

Manchester Children's Board  
Annual Report  
2021-22

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Over the past 12 months the Children’s Board has had to continue to adapt to the challenges that have resulted from the Covid 19 pandemic. Inequalities and deprivation already existed in significant areas of the city and the pandemic has only exasperated and laid bare the challenges we face to address these issues.
- 1.2 As a result of the significant challenges faced the Board has continued to adapt and with the commitment and support from the wider partnership we have ensured that we have been able to provide the required leadership for shaping and delivering our vision for children, young people and their families; which is ‘Our Manchester – building a safe, happy, healthy and successful future for children and young people’.
- 1.3 The Board continues to focus its priorities on delivering the aims and objectives set out in the Children & Young People’s Plan 2020 – 2024 (**see appendix 1**). The Plan articulates our collective vision for children across the city and it highlights our key priorities which will ensure that we invest in the next generation to build a successful, world class city that is full of opportunities.
- 1.4 A key focus during 2021-22 has been ensuring that we maintain a focus on all the key strategic areas that are the responsibility of the Board. To achieve this we developed an annual plan that has facilitated a series of thematic meetings which have focused on all the strategic areas that fall under the remit of the Board. Through doing this we have been able to monitor how each of the strategic areas is contributing to enable us to meet our key priorities that have been set out in the C&YPP 2020 – 2024.
- 1.5 In addition, board members have continued to engage, promote and support Manchester’s ‘Our Year 2022’ initiative and ambition to be recognised by UNICEF/UK as a child friendly city (**see appendix 2**). The progress and impact of ‘Our Year 2022’ will be evaluated in November/December 2022, as the initiative transitions into planning to become a ‘child friendly city’ and launch in early 2023.
- 1.6 The governance processes of the Board have remained strong. However, we identified gaps in the membership of the Board and that there was a need to ensure that we had a balanced membership where individuals have complementary skill sets which allow a culture to develop that will enable the Board to work together to make effective decisions. To address this we reviewed the ‘terms of reference’ and recruited new members who have brought additional expertise, experience and the ability to critical analyse what we are doing and how we could do it better.
- 1.7 The focus over the next 12 months is to overcome the challenges faced by the public sector and the communities we serve. Although this will be extremely difficult the strong leadership and management, that has been displayed by the Board, provides the assurance and confidence that we are able to drive

further improvements and deliver excellent outcomes for children, young people and families in Manchester.

## **2 Strategic context**

2.1 The Children's Board is responsible and assumes strategic oversight for the delivery of a number of key strategies for the city:

### **2.2 Children & Young People's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) has been produced in recognition of the fact that improving the health outcomes of children and young people in Manchester requires a multi-agency approach to the collation, analysis, presentation and publication of data, research and intelligence relating to the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families across the city.

2.3 Having an effective JSNA is a way of ensuring that local strategies for addressing poor health and care outcomes in Manchester are underpinned by a strong evidence base, which has helped to provide a range of effective services to support children, young people and families in need of help, care and protection

2.4 A key focus of the JSNA is the work that is being done on combatting childhood obesity. The World Health Organisation (WHO) regards obesity as one of the most serious public health challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and Manchester is consistently significantly higher than national average for overweight and obesity at reception, year 6 and in adults. The Marmot Review; '10 Years On' (February 2020) reinforced the link between social inequalities and poor health, notably referencing Manchester and the wider region as a case study for deprivation and poor health

2.5 To address the highlighted issues Manchester has developed a new five-year strategy called the new 'Manchester Healthy Weight Strategy 2020-2025'. The strategy advocates a whole system approach that addresses healthy weight across our obesogenic environment and across each life course while placing the responsibility with a wide array of stakeholders.

2.6 As the 'whole system approach' suggests, reducing childhood obesity in Manchester needs the inclusion and commitment of a broad and varied number of partners across the city and there is very strong support from the Board to ensure that, over the next 12 months, it provides the necessary governance and support to enable the strategy to work towards achieving its goals and objectives.

### **2.7 Early Help Strategy**

The importance of delivering an effective and timely early help offer is vital as it can provide children and young people with the support needed to reach their full potential and improve the quality of their home and family life, enabling them to perform better at school and improve their health.

- 2.8 The Children's Board are keen advocates of early help and maintain ownership and oversight over Manchester's Early Help Strategy. The Early Help Strategy is currently being refreshed and the new strategy will run from 2022 – 2025. The Board will play an important role in ensuring that the updated strategy is innovative, partnership led and, above all, relevant and accessible for children, young people and their families.
- 2.9 The impacts of the pandemic have been significant on early help services and over the past 12 months Manchester's Early Help Hubs have seen a 43% increase in demand for support for families. Despite the significant increase the hubs have been able to continue to deliver business-as-usual services. The ability to maintain services has been enabled as a result of significant funding received from the Supporting Families programme. Manchester will receive £3,089,635 over the course of the 3-year programme. However, this is wholly dependent on meeting key indicators such as partnership completion of Early Help Assessments and impact measures. These are submitted annually and subject to scrutiny by Manchester City Council Children and Families Scrutiny Committee and via external audit.
- 2.10 As well as being used to maintain the current offer the funding from the Supporting Families Programme will also be used to:
- commission services from the VCSE and invest to strengthen our Think Family approach
  - free up capacity/resource to facilitate support to a number of new initiatives
  - support development of Family Hubs, continue partnership working and implement relevant recommendations from the social care and SEND Ofsted inspections
- 2.11 Over the next 12 months the Board will continue to support the implementation of the new strategy to ensure that it is at the forefront of strategic thinking when it comes to delivering services for children, young people and their families. The Board is also fully behind the move, which will see services/agencies working more effectively to deliver from central points within communities, enabling them to make the most of their local knowledge and expertise to deliver easily accessible services, which are visible to those who would benefit most from them.
- 2.12 In addition, as part of the drive to continually improve the services for children and their families, Manchester's Children Social Care Services (including early help) has developed several initiatives in partnership with the NHS as part of a comprehensive programme of reform. The aim is further strengthening services through 'locality-based working', evidence led innovation/practice, partnership and collaboration in these 4 broad areas which have also been ratified by the Manchester Partnership Board and Manchester Provider Collaborative:
1. Think/Whole family approach - developing and strengthening collaborative working practices and joining up services across children's services, mental health, adult services, health services and integrated

- neighbourhood teams to support children and adults, particularly those experiencing multiple and complex problems
2. Family Safeguarding - Implementation of a multi-agency offer for families requiring specialist interventions due to compromised parenting as a result of substance/alcohol use, mental health and/or domestic abuse
  3. SEND - Implementation of a new delivery model which provides an integrated specialist service for children with disabilities, delivered in localities
  4. Joint Commissioning - development of joint commissioning priorities working across the Council, NHS commissioners, partner agencies and communities to ensure maximisation of existing resources, improved quality and better outcomes.

### 2.13 **Start Well Strategy**

Over the past 12 months the Start Well Partnership Board has continued to monitor the neighbourhood action plans that have been developed to ensure objectives are being achieved and partnership work is taking place to deliver and meet the needs of local communities. Although the action plans all have consistent priorities that are tailored to be reflective of local needs. What underpins them all is that they are co-designed with parents to support the first 1,001 days and the focus is on access, inclusion and delivery of programmes to support school readiness.

- 2.14 In 2021, the government published a report, “the Best Start for Life – A Vision for the 1,001 Critical Days”. The report sets out the findings of a review that took place in Autumn 2020 into improving health and development outcomes for babies in England, and the vision for what provision should look like. The report sets out a definition that resonates strongly with the Start Well Partnership in Manchester and chimes with our approach and the principles that have long driven early years provision in the city.

- 2.15 At the heart of our plans to deliver the vision is the Manchester Start Well Strategy 2022 – 2025 and we are determined that all our children should get the best start in life and to grow up to be safe, happy, healthy, and successful.

- 2.16 The refreshed strategy benefits from extensive collaboration and partnership – not just with a wide range of professionals but with families themselves. It builds on what we have achieved to date but enhances our offer so that families know where to go for support from conception and throughout their child’s early years. Our Family Hubs and the Neighbourhood Model will see services working together in an intelligent way to allow us to offer the right support to families at the right time and in the right place.

### 2.17 **Promoting Inclusion and Preventing Exclusion Strategy**

The Manchester Inclusion Strategy (2019 - 2022) was launched in November 2019 in response to an annual increase, both locally and nationally in exclusions over a number of years. Since the launch of the strategy some key indicators that highlight improvements have been evidenced. These include:

- overall school attendance of 93.7% following two years of disrupted education due to the pandemic

- a five-year trend of reduction in permanent exclusion
- 4.7% of young people aged 16-17 years who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). This is the lowest ever figure for Manchester young people
- 89.5% of Manchester schools are judged as good or better by Ofsted
- a positive Local Area SEND inspection in November 2021.

2.18 The next steps will be to build on the good progress to date. This will be achieved through focusing on a number of key priorities which are central to the refreshed strategy that will run between 2022 – 2025. These priorities include a concerted focus on school attendance throughout 2023 and the following areas:

- listening and responding to the voice of children, young people and their families
- promoting equality and diversity with a particular focus on race, LGBT+ and disability (SEND)
- develop the aspirations and skills of children and young people
- reduce health inequalities and improve social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing
- promote good attendance
- ensure exclusion is only ever used as a last resort.

2.19 Work done to date has reinforced the importance of all partners working together to establish a sense of belonging for children and young people and our multi-agency partners have increasingly worked with dedication and creativity, during incredibly challenging times, to identify and support the needs of children and young people in inclusive and personalised ways. Manchester now has the challenge, as it works towards becoming a UNICEF Child Friendly City, to build upon the improvements achieved so far and to continue to enhance the experiences and outcomes of children and young people.

#### 2.20 **Young Carers Strategy**

Building on the successful roll out of the Young Carers Strategy 2017– 2019 the Young Carers Strategy 2020 – 2023 has sought to continue to deliver significant improvements in both awareness of and support for young carers across the system. Although great progress has been made, there are still too many children and young people, that we don't know about, with significant caring responsibilities and a key focus of the strategy is that, regardless of our role or service, we work together to listen, to connect and to support this group of young people no matter who we are or where we work.

2.21 To further strengthen the offer we have employed a Young Carers Co-ordinator to champion the rights of young carers and she has already made a massive impact, working with schools and other partners to offer the right support for our young carers. A vital part of the co-ordinator's role will be to implement the key aims of the strategy. These include:

- improving the identification of young carers and their families

- preventing inappropriate caring roles from impacting on children and young people's wellbeing
- embedding the offer for young carers into early help, developing services which are responsive and flexible
- promoting the responsibility of all agencies for improving outcomes for young carers and their families
- promoting young carers' rights to assessment and support, including their right to a statutory needs assessment
- ensuring the voice of young carers is heard and responded to
- ensuring young carers are supported to achieve their aspirations.

2.22 Despite the good work that has been done there is a belief amongst key stakeholders that the current data does not reflect the real number of young carers in Manchester, and that the number is in fact much higher. The key to addressing this is to continue to increase the profile of young carers and the continued support and strategic oversight from the Children's Board will be vital in ensuring that this group of children and young people get the required support.

2.23 The work of the Young Carers Team has attracted national and international recognition/interest and they are a credit to the city and partnership.

2.24 **Manchester Poverty Strategy**

There has been a recognition that we have not been able to significantly reduce poverty over the last 20 years, and that we have many areas in the city where poverty is deeply engrained. Previous strategies tried to address issues of poverty via the Family Poverty Strategy, but it has now been agreed that as poverty is so pervasive, we need to consider all residents in poverty, not just households with children.

2.25 Over the past 12 months high inflation and increasing living costs have continued to squeeze household budgets, especially our poorest households and neighbourhoods. Given this a decision was taken at Executive, in 2021, to ensure that The Council considers poverty in all our decision making and budget setting processes.

2.26 Because the causes and consequences of poverty are so wide-ranging, there is significant overlap with other areas of work, and this is especially true in the case of children and young people where those who live in poverty have a significantly reduced chance of building a safe, happy, healthy and successful future. To attempt to address this significant consultation, with key stakeholders, is now being undertaken to develop and deliver the Manchester Poverty Strategy 2023 – 2027.

2.27 The new strategy will focus on achieving change in three key areas:

- lessening the chance of a person experiencing poverty
- lessening the impact of poverty on people who do experience it
- increasing the chance of a person being able to move out of poverty







2.28 Over the lifetime of the strategy the Children’s Board will work closely with key partners to ensure that the work done interlinks with interventions that are being delivered in other thematic areas, thus avoiding duplication and work being done in isolation.

### 3 Our Priorities




















3.1 One of the key objectives of the Board is to ensure that the key priorities outlined in the Manchester’s Children and Young People Plan 2020 - 2024 are always at the forefront of our work. Whilst the pandemic has had an impact on children and young people, an evaluation of the priorities has not resulted in any additional areas being added, rather a need for ‘doubling down’ on our key priorities; these are for all children and young people to:


- feel safe in their community and have trusted adults they can speak to
- have an improved knowledge around e safety
- be able to access affordable, cultural, leisure, youth and sports opportunities
- have their voices heard and be recognised for their contributions and achievements
- be able to have quick and accessible access to emotional and mental health support
- have better education around physical and mental health issues
- be able to live in a society where environmental issues are intrinsic to decision making
- attend an education setting that is judged to be good or better and has high quality pastoral support
- be able to develop skills for life and access high quality careers advice and support.

3.2 To ensure that we can track progress in each of the key areas a bespoke Outcomes Framework has been designed which provides quarterly data and this enables the Board to monitor progress against key indicators. The table below highlights the metrics used to track progress – where there is a gap in the table the data is not available.

	National Average	Core Cities	Manchester (March 21)	Manchester (March 22)	Direction of travel
Number of LAC per 10,000 population	67 (March 22)	91 (March 22)	112	113	
Number of CP per 10,000 population	41 (March 22)	53 (March 22)	46	41	
Number of CIN per 10,000 population	321 (March 22)	357 (March 22)	436	419	
% LA maintained nurseries in Manchester judged good or outstanding			100%	100%	
% LA maintained PRU schools in Manchester judged good or outstanding			100%	100%	
% of Primary Schools rated good or outstanding			93%	93%	



% of Secondary Schools rated good or outstanding			69%	73%	
% of special schools rated good or outstanding			93%	93%	
Increase in the number of schools who achieve silver/gold status as Rights Respecting Schools			51	48	
Care Leavers EET				61	
% of LAC aged 16-17 known to be in EET			73%	80%	
Fixed term exclusions			2158	4120	
Permanent exclusions			28	74	
Number of Early Help Assessments			1044	1234	
Hospital admissions for asthma (under 19 years) per 100,000	74.2 (2020/2021)		355.6 (2019/2020)	187.8 (2020/2021)	
Admissions for diabetes for children and young people aged under 19 years per 100,000	48.2 (2020/2021)		61.8 (2019/2020)	65.2 (2020/2021)	
Admissions for epilepsy for children and young people aged under 19 years per 100,000	65.6 (2020/2021)		81.2 (2019/2020)	65.2 (2020/2021)	
Hospital admissions for mental health conditions in 0-17 year olds per 100,000	87.5 (2020/2021)		130.2 (2019/2020)	109 (2020/2021)	
Children under 18 admitted to hospital for alcohol-specific conditions per 100,000	29.3 (2020/2021)		41 (2019/2020)	36.6 (2020/2021)	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000	3.9 (2018/2020)		6.1 (2017/2019)	6.1 (2018/2020)	
Hospital admissions for dental caries (0-5 years) per 100,000	220.8 (2019/2021)		529.1 (2017/2019)	419.3 (2019/2021)	
Reception: Prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity) %	9.9% (2019/2020)		11.9% (2018/2019)	11.9% (2019/2020)	
Year 6: Prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity) %	20.4% (2019/2020)		26% (2018/2019)	26.6% (2019/2020)	
Under-18 conception rates (per 1,000 females aged 15-17) %	13% (2020)		20.2% (2019)	15.1% (2020)	
KS2: % achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (all children)	65% (2018/2019)		62% (2017/2018)	61% (2018/2019)	
KS2: % achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (LAC)	37% (2018/2019)		41% (2017/2018)	37% (2018/2019)	

KS4: % achieving a strong pass in English and Maths (strong pass 5 and above)	40.1% (2018/2019)		35.6% (2017/2018)	35.5% (2018/2019)	
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3.3 The use of data enables the Board to evidence the impact of its work. It also enables us to challenge and offer support to strategic partners if there are areas of concern that need to be addressed. To ensure that all the metrics are reviewed in depth we do a deep dive at each Board meeting that focuses on a small number of the metrics. The deep dives allow us to analyse and interpret the latest data to see what the current trends/patterns are. We are then able to offer a collaborative approach to solutions to any issues that may have arisen.

### 3.4 **‘Our Year’**

As indicated in paragraph 1.5, 2022 has been designated as ‘Our Year’. It has been widely acknowledged that the pandemic has had a big impact on our children and young people, affecting many aspects of their lives such as educational achievement, wellbeing, social and emotional development, resilience and financial hardship. Now, as we start to shape our city post-covid, we will work together using our collective resources to help the next generation reclaim their futures.

3.5 Our Year is a focused year of listening to young people and bringing key partners together to create more experiences, opportunities and support to ensure children and young people are at the heart of all we do in Manchester. It is a chance for everyone who shares this vision across the city – from large businesses to community groups or passionate individuals – to play their part and make a difference.

3.6 The Board is committed to playing an important role in ensuring that ‘Our Year’ can meet its objectives as it will provide the governance arrangements for the programme and offer the strategic support from the wider partnership. We have also seconded the lead of the programme onto the membership of the Board and ‘Our Year’ will be a standard agenda item at all Board meetings.

## 4 **Conclusion**

4.1 The previous 12 months has seen the Children’s Board navigate through an extremely difficult period. The impacts of the pandemic have had a severe impact on services, and we envisage that we will be managing the fallout for the foreseeable future. This aligned to the ongoing cost of living crisis has meant that budgets will continue to be stretched and services will potentially suffer.

4.2 Despite the context in which we are operating the Board is confident that with the ongoing strategic commitment and participation from a wide range of partners and the determination and willingness to work towards the common goal, of achieving good outcomes for young people and children, the Board will continue to prosper and ensure that we can deliver on our key priorities.

# Appendix 1

## Our Manchester, Our Children

### Manchester's Children and Young People's Plan 2020 – 2024

Building a safe, happy, healthy and successful future for children and young people

#### Our Vision

Children and young people matter in Manchester and it is vital that we invest in the next generation to build a successful, world class city that is full of opportunities. The Plan highlights how agencies and organisations will work together with children and young people to ensure that they can enjoy a safe, happy, healthy and successful future.

#### Priorities

Our key priorities over the next 4 years will be for all children and young people to:

- feel safe in their community and have trusted adults they can speak to
- have an improved knowledge around e safety
- be able to access affordable, cultural, leisure, youth and sports opportunities
- have their voices heard and be recognised for their contributions and achievements
- be able to have quick and accessible access to emotional and mental health support
- have better education around physical and mental health issues
- be able to live in a society where environmental issues are intrinsic to decision making
- attend an education setting that is judged to be good or better and has high quality pastoral support
- be able to develop skills for life and access high quality careers advice and support

#### Passionate about;

We know having a safe place to live, economic stability, literacy and good health is important to having a successful future. This is why we are passionate about:

- 1 – children living in safe, supportive and loving families
- 2 – reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training
- 3 – promote a love of reading from birth to a adulthood
- 4 – reducing childhood obesity

Our Manchester Behaviours in everything we do we'll make sure that...

#### 1 Place children and young people at the centre of everything we do.

This means not only the way we work directly with children through our services, but as a city as a whole. It is our ambition for Manchester to be a truly child-friendly city, and partners from statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations will work together to achieve this.

#### 2 Listen to and respond to children and young people.

We will recognise and value the voices of children and young people in all areas of our work, listening to them and responding to what they tell us. Children and young people will have the opportunity to be active participants in shaping both policy and practice, as well as the future city.

#### 3 Focus on strengths and building resilience.

We will focus on children's strengths and provide them with the support to build resilience and overcome obstacles. As part of this we will celebrate our children's and young people's successes and encourage them to reach their full potential. We will ask children what is important to them and what is good in their lives. We will then use this to help families build strength-based networks that capitalise on both human and community assets.

#### 4 Emphasise the importance of prevention and early intervention.

We will intervene early through a range of universal and specialist services to ensure that every child and young person has the opportunity to thrive and succeed. A particular focus will be prevention, early help and tackling a range of issues centred around the child by providing a whole-system, multi-agency approach. 'Early help will be everyone's business'.

#### How we will do it

#### 5 Provide the best start in life.

We will focus on improving outcomes in the first 1,000 days of a child's life. This period is critical to child development and if a baby's development falls behind in the first years of life, it is more likely to fall even further behind in subsequent years than to catch up with those who've had a better start.

#### 6 Innovation, creativity and learning will be at the centre of our planning and decision making.

Learning from research, practice and the experiences of children and their families are critical to informing how we develop and improve the way we engage and deliver services. We will embrace the knowledge, skills, and the experience of practitioners and Manchester's residents to ensure we continually improve the experiences and outcomes for children.

#### 7 Working at a locality level we will deliver excellent support for vulnerable children and young people.

Through developing meaningful relationships and having an empowered, well trained, capable and stable workforce which is passionate about continually improving outcomes for all children.

#### 8 Challenge poverty and inequality.

Our aim is for every one in the city to have the same opportunities, life chances and potential to lead safe, healthy, happy and fulfilled lives, no matter where they are born, live or ethnicity. We need to work with families to lift them out of poverty and challenge racial inequality/discrimination. We want all children and young people growing up in the city to achieve their potential.

#### How we'll know if we have made a difference

- 1 – Number of children in need (LAC, CP, CIN)
- 2 – Number of children with a plan of permanence that is agreed and delivered within 18 months of receiving a specialist children's service
- 3 – Emergency hospital admissions for asthma in 0-19 year olds per 100,000
- 4 – Emergency hospital admissions for diabetes in 0-19 year olds per 100,000
- 5 – Emergency hospital admission rates for mental health related issues in 0-19 year olds per 100,000
- 6 – Reduction in the number of CYP aged 0-19 attending A&E departments with no follow-up required
- 7 – Infant mortality rates
- 8 – Reduction in hospital admissions for dental caries (tooth decay) at age 0-5 years
- 9 – Healthy weight – reduction in children in reception and year 6 classified as overweight or obese
- 10 – Under-18 conception rates
- 11 – Schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted
- 12 – KS2: % achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (all children)
- 13 – KS2: % achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (LAC)
- 14 – KS4: % achieving a good pass in English and Maths
- 15 – Increase in the number of schools who achieve silver/gold status as Rights Respecting Schools
- 16 – % Care Leavers known to be NEET, % of LAC aged 16-17 known to be in EET
- 17 – Reduction in fixed and permanent exclusions from school
- 18 – Number of completed Early Help Assessments and Team Around the Family meetings



We work together and trust each other

We're proud and passionate about Manchester

We take time to listen and understand

We 'own' it and aren't afraid to try new things



## **Appendix 2**

2022 Our Year, has been a year-long campaign run by Manchester City Council to create a year of opportunity for children and young people across the city. From providing opportunities, to amplifying their voices, 2022 Our Year was a chance for young people in the city to have their talents recognised and is a chance for young people to make up for all the lost opportunities due to the pandemic.

In line with Manchester's Children's and Young People Plan throughout 2022 we have continued to support Manchester's young people creating a whole-city approach to building a safe, happy, healthy and successful future for all children and young people. This has been achieved through additional opportunities, events, activities, campaigns, competitions, changes to policy and strategies and more. It has been a collective approach where all partners, services, sectors have been encouraged and supported to organise their own events, as they know the needs of the communities they work in. There have been city centre events, and activities to also encourage families to visit the city centre to help us achieve our ambition of Manchester being a child friendly city. Events have been added throughout the year and for more information please visit [www.ouryear.uk](http://www.ouryear.uk)

### **Legacy – Beyond 2022**

Our goal is for the City of Manchester to come together and work together with children and young people to ensure that they can enjoy a safe, happy, healthy and successful future, and a city where we really embed children's rights in the planning, design and delivery of our services.

We acknowledge this requires a long-term commitment to change, and there is a real sense of excitement and readiness to involve children as partners and key stakeholders. A place where children and young people really feel welcomed, appreciated, and can achieve their potential. We will help them to prepare for adulthood throughout their life by supporting them to understand their responsibilities alongside their rights.

Child Friendly Cities & Communities is a UNICEF UK programme that works with councils to put children's rights into practice. The programme aims to create cities and communities in the UK where all children – whether they are living in care, using a children's centre, or simply visiting their local library – have a meaningful say in, and truly benefit from, the local decisions, services and spaces that shape their lives. Putting children's rights into practice, allowing them to have a meaningful say and truly benefit from the local decisions, services and spaces that affect their lives. Where all services and all partners build the voices of children and young people into how they work and their priorities for action.

The United Nation Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

With this city-wide approach to embedding children's rights, it is envisaged that Our Year 2022 and participation in the Child-Friendly City programme will also help contribute to wider city priorities, including but not limited to:

- there is increased awareness amongst young people of engagement opportunities and activities
- increased uptake of eligible children on Holiday Activity and Food schemes
- increased number of SEND young people attending a provision of their choice
- wider network of organisations offering quality work experience placements
- increase in inter-generational opportunities and events
- greater opportunities for Early Years children to have a meaningful say in decisions that affect them
- increase in number of children who access the outdoors and attend an outdoor residential opportunity
- there are more targeted engagement opportunities for local youth and play providers and schools to share their views on issues important to them
- there are more opportunities for young people to influence local policy and decision making
- there is a clear understanding of the Manchester's Youth and Play offer, evidenced by increased use of 'Loads to Do'
- children and young people report that Manchester is welcoming and safe, with friendly places to go, and a place they can have fun and play
- there are more places and spaces to play and things to do, in all wards of Manchester that are accessible to all
- young people feel supported to prepare for adulthood and young people have access to opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge

Over the next few months we will have a clearer picture of the impact of 2022 and will use the results of our city-wide engagement to monitor perceptions of young people about the services available to them and what life is like for them in Manchester.