

Manchester City Council Report for Information

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

Subject: Our Year 2022

Report of: Strategic Director of Children and Education Services

Summary

During 2021 we asked young people what really mattered to them, what was important to them, and what Manchester could do better.

We heard from 1198 young people across 70 settings, including schools, youth and play settings.

We utilised a number of methods, through direct visits to schools and settings, an online survey and through art and mixed media.

Analysis of the feedback has provided us with a set of key themes.

- **'Safe and Secure'** -Young people told us that they need and want to feel safe in their communities
- **'Our Future'**- access to education and opportunities for environmental sustainability. A cleaner, greener city was cited amongst many responses.
- **'Feeling Connected'** – The need to feel connected to family and friends and also access to affordable and accessible transport across the city
- **'Health and Well-being'** – Young people need and want access to activities and services that promote good mental and physical health
- **'Equal and included'** – The need for activities and services to be inclusive and accessible to all
- **'Play and having fun stuff to do'**- it was recognised the importance of having safe, local and clean spaces for children and young people to play with their friends

'Our Year' will see us continuing to listen and act together to create an offer of activities, opportunities and experiences linked to the wishes and hopes of young people.

However the next 12 months will just be a kick-start. The project will be a movement and 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.

Objectives

- Manchester City Council’s 2022 Our Year is a year to celebrate and further support children and young people
- Celebrate and promote the great work that is already taking place across Manchester from partner organisations
- For Manchester to become a UNICEF Child-Friendly City by the end of 2023
- To be able to demonstrate that 2022 Our Year has made more children and young people feel safe, heard, cared for and able to flourish

Recommendations

1. Promote initiatives/programmes within areas of responsibility that create activities, opportunities and celebrate the success of Manchester’s children and young people.
2. Endorse and support Manchester submitting an expression of interest to become part of UNICEF’s Child Friendly City and Communities programme.

Wards Affected: All

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

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	Our Year will provide young people with access to opportunities, skill development which will help them prepare for adulthood. Young people will have opportunities to access a range of universal and targeted provision, which will contribute to their personal, social and economic wellbeing
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city’s economic success	Young people will have opportunities to succeed in education, employment and training to raise aspirations, achieve and gain economic independence. Young people will have access to Skills For Life through an enhanced offer that helps them develop the capabilities they need for learning, work and transitioning into adulthood.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Young people will have opportunities that enable them to think progressively and build resilience underpinned by the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion

<p>A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work</p>	<p>As part of Our Year there will be a focus on environmental sustainability. ie plastic free days, launch of the youth climate wheel, more recycling, environmental projects and initiatives. Young people will be part of the solution. Young people will be supported to understand the impact they can make within their neighbourhoods and the wider community through participation in youth, sport and cultural activities.</p>
<p>A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth</p>	<p>Young people will be listened to, valued and connected across their neighbourhoods and the city. As part of Our Year we will celebrate young people's achievements and successes across the city.</p>

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

None