



Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Date: Friday, 13 October 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Council Chamber, Level 2, Town Hall Extension

Everyone is welcome to attend this committee meeting.

There will be a private meeting for Committee Members only at 9.30 am in the Council Antechamber.

Access to the Public Gallery

Access to the Public Gallery is on Level 3 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

Councillors –

Reid (Chair), N Ali, Alijah, Amin, Bano, Bell, Fletcher, Gartside, Hewitson, Judge, Lovecy, Ludford, Marsh, McHale, Muse, Nunney, Sadler and Sharif Mahamed

Co-opted Members -

Mr G Cleworth, Miss S Iltaf, Ms K McDaid, Canon Susie Mapledoram, Mrs J Miles, Ms L Smith and Mr Yacob Yonis

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 6 September 2023.

Pages

7 - 14

5. Ghyll Head Outdoor Education and Activity Centre Update

Report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

Pages

15 - 26

This report provides an update on the capital works undertaken on site, sets out the progress made since GLL stepped in with the operational management of Ghyll Head and provides context for the current operating environment.

6. Youth, Play & Participation Service (YPPS) Commissioning Grants, Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Programme and Youth Investment Fund (YIF)

Report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

Pages

27 - 48

This report provides an update on the outcome of the youth and play commissioning process. It also provides an update on the highlights from the HAF Programme, an overview of the Department of Culture, Media & Sport's (DCMS) YIF Programme and an update on Manchester's YIF capital programme.

7. **Supported Accommodation Registration with Ofsted** Pages
Report and presentation of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services 49 - 72

This report and presentation outline Children's Services' response to the Supported Accommodation Regulations (March 2023) and the requirement to register all supported accommodation with Ofsted.

8. **Overview Report** Pages
Report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit 73 - 84

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

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 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 – Canon Susie Mapledoram
- Representative of the Diocese of Salford – Mrs Julie Miles
- Parent governor representative – Mr Yacob Yonis
- 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. To help facilitate this, the Council encourages anyone who wishes to speak at the meeting to contact the Committee Officer in advance of the meeting by telephone or email, who will then pass on your request to the Chair for consideration. 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

Smoking is not allowed in Council buildings.

Joanne Roney OBE
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Further Information

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

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Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2023

Present:

Councillor Reid – in the Chair

Councillors N Ali, Amin, Fletcher, Gartside, Hewitson, Judge, Lovecy, Ludford, Muse and Nunney

Co-opted Voting Members:

Mr G Cleworth, Parent Governor Representative

Also present:

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

Councillor Flanagan, Ward Councillor for Miles Platting and Newton Heath

Councillor Hitchen, Ward Councillor for Miles Platting and Newton Heath

Apologies:

Councillors Bell, McHale and Sharif Mahamed

Canon S Mapledoram, Representative of the Diocese of Manchester

Ms L Smith, Primary Sector Teacher Representative

Mr Y Yonis, Parent Governor Representative

CYP/23/34 Minutes

Decisions

1. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2023.
2. To receive the minutes of the meetings of the Ofsted Subgroup held on 14 June 2023 and 26 July 2023.

CYP/23/35 Urgent Business – Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in Schools

The Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People reported that there was one school in Manchester which was confirmed as being affected by the RAAC issue and that this was All Saints C of E Primary School, Newton Heath. He informed Members that the Council was supporting the school, Ward Councillors had also offered support and that the school had been allocated a caseworker from the Department for Education (DfE). He advised that this issue would not have a significant impact on teaching within the school as the RAAC was in the school hall and that other community facilities were being considered, in case these were needed.

The Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People outlined the national context of this issue, in particular a reduction in spending on rebuilding schools over the previous 13 years. He expressed concern about the lack of information provided to the Council by the DfE on which schools were affected and

which schools had not completed surveys, advising that the Council could provide support to schools with this. He advised that he would keep Councillors updated as the situation developed, including communicating with Ward Councillors with an affected school in their ward.

The Director of Education outlined to the Committee who the responsible body was for different types of schools. She explained that the Council was the responsible body for community maintained and voluntary controlled schools and that the relevant Diocese was responsible for voluntary aided schools. For academies in a multi-academy trust (MAT), the MAT was the responsible body while single academies which were not in a MAT were their own responsible body. She advised that all responsible bodies had been required to complete a survey about suspected RAAC within their school buildings. She reported that the Council had completed surveys for the 71 schools which it was the responsible body for early in 2023. She advised that she was aware that the Dioceses had completed the surveys for schools they were responsible for but that the Council had not yet been informed whether surveys had been completed for all the academies in Manchester, despite being in a position to help any who needed assistance. She reported that the DfE was reviewing surveys which were received and, where there was suspected RAAC, a specialist surveyor was being sent to inspect the building. She advised that where there was a confirmed presence of RAAC within a school building, the DfE was advising the schools to close off that part of the school and was allocating a caseworker to the school. She reported that there was no indication that there was RAAC within any of the schools for which the Council was the responsible body.

The Chair advised that the scrapping of the Building Schools for the Future Programme in 2010 had led to this problem.

Councillor Flanagan, Ward Councillor for Miles Platting and Newton Heath, expressed concern that there had been a failure of leadership from the Government on this issue, advising that it was not realistic to expect headteachers to identify RAAC and that every school, including private schools, should have been surveyed by a building inspector. He praised the response of Council officers, the Executive Member and the headteacher to the RAAC issue at All Saints Primary School and advised that everyone needed to work together to support affected schools. He called on Committee Members to lobby the Chancellor of Exchequer to change taxation laws so that top private schools, such as Eton, did not attract charitable status and advised that the additional funding from this should be spent on addressing the RAAC issue and that affected schools should be charged lower business rates. He advised Members that the Government should be instructing councils to inspect every building, noting that RAAC was used in a range of public buildings, and that the Government needed to provide extra funding to support this work.

Councillor Hitchen, Ward Councillor for Miles Platting and Newton Heath, thanked the Executive Member and Council officers within the Education Service, as well as the headteacher and staff of All Saints Primary School for their work to ensure that the pupils were able to return to school with as little disruption as possible. She reported that her ward was one of the most deprived wards in the city and the pandemic had had a negative impact on the children so she welcomed the work to

support the children and ensure they could continue their education. She criticised the DfE for spending £34 million on refurbishing its offices, for school closures and reductions in spending on school maintenance. She supported Councillor Flanagan's comments about tax breaks for private schools and the need to inspect other public buildings.

The Chair commented that she was putting the Committee's Representative of the Diocese of Manchester, which was the Diocese responsible for All Saints Primary School, in touch with the Ward Councillors.

The Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People reported that Corporate Property were now undertaking an exercise to look at all Council buildings to ascertain whether any were affected by RAAC. He emphasised that the Council was totally committed to addressing the issue of RAAC in schools, including providing assistance to any academies who required it.

In response to a Member's question about secondary schools, the Director of Education reported that a lot of Manchester secondary schools were part of one of the Dioceses and the Council knew that surveys had been completed in relation to these schools but did not know whether surveys had been completed in relation to secondary schools which were academies. She reported, while schools affected by RAAC would be provided with a DfE caseworker and a specialist structural survey, it was not yet clear what longer term help would be provided by central Government.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Education reported that it was too early to tell whether attendance levels had been affected by parents worrying about sending their children back to school due to RAAC but that this would be monitored. In response to a question about communication, she explained how the Council, including the Communications Team and Press Office, worked with all types of schools on communicating information to parents, as well as on dealing with the media.

The Chair advised that most of the city's Sure Start buildings had had their roofs replaced as part of planned maintenance but she expressed concern that a range of public buildings could be affected by RAAC. She highlighted some of the questions trade unions had put to the Secretary of State for Education in relation to the Government's response to RAAC in schools and advised that the Committee would be revisiting this issue.

Decision

That the Committee will receive an update on this at a future meeting.

CYP/23/36 School Places

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which provided an overview of Manchester's current school age population and the numbers forecast for future academic years. It also detailed work previously undertaken to create additional school places to ensure Manchester met its sufficiency duty. The report showed that demand for school places continued to

increase and outlined the work that was planned to achieve sufficiency of places across the city in response to this continued growth.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- The school age population;
- Approach to securing sufficient school places; and
- Actions to secure sufficient school places in the primary phase, secondary phase and special schools.

The Head of Access and Sufficiency advised that, since the report had been published, two further schools had been secured for the city through the Free Schools Programme, one at post-16 and one at the secondary phase.

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

- Special school places and resourced provision within mainstream schools;
- Sixth form provision;
- Did planning for school places take into account children crossing local authority boundaries to attend school; and
- The increase in children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

The Head of Access and Sufficiency reported that it was planned to have a mixed offer for additional specialist places including further expansion of special schools and specialist units within mainstream schools, which enabled children to remain at the local school that they were originally allocated while accessing additional support and an adapted curriculum. She confirmed that children attending schools outside their local authority area were taken into account in her service's planning and forecasting and that information was shared between Greater Manchester local authorities. She reported that previously a significant number of Manchester children had attended schools outside of the city's boundaries, particularly at the secondary phase, but that more recently Manchester children were choosing to stay within the city for secondary school, which meant there were fewer places at Manchester schools available for children living outside of the city. In response to a Member's question, she confirmed that, if a family moved house during the academic year, they could apply for a school place from their new address, although in some circumstances it might be better for the child to remain at their existing school. She advised that, if there were no vacancies at their preferred schools, the Admissions Team would work with the family to identify a suitable school which was closer to their new home.

In response to a Member's questions about children who did not receive a place at one of their preferred schools, the Head of Access and Sufficiency reported that they would be allocated a place at the closest school with a vacancy and, depending on the distance, would be offered free travel. She reported that in some cases the Council had worked with particular schools on trying to transport children in groups so that they were not travelling alone to schools in different areas of the city. She

outlined work to create more school places in areas where there was pressure on school places, particularly in south Manchester and Wythenshawe.

The Director of Education reported that post-16 education was now at capacity and more places would be needed in future years and she outlined some of the work taking place to increase capacity, including working with sixth form providers to expand their provision, encouraging providers to apply to open additional post-16 provision through the Free School Process and conversations with the DfE about the allocation of capital funding. She also informed Members about ongoing discussions with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the DfE about post-16 technical pathways.

The Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People suggested that the Committee receive a separate report on post-16 provision at a future meeting. He praised how Council departments had worked together to provide additional school places during a period of significant population growth, when there was a shortage of available land and the Council did not have direct control over schools.

The Director of Education reported that the number of children with SEND had risen nationally and that Manchester had been asked by the DfE to lead for the north-west region on work in relation to SEND and early intervention. She highlighted the impact of the pandemic on children's development and mental health. A Member commented on the impact of poverty on children's development.

The Chair reported that the decline in the birth rate could mean that there would be less demand for primary school places, while recognising that there was a degree of uncertainty about future numbers due to families moving into the city, and that campuses which accommodated children from 3 to 19 would make it easier to manage fluctuating year group sizes. She also highlighted the impact of the planned expansion of free childcare.

The Head of Access and Sufficiency advised that, while the birth rate had gone down, by Key Stage 2 numbers had recovered in some schools, due to in-year migration, so it was difficult to reduce capacity as it was likely to be needed later. She reported that her service was monitoring the situation and working with schools in relation to this but, at present, it was not planned to reduce capacity in primary schools. She also highlighted that the regeneration projects taking place across the city were likely to bring more families into the city in future. The Chair highlighted the importance of ensuring there were sufficient amenities when new housing was built.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Director of Education reported that the number of children being Electively Home Educated (EHE) had risen during the pandemic and had not returned to pre-pandemic levels but was no longer continuing to rise. She informed the Committee that work was taking place to ascertain whether there was sufficiency in the childcare sector in the city to accommodate the expansion of free childcare. In response to a comment from the Chair about one-form-entry Roman Catholic primary schools in north Manchester, she reported that her service was working with the Diocese of Salford. She reported that her service and the Diocese were also involved in the discussions about large-scale housing developments such as Victoria North.

Decision

To receive an update report later in the year.

CYP/23/37 School Attendance in 2022/2023

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which provided a summary of attendance data in Manchester for the academic year 2022/2023. It also reviewed some of the activity that had taken place over the course of the last academic year and outlined the strategic approach for 2023/2024 for Committee Members.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- National context;
- Attendance data overview in 2022/2023;
- Overview of attendance work in 2022/2023; and
- Strategic approach 2023/2024.

A Member expressed concern that Wythenshawe had worse school attendance than other areas of the city and asked what the Council and local Councillors could do to address this. The Statutory Lead for Attendance and Exclusions reported that his team had worked with a number of schools in Wythenshawe through the Targeted Support Meetings pilot and this had resulted in improved attendance levels in those schools. He advised that he was confident that when Targeted Support Meetings were rolled out to other schools in Wythenshawe, this would result in further improvements. The Director of Education advised that Ward Councillors could help through their role, for example, asking why a child was not in school or routinely asking about children's schooling when families approached them for help and she outlined some of the support families could access if they were struggling to get their child to school on time, through Early Help Hubs or the school. She reported that school attendance was looked at through the school quality assurance process and, where needed, schools could be invited to attend a Support and Challenge meeting to discuss this.

In response to Members' questions about Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN), the Statutory Lead for Attendance and Exclusions reported that these were requested by the individual school so there was variation in their use across the city, with some schools using it as early intervention and some using it as a last resort, although there were plans to provide more challenge to schools on their processes before issuing an FPN. He informed the Committee that 75% of FPNs were issued due to families taking holidays in term-time, with most of the rest being due to persistent absence.

The Chair highlighted that the groups with the lowest attendance levels were White Travellers of Irish Heritage and White Gypsy/Roma and asked what work was taking place to address this. The Statutory Lead for Attendance and Exclusions reported that the Council produced a model attendance policy for schools which included an appendix with guidance in relation to these groups and that Targeted Support

Meetings with schools could be used to formulate a strategy for improving the attendance of individual pupils.

The Chair advised that Ward Councillors in areas with the lowest attendance levels should be informed of this. She supported the development of a strategy to improve attendance levels for White Travellers of Irish Heritage and White Gypsy/Roma children.

Decisions

1. To note the progress made on school attendance in 2022/2023.
2. To approve the strategic approach for 2023/2024 which both meets the DfE non statutory requirements and improves support to schools.
3. To approve the strategic approach for 2023/2024 which looks to build a partnership consensus around attendance so that a multi-disciplinary approach is embedded across Children's Services and wider agencies.
4. To support the building of a 'think attendance' approach into Members' ward level activity so that attendance at school is encouraged and promoted with all residents.
5. To support the development of a strategy to improve attendance levels for White Travellers of Irish Heritage and White Gypsy/Roma children.

CYP/23/38 Manchester Inclusion Strategy Update

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which provided an update on the implementation of Manchester's Inclusion Strategy 2022-2025 and an overview of the key priorities and next steps.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Manchester Inclusion Strategy activity since July 2022;
- What was known about inclusion across the city; and
- Priority Inclusion Strategy activity for 2023-24.

The Director of Education offered to share a link to the Inclusion Strategy toolkit with Members of the Committee.

A Member welcomed the positive report and that so many schools in Manchester were becoming Rights Respecting Schools.

The Chair asked what was being done in relation to schools which had higher levels of exclusions than others. The Director of Education reported that exclusion and suspension data was monitored and, if a school was an outlier, they would be invited to a Support and Challenge meeting to understand the reasons for the higher number of exclusions and identify a way to work with the school to improve that.

Decision

To note the report.

CYP/23/39 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 encouraged more Members to join the Ofsted Subgroup. She informed Members about the forthcoming visit to Wetherby Young Offenders Institution and stated that the Committee would receive a report on Youth Justice at a future meeting. In response to a Member's comments about an incident of anti-social behaviour by young people in the city centre and what was being done to prevent this from happening again, the Chair stated that she would discuss with the Chair of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee which Committee should consider this issue.

Decision

To note the report and agree the work programme, subject to the above comments.

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 13 October 2023

Subject: Ghyll Head Outdoor Education and Activity Centre Update

Report of: Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

Summary

In November 2019, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee supported a proposal to recontract the operation of Ghyll Head Outdoor Education and Activity Centre (Ghyll Head) to Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) under a variation coterminous with the Council's existing leisure contract. The purpose was to sustain and grow the education and community offer on site and to reduce the Council's revenue pressures enabling the facility to become more financially viable.

From 1st April 2020, Ghyll Head became part of the Council's Indoor Leisure Contract which saw the operation of the centre transfer from One Education to GLL. An initial 12 month 'step in' operating arrangement (with an option to extend) was progressed with GLL by way of variation to the existing leisure contract monitored by MCRactive.

Alongside the new management arrangement, a £1.4m development scheme - met by a capital receipt from the sale of Buglawton Hall - was mobilised to safeguard the long-term financial stability of the centre by refurbishing and enhancing its facilities to a modern standard.

This report provides an update on the capital works undertaken on site, sets out the progress made since GLL stepped in with the operational management of Ghyll Head and provides context for the current operating environment.

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to consider and note the progress made at Ghyll Head since the re-contracting the operation of the centre to GLL.

Wards Affected: All

<p>Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city</p>
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<p>The capital investment has delivered energy efficiencies across the operation of the centre along with more efficient operational management across waste and recycling and energy management.</p>

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

Ghyll Head Champions an unrelenting emphasis on diversity, inclusion, skills, and behaviours through residential opportunities in an accessible environment in the heart of the Lake District.

Ghyll Head continues to ensure a broad appeal of physical and mental activities ensuring children and young people access a variety of activity regardless of ability.

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Increased participation in outdoor adventurous activity contributes to the economy of the city whilst new programmes in the city will attract new participants which can encourage new investment and funding in the city which will lead to an enhanced and expanded offer for our residents.
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	This report outlines how outdoor adventurous activity contributes greatly to health and fitness and continuing participation in outdoor pursuits, it also encourages the maintenance of a healthy lifestyle into adulthood. Active learning and adventure outdoors introduces young people to the environment in a way which develops an understanding and appreciation.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Giving residents and school children the opportunity to access outdoor adventurous activity in a residential setting that is set in a unique environment outside of the city. Contributing to individuals' life experiences and creating an appreciation for the outdoors.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	This report describes work towards ensuring access to a varied cultural, leisure & recreational offer that has an impact on supporting community wellbeing, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle along with an understanding of the environment that residents can appreciate back in the city.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Access to the Lake District national park connecting residents and school children to the outdoor experience.

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

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

There are no specific or additional revenue consequences arising from the operation of Ghyll Head, GLL have absorbed the additional financial pressures of inflation and phased return to site following covid recovery. Work is underway to consider extending the contract to be coterminous with the existing leisure contract which runs to 2028, given today's changing financial climate this is a continual watching brief.

Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no specific or additional capital consequences arising from the adoption of the capital works reported, however further capital improvements will be required in the future to maintain the current standards. A capital investment plan for the bungalow is currently being explored along with appraising further development to make the POD village more accessible.

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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.

- Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - Ghyll Head Outdoor Education Report – 6th November 2019

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report provides an update on the capital works undertaken on site, sets out the progress made since GLL stepped in with the operational management of Ghyll Head and provides context for the current operating environment.

2. Background

- 2.1. Ghyll Head is owned by Manchester City Council and is located in Cumbria with facilities on the edge of Lake Windermere. The site has been offering residential outdoor education since 1967 predominately to Manchester Schools. The Centre has been a key part of the Council's Education offering, providing support for learning outside the classroom for over 40 years.
- 2.2. Overlooking Lake Windermere, the Centre is set with 17 acres and is located within its own grounds. It is believed that the main building was originally constructed in 1850 as a manor house with an extension added in circa 1900. In recent years the property has been used as an outdoor education centre and consists of bedrooms, bathrooms, commercial kitchen, offices and storage areas. A residential bungalow, several sheds, greenhouses and a climbing wall and zip line are also located within the grounds. The centre benefits from an accessible boat house and jetty on the banks of Windermere.
- 2.3. With the exception of the boathouse, there had been limited capital investment into the site for over 10 years and, as a consequence, the condition of the build assets were poor, and the general décor was tired which presented challenges in maintaining uptake with schools. To compete with other educational facilities on offer to schools, considerable investment was required to upgrade the facilities. A business case was subsequently developed.

3. Capital Business Case and Implementation

- 3.1. A Conditions Survey was undertaken in 2016 by Atkins on behalf of the Council identifying that c£800k would need to be spent on essential high priority works over an 8.5-year period. GLL were asked to review the business model to examine how they could transform the site to ensure that it was financially viable in the long term without the need for ongoing subsidy being provided by the Council. The assessment concluded that there was a need to undertake the essential priority works identified in the conditions survey and further upgrade works to continue to meet user requirements for a sustainable future.
- 3.2. Proposals were progressed to provide a modern fit for purpose residential offer, a digital solution and online booking capacity to accommodate more school and community groups to support a growth strategy from the site. A cost plan to the value of £1.4m was progressed to assist with getting the facility to an improved and secure financial footing.
- 3.3. Conterminous with the Council's existing leisure contract, GLL developed an 8.5-year revenue business plan forecast based on the need to progress

identified works. The revenue forecast projected that GLL would deliver a financially viable facility that would achieve a net operating surplus by year 3 of the operation. Over the term of the contract, a total net surplus of £225k was forecast which would be reinvested back into the centre. The transition in GLL operationally managing Ghyll Head from 1st April 2020 would result in Children's Services resolving a budget pressure of £595k over the term of the 8.5year contract. Furthermore, the council would avoid c£770k of unallocated Asset Management Programme (AMP) spend over the same period.

- 3.4. It was agreed that ring-fencing part of the Council's capital receipts for the sale of Buglawton Hall into another education facility was beneficial to Manchester schools and was a preferred option to borrowing against savings and AMP funding that wasn't allocated.
- 3.5. The business case was approved in November 2019 to progress recommended works which included the implementation of the following:
- Enhancement to the educational and community offer with investment into the main education rooms within the house.
 - Reconfiguration of room layouts and usage to increase occupancy.
 - Creation of more flexible bedroom spaces to ensure that the venue is more attractive to a range of different booking types, including smaller group bookings.
 - Creation of more flexible spaces to accommodate meetings/conferences.
 - New low-cost outdoor accommodation to include the introduction of a Bunk House and a Hive Pod Village complete with 8 x camping pods, ancillary facilities and a community room.
 - Introduction of a new digital solution and online booking capability.
 - Development of a broader Marketing Strategy, which not only focuses on strengthening uptake by Manchester Schools, but also focuses on generating alternative uses and increasing occupancy.
- 3.6. To achieve best value GLL procured and managed the capital works under an agency agreement, the Council's Capital Programme Team assisted with the monitoring of the works. The impact of the global pandemic and one of the world's biggest ships jammed on the Suez Canal resulted in delays to completing the capital project. The work programme was adjusted on several occasions to navigate through ever changing national and local COVID lock down restrictions, advised safety working operations and delays to supply chains. The capital project scheme was due to be completed late 2020, however due to the outlined challenges, there were delays resulting in the main house opening in June 2021 with the remaining works completed in late 2022.
- 3.7. As a result of the works, the main house can now accommodate up to 60 people for residential use which is an increase of 8 beds. The main feature of the refurbishment has been the reconfiguration of rooms creating some private ensuite washroom facilities which is a significant improvement to the previous

layout enabling a much-improved customer service offer and has created more flexible spaces.

- 3.8. The new Hive pod camping village comprises of 8 camping pods that can accommodate 3 or 5 people in each and are available for both community and commercial bookings. This could accommodate, for example, a single class with staff and can be used for self-programming groups.
- 3.9. The detached fully accessible bungalow provides accommodation for 23 people in a single storey building with a meeting room/classroom. Recent changes have allowed the bungalow to increase in capacity from the existing 16 through minor configuration of rooms. The refurbishment of the bungalow was not included in the capital investments and is in poor condition and needs decoration. A capital investment plan for the bungalow is currently being explored. The new bunkhouse accommodates 12 with an additional bed for school staff, the concept of the bunkhouse is to support the bungalow so that larger groups can access this space.
- 3.10. The old boathouse is in poor condition but meets statutory compliance, it comprises of changing rooms on the first level and boat storage on the lower level. The new boathouse is a purpose built 3 storey new build circa 2011/12, the boathouse offers a meeting room/classroom, changing facilities and access to the lake. The wooden jetty has recently been replaced in 2021 through AMP.
- 3.11. A further £50k of external funding was also successfully procured in partnership with the Manchester Outdoor Education Trust (MOET) to install a new low level ropes course which enhances the experience that was previously provided for school, youth and community groups who stay at the centre. This allows accompanying staff to oversee activities without relying on Ghyll Head staff.
- 3.12. The capital improvements have addressed build efficiencies and created modern leisure facilities that will enable improved educational and community outcomes for residents for the next 25 years.
- 3.13. The above improvements will support Ghyll Head to retain its place in the market as a competitive National Curriculum Outdoor Residential Experience for the benefit of Manchester School's and provide extended high-quality outdoor learning opportunities for Manchester Youth and Community Organisations and will support a more efficient trading position.

4. Trading Position and Challenges

- 4.1. From 1st April 2020, (8 days after the 1st National lockdown) Ghyll Head became part of the Council's Indoor Leisure Contract which saw the operation of the centre transfer from One Education to GLL. An initial 12 month 'step in' operating arrangement (with an option to extend) was progressed with GLL by way of variation to the existing leisure contract managed by MCRactive.

- 4.2. Ghyll Head could not trade due to the global pandemic, all staff were placed in furlough except for the Partnership Manager who oversaw building checks, security and supported with the capital development programme. The staffing structure comprises of 13 permanent employees, and on average 17 casual/seasonal instructors dependent on the time of the year.
- 4.3. It was agreed to extend the step-in arrangements for a further 12 months in April 2021, 2022, and 2023 to complete the capital programme and return to partial trading following the lifting of covid restrictions. It is anticipated to extend the step-in arrangements to co-terminus with the indoor leisure contract in April 2024.
- 4.4. A Ghyll Head Strategic Advisory Stakeholder Board has been established to provide the appropriate oversight and governance arrangements to ensure that Ghyll Head delivers to Manchester Schools, Youth and Community groups and residents. The board is made up of representatives from Council Education, Leisure and Youth Services, MOET, MCRactive and an elected member. All representatives on the board have strong links with Ghyll Head. The board meets quarterly, and their contribution is valuable. The Ghyll Head Strategic Advisory Board has a key role in ensuring that the developments, activities and leisure contractual arrangements meet the statutory compliance of operating an Outdoor Education and Activity Centre, ensuring the facilities maximise the return from its assets.
- 4.5. The Government lifted restrictions and allowed residentials to take place from June 2022. Initially there was a slow return by schools, community and youth groups, however the roll out of the vaccine programme and more stability with staffing resources enabled groups to have the confidence to coordinate their school or youth visits. GLL successfully managed the various peaks of the coronavirus pandemic (including the management of cancellations and reduced numbers) and facilitated visits from several Manchester schools and user groups in a COVID safe environment. The Ghyll Head staffing team have developed an inclusive programme of outdoor learning that provides challenge, adventure and enjoyment, a new or deeper understanding of the world, and the development of confidence and resilience, as well as many more benefits for children and young people.
- 4.6. The current participation of children and young people in outdoor learning must be seen in the context of a number of significant challenges, including covid recovery, reduced funding, competing demands on curriculum time in schools, and a risk-averse health and safety culture. Furthermore, the cost-of-living crisis, school and youth staffing resources and heightened inflationary costs to transport has seen groups opting to deprioritise residentials or shorter visits to the centre which heightens demand on domestic staffing requirements. In addition, unforeseen circumstances such as the school strikes in early 2023 have also impacted bookings to the value of nearly £50k due to cancelled bookings due to clashing with the strike days.
- 4.7. Recruitment has been challenging in the current climate and it should be noted that the hospitality industry in Cumbria has also been facing significant

challenges across the industry. GLL continue to invest in workforce development through training grants, as well as awarding staff a pay increase of between 5 and 12% in April 2023 to support staff through the cost-of-living crisis. All GLL staff in Manchester are paid a minimum of Manchester Living wage, as Ghyll Head is an extension of the contract this extends to the centre staff at Ghyll Head. Notwithstanding the climate, retaining and recruiting staff remains a challenge and therefore the centre has had to adapt by creating roles outside of the 'usual job families' to attract the required complement of instructors and domestic staff to successfully operate the site. In addition, GLL has optimised the wider leisure contract and has offered its wider Northwest workforce the opportunity to undergo secondments at the centre during the busy summer periods. This has been a real success with a number of staff taking up the opportunity.

- 4.8. Despite these challenges, there is a real commitment from staff at Ghyll Head and those working with and supporting children and young people to offer an all-round high-quality outdoor residential education and activity offer.
- 4.9. The return to site in the academic year 2022/23 has been strong with patronage exceeding pre pandemic levels, operating at 47% above the same period in 2019 when operated under One Education, and a further 25% more users in 2022/23 compared to 2021/2022. Raising inflation, high utility and food costs and a continued challenging recovery from the pandemic however have all impacted on GLL's business plan, which was written before any of the aforementioned.
- 4.10. In response, GLL have led on initiatives to encourage the longer 3-5 day stay-overs to some success, however the additional staffing and financial resources required to facilitate a visit remains a challenge to schools and groups. Additional offers have been available to teaching staff (Bed for the Night) to encourage them to visit, as well as the centre diversifying its offer with a focus on providing spaces for revision weekends for pupils prior to exam periods.
- 4.11. Outside of education, targeted efforts have also focused on widening participation for youth and community groups within the school holidays of the academic year. The result of which has seen several strong partnerships developed between youth and children's services with the centre - the number of visits by these groups steadily growing. Groups include Aspiring Art, The Hideaway Project, YPAC, M13, Enterprise Youth, Manchester Youth Zone and KYSO. Targeted provision has also been given to Young Manchester Care Leavers and Barnardo's providing tailored specialist provision. Also supporting the widening participation agenda, Ashgate Primary and Manchester PRU returned to the centre this year.
- 4.12. It is recognised that outdoor adventurous activity contributes greatly to health and fitness and continuing participation in outdoor pursuits also encourages the maintenance of a healthy lifestyle into adulthood. Active learning and adventure outdoors introduces young people to the environment in a way which develops an understanding and appreciation. For this reason,

Manchester schools' access is protected through a booking protocol that protects prices and gives priority to Manchester schools over all other usage. The business plan permits other bookings/activities outside of school and community use such as public lettings and conferencing however, full occupancy by schools has meant this type of booking is minimal.

- 4.13. The first full year of trading (2022/23) was a difficult year from a financial perspective, although GLL's business case forecast a deficit in year one, this was higher than expected and was 15% off their bid position. Unfortunately, the higher volume of bookings are not translating to the financial performance, GLL continue to promote a strong marketing campaign.
- 4.14. There have been encouraging signs, particularly considering the annual patronage was up by c. 47% compared to pre pandemic figures in 2019. Furthermore, the number of youth and community groups using the centre has increased substantially, which when considering that these groups previously would have been impacted by the pandemic and there has been a real nervousness around visiting the centre, especially experiencing residential has demonstrated a real step forward.
- 4.15. Numerous Manchester schools return to the centre every year due to its unique location that offers a wide range of activities for pupils in contrasting environments, giving them the ability to develop essential life skills and experiences outside of the normal school routine. This is also evident in the feedback that the centre receives direct from the young people, for example post course every education group is asked to submit scores out of four for instructor delivery, accommodation and overall experience with the scores regularly between 3.8 – 4.
- 4.16. The table below sets out the usage for 2022/23 academic year showing the number of schools and organisations that visited and experienced a residential at the centre, many of which brought groups on more than one occasion. As a result, in total 5,314 individual young people accessed the centre, giving them the opportunities to develop essential life skills and have experiences outside of the normal school routine.

Manchester Schools	80
Non-Manchester Schools	18
Manchester Youth & Community Groups	30
Non-Manchester Youth& Community Groups	8
Total Annal usage	5,314

- 4.17. GLL have also introduced a digital data capture system to improve on the accuracy of the demography of users, enabling improved year on year comparisons to be made around users of the facility, with GLL reporting that the number of disabled users is tracking 30% up compared to 2022/23. Collecting demographic data is a challenge and previously was not collected under the management of One Education. The centre team are working with schools on data capture and building a clear picture of usage however this is a

work in progress. In the last quarter we only had 30% of demographic data for the overall number of visits.

- 4.18. Although the increase in usage is a real positive and it is seen across almost all user groups, usage of Manchester schools has been highlighted and needs to be monitored this academic year. Feedback from school's state rising costs of transport is a factor and the cost-of-living crisis hitting families therefore schools are required to subsidise pupils further. There have been additional challenges with school strike action taking place and schools either requesting to rearrange visits or in some instances cancelling which has put pressure on the centre team and budgets. The centre will however continue to prioritise Manchester schools and the centre team continues to implement a strategy to engage with more schools supported by Manchester Active.
- 4.19. There is a vast choice of activities which offer a high standard of delivery by qualified education staff, giving pupils the opportunity to be independent and try new activities. All of the equipment is provided and is of a high-quality giving schools assurances that activities are delivered in a safe, structured environment. The capital development and the quality of the setting and activities are held in high regard by many schools. The centre is accessible and has developed expertise in providing outdoor education experiences for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and is used by a number of Manchester special schools. In recent years it has also provided short breaks for children with SEND with their parents/carers.
- 4.20. Whilst each course is tailored to the desired needs of each group, the underlying themes of raising self-esteem, promoting tolerance, developing communication and problem-solving skills all help to deliver the Council's 'Learning through Adventure' and 'Skills for Life' strategies. A number of schools use the Centre to enhance their curriculum offer for example running Maths, English and Science revision weekends, GCSE/BTEC P.E outdoor modules and A-level Geography field study courses. The Centre has been involved in the delivery of Duke of Edinburgh programmes and provides workforce development opportunities in the form of Outdoor National Governing Body skills and coaching courses.
- 4.21. Despite the ongoing and emerging challenges which has seen significant expenditure costs in catering and energy, GLL have made significant headway to absorb the additional costs without having to ask the council for additional subsidy, however GLL are currently forecasting 20% off their predicted bid figures set out in their initial forecast which they are committed to absorbing in year to mitigate an additional budget pressure to the council.
- 4.22. The Hive Village (Glamping Pods) have been available for community and commercial bookings from May 2022. The Hive bookings started off slow, and revenue generated was under performing against the bid causing initial concerns. GLL refocused their resources and promoted a significant marketing campaign, including paid social media, the creation of a dedicated website for the facility, the addition of the facility onto various national and local booking

agencies and have created and prompted discounted campaigns to Manchester community groups and residents. All of which has resulted in a 20% increase in 2023 bookings from the previous year, as well as a number of repeat bookers for future months. Further focus is required to optimise the Hive Village booking potential.

- 4.23. The financial delivery model therefore remains a challenge and officers continue to work with GLL to monitor activities. Given the delays to some of the capital works, the slow return of schools following the understandable nervousness post pandemic, the on-going cost of living crisis making it harder for parents to fund trips for young people, and significant increase in both utility (increase of 50%) and food (increase of 35%) prices not accounted for in the original bid, GLL have currently only had 1 full year of trading, therefore it is important to continue to monitor their performance against the bid and further understand the full operations of the site. With full mobilisation of the site, and improved bookings from schools and the Hive Pod Village, we are anticipating improved income growth across the whole centre.
- 4.24. Manchester Active have commissioned a new Manchester Outdoor Learning and Adventurous Activity Strategy in which the operation of Ghyll Head plays a fundamental role in the residential offer that the centre offers to Manchester residents. It is anticipated that the skills and experience of Ghyll Head staff and Advisory Board will help guide this.
- 4.25. In addition to containing financial challenges, GLL have also spearheaded some fantastic work to significantly reduce energy consumption with a 14% reduction in consumption compared to 2022 which is a remarkable achievement alongside usage of the centre increasing. This has been achieved following a detailed focus by the team at the centre educating the young people in how energy use can be reduced, as well as some local initiatives such as switching to LED lighting in all areas and installing PIR sensors in areas with low use.
- 4.26. Strong progress has also been seen in waste management with the centre continuously exceeding its recycling target by again educating the young people around waste management and the importance of recognising what items should and can be recycled, whilst all at the same time expanding the growth of bookings on site. GLL have introduced several recycling initiatives at the centre which has reduced waste significantly. In the last quarter 76% of waste was recycled which is admirable as some recycling isn't provided by South Lakeland Council (Cumbria), the onus is very much but on businesses to deliver. For example, the centre has secured a relationship with a local food waste disposer which converts all food waste into renewable electricity, rather than the waste going straight to landfill, this is a clear demonstration of GLL's commitment to reducing waste.

5. Conclusion and Next Steps

- 5.1. The capital development improvements to the main house and the creation of the Hive area with glamping pods has been held in high regard by many

schools and community groups. The improvements have supported Ghyll Head to retain its place in the market as a competitive National Curriculum Outdoor Residential Experience for the benefit of Manchester School's and is providing extended high-quality outdoor learning opportunities for Manchester Youth and Community Organisations.

- 5.2. The impact of the global pandemic and other challenges outlined in this report have impacted on the operation of Ghyll Head. There has however been a strong and passionate commitment from staff at Ghyll Head and officers to support children and young people with an offer of all year-round high quality outdoor residential education and activities. Despite such challenges, the return to site has been strong with patronage exceeding pre pandemic levels (operating at 47% above the same period in 2019 under One Education's management), however rising inflation, high utility consumption and a continued challenging recovery from the pandemic have all impacted on GLL's business plan. The financial delivery model therefore remains a challenge and officers continue to work with GLL to monitor activities to enable a sustainable trading position.
- 5.3. The current operation and management by GLL demonstrates that there is strong growth potential for Ghyll Head which can build on the past successes of the school's residential programme and develops an enhanced offer that will grow participation and encourages Manchester schools to choose Ghyll Head as their first choice for their outdoor education experience along with developing relationships with community and youth organisations.
- 5.4. In partnership with the council GLL, MCRActive and MOET are exploring the next phase of capital works required at the centre and associated funding strategy with a particular focus on the bungalow and expansion of accessible provision over the next period.
- 5.5. The purpose of the proposal considered by this committee in November 2019 was to secure a future for Ghyll Head Outdoor Education Centre. Despite a variety of extreme difficulties over this time, as outlined in this report, this facility is in a position of being able to plan for a long future. This achievement owes a large debt to the commitment of the staff at Ghyll Head who have contributed to these developments through this very challenging period.

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - 13 October 2023
Subject:	Youth, Play & Participation Service (YPPS) Commissioning Grants, Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Programme and Youth Investment Fund (YIF)
Report of:	Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

Summary

This report follows on from the update on the youth and play commissioning arrangements which were presented to the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee (7th December 2022) and the Executive Committee (14th December 2022). The purpose of this report is to update members on the outcome of the Commissioning process.

This report also provides an update on the highlights from the Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Programme, which is seeking to support children and young people aged 5 to 16 who are in full-time education and in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. HAF programmes in Manchester provide enriching activities and food during the Easter, summer and Christmas school holidays.

In addition, this report provides an overview of the Department of Culture, Media & Sport's (DCMS) Youth Investment Fund Programme and provides an update on Manchester's Youth Investment Fund (YIF) capital programme, including the application procedure, processes undertaken to-date, and current programme management status.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic there has been a significant uplift in provision for youth and play activities across the city. Through a combination of council and external contributions the investment into these services has grown by £4.6M from base budget of c.£2.8M in 2020. Additional capital and revenue funding is bided for from the DCMS which if successful will result in a further £10.5m investment being secured.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to: -

1. Consider and comment on the information in the report in relation to Commissioning/Grants, the HAF programme and YIF.
2. Support the Council led bid for YIF for seven projects totalling approximately £10.5 million. Should YIF be secured through DCMS, a paper will be presented to the Executive to seek acceptance of the funding and programme.

3. Note that the Council is supporting several stand-alone YIF applications. It should be noted that there are no financial implications with these projects.
4. Note that the Youth Play and Participation Service will be embarking on a strategic review around youth provision across the north of the city, where it is considered that sector provision is more limited. This will include priorities for future work.

Wards Affected: All

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

Funded providers are expected to directly deliver 10% of their work to help achieve the Council's zero carbon agenda and to make Manchester 'a healthy, green, socially just city where everyone can thrive'.

The direct delivery will substantially contribute the Council to achieve zero-carbon target for the city.

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

Robust equality impact assessments were carried out in relation to the revised Grants Programme arrangements with consideration given to new small diverse and disadvantaged organisations.

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Through the city's newly commissioned providers and subsequently the refreshed youth offer, young people have opportunities and access to activities which contribute towards their personal, social and economic wellbeing. The HAF programmes is delivered in many local areas of Manchester that employs local people. The Council's YIF programme if successful will also seek to employ from the local community.
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Via the HAF activities and children and young people accessing renovated and new modular building will support the development of all participants. Developing and strengthening our commissioned providers to create opportunities for our young people to learn, be active and have fun in their free time. Through the city's varied youth & play offer young people have opportunities to develop their life skills to succeed in education and employment, and have opportunities to increase aspirations, achieve and gain economic independence. The new grants arrangements will continue to support children and young people have opportunities to develop key skills for life which include communication, problem solving, teamwork, self-belief, and self-management. A key focus of the grants programme will be enabling children and young people to strengthen their skills for life.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	<p>Accessing renovated buildings, via the HAF programme and through the city's newly commissioned providers and a subsequently refreshed youth offer, young people have opportunities to develop their life skills to succeed in education and employment, and have opportunities to increase aspirations, achieve and gain economic independence.</p> <p>Young people have opportunities to develop key skills for life which include communication, problem solving, teamwork, self-belief and self-management</p>
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	<p>Young people will have opportunities to live, lead and enjoy safe, active, and healthy lives.</p> <p>Young people understand the impact they can make within their neighbourhoods, and the wider community</p>

<p>A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth</p>	<p>Children and young people are listened to, valued and connected across their neighbourhoods, the city and beyond via residential and exchanges. They have been and will continue to inform continuous improvement and will be involved in service design, delivery, and governance. Children and young people receive the support they need to participate, ensuring representation of the full diversity of local people, and those who may not otherwise have a voice. Young people are making a substantial impact in achieving UNICEF's Child Friendly City (CFC) status.</p>
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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 grant funding decisions set out in the report are contained within the Youth and Play Commissioning budget.

Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no immediate capital financial consequences for the Commissioning Grants and HAF. However, there is a fee of approximately £60,000 that is required to bring projects up to Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) stage 4, which is a prerequisite for the proposed capital projects to be at that stage to submit a YIF application.

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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 this report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting:

- Children's Scrutiny Committee Report – 13 October 2021
- Valuing Young People's Strategy 2016-2019
- Our Manchester Youth Strategy 2019-2023
- Young Manchester Review Executive Paper – 17 March 2020
- Youth and Play Commissioning Framework 2023/2025
- Youth and Play Assessment Framework 2023
- Guidance notes for HAF
- Guidance notes for YIF

1.0 Youth and Play Commissioning

- 1.1 The current commissioning programme which was transferred from Young Manchester to the City Council on the 1st of April 2022, was scheduled to end on 31st of March 2023. Since transitioning youth and play commissioning back to the City Council, the end date was extended to 31st December 2023 at the request of the sector and in order to undertake robust assessments of applications. This has resulted in a proposal for the new commissioning arrangement to commence on 1st January 2024.
- 1.2 The sections below provides an overview of the background, assessment process and the portfolio of grantees for the Youth, Play & Participation Service (YPPS) Commissioning Grant Funding Programme 2023-2025 (subject to due diligence).

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At the very core of Manchester's development, its continued success, and long-term prosperity are its young people. Manchester recognises that to be in the top-tier of cities by 2025, young people are, and should be, at the heart of this ambitious vision.
- 2.2 Currently in Manchester, there are approximately 134,000 young people aged between 10 and 24. This represents nearly 25% of the whole population and projections estimate that the numbers of young people are increasing. Manchester is now widely recognised as one of the most attractive cities in the UK for young people to live, work and move to.
- 2.3 Manchester places great importance and emphasis on developing and growing an enriched youth offer outside of formal education, one which offers place, space and time for young people to have access to a variety of services and activities. The offer is underpinned by quality youth and play work practice, as well as quality working practices with young people in both universal or targeted settings, which powerfully contribute to the development of young people's personal, social and economic development.
- 2.4 Prior to 2021, the commissioning of youth and play services was carried out by Young Manchester. In December 2020, an independent review into Young Manchester was carried out with a report being submitted to the Executive in March 2021. The report considered the response to the review and resulting actions to build stronger and more effective arrangements.
- 2.5 An alternative delivery model was proposed, to be designed and developed in 2021 with a view to presenting the model in a report to the Executive in October 2021. The report proposed that the Council's role would be to administer, manage and provide continued support to all organisations involved in the delivery of the wider youth and play offer. In doing so, all commissioning arrangements and agreements were to return to the City Council from the financial year 2023 and beyond. On the 13th of October 2021,

this report was presented to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and was accepted.

2.6 In January 2022, novation of all arrangements from Young Manchester to Manchester City Council took place with the Council taking full responsibility of all commissioning arrangements from April 2022. During the financial year 2022 – 2023, the Youth, Play and Participation service maintained the arrangements as previously agreed with Young Manchester by facilitating a holding, one-year extension position.

2.7 From April 2022, the Youth, Play and Participation service developed the commissioning framework via city-wide ‘listening conversations’ with practitioners and young people themselves. A group of sector leaders and practitioners were then invited to co-create and co-design the commissioning framework along with officers from the service. The final element of developing the framework involved allowing leaders, practitioners and young people an opportunity to share their thoughts and views through an online survey.

3.0 Policy Context

3.1 Statutory guidance states local authorities have a statutory duty to ‘secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient provision of educational and recreational leisure-time activities for young people, and to make sure young people have a say in the local offer’. This is often referred to as the ‘youth service duty’. This includes youth and play work and other provision that:

- Connects young people with their communities.
- Offers young people opportunities in safe environments to take part in a wide range of activities.
- Supports the personal, social and economic development of young people.
- Improves young people’s physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing, raises young people’s aspirations, builds their resilience, and informs their decision-making.

3.2 The Department for Digital, Media, Culture and Sport (DCMS) Sept 2023 - The Youth Review published in February 2022 highlights DCMS acknowledging the youth sector has faced challenges throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and the UK government is responding by wanting to make a significant impact by 2025 by achieving the following:

- A ‘Youth Guarantee’: by 2025, every young person will have access to regular clubs and activities, adventures away from home and volunteering opportunities.
- Three strategic aims:
 - A) “Levelling up” and expanding access to youth provision with £560 million investment over the next three years (delivered via the Youth Investment Fund)
 - B) Supporting the youth sector workforce.

C) Listening to young people's voices.

3.3 Several local strategies ensure specific needs and priorities are interlinked in key areas of development for children and young people, these range from Manchester's Children & Young People's Plan, Community Safety Partnership – Our Strategy to the Young Carers Strategy, the Warm Spaces Agenda and more.

3.4 Successfully funded VCS providers will plan and link these local and national priorities in their delivery of services. Local Authority officers, young ambassadors and staff from the VCS will monitor, quality assure and measure impact on children and young people in order for the Council to achieve its local agendas and fulfil its statutory 'youth service duty and the Youth Guarantee.'

4.0 Decision-making processes

4.1 There were three stages to the decision-making for the commissioning process:

- Young people's advisory panel: 3 – 5 young people from each district were trained to have an overview and provided feedback / guidance on applicant's responses related to young people's engagement and involvement.
- Officer recommendation – recommendations were prepared by officers from the service, namely the Commissioning Manager, the Youth, Play, the Participation Manager and the Quality Assurance, Impact and Monitoring Lead. Officers relied on feedback from young people in order to make the most informed recommendations.
- Ratification – the Executive Member for Early Years, Children, Young People and the Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods completed the decision-making process.

4.2 The officers, the Executive Member for Early Years, Children, Young People and the Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods collectively spent four months between March to August 2023 robustly reviewing and assessing all received bids. Applications were scored on the following six areas:

- Link to aims of the programme – 30% weighting.
- Demonstrating impact – 20%
- Well run – 20%
- Collaborative – 10%
- Strengths based approach – 10%
- Value for money – 10%

4.3 In making decisions on applications, the following was also considered:

- Geographical spread – it was imperative that successful applications were spread across the 3 districts and their respective wards as evenly as possible. This included consideration for wards where provision was not currently established.
- Value for money – consideration was given to the number of sessions to be delivered each week, the number of young people being reached by the proposed provision, a judgement of the organisation/partnership efficacy based on data returns from 22/23 commissioned provision and an element of evidence gained through practice observation. Consideration was also made for the additional cost associated with targeted provision such as mental health and outdoor activity..
- The importance of partnerships & collaboration – It was felt that partnerships should be prioritised in order to reach the greatest number of geographical areas, the greatest number of children and young people per area as well ensuring established infrastructural support for new and smaller partners (capacity building) from lead organisations and specifically how these are already interconnected across the VCS and other public sectors across the city.
- Demonstratable links to Manchester strategies – it was important that any successful applicants were able to demonstrate how their provision has a clear link to the priorities and aims of various Manchester strategies e.g. UNICEF Child Friendly City, Making Manchester Fairer.
- “New” organisations – one of the key drivers of this funding was to ensure organisations who had not previously accessed funding before had the opportunity to do so. This was achieved through a combination of partnerships (e.g., 5 newly partnered organisations in North Manchester) as well as individual applications.
- Open access youth & play – it was important that any proposed activities were universally accessible to all. Consideration and prioritisation were given to provisions which were solely youth work, play work and/or both.
- Local organisations – prioritisation was given to applicants registered and based in Manchester, acknowledging the importance of those embedded in their communities, with knowledge of local need.

5.0 Applications, funding awards & development

- 5.1 Table 1 highlights the number of applications received and the amount applied for:

Table 1

Applications received	Individual applications 48	Partnership applications 13	Total 61 (Only 20 currently funded)
Amount applied for	Individual applications £4,204,561	Partnership applications £2,183,769	Total £6,388,230
Amount available	For 2023	To 2025	£3,200,00
Variance			£3,188,230

- The table above explains the Council received applications seeking very nearly double the amount that was on offer to be awarded.
- Within each partnership applications there are on average between 3 to 6 organisations delivering in different venues.

5.2 Table 2 informs of the amount available and what is to be distributed to successful applicants. Although there is a deficit in Year 1, this will be reduced by being prudent with other budget headings within the Youth & Play Service:

Table 2

Available Year 1	£400,000.00		Available Year 2	£1,600,000.00
Individual applications	£141,086.69		Individual applications	£601,925.57
Partnership applications	£230,222.76		Partnership applications	£ 869,840.35
DofE Award	£27,000.00		DofE Award	£32,000.00
Views/Substance	£49,000.00		Views/Substance	£61,000.00
Total	£447,309.45		Total	£1,564,765
Variance	£47,309.45		Variance	£35,234.08

- Only £400,000 was made available for the last quarter of 2023 owing to the sector requesting an extension of funding to existing providers to 31st December 2023. which was funded with £800,000 investment.
- All funded organisations will commence delivery on 1st January 2024.
- The recommended list was approved by the Executive Member for Early Years, Children, Young People and the Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods as the delegated decision-makers. The approved list of successful applications (subject to approval of the annual budget and due diligence) is in table 3 below:

5.3 Individual applications

Table 3

Organisation	Ward based in	Wards delivering in	Funding for 15 months
42nd Street	Piccadilly	Services available for children and young people from all wards	£104,114
Yellow Jigsaw (Media Cubs)	Piccadilly	All wards bar Didsbury East & West, Fallowfield, Old Moat, Sharston, Northenden	£20,700
Manchester Youth Academy	Levenshulme	Hulme, Levenshulme, Longsight, Piccadilly, Rusholme, Ardwick, Deansgate, Gorton & Abbey Hey	£52,614
The Proud Trust	Hulme	Services available for children and young people from all wards	£106,123
Z-Arts	Hulme	Hulme, Rusholme,	£41,089
Northwest Media Ltd (Unity Radio)	Hulme	All wards except Charlestown, Deansgate and few in the South	£17,660
Wythenshawe Community Initiative	Woodhouse Park	Baguley, Brooklands, Northenden, Sharston, Woodhouse Park	£36,264
N-Gage	Burnage	Baguley, Brooklands, Burnage, Didsbury East, Didsbury West, Fallowfield, Withington	£52,750
Manchester Young Lives	Sharston	Sharston Wythenshawe Reach: Wythenshawe, Moss Side, Ardwick, Blackley	£152,800
Community On Solid Ground	Whalley Range	Burnage, Chorlton, Chorlton Park, Fallowfield, Whalley Range, Withington, Moss Side, Longsight, Hulme	£71,075
Whalley Range Youth Opps Assoc	Whalley Range	Whalley Range, Chorlton, Rusholme	£52,600
Groundwork	Citywide	All wards but concentrating at Crumpsall, Harpurhey, Gorton	£35,220

5.4 Partnership applications**Table 4**

Organisation	Ward based in	Wards delivering in	Funding for 15 months
4CT	Beswick	Ancoats & Beswick, Clayton & Openshaw, Harpurhey, Miles	£162,463

		Platting & Newton Heath, Gorton & Abbey Hey	
YPAC	Miles Platting & Newton Heath	Ancoats & Beswick, Clayton & Openshaw, Harpurhey, Miles Platting & Newton Heath, Gorton & Abbey Hey	£86,092
Manchester Youth Zone	Harpurhey	Charlestown, Crumpsall, Harpurhey, Higher Blakely, Moston	£144,449
Young Manchester	Deansgate	Cheetham & Crumpsall	£46,704
Rainbow Surprise	Crumpsall	Charlestown, Cheetham Hill, Crumpsall, Harpurhey, Higher Blackley, Moston	£46,092
Hideaway	Moss Side	Hulme, Moss Side, Rusholme	£31,870
M13 Youth Project	Ardwick	Ardwick, Gorton & Abbey Hey, Levenshulme, Longsight Rusholme	£121,713.
Powerhouse	Moss Side	Moston, Ardwick, Gorton & Abbey Hey, Hulme, Longsight, Moss Side, Rusholme, Chorlton, Chorlton Park, Fallowfield, Whalley Range	£100,689
Highway Hope	Levenshulme	Services available for children and young people from all wards	£36,526
Barlow Moor Community Association	Chorlton	Chorlton, Chorlton Park, Withington, Didsbury West	£92,817
Old Moat Outreach Project	Old Moat	Chorlton, Chorlton Park, Old Moat, Withington	£89,502
Wythenshawe Community Housing Group	Sharston	Ancoats & Beswick, Clayton & Openshaw, Harpurhey, Ardwick, Gorton & Abbey Hey, Hulme, Longsight, Moss Side, Baguley, Brooklands, Burnage, Chorlton Park, Didsbury West, Fallowfield, Northenden, Old Moat, Sharston, Woodhouse Park	£141,138

- 5.5 In person discussions and online meetings for those who preferred this format have been taking place during September and October, with successful applicants to discuss their revised youth and play offer given that they did not receive the full amount requested.
- 5.6 In person discussions and online meetings for those who preferred this format are also taking place during September and October with unsuccessful applicants to provide support and to identify other sources of funding.

- 5.7 An additional £500k in 2023/24 has been set aside by the Council to support commissioning and sector development. Development fund monies will support small organisations that just missed out on the funding criteria but have future potential. Each organisation will receive up to £7,500 to support volunteer training, accredited training in youth & play work, capacity building, for collaboration work etc. The current organisations to receive this support are listed in the table 5 below, however, this number is likely to rise:

Table 5

Aim 4 Hope	Creative City England	Elevate Young Minds	Revolution Youth	Know Africa
Daring Diadems	Ensemble Partnership	Children of Wythenshawe	Diamobi Children's Disability Trust	Alfurqan Academy

6.0 Quality Assurance

- 6.1 The need for granting funds and the resulting procurement activity to be undertaken within a performance management framework is critical to achieving success and continuous improvement and to ensuring that resources are targeted effectively.
- 6.2 A standardised performance management framework for all funded youth and play providers has been agreed; this includes systematic and explicit benchmarking in relation to costs and outcomes. This will involve the use of a standardised Management Information (MI) system named Views (developed by local a company Substance) to monitor performance and measure impact. All successful organisations will be provided with training during November 2023 and be provided with the MI system without the need to purchase it. The MI system will provide both qualitative and quantitative data and case studies.
- 6.3 Quality assurance, impact and monitoring processes will be carried by using a supportive, transparent and a developmental approach with methods that will allow:
- ‘Sampling visits’ – informal process with the aim of collaborative learning. Samples may be from universal provision or targeted projects, it will be discussion based, to gather evidence from children and young people and youth & play workers.
 - Drop ins – utilising a standard template which will be informal for the purposes of seeing organic provision.
 - Young Ambassador visits – trained young people to conduct announced visits to learn about the provision and how welcoming it is, how supportive the staff team is and to gauge if there is a diverse programme on offer.

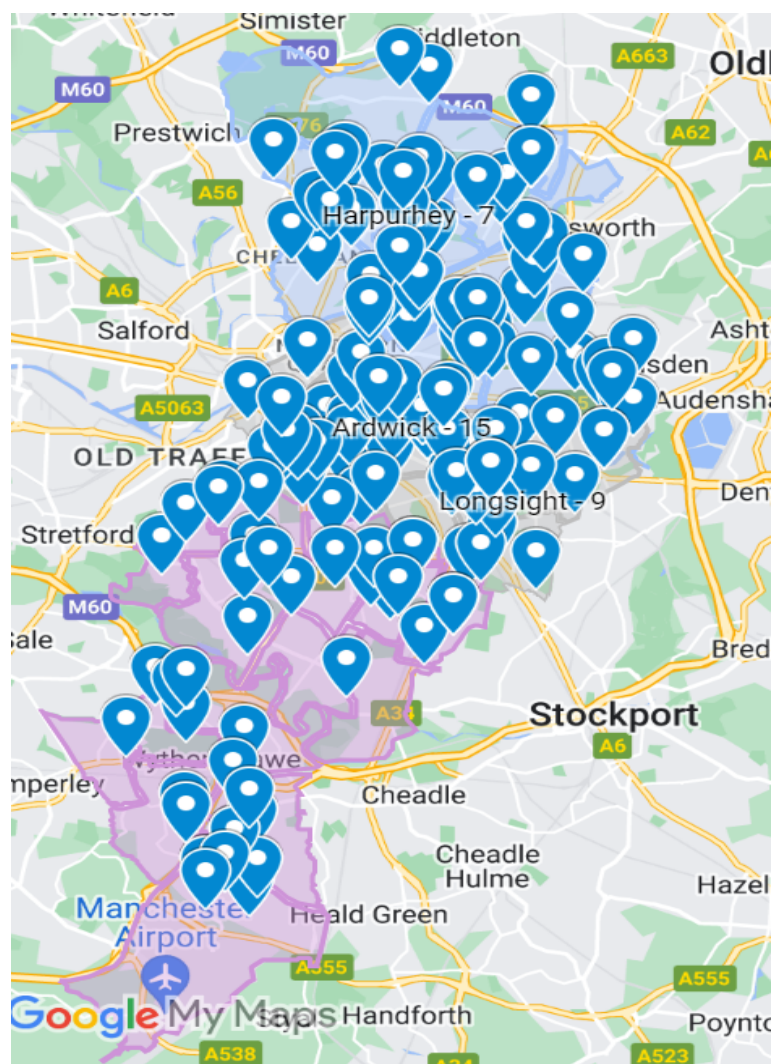
- Peer Reviews – trained workers to conduct announced visits. Mix of experienced, paid staff and volunteers to bring diverse perspectives. This will use a strengths-based approach, sharing best practice and if required collectively working on areas of development.
- Play work to be quality assured and monitored in a similar way with less constraints on outcomes but acknowledging the need for play provision to be driven by children and young people and that it is not restrictive.
- Play work visits to be aligned to England’s “Quality in Play” and the 8 principles of play.
- For the publication of each organisation’s youth and play offer to be advertised on the Council’s ‘Loads to Do’ website.

7.0 Holiday Activities Fund (HAF)

- 7.1 The Youth, Play and Participation Team have adopted a collaborative approach to the delivery of holiday provision. Following the success of the summer offer in 2022, the team have continued to ensure work is undertaken across Directorates and Departments to maximise resources and provide a varied and sufficient offer for children and young people.
- 7.2 In December 2021, the DfE confirmed an additional £220m of funding for the Holiday Activity programme nationally for a period of three years. The Council has secured £4,140,240 for the year 2023/24. The funding is for targeted holiday provision at Easter, Summer, and Christmas periods. The confirmation of this extended funding and the associated financial stability has enabled services to expand the offer for all children and young people. Following successful delivery during 2022, the team now have an established mapping system in place which allows gaps in provision to be identified and to act accordingly if further or different provision needs to be commissioned.
- 7.3 In December 2021, following the announcement of the longer-term funding, a Manchester Holiday Activity Board was established, comprising of senior MCC staff as well as representation from MCRactive. The ambition for the holiday programme was then developed to:
- Provide a free, daily, inclusive programme of enriching holiday activities across Manchester.
 - Providing every child with the opportunity to take part in hyper-local activity of their choice at the appropriate time and place.
 - Support Manchester’s ambition for children to be happy, healthy, safe and successful; and
 - Ensure all participants are given a hot meal based on their dietary requirements.
 - This ambition was defined to work towards ensuring that provision meets the following requirements/ criteria: All eligible children in Manchester to have provision within a 15-minute walk of their home.

- A city-wide offer but paying due attention to Wards with high numbers of eligible children.
- A broad range of activities to be provided in several settings ranging from schools to sports clubs.
- All projects to provide each child with a nutritious lunch in line with government standards.
- A minimum of one hour's rigorous activity to be provided as part of the daily provision in line with Government guidelines.
- Young people will feel safe and secure in their chosen activity supervised by appropriately trained adults.
- All activities to be appropriate and at the right time and place.

7.4 The map below helps illustrate the mapping process and highlights the HAF provision across the city during the Easter holidays 2023.



- 7.5 All activities are commissioned and provided by other Council departments or external organisations including youth partnerships, charities, and other organisations from the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. The current offer is wide-ranging and offers eligible young people activities ranging from sport to theatre. The Council's teams for Parks, Culture, Galleries and Libraries all provide a range of activities. This offer is provided up to four days a week over the holiday periods, including Bank Holidays in many cases.
- 7.6 The longer-term nature of the funding has resulted in a significant uptake in grant applications from an ever-wider variety of providers across the city. To fully involve youth providers in the commissioning process, a series of seven 'listening conversations' were held across the city during 2022 at which providers were able to comment on all aspects of holiday provision. This feedback informed future Holiday activity and HAF strategy. Over and above the HAF programme, for Half Term provision during the 2023-24 financial year, £285K was allocated by the Council (95K per half term). Funded provision is run to the same standards, expectations and outcomes as HAF-funded provision during the major school holidays.
- 7.7 The table below provides an overview of uptake over the last 12 months:

Table 6

	No. of Providers	Total Unique Participants	Total Engagements	Total Sessions	% on FSM
October 22	33	2780 (303 SEND)	7555	192	91%
Christmas 22	64	5897 (546 SEND)	19999	516	90%
February 23	19	856 (55 SEND)	2056	108	100%
Easter 23	95	8277 (753 SEND)	33559	1386	88%
May/June 23	27	2065 (256 SEND)	5427	185	94%
Summer 23	108	15,114 (TBC SEND)	97,222	3017	94%
TOTALS	346	34,989	165,818	5,404	93%

- 7.8 Significant progress has been made since the last update was provided to scrutiny in summer 2022, progress includes:
- Transitioned from Young Manchester to the new model of commissioning delivery.
 - Stabilising the sector with interim grant agreements.
 - Recruiting to new key posts within the team.
 - Undertaking, evaluating and acting upon a Needs Analysis.
 - Securing an uplift in HAF funding and establishing enhanced holiday provision.

7.9 Over the next 6 months the following next steps will be progressed:

- Decisions have now been made around which organisations have been commissioned to deliver universal youth and play services.
- The establishment, coordination and delivery of area youth forums.
- More support to groups and organisations so that they can access commissioning money and / or the Holiday Activity and Food Fund.

8.0 Youth Investment Fund (Capital) Programme

8.1 This section provides an overview of the Department of Culture, Media & Sport's (DCMS) Youth Investment Fund Programme and gives an update on Manchester's Youth Investment Fund (YIF) capital programme, including application procedure, process undertaken to-date, and current programme management status.

8.2 In August 2022, DCMS launched the 2nd phase of its YIF programme which forms an important part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda and its Youth Guarantee policy. YIF is primarily a capital investment programme targeted to deliver 300 new and refurbished youth facilities in the most deprived parts of England. Manchester is eligible to apply for YIF with funding to be spent by March 2025. In September 2022 Young Manchester and the Council designed and coordinated the initial EOI process, which allowed youth organisations to submit EOIs which were then panel assessed against criteria as those used by DCMS, and other criteria including feasibility, deliverability, cost, relevance, and geography to identify which projects would go through to the next stage of the full YIF application process.

8.3 In late January 2023 several challenges, changes and risks were identified in relation to the YIF programme. Consequently, this influenced several significant changes to the way the Council has had to manage and coordinate its YIF programme. These have included:

- The Council not being able to be the lead YIF applicant for all projects in the city owing to changes to how YIF investment could be applied for in relation to facility ownership and lease agreement status. This has meant a number of organisations have had to make stand-alone applications for YIF, where originally, they were to be included in the Council led portfolio application.
- There not being a specific funding allocation (ringfenced) for local authority areas. Each project within any portfolio, or consortium to be assessed and funded on its own merit.
- No funding available to bring projects up to Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) stage 4, which is a prerequisite for many projects to be at that stage to submit a YIF application.

- Impact upon the geographical spread of the YIF programme. Meaning less sites being identified in North Manchester owing to the YIF programme requiring readily available, suitable sites and facilities.
 - The impact of the above upon timescales for YIF applications to be completed in regard to securing application prerequisites such as having a planning application in place where required, and appropriate facility lease arrangements negotiated and agreed.
- 8.4 DCMS and its national and regional delivery partners (Social Investment Business and Key Fund respectively) assess YIF applications through the metrics of inclusivity, sustainability, additionality, value for money, and strategic awareness. The main deadline for submission of new applications was 2 June 2023. The Council submitted Expression of Interest (EOI's) for seven projects which are now in the application pipeline, with completed applications submitted in July 2023. Grant assessments are taking place with decisions expected September through October.
- 8.5 The Council has made a submission of approximately £10.5 million for Council-led YIF projects. Details are provided below of other stand-alone projects led by other organisations, which the Council is supporting.
- 8.6 Should the Council secure YIF through DCMS, a report will be submitted to the Executive later this year.
- 8.7 The Youth, Play & Participation Team (YPPT), on behalf of Manchester City Council and the VCSE youth and play sector are seeking to submit a funding application to DCMS's YIF programme. The Council is seeking to apply for an investment of approximately £10.5 million (high level estimated costs), which covers seven identified capital (youth offer) projects across the city. The Council are also supporting a number of individual, stand-alone YIF applications for youth organisations that are required to complete their own applications for YIF (See tables 7&8 below).
- 8.8 Extensive stakeholder engagement and management has required to manage the changes across the sector, more specifically for those organisations that were now required to standalone and directly apply for YIF. Where applicable, for mid to large scale projects, it has been highly recommended and encouraged that they utilise the expertise of the Council's Capital Programmes Service and its Minor Works Framework to deliver their project. It is worth noting that two stand-alone applicants were unsuccessful with their applications. Following these unsuccessful decisions, the Council has made several representations to DCMS to reverse these decisions and DCMS have agreed to reassess those applications.
- 8.9 A project board has been established to govern the approach and to support and provide oversight of the programme. The project board includes representation from YPPT to programme and project manage YIF, Capital Programmes – Minor Works, Corporate Estates, Parks Service, Legal

Services, Finance and Surveyor Development, including external support from Young Manchester and Manchester Active – Capital Projects.

8.10 It is acknowledged that due to the parameters of the external funding criteria and the short term decision making, there are challenges with ensuring a good geographic spread of applications which are shovel ready for investment. Following representation made by the Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People, it has been acknowledged that there is a need to review in greater detail the current provision within the north of the city, in terms of physical assets and the community and voluntary sector offer. With this in mind, work will be commencing shortly on a strategic review around youth provision across the north of the city, where it is considered that sector provision is more limited. This review will include drawing out priorities for future work.

8.11 **Site proposals** - Table 7 - highlights the organisations and sites which form part of the City Council-led YIF application:

Table 7

Organisation	YIF Project Description	Project Address	Approximate Cost
Nacro - youth outdoor learning activity organisation based in Wythenshawe Park.	New modular build in Wythenshawe Park.	Wythenshawe Park Horticultural & Learning Centre, Wythenshawe Road, Manchester, M23 0AB.	£1,900,000
Groundwork - environmental, social action organisation that delivers youth work aligned to environment and climate agenda, city-wide. Rainbow Surprise - local youth and play organisation delivering youth and play activities in Crumpsall Ward.	New modular build in Crumpsall Park	Ash Tree Road, Crumpsall, M8 5RX	£1,200,000
N-Gage youth and work organisation delivering youth and play activities, including detached youth work in Burnage, Levenshulme and Newall Green Wards.	Demolition and new modular build on Burnage Lane site.	345 Burnage Lane, Burnage, M19 1EN.	£2,940,000
OMYOP - local youth and play organisation delivering youth and play activities in Withington / Old Moat Ward.	Demolition and new modular build on the	306a Yew Tree Road, Old Moat, M20 3FG.	£1,000,000

	Old Depot site in Old Moat.		
Unity Arts - local youth and play organisation delivering youth and play activities in Chorlton and Chorlton Park Wards	Medium-scale refurbishment of Brookfield House in Chorlton Park.	Chorlton Park, Nell Lane, Chorlton Park, M21 7UD.	£400,900
Unity Arts - local youth and play organisation delivering youth and play activities in Chorlton and Chorlton Park Wards.	New modular build on the Field of Oz site in Chorlton.	Oswald Road / Claridge Road, Chorlton, M21 9QD	£1,200,000
4CT - Community Development organisation delivering a range of youth and play activities across East Manchester Wards.	New modular build on Sterling Centre site.	Scotland Hall Road, Newton Heath, M49 2RE.	£1,700,000
		Total:	£10,340,000

8.12 Table 8 highlights those external organisations and sites which were required to stand-alone and directly apply for YIF:

Table 8

Organisation	YIF Project Description	Project Address	Approximate Cost
Powerhouse - community resource hub delivering a range of youth and play activities in Moss Side Ward.	Large scale renovation and refurbishment of existing building.	140 Raby Street, Moss Side, M14 4SL.	£2,320,000
Manchester Youth Zone - youth and play organisation delivering youth and play work in Harpurhey Ward and across North Manchester.	MYZ - youth and play organisation delivering youth and play work in Harpurhey Ward and across North Manchester.	931 Rochdale Road, Harpurhey, M9 8EA.	£1,000,000
Community On Solid Ground - community development organisation delivering a range of youth and play work activities in Whalley Range Ward	Large scale renovation / extension to the existing building	. York Avenue, Whalley Range, M16 0AS.	£750,000

42nd Street - children's and young people's mental health charity delivering targeted youth work city wide.	Mid-scale renovation to existing building.	The Space, 87-91 Great Ancoats Street, M4 5AG.	£300,000
Anson Cabin - youth and play organisation delivering youth and play work in Rusholme and Longsight Wards.	Small scale renovation to existing building or mid-scale new build.	38 Meldon Road, Rusholme, M13 0TR.	£100,000 - £1,000,000
MYL - youth and play organisation delivering youth and play activities using their outdoor adventure playgrounds in Woodhouse Park, Moss Side and Ardwick Wards.	Mid-scale renovation or refurbishment to one or more of the existing adventure playgrounds.	Multi-site	£250,000 - £1,000,000
Z- Arts - local arts organisation delivering youth and play work activities.	Small-scale refurbishment to existing building.	335 Stretford Road, Hulme, M15 5ZA.	£100,000
WRYOA - local youth and play organisation delivering youth and play work activities in Whalley Range Ward.	Small-scale refurbishment to existing building.	82 Cromwell Avenue, Whalley Range, M16 0BG.	£100,000
BMCA - community resource hub delivering youth and play organisations in Chorlton Park Ward.	Small-scale refurbishment to existing building.	23 Mersey Bank Avenue, Chorlton Park, M21 7NT.	£50,000
Trinity House - community resource hub delivering youth and play activities in Rusholme Ward.	Small-scale refurbishment to existing building.	Grove Close, Rusholme, M14 5AA.	£50,000
Reform Radio - media / arts organisation delivering wellbeing related activities to young people.	Small-scale refurbishment to existing building.	Bonded Warehouse, 18 Lower Bryom Street, M3 4AP.	£30,000

N.B. Due to the nature of the programme it is recognised that most projects are situated in the central and south areas of the city.

8.13 Timescales

8.13.1 The following key dates and milestones include:

- Submission of Council led application: July 2023
- Expected outcome – October 2023 (Exact date to be confirmed by DCMS)
- Executive decision: To be confirmed in November/ December 2023

- Progress procurement process to appoint main contractor/s for individual projects: December 2023 – January 2024
- Project Board to review and approve projects: beginning 1 April 2024, through to the end of the YIF project lifecycle.

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 13 October 2023

Subject: Supported accommodation registration with Ofsted

Report of: Strategic Director of Children and Education Services

Summary

Manchester has a cohort of 304 young people aged 16 or 17 years who are care experienced, to whom we have a duty to support them develop skills, begin to think and prepare for their transition into adulthood and ultimately to be successful adults. As part of the transition process some young people choose and are supported to live independently in supported accommodation.

Currently 71% of our young people aged 16 and 17 live in a supported accommodation setting with various levels of support according to their needs.

The DFE describe supported accommodation as follows;

As children grow up and approach adulthood, they gradually gain more independence from their parents. The care system seeks to replicate this transition to independence for children. While most children in the care system will be best placed in foster care or a children's home, from the age of 16, a looked after child can leave care (becoming a 'care leaver') and/or move to supported accommodation if they are ready for it. This provision can be appropriate for some older children where it is what they want and it can meet their needs and keep them safe as part of a carefully managed transition to independence. The aim of supported accommodation is to support young people to develop their independence in preparation for adult living while keeping them safe in a homely and nurturing environment. (Supported accommodation Regulations March 2023)

There is a requirement for all providers to submit an application before 28th October 2023 and then from April 2024 all Supported Accommodation settings will be subject to inspection from Ofsted.

There will be 4 categories of Supported accommodation when the regulations come into effect and will be eligible for a regulated inspection.

Manchester has been reviewing and tracking the preparedness of externally commissioned provision whilst at the same time planning and have submitted an application in respect of local authority services.

Category (Regulation 2)	Description
1. Supported accommodation in a self-contained unit, where the accommodation is for the sole use of the child or for the child and other individuals living with the child as agreed by the accommodating authority or the supported accommodation undertaking. (Regulation 2(1), para (a))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The accommodation is designed for the sole use of the young person placed there, or for the young person and others that may live there as part of their family unit, for example, their partner, sibling and children. • Includes bedsits under a licence agreement and self-contained flats, which may be at the same location, or within the same building.
2. Supported accommodation in a shared or group living situation in premises used to accommodate only looked after children and care leavers. (Regulation 2(1), para (b))	<p>Shared accommodation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people have their own bedroom, and may have their own bathroom, and share communal areas (e.g. living room/s, kitchen). • Provision may include foyer-type accommodation that combines support with opportunities for education, training and employment. • This provision may accommodate care leavers aged 18+
3. Supported accommodation in a shared or group living situation in premises which are not limited to accommodating looked after children and care leavers. (Regulation 1(2), para (c))	<p>See description for 2 above, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to being registered to support looked after children and care leavers aged 16 and 17, this provision may also provide accommodation for people are not looked after children or care leavers.
4. Supported accommodation provided by an individual or individuals in a private residence which is the main residence of that individual or those individuals. (Regulation 2(1), para (d))	<p>Provided by private individuals who offer a room in their family home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision is typically co-ordinated by a supported lodgings scheme (the registered provider), which recruits and supports a network of supported lodgings 'hosts'.

The slide set attached to this report highlights Childrens Services response to the Supported Accommodation Regulations (March 2023) and the requirement to register all supported accommodation as defined above with Ofsted.

Recommendations

Scrutiny Committee members are invited to:

- (1) Consider and explore the robustness of the planning and preparation that has been completed in order to register Manchester's internal supported accommodation provision.

- (2) Note and support Manchester's approach to encourage and monitor external providers in the registration of accommodation, becoming 'inspection ready' and improving the 'range and choice' of provision and ultimately the outcomes for our young people.
- (3) Recognise the services response, whilst acknowledging the strength of the partnership work that has wrapped around our young people, living in supported accommodation.

Wards Affected: All

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

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

Manchester internal and external supported accommodation continues to deliver culturally attuned services to all our young people, which includes our Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). Priority is given to linking in our young people into bespoke community activities within Manchester as per an individual's needs. The services are responsive to ensuring individual needs are being met for example communication aids, use of interpreters, space to be able to express individuality and bespoke support, for example LGBTQ+ friendly spaces.

Consideration is given to how young people where possible are culturally matched to supported accommodation provision, for example we have bespoke contracts for our UASC.

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Effective support for young people is critical so they can connect, support, contribute and access a thriving and sustainable City.
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Ensuring our young people are given the opportunity to access immediate support enables a timely assessment of need to ensure the right support at the right time is provided.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Building a trusted relationship with young people helps builds their resilience, recover from trauma which is needed to enable their potential to be achieved.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Improving outcomes for young people dispersed across the city helps build and develop communities.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Children's Services and partners have responded to ensuring our young people have a high-quality opportunity to live in supported accommodation that will help them manage the transition out of care and into the adult world, where they will achieve and be an active member and contributor to Manchester City and local communities.

Full details are in the slide set, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences

Please see below

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the end of March 2023 Ofsted published the Supported Accommodation Regulations 2023 as well as its accompanying 'Guide to Supported Accommodation Regulations including the Quality Standards'. This document supports the implementation of the Regulations as well as the guide to the Quality Standards which specifies the outcomes settings will be inspected against.
- 1.2 'The Regulations and this accompanying Guide for supported accommodation are applicable to accommodation in England in which a child is accommodated by the local authority pursuant to section 22C(6)(d) ("other arrangements" for looked after children) or section 23B(8)(b) ("suitable accommodation" for 16- and 17-year-old care leavers) of the Children Act 1989'. (Ofsted – The Guide)
- 1.3 The supported accommodation provision that will be required to register and be subject to regulation provided by Manchester City Council is:
- The Beehive
 - Supported Lodgings
 - Any floating support arrangements across the service (staying close / agency staff)
 - Provision provided via the House Project (Manchester House Project only).

Manchester currently have 158 young people placed across 25 external supported accommodation.

- 1.4 The supporting slide set will highlight how the service has responded to this regulatory responsibility.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Ofsted began registering providers on 28th April 2023. The Regulations and guidance must be complied with for the purposes of registration and as soon as providers and managers are registered with Ofsted.
- 2.2 The application for registration must be completed before 28th October 2023, it will be an offence to provide a supported accommodation service following this date. It should be noted that the Registration visit, and certification need not be completed by this date, however a complete application must have been submitted, accepted, and a Unique Reference Number issued.
- 2.3 Ofsted state that they aim to visit services to undertake Registration Inspections within 40 days of acceptance of the application. Young people can be supported in the settings in the interim, and it would be advantageous to manage the service observing the regulations during the interim period.
- 2.4 Ofsted have recently opened a consultation relating to inspecting supported accommodation. This states that during the first round of inspections starting

in April 2024. Ofsted will give 2 working days notice of inspection. There will be 3 possible outcomes:

- “Consistently strong service delivery leads to typically positive experiences and progress for children. Where improvements are needed, leaders and managers take timely and effective action”
- “Inconsistent quality of service delivery adversely affects children’s experiences and limits their progress. Leaders and managers must make improvements”
- “Serious or widespread weaknesses lead to significant concerns about the experiences and progress of children. Leaders and managers must take urgent action to address failings”

- 2.5 Ofsted clarify that they will develop benchmarking criteria from the first round of inspections. From this a statement to describe “outstanding” will be developed.
- 2.6 Ofsted will inspect at least every 3 years, however in services that do not demonstrate consistently strong services they will be monitored more regularly dependant on the level of concern the service raises.
- 2.7 Within the service we have a variety of safeguards in place to monitor the quality of support/care provided to young people. All young people are currently placed with providers who are subject of the Northwest Supported Accommodation Framework and therefore contract and commissioning scrutiny. Additionally, all young people are subject of the Pathway Planning process, statutory visits, CLA processes, that all monitor and scrutinise outcomes of young people.

3.0 Service Offer

3.1 Profile of our young people

- 304 young people aged 16 and 17 who following care planning decisions are ‘age eligible’ to move into supported accommodation.
- 71% (218) of young people are currently living in supported accommodation or supported independent living.
- 28% of young people remain in ‘care placements’
- 69% of young people are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (3% are female)
- 60 young people are living in internal supported accommodation.
- 158 are living in external supported accommodation across 25 providers and 3 preferred providers where there are commissioning partnerships in place.
- Of the 218 young people
 - 84% (183) are male
 - 16% (35) female
 - 3% (7) 18 year olds
 - 80% (174) 17 year olds

- 17% (37) 16 year olds

3.2 Internal provision

- 3.3 Manchester's Children Services have been actively planning and preparing to apply and readiness for inspection by Ofsted in 2024. The Project Plan is attached in Appendix 1 – see separate document. The plan highlights the activities that are being undertaken in order to ensure the service(s) comply with the Regulations, and address the documentation required to achieve registration.
- 3.4 Manchester is going to make two registrations separating the Supported Lodgings Service from the other services. Recruitment for both registered managers has been successful.
- 3.5 Manchester will be registering its provision week beginning 25th September 2023.
- 3.6 The Registered Managers are required to make an application in their own right alongside the application made by the service and Responsible Individual, which will be DDCCS – Sean McKendrick. Ofsted will not consider applications in isolation.
- 3.7 The Regulation of Supported Accommodation has provided an opportunity to reassess the structure of the Supported Accommodation services available for 16- and 17-year-olds in Manchester. This has led to a recruitment campaign to attract additional supported lodgings providers. There has been some interest, with 8 enquiries, 3 progressing to assessment. The team have targeted their recruitment towards mosques in Manchester. The mosques the team have been working with have committed to continuing to offer the team a platform, and links have been made with a number of other mosques. This work continues.
- 3.8 This project also provided the opportunity to rethink and redefine the service user group that The Beehive will cater for. The proposal is that The Beehive focusses on supporting 16- and 17-year-old young people. The young people should be supported to move on around their 18th birthday, but certainly prior to them becoming 18 ½ years of age.
- 3.9 The Registration has also prompted consideration of Manchester's role in relation to the GM House Project. A pragmatic decision has been made that Manchester will not provide a Registered Manager across Greater Manchester. Instead, each Local Authority will retain responsibility for the registration for their own service.
- 3.10 Manchester in its preparation for being 'inspection ready' will mirror Regulation 44 visits as per Children Homes regulations with its internal supported accommodation. Via our successful team of Care Consultants we will be implementing a 'young inspectors' model, we will also include our external 'preferred providers' and members of our 16+ Hub in this approach.

3.11 External provision

- 3.12 The information for this part of the report has been sourced through both through MCC Commissioning monitoring, the Post 16 Hub and Placements Northwest provider monitoring of Ofsted readiness. As one can imagine there has been much activity across the region in preparation for the registration. There is a MCC presence at the NCB Communities of Practice and we continue to engage with Placements North West to understand market viability.
- 3.13 Manchester have been working with all its external providers where we have young people placed or where we have had young people placed within the last year. Manchester have completed a 'check-list' guide to support external providers knowing what is required to meet regulation requirements, feedback has been that providers have found this helpful, we have had a 75% returned and are consequently satisfied that quality Statement of Purposes and policies and procedures are in place, with an intention to register.
- 3.14 The providers that have not returned this documentation have been written to with a view to starting to plan a move on plan for the young people currently living with them. This amounts to 6 young people. Manchester is clear that we do not wish to disrupt a young person's stability and will do all we can to support the provider ahead of the 28th October 2023. On the 29th October 2023 it will be an unlawful placement to have a young person in a provision that has not submitted its registration application and therefore has its own URN number.
- 3.15 Whilst we have ensured ongoing consultation with providers there is risk that if they do not register, we will have reduced sufficiency. We have been working across the Supported Accommodation and Homelessness provision to ensure the providers such as the Limes, Foyer and Burnage register to ensure availability of the right provision at the right time. Already we know 2 providers across this market have given a position statement that they will not be registering and only accommodating young people over the age of 18.
- 3.16 Some external providers had indicated that they will be requesting uplifts on existing and future placement costs directly attributed to the new registration. In some circumstances they had quoting 20% or to bring themselves in line with existing residential funding models. This has been mitigated in Manchester partly due to the revised post 16 accommodation offer and the relationships with providers we have developed. We have negotiated the funding uplifts with external parties and these have been contained within the revised external placement budget.
- 3.17 Manchester welcomes regulation across the post 16 supported accommodation provision. There is acknowledgement across stakeholders that this is not a straight forward market to regulate. It is extremely flexible and there is risk that regulation could stifle innovation within the sector which can work very well for our young people.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Scrutiny Committee members are invited to:

1. Consider the planning and preparation that has been completed to register Manchester's internal supported accommodation provision.
2. Consider Manchester's approach to support our external preferred providers in the registration of accommodation, becoming 'inspection ready' and improving outcomes for the benefit of our young people.
3. Recognise the services response, whilst acknowledging the strength of the partnership work that has wrapped around our young people, living in supported accommodation.

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Project plan – April 2023

Regulation of supported accommodation
Manchester City Council

Green	Completed or on target
Amber	Issue / delay / target deferred
Red	Did not meet or risk of not meeting target
Purple	Not yet begun

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Activity Description	Start Date	Finish Date	% Complete	Lead Person	RAG Rating	Comments
Receive outcome of business case to be discussed in CLT regarding structure and service user group	17.04.23	17.04.23	100%	Emma Collingwood	Green	Business case completed and being discussed at CLT
Recruitment / secondment of Registered Manager(s) to commence	17.04.23	17.04.23	100%	Liz Perry	Green	Agreement on service structure required to inform recruitment
Monitoring of DBS / annual reviews to be completed and any compliance issues to be addressed	w/c 17.04.23	31.08.23	75%	Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers / Sarah McEntree	Amber	Improvements made in compliance weekly monitoring takes place and improvement being steadily made.
Commission support of care consultants	w/c 17.04.23	31.08.23	100%	Liz Perry / Nathan Minshull	Green	To be completed 21.09.23
Review of recruitment practice to ensure compliance with regulations / check detail of probationary period	w/c 01.05.23	05.05.23	100%	Liz Perry	Green	Probation period checked 13 weeks can be extended to 6 months no warning or additional safeguards – need a checklist
Develop and write Statements of Purpose	w/c 01.05.23	18.08.23	80%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers / Care consultants	Green	Completed
PPM's to be held for all young people currently in the provision and opportunities for planned transitions identified for those who need to move	w/c 01.05.23	15.09.23	75%	Sarah McEntee / Liz Perry	Amber	1 young person yet to move – plan being progressed
Workforce Development Plan to be completed and plan to address training / qualification needs to be generated (including concierge staff)	w/c 08.05.23	21.09.23	80%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers / Sarah McEntree	Green	Completed
Locality Risk Assessments to be started	w/c 24.07.23	31.07.23	40%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf	Amber	Information gathered – not needed until registration inspection
Data to be collected in relation to Missing from home occurrences to inform requirement for Missing Return Home Interviews	w/c 08.05.23	12.05.23	100%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf	Green	
Communication strategy to be developed	w/c 15.05.23	30.08.23	100%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf	Green	
Fortnightly update meetings to be arranged	w/c 15.05.23	28.10.23	100%	Liz Perry	Green	First one to happen w/c 17.05.23
H&S compliance to be identified, checked and monitoring to be put in place	w/c 15.05.23	31.08.23	100%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf	Green	Advice required re fire RA update for fire evac plan and RA
Information sharing sessions to be held with PA's, Supported Lodgings Providers and House Project staff	w/c 22.05.23	30.08.23	100%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf	Green	Some awareness sessions have been completed, but more required

Location Risk Assessments to be completed	w/c 21.08.23	01.09.23	40%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers / Care consultants		Information gathering completed. Not needed until registration inspection
Young People's Guides to be written	w/c 07.08.23	31.08.23	100%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers / Care consultants		Session with care consultants to be completed 21.09.23. Doc to be completed 22.09.23
Behaviour Management Policy guidance to be written	w/c 29.05.23	02.05.23	100%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers / Care consultants		
Safeguarding Policy guidance to be written / checked for compliance	w/c 29.05.23	02.05.23	100%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers / Care consultants		
Missing from Home Policy guidance to be written / checked for compliance	w/c 05.06.23	01.09.23	75%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers / Care consultants		Awaiting reviewed policy
Overnight stay policy to be written / checked for compliance	w/c 05.06.23	09.06.23	100%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers / Care consultants		Existing policy exists likely to be fit for purpose
Visitors policy to be written / checked for compliance	w/c 05.06.23	09.06.23	100%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers / Care consultants		Existing policy exists likely to be fit for purpose
Providers entering children's bedrooms Policy to be written / checked for compliance	w/c 05.06.23	09.06.23	100%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers / Care consultants		Existing policy exists likely to be fit for purpose
Escalation and out of hours safeguarding support Policy to be written / checked for compliance	w/c 28.08.23	31.08.23	0%	Liz Perry / Emma Collingwood		Not required until registration inspection
Manager(s) induction process to be written / checked for compliance	w/c 04.09.23	08.09.23	20%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf		Induction process currently underway
Rooms / building checked and compliance with regulations assessed	w/c 15.09.23	15.09.23	50%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf		Ongoing work to the building some refresh required as young people vacate their accommodation
Agreement (Terms and conditions / rights etc) to be written / checked for compliance	w/c 12.06.23	16.06.23	100%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf		
Explore availability of policies from Tri.x	w/c 19.06.23	23.06.23	100%	Emma Collingwood		Agreement for pol and proc package to be purchased
Consider process for staff supervision / team meetings to take place	w/c 19.06.23	23.06.23	100%	Liz Perry		
Develop / review Admission and discharge docs including Impact Risk Assessment and Transition plan	w/c 19.06.23	23.06.23	100%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers /Care consultants		Existing documents require manager oversight but are likely to be largely fit for purpose
As current young people move new young people move in line with SoP	w/c 15.09.23		80%	Liz Perry		Young people starting to move out new young people identified in line with SOP
Registered Manager(s)s references to be verified and recruitment file signed off	w/c 14.09.23	17.09.23	100%	Liz Perry		In line with safer recruitment practices
Registered Manager(s)s to be asked to ensure they apply for the DBS update service	w/c 14.08.23	01.08.23	100%	Liz Perry		This will support RM application

Registered Manager(s) to be asked to submit Health Declaration from to GP			100%	Liz Perry		Self disclosure process in operation
Monitor training plan and develop matrix	w/c 11.09.23	15.09.23	75%	Liz Perry		Make any adjustments as training is undertaken
Develop supervision / appraisal matrix	w/c 11.09.23	15.09.23	0%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers		Not required until registration inspection
Develop / review young person's internal development plan	w/c 14.08.23	18.08.23	100%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers / Care consultants		Reviewed – requires amendment
Develop / review Behaviour Management Plan	w/c 14.08.23	18.08.23	100%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers / Care consultants		Reviewed – required amendment
Develop / review young person's individual risk assessment	w/c 14.08.23	18.08.23	100%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers / Care consultants		Reviewed – required amendment
Obtain missing protocol document	w/c 14.08.23	18.08.23	75%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers / Care consultants		Awaiting draft to be approved
Develop 'contingency policy' and Business continuity plan	w/c 28.08.21	31.08.23	100%	Liz Perry / Emma Collingwood		
Health and safety risk assessments to be completed / reviewed	w/c 11.09.23	15.09.23	20%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Jane Suthers / Care consultants		Started, required at registration inspection
All transition plans for young people moving on to be completed		15.09.23	80%	Sarah McEntree / Liz Perry		1 young person yet to be moved
Building and grounds (Beehive) to be reviewed and any maintenance / repairs required to be completed	w/c 15.09.23	29.09.23	70%	Liz Perry / Saddiq Munsaf / Care consultants		ongoing
Registered Manager(s) to start work	w/c 11.09.23	11.09.23	100%	Liz Perry		
Registered Manager(s) to start induction and all mandatory training to be arranged	w/c 11.09.23	09.10.23	20%	Liz Perry		Will be completed in the forthcoming weeks
Registered Manager(s) to review regulation documentation	w/c 11.09.23	15.09.23	100%	Registered Manager(s)		
Application for Registration to be submitted to Ofsted	w/c 25.09.23	25.09.23	0%	Liz Perry / Nominated Individual / Registered Manager(s)		Can be started 25 th Sept 2023
New referrals taken and young people move in line with SoP	w/c 15.09.23		80%	Registered Manager(s)		Some have moved, others are bidding on properties, some young people will stay beyond registration

Date of Review	Name of Reviewer
03.05.23	Liz Perry

19.05.23	Liz Perry
09.05.23	Liz Perry
26.05.23	Liz Perry
19.06.23	Liz Perry
03.07.23	Liz Perry
18.07.23	Liz Perry
03.04.23	Liz Perry
21.08.23	Liz Perry
11.09.23	Liz Perry
20.09.23	Liz Perry

Supported Accommodation update report on registration with Ofsted.

The report outlines the planning, progress and impact of the requirement to register Supported Accommodation and plan to mitigate and manage the associated risks



12th May 2023

Background

- At the end of March 2023 Ofsted published the Supported Accommodation Regulations 2023 as well as its accompanying 'Guide to Supported Accommodation Regulations including the Quality Standards'. This document supports the implementation of the Regulations as well as the guide to the Quality Standards which specifies the outcomes settings will be inspected against.
- 'The Regulations and this accompanying Guide for supported accommodation are applicable to accommodation in England in which a child is accommodated by the local authority pursuant to section 22C(6)(d) ("other arrangements" for looked after children) or section 23B(8)(b) ("suitable accommodation" for 16- and 17-year-old care leavers) of the Children Act 1989'. (Ofsted – The Guide)

Categories of registration

Category (Regulation 2)	Description
1. Supported accommodation in a self-contained unit, where the accommodation is for the sole use of the child or for the child and other individuals living with the child as agreed by the accommodating authority or the supported accommodation undertaking. (Regulation 2(1), para (a))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The accommodation is designed for the sole use of the young person placed there, or for the young person and others that may live there as part of their family unit, for example, their partner, sibling and children. • Includes bedsits under a licence agreement and self-contained flats, which may be at the same location, or within the same building.
2. Supported accommodation in a shared or group living situation in premises used to accommodate only looked after children and care leavers. (Regulation 2(1), para (b))	<p>Shared accommodation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people have their own bedroom, and may have their own bathroom, and share communal areas (e.g. living room/s, kitchen). • Provision may include foyer-type accommodation that combines support with opportunities for education, training and employment. • This provision may accommodate care leavers aged 18+
3. Supported accommodation in a shared or group living situation in premises which are not limited to accommodating looked after children and care leavers. (Regulation 1(2), para (c))	<p>See description for 2 above, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to being registered to support looked after children and care leavers aged 16 and 17, this provision may also provide accommodation for people are not looked after children or care leavers.
4. Supported accommodation provided by an individual or individuals in a private residence which is the main residence of that individual or those individuals. (Regulation 2(1), para (d))	<p>Provided by private individuals who offer a room in their family home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision is typically co-ordinated by a supported lodgings scheme (the registered provider), which recruits and supports a network of supported lodgings 'hosts'.

Demographics

Gender



16%



84%

304 young people aged 16 and 17 who following care planning decisions are 'age eligible' to move into supported accommodation. **23%** of the CLA population.

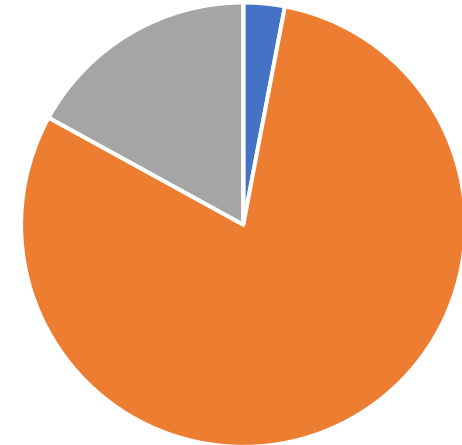
71% (218) of CLA young people aged 16/17 are currently living in supported accommodation or supported independent living.

17% of CLA young people live in supported accommodation.

28% of CLA young people aged 16/17 remain in 'care placements'

69% of young people are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (3% are female)

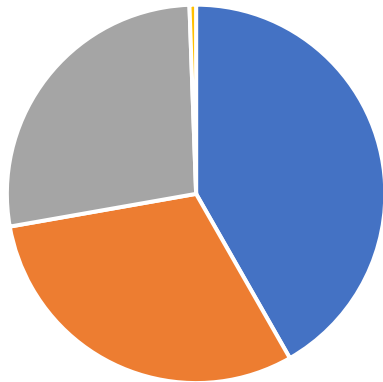
Age Profile



■ 18 ■ 17 ■ 16 ■ 15

65% of 16 year olds living in supported accommodation are UASC.

Supported Accommodation



■ External SA ■ External SA (Preferred Providers)
 ■ Supported Lodgings ■ Beehive

UASC Current position Sept 2023:

196 UASC (151 live in supported accommodation)

0.14% of under 18yr old population

14.8% (increase of 1.4% in 3 months) of Manchester's LAC population are UASC

for comparison purposes North West average was **4.5%** Q3 2022-23

Manchester has **3.3%** of all UASC nationally when compared to 31st March 2022 national figure

Framework for Inspection

Features of overall experiences and progress of children

- The accommodation is of good quality and meets children's individual needs
- Staff and supported lodgings hosts are suitably skilled and have strong relationships with children
- Plans for children are effective
- Children are supported to maintain strong, supportive social networks
- Children are well engaged with the wider community
- Children have good access to technology
- Support for children responds to their changing needs
- There is effective support for children's emotional and physical health
- There is strong support for children's education, training and employment
- Children have financial security
- Children's views are heard and acted on
- Children are involved in decision-making and plans for their futures
- Children's rights and entitlements are met
- Children are helped to develop practical and self-care skills

Our Provision

- Our Internal Provision (64 young people)

The Beehive

Supported Lodgings

Any floating support arrangements across the service (staying close / agency staff)

Provision provided via the House Project (Manchester House Project only).

- Our External Providers (158 young people)

25 Providers

5 preferred providers and members of the 16+ Hub –

- MSV – The Lodge/Foyer,
- Bedspace,
- Stepping Stones,
- Manchester Settlement,
- Depaul
- Salvation Army



MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

The Beehive
40 Seymour Road, Crumpsall
Manchester
M8 5BR




Our Provision



THE HOUSE PROJECT
Manchester



Supported Lodgings



The Lodge




Welcome to Stepping Stone Projects North West Care Leavers Service.

Challenge/risk and service response

The current market and supported accommodation landscape in the North West has provided flexibility and responsive outcomes to our young people. There is a concern that the regulation will hinder this, especially for our highest needs young people. This has been mitigated via the 16+ hub, expanding its members to develop closer working relationships and trust in the Authority to support providers.

Some external providers have indicated that they will be requesting uplifts on existing and future placement costs directly attributed to the new registration. In some circumstances they have quoted 20% or to bring themselves in line with existing residential funding models. This has been mitigated in Manchester partly due to the revised post 16 accommodation offer and the relationships with providers we have developed and have negotiated the funding uplifts with external parties, and these have been contained within the revised external placement budget.

Our UASC population continues to grow at pace. Most individuals being age assessed are eligible for supported accommodation. Commissioning activity is in place to ensure that UASC young people do not saturate the Manchester market and we can continue to provide high quality support for UASC young people to enable them to establish communities and be welcomed into Manchester.

There is an envisaged reduction in provision for supported accommodation for 16/17-year-olds as smaller provisions make the decision to only provide a service for over 18's to avoid registration responsibilities.

Supported Lodgings is a golden service within our supported accommodation offer and one that we have committed to expand. We attract a certain type of individual who are 'good people' want to give back to the community whilst making an additional income. It is envisaged that applying minimum standard around training expectations and attendance of support groups etc will be a challenge for some. It is now built into the recruitment process that a commitment is needed, and minimum training completed prior to registration.

We have 6 young people living in supported accommodation where providers have not communicated their intention to register or given us assurances around the quality of their Statement of Purpose and compliance. There is a targeted piece of work being undertaken with these providers engage and support them to ensure young people will not have to move placement.

Conclusion

- Manchester welcomes regulation across the post 16 supported accommodation provision.
- Our young people have been an active participant in all consultation, throughout the implementation of the regulations, most recently has been developing the framework for inspection yet to be released.
- We are committed to giving supported accommodation the same 'status' as Childrens Homes and care settings as we recognise that supported accommodation is an important part of a young person's 'care' journey. The Responsible Individual will be DDCS – Sean McKendrick and we will apply the same Reg 44 inspection and vigour.
- We are committed to recruiting and training a group of 'expert' young inspectors who will not only inspect our own internal provision but external provision where our young people live.
- We are hosting a GM 'community of practice' group to ensure outcomes and standards across the GM where our children are place are maintained, whilst having an opportunity to share good practice and learning.

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**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 13 October 2023

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.

Wards Affected: All

Contact Officer:

Name: Rachel McKeon
Position: Scrutiny Support Officer
Tel: 0161 234 4997
Email: rachel.mckeon@manchester.gov.uk

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
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 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	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
		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
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
21 June 2023	CYP/23/25 Update:	To recommend that consideration be given to	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be reported	Amanda Corcoran, Director of

Date	Item	Recommendation	Action	Contact Officer
	Education Climate Change Action Plan 2022-24	partnering schools with allotments and parks.	back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Education
19 July 2023	CYP/23/30 Youth Justice Business Plan 2023/24: Preventing and Diverting Children and Young People from the Criminal Justice System	That Unconscious Bias training be made available to Members.	Information on the training was emailed to Members on 5 September 2023.	Rachel McKeon, Governance and Scrutiny Support Officer

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 **2 October 2023** 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>Block Contract for the Provision of New Arrivals Hub for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (Age 16+) (2023/06/08A)</p> <p>The appointment of Provider for New Arrivals Hub for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (Age 16+)</p>	Strategic Director - Children and Education Services	Not before 8th Jul 2023		Report and recommendation	Sarah Austin, Strategic Lead - Commissioning sarah.austin@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Block Contract for the Provision of Supported Accommodation for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (Age 16+) (2023/06/08B)</p> <p>The appointment of Provider for the Provision of Supported Accommodation for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (Age 16+) up to 40 units</p>	Strategic Director - Children and Education Services	Not before 8th Jul 2023		Report and recommendation	Sarah Austin, Strategic Lead - Commissioning sarah.austin@manchester.gov.uk

<p>Take a breath - Residential accommodation (2023/07/06A)</p> <p>To implement a residential accommodation model to support hospital discharge and prevent hospital admission for children and young people.</p>	<p>Strategic Director - Children and Education Services</p>	<p>Not before 6th Aug 2023</p>		<p>Report and Recommendations</p>	<p>Sarah Austin, Strategic Lead - Commissioning sarah.austin@manchester.gov.uk</p>
<p>The Provision of a Manchester Sensory Support Service (2023/07/03A)</p> <p>The appointment of Provider for the Provision of a Manchester Sensory Support Service</p>	<p>Strategic Director - Children and Education Services</p>	<p>Not before 3rd Aug 2023</p>		<p>Report and Recommendation</p>	<p>Mike Worsley, Procurement Manager mike.worsley@manchester.gov.uk</p>
<p>The provision of a contraception & sexual health service for young people (2023/09/27A)</p> <p>To award a contract to a provider to deliver a contraception & sexual health service for young people.</p>	<p>Director of Public Health</p>	<p>Not before 27th Oct 2023</p>		<p>Contract Report</p>	<p>Marie Earle, Strategic Commissioning Manager marie.earle@manchester.gov.uk</p>

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme – October 2023**

Friday 13 October 2023, 10 am (Report deadline Tuesday 3 October 2023)

Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Ghyll Head	To receive a report on Ghyll Head Outdoor Education and Activity Centre.	Councillor Bridges	Neil Fairlamb/ Yvonne O'Malley	
Youth, Play and Participation	To receive an update report on Youth, Play and Participation.	Councillor Bridges	Neil Fairlamb/ Neil MacInnes/ Jaffer Hussain	These two items have been combined into one report "Youth, Play & Participation Service (YPPS)
Youth Investment Fund	To receive an update report on the Youth Investment Fund.	Councillor Bridges	Neil Fairlamb/ Neil MacInnes/ Jaffer Hussain	Commissioning Grants, Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Programme and Youth Investment Fund (YIF)"
Sufficiency	To receive a progress report, with a focus on supported accommodation registration with Ofsted.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall/ Sean McKendrick/ Sarah Austin	

Overview Report	The monthly report includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.	-	Rachel McKeon	
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Wednesday 8 November 2023, 10 am (Report deadline Friday 27 October 2023)

Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
School Places (To be confirmed)	To receive an update on school admissions.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	
Update on mental health and wellbeing	To receive an update report on mental health and wellbeing, including support for schools and settings, and to invite a representative from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to this meeting.	Councillor Bridges Councillor T Robinson	Paul Marshall	See September 2021 minutes
Child-Friendly City Update	To receive an update on Manchester's work towards becoming a UNICEF UK Child-Friendly City, to include how staff are enabled to begin to understand and empathise with young people's lived experience, regarding race and equality and diversity.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall/ Ruth Denton	
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) report	To receive the annual report of the LADO.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall/ Kate Rose	
Overview Report		-	Rachel McKeon	

Wednesday 6 December 2023, 10 am (Report deadline Friday 24 November 2023)

Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Early Years Sufficiency	To receive a report on Early Years sufficiency.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	
School Attainment	To receive a report on school attainment.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	
Post-16 report	To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> work to reduce the number of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) Sufficiency of post-16 education 	Councillor Bridges Councillor Hacking	Amanda Corcoran	Invite Chair of the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Overview Report		-	Rachel McKeon	

Items To Be Scheduled

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Manchester Sensory Support Service Commission	To receive an update report at a future meeting.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	January 2024 (to be confirmed) See March 2022 minutes.
Adoption	To receive a report on adoption which includes what difference the move to Adoption Counts has made in providing stable adoption placements for Our Children and what happens when	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	See November 2021 minutes

	an adoption breaks down.			
School Streets	To receive a report on School Streets.	Councillor Bridges Councillor Rawlins	Amanda Corcoran	Invite Chair of the Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee
Independent Review of Children's Social Care	To receive a report on the Independent Review of Children's Social Care.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	
Domestic Abuse and Children	To receive a report on the impact of domestic abuse on children and the Safe and Together programme.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	See March 2023 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
Elective Home Education (EHE)	To receive a report on EHE. To include up-to-date figures on children who are not in school, including those whose parents have chosen EHE, with a breakdown by areas of the city.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	See January 2022 and October 2022 minutes
School Attendance and Attainment	To receive regular reports regarding attainment and attendance.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	
Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) Education	To receive a report on PSHE education in schools.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	
Post-16 EET Strategic Plan	To receive a more detailed report, including utilising social value, changes in the number of places available at	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	See December 2022 minutes

2022-25	Manchester College, whether Manchester Adult Education Service (MAES) can be utilised more and information from the sufficiency report looking across the Greater Manchester area.			
Attainment	To request a more detailed report on how schools are progressing with work to address the impact of the pandemic on children's learning.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	See December 2022 minutes
Road Safety Around Schools	To consider a report on road safety around schools.	Councillor Rawlins Councillor Bridges	Kevin Gillham Amanda Corcoran	To be confirmed See January 2023 minutes.
Early Years and Health Visiting Service	To receive a further report at an appropriate time.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	See May 2023 minutes.
Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in Schools	To receive an update at a future meeting.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	See September 2023 minutes
Youth Justice	To receive a further report on Youth Justice.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	

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