

Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 4 November 2020

Subject: Children and Young People's Plan 2020 - 2024

Report of: Strategic Director of Children's and Education Services

Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2020 – 2024.

Guided by the Our Manchester Strategy that sets the sustainable economic growth and success of the city as a place of choice to live and work. 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. Manchester's Children and Young People's Plan has brought together key partners and agencies to develop and deliver a series of priorities to build a safe, healthy, happy and successful future; whilst the key areas of focus (safety, health, employment, education, training and welfare) remain relevant today, the consensus amongst the partnership we can go further in our collective ambition for the City's children and young people; driven by their views/voice and engagement.

The report provides an overview of the process that was undertaken in collaboration with children and young people in Manchester and members of the Children's Board. The report highlights how the final product is aligned to other strategic plans and identifies a sharper and more ambitious, key priorities, ways of working and measures of success; which have young people and relationships at their heart of the approach and Our Manchester behaviours/principles so that together we will continue *'building a safe, happy, healthy and successful future for children and young people'* in Manchester.

Recommendations

It is recommended Scrutiny Committee members:

1. Note the completion of the Children and Young People's Plan;
 2. Acknowledge the strategic importance of the document and consider the contents therein (plan on a page);
 3. Seek an annual progress report; and
 4. Provide their continued support to promote the plan throughout their civic duties to the wider Council and its partnerships, thus promoting a safe, happy, healthy and successful future for Manchester's children and young people.
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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

One of the key priorities for the Children and Young People's Plan is for children and young people to be able to live in a society where environmental issues are intrinsic to decision making. Key outcomes, including the reduction in hospital admissions for young people with asthma, can only be achieved if the plan has a specific focus on what can be done to improve the environment in which our children and young people live.

Our 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	Innovation, creativity and learning are key themes that will be at the centre of the work done throughout the lifespan of the plan and we will look to inspire our children and young people to be in a position to fully contribute towards a thriving and prosperous economy.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	A thread running through the plan is to improve the education offer for children and young people and provide opportunities for high level skills to be developed which will ultimately result in a highly skilled, home grown and motivated workforce, which will provide a readymade talent pool that will be the bedrock of the future workforce for Manchester.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	The aim of the Children and Young People's Plan is for everyone 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 or live.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	A key aspect of the Children and Young People's Plan is that we want all children and young people to be proud and passionate about living in Manchester and through the delivery of the identified priorities we will be able to ensure that Manchester remains a desirable place to live for the current and future generations.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	A generation of young, healthy, talented, innovative and highly skilled children and young people will provide an organic population and workforce which will enable Manchester to be a successful, world class City that is full of opportunities.

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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 Children and Young People's Plan 2016 - 2020

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Children and Young People's Plan articulates the Children's Board collective vision for children across Manchester and it underpins the work of the key stakeholders and agencies as the constituent membership. The refreshed plan provides a clear direction, priorities and outlines the measurable goals that need to be reached if the children's services partnership is to deliver its vision; Our Manchester – building a safe, happy, healthy and successful future for children and young people'.
- 1.2 Before starting work on the plan members of the Children's Board discussed what we wanted to achieve from the plan. The previous plan had been very well written and, from a strategic perspective, it covered all key areas and clearly outlined the Board's vision. However, it had limited impact in the wider community that we would have anticipated and when research was undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of how the plan had been communicated to stakeholders it became apparent that we had struggled to reach our intended audience – children and young people.
- 1.3 Given the above the Board challenged itself to come up with a document that not only helped us achieve our vision but was something that key stakeholders were not only aware of but were actively involved in promoting; connecting better to the views and aspirations of the city's children and young people. There was also the desire from the Board to not only move away from the previous format but also to produce a plan that was much more ambitious than the previous plan and one, which when implemented, would demonstrate the increasingly visionary and innovative nature of the Board and the wider partnership. The Children's Board has continued to challenge itself, develop and mature into a strong strategic partnership and the new Children's and Young People's Plan is reflective of the good work the Board has undertaken over the past couple of years.
- 1.4 To achieve our aim the Board agreed that rather than produce a plan in a more traditional format we would focus on a 'plan on a page' This one page plan would be precise and targeted and it would consist of our priorities, how we were going to implement them and the outcomes we were looking to achieve. The key decision as to why to take this approach was that the Board wanted this document to be a visual aid that was public facing and on display in schools, youth centres, Sure Starts and other prominent locations where young people frequent; a message that they have been listened to and a commitment to deliver what matters to them and improves their future. Through using this approach we will also ensure that the Children's Board will be held accountable by children and young people on the delivery of the priorities.
- 1.5 The development of the new plan, which can be found at **appendix 1**, was undertaken through a strategic planning process which fostered collegiality and created an opportunity for discussion on the direction of the plan and central to this was the input of children and young people.

- 1.6 Over a period of three months (towards the end of 2019) a number of workshops took place with groups of young people who represented a broad spectrum of youngsters from across Manchester. Groups, including the Pupil's Parliament, The Youth Council and the Youth Forum at Manchester Children's Hospital, identified what they wanted to be the key priorities for the plan under the headings happy, healthy, safe and successful. A vast number of ideas were proposed and the most popular suggestions were selected and these have formed the basis for the priorities that are core to the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan.
- 1.7 The priorities chosen were carefully selected to ensure close alignment with the Our Manchester Youth Offer Strategy 2020 - 2023 and during the consultation period a key emphasis was placed on providing young people with a platform to engage in the democratic process and affect change.
- 1.8 We had originally intended to launch the Children and Young People's Plan in early 2020 but the onset of Covid-19 impacted significantly on the timescales for the project and this has resulted in a slight delay in the relaunch. Despite the unexpected events the Children's Board have continued to discuss, amend and finalise aspects of the plan to ensure that the final version provides a document that will ultimately enable us to achieve our vision for the children and young people in Manchester.

2.0 Background - The Children and Young People's Plan

- 2.1 The identified priorities were chosen after a significant period of consultation with partners and children and young people and they cover a wide spectrum of key issues that need to be addressed across social care, education and health. Having priorities that cover these areas highlights the broad range of work that falls under the remit of the Children's Board and it emphasises the strategic importance and value of the Board.
- 2.2 The value placed on the opinion and input from young people is clearly evidenced in priorities that focus on key issues such as e-safety, the environment and a significant focus on emotional and mental health provision. Through listening to and acting on the wishes of children and young people we have been able to develop a plan that not only can they relate to but one where they can also feel a sense of 'ownership'.
- 2.3 Involving children and young people is central to not only the plan but to all the work undertaken by the Children's Board. Board meetings are regularly co-chaired by a representative of the Youth Council and this enables the voice of children and young people to not only be heard but to also provide the platform to enable them to input into key strategic decisions that are being made that will ultimately impact on their peers.
- 2.4 Whilst identifying the key priorities the Board also wanted to challenge itself to identify a small number of 'passions' that would remain central and drive the work of the Board throughout the duration of the plan. The key criteria for the areas that we would be passionate about were:

- it must be achievable and measurable
- it would be something that would not be accomplished in the first year - it would need to run for the majority/duration of the plan
- it would 'make a difference' to children and young people in Manchester.

After much discussion we agreed on the 4 areas that have been identified in the plan. Whilst the aims are ambitious the Board believe that there is the collective skill, experience and determination within the partnership to ensure that we can work towards successfully achieving our goals.

- 2.5 Throughout the duration of the plan the Board will work steadfastly to ensure that we can implement strategies that will enable us to achieve our priorities and passions. The 'How we will do it' section on the plan highlights the key principles that will be followed which will allow us to translate our vision into reality.
- 2.6 The principles follow a strength based approach and they align closely to the strategic direction and methodology that is being adopted across the Council. There is a clear acknowledgement from the Board that we cannot achieve our aims through working in isolation and it will require the input from all stakeholders to ensure we reach our goals. Given this we have incorporated the 'Our Manchester' behaviours into the plan as these will help us to achieve buy in from others and help us to ensure we can make a difference.
- 2.7 As well as the alignment to the 'Our Manchester' strategy the Children and Young People's Plan has been developed to ensure that it also dovetails with other key strategic plans that have been developed, such as the refresh of the Manchester Locality Plan – Our Healthier Manchester 2019/2020. In addition recognising the challenges for many families associated with disadvantage and poverty; brought into greater focus as a result of the Covid19 pandemic.
- 2.8 The Calibration with the Manchester Locality Plan – Our Healthier Manchester 2019/2020 was done specifically to ensure that, at a strategic level, key partnerships across Manchester are working to achieve similar outcomes. This will enable the work of organisations to dovetail and provide the opportunity to pool resources and work as a collective to address the issues that are impacting on children and young people in Manchester.
- 2.9 A key focus of the Children and Young People's Plan is the 'How do we know if we have made a difference' section. In essence the metrics in this form the Outcomes Framework that will be used by the Board to measure progress against our key priorities and passions.
- 2.10 Working closely with the performance and research teams from Manchester City Council, Manchester Population Health Team and Manchester Health and Care Commission we were able to identify a significant number of key metrics that could be used to track the progress against our set targets. The metrics identified were presented to the Board and the members were then tasked with selecting the metrics that they wanted to form the basis of the Outcomes Framework.

- 2.11 A key rationale behind the board's decision making on which metrics to chose was wanting to focus our energies on outcomes which could be clearly measured and if achieved would make a positive and significant difference for children and young people. As a result of this it was agreed that the refreshed framework would be a significantly slimmed down version when compared to its predecessor.
- 2.12 Although there are less metrics in the new Framework, the ones selected will enable us to track and provide regular updates on progress. Another significant difference is that the metrics chosen will be listed on the C & YPP and therefore the work of the Board will be open to the scrutiny of children, young people and families in Manchester.
- 2.13 The Children's Board meets six times a year and at each of these meetings the latest data will be monitored and specific action plans will be designed and implemented to ensure we have a rigorous process in place that will enable the Board to monitor progress.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Children and Young People's Plan is ready to be launched. Originally the plan was to have a big launch event, which involved schools, members of the Children's Board and local media. However, the current situation has meant that this has had to be put on hold for the foreseeable future. Instead the plan will undergo a 'soft' launch before the end of this year, with the intention of having a full launch event, Covid-19 permitting, in 2021.
- 3.2 The immediate priority will be to get the new plan launched and shared within Manchester City Council, amongst the wider partnership and distributed to schools, colleges, youth centres and other identified locations. The ask of the Scrutiny Committee is that they fully endorse the Children and Young People's Plan and provide their strategic support throughout the duration of the plan.