

The Youth Combined Authority Plan 2022-2024

Our vision for the future



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FOREWORD



Welcome to the first ever Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority Vision for the Future.

LIAM, YCA CHAIR (2020-2022)

The Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (YCA) brings together a diverse group of young people who all live, learn and work across Greater Manchester (GM). As a collective, we want to help create a future that inspires all whilst helping to build a city region that is worth inheriting. Yet, we know that we can't achieve everything on our own.

Therefore, in setting our own vision, we have been mindful of other work that has happened or is happening across GM and we hope to forge relationships with other boards, groups, services and plans; joining up all work that aims to benefit young people just seems like the logical thing to do.

Also, we know that young people don't live in silos, so why would we try to deal with such challenges in this way?

This vision has been informed by gathering data from lots of consultations and engagement exercises undertaken over the last three years. Subsequently, we hope that we have created a vision that is simple to understand and reflective of how young people feel.

We will continue to contribute to this vision by ensuring that young people's voices are listened to, heard and acted upon.

There is no numerical order to the themes, like young people they are interconnected. Our hope is that our people across GM are valued no less than our economy.

WHO WE ARE

The YCA is a diverse group of young people from across GM speaking up for nearly 1 million peers (under the age of 25 years). Our membership is drawn from local and voluntary sector youth provision. Representation is everything for us and our membership mirrors the GM community with a responsibility to seek the views of young people who are not part of the YCA.

The YCA emerged in 2017 with a passion to provide a vehicle for youth voice. Following this, the YCA was formalised by the Mayor of Greater Manchester (Andy Burnham) and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) in 2018, supported by the ten local authorities. The YCA held its first meeting in February 2018 and since then it has continued to give young people in GM the opportunity to have their voices heard and influence GM policy and decision making.

The role of the YCA is to:

- Advise the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the Portfolio Lead for Equalities and the Portfolio Lead for Children and Young People of the challenges and opportunities faced by young people.
- Proactively support the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and its public, private and voluntary sector partners to develop effective policy and practices for young people.
- Constructively challenge political and system leaders on progress to improve outcomes for all young people, including those that face discrimination and disadvantage because of their identity.

We know that the next cohort on the YCA will build upon the foundations set, building on the legacy of making GM one of the best places for young people to grow up and grow old.



THEMES (APRIL 2020 - APRIL 2022)



EQUITY, EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

Who we see, how we are made to feel and how we challenge.



HEALTH AND WELLBEING (PHYSICAL AND MENTAL)

Being Happy and Healthy – how we feel, what we eat and how we move.



THE ENVIRONMENT

How we value this planet.



COVID RECOVERY

How we get about and what we can achieve

EQUITY, EQUALITY AND INCLUSION



"Equity, equality and inclusion is important because people deserve better. Discrimination needs to end. Improving our society begins with us recognising our differences, appreciating them and taking the necessary steps to eradicate inequality."

SHEKINNAH, INCLUSIVITY LEAD FOR THE YCA LEADERSHIP TEAM (2020-2022)

WORKING TOGETHER

- We will work with the other Equality Forums to ensure young people's voice is wider than the YCA.
- We will work with organisations like Caribbean & African Health Network CIC (CAHN) and The Proud Trust to develop campaigns.
- We will continually work towards having a GM where there is equity and equality and all young people feel included.

OUR VISION

- The YCA will create impetus for services to be as reflective as them; pushing for more diverse leaders and workers.
- The YCA wants people who work with and for young people to receive and undertake quality training that addresses equity, equality and inclusion.
- The YCA will work with other equality groups in developing campaigns that push for equity, equality and inclusion.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING



"When young people are healthy they can become the best versions of themselves. Ensuring that young people have access to both physical and mental health support in our communities is crucial".

BETHAN, YCA SECRETARY (2020-2022)

WORKING TOGETHER

- We will work with GreaterSport Manchester.
- We will work with BeeWell.
- We will work with, and influence the future Greater Manchester Integrated Care system.



OUR VISION

- Challenge access to support so that young people have someone to talk to who sits outside of their network of family and friends; someone who advocates and challenges alongside us.
- Help eradicate Food Poverty - officially back and actively support Marcus Rashford's campaign. Put pressure on the national/local government and the CA to look at sustainable solutions to food poverty.
- Promote physical activity and help to increase participation levels. Challenge schools to make PE enjoyable and inclusive.
- Working with and influencing health and other sector professionals to make services work better for young people.

THE ENVIRONMENT



"It may be a cliché to say that this planet is the only one we have, but it's true. The climate emergency poses a threat to our global existence, in a way that we have never before seen. Thus, ensuring our voices, as young people, are on the table to help shape and protect the planet we are both inheriting and passing on is critical. We need all generations to come together and learn how to best adapt and mitigate the increasing threats we are faced with."

EMMA, YCA MEMBER (2020-2022)

WORKING TOGETHER

- We will work with the GMCA Environment team.
- We will work with other environmental projects for children and young people.
- We will work with green experts.



WE CAN'T DO
THIS ON OUR
OWN



OUR VISION

- We will amplify the message that GM should only do business with companies that are morally right for the people that live in GM.
- We will create partnerships with other YCAs and work with environmental groups and green experts to challenge businesses that damage the environment.
- We will campaign for better Green Education for children and young people, better air quality, better use of Green Spaces and we will play a leading role on the development of content for the Annual Green Summit.

COVID RECOVERY



"It goes without saying that the coronavirus pandemic dramatically affected everyone's life. Now, as the YCA set out plans for COVID recovery, it is imperative that young people are part of the conversation so together we are co-creating a strategy that ensures no young person is left behind, and the needs of all our young citizens are met."

TOMMY, DIGITAL LEAD FOR THE YCA LEADERSHIP TEAM (2020-2022)

WORKING TOGETHER

- We will work with the Young Person's Guarantee Team.
- We will work with the Youth Alliance GM.

OUR VISION

- We will try to extend the Our Pass Scheme.
- We will campaign for every child and young person to have something positive to do outside of school/college.
- We will help develop a range of social action and volunteering opportunities and we will work with the GMCA to create a future to look forward to.
- We will help shape and strengthen the health sector so it can continue to respond and evolve.



AFTERWORD



Thank you to all YCA members for working with us over the last two years and helping to piece together this plan and our vision for the future.

LAYAN, COMMS LEAD FOR THE YCA
LEADERSHIP TEAM (2020-2022)

This vision is something that we have all worked hard to achieve and to ensure that it is representative of the communities we represent across GM. This plan was a combination of months of meetings, consultations and engagement with young people across GM. It provides a focus for what young people in our communities have highlighted as important to them.

To the best of our knowledge this is the first time young people have been asked to come together and create such a plan and it is with gratitude and thanks to Andy Burnham and the GMCA for engaging the young people in GM not just as citizens in waiting, but citizens today actively working together to co-create a community that represents us all.




















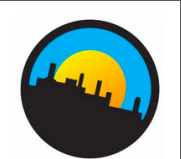






It goes without saying that these last two years have been one of the most challenging our communities have faced, but from this we build strength. Not only do we need to come back stronger from COVID, we need to address all the challenges that have been raised to us by young people across GM.

Climate change is not just something in the distant future it is something that is affecting our communities. Playing a part in how our region responds to the impacts of climate change is fundamental. Additionally, and just as importantly is ensuring that our communities are fair and equitable. GM is an amazing place to live not despite our diversity, but because of it, but this is not to say we live in utopia where all are equal. There remains vast inequalities to tackle, highlighting them as issues to confront, we commit to the conversation and strategies to achieve a fair society for all.

We are also hearing from young people that better access to physical and mental health services is desired, and therefore we are including this in our vision to help shape future plans that create better access and meet the needs of the young people we represent. Our hope is that this vision leaves a legacy for the next elected YCA to build upon and gives a framework to hold power holders to account when making decisions that affect us all.

2022 - 2024 MEMBERSHIP

In April 2022, the YCA welcomed it's new cohort:

									
Be The Change Youth Project	Blossom Foundation	Caribbean & African Health Network (CAHN)	GM Army Cadet Force	GM Fire & Rescue Service	GM Youth Network (GMYN)	Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire & Merseyside	Hideout Youth Zone		
									
KYSO Project CIC	Manchester Youth Zone	One Manchester	Rochdale Connections Trust	Spectrum Gaming	The Proud Trust	Water Adventure Centre (WAC)	Youth Leads UK		
									
Bolton Youth Council	Bury Youth Council	Manchester Youth Council	Oldham Youth Council	Rochdale Youth Council	Salford Youth Council	Stockport Youth Council	Tameside Youth Council	Trafford Youth Council	Wigan & Leigh Youth Cabinet



With thanks to all YCA members for their contributions

Connect with us:
@youthgreatermcr



**YOUTH
COMBINED
AUTHORITY**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY
FOR GREATER MANCHESTER

Supported by:

youth focus^{NW}
Improving the lives of young people