

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 9 October 2024

**Subject:** Young Carers Strategy

**Report of:** Acting Strategic Director (Children and Education Services)

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**Summary**

This report provides an overview of the refreshed Young Carers Strategy 2024-2030.

**Recommendations**

Committee is asked to be aware of the Young Carers refreshed Strategy 2024-2030 and note recent national developments.

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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	
<b>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion</b> - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments	

<b>Our Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS</b>
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities.	Effective Children and Education Services are critical to ensuring our children are afforded opportunities and supported to connect and contribute to the city's sustainability and growth.

A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success.	Ensuring children and young people are supported and afforded the opportunity to access and achieve in the City; empowered and supported by the delivery of a strong and cohesive system that works for all children.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities.	Improving education and social care services that are connected to the wider partnership build the resilience of children and families needed to achieve their potential and be integrated into their communities.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work.	Improving outcomes for the children and families across the City, helps build and develop whole communities and increases the liability of the City
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth.	Successful services support successful families who are able to deliver continuing growth in the City

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

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

Manchester's Young Carers Strategy 2024-2028

Young Carers Covenant, Carers Trust 2024

Template Memo of Understanding, Carers Trust, 2024

Children & families Act 2014

Care Act, 2014

Schools Census Analysis PRI 2024.

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
1.1	<p>The Young Carers Strategy 2017-2019 (refreshed in 2020) outlined an approach to the identification of and support for young carers in Manchester underpinned by partnership working and shared responsibility. The strategy reflected the voice of young carers ensuring that their views were recognised in services that support them.</p> <p>The definition of a Young Carer is taken from section 96 of the Children and Families Act.</p> <p>“...a person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person (of any age except where that care is provided for payment, pursuant to a contract or as voluntary work)”</p> <p>In Manchester we recognise the impact on children and young people may be related to additional duties such as housework, shopping and caring for siblings rather than actual caring duties. Therefore, our definition includes care or additional duties related to a family member who has a physical disability, mental health needs or learning disability, or who is affected by drug, alcohol or other substance misuse.</p>
1.2	<p>The voice and influence of Young Carers has been invaluable in the co-design and production of the Young Carers Strategy and the Support not Sympathy Campaign with the aim to increase awareness and continue to improve the identification and support for Young Carers in Manchester.</p>
1.3	<p>Young Carers told us they want their support from their schools and settings and other services they and their families are already working with. The refreshed Young Carers Strategy 2024 – 2028 builds on this approach setting out the current situation and our high aspirations for Young Carers in Manchester.</p>
1.4	<p>Manchester is striving to become a child-friendly city working with UNICEF. Together we aim to create a city where children and young people have a meaningful say in and benefit from local decisions, services and spaces that change their lives. For our Young Carers, this means including them in discussions about support pathways, creating representative materials and a platform for their voice. A commitment to equal access to all services and a focus on future aspirations to prevent any disadvantage due to their caring responsibilities</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>

2.1	<p>The Care Act (2014) and the Children and Families Act (2014) consolidate previous legislation affecting young carers and require the development of an integrated response to the specific needs of young carers. The Children &amp; Families Act (2014) requires Local Authorities to take reasonable steps to identify young carers in their area, provide assessments for young carers under the age of 18, and identify whether caring responsibilities are appropriate. The Care Act (2014) introduced new obligations to young carers in transition to adulthood, including the requirement on adult services to provide transition planning for young carers who are likely to need support.</p>
2.2	<p>The Young Carers Partnership was established in 2019 to provide oversight and a partnership approach to the delivery of the strategy. To coordinate this and deliver the approach outlined in the strategy a Young Carers operational lead was appointed.</p>
2.3	<p>Membership of the group has continued to grow and includes Young Carers, Schools and representatives from partners across the city. There is an increasing enthusiasm and commitment reflected in strong partnership working and an increased awareness of the needs of young carers and their families.</p>
2.4	<p>In response to Young Carers telling us they want their support through schools and settings we have prioritised engagement with schools Including the development of a Manchester Young Carers in Schools award. To date over 80% of Manchester schools and education settings have a Young Carers Champion. To support our schools, we have established a regular network meeting providing an opportunity for Young Carer. Champions to engage, share good practice and development opportunities.</p>
2.5	<p>Nationally there continues to be an increased focus on Young Carers with recent developments. The Young Carers Covenant was launched in March 2024 by the Carers trust with over 500 Young Carers. The Covenant sets out 10 key goals as well as actions that organisations can take to help Young Carers reach their full potential. The goals range from ensuring Young Carers are identified at the earliest possible opportunity to making sure they can access training and employment opportunities.</p>
2.6	<p>"No Wrong Doors for Young Carers" is a template Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) designed to improve joint working between adult and children's social care services, integrated care boards and other key organisations in respect of identification and support for young carers and their families. Launched in March 2024 It covers a range of areas such as approaches to identification, whole-family support, and transitions from children to adult services. 'No Wrong Doors for Young Carers' is a national template which is designed to</p>

	<p>be adapted and adopted at a local level to ensure it meets the specific needs of local young carers and young adult carers. In Manchester we have a Memo of Understanding and are currently working with adult services and health to update this using the new template. We expect this to be published by the end of 2024.</p> <p>As of January 2024, the framework for inspecting local authority children's services (ILAC) has been updated and will include a focus on young carers. This includes a requirement to include data in Annex A for case sampling. "<i>Children supported under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are identified as being young carers</i>" to assist inspector identify their case sample".</p>
2.7	<p>In January 2023 Young Carers were included in the spring schools census for the first time. The Young Carers cohort comprises of the pupils that attend Manchester schools and were recorded as being a Young Carer in the school census in January 2023 or January 2024.</p>
2.8	<p>In January 2024, 1,351 pupils were recorded as a Young Carer, in the previous year 602 pupils were recorded as a Young Carer. This is a 124% increase. The increase is largely driven by the engagement with schools, parents and young people. Anecdotally, we know that there are more Young Carers in Manchester that have not been reported in the School Census, and we expect the numbers in this cohort to increase year on year.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Pathways and Safeguarding</b>
3.1	<p>Young Carers and their families should be supported regardless of which service is contacted first. There should be 'no wrong doors' as children's and adult social care are required to work together to fulfil their duties in law. We will ensure all practitioners are aware of local safeguarding policy and practice and accept a joint responsibility to work together to identify and support Young Carers. This will be outlined in a refreshed Memo of understanding which will be published in 2024.</p>
3.2	<p>The pathway for Young Carers continues to be through Early Help who provide a key point of contact for schools and other agencies. The Early Help team have developed several Young Carers leads in each hub. This will embed a support network of Young Carer expertise across the city and ensure Young Carers receive the right support. The roll out of Family Hubs in Manchester creates further opportunity to strengthen awareness and support for Young Carers and their families with their local communities</p>
3.3	<p>Practice guidance has been developed to support Early Help and Social Care colleagues. Children's Social Care have identified a senior lead for Young Carers and each locality have identified</p>

	<p>Young Carers leads who will receive training and support. changes to recording systems to improve both recording and reporting of young carers are in progress lead by Children's Social Care.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Summary and Recommendations</b>
4.1	<p>We are proud of our Young Carers and recognise the huge contribution they make to our families and our city. Whilst we have seen significant improvements reflected in the 2024 schools census data, we still have more to do. The refreshed Young Carers Strategy sets out the framework to ensure all our Young Carers receive the recognition and support they deserve.</p>
4.2	<p>Our priorities for 2024/2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the voice of Young Carers is heard and responded to, adopting a Child's Right based approach providing Young Carers with meaningful opportunities to influence decisions about their lives.</li> <li>• Implement the No Wrong Doors for Young Carers Memo of Understanding, working with adult services and the ICB.</li> <li>• Continue to improve information available to Young Carers and their families about their rights and support.</li> <li>• Continue to promote and improve the pathways for Young Carers with all partners.</li> <li>• Promote the responsibility of all agencies to identify and support Young Carers.</li> <li>• Improve transition pathways and offer for Young Carers at all key transition stages.</li> </ul> <p>These key priorities will be monitored, and progress reported into Children's Leadership team and the Children's Board.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<p>Appendices:</p> <p>Young Carers Schools Census data 2024  Young Carers Strategy 2024-2025  Young Carers Strategy PowerPoint and Video</p>