

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 2 December 2020

Subject: Holiday Provision Evaluation

Report of: Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Strategic Director of Children and Education Services

Summary

This report provides an evaluation of the summer and half term offer following the agreed proposal to enhance the offer during the COVID-19 pandemic. The agreed offer aimed to address the gaps in provision caused by the reduction of services available for children and young people due to government restrictions, focusing on a collaborative approach to provision in order to maximise resources, financial and other.

Recommendations

For noting

Wards Affected: All wards in the City

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

All youth providers are working alongside young people to understand what impact their lives have on the environment.

Our Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Through the City's varied youth offer, children and young people have opportunities and access to activities which contribute toward their personal, social and economic wellbeing. The introduction of a collaborative approach, strengthening internal and external partnerships to create additional activities during the holiday periods for children and young people to learn, be active, stay safe and have fun.

<p>A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success</p>	<p>Through the City's varied youth offer young people have opportunities to develop their life skills to succeed in education and employment, as well as, having opportunities to increase their aspirations, achieve and gain economic independence.</p> <p>Young people have had the opportunity to develop key skills for life which include communication, problem solving, teamwork, self-belief and self-management</p>
<p>A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities</p>	<p>Young people have opportunities which enable them to think progressively and build resilience underpinned by the principles of equality and inclusion.</p> <p>Young people have access to good quality youth and play provision within their neighbourhoods which encourages a sense of belonging, develops their identity and ensures their voices are heard.</p>
<p>A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work</p>	<p>Young people 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>Young people are listened to, valued and connected across their neighbourhoods and City via involvement in area youth action groups, school councils and Manchester Youth Council.</p> <p>Young people inform continuous improvement and are involved in service design, delivery and governance.</p>

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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.

- Our Manchester Youth Strategy 2020-2023

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an evaluation following the agreed joint proposal to provide a full complement of activities to address some of the gaps in provision identified by young people and professionals prior to the summer holidays.
- 1.2. Prior to the development of the summer offer we spoke to children, young people, parents and professionals in order to understand what was needed in terms of provision in this COVID climate.
- 1.3. The National Lockdown implemented by the Government on the 23rd March 2020 saw a reduction in the number of children and young people having access to support via school, youth or out of school activities, with many providers moving their provision online and a high percentage of youth and leisure professionals being furloughed.
- 1.4. With restrictions on the full opening of youth and leisure centres in operation, alongside the restrictions on numbers attending the sessions, our partners worked hard with our support to ensure they could provide a sufficient offer in an ever-changing climate.
- 1.5. The City Council departments worked collaboratively building on the partnerships which have been developed over previous years during the development and implementation of the 'All Sorts To Do' initiative.
- 1.6 Following the successful implementation of summer provision, it was further agreed that the same principles of collaboration and youth voice would be used to enhance the half term offer. Therefore, this report includes the findings from that provision also.

2.0 Objectives

- 2.1 Officers from Neighbourhoods Services, Children and Education Services analysed the feedback obtained from children and young people, as well as providers and agreed the following objectives with the Executive Members Subgroup for Residents and Community Recovery.
 - **Preparation for Education** - Providing support for children and young people to ensure they are developing the skills for life, which enable them to be ready to learn when they return to formal education in September.
 - **Physical and Mental Wellbeing** - Ensuring children and young people can be supported to increase their physical activity levels to improve their mental and physical health as well as help to rebuild friendships and routines.
 - **Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience** - Ensuring children and young people have access to the support to increase their emotional wellbeing and resilience.
 - **Things to do** - Ensure there are sufficient opportunities for children and young people to access diversionary and positive activities.

3.0. Implementation

3.1 In order to ensure the outlined objectives could be realised; holiday provision was divided into three elements, as follows:

- **Universal** - all provision provided by MCC Teams and third sector partners and promoted through the All Sorts To Do campaign.
- **Additional Schools Offer** - designed to provide summer activities for those children and young people in priority groups.
- **Sport & Leisure Offer** - provided by MCR Active & GLL aimed to ensure young people had access to diversionary activities. Designed to target the 13-19 age range.

3.2 A commitment to tackle Holiday Hunger underpinned all parts of the provision provided throughout the holiday periods with Neighbourhoods, Childrens Services, Education, parks, sport, leisure and youth all working together to ensure food was available across all activity sessions.

4.0 Statistics

4.1. The table below highlights the number of young people who attended the various provisions over both holiday periods.

	Universal	Schools – Summer Only	Sport & Leisure	Total
Number of Sessions	962	65	352	1352
Number of attendees	18,026	139	2243	20,408

4.2 The Love Exploring App was the most popular self-directed activity with a total of **9,726** participants and a total of **10,865** miles walked.

4.3 There were opportunities for children, young people & families to participate in every day across the City, covering every ward, with over **40** partners involved.

4.4 The schools programme focussed on activating school sites during the summer period to offer additional provision for the children and young people identified as needing additional support.

4.5 The non-attendance at school, sport and youth provision since March for the majority of children and young people across the City highlighted that they were at increased risk of social isolation, as well as, experiencing issues with emotional, physical and mental wellbeing.

4.6 The activation of schools across the City was designed to provide provision for those children and young people who would not have the opportunity to access or participate in other activities or for those who are children of key workers.

- 4.7 **2,030** individual children and young people participated in activities, with Active Parks being the most popular provision. Of the participants, **22%** identified as male, **11%** identified as female, with **67%** not disclosing their gender. **15%** identified as being from a BAME background, **7%** identified as being from a White background with **78%** choosing not to disclose their ethnicity.
- 4.8 All sessions were inclusive, however, there was dedicated SEND provision provided at Debdale Outdoor Centre and weekly activity provided by City in the Community at each of their locations.

5.0 Outcomes

5.1 *Preparation for Education*

- The offer enabled the reintroduction of routines for those who had not been accessing education, youth or sports provision.
- The development of skills for life was integrated throughout all activities to reduce any barriers to participation and aid as preparation for a return to school across several sites, including universal youth and play provision, young people's progress against the 5 Skills for Life was recognised, and Skills for life badges were awarded.
- To further assist in the preparation for a return to education all children who attended the school summer provision and wider youth and play provision, received Summer Reading Challenge books, City in the Community KS1 & 2 packs and Creative Engagement packs supported by the Culture Team & Young Manchester.
- In addition, 6 supplementary schools provided a summer offer which primarily engaged children and young people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, they focussed on health and wellbeing, as well as, communication techniques, all of which contributed to the preparation for mainstream education.
- Underpinning all aspects of the provision was the development of teamwork, through cooperative activities, which was an essential skill to take back into educational settings, especially given the current climate of young people having to work in a team more than ever.

5.2 *Physical and Mental Wellbeing*

- All provision included an element of physical activity which focussed on increasing participation in sport, as well as, increasing fitness levels, improving diet.
- Providers worked alongside colleagues from MCR Active to develop a holistic approach to wellbeing.
- Young people participated in group activities with their peers, which had been highlighted as being something young people felt they had missed since March.
- **100%** of young people interviewed by City in the Community reported that Parks improved their Physical wellbeing after lockdown.

- Young people were able to access food at all provisions throughout the holiday periods.

5.3 ***Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience***

- Additional support for children and young people from sports, leisure, culture and specialist workers, alongside the reintegration into the school provision aided to reduction in barriers to education and engagement.
- Children and young people had the opportunity to reconnect with their peers and trusted adults, whilst participating in fun, educational and physical activity.
- During provision children and young people had the opportunity to talk to professionals about their fears, concerns and worries, as well as express themselves using arts, crafts and the creative arts.
- Feedback from a range of partners illustrates that young people reported development in social skills, increased physical activity levels, increased well-being and ability to regulate emotions.
- **71%** of young people interviewed by City in the Community reported that engaging in activities in Parks had helped them recover socially from lockdown

5.4 ***Things to do***

- All sessions focused on providing diversionary activities and opportunities for young people to engage with their peers, reduce isolation and develop a range of skills.
- Sessions were tailored to meet the needs of young people 11+ with the aim of broadening their participation in positive activities.
- All sessions were provided free of charge within the Manchester area with the aim of raising awareness of available opportunities.

6.0 **Holiday Hunger**

- 6.1 The playschemes funded through Young Manchester during the summer holidays provided open access play activities and access to healthy meals. The Programme supported by MCC formed part of a city-wide approach to the summer and benefited from partnership with Kelloggs and FareShare, as well as coordination with One Manchester.
- 6.2 The Powerhouse Youth Hub sourced and delivered **1,589** meals for children & young people across the holidays. This work was funded by One Manchester, We Love Manchester Charity, Asda, MCC and Arowak Walton.
- 6.3 The school summer provision benefited from free lunch packs which were coordinated via the Powerhouse. Each of the 4 sites received regular lunches, meaning no child went without lunch or healthy snacks throughout the day.
- 6.4 During the half term activities youth and play providers provided an additional **1,508** meals to young people attending their provision.

6.5 In addition, youth and play providers delivered **134** food parcels to families identified via Early Help and their targeted youth provision over the week of half term.

6.6 As part of a GM wide initiative, **100** prepaid coop cards were also distributed to young people attending youth and play provision.

7.0 Young People's Feedback

7.1 Below is a selection of the feedback from young people who attended provisions across the City during the summer and half term holidays.

- one 12 year old who attended a summer YPAC session said that the best bits of the scheme were when they got to build dens, it gave her a chance to play and be silly.
- One 8 year old male from Gorton said that he had never had the chance to participate in outdoor activities before, this was his first visit to Debdale. although he was nervous, he really enjoyed the session and wanted to do more activities. His mum had seen the session advertised via Facebook, she said she had wanted her son to experience new things over summer.

7.2 Here is a piece of poetry written by young people who attended the provision at Hideout Youth Zone:

Our Hideout

My favourite thing is the freedom.
I love all of the activities like music and sports.
It has lots of fun things for kids.
I like that they have nice friendly staff and that I make new friends.
I like that we are all a team.
It's a really good place to go to.
I like it because Hideout is caring and fun.
I like the staff at Hideout and all the cool stuff we do.
Hideout is fun and cool, it's much better than school.
Hideout is caring and amazing.
Hideout rocks!

7.3. A young person attending one of the October Project's engaged and enjoyed it so much that her Social worker visited the project and was really moved by her experience at the Youth Centre. The young person said that they really connected with the Youth worker.

7.4. Feedback from participants and parents showed that **84.6%** of young people enjoyed the sessions they attended.

8.0 Next Steps

- 8.1 Work collaboratively with young people, parents and partners to ensure there is sufficient provision across the City during Christmas and February half term.
- 8.2 Work alongside Childrens & Education Services to ensure vulnerable children and young people have access to food.
- 8.3 Revisit the youth voice work to ensure we are hearing direct from young people across the City and use this to influence the provision moving forward.