

**Manchester City Council
Report for Resolution**

Report to: Health and Wellbeing Board – 18 September 2024

Subject: UNICEF Child Friendly Cities: Healthy Badge Update

Report of: Director of Public Health

Summary:

Manchester is working towards recognition as UNICEF Child Friendly City. Following the discovery and development phases, an action plan was approved by the Council's Executive in March 2024, moving us into the delivery phase of the programme. One of the three 'badges' (priorities) identified by children and young people was 'Healthy', and the action plan demonstrates how the City will progress and evidence our collective work towards achieving the agreed outcomes. The Department of Public Health has been leading the work on the Healthy Badge and a significant progress has been made towards the milestones which will be assessed by UNICEF in October.

Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- (1) Consider and comment on the progress of the Healthy Badge.
 - (2) Be an ambassador and champion children's rights, especially the right to health (Article 24).
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Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment -the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city	No Assessment has been undertaken at this stage.
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments	One of the 7 principles of a Child's Rights Based approach is 'Non Discrimination' Principle. Every child and young person will be treated fairly and protected from discrimination, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, religion, language, family background or any other status. Having access to equal opportunities and best possible outcomes doesn't mean being treated identically; some children and young people

	<p>will need more support than others to overcome barriers and difficulties.</p> <p>Work is also underway to introduce Child's Right Impact Assessments to ensure that the best interests of children and young people are the primary consideration in all actions concerning children. Among outcomes for Healthy Badge are reducing inequalities in health outcomes in early years and in children's wellbeing.</p>
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Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the Our Manchester Strategy/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Through ongoing engagement with the health and wellbeing sector, children and young people will improve their understanding of the opportunities and roles within it. This will enhance their skill development which will help young people prepare for adulthood.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Via engagement in development of health and wellbeing strategies, services and plans, Young people will have access to opportunities to develop their skills for life i.e. communication, problem solving, self-belief, self-management and team work.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Young people will have opportunities which enable them to participate in decision-making that impacts on their health. Young people will have access to education and recreational provision which encourages a sense of belonging, develops their identity and ensure their voices are heard (Article 12 of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child).
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	<p>Article 2 All children under 18 will enjoy all the rights set out in the UNCRC without discrimination, and efforts to tackle the climate crisis should remedy its disproportionate impact on marginalised groups</p> <p>Article 3 The best interests of the child will be a top priority in any decision made or action taken to address the climate crisis.</p> <p>Article 6 Every child will enjoy the same opportunities to be healthy and grow in environmental conditions that don't impact negatively on their development.</p>

	<p>Article 12 Every child will have the right to be heard and their views will be taken seriously, including on discussions around climate and the environment.</p> <p>Article 31 Every child has the right to rest and play in a clean environment</p>
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- 1.1. Equal Opportunities Policy
- 1.2. Risk Management
- 1.3. Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue None

Financial Consequences – Capital None

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

United Nations Convention on the rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Appendix 1)
‘Healthy Badge’ Action Plan (Appendix 2)

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Following the discovery and development phases, an action plan was approved by the Council's Executive in March 2024, moving us into the delivery phase of Manchester's programme to become UNICEF Child Friendly City.
- 1.2 'Healthy' is one of the Manchester's badges (priorities) selected by children and young people, alongside 'Safe and Secure', and 'Place'. In addition, the city is also working on three core badges: 'Culture', 'Communication and Collaboration' and 'Leadership'.
- 1.3 In recognition of Manchester City Council's commitment to tackling inequality and to celebrate the rich diversity of the city we have also committed to ensuring that the 'Equal and Included' badge is a cross-cutting golden thread across all other badges. Focus on equity and inclusion is a strong focus within the healthy badge, which is also supported by Making Manchester Fairer action plan.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the progress of the work related to Healthy Badge.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is the most complete statement of children's rights ever produced and is the most widely agreed international human rights treaty in history.
- 2.2 The UNCRC has 54 articles, which can be found at appendix 1, 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 governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.
- 2.3 In line with our badge selection and the UNCRC, Manchester will be a place that has demonstrated how more children feel safe, heard, healthy and can connect with their local neighbourhoods.
- 2.4 Right to health and health services is expressed in article 24 of the UNCRC. It stipulates that every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment, and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy.
- 2.5 Public Health has been leading on the development and delivery of the Healthy Badge Action Plan. The plan demonstrates how the City will progress and evidence our collective work towards achieving the agreed outcomes, and ensuring its alignment with Making Manchester Fairer Plan.

3.0 The Healthy Badge Action Plan Delivery

- 3.1 During the Discovery Phase, children and young People highlighted the need for improvements in mental health and wellbeing, having an opportunity to have best possible start in life, and being able to participate and have a say in decisions that relate to their health and wellbeing. They also wanted more access to physical activities, especially outdoors, cleaner air to be able to play outside, and somebody to talk to.
- 3.2 The action plan has been developed based on the above feedback. It has three priority workstreams aiming to achieve specific outcomes:

Workstream	Outcomes
Early Years	Babies and pre-school children growing up in Manchester thrive: their health outcomes improve and health inequalities in early years are reduced. Workforce contributing to better health outcomes in early years understands, implements, and considers the rights of very young children.
Wellbeing & Mental Health	Children and young people's wellbeing improves because of the activities/interventions delivered through Manchester's Mental Wellbeing Framework. Inequalities are reduced between the groups identified as experiencing inequalities through the #Bee Well Survey
Participation	Children and young people, including those from communities acutely impacted by inequalities, are able to influence and inform the development and ongoing delivery of health & wellbeing strategies

- 3.3 The action plan also includes milestones for each workstream, and our achievement of those will support the progress towards the above outcomes. The milestones for the first six months of the delivery, alongside a progress update are outlined below.

Workstream	Milestone	Progress Update
Early Years	Priorities for action to address health inequalities facing families with very young children are identified collectively with partners, including VCSE and families.	These priorities are linked to current programmes of work, including Healthy Lungs, Healthy Weight, Safe and Healthy Beginnings and the Making Manchester Fairer Children's Kickstarter Scheme. Actions for the Safe and Healthy Beginnings Plan have been co-produced with VCSE and families. There is a workshop planned for October with Start Well Board and partners on Healthy Weight.

		<p>Discussion on incorporating child rights based approach into Healthy Lungs Programme are taking place in September.</p>
	<p>Workforce mapping conducted to identify key workforce that will be involved in the planning and delivery against these priorities.</p>	<p>Mapping of the Early Years workforce began in May, to include Early Years Locality Leads in MCC, Speech and Language Therapy and Health Visitors in MLCO. A meeting took place with colleagues leading on private, voluntary and independent providers of childcare and out of school provision, childminders and school nurseries.</p> <p>Some barriers have been identified and raised as to workforce access of the CFC rights training and what alternatives to full day training offered currently by MCC can be provided. Initial suggestions included shorter, more condensed training, online training or on-site training for specific teams. Service Leads in Early Years services have been asked to provide the number of employees, who need to attend the training.</p>
<p>Wellbeing and Mental Health</p>	<p>Identify key evidence-based priority actions with partners and through engagement with CYP to improve mental health and wellbeing for CYP.</p>	<p>Priority actions for children and young people’s mental health within the Mental Wellbeing Strategic Framework have been developed in the following ways:</p> <p>Involvement of CYP strategic and practitioner leads (e.g. MCC Children’s Services, MCC Youth and Play, NHS CAMHS and MThrive, NHS Children’s Health, 42nd Street) in the Mental Wellbeing Framework Steering Group</p> <p>‘Round table’ discussions focusing on CYP mental health and wellbeing, led by MCC Children’s Services and involving a range of statutory and VCSE partners</p> <p>Targeted engagement with CYP through Youth Services (70 CYP) and VCSE partners (42nd Street) to explore what is important to CYP, their challenges, and what helps their mental health and wellbeing</p> <p>Analysis of #Beewell schools survey data These data have informed the priority action areas for children and young people’s mental</p>

		<p>health and wellbeing that are included within the Mental Wellbeing Framework. These include partnership activity to:</p> <p>Enable parents and carers to support positive social and emotional development in their children</p> <p>Enable children to be resilient and mentally healthy within educational settings</p> <p>Support young people to manage their social, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing as they make transitions and move towards independence</p> <p>Protect children and young people from adverse childhood experiences</p>
	<p>Conduct mapping of current approaches and areas for development, understanding of workforce training needs, and assessment of current inequalities issues.</p>	<p>Mapping of the workforce needs has began. Information on VCSE workforce training needs in terms of mental health support was completed via work of Young People Kickstarter. Contact was established with #Bee Well Survey leads and several meetings took place to understand the data available for Manchester, especially in relation to current inequalities issues. Clear and consistent inequalities were initially identified in respect of LGBTQ+ children and young people, those in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM), and then CYP who identify as LGBTQ+ and in receipt of FSM and those whose ethnicity is not white.</p>
<p>Participation</p>	<p>Identify existing groups of Children and Young People, ensuring groups include those who are representative of marginalised groups, with whom health strategies can be discussed, ensuring they are reflective of</p>	<p>List of children and young people groups and routes of engagement with them completed.</p> <p>Conversations carried out with key service leads and stakeholders, who work with CYP in Manchester to assess best means of engagement around health with groups they work with. During the meetings CFC and the expectations of the 'Healthy' Badge were discussed. These included Council's Youth, Play and Participation, Youth Justice, Care Leavers Service Leads, Strategic Migration Partnership, Manchester Hospital Schools, Young Carers Team, and external partners, including 42nd Street, Showmen's Mental</p>

	Manchester's population.	<p>Health Charity, Media Cubs, Healthy Schools Manchester, Young Manchester.</p> <p>Planning of extensive creative engagement with children and young people around their health, including food, nutrition and physical activity is being planned to support the development of healthy weight action plan, and scoping with partners taking place.</p>
	Identify teams within the workforce to undertake training to strengthen and expand the means of children's inclusive participation in the development of strategies.	<p>A presentation on Child Friendly City was delivered to colleagues identified within Public Health Department whose work has direct or indirect impact on children and young people. Staff were encouraged to take part in the Child Rights Based Approach training, and to consider how their streams of work impact on children's rights. Colleagues have been encouraged since to include children and young people involvement in any planning of services or strategies.</p> <p>Further conversations on how to incorporate child rights based approach in Public Health and when working with children and young people took place with relevant colleagues, including on potential future opportunities such as healthy weight strategy, mental wellbeing framework and Making Manchester Fairer community forum to work with children and young people on engagement.</p>

- 3.4 Each badge will report to UNICEF on a 6-monthly basis. The first progress review meeting with UNICEF will take place in the third week of November, and evidence will be submitted in advance of the meeting.
- 3.5 A Healthy Badge Group has been established to ensure that agreed milestones are delivered. It includes representatives from MCC Public Health, Early Years, Youth, Play and Participation and Young Carers Team, GM NHS Mental Health Commissioning, GMCA #Bee Well Survey Team, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), and VCSE Sector. The group meets every 6-8 weeks.
- 3.6 In summary, strong foundations to deliver the ambitions of the Healthy badge have been established. It is recognized that cross-organisational support and collaboration needs to be built on and enabled, so that organisations beyond the City Council can also contribute to the delivery of the Healthy badge outcomes to create a city where voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of health policies, programmes and decisions.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- (1) Consider and comment on the progress of the Healthy Badge.
- (2) Be an ambassador and champion children's rights, especially the right to health (Article 24).

5.0 Appendices

5.1 Appendix 1 United Nations Convention on the rights of the Child (UNCRC)

5.2 Appendix 2 'Healthy Badge' Action Plan