



# **Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

Date: Wednesday, 12 October 2022

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Council Antechamber, Level 2, Town Hall Extension

Everyone is welcome to attend this committee meeting.

There will be a private meeting for Committee Members only at 1:30pm in the Council Antechamber, Town Hall Extension

## **Access to the Council Antechamber**

Public access to the Council Antechamber is on Level 2 of the Town Hall Extension, using the lift or stairs in the lobby of the Mount Street entrance to the Extension.

**There is no public access from any other entrance.**

## **Filming and broadcast of the meeting**

Meetings of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee are 'webcast'. These meetings are filmed and broadcast live on the Internet. If you attend this meeting you should be aware that you might be filmed and included in that transmission.

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

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### **Councillors –**

Reid (Chair), Abdullatif, Alijah, Amin, Bano, Cooley, Gartside, Hewitson, Johnson, Judge, Lovecy, Sadler and Sharif Mahamed

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

Mr G Cleworth, Miss S Iltaf, Ms K McDaid, Mrs J Miles, Dr W Omara and Ms L Smith

## Agenda

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**1. Urgent Business**

To consider any items which the Chair has agreed to have submitted as urgent.

**2. Appeals**

To consider any appeals from the public against refusal to allow inspection of background documents and/or the inclusion of items in the confidential part of the agenda.

**3. Interests**

To allow Members an opportunity to [a] declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and [b] record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax/Council rent arrears; [c] the existence and nature of party whipping arrangements in respect of any item to be considered at this meeting. Members with a personal interest should declare that at the start of the item under consideration. If Members also have a prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of the item.

**4. Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2022.

Pages  
7 - 12

**5. Climate Change and Schools - to follow**

**6. Admission Policies for 2024/25 for community and voluntary controlled primary schools and community high schools**

Report of the Director of Education

Pages  
13 - 22

This report seeks approval to commence consultation on revised admissions arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary schools and community high schools. The Committee is invited to comment on the report prior to its submission to the Executive on 19 October 2022.

**7. School Places**

Report of the Director of Education and the Head of Access and Sufficiency

Pages  
23 - 32

This report provides an overview of Manchester's current school age population and the numbers forecast for future academic years. It also details work previously undertaken and that which is planned to achieve a sufficiency of school places. The Committee is invited to comment on the report prior to its submission to the Executive on 19 October 2022.

- 8. Update on the Independent Review of Children's Social Care** Pages  
Presentation of the Deputy Strategic Director for Children's 33 - 46  
Services

This presentation provides Members with an update on the Independent Review of Children's Social Care.

- 9. Overview Report** Pages  
Report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit 47 - 58

The monthly report includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.

## Information about the Committee

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Scrutiny Committees represent the interests of local people about important issues that affect them. They look at how the decisions, policies and services of the Council and other key public agencies impact on the city and its residents. Scrutiny Committees do not take decisions but can make recommendations to decision-makers 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 – Dr Walid Omara
- Parent governor representative – Ms Katie McDaid
- Parent governor representative – Mr Gary Cleworth
- Secondary sector teacher representative – Miss Saba Iltaf
- Primary sector teacher representative – Ms Laura Smith

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.

The Council welcomes the filming, recording, public broadcast and use of social media to report on the Committee's meetings by members of the public.

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

Smoking is not allowed in Council buildings.

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## Further Information

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

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This agenda was issued on **Tuesday, 4 October 2022** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 2, Town Hall Extension (Library Walk Elevation), Manchester M60 2LA

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

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2022**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Reid – in the Chair  
Councillors Amin, Bano, Gartside, Hewitson, Lovecy and Sadler

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

Mr G Cleworth, Parent Governor Representative

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

Miss S Iltaf, Secondary Sector Teacher Representative  
Ms L Smith, Primary Sector Teacher Representative

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People

#### **Apologies:**

Councillors Abdullatif, Alijah, Cooley, Johnson and Judge

#### **CYP/22/39                      Minutes**

#### **Decisions**

1. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2022.
2. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Ofsted Subgroup held on 27 July 2022.

#### **CYP/22/40                      Manchester Our Children Sufficiency Strategy**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which provided the progress of the implementation of the 2020 – 22 Our Children Sufficiency Strategy and shared the new 2022 – 27 Our Children Sufficiency Strategy. It stated that the aim of the 2022 – 27 Strategy would be to continue to embed the developed practice, sustaining and progressing the partnership approach to deliver innovate models of accommodation.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Background information;
- Main issues; and
- Looking to the future.

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

- To welcome the innovative work taking place;
- The not-for-profit sector;
- The Mockingbird model; and
- That the Council had closed a number of its in-house children's homes and would it need to establish any more.

The Strategic Commissioning Lead reported that in-house foster carers delivered a significant proportion of the provision but that the Council also worked with other providers, including profit and not-for-profit organisations and charitable organisations. She informed Members about work taking place to develop different models, in particular for the post-16 offer, including Staying Close and the House Project, which were enabling young people to move into housing before they were 18, which was taking pressure of the commissioned resource. She advised that decisions on placements were based on the assessed needs of the young person but making the right decisions first time also led to efficiencies. The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services described how the service developed relationships with providers to ensure that they had confidence in each other which meant that they were more likely to provide the range and choice to meet the different needs of individual children and young people and prevent them from moving from placement to placement.

The Strategic Commissioning Lead explained that the Mockingbird model involved a cluster group of foster carers supporting each other with an experienced foster carer, who might not have a child placed with them at the time, as a hub home carer, at the centre. In response to a question from the Chair about the Take a Breath model, she advised that this was for young people who should not be in secure accommodation but who could not currently be found suitable placements in the community because of the level of their needs so models needed to be developed with health partners. The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services advised that this related to young people who did not need to be in hospital but needed a bespoke specialist provision for a presenting need and that, if the correct provision was not put in place, it could lead to a cycle of re-admissions. He advised that a Key Decision would need to be taken in relation to this at a future date and the Committee might receive a further report at that stage.

In relation to the previous decision to close a number of the city's in-house children's homes, the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services advised that this represented a shift towards focusing on children's needs rather than seeing children's homes as the default option. He advised that family-based care was usually best for children. He reported that the number of Looked After Children in Manchester was not increasing but the complexity of need was and that it was more bespoke and specialist provision that was needed, rather than more children's homes.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Strategic Commissioning Lead reported that Ghyll Head was used for short breaks and that the Council was also looking for other locations which could be used.



## Decision

To note the report.

### **CYP/22/41                      School Attendance in Manchester**

The Committee received a report and presentation of the Director of Education which reviewed school attendance in Manchester in 2021/2022 and summarised Manchester's strategic approach to improve school attendance in 2022/23.

The main points and themes within the presentation included:

- The importance of school attendance;
- The current climate in Manchester in 2021/2022;
- National policy context and new guidance;
- Local context;
- Strategic approach; and
- Next steps.

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

- To welcome the positive attendance data;
- Variation in absence levels across different wards and whether the data was also broken down by age and different communities;
- Children with anxiety about attending school;
- Families where absence was part of a wider picture of family problems which needed to be addressed;
- Whether additional funding was available to tackle persistent absence;
- The cost-of-living crisis and the cost of school uniforms; and
- That childhood illnesses would be increasing now that people were mixing more again.

In response to a Member's question on the extent to which persistent absence was condoned by the parents, the Statutory Lead (Attendance and Exclusions) informed Members that data was not available on this. He highlighted that children could still be off school with COVID-19 and that this was still affecting attendance levels. He advised that attendance data was broken down by sector and by Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and that work would be taking place over the next year to analyse the data by gender, ethnicity and whether the child had a social worker. He advised that the data was available broken down by school. He outlined some of the help available for children who were missing school due to anxiety, including Early Help, THRIVE Hubs and the anxiety-based school avoidance pathway.

The Director of Education reported that there was a lower percentage of children with SEND and special school pupils returning to school and higher levels of anxiety within this group. She advised that, although her service was pleased with the attendance levels last year, these had still not returned to pre-pandemic levels and that they wanted to get them back to the level that they were before the pandemic.

She advised that it was important to use all the resources available to tackle persistent absence, engaging with all the different organisations which had a relationship with the child and their family and working together to get them attending school regularly. She also informed Members that additional funding of just over £1 million a year was being provided by the Department for Education (DfE) for the SAFE Project, to intervene with secondary age children who were at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

The Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People stated that he shared Members' concerns about the cost-of-living crisis and the impact on children and families. He advised that the Deputy Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People was working with the Education Business Partner on making schools more poverty-proof. He advised that schools had a responsibility to make uniforms available as cheaply and easily accessible as possible and to help families who could not afford them and that an audit was taking place of how well different Manchester schools were doing on this.

In response to a Member's question, the Statutory Lead (Attendance and Exclusions) reported that schools were good at identifying patterns of absence and understanding and working with local communities, for example, having their inset days on dates of religious festivals. He advised that the additional breakdown of data which would be available next year would also assist with identifying patterns. The Director of Education informed Members that targeted meetings between her service and individual schools provided the opportunity to look at the data, identify patterns of absence and challenge schools on their response. The Senior Schools Quality Assurance Officer outlined how her service worked with schools to improve attendance, reduce persistent absence and provide early intervention for the most vulnerable pupils, including access to wider services.

The Chair expressed concern about absence rates for children with SEND and Looked After Children. She also highlighted that some children had not returned to school after the pandemic, with families opting for Elective Home Education. She expressed concern about homeless families being placed a long distance from their children's school and the impact of this on school attendance. She outlined some of the ways that families could be supported, for example, through Sure Start, and stated that billboards could be used to advise families how to access support. She noted that the Committee periodically received reports on school exclusions.

### **Decision**

To request that a breakdown of attendance data by school be circulated to Members of the Committee.

### **CYP/22/42 Information and Update on Schools White Paper**

The Committee received a report and presentation of the Director of Education which summarised the content of the Government's White Paper on Schools titled 'Opportunity for all: Strong schools with great teachers for your child' which was published in April 2022. It included contextual information on Manchester's current

school system and set out the opportunities and challenges presented by these changes, a proposed approach and next steps to implementation.

The main points and themes within the report and presentation included:

- The strategy set out in the White Paper which included:
  - Teachers;
  - Standards;
  - Targeted support; and
  - The school system;
- The Manchester context, the approach to implementation and challenges for the city; and
- Next steps.

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

- Concern that there would be a loss of accountability and whether the Council would be able to ensure that the Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) shared its vision, values and priorities;
- Concern about the timescale for these changes;
- Whether assets used by the community would still be available for use post-academisation; and
- Would teachers be involved in the discussions about how schools moved to MATs.

The Assistant Director of Education reported that Manchester schools could be run by smaller MATs which were already operating and working well within Manchester, rather than national chains, and that the Council would be having discussions with those MATs. She advised that decisions around academisation would be made by the governing body but that staff would be consulted as part of the TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings – Protection of Employment) process and that there was staff representation on governing bodies. She advised that the Council would be working with schools to help them identify which MAT was best for them, based on the school's needs.

The Director of Education advised Members that she believed that Manchester schools and MATs would continue to support the Council's vision, values and priorities and that the Council would continue to work with them on priorities for the city, such as climate change and community use of facilities. She reported that the Council had a good relationship with the schools in the city and that the MATs currently operating in the city had engaged positively with them.

The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services highlighted that 40% of Manchester schools were already academies, that the Council was already working with all of its schools and that the Council would try to shape and influence how these changes were implemented to the best of its ability.

The Chair expressed serious concern about the proposals in the White Paper, including the future role of the Council and its education staff and that she felt the

education system was being privatised. She advised that Councillors should lobby government about these changes and that Members would be discussing this further outside of this meeting.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

### **CYP/22/43 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.

### **Decisions**

1. To note the report and agree the work programme.
2. To add Councillor Bano to the membership of the Ofsted Subgroup

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Resolution**

**Report to:** Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 12 October 2022  
Executive – 19 October 2022

**Subject:** Admission Policies for 2024/25 for community and voluntary controlled primary schools and community high schools

**Report of:** Director of Education

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**Summary**

To seek approval to commence consultation on revised admissions arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary schools and community high schools.

As the Admissions Authority for the community and voluntary controlled schools in Manchester, the LA is required to draft, consult on and determine their admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and community high schools.

**Recommendations**

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is requested to:-

- (1) Comment on the proposed revised admissions arrangements and the implementation of these new arrangements.
- (2) Note the formal consultation on changing the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary schools and community high schools will commence on 31 October 2022.
- (3) Endorse the Executive recommendations

The Executive is recommended to: -

- (1) Consider the recommendations of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (if any).
- (2) Agree in principle the proposed revised admissions arrangements.
- (3) Authorise the Director of Education to consult on the proposed implementation proposed revised admissions arrangements
- (4) Authorise the Director of Education to consider any responses received to the consultation and to agree to the implementation of the proposed arrangements
- (5) Adopt the proposed arrangements under delegated powers after consultation:

**Wards Affected:** All

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

Using less paper reduces the impact on forests, limits water use, less air and energy waste which all impact the current negative climate change pollution.

**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion** - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments

Does not impact on different protected or disadvantaged groups.

<b>Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy</b>
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Changes to the way parents apply for school places will not be affected. The ongoing growth of the City's education sector will continue to create opportunity for employment all business sectors.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	A sufficiency of high-quality education provision which is easily accessible to families at the application stage will provide future generations with the skills and behaviours to benefit from the City's economic success.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Schools are environments in which the diversity and talent of Manchester's children and young people is celebrated. Pupils are supported and encouraged to achieve their aspirations and Maximise their potential.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Investment in modern, energy efficient and high quality parental and back-office processes solutions which are easily accessible will reduce our carbon footprint
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Investment in existing and new ways of working initiatives will enhance the City's attractiveness to residents and stakeholders to contribute to high Quality services.

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

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

**Financial Consequences – Revenue**

No Revenue consequences

**Financial Consequences – Capital**

No Capital consequences

**Contact Officers:**

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

Not applicable

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 All schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school. Admission arrangements are determined by admission authorities.
- 1.2 Admission authorities must set ('determine') admission arrangements annually. Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements, the admission authority must first publicly consult on those arrangements. If no changes are made to admission arrangements, they must be consulted on at least once every 7 years. Consultation must be for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January of the school year before those arrangements are to apply (the determination year). For example: for arrangements which are to apply for entry in September 2024, consultation must be completed by 31 January 2023. This consultation period allows parents, other schools, religious authorities, and the local community to raise any concerns about the proposed admission arrangements.
- 1.3 Manchester City Council is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled primary schools and for community high schools. Manchester's admission arrangements for Voluntary controlled and community schools were last consulted upon in January 2015. Manchester must now consult upon its arrangements as a requirement of the school admissions code.
- 1.4 This paper proposes that formal consultation on changing the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary schools and community high schools should commence on the 31 October 2022. The consultation will cover the following key proposal:
  - To change the reapplication process for parents applying for a school place in year from three times per year to one. This means when an application is made, and a lower preference or alternative school place is offered, applicant details will remain on the waiting lists for the higher preference school for the whole or remainder of that academic year only. Currently, waiting lists for schools are cleared at the end of each term and parents wishing to be replaced on a waiting list need to reapply each time.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Council's arrangements (policies) for admission to community and voluntary controlled primary schools and to community high schools were last reviewed for the school year 2016/ 2017. During the last review, category 4 was introduced into the Council's admission arrangements for applications received in year, this is where applicants new to the city are placed in a higher category to a school place before another applicant who already has a school place. The arrangements also introduced a termly waiting list which meant that children are removed from waiting lists 3 times per academic year. This



means that when parents want their child to remain on a school waiting list, they need to reapply each term.

- 2.2 Both the primary and secondary school transition and in year arrangements are based on free expressions of parental preference, with oversubscription criteria applied to decide which children are offered places when there are more preferences expressed than places available.
- 2.3 The additional category to the in-year arrangements (category 4) has been an important aspect of the Council's criteria, as it provides priority admission for children new to the city who do not have a school place enabling them to access education more quickly.
- 2.4 The city council uses these arrangements for the one community secondary school for which it is the admission authority, and for 52 community and voluntary controlled primary schools.
- 2.5 Manchester has 167 schools within its local authority area. School admission service coordinates the In-Year waiting lists for all the different types of schools set out in the table below.

School Name	Governance						
	Academy	Community	Foundation	Free School	Vol Aided	Vol Controlled	Total
All-through	1	1					2
Primary	38	39	2	7	37	13	136
Secondary	19			6	4		29
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>167</b>

- 2.6 There are 93 schools which use the category 4 criteria, of these 40 schools are responsible for determining their own admission arrangements and currently use criteria which mirror those set by the City Council, these are below.

School Name	Governance						
	Academy	Community	Foundation	Free School	Vol Aided	Vol Controlled	Total
All-through		1					1
Primary	27	39		3		13	82
Secondary	9			1			10
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>40</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>93</b>

- 2.7 Overall, Manchester's well established admission arrangements work well and are understood by schools and parents and carers. This is evidenced through the high percentages of children who are allocated their preferred school as illustrated in the recent transition rounds below.

- 99% of applicants for places in reception received a 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> preference offer.

- 91% of applicants for places in year 7 received a 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> preference offer.

### **3.0 Main Issues**

- 3.1 In 2021 the Department for Education introduced changes to the School Admission Code. It advises that upon receipt of an in-year application, the admission authority, or the local authority if it is co-ordinating the admissions authority's in-year admissions, must notify the parents of the outcome of their application in writing within 10 school days. Where an offer of a place cannot be made within 10 school days, the code mandates that these applications must be presented through the LAs In Year Fair Access protocol.
- 3.2 In Year Fair Access is a statutory requirement, the Protocol is in place because the School Admissions Code 2021 states that 'each local authority must have a Fair Access Protocol, agreed with the majority of schools in its area to ensure that – outside the normal admissions round – (in year Admissions) unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible.
- 3.3 The In Year Fair Access protocol is a statutory requirement for all LAs. The School Admissions Code 2021 states that 'each local authority must have a Fair Access Protocol, agreed with the majority of schools in its area to ensure that – outside the normal admissions round (In Year Applications) unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible.
- 3.4 Manchester currently co-ordinates places for all in year applications for all types of schools within the city. Application forms can be found on-line, or paper copies are available upon request to the council and can also be obtained from any school in the city
- 3.5 The admissions service produces weekly waiting lists on a Monday and provide this information to each school. Schools return the lists complete with any school place vacancies they hold. Admissions then notify the parent/applicant of the offer of a school place. Should the schools be unable to make the offer of a place, a place at an alternative school will be identified by Admissions and the parent will be notified.
- 3.6 Manchester continues to receive high volumes of applications requesting places for school places within the school year and outside of usual school transition rounds at Reception and Year 7. These are referred to as in year school admission applications. Since the introduction of new national In Year guidance to the school admissions code in May 2021, the admissions service have identified and referred significantly high numbers of applications through its in year fair access process to identify school places within a reasonable time.
- 3.7 During the 21/22 academic year, 8500 in year applications were received requesting a school place. Of these, 5801 were offered a school place. The remaining applicants were parents applying for a transfer from their current

school to a higher preferred school during the academic year. Only 1415 pupils were removed from school registers, due to leaving the city, in the same period of time.

- 3.8 The net increase of children coming into the city has resulted in capacity within some year groups being significantly low, especially in the high school sector. This means that the majority of preferences, made in year, cannot be met as the preferred school is already full. When this happens, an alternative school place is identified, and the applicants' details remain on the waiting list for their preferred school until the end of term, when all applicants are removed.
- 3.9 The table below shows that a high percentage of both primary & secondary school places offers are made to an alternative school when the application is received during the school year.

In Year 2021-22	Places Offered	Alternative Offer
<b>Manchester Primary</b>	3976	1691
<b>Manchester Secondary</b>	1825	971
<b>Total offers</b>	5801	2662

- 3.10 The process to remove applicants from waiting lists for the start of the new term is lengthy and time consuming for parents and the admissions service, parents have also reported that they find the current system confusing. The process of re-application has become ineffective and is causing unnecessary re-application tasks for parents and the council.
- 3.11 The current arrangements of re-application every term have also meant that parents are often reluctant to accept an alternative offer of a school place as this process heightens expectations that they may gain a place at the school of preference at the beginning of each new term when they re-apply. Consequently, it sometimes means that children are not accessing education while parents are waiting for a place at a preferred school.

#### **4.0 Proposals**

- 4.1 The Council is proposing to change the re-application process from three times per year to one. This means when an application is made, and a lower preference or alternative school place is offered, applicant details will remain on the waiting lists for the higher preference school for the whole or remainder of the academic year. All details of every application will then be removed yearly over the summer break rather than every term.
- 4.2 The benefits of this change will provide
- Assurance that all school preferences are being considered for longer
  - Applicants not having to reapply termly
  - It is clearer for parents, and they will be more likely to accept a place at an alternative school place in the meantime which will reduce the time children are missing education.

- Officer time used more effectively and reduce officer process time in responding to parental queries on the receipt of termly applications
- An improved customer experience for families

## 5.0 Oversubscription Criterion

- 5.1 It is proposed that the oversubscription criteria for in year applicants **remains unchanged** and will continue to be applied for applications received during the academic year for all year groups for primary and secondary school and is as follows:

**Category 1** - children who are looked after by a local authority and children who were previously looked after by a local authority UK or from overseas. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, UK or from overseas (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order);

**Category 2** - children with exceptional medical/social needs;

A panel of Local Authority officers will consider Category 2 applications on behalf of the Director of Children's Services. If a parent has chosen a particular school because the child has exceptional social or medical circumstances or the parent is disabled, this should be indicated with the reasons for choosing the school. Parents must also provide a letter from a doctor or social worker as supporting evidence. The LA will then send a category 2 application form allowing the parent to state in full the exceptional social/medical reasons why the child should attend this school. If supporting evidence is not supplied with a category 2 application the application will be refused.

**Category 3** - children with a sibling at the school;

A sibling is defined as a brother or sister attending the applied for school when the applicant will take up the place and living at the same address. This includes adopted siblings, stepsiblings and foster children;

Sibling criteria, as specified above will be applied with the exception of siblings who are attending the 6<sup>th</sup> form of a secondary school or academy.

**Category 4** - children who are new to the city

**Category 5** – all other children

- 5.2 Within each category, applicants will be prioritised according to the distance between the child's permanent address and the school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the centre point of the child's permanent home address to the centre point of the school as defined by Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG), and using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving higher priority.

- 5.3 It is proposed that the oversubscription criteria for applicants at transition points **remains unchanged** and will continue to be applied for applications received for both primary reception and secondary year 7 transition application rounds school and is as follows:

**Category 1** - children who are looked after by a local authority and children who were previously looked after by a local authority. Children who were looked after or in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order). A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or another professional provider of care;

**Category 2** - children with exceptional medical/social needs;

**Category 3** – children with a sibling at the school;

**Category 4** - all other children

## 6.0 Consultation

- 6.1 For the 2024/ 2025 admission arrangements an eight-week period of statutory consultation will begin on 31 October 2022, with the consultation period ending on 16 December 2022. The following stakeholders, as required by the admissions code, will be invited to make comments:

- a) parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
- b) other persons resident in the city who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions (including local Members of Parliament in affected areas);
- c) all other admission authorities in the city
- d) all neighbouring local authorities
- e) in the case of faith schools, the body or person representing the religion or religious denomination.

- 6.2 All the above stakeholders will be provided with the consultation documentation which is reproduced at appendix A. Consultees will be invited to submit their views on the issues raised and on any other issues which they consider to be relevant.

## **7.0 Other admission authorities**

- 7.1 Each individual governing body is the admission authority for primary and secondary schools with voluntary aided, foundation or academy status. The same requirements for consultation apply to these schools/academies, when governors wish to change their admission arrangements (policy). The Local Authority has to be consulted as part of the review process.
- 7.2 For those schools who wish to continue to mirror the new arrangements proposed by the Council, a joint consultation process will be undertaken where this is preferred by the governing body.

## **8.0 Recommendations**

- 8.1 The recommendations are set out at the front of this report.

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Resolution**

**Report to:** Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 12 October 2022  
Executive – 19 October 2022

**Subject:** School Places

**Report of:** Director of Education and The Head of Access and Sufficiency

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### Summary

This report provides an overview of Manchester's current school age population and the numbers forecast for future academic years. It also details work previously undertaken and that which is planned to achieve a sufficiency of school places.

### Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:-

- (1) To consider and comment on the information contained in this report.

The Executive is recommended to:-

- (1) Support the principle that High Needs Capital and Basic Need funding is used to fund the new special high school;
  - (2) Agree that the Council undertakes consultation to gather views on the plans to develop a new special high school as a first step towards identifying a provider for the new school;
  - (3) Delegate responsibility to the Director of Education in consultation with the Executive Member for Children's Services to:
    - a. progress the publication of a specification for the new school and invitations to sponsor based on the outcomes of the consultation.
    - b. Identify a preferred sponsor for the new school to be recommended to the DfE.
- 

**Wards Affected:** All

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

All new development and expansions of existing schools are subject to environmental considerations and are designed to standards which promote zero-carbon. This is achieved through the design, planning and procurement processes.

**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion** - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments

This report highlights the ambition to develop a new secondary special school. To establish a new school local authorities must follow the Department for Education Free School Presumption guidance.

The presumption process is the main route by which local authorities establish new schools in order to meet the need for additional places, both in terms of basic need and the need for diverse provision within their areas.

As part of the planning process for new schools, local authorities must also undertake an assessment of the impact of the proposal, both on existing educational institutions locally and in terms of impact on particular groups of pupils from an equalities perspective.

<b>Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy</b>
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The ongoing growth of the City's education sector will continue to create opportunities for employment in schools and those businesses which are involved in the supply of goods and transport services.
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	A sufficiency of high-quality education provision which is easily accessible to families will provide future generations with the skills and behaviours to benefit from the City's economic success.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Schools are environments in which the diversity and talent of Manchester's children and young people is celebrated. Pupils are supported and encouraged to achieve their aspirations and maximise their potential.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	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	Investment in existing and new education provision will enhance the City's attractiveness to potential residents and contribute to the development of high-quality neighbourhoods.

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

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations



**Financial Consequences – Revenue**

The additional primary and secondary school places will be funded from Dedicated School Grant. The funding is based on pupil numbers and pupil characteristics. Start-up costs of new mainstream school's set-up through Local Authority free school presumption will be funded by Manchester's Dedicated Schools Grant growth fund.

The additional special school places will be funded through the high needs block of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

**Financial Consequences – Capital**

Investment in a new secondary special school will be resourced from the Unallocated High Needs Capital and Basic Need grants within the current Capital Programme

**Contact Officers:**

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

Not applicable

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of Manchester's current school age population and the numbers forecast for future academic years. It also details work previously undertaken and that which is planned to achieve a sufficiency of school places.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Council has a legal duty to secure sufficient school places and achieves this through the commissioning of additional capacity in existing schools or by developing new schools using its basic need capital allocation and undertaking a free school presumption process or through the national free schools' route. This additional capacity is commissioned based on forecasts of future demand across primary, secondary, and specialist provision.

## **3.0 The School Age Population**

- 3.1 Our Manchester has a focus on children having the best start in life and a positive and successful educational experience, attending a good or better school. Ensuring that residents have access to high quality schools within their local area is central to achieving the Our Manchester Strategy. Achieving a sufficiency of high-quality school places to meet need continues to require considerable investment, strategic planning and partnership with schools and school providers across the city, as the overall number of pupils continue to increase year on year and, increasingly, throughout each year.
- 3.2 The range of factors which influence demand for school places is extensive and complex. It includes birth rate, migration to and movement around the City, the impact of welfare reforms, new housing developments, and changing patterns of parental preference for schools, restrictions on the supply of school places outside the City e.g. neighbouring authorities, changing economic circumstances and successful regeneration.
- 3.3 The COVID19 pandemic, associated lockdowns, and restrictions of movement resulted in reduced in-year demand for school places. Since restrictions have ended there has been a significant increase in demand for school places by those arriving in the city. This is placing considerable pressure on secondary schools across the city and some primary settings in specific locations and year groups.
- 3.4 In addition to the growth in demand post pandemic, Manchester has also received a significant volume of international new arrivals including Afghan and Ukrainian nationals who arrived in the city as part of the Government's resettlement schemes requiring school places.
- 3.5 The school census (PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census) is a statutory data return to the Department for Education which takes place during the autumn, spring, and summer terms and collects information about individual pupils. The annual school census completed in January 2022

showed 81,922 pupils attending Manchester Schools compared to 80,144 pupils in January 2021 – this snapshot shows growth of 1,778 pupils across the mainstream primary and secondary phases within a year.

- 3.6 Projections of anticipated pupil demand were submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) in July 2022 as part of the School Capacity Survey (SCAP). The forecasts will identify the projected number of places required to meet the Council's sufficiency duty and determine its Basic Need funding allocation for future years.

Academic Year	Y0	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
2022-23	6415	6864	7074	7225	7147	7350	7322
2023-24	6301	6529	6900	7128	7298	7194	7434
2024-25	5722	6414	6563	6952	7200	7345	7277
2025-26	5710	5824	6447	6613	7022	7247	7430

Academic Year	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
2022-23	6890	6767	6646	6427	6331
2023-24	6985	6986	6831	6723	6471
2024-25	7066	7083	7050	6909	6771
2025-26	6900	7166	7149	7130	6958

- 3.7 As part of the overall growth there is ongoing demand for specialist places. Nationally, the actual numbers and proportion of pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) have increased with the overall percentage now at 4.0% of the whole school population. Within the Manchester school population, the January 2022 census showed that 4.7% of the school population have an EHCP (4,350 pupils). In Manchester the number of pupils attending special schools is growing and now stands at 2.2% of the total school population.

#### 4.0 Approach to Securing Sufficient School Places

- 4.1 In response to the increasing demand for school places the Council continues to work with its partners to develop additional places in targeted areas, utilising capital funding provided by the Government to the Council for this purpose (known as Basic Need capital funding), as well as through access to some additional sources of funding where possible and the development of free schools through the Government's free school scheme.
- 4.2 The development of new schools by a local authority requires that the DfE free school presumption process is undertaken. The presumption process is the main route by which local authorities establish new schools in order to meet the need for additional places, both in terms of basic need and the need for diverse provision within their areas.

- 4.3 Local authorities are responsible for determining the specification for the new school and will fund and deliver the site and buildings through its Basic Need Funding allocation, and work with the approved sponsor to establish the school. All new schools established through the presumption process are classified as free schools. This reflects the fact that ‘free school’ is the department’s term for any new provision academy. ‘Academy’ is the legal term for state-funded schools that are independent of local authority control and receive their funding directly from the government.
- 4.4 The presumption process requires local authorities to seek proposals to establish a free school where they have identified the need for a new school in their area. The process is broadly outlined as follows:

Step	Description
Local authority consultation	Stakeholder views gathered on proposed new school and used to inform specification Impact and equalities assessment Identify impact of proposed new school on existing educational institutions and pupils
School specification	Development of specification to enable proposers to understand the needs of the local authority and submit the strongest proposal possible
Seeking proposals	Marketing of the presumption competition as widely as possible to ensure that the broadest possible range of groups or organisations that might be interested in establishing the new school are aware of the opportunity to do so and have sufficient time to develop proposals
Assessing proposals	Submitted proposals to be assessed and scored by the local authority
Local authority recommendation	Local authorities should provide their assessments of each application to the Secretary of State at the earliest opportunity, including the scoring given for each proposal. This assessment will enable the RSC, on behalf of the Secretary of State, to decide on the most suitable proposer to take forward the new free school.

- 4.5 In recent years the Council has undertaken four successful free school presumptions which led to the establishment of three new secondary schools and one new primary. The most recent being a new secondary school in Longsight Ward known as Co-op Academy Belle View which opened in September 2021. New schools established through the Free School Presumption route will be expected to work to local admission arrangements and contribute to the City’s priorities for its children and young people.

## 5.0 Actions to Secure Sufficient School Places

### Primary Phase

- 5.1 The continued attractiveness of the city centre as a place to live and work and ongoing residential growth is expected to result in additional demand for primary school places as more residents choose to remain in the area when starting a family.

- 5.2 In response to this forecast demand the Council is working with Renaker Build to establish a new primary school as part of the Crown Street phase 2 development. The school will provide 210 places for primary age children along with a 26-place nursery. It will be funded by S106 and basic need capital and is expected to open in 2024. A free school presumption has been completed with The Laurus Trust appointed as operator.
- 5.3 Olive School - a centrally funded free school - remains in the pipeline and is expected to open in 2024 at a site in the Cheetham area. The School will be part of the Star Academies Trust and offer a total of 420 places.

### Secondary Phase

- 5.4 Historical growth of primary cohorts is continuing to drive increased demand for places at secondary schools along with new arrivals to the city. In response to this demand the Council commissioned a significant programme of expansions and new schools funded from Basic Need capital and worked with the DfE to secure the delivery of centrally funded free schools.

School	Age Range	Delivery Route	Opened	Places
Dean Trust	11-16	MCC Free School	2015	1200
MEA Central	11-16	MCC Free School	2016	1050
Eden Boys Leadership Academy	11-18	DfE Free School	2017	600
Eden Girls Leadership Academy	11-18	DfE Free School	2017	600
CHS South	11-16	DfE Free School	2018	1200
Co-op Academy Manchester	11-16	MCC Expansion	2018	720
Didsbury High School	11-18	DfE Free School	2019	1050
Dean Trust	11-16	MCC Expansion	2020	150
Co-op Academy Belle Vue	11-16	MCC Free School	2021	1200
Our Lady's RC High School	11-16	MCC Expansion	2022	150
Dixons Brooklands Academy	11-16	MCC Bulge Class	2022	30
Manchester Enterprise Academy	11-16	MCC Bulge Class	2022	60
St Paul's RC High School	11-16	MCC Bulge Class	2022	15

- 5.5 A further two pipeline secondary schools are planned to open and will be delivered by the DfE as part of the central free school programme. Dixons Newall Green Academy will open in 2023 and is set to provide a total of 700 places at the former site of Newall Green Academy in Baguley. The Dean Trust will open a new school in 2027 providing 1050 places at a site in Newton Heath.

- 5.6 Work is currently being undertaken to identify further opportunities for creating additional places in secondary schools in areas where there is significant in-year demand.

### Special Schools

- 5.7 There are currently 15 Special schools established in the City organised across primary and secondary. In addition, 20 schools have resourced provision (RP) for between 7 and 15 children at each site in excess of their mainstream cohorts. Resourced provision is setup in dedicated environments within the school's accommodation.
- 5.8 Special schools and resourced provision in Manchester are operating at or close to capacity with few options remaining to create additional places in existing accommodation. Data shows that there is continuing demand which correlates with growth in the City's population and mainstream pupil cohort as well as earlier identification of children who will require specialist provision. Meeting the needs of this vulnerable cohort will require that Specialist provision is organised effectively and efficiently across the City.
- 5.9 A significant number of council commissioned expansions have taken place to increase capacity within the specialist sector. In addition, the DfE have delivered one new primary special school in the north of the city. Details of capacity increases are noted in the following table.

School	Age Range	Delivery Route	Opened	Places
Prospect House	3-11	DfE Free School	2020	100
North Ridge High School	16-18	MCC Expansion	2021	36
Grange	4-19	MCC Expansion	2021	30
Camberwell Park	2-11	MCC Expansion	2021	80
Southern Cross (Roundwood site)	9-16	MCC Expansion	2021	67
Southern Cross (Castlefield site)	9-16	MCC Expansion	2021	50
The Barlow RC High School (Resourced Provision)	11-16	MCC Expansion	2022	16
The Birches	2-11	MCC Expansion	2022	8
Lancasterian	3-16	MCC Expansion	2022	26
Rodney House	4-11	MCC Expansion	2022	10
Gorton Primary (Resourced Provision)	3-11	MCC Expansion	2022	18
Melland High School	11-19	MCC Expansion	2023	64
Pioneer House	11-19	MCC Expansion	2024	40
William Hulme's Grammar School	3-18	MCC Expansion	2024	30

(Resourced Provision)				
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- 5.10 Earlier this year the DfE announced a new central free school round for local authorities to propose new special schools. These new schools will be constructed by the DfE and operated by multi academy trusts subject to completion of a competitive tender processes. Manchester has submitted two proposals which, if successful, would secure additional secondary specialist capacity totalling 240 places. The DfE will announce successful applications in early 2023 with new schools expected to open in 2025.
- 5.11 Considering the ongoing high levels of demand for specialist provision across the City it is anticipated that further investment will be required to meet growth in the cohort of children with an EHCP who require places in resourced provision or special schools now and in the future. Work has been undertaken by Capital Programmes and Procurement to identify opportunities for creating additional places in new settings.
- 5.12 It is therefore proposed that a new secondary special school will be brought forward as a local authority presumption at a site located in Miles Platting. The school is expected to provide 150 places for pupils with an EHCP and will open in 2025. This new investment will be resourced from the High Needs Capital and Basic Need grants.

## 6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 The Local Authority has very strong partnerships with all schools and Multi Academy Trusts that work in the City. Through this collaboration, a significant number of new school places have been created as both expansions of existing schools and the development of new schools to meet demand across the City. However, projections show that there continues to be a need for additional places across the secondary school sector and recent pressures have been exacerbated by the DfE's decision to close Newall Green secondary School in 2019, pressure on secondary places in neighbouring Local Authorities, delays in DfE progressing an approved secondary free school as well as a growing child population in the City. The Local authority will continue to work with Multi Academy Trust and school leaders in the City to explore options for creating additional secondary school places.

## 7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 The Children and Young People' Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:-
- (1) To consider and comment on the information contained in this report.
- 7.2 The Executive is recommended to:-
- (1) Support the principle that High Needs Capital and Basic Need funding is used to fund the new special high school;

- (2) Agree that the Council undertakes consultation to gather views on the plans to develop a new special high school as a first step towards identifying a provider for the new school;
- (3) Delegate responsibility to the Director of Education in consultation with the Executive Member for Children's Services to:
  - a) progress the publication of a specification for the new school and invitations to sponsor based on the outcomes of the consultation.
  - b) Identify a preferred sponsor for the new school to be recommended to the DfE.



**Update on the Independent Review of Children's  
Social Care – September 2022.  
Sean McKendrick, Deputy Strategic Director for  
Children's Services.**

**Children and young peoples scrutiny  
committee 12th October 2022 .**



**MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL**

# Introduction

- The review commenced in March 2021 and published a case for change June 2021 and published its final report on May 2022, Government have re-confirmed their commitment to respond to the review by the end of the year.
- The review involved significant consultation including experts by experience, professionals and academics.
- A number of the recommendations require further clarification and debate to develop deeper understanding and detail.
- The review sets out a 5 year strategic plan with a detailed financial plan with some recommendations requiring significant change to policy and legislation.
- The review is informed by research and in- depth analysis of a number of critical areas noted below -
  1. A Revolution in Family Help
  2. A just and decisive child protection system
  3. Unlocking the potential of family networks
  4. Fixing the broken care market and giving children a voice
  5. Five missions for care experienced people
  6. Realising the potential of the workforce
  7. A system that is relentlessly focussed on children and
  8. Implementation



**MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL**

# A reset in children's social care

- The review outlines a context and purpose for Children's Social Care "to enable children to grow up in loving safe stable families and where that is not possible , for care to be provide the same foundation for a good life."
- Sets both national and international context of poverty, inequality, mental health, domestic abuse illicit drug and/or substance use integration with health, immigration and asylum .
- Sets out relationships at the core of reform.
- Suggests some evidence- based interventions and some 'radical thinking' to presenting challenges.
- Establishes a clear need for investment and some proposals to support investment.



**MANCHESTER**  
**CITY COUNCIL**

## 2. A revolution in family help

- Family help a system "which is more responsive, respectful and effective in helping families" - reforming current approach to targeted early help and children in need "keeping more families together and helping children to thrive."
- Multidisciplinary casework including family support workers holding cases under social work supervision.
- A clearer national definition of eligibility for support and a non-stigmatising way for families to access help.
- Social workers skills more targeted to those who require care and protection
- 'Neighbourhood' and multi-disciplinary dimension to family support design.
- Introduces concepts of *Relationships Protect* change programme including a redirection for the role of OFSTED
- *National Children's Social Care Framework* – to define outcomes, objectives, indicators of success and most effective models of delivering help.
- In circumstances where there is increased risk expert child protection workers will co work with family help.



# 3. A just and decisive child protection system

- Creation of a five-year early career framework for social workers.
- Introduces concept of expert practitioner child protection social workers. They would chair conferences, make threshold decisions, make joint visits alongside ongoing family support worker.
- Introduction of Child Community Safety plans for extra-familial harms.
- A five-year challenge on information sharing reducing perceived legislative and regulatory barriers in order to improve information sharing.
- Simplify multiple funding strands from central Government.
- Implement Taylor report on Youth Justice.
- Supports less adversary approach in family court proceedings resulting in greater parental engagement in by adapting proceedings in Court



# 4. Unlocking the potential of family networks

- Mandatory use of family decision making before Public Law Outline.
- New type of plan – Family Network plan overseen by social worker.
- Financial allowance to ensure families get the financial and practical support they need to care for a child(ren) without the having to register as a foster carer.
- Extending access to legal aid to support interaction with the family justice system in some circumstances for kinship carers to obtain permanent legal orders
- New idea of Kinship Leave to match adoption leave
- Local Authority to develop peer support and training for all kinship carers – the Mockingbird approach
- New legal definition of kinship care taking broader range of circumstances
- Some modernising of contact arrangements for adoption



# 5. Transforming Care

- Universal set of care standards to be developed.
- Regional Care Co-operatives (20) – will have sufficiency duty, running and creating new fostering, residential and secure and commissioning not for profit and private sector care including secure welfare and justice.
- Supporting Annex to the review including price caps, profit margins,
- Proposal for windfall tax on profits, with a view for OFSTED to intervene in the children's social care market.
- National foster care recruitment campaign to create 9,000 additional foster carers over the 5 years of the programme
- Delegated authority to foster carers by default
- IRO and Reg 44 officers to be replaced by independent high quality advocacy that would be “opt out” as opposed to “opt in” and be aligned to the children’s commissioner



# 6. The care experience



MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL

- 5 missions; loving relationships, double the proportion of care leavers attending university by 2026, create 3500 well paid jobs, reduce care experience homelessness, increase life expectancy by narrowing health inequalities.
- Broaden corporate parenting responsibility across wider range of public sector bodies.
- Care leaving a protected characteristic.
- Care leavers as priority for housing via statutory guidance.
- LA Independent Visitors schemes to be redesigned to allow for long term relationships.
- As part of the national children's social care framework local authorities should develop family support like Lifelong Links
- Lifelong guardianship order to enable lifelong bond
- Virtual Heads accountable for educational outcomes to 25 via revised ILACS



# 6. The care experience (cont).

- Kitemark scheme for higher education.
- Employers should be able to use unspent apprenticeship levy to create a care leaver bursary to tailor support for apprentices with care experience.
- A better range of housing options such as staying put, staying close and supported lodgings.
- Stronger safety net against homelessness by removing local area connection requirement, providing rent guarantor and increasing leaving care grant.
- The identification of poor mental health should be a part of practitioner training.
- Integrated care systems should publish plans for improving physical and mental health of children in care and young people leaving care.
- Care leavers exempt from prescription charges to 25



# 7. Realising the potential of the workforce

- A nationally led programme to get social workers back to practice and trial flexible working models around the lives of children and families
- 5- year early career framework and national pay scales
- Action to reduce reliance on agency social workers
- 'tackle' bureaucracy and unlock social workers time so they spend less time referring and case co-ordinating and have more time and access to resources to do direct work with families as part of multidisciplinary teams
- Develop a knowledge and skills statement for family support and residential staff
- Strengthen leadership programmes aimed at developing 700 new managers in the next 5 years



# 8. A system that is relentlessly focused on children and families

- A National Children’s Social Care Framework to set the overall outcomes, objectives and principles for children's social care aligned to its purpose.
- A balanced scorecard for learning and improvement including an overhaul of what data is collected to develop more meaningful metrics to drive transparency and learning in the system.
- Data used effectively to promote resource deployment and learning via a National Reform Board and National Practice Group.
- National Reform Board to establish mechanism for Local Authorities to feedback regulatory blockers.
- Director of children's services should be the primary interface between strategic and operational leaders to facilitate effective multi agency working.
- The role of the DCS should be reviewed to reflect their role as a champion for children and families within their area.



# 8. A system that is relentlessly focused on children and families (cont)

- Inspectorates should review their frameworks to ensure sufficient focus on individual agency contribution to the joint working.
- The child safeguarding practice review panel and the What Works Centre should take a more hands on role in promoting evidence and supporting partnerships to improve outcomes for children .
- Better national government coherence in policy making.
- Government should introduce an updated funding formula for children's services accompanied by additional resources for local government.
- Improve role of inspection – increased transparency re OFSTED judgements.
- Strengthen intervention powers when Local Authorities failing or drifting.
- The Department for Education should establish a national data technology taskforce to achieve frictionless data sharing by 2027, reduce time spent on case recording and improve the use and collection of data locally.



# 9. Implementation

- Investment of £2.6 bn over the next 4 years i set against estimated “adverse outcome costs” of £23bn per annum.
- The review calls for a white paper to support the reforms by summer 2023.
- The review recommends the creation of a reform board phasing investment reform and improvements over 5 years
- By 2024 there should be a bill giving legal basis for the National Childrens social care outcomes framework , transforming family help, social work career framework.
- Foundations for kinship care reform, leadership programme developed and implemented between 2023 and 2024,
- Between 2024 and 2027 delivering the number of reforms indicated elsewhere e.g. the family network plan , the regional care cooperatives and early career framework.



# Manchester's readiness

- Relationships and relationship management are strong features of practice – Our 6 Golden Threads of Practice.
- Significant experiencing of adopting and adapting evidence-based interventions, e.g. Multi systemic therapy, Mockingbird.
- Long standing commitment to strong evidence regarding impact of early help vis a vis family help with an average of 30% of families open to EH jointly worked with children services
- Early developments in relation to neighbourhood working through the engagement in MAPS.
- Approach to outcome based commissioning growing across the organisation. ( sufficiency strategy)
- Significant co working between early help and children's social care - 30% of all families open to early help are co worked with children's social care
- Relative to the early career framework - we have a well established approach to our assessed and support year in employment and positive culture regarding learning and development
- Growing use of family group conferencing in Manchester 130 referrals in since April
- An active and more engaging corporate parenting committee across partners
- Increased use of supported lodgings (10% ) and a consistent approach to staying put along with an emerging response to staying close

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 12 October 2022

**Subject:** Overview Report

**Report of:** Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

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**Summary**

This report provides the following information:

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

**Recommendation**

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

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**Wards Affected:** All

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**Contact Officer:**

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

None

## 1. Monitoring Previous Recommendations

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

Date	Item	Recommendation	Action	Contact Officer
8 January 2019	CYP/19/05 Youth and Play Services	To request the needs analysis ranking information for the 32 wards in Manchester.	A response to this recommendation will be incorporated into a future report.	Neil Fairlamb, Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)
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 has been requested and will be reported back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Neil Fairlamb, Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)
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 Director (Neighbourhoods)
4 March 2020	CYP/20/16 Improving Children's Outcomes Through Collaboration and	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	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be reported back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Paul Marshall, Strategic Director of Children and Education Services



Date	Item	Recommendation	Action	Contact Officer
	Working in Partnership in a Locality	Schools will circulate a briefing note on work that is already taking place to address smoking in pregnancy.		
22 July 2020	CYP/20/26 Manchester's Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing	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 briefing.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be reported back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education
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
9 February 2022	CYP/22/11 Annual Virtual School Head's Report	To arrange a visit to Wetherby Young Offender Institution and Barton Moss Secure Children's Home, in conjunction with the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee.	These visits are being arranged, in discussion with the Committee Chairs.	Rachel McKeon, Governance and Scrutiny Support Officer

Date	Item	Recommendation	Action	Contact Officer
20 July 2022	CYP/22/36 The impact of COVID-19 on children and young people's mental health and well-being	To request data on the ethnicity and geographical spread of CAMHS referrals, in order to be able to identify any gaps.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be circulated to Members.	Al Ford, Director of CAMHS/Rachel McKeon, Governance and Scrutiny Support Officer
7 September 2022	CYP/22/41 School Attendance in Manchester	To request that a breakdown of attendance data by school be circulated to Members of the Committee.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be circulated to Members.	Ed Haygarth, Statutory Lead, Attendance and Exclusions

## 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 **3 October 2022** containing details of the decisions under the Committee's remit is included below. This is to keep members informed of what decisions are being taken and, where appropriate, include in the work programme of the Committee.

## Register of Key Decisions:

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Background documents	Officer Contact
<p><b>Early Years - Tendered Daycare Settings (2021/07/16B)</b></p> <p>The approval of capital expenditure to support the continued provision of high-quality Early Years settings across the City.</p>	<p>City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)</p>	<p>Not before 16th Aug 2021</p>		<p>Checkpoint 4 Business Case</p>	<p>Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education a.corcoran@manchester.gov.uk</p>
<p><b>School Admission Arrangements 2024/25 (2022/09/22A)</b></p> <p>To agree that the council undertakes consultation to gather views on its arrangements and the change in back office process from the current 3, to 1 time per year for the removal of details from schools waiting lists</p>	<p>Executive</p>	<p>19 Oct 2022</p>		<p>Report to Executive D2 - Changes to School Admissions Policy</p>	<p>Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education a.corcoran@manchester.gov.uk</p>
<p><b>Proposal for a new secondary special school (2022/09/22B)</b></p> <p>To agree that the Council undertakes consultation to gather views on the plans to develop a new special high school as a first step towards identifying a provider for the new school.</p>	<p>Executive</p>	<p>19 Oct 2022</p>		<p>Report to Executive D2 - Development of a new special high school</p>	<p>Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education a.corcoran@manchester.gov.uk</p>

<b>Subject / Decision</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Decision Due Date</b>	<b>Consultation</b>	<b>Background documents</b>	<b>Officer Contact</b>
<p>To delegate responsibility to the Director of Education in consultation with the Executive Member for Children’s Services to progress the publication of a specification for the new school and invitations to sponsor based on the outcomes of the consultation; and identify a preferred sponsor for the new school to be recommended to the DfE.</p>					

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee  
Work Programme – October 2022**

**Wednesday 12 October 2022, 2pm (Report deadline Monday 3 October 2022)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Lead Executive Member</b>	<b>Strategic Director/ Lead Officer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Climate Change and Schools	To receive an update report on the Council's work with schools in relation to the climate emergency.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	Invite Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee
School Admissions	To receive a report on a consultation to change admission arrangements.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	Executive report
School Place Planning	To receive a report on place planning.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	Executive report
Care Review	To receive a presentation on the Care Review.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall/ Sean McKendrick	
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 9 November 2022, 2pm (Report deadline Monday 31 October 2022)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Lead Executive Member</b>	<b>Strategic Director/ Lead Officer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Update on the 2023/24 budget position	To receive a report on the Council's anticipated budget position for 2023/24, the budget process and draft proposals for any services in the remit of this Committee.	Councillor Akbar Councillor Bridges	Carol Culley/ Paul Marshall	
Youth and Play Commissioning	To receive a report on plans for the commissioning of youth and play provision.	Councillor Bridges	Neil Fairlamb/ Jaffer Hussain	To be confirmed
Annual LADO Report	To receive the annual report of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	
Annual Adoption Report	To receive the annual adoption report.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	
Complex Safeguarding	To receive an update report on complex safeguarding work.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	
Overview Report		-	Rachel McKeon	

**Wednesday 7 December 2022, 2pm (Report deadline Monday 28 November 2022)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Lead Executive Member</b>	<b>Strategic Director/ Lead Officer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Early Years Buildings	To receive a report on the structural condition surveys for Council-owned Early Years building and future works.	Councillor Rahman	Richard Munns	To invite the Chair of the Resources and

		Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	Governance Scrutiny Committee
Post-16 Education	To include sufficiency in the post-16 education sector, the destinations of year 11 leavers and data on young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	
School Attainment	To receive a report on school attainment.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	
Overview Report		-	Rachel McKeon	

**Wednesday 11 January 2023, 2pm (Report deadline Friday 30 December 2022)**

Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Ofsted Update	To receive an update on progress in response to the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authorities Children's Services (ILACS) of Manchester's Children's Services.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	
Our Year	To receive an update on Our Year, including the transition to 2023 and the journey to becoming a UNICEF UK Child-Friendly City.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	
School Governance	To receive an update on school governance.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran/ Ruth Bradbury	To be confirmed
Overview Report		-	Rachel McKeon	

**Wednesday 8 February 2023, 2pm (Report deadline Monday 30 January 2023)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Lead Executive Member</b>	<b>Strategic Director/ Lead Officer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
2023/24 Budget Report	Consideration of the final 2023/24 budget proposals that will go onto February Budget Executive and Scrutiny and March Council.	Councillor Akbar Councillor Bridges	Carol Culley/ Paul Marshall	
Overview Report		-	Rachel McKeon	

**Wednesday 8 March 2023, 2pm (Report deadline Monday 27 February 2023)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Lead Executive Member</b>	<b>Strategic Director/ Lead Officer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Overview Report		-	Rachel McKeon	



## Items To Be Scheduled

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Green paper	To receive a report on the SEND Green Paper.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	
Locality work with Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO)	To receive a report on locality work with MLCO.	Councillor Bridges Councillor T Robinson	Paul Marshall	
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
Provision of Services by One Education	To receive a report on the provision of services by One Education.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	See March 2021 minutes
Lyndene	To receive a further report on Lyndene in 12 months' time.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	See March 2021 minutes
Update on wellbeing and mental health and support for schools and settings and education for children unable to attend school due to ill health	To receive a further report on this and to invite a representative from CAMHS to this meeting.	Councillor Bridges Councillor Midgley	Paul Marshall	See September 2021 minutes
Youth and Play	To receive a further report on Youth and Play commissioning arrangements at an appropriate time.	Councillor Bridges	Fiona Worrall/Neil Fairlamb	See October 2021 minutes
Adoption	To receive a report on adoption which includes what difference the move to	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	See November 2021 minutes

	Adoption Counts has made in providing stable adoption placements for Our Children and what happens when an adoption breaks down.			
Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and Alternative Provision	To receive an update report in approximately 12 months' time.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	See December 2021 minutes
Elective Home Education	To receive a report on Elective Home Education.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	See January 2022 minutes
Homeless Families	To receive a further report in 6 months' time.	Councillor Midgley Councillor Bridges	David Ashmore/ Mohamed Hussein/Paul Marshall	See February 2022 minutes
School Attendance and Attainment	To receive regular reports regarding attainment and attendance.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	
Health Visiting	To consider health visiting at a future meeting.	Councillor Bridges Councillor Midgley	Paul Marshall	See March 2022 minutes.
Manchester Sensory Support Service Commission	To receive an update report at a future meeting.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	See March 2022 minutes.
Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) Education	To receive a report on PSHE education in schools.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	
Thriving Babies and Care	To receive a report on thriving babies and care. To include information on fetal alcohol syndrome.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall/Sean McKendrick	See July 2022 minutes