

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 18th December 2020

Subject: Young Person's Guarantee

Report of: Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Portfolio Lead for Children & Young People and
Councillor Sean Fielding, Portfolio Lead for Digital, Work & Skills

Geoff Little, Portfolio lead Chief Executive for Children & Young People and
Joanne Roney, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Digital, Work & Skills

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide GMCA with an overview of the Young Person's Guarantee (YPG) work to date; outlining the process from the youth consultation period, describing the work of the Youth Task Force and sharing a final project report & recommendations suggested by the Task Group & Youth Advisory Group.

*The final project report accompanies this overview and sets out the high-level recommendations from YAG & Taskforce with further suggested focus of work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Review and consider the information in the final project report (attached).
2. Provide comment on the recommendations set out in the final project report (attached).
3. Agree to further develop the Young Person's Guarantee into a set of actions with KPIs covering:
 - I. A staff resource capacity to develop the scope of the actions and recommendations (from the final project report attached) within the context of the city-region; across

partners, business & LAs. This will sit in the GMCA (W&S Team) and work across all areas within the recommendations to act as a connector to develop the work.

- II. Exploring additional resource required to deliver the recommendations in the final project report and where this is within current budgets or where there are gaps; also what can be taken forward at no cost.
 - III. Accountability process retaining Diane Modahl as Chair of the YPG.
 - IV. Evaluation of what has been successful: Have we reached Young People...One year on.
4. Commit to action in localities by supporting the generation of further commitments that will be publishable on GM Apprenticeships & Careers Service.
 5. Approve the proposal to extend the Our Pass Pilot for further year from 1 September 2021.

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Equalities Implications:

Paragraph 2.1: Diversity and inclusion have been at the heart of the work of the Young Person's Guarantee reflected in the composition of the Youth Advisory Group.

Paragraph 3.1: the recommendations and future scope of this work reveal that much more needs to be done to ensure that engaging youth and activities to support youth reach the communities and marginalized young people they are meant to serve.

Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures –

Paragraph 3.1: The Young Person's Guarantee didn't focus on climate change as it did not arise as result of consultation with young people specifically related to the pandemic. However, active transport has come out of the work of the Task Force.

Risk Management:

As part of the considerations and recommendations it is very clear that young people have had an active voice and the work of the guarantee has been able to respond in a way that showed young people they were listened to but also that they could shape part of the solution. It has highlighted the value in engaging young people in the policy work across the city-region. Some of the recommendations are achievable right now but some will require resources as set out in the next steps and partners will need to come together to develop a clear set of actions; this will require strong leadership, collaborative practice and potential investment.

Legal Considerations:

N/A

Financial Consequences – Revenue: No budget is currently attached to this work

Financial Consequences – Capital:

N/A

Number of attachments to the report: 1: Report

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

<https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/documents/s9128/8%20CA%20Paper%20Young%20Person%20Guarantee.pdf>

TRACKING/PROCESS		
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution		No
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN		
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?		No
GM Transport Committee	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
	4 th December 2020	

1. INTRODUCTION

The Young Person's Guarantee, headed up by Diane Modahl, CEO of the Diane Modal Sport Foundation is a commitment to improving the lives and experiences of young people from across Greater Manchester. It focuses not only on the impact that COVID-19 has had on the city-region, but also on the issues and challenges that young people have said they feel most concerned about particularly pertaining to their future life chances.

2. BACKGROUND

On June 25th 2020 in front of a virtual audience of young people, Mayor Andy Burnham announced his commitment to a Young Person's Guarantee and the establishment of a Youth Taskforce, chaired by Diane Modahl. The Young Person's Guarantee has been shaped to be a collaboration between young people who want a more positive future, and hundreds of individuals and organisations working alongside them to help deliver just that. A huge number of people across Greater Manchester have stepped up to give freely of their time, expertise, and to share their personal stories about how the pandemic has affected them.

2.1 Young people: at the heart of the Young Person's Guarantee

Listening to young people about their experiences of the pandemic – and their hopes of what a Guarantee could give them – has driven the work. The initial shape of the Young Person's Guarantee was based on what young people told us about the issues and barriers they were experiencing through a series of consultation events and surveys.

Young people have continued to guide the Guarantee's development beyond the initial consultation. Twenty-four people aged 11 to 30 have come together to form the Youth Advisory Group, from every part of Greater Manchester and reflecting the diversity of backgrounds and experiences in the city-region. The Group have held a central role in supporting and determining the work of the Youth Task Force. Most importantly, they have represented the views of their peers and, as co-chairs with Diane Modahl, have offered insight and challenge in Task Force meetings and to the whole project.

2.2 The Youth Taskforce

Partners and organisations from across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors in Greater Manchester have combined to form the Youth Task Force. Together with the Youth Advisory Group, they have been tasked with delivering the ambition of creating and developing a Young Person's Guarantee.

2.3 Focusing and delivering our response

Young people were, and are, concerned about a huge range of issues, some of which already existed and have been sharpened by the experience of the pandemic. They fell into four clear, interlinked themes as a means to organise the scope of the work: **Keeping Connected, Staying Well, Making Effective Transitions and Reducing Economic Inequalities**. The Youth Advisory Group and the Task Force mobilised around these themes to energise and focus their work.

The pandemic is ongoing and is inflicting more pressure on young people every day. For this reason, the work of the taskforce focused first on connecting young people with already-existing opportunities that would support them and, through our Task Force, mobilising our partners to come forward with more. Young people told taskforce members that much of what was available

was not known to young people and as such the Greater Manchester Careers and Apprenticeship Service (GMACS) has been repurposed to host a wider range of opportunities supported by the GMCA and Communications Teams.

However, the work has highlighted that tackling some issues will require more than already-stretched partners are currently able to give. The Task Force explored what could enhance – and in some cases transform – the support available to young people, making recommendations for further action to achieve this. Many of these recommendations in the final project report (attached) will support positive outcomes in more than one Task Force area. More work will need to follow with all partners involved to set out what is within the gift of GM and what requires greater leverage externally; as set out in recommendation three & four in this cover report.

One specific recommendation was to extend Our Pass to September 2022 to recognise the disruption to the pilot caused by the pandemic. This means that all current GCSE students in Greater Manchester - who have already faced great disruption - will be able to benefit from Our Pass for two years after leaving school, getting them to college, training and work.

3. CONCLUSION

The work to date on the Young Person's Guarantee has demonstrated a huge appetite for working differently for, and with, young people in Greater Manchester. Doing this will mean embedding and building on the partnerships of the Task Force to develop actions focused on the high-level recommendations, so that they sit within current structures and speak to current plans.

A realistic look at resources, capacity and leadership to take each of the high level recommendations in the final project report forward will be required in order to respond genuinely to what young people have told us they need in the here and now as well as in the future.

3.1 RECOMMENDATIONS: As above