens Home has been operating under capacity in its current format; the refurbishment and specialisation of this facility will allow for a more efficient use of current resources and value for money.
- 1.2 A small yet significant number of Children and Young People in Manchester have high volume, complex needs and packages of care that are jointly funded by health, social care and education. A number are placed out of the local authority boundary, away from potentially protective factors of home, family, carers, friends and their local community, not because they require specialist support 'at distance' but because local provision is presently not available or configured to meet their needs.
- 1.3 In 2020 a cost benefit analysis was developed to understand how this would benefit young people in Manchester. The proposed operating model has taken into account the findings from this cost benefit analysis and has 3 key aims:
 - a) improve the outcomes for children and families
 - b) support integrated working across the system, drawing on existing local healthcare and wider expertise
 - c) reduce the number of children in high cost long-term residential or extended inpatient hospital settings.
- 1.4 Manchester City Council (MCC) and Manchester Health and Care Commission (MHCC) have successfully bid for and secured £850k NHSE Capital funding to adapt and transform the property to respond to the needs of children with learning difficulties and/or autism.
- 1.5 The Council has completed a compliant procurement process for the capital works to be tendered and awarded to support the delivery of a service for children and young people with learning difficulties and autism. This procurement process has been undertaken in compliance with the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and its own Contractual Standing Orders; applying due regard to ensuring best value is achieved.
- 1.6 Once refurbished the property and resulting service will provide outreach and short term support as part of a pathway that aims to enable children and young people remain with or move back to their family environments (parents or foster care). In addition another element is to actively promote close family support and engagement during this time.
- 1.7 Without reform, Manchester City Council and MHCC will continue to pay for expensive health and care placements for children and young people, especially considering that there are indicators that the particular cohort is increasing in size (i.e. a 'do nothing' option).

2.0 Proposed Funding Model

- 2.1 The proposed service delivery model will cost £900k per annum and is jointly funded.
- 2.2 The re-purposed facility is projected to lead to avoidance of four residential placements per annum, net of additional cost running this totals £462k reduction in costs per annum 2021/22 onwards.
- 2.3 It is anticipating the service will over time lead to further savings in terms of increased capacity within the in house foster carers to support children with complex needs, less children placed 'at distance' and a reduced reliance on independent short breaks respite facilities.

3.0 Needs of children and their families/carers

- 3.1 Reviews and analysis such as an independent review undertaken by Peopletoo Report in 2017 and the Grant Thornton 2019 identified gaps in existing services for supporting children with autism, learning disability and behaviours that challenge, and their families. Particularly those with more complex needs who are either in or at 'risk' of becoming 'looked after' by the Council, or in a hospital setting. In addition, practitioners, families, wider stakeholders and research indicate;
 - The limited choice of good quality alternative support options is a factor in driving the use of long-term residential care.
 - The limited specialist residential or fostering provision available locally creates physical distance between a child and their family. There are currently 23 children currently in residential placements with autism or Learning Difficulties (LD). Of those, 11 have just autism, 5 just LD and 7 both.
 - The proposed operating model for the property and resulting service has the potential to enable some of those young people to be placed in family settings such as foster provision with wrap around support.
 - The scope for closer integration with existing commissioned health and education services in Manchester as part of the transforming care agenda, as opposed to providers sourcing their own provision (e.g. therapeutic support).
- 3.2 According to the Learning Disability and Autism Integrated Care Team (part of MHCC), there were 6 Care and Education Treatment Reviews (CETRs) for young people with ASD between Jan - July 2020: 3 CETR for young people with ASD and LD who are at high risk of hospital admission, 1 young person with ASD and LD that who admitted in hospital and 2 young people with ASD and LD on periphery of hospital care.
- 3.3 Additionally, the proposed service operating model comes into its own when supporting families and their children who are 'at risk' of becoming 'looked after'. In addition a recent 'need' mapping identified that there are families / foster placements that may be at risk of breakdown. Families / placements

without wrap around support, are more likely to result in a residential setting, which invariably becomes a long term arrangement. Referral routes and planning will ensure the facility does not become a long term residential home.

- 3.4 The scale of opportunity (i.e. number of families a new model could benefit) is also significant. For example of the 79 presentations for a targeted Short Break in the last 6 months, 75% are over 11 years of age; of which 12% had multiple presentations. Families and practitioners report that there are not the services commissioned to meet and support the needs of these children, young people and their families.
- 3.5 Analysis completed by Manchester City Council's Performance, Research and Intelligence Team identified that for young people in residential care with autism half entered between the ages of 5 - 10 years and at the request of their parents due to the complexity/escalation of their needs. In addition, this analysis indicated presently care provision for young people with learning disabilities are more likely to be residential schools meaning that they are placed outside of the city and are expensive. A large proportion of those who were in their placement for over 2yrs tended to have profound and multiple disabilities, usually with higher parental involvement and higher resourcing leading to greater stability.

4.0 Service Model

- 4.1 Services will be provided to Manchester resident/registered children, young people and families aged 0-19 with a diagnosis of Learning Disability and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder. Despite the outlined age criteria, cohort analysis indicates the service will be utilised predominantly by adolescents (12+). A review will be undertaken with a view to increasing the upper age limit of the service to 25 in line with adult service planning. Children with physical disabilities will be provided for.
- 4.2 The model will provide intensive outreach support as a means of supporting the CYP and their families in the home environment. Skilled outreach staff will play a key role in providing interventions via functional behavioural analysis, positive behavioural support and wider social support to ensure families build resilience in managing challenging behaviour and crisis intervention. Each outreach worker will retain small caseloads to ensure that adequate input can be provided to each family to form a meaningful and trusting relationship and sufficient support and contact time.
- 4.3 The model will also support a short term accommodation provision for up to 6 CYP as a means of providing a comfortable and homely environment during which time appropriate assessments and intensive therapy can be provided with a view to CYP being returned to the family environment after a short period. Outreach workers will also provide close wider family support and intervention during this time. This respite service will act as a short term break from the home environment and from families/carers during crisis or alternatively provide an interim short term residential provision for medically optimised CYP who are currently in inpatient settings who are awaiting long

term placement provision; it must be noted, that this unit is not a long-term residential solution and maximum length of stay is to be determined.

- 4.4 Staff will have experience in working with individuals with learning disability and/or autism as well as experience of working with both children and adults. Staff will also be required to have an understanding of the health, education & social care system generally as a means of signposting and will require an in-depth understanding of Positive Behavioural Support (PBS), FGC, AIM, and ACE & Trauma Focused Care.
- 4.5 It is envisaged the project will support the following direct and wider system benefits:
- a) Reduction of emergency/crisis admissions.
 - b) Reduction in out of area placements. This is a key priority across Manchester and Greater Manchester.
 - c) Children experience 'permanence' through stable home and care placements and consistency of relationships, even in short- term placements.
 - d) Reduction in family/placement breakdown.

5.0 Proposed timeline

Capital Work tender commence	September 2020
Co-production of final model	September 2020
Capital tender contract award	December 2020
NHSE Capital Grant Provided	February 2021
Transition plans co produced and implemented	October 2020
Tender / Implementation of staffing model	February 2021
Capital Work Commence	February 2021
Ofsted Application Commence	June 2021
New Service Commence	August 2021

6.0 Progress

- 6.1 A Contractor has been procured via the Capital Programmes framework and programme of works agreed. The Construction programme beginning on the 22nd February and estimated to be completed on the 15th June 2021.
- 6.2 Final building costs of £864,137.38 have been agreed with the contractors and NHSE, this has been fully supported by the Capital Programmes Team.

- 6.3 The new LDA Edge of Care Service is currently out to market, with the estimated contract award June 2021. The services will work with 80 families within the first 12 months

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1 This report provides information on the project which will achieve longer term financial sustainability by investing in early help and prevention, working with partners to deliver interventions that deliver longer term and achieve better outcomes.
- 7.2 The Lyndene project evidences robust partnership working and co-production. Its development has made good progress, and as evidenced, will be delivering for our children and families in the Summer 2021.

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 10 March 2021

Subject: Overview Report

Report of: Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

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.

Contact Officer:

Name: Rachel McKeon
Position: Scrutiny Support Officer
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Wards Affected: All

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.		
2 December 2020	CYP/20/51 Early Help Evaluation (2015 - 2020)	To ask officers to consider how Councillors could help with this work and to circulate a note to the Committee Members on this.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be circulated to Members.	Julie Heslop, Strategic Head of Early Help
2 December 2020	CYP/20/51 Early Help Evaluation (2015 - 2020)	To request that the Early Help Project Manager provide information on the number of families, in relation to the presentation slides on areas of the city and the sustainability of impacts.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be reported back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Ed Haygarth, Early Help Project Manager

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 **1 March 2021** 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>Early Years & Education System (EYES) - Additional Funding (2020/09/01A)</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>	<p>City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)</p>	<p>Not before 30th Sep 2020</p>		<p>Checkpoint 4 Business Case</p>	<p>Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education a.corcoran@manchester.gov.uk</p>
<p>Young Manchester Funding (2019/12/06A)</p> <p>To finalise the contract value for the continuation of funding to Young Manchester</p>	<p>City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)</p>	<p>Not before 4th Jan 2020</p>		<p>Manchester Youth Offer Strategy</p>	<p>Lisa Harvey Nebil lisa.harvey-nebil@manchester.gov.uk</p>
<p>Youth Offer Strategy (2019/12/11B)</p> <p>To agree a Youth Offer Strategy for the next 3 years and complete the production of the strategy document</p>	<p>Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)</p>	<p>13 Jan 2020</p>		<p>Manchester Youth Offer Strategy</p>	

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Background documents	Officer Contact
<p>Future model of care for Lyndene Children's Home (2020/07/24C)</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>Contract for the Provision of Children's Residential Care Services in Manchester (2020/07/24D)</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>COVID winter grant to support food provision for children and young people over the Christmas holidays and February half term holiday.</p> <p>Manchester has been allocated £2.581m as a COVID winter grant. A minimum of 80% of this grant must be spent on families with children. The grant covers the</p>	Executive	9 Dec 2020		D2 COVID Winter Grants for food provision to Children	Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education a.corcoran@manchester.gov.uk

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Background documents	Officer Contact
<p>period from 1st December to 31st March 2021.</p> <p>The decision is to agree to support food provision for c43,000 children and young people over the Christmas holidays and February half term holiday</p>					
<p>Contract for the Provision of an Education Psychology Service (2021/02/03A)</p> <p>The appointment of a Provider to deliver an Education Psychology Service.</p>	Strategic Director - Children and Education Services	Not before 1st Apr 2021		Report and Recommendation	Mike Worsley mike.worsley@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Contract for the Provision of Edge of Care Service for Children with a Learning Disability and/or Autism (2021/02/25A)</p> <p>The appointment of Provider to deliver the Edge of Care Service for Children with a Learning Disability and/or Autism.</p>	Strategic Director - Children and Education Services	Not before 1st Apr 2021		Report & Recommendation	Sarah Austin sarah.austin@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Contract for the Provision of Domestic Violence & Abuse Services Lot 1 - Child to Parent Violence & Abuse Project</p>	Executive Director of Adult Social Services	Not before 1st Feb 2021		Report and Recommendation	Delia Edwards, Domestic Abuse Reduction Manager delia.edwards1@manchester.gov.uk

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Background documents	Officer Contact
<p>Lot 2 - Children and Young People affected by Domestic Violence & Abuse (2020/12/23A)</p> <p>The appointment of Provider to deliver the service.</p>					
<p>Q20347 Consultant for EYES data Migration. 2019/04/25A</p> <p>Contract is to support Manchester City Council with the migration of their Education Management System away from Capita One towards the Liquidlogic EYES solution.</p>	<p>City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)</p>	<p>Not before 1st Jun 2019</p>		<p>Report and Recommendation</p>	<p>Jon Nickson j.nickson@manchester.gov.uk</p>

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme – March 2021**

Wednesday 10 March 2021, 10.00am (Report deadline Friday 26 February 2021)				
Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director / Lead Officer	Comments
COVID-19 Update	To receive an oral update on any new developments or significant changes to the current situation, particularly in relation to schools.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	
School Governance	To receive a report on school governance to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment including vacancies for Local Authority Governors and recruitment of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) governors • How Parent Governors can be supported to play a full role in the governing body 	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)	To receive a report on UASC, including work to secure a permanent status.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	
Lyndene Children's Home	To receive a report on the re-purposing of Lyndene Children's Home to provide edge of care services.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	See January 2021 minutes
Overview Report	The monthly report includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.		Rachel McKeon	

Wednesday 26 May 2021, 2.00 pm (Report deadline Friday 14 May 2021) **Please note new meeting time**				
Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director / Lead Officer	Comments
Manchester Safeguarding Partnership	To receive a report on the work of the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	
COVID-19 Update	To receive an update on any new developments or significant changes to the current situation.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall/Amanda Corcoran	
Children and Education Services - Overview and key issues	To receive a report on the upcoming issues and challenges within the Committee's remit.	Councillor Bridges Councillor Rahman	Paul Marshall/ Amanda Corcoran/Sean McKendrick	
Overview Report			Rachel McKeon	
Annual Work Programming Session	The meeting will close for the annual work programming session where Members determine the work programme for the forthcoming year.		Rachel McKeon	

Items To Be Scheduled				
Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Remote Learning	To receive a report on remote learning, to include a particular focus on Years 11 and 13 and information on the numbers of pupils who are able to access any streamed lessons or online learning that is being made available.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	See November 2020 minutes
Children and Young People's Plan 2020 - 2024	To receive an annual report on the progress of this work.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	See November 2020 minutes