**Youth Combined Authority Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the Youth Combined Authority?**

The YCA was set up in February 2018 and its purpose is to:

* Advise the Mayor and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) on key issues and concerns of young people, and provide solutions;
* Provide a critical voice and scrutinise the work of the Mayor and GMCA;
* Undertake specific pieces of work, e.g. develop the Opportunity Pass, Curriculum for Life, etc.

The YCA consists of 40 young people, aged 11-18 (and up to 25 for those with additional needs). Half the members come from Greater Manchester’s youth councils, and the other half from other youth organisations across the city-region.

**What is a working group and what do they do?**

A number of working groups have been formed which will take forward specific pieces of work. Currently there are two working groups you can join:

* Curriculum for Life – this will focus on developing a Curriculum for Life, as well as working with schools, colleges, youth clubs and employers to bring it to life.
* Health – this will particularly focus on mental health

In the near future we will be developing an Opportunity Pass working group, which will focus on what an ‘opportunity pass’ will do and how it can come into existence.

**Who can join a working group?**

We want to ensure that the YCA and its working groups are inclusive and diverse, and members are able to represent a significant number of other young people.

Anyone who lives in Greater Manchester and is aged 11-18 can join the working groups. All working group meetings will take place in the evening (usually 6-8pm) in Manchester City Centre. Therefore, if you are under 16 you will either need to be accompanied to the meetings by a parent or guardian, or you will need to provide their written permission that you can travel independently.

**I’m interested. How can I find out how to get involved?**

Please email youth.gmca@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk and let us know:

* Your name
* Age
* Why you want to get involved
* How we can contact you

There is no time limit – you can let us know at any time and attend the next meeting.