

## Manchester Health and Wellbeing Board Report for Information

**Report to:** Manchester Health and Wellbeing Board – 3 November 2021

**Subject:** ‘Our Year’ 2022

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

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### Summary

Since the 23rd March 2020 the country has been subject to various guidance, regulation and a series of ‘lockdowns’ to manage and control the spread of Covid19, which is widely reported to have had a detrimental impact on the UK’s economy and population and amplifying the determinants of social and health inequalities.

Manchester prides itself on being a warm and inviting city with something to offer for everyone. Our communities pulled together in the face of the adversity and inequality that Covid brought.

As it stands Covid has brought some key concerns that we must address before they become entrenched and hinder, or even prevent the progress of our children and young people:

**Education and Learning**– during the pandemic the gap between those children who are considered to be disadvantaged and their peers has grown significantly. We also know that learning time, language acquisition and other social experiences have been affected;

**Wellbeing** – We know there are higher levels of children and young people with anxiety and other mental health issues, compounded by limited contact with friends and peers during lockdowns

**Fewer Opportunities** – There are fewer opportunities for young people leaving school or college and that’s likely to lead to more unemployment

**Financial Hardship** – we have increased issues linked to deprivation, loneliness and mental health issues from the pandemic including reduce access to support groups

Those are just some of the issues which is why we need a citywide approach to listening to what children and young people need; and then harness our collective resources, support and communities to bring more opportunities, training and experiences for the next generation.

**‘Our Year’ 2022** will see us listening and acting together to create an offer of activities, opportunities and experiences.

However, the next 12 months will just be a kick-start. The project will be a movement and a change in behaviour, rather than a time limited campaign, to make sure

children and young people are at the heart of everything we do in Manchester. We want this commitment to be long-lasting and one more thing that sets Manchester apart.

Manchester will be submitting an expression of interest to become part of UNICEF’s Child Friendly City and Communities programme.

The attached slide set provides more information for the Board

**Recommendations**

The Board is asked to:

1. Endorse and promote ‘Our Year 2022’. A year to celebrate the successes of Manchester’s children and young people and supporting their recovery from the impact of Covid19.
2. Endorse and support Manchester submitting an expression of interest to become part of UNICEF’s Child Friendly City and Communities programme
3. Promote initiatives/programmes within areas of responsibility that create activities, opportunities and celebrate the success of Manchester’s children and young people

**Board Priority(s) Addressed:**

<b>Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority</b>	<b>Summary of contribution to the strategy</b>
Getting the youngest people in our communities off to the best start	It is universally recognised the first 1000 days are critical for a child’s physical, emotional and neurological development. We know that limited opportunities for them to play and interact with others will most likely have had a detrimental impact on their overall development. Therefore a co-ordinated and inclusive offer of opportunities to the younger age range will contribute to our youngest children getting the start they need in life.
Improving people’s mental health and wellbeing	A range of activities, opportunities and campaigns that support the mental health of children and young people. Creating a city where no young person feels that they cant ask for help.
Bringing people into employment and ensuring good work for all	Increase the number of quality work experience placements and mentoring opportunities. Widening the ‘Skills for life’ agenda and providing opportunities for young people to develop the skills they need to enter adulthood successfully.

Enabling people to keep well and live independently as they grow older	Through the skills for Life programme, developing young people's self-management skills
Turning round the lives of troubled families as part of the Confident and Achieving Manchester programme	
One health and care system – right care, right place, right time	
Self-care	

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

None