

## **Manchester City Council Report for Information**

**Report to:** Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 21 July 2021

**Subject:** Youth & Play Fund; Summer Provision

**Report of:** Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) and Head of Youth Strategy & Engagement

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### **Summary**

The report will provide an overview of Manchester's Youth & Play offer, which includes provision commissioned by the City Council & the Youth & Play Fund which is distributed via Young Manchester.

Young Manchester base their funding recommendations on a thorough decision-making process including a young people's panel, an independent assessment panel, an independent Programme Board, and Young Manchester's Board.

In addition, the paper highlights the offer which will be available across the City throughout the summer school holidays, which encompasses the offers from the wider partners and stakeholders, including the targeted Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF)

The HAF programme is a one-year DfE funded project which aims to provide children and young people who are eligible with access to:

- Support for FSM eligible children and families
- Enriching and inclusive activities
- Healthy Food

The DfE recognises that access to enriching activities is a crucial element in the development of children and young people.

Manchester is supporting the DfE with all impact data from the HAF funded provision in order for them to make the case for future investment.

### **Recommendations**

1. Scrutiny members are asked to note the report and comment on the information provided.
  2. It is also recommended that a further report be brought back to Members in June 2022 which focusses on qualitative data, including evidence of impact, outcomes and young people's feedback relating to the Youth and Play Fund 2021/22.
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**Wards Affected:** All

<p><b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city</p>
<p>The youth, play and participation team work with all partners to support the achievement of a zero carbon city. Young people from Manchester Youth Council and those involved in the Skills For Life programme have produced a number of resources to be used across youth, play and education providers which enables young people to think about their carbon footprint and support reductions for a cleaner, safer environment.</p>

Our Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
<p>A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities</p>	<p>Through the city’s varied youth offer, young people have opportunities and access to activities which contribute towards their personal, social and economic wellbeing.</p> <p>Developing and strengthening local partnerships to create opportunities for our young people to learn, be active and have fun in their free time.</p>
<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, 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>
<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 acceptance.</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 ensure their voices are heard</p>

A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	<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>
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	<p>Young people are listened to, valued and connected across their neighbourhoods and city.</p> <p>Young people inform continuous improvement and are involved in service design, delivery and governance.</p> <p>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</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 Offer Strategy 2020 – 2023  
Parks & Summer Events – Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Report 22 July 2021

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 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 topflight of cities by 2025, young people are, and have to be, at the heart of this ambitious vision.
- 1.2 Currently in Manchester, there are approximately 134k young people aged between 10 and 24.1 This represents nearly 25% of the whole population and mid-year 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 settle.
- 1.3 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, and 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.

## **2.0 Youth & Play Funding - MCC**

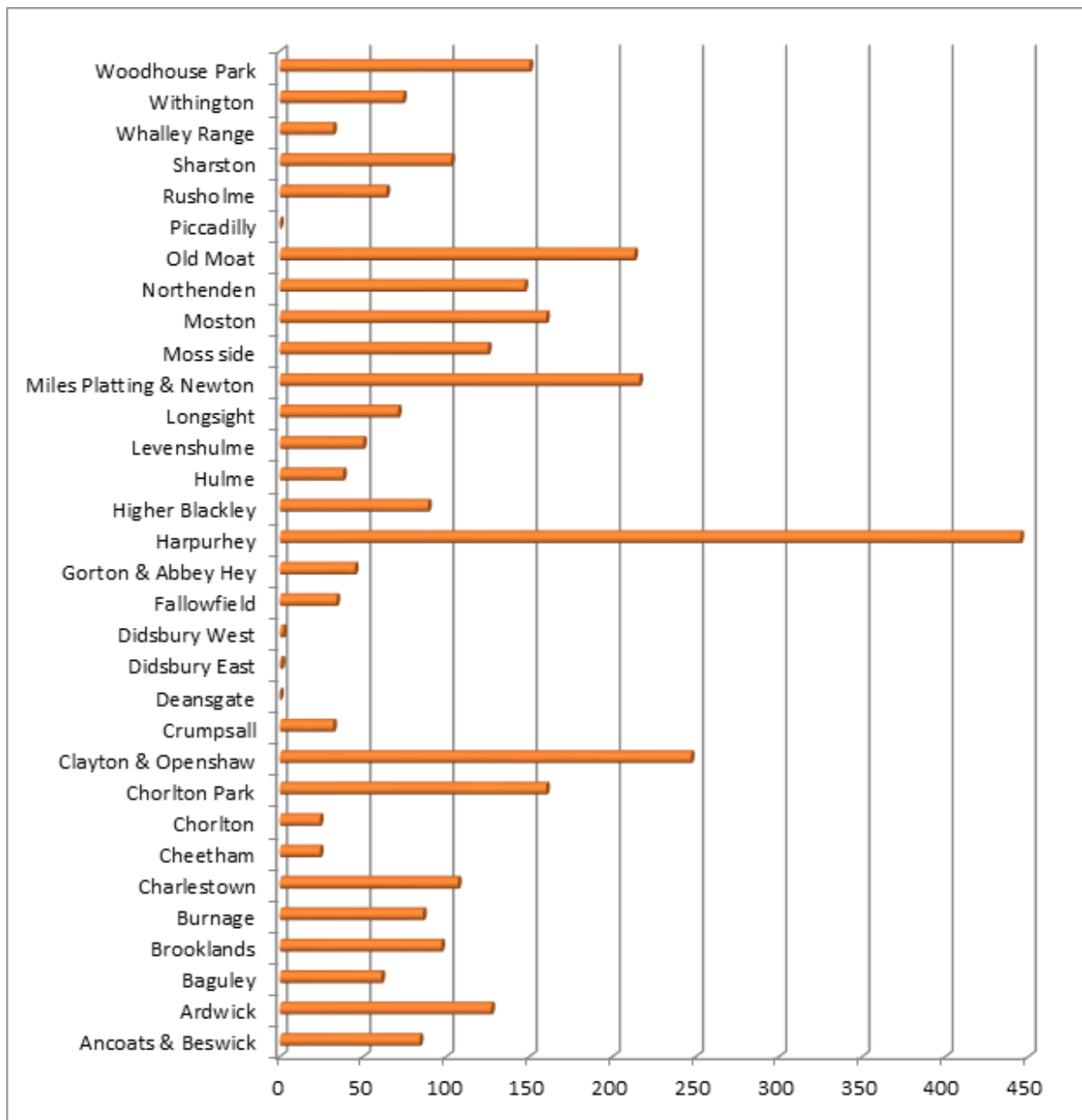
- 2.1 Our Manchester Youth Offer Strategy 2019-2023 is the City's multi-sector strategic framework jointly owned by Manchester City Council, its partners and stakeholders, all of whom are responsible for ensuring young people have access to a high-quality driven youth offer which addresses both universal and targeted needs, directly contributing to and enabling our children and young people to grow into responsible, independent and successful adults.
- 2.2 As a result of Manchester's participation in the Cabinet Office's Delivering Differently for Young People in 2014/2015, Manchester City Council agreed to support the development of an independent Youth and Play Trust that could enter into a financial agreement which would see them develop, coordinate, and manage the commissioning of youth and play services across Manchester on behalf of the Local Authority.
- 2.3 The Local Authority now operates a funding model where the four youth hubs are directly commissioned via the Local Authority, with universal youth and play provision being commissioned via the Young Manchester youth and play fund.
- 2.4 The Current Budget for youth and play 201/22 is £2.74m, which includes Youth and Play fund programmes, innovative in year projects and the Youth Hubs.
- 2.5 In addition to the Local Authority's funding relationship with Young Manchester via the Youth and Play Fund, it continues to directly provide grant funding to the 4 'youth hubs' across the City. i.e. The Manchester Youth Zone, Harpurhey (formerly Factory Youth Zone), Moss Side Millennium Powerhouse,

Hideout Youth Zone and Woodhouse Park Lifestyle Centre. It should be noted that the operational and management models across the hubs vary and therefore so do the grant values.

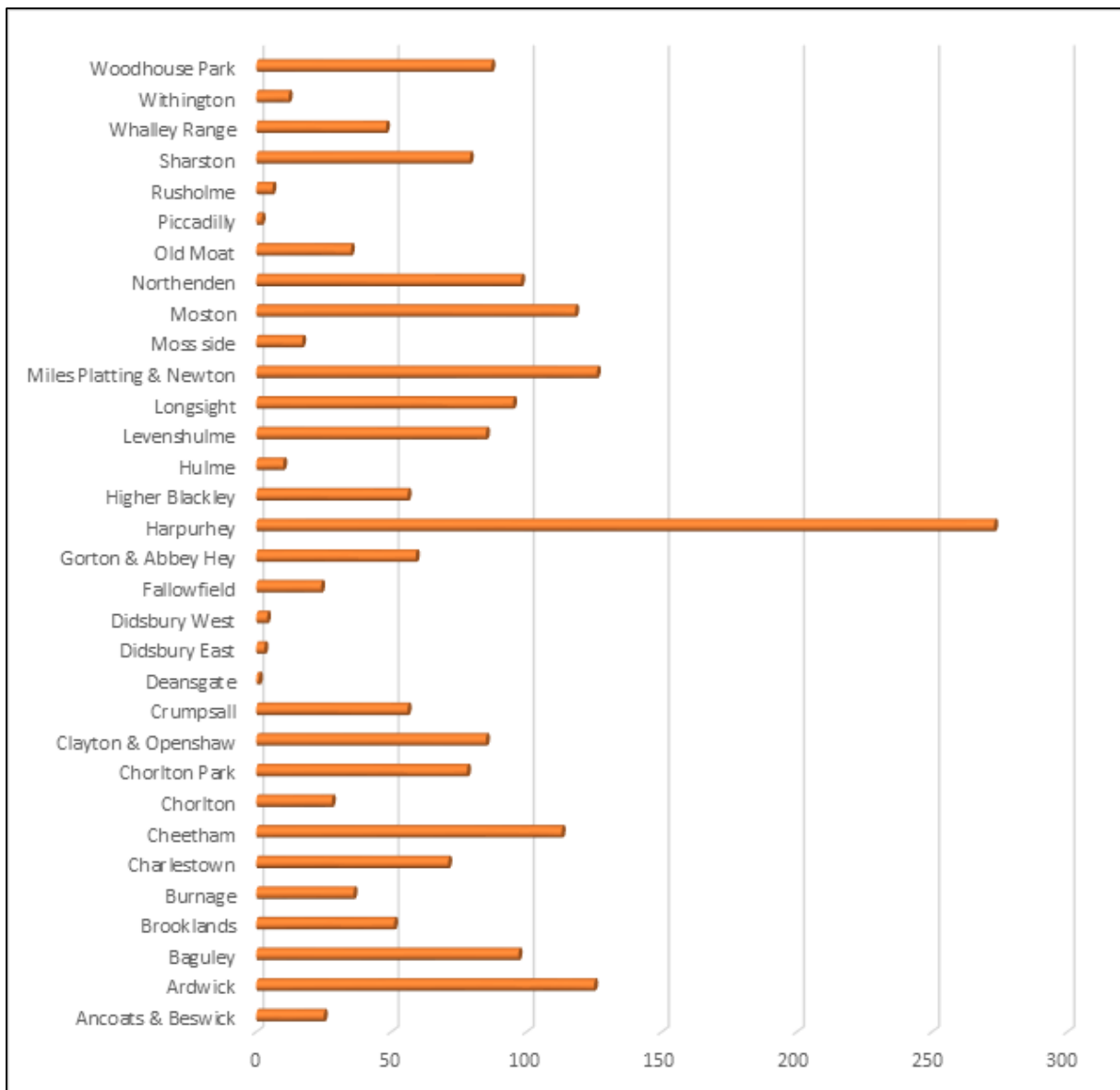
- 2.6 The grant funding made to Manchester Youth Zone enables them to support over 1000 members per year by providing a range of positive activities and support services all year round. This includes employability, enterprise, sports, arts and culture, youth work, play, targeted youth support and mentoring provision etc. The grant also supports the Youth Zone leadership team to provide a 'strategic lead' function in terms of youth and play services in the north of the City.
- 2.7 The grant funding made to Moss Side Millennium Powerhouse (MMPH) supports the charity to develop the centre as a multiagency hub for children, young people & the wider community. The Head of Centre now chairs the Central Youth Partnership which also secured a successful consortium grant through Young Manchester's Youth and Play Fund and the VRU. The hub now provides open access, evening activities 5 days per week complimented by a range of outreach, detached and focussed daytime activities.
- 2.8 Building on the success of the existing Onside Youth Zone in North Manchester, the Council's Executive agreed to support the establishment of a new Youth Zone in East Manchester in December 2017. The Hideout Youth Zone is now fully operational supporting over 1200 children and young people in their first year. The hub is also providing support across the area by acting as the Licence holder for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, enabling smaller organisations to take advantage of delivering the Award to their young people.
- 2.9 The MCC grant for the Woodhouse Park Lifestyle Centre funds the youth work operating from the Youth Hub and satellite provision. The MCC grant is part of a balance that leverages in match funding in youth services from WCHG and other funders. The investment from MCC is used to create a return for the community, with almost 2000 young people voluntarily engaging with the Youth Hub & spokes in 2019/20.
- 2.10 The 4 hubs are situated across the City and whilst they are based in wards, they attract children and young people from across the area, acting as a focal point.
- 2.11 The Youth, Play & Participation Team also commissions youth and play projects throughout the year which align with strategic priorities and needs in specific areas. For example, City in the Community receive funding to deliver Saturday evening provision at Moss Side Leisure Centre, which is also supported by Mcr Active and GMP.
- 2.12 Following an external review into the commissioning arrangements with Young Manchester, the City Council Executive agreed to review the commissioning model for youth and play work across the City. This review is now in process with a report due to return to Executive in September.

### 3.0 Youth & Play Fund – Young Manchester

- 3.1 In November 2019 Young Manchester launched the Youth & Play Fund for 2020-2022. The funding decisions ensure that young people in every ward of Manchester can access youth and play provision, at times which suit their needs.
- 3.2 The fund builds on previous investments and provides foundation funding to Neighbourhoods / place-based and City-wide Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) partners.
- 3.3 Partners report that **3498** children have engaged in **play** provision over the past year. **36%** of participants have been recorded as attending on nine or more occasions. Overall figures are lower than previous years, which is attributable to the pandemic, inclusive on face to face delivery.
- 3.4 Analysis of the ages of those engaged shows a shift when compared to previous commissioning rounds. 10-13 year olds are now the predominant age attending play provision, compared to 8-10 year olds in previous years.
- 3.5 The location of provision has a major effect on engagement for those able to access play, over the past year, access has also been affected by Government restrictions which have been in place. The highest levels of engagement are in those wards with the highest needs, as provision was permitted to continue in those areas.
  - 42.9% of participants reside in the ten most deprived wards.
  - 36.7% of participants reside in wards ranked 11-20
- 3.6 The following chart shows the engagement data for play in each ward:



- 3.7 Partners report that **4374** children & young people have engaged in youth provision over the part year. As with the play statistics, the numbers are lower than previous years, which is attributed to the pandemic.
- 3.8 Analysis continues to show that more males than females are accessing provision. This is a persistent trend which Young Manchester are trying to tackle through leadership training and exploration to understand the reasons why.
- 3.9 Ward data shows that engagement from the 10 most deprived wards is highest, however, there is a high amount of 'unknown' in the demographic data returns which effects the analysis.
- 3.10 The following chart shows the engagement data for you work in each ward:



3.11 Young Manchester have produced a document (Appendix 1) which shows the spread of provision across the City, due to a reduction in funding from external sources, there are gaps across the City, however, this will be addressed through the City Council area youth lead structure and any future commissioning arrangements.

#### 4.0 Summer Provision

4.1 In Manchester we have adopted a collaborative approach to the delivery of holiday provision. Following the success of the summer offer in 2019, we have continued to ensure we work cross department to maximise resources and provide a varied and sufficient offer for children and young people.

4.2 The addition of the Holiday Activities and Food programme funding from the DfE has enabled us to expand our offer for all children and young people for the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays this year. We have begun with



the mapping of HAF provision and then planned universal provision around that, which will provide us with greater reach.

4.3 The aims of the HAF project are:

- Support for FSM eligible children and families
- Enriching and inclusive activities
- Healthy Food

4.4 The HAF Programme is designed to provide food, enriching activities and fun during the Easter, Summer and Christmas holiday periods so that children and young people can return to school ready to learn.

4.5 It aims to address the issues for children and young people which go much deeper than food poverty.

4.6 We know that school holidays can be a challenging time for some families due to increased costs, such as food and childcare and reduced incomes, and for some children this could result in gaps in accessing organised out-of-school activities, which may result in 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health and are more likely to experience social isolation.

4.7 Free holiday clubs are a response to this issue and can have a positive impact on children and young people. We know they work best when they can provide varied, fun, inclusive, accessible activities and the provision of nutritious food and nutritional advice.

4.8 The DfE recognises that access to enriching activities is a crucial element in the development of children and young people.

4.9 In addition, we were successful in securing 15% of the HAF funding to provide provision for those children and young people who are not eligible for HAF funding, but who we know are vulnerable.

4.10 The additional resource has also enabled us to ensure that there will be food at all our holiday provision across the City, which combined with the CSLG grant enables us to reduce holiday hunger amongst our children and young people.

4.11 The maps in the appendices show the current FSM data alongside the current HAF provision – this data helps us to target provision in areas of high need, but also enables us to ensure universal provision within our parks, leisure centres, libraries and cultural spaces enhances what is available.

4.12 The current HAF provision includes provision provided by the following:

28 schools – working in partnership with Mcr Active & MCC Culture Team
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26 sport and leisure providers
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46 youth and play providers
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12 out of school providers
7 supplementary schools
2 specialists SEND providers

- 4.13 This provision has created **6700 places** each day for children and young people over the summer, with all provision offering healthy food and nutritional education sessions.
- 4.14 The annual Summer Reading Challenge is happening across Manchester's libraries. Children aged 4-11, read at least 6 library books and receive a certificate and medal, with incentives along the ways.
- 4.15 A full listing of the youth offer across the City will be listed on the "Loads To Do" site, with partners and providers currently uploading information to the site directly. The activities are available across our wider youth partners, with activities in parks including arts, BMX, climbing, horse riding and treasure trails.
- 4.16 Our ambition is that we have provision in every ward of the City, with children and young people having access to a high-quality wider youth & play offer within a 20-minute journey time.
- 4.17 We will continue to work alongside the DfE with an aim to securing the HAF funding beyond this financial year, recognising that the additional financial resource has enabled us to provide a wider, more sufficient offer across the City.

## **5.0 Next Steps**

- 5.1 We continue to work with partners to ensure that the provision in each ward is reflective of the need for children and young people.
- 5.2 We are working with Young Manchester to ensure that the summer playscheme funding is mapped against HAF provision and used to support universal participation in all areas.
- 5.3 In line with our strategy, we continue to work with parks, leisure, events, libraries and culture to create innovative ways of reaching and engaging children and young people throughout the summer holidays.
- 5.4 The HAF programme team have begun planning for Christmas holidays to ensure there is provision for children and young people.
- 5.5 The programme is aligned with the Year of the Child initiative, so we will need to ensure there are engagement opportunities across a wide range of provision.

## **6.0 Appendices**

- 6.1 Appendices 2 shows the FSM data across the City which is collated from education settings so reflects the ward where facilities are based. Appendix 3 shows the HAF provision available within each ward.
- 6.2 It is important to point out that whilst the map identifies provision in each ward, we know from previous holiday activities and school attendance that young people will travel to provision they wish to attend.