

## Manchester City Council Report for Information

**Report to:** Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 11 January 2023

**Subject:** Our Year 2022

**Report of:** Strategic Director – Children and Education Service

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### Summary

'Our Year 2022' saw us listen and act together, we were able to create an extended offer of activities, opportunities and experiences linked to the wishes and hopes of young people. This was truly a partnership approach, with engagement across the private, voluntary and public sector.

However, the last 12 months have just been a kick-start. The Our Year project has helped to create a movement and change in behaviour, to make sure children and young people are at the heart of everything we do in Manchester. The ambition has always been for this commitment to be long-lasting and one more thing that sets Manchester apart.

### Recommendations

1. Continue to promote initiatives/programmes within areas of responsibility that create activities, opportunities and celebrate the success of Manchester's children and young people.
  2. Champion Manchester's ambition to be a child friendly city and support the journey as a candidate city.
  3. Support and endorse a child rights-based approach that provides children and young people with meaningful opportunities to influence decisions about their lives.
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**Wards Affected:** All

<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> - 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	A Child Friendly City will provide young people with access to opportunities and 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
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	As part of Manchester's ambition to be a child friendly city there will be a focus on environmental sustainability. ie plastic free days, re-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.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Young people will be listened to, valued and connected across their neighbourhoods and the city.

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**Background documents (available for public inspection): None**

## **1.0 Engagement**

- 1.1 Following engagement in 2021 with schools and settings across Manchester, visits have been taking place between October 2022 and will continue into the new year. The purpose of the visits was to re-visit the same schools, to gain a sense of how young people were feeling a year on, and to find out what more we can do as a city.
- 1.2 Analysis of the findings will be made available once all visits have concluded.

## **2.0 Summary**

### 2.1 What has been the best thing about 2022?

- Being able to get out easier and go places. Getting life back on track. Being spontaneous about plans. Hanging out with friends.
- Free stuff in parks, playday, carnivals, climate change event, raising money, events at schools.
- MCR day parade, groups and school enjoyed taking part.
- Free Music from One Education – “Anyone can attend so we get to meet children from other schools and past pupils too”
- A sense of hope, things felt more normal

### 2.2 What could be better?

- Very clear message about wanting safer roads.
- More green spaces.
- More extra curricular activities eg homework clubs and libraries and more holiday clubs, sports clubs.
- All children should know their rights NOT just those who attend Right Respecting schools -
- Adults should also know children's right and they should be displayed everywhere eg in shops, centres, churches and buses.
- Still don't always find out whats happening for young people

### 2.3 Key Successes/ Highlights:

- 3000 young people attended the ‘Our Year’ Play Day event in Whitworth Park, which was celebration of Children’s Right to Play (Article 31)
- 2000 young people attended the Manchester Day ‘Youth Festival’ in Piccadilly gardens, which was designed and delivered by young people for young people
- Over 4000 families attended ‘Baby Week’ with 1600 attendees at the opening event in Manchester Art Gallery. 43k+ page views were recorded to ouryear.uk during the baby week campaign

- 120 delegates attended the Green Bee Assembly, 80 education settings represented
- Primary schools were given the opportunity to create a special Episode of a podcast, Box Tickers. Exploring what equality means to the young people living in our city, and what we as adults can do to make things better for the next generation. Each participating school was partnered with a local artist to create a piece of writing (poem / manifesto / short story)
- In July 2022 Manchester Safeguarding Partnership (MSP) held its first of its annual children's safeguarding conference as part of Our Year. The conference was developed, designed, hosted and delivered by the children of Manchester. They told the strategic leads responsible for keeping children safe, what was important to them and what we needed to do.
- Following the safeguarding event, work continues to support the promotion of Peace Mala in Hate Crime Awareness Week 2023.
- Distribution of resources to young people, i.e. laptops, concert tickets, theatre tickets, sports equipment, t-shirts, books
- Supported neuro-diverse young people to attend and participate in the Art assembly
- Conference to promote the benefits of Outdoor education to settings and schools
- Enhanced Holiday throughout 2022 with 44,019 number of young people accessing holiday provision across 4829 sessions
- A whole city approach was embedded to celebrate and further support children and young people
- Has been a platform to celebrate and promote the great work that is already taking place across Manchester from partner organisations
- Have entered the discovery phase of the UNICEF Child-Friendly City and we are now officially recognised as a 'candidate city'
- Consultation with young people in our Post-16 settings saw a number of key points consistently raised. Young people felt that the pandemic had limited their opportunities for social and personal growth as activities became restricted or stopped during the lockdown periods; that they had not had the exposure to work-related activity as much as they would need and so quality CEIAG had been affected
- To address this, the Council has been working on immediate interventions and also setting the foundations for the coming months/years as a

candidate UNICEF UK Child Friendly City. Some examples are noted below:

- **Post-16 Education, Employment & Training Strategic Plan 2022-25** - using the Our Year feedback as a catalyst, this plan has been co-designed with partners across the sector, with a focus on partnership and collaboration as a city, with an over-arching view of and focus on the opportunities, pathways and outcomes for young people in Manchester who are of post-compulsory school age and aligns with the broader strategic aims of the city, for which detailed strategies have been already implemented within MCC.
- **Post-16 Pathway Partnership** - supplementary to the above, is the co-designed mission and vision of the sector, with an expectation and pledge that all settings will working in a collaborative manner to support the development of pathway opportunities for all young people.
- **Work-related Activity** - opportunities have been shared periodically with school CEIAG Leads in relation to Our Year pledges - this includes opportunities at all school age and Post-16 age groups, across multiple sectors and was developed to support settings in their bridging of the missed opportunity gap.

### 3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 As we come to the end of 2022 the journey is by no means over, it is just the beginning, throughout 'Our Year' 2022 it has allowed us to create new partnerships, strengthen existing relationships and kick start a movement where as a city we come together to continue to put children rights at the heart of all we do in Manchester.
- 3.2 We want to strengthen and build on our successes and our existing commitment to creating 'A whole-city approach to building a safe, happy, healthy and successful future for all children and young people'.
- 3.3 We acknowledge that all parts of the city have a role in supporting our children and young people, and through the Child Friendly Programme we truly believe this will help us achieve our goals. There is a city-wide readiness to embark on an ambitious programme of work.
- 3.4 The Child friendly city programme will help us create a cohesive approach, where we will work with local partners, both commissioned and non-commissioned services – across different sectors, departments and services to raise awareness of children's rights more widely and more importantly actually putting the rights into practice across Manchester.
- 3.5 We will adopt a child rights-based approach that provides children and young people with meaningful opportunities to influence decisions about their lives. This approach will be made of seven principles based on the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) and general human rights principles.

## **4.0 Manchester's journey and timeline**

### **4.1 Discovery (six months)**

- The first is the Discovery Phase, during which UNICEF UK begins to deliver expert training in children's rights
- The council will come together with the local community, including children and young people, on a 'Discovery Day' to see where things are going well for children and where things need to change.
- Based on this training and analysis, Manchester chooses six priority areas and, with support from UNICEF UK, drafts an Action Plan during the Development Phase, setting out how Manchester will work towards achieving progress in our badges over the following two to four years.
- Developing branding and clear communication messaging

## **5.0 Recommendations**

1. Continue to promote initiatives/programmes within areas of responsibility that create activities, opportunities and celebrate the success of Manchester's children and young people
2. Champion Manchester's ambition to be a child friendly city and support the journey as a candidate city.
3. Support and endorse a child rights-based approach that provides children and young people with meaningful opportunities to influence decisions about their lives