

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

Supported by:

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Improving the lives of young people

Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority 2024-2026

Our vision for the future



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INTRODUCTION



This document is the second vision document the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (GMYCA) has published.

It aims to provide a vision and path of work and partnerships to the next generation of the GMYCA. It is not set in stone but merely a collection of suggestions and ideas that should provide inspiration for the next 2 years.

MAISHA, YCA CHAIR

This vision was discussed by all current members of the GMYCA, taking into account work completed during this term that could continue and projects that are taking a forefront next for Greater Manchester.

We have found that a lot of issues young people face in GM are widely interlinked and hard to define and categorise. However, for simplicity and ease, we have created 4 themes that have been or will be major topics of discussion for the next 2 years.

We hope this document will be beneficial and guide the next cohort to another successful term of improving GM for young people.

WHO ARE WE?

Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (GMYCA) was created in February 2018. It was the first of its kind in the country.

The YCA gives young people in Greater Manchester the opportunity to have their voices heard and influence GMCA policy and decision making.

Its work comprises of:

- Advising the Mayor and GMCA on key issues and concerns of young people, and provide solutions
- Providing a critical voice and scrutinise the work of the Mayor and GMCA
- Undertaking specific pieces of work (for example, developing 'Our Pass' the free bus travel card for young people, and contributing to Greater Manchester's annual Green Summits)
- For further information on the YCA visit the [YCA's webpage](#) on the [GMCA website](#).



T H E M E S

The YCA worked on four key themes in their 2022-2024 term, as laid out in their vision document.

The 2022-2024 cohort were asked to identify which topics were most important to young people in Greater Manchester; with the aim of providing a scope of options for the 2024-2026 cohort to focus on for their term. This is not meant to be a restrictive list, but should help guide the first months of the term whilst learning about the YCA and the role of the members.



EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND SKILLS

The importance of education



TRANSPORT AND ACTIVE TRAVEL

Accessible transport



EQUITY, EQUALITY, AND INCLUSION

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



THE ENVIRONMENT

How we value the planet

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND SKILLS



“Education is important; it empowers young people and is the key to our future. Ensuring every young person has access to a high-quality education, will provide them with knowledge, skills and opportunities for the future. This is a key topic for young people within Greater Manchester, and we will lead the way on creating meaningful change for young people now and in the future.”

- Oliver, YCA Deputy Chair

OUR VISION

- Helping to develop and promote the Manchester Baccalaureate, continuing on from the YCA MBacc report created in March 2024.
- Sharing and collaborating on information around life skills, such as the [Curriculum for Life](#)
- Developing the skills of our Youth Combined Authority members, through development days and engaging in external opportunities.
- Working to promote Equity and Equality in our education systems, through the schools race charter development.

TRANSPORT AND ACTIVE TRAVEL



“We're in an exciting period in our city regions history bringing our buses back under public control with the Bee Network. The Bee Network is Greater Manchester's vision for a fully affordable, accountable and accessible public transport network delivered by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM).

Whether you walk, wheel, cycle, take the bus, tram or train the Bee Network will make how you travel quicker, more reliable and affordable.

Very early on we worked with Transport for Greater Manchester, bringing the Bee Network to life, from the iconic 'bee' yellow, signage and the creation of the Bee Network app, putting the features young people need to have confidence when travelling front and centre to its development.

We're really proud of the suggestions we've made that TfGM has taken onboard and will be adding to later versions of the app in 2024/25.”

- Rorey, YCA Comms Lead

OUR VISION

- Continue to support the rollout of the Bee Network, working alongside Transport for Greater Manchester
- Support the development and continuation of Our Pass
- Promoting active travel for young people in Greater Manchester, through connecting with GM Moving and other partners

EQUITY, EQUALITY, AND INCLUSION

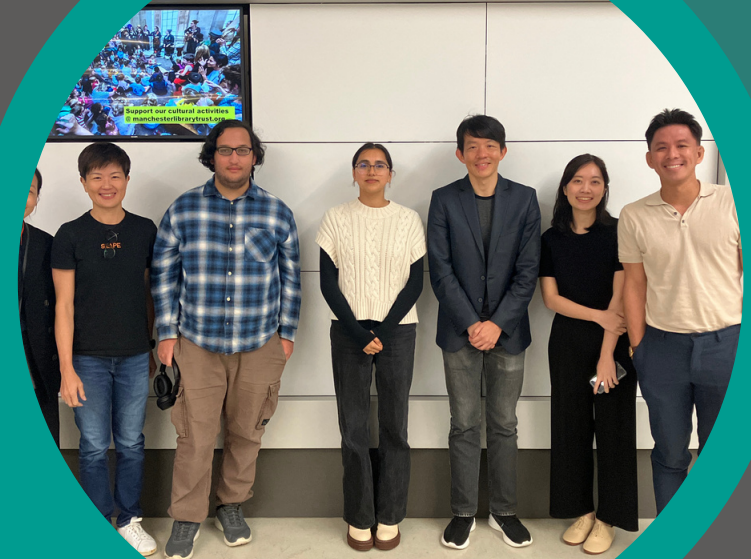


“In today's diverse society it is crucial we not only try to not discriminate but also allow conditions for a multicultural society to thrive, and that everyone has equal access to our resources.

We work with other Equality Panels to ensure that everyone, no matter how big or small the community, has representation. This is especially prominent in fields such as Health and Wellbeing to ensure that everyone has the same access to care.

It is also vital that everyone feels safe in Greater Manchester. The YCA are currently working with partners such as the Violence Reduction Unit to try and tackle violence on our streets. It is through this we provide crucial scrutinisation and development of policies that need youth engagement.”

- Rohan, YCA Equalities Lead



EQUITY, EQUALITY, AND INCLUSION



OUR VISION

- Working alongside other Equality Panels to advocate for youth voice across all work.
- Ensuring that Greater Manchester is a place where every young person is included and feels safe, through working alongside partners such as the Violence Reduction Unit and Greater Manchester Police.
- Amplifying the voices of young people in spaces such as Health and Wellbeing, to ensure every young person has access to support where they need it.
- Linking with systems such as The Children's Board, to ensure youth voice is at the heart of decision making processes.



THE ENVIRONMENT



“Manchester is the best place to live, providing us with a variety of opportunities and experiences like no other. In turn, we should make sure it stays that way; one way to do this is to protect our community environment.

Greater Manchester has an abundance of green spaces and communal gardens (like the newly repurposed Viaduct Garden) but also an abundance of litter and pollution.

There is the GMCA’s 5 Year Plan in order to tackle issues and improve GM’s Environment and it is our job as the Youth Combined Authority to make sure there are young voices incorporated within this strategy.

Working alongside the GMCA Environment Team and external partners, our vision is to ensure youth voice is within every document, policy and action taken to aid our environment. We hope to promote methods young people can utilise to support environmental efforts and aid with the annual Green Summit.

It is cliché, but this earth is the only one we have. Our only chance, our only future. We, as young people, have a duty to protect that future for ourselves and our peers.”

- Maisha, YCA Chair



THE ENVIRONMENT



OUR VISION

- Ensuring youth voice is at the centre of Environmental work in Greater Manchester, such as the annual Green Summit
- Working alongside partners such as the GMCA Environment Team to have youth voice included in future Environmental policies and spaces
- Promoting ways for young people to support environmental efforts, such as using sustainable travel methods



SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to the wider membership of the Youth Combined Authority for your input into this document and helping to decide on the themes included.



A special thanks to our Leadership Team members, who wrote each of the sections above, and for their continued hard work in guiding the YCA through this term.



Connect with us:

@youthgreatermcr



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