

Manchester's Early Help Strategy

Our Approach
2023 – 2025



Contents

Foreword	2
Introduction, Purpose and Vision	3
Our Commitment - Our “contract” with our families in Manchester.....	4
Our Approach	5
Early Help is everybody’s business.....	5
Key Principles of Early Help.....	5
How we will deliver these principles:	6
Our Strengths	9
Delivering our locally agreed areas of focus:	10
Our Key Areas of focus Over the Next 3 Years.....	10
How Did We Arrive at Our Key Areas of focus?.....	11
How do we know this the right strategic approach for Manchester?	12
What you told us:	12
Context of Early Help in Manchester in 2023	14
What are the data telling us?	15
Presenting Needs.....	15
Manchester’s Population By Age Groups 2021 (Census/ONS)	16
Manchester’s Population Change between 2011 and 2021 (Census/ONS).....	16
Change in Housing Tenure in Manchester	17
between 2021 and 2010 (Census/ONS).....	17
2011 Census	17

2021 Census.....	17
Where our Strategy Sits - Our Governance	18
How Are We Going to Deliver This?	19
Forward View.....	19
Annex 1: Strategic Fit.....	20

Foreword

Welcome to our Early Help Strategy 2023 - 2025

Manchester is committed to Early Help.

As a city, we know that it is best to get families the help they need at the earliest opportunity. Getting them support early gives them the best chance to tackle issues in their life and to make positive changes. It means we are more likely to see children remain with their families and thrive in supportive environments.

We've seen great success in Manchester through our commitment to Early Help. I know from direct contact from families how much they value the support they've been offered and how they have built up supportive relationships which have given them the help they needed at the right time.

Early Help isn't a service but an approach which unites everyone who works directly with children and their families. I visit schools, colleges, nurseries, youth groups and others throughout the year and see just how much Early Help takes place within them on a daily basis.

Things have been tough for families here in Manchester- the cost-of-living crisis and rising child poverty has put more strain on families, and we are seeing children still dealing with the aftereffects of the pandemic and the lockdowns which limited their opportunities; all whilst public services are under huge financial pressure from a lack of funding.

Our Early Help strategy has been a key way which Manchester has responded to support families through these tough times. We've achieved a lot already, but we will not stop innovating and looking at new ways to support families.

As a city we have embarked on our journey to be a UNICEF recognised Child Friendly City which will see us put children's rights at the heart of decisions we take. Children have the right to grow up in homes, families and communities where they feel safe and are supported to have fun and to learn as well as the right to be heard in the decisions taken about their lives. Our Early Help approach has always put children first and our strategy, the next stage, will embed children's rights across the city.

Life is too hard for many children. Our Early Help Strategy is one of the most important ways that collectively we can support families through the tough times that they face and support their resilience and strengths within communities. Things might be tough but our Early Help approach means that there is someone there to support families at the right time.

Councillor Garry Bridges, Executive Member for Children and Young People



Introduction, Purpose and Vision

Early Help is collaboration and partnership-working across numerous agencies and stakeholders to identify need early and work together to support families as soon as possible.

The **purpose** of our Early Help Strategy is as a partnership to identify, agree, commit to and communicate how we, together, will intervene early and provide targeted support and interventions to our children, young people and families at the earliest opportunity to promote well-being, prevent issues from escalating, and improve the outcomes of our Manchester families.

"Early Help is intervening early and as soon as possible to tackle problems emerging for children, young people and their families or with a population most at risk of developing problems. Effective intervention may occur at any point in a child or young person's life"



Our **vision** is to create a community where every child and family can thrive, supported by a coordinated and effective Early Help system.

- ❖ Families, have access to co-ordinated Early Help in accordance with need as soon as difficulties are identified.
- ❖ The offer is personalised, multi-agency, and embedded within a Whole Family approach.
- ❖ Children and young people in these families will live safe, happy, healthy and successful lives.

Our Commitment - Our “contract” with our families in Manchester

- ✓ We will work together to help you and your family at the earliest opportunity, wherever is best for you and with whomever is best able to help you.



- ✓ We will help those who help you to be as good as possible, to be clear with you and to join up with others who support you more easily.



- ✓ We will listen to you, involve you and help you to prioritise what matters most to your family.



Our Approach

Early Help is a **collaborative** approach, not one provision or a service. In Manchester; it is a partnership between the City Council, local health agencies, schools, the voluntary, community and faith sectors and other organisations that aim to provide early support to families and children who may be experiencing difficulties.

Early Help is everybody's business.



With our strong focus on evaluation and **evidence-based decision-making** we know that early intervention can prevent problems from escalating and improve outcomes for our children and families. We focus on the **whole-family**, each having a **lead professional** who works with them to identify their **strengths** and needs and co-ordinates tailored support across a range of services to ensure **the Right Service at the Right Time**. This can include things like Parenting support, mental health services, and financial advice.

Key Principles of Early Help

There are **10** Early Help principles which underpin how we “do” Early Help in Manchester.

These have been endorsed by all partners and are the same principles which have underpinned our approach over the last 3 years.

These have helped ensure families and children are **safe, happy, healthy and successful**. Moreover, these principles are relevant to everyone and could be used in any offer of early help, at any age.

1. Take a strengths-based approach and be good listeners.
2. Think Family - Take a whole family and/or a whole household approach.
3. Mobilise the strength and resources of the community and develop a community-based Family Help model which

recognises the importance of supporting and promoting positive relationships within whole families.

4. An offer of early help will be accessible, at the first sign that people need help and delivered as close to home as possible – Right Intervention, Right Time, Right Place.
5. Support Manchester’s Early Help workforce and provide them with evidence-based tools to be confident when working with children, young people and their families in a trauma-informed way.
6. Support our workforce to develop strong and lasting, trusted, professional relationships with families, children and other professionals.
7. Simplify our approach using appropriate language and processes.
8. Safeguard and promote the health and wellbeing of children, young people and their families.
9. Independence is encouraged so people continue to be safe, happy, healthy and successful.
10. Early Help is everybody’s business.

How we will deliver these principles:

Encourage Family Feedback and Co-design

Our draft Participation and Engagement Strategy sets out our shared ambition that:

- I. Families are actively involved in shaping their own assessments and can identify what the most appropriate support to them looks like.
- II. We can evidence that we are capturing the voice of our children and acting on what they tell us.
- III. Our priorities are informed by the lived experience of our families and result in evidential improved delivery and outcomes for them.
- IV. We understand who our families are and are shaping the support we provide to best meet their needs, recognising the importance that different identities, lived experiences and values within our communities have on identifying needs and tailoring support appropriately.

We have invested in additional capacity to lead on the production of this strategy and will co-ordinate taking this programme of work forward and co-producing a delivery plan with all stakeholders to ensure the voice of the child and families is embedded across all areas of our partnership.

Our feedback and co-design programme is building on the momentum gained from 2022 Our Year - Building back better for Children & Young People and will be key to supporting our priority of becoming a **UNICEF Child Friendly city**

Building a safe,
happy, healthy
and successful
future for
children and
young people

Article 3: The best
interests of the child must
be a top priority in all
decisions and actions that
affect children

Article 19: Children have
the right to be protected
from all forms of violence,
abuse and neglect and
should be looked after
and kept safe

Article 31: Every child has
the right to relax, play and
take part in a range of
cultural and artistic
activities

Article 24: Every child has
the right to best possible
health

Article 29: Every child has
the right to an education
that develops your
personality, talents and
ability to the full

Shape a set of collective digital priorities

- I. Enhance our digital offer and identify a partnership solution for the recording and monitoring of partner Early Help Assessments.
- II. Develop an Early Help Performance Dashboard to reflect the breadth of preventative/early help services being delivered by our Early Help partnership across Manchester to inform our strategic decision-making.
- III. Invest in additional resources to enhance our data collection and reporting to ensure compliance with the new national requirements mandated in the Supporting Families Outcomes Framework. This includes evidencing that we are meeting the increasingly more challenging targets set for us by central government upon which much of our funding depends.
- IV. Continue to evolve our use of technology and improve digital inclusion and support.

Invest in our workforce to effectively deliver whole family working within a shared practice framework and locally agreed processes within our communities

- I. Support more partners in the Voluntary, Community and Faith sectors to co-deliver interventions providing early and timely support for families.
- II. Develop a more holistic understanding of what support exists in our local communities to better reflect the areas within which we work - an up-to-date directory of targeted services.
- III. Strengthen connectivity via neighbourhood working such as Bringing Services Together and Multi Agency Partnerships with Adult Services.

- IV. Commission training around key practice areas to develop the workforce, especially in relation to equality and diversity, domestic violence and abuse and neglect.
- V. Focus on Equity and Making Manchester Fairer.
- VI. Ensure the Early Help Hubs are integral to the delivery of the Family Hubs model through strategic alignment and leadership.
- VII. Review our Quality Assurance processes so we can identify where variation in practice exists and where more intensive partnership working is required.
- VIII. Develop Think Family initiatives and support embedding further the Thriving Babies, Confident Parents model.
- IX. Review our performance reporting so we are better able to evidence the breadth of early help work undertaken and support provided by all partners and agencies so challenges can be understood and appropriate support put in place to effect improvement.
- X. Improve inter-agency communication and sharing of information, across the breadth of current and new fora.
- XI. Improve Community Engagement and involvement in the evolution of service provisions.
- XII. Embed the Young Carers Strategy by developing a confident and knowledgeable workforce across our partnership who can identify and support the city's young carers and their families.

We are committed to making Manchester a UNICEF child friendly city by embedding the rights of the child and young people throughout our work.

Our Strengths

As a partnership we have achieved a lot since our last strategy was written:

- 140 Primary Schools, 127 of which were Good or Outstanding at the last inspection;
- 34 High Schools, 25 of which were Good or Outstanding at the last inspection;
- Strong collaboration with schools with a designated team supporting inclusion and alternative provision, school clusters which support local priorities and a parenting programme which is co-delivered with secondary school staff;
- Our ability to respond to the challenges presented by the pandemic demonstrates how well we can flex to do things differently and support more of our families whose needs have often increased and changed as a consequence of it;
- Our developing Family Hubs programme is engendering shared prioritisation and working with our partners to enable us to deliver our Early Years 0 to 5 strategy;
- Work across the partnership has been recognised as a strength; OFSTED described Early Help as a stable and effective service for children who require early intervention;
- Our Early Help offer is well co-ordinated and evidence of partnership participation in early intervention and prevention;
- Across the partnership early intervention and prevention are seen as a priority for many partners;
- The review of the current Homelessness strategy will have a strong focus on family need and early intervention and previous work is resulting in reduced numbers of families in Bed

and Breakfast accommodation and an improved offer of family support;

- The local offer for Children with additional needs is a strength with families sign-posted to the right services to meet their needs;
- Schools and education services have a focus on attendance and seek to support families to improve attainment and education stability;
- At a neighbourhood level the Think Family approach is promoted via Multi Agency Partnership meetings and Adults' Services are developing their own early help offer;
- There is a wealth of community services and the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector offer is strong with good connectivity into the Early Help hubs. For example, Manchester Mind, AFRUCA, Talbot House Safer Families For Children, Manchester Connect;
- There is an extensive offer for and wider awareness of young carers in the city with links to new partners and organisations, colleges and Further Education providers, Youth and Play, Health and other community settings.
- Our Year – 2022 was dedicated to celebrating and engaging with children and young people in Manchester and resulted in a programme of activities, opportunities and experiences to help children and young people build back stronger and reclaim their future and create a legacy.

Our Key Areas of focus Over the Next 3 Years

Delivering our National and Regional “Must Dos”:

- Put children’s rights into practice
- Start Well Strategy
- Anti-Poverty Strategy
- Making Manchester Fairer
- Children and Families Directorate Plan
- The Early Help Systems’ Guide
- Reform Investment Plans
- Supporting Families’ Outcomes Framework and meeting national targets
- Delivery of Family Hubs
- Become a UNICEF Child-Friendly City by ensuring all children have **a meaningful say in, and truly benefit from,** the local decisions, services and spaces that shape their lives.

Delivering our locally agreed areas of focus:

Family Engagement/Voice of the Child	Improve data systems and information sharing to better reflect the breadth of the early help offer across the partnership	Workforce Development
Put children’s rights into practice	Housing, homelessness and lack of affordability	Mental Health – parents, young people and children
Improve and support school-readiness, attendance and attainment	Family Help – develop Family Hubs and Thriving Families model	Domestic Violence and Abuse
Recognise and respond to Neglect	Poverty	Support our Young Carers
Meet our Supporting Families Outcomes Framework targets	Community Development	Serious Violence
Improve Health Outcomes	Armed Forces Covenant	Tackle inequalities, discrimination and disproportionality

How Did We Arrive at Our Key Areas of focus?

The starting point for this refresh of Manchester's Early Help Strategy was to take an 'Our Manchester' approach - engage, listen, co-design. This refreshed strategy is a culmination of the ideas and thoughts we have gathered through engaging, listening and co-designing and it will support the delivery of the FOUR 'Our Manchester, Our Children' priorities:

- Safe
- Happy
- Healthy
- Successful

These four priorities have been developed by Manchester's Children's Board.

Our engagement and co-design process consisted of:

- establishing a Partnership Reference Group which comprised of representatives from a broad range of our partner organisations to oversee the redesign process, including a review of the changes which had occurred since the strategy had been produced in 2018;
- benchmarking our Early Help system in Manchester against national standards of maturity to identify which elements of our system were least developed. The results from this exercise then informed where targeted development/improvement work was required;

- ensuring the design of our offer was informed by family feedback and engagement captured from a range of sources, including:
 - from families and young people at different points of their customer journey, including anonymous feedback following case closure;
 - surveys of the full spectrum of stakeholders: senior leaders, practitioners in all sectors, and specialists supporting the service in areas such as Information, Communication and Technology, data/information governance and research and intelligence and, of course, our families and young people;
 - analysis of compliments and complaints;
 - face-to-face engagement sessions.
- the legacy of Our Year 2022 - building on what young people told us leading to our candidature to become a Child Friendly City.

Following this programme of engagement, we held a workshop with partners across our Early Help partnership to share and review findings, agree strategic priorities and identify delivery and reporting/governance mechanisms. We further developed this work by identifying actions and agreed outcomes and mechanisms for how we will track progress and understand whether we are on track to deliver these.

How do we know this the right strategic approach for Manchester?

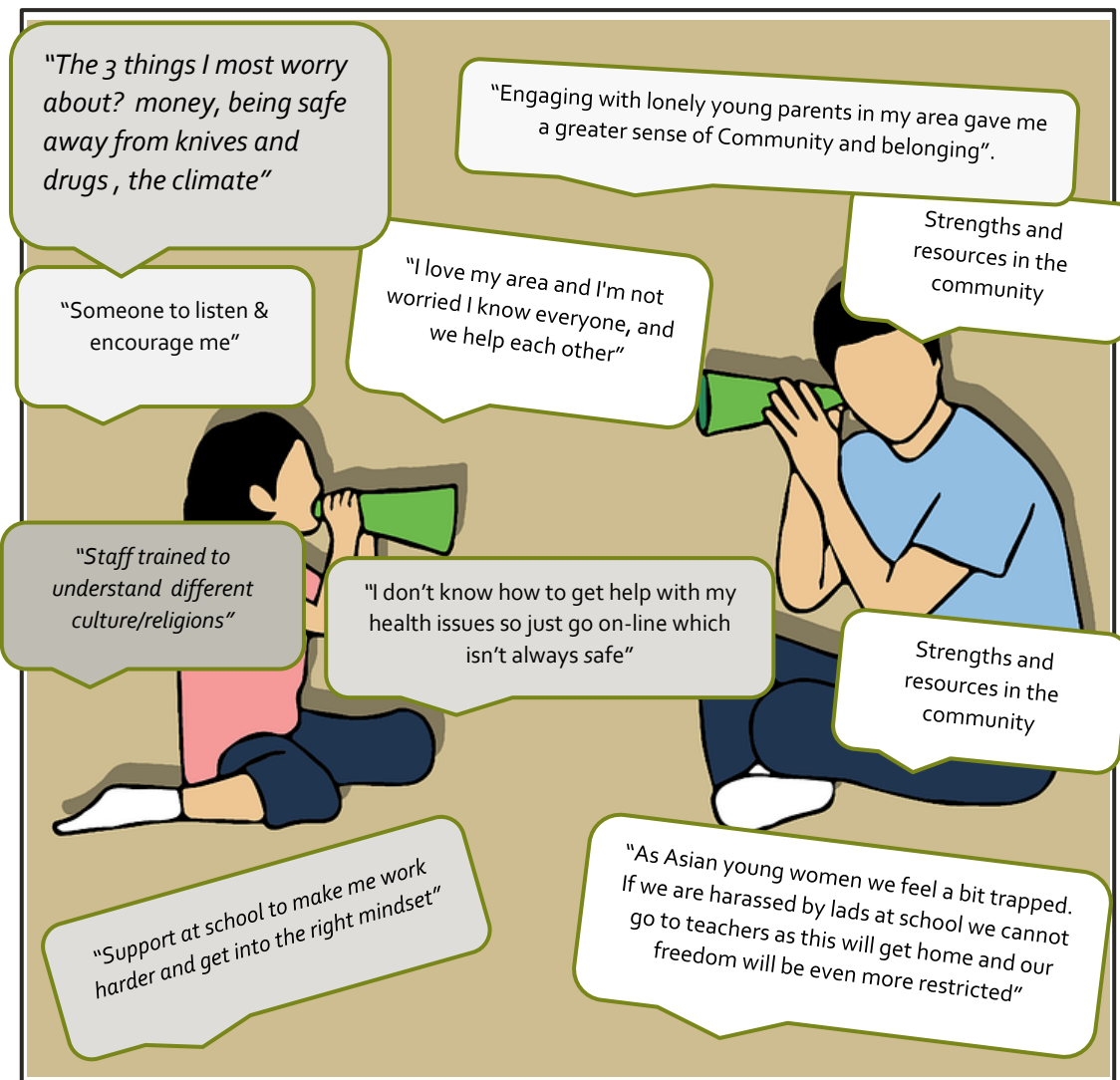
We have consulted and engaged with all key stakeholders in the Manchester system to ensure that our Early Help Strategy has been developed in true co-production. We have listened to and been informed by the breadth of feedback we have received to help us properly understand our strengths and weaknesses and where our practitioners, partners, families and young people would like us to focus over the next 3 years. We also reflected on the “must dos”, those areas which we are mandated to deliver and get right to meet central government requirements, such as increasing the numbers of families we support successfully, which means some of our priorities reflect the changes we will need to make so we can achieve these.

During this process we explored where our previous Early Help Strategy (2018 - 2022) had taken us, what it had achieved and, most importantly, what life is like for those receiving support in Manchester in 2022, given how much has changed since 2018.

Our 10 principles will continue to drive our approach to Early Help over the next 3 years. This strategy will seek to build upon and develop further the good work of the last 3 years.

It is our ambition to embed the UNICEF children's rights throughout our Early Help approach - to ensure that we develop our workforce in understanding and evidencing that everything we do is acting on the UNICEF rights of the child.

What you told us:



"There is a strong sense that the concept that Early Help is everybody's responsibility is understood and embedded but there is more we can do to promote strengths-based conversations as a universal approach to Early Help"

"I found the service really helpful and help me to get on track, this made such a difference to me and my children just having that same person to coordinate things I will always remember this".

"I think it's some of the work around youth justice, schools, through the safe work and education services around AP and the Safe Taskforce, where we need to do a little bit more in our preventative arm because there are specific groups of kids who fall foul of the system or find themselves in the wrong part of the system or too late when we could have pre-empted some of that, I'm thinking specifically youth justice and risks of exclusion or being excluded, and then finding themselves in alternative provision".

"We all were open and spoke together, and at times individually. All of our needs were spoken of and resolved as much as possible".

"I wouldn't be where I am without the support I have received - I tell everyone how Early help has supported me".

"We should be involving families in the design of services, we should have community champions, be providing work experience opportunities, link in with voluntary sector, have families on panels and ask children as well as adults what their feedback is".

"We had to tell many people our life stories. "

"once families have been advised/signposted they are able to navigate local services, this isn't always the case at the start of intervention with some families, once the family have been supported with this, they are able to do so for themselves going forward".

"I am not very good at using websites "

"We do not harness the 'talent and contribution of parents, carers and young people' in the way the SEND offer does for instance."

"Home start are a really positive example of the connectivity between voluntary and community sector activity, family networks and formal early help activity working well"

"Need to maximise our ability to safely share data across the system - focus on what we can do within current legislation, rather than what we can't and then make this happen"

Context of Early Help in Manchester in 2023

Whilst Manchester's economy has made strong progress since we produced our last Early Help Strategy in 2018 health and financial inequalities have deepened in recent years across different areas and demographic groups across the city, exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Overall, poorer residents and communities experiencing racial inequalities were more likely to experience more severe health and economic effects of COVID-19. Some of the consequences of the pandemic that have impacted upon the economy and resident outcomes include: widening inequalities in attendance and attainment in education and early years; increasing poverty, debt and income inequality; rising unemployment and economic inactivity (particularly for residents living in communities experiencing racial inequality, living in poorer neighbourhoods, and in insecure employment); deteriorating mental health for all age groups, but particularly for young people; (based on Experian datasets).

These legacy consequences, coupled with the current cost-of-living crisis, are resulting in people in need of support who would never have needed our help before. This is resulting in demand for our services increasing significantly. Presenting needs are revealing that more structural support is now needed, for example in relation to homelessness/appropriate temporary accommodation and mental health. These needs, in turn, are impacting on school attendance and attainment. Since 2020 the number of households assessed as threatened with homelessness or homeless rose by 25% and the total assessed as owed a duty rose by 23%.

Research, carried out by Loughborough University on behalf of The End Child Poverty Coalition, shows that:

across the North West the number of children living in poverty has risen by 5.4 percentage points since 2014/15 - compared to a one percentage point rise across the UK.

In Manchester **44.7% of all children and young people are living in poverty**, the equivalent of 13 children in a classroom of 30.

Manchester has the third highest child poverty rate in the country.

However, nationally, there is increasing recognition and investment in prevention and early help as the national inspection regimes now have a focus on Early Help in their Inspection of Local Authorities with Children's Services (ILACS) and Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI). Additional funding has also been invested as follows:

- **£5 million investment in Family Hubs/Best Start for Life 2023 – 2025**
- **£4.3 million Supporting Families in 2023/24**
- **£373,000 Turnaround Youth Justice funding in 23/24**
- **National Inspection regimes now have a focus on Early Help - ILACS and JTAI.**

What are the data telling us?

- In 2022/23, the Early Help Hubs received 11,716 requests for support from families. The Hubs provided direct advice at the first point of contact to nearly a third (32%) of these families, ensuring that they were provided with support which met their needs and prevented escalation into higher cost services. Over half of the families (54%) received a fuller intervention – 65% of whom received support from the Early Help Assessment or Intervention Teams in the hubs and 35% received support from a partner service.
- The number of Early Help Assessments in 2022/23 increased by 11% when compared to the previous year with 4,745 children receiving support. Thirty-nine percent of assessments were undertaken by partner agencies.
- Manchester's Supporting Families/Early Help Evaluation Report 2022 demonstrates a reduction in need across all presenting areas, with sustained impacts. Support has led to reduced need in social care (83% impact at Children In Need level, 74% impact at Child Protection level and 54% impact for Looked After children) and education (with average attendance rising from 85% at the start of intervention to 92% at 36 months post intervention).
- Investment in the Thriving Babies, Confident Parents team (MCC Early Help and Social Care, Home-Start, Barnardo's) has enabled the testing out of the Think Family approach. The pilot evaluation report undertaken by researchers from the Institute of Public Care at Oxford Brookes University confirmed that the

service has 'provided effectively engaging, multi-disciplinary and culturally attuned support for parents and families presenting with high risks and complex needs.' Year one analysis showed that out of 118 referrals, 100 babies remained in the care of their family and only 8 had become looked after. Families accessing this service previously had 81 babies removed from their care.

- Feedback from families is overwhelmingly positive about the service, with families really valuing the trusted relationships they build with practitioners, commenting on the non-judgemental and listening approach taken.

Presenting Needs

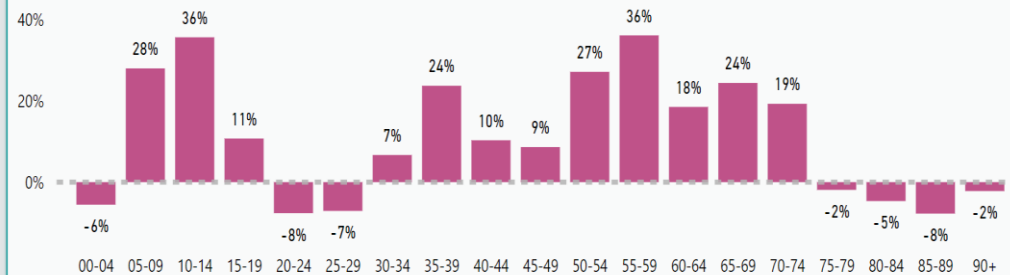
- Families are now requesting support who may not previously have approached us;
- Increase in families with parental mental health difficulties, child mental health and behaviour concerns and children with additional needs;
- Increase in poverty-related issues (need for food banks and help with day-to-day living expenses);
- Increase in families with housing related need and homelessness (unsuitable living arrangements and temporary accommodation, including Bed and Breakfasts);
- Concern about families with younger children (especially under 2s) and the impact of the pandemic – need to see daily lived environment resulting in earlier home visits for every request for support and links into the Early Years' offer.



Manchester's Population Change between 2011 and 2021 (Census/ONS)

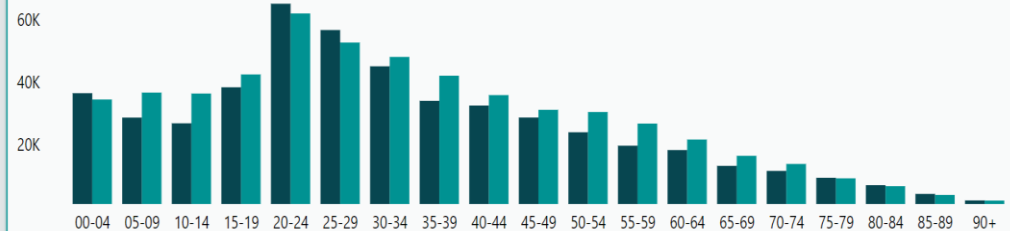
Manchester's Population By Age Groups 2021 (Census/ONS)

Population % Change by Age Group

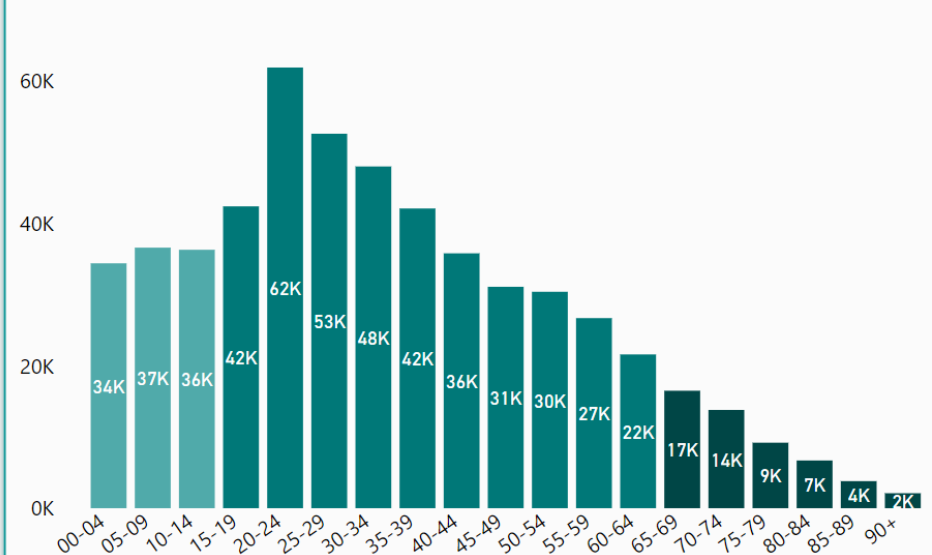


Population by Age Groups

Census Year ● 2011 ● 2021



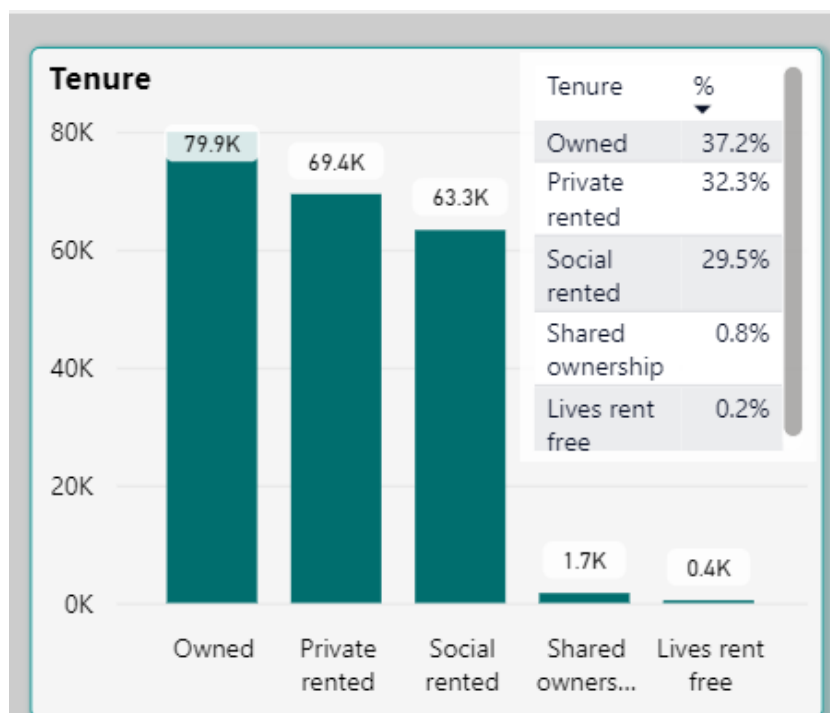
Population by age groups



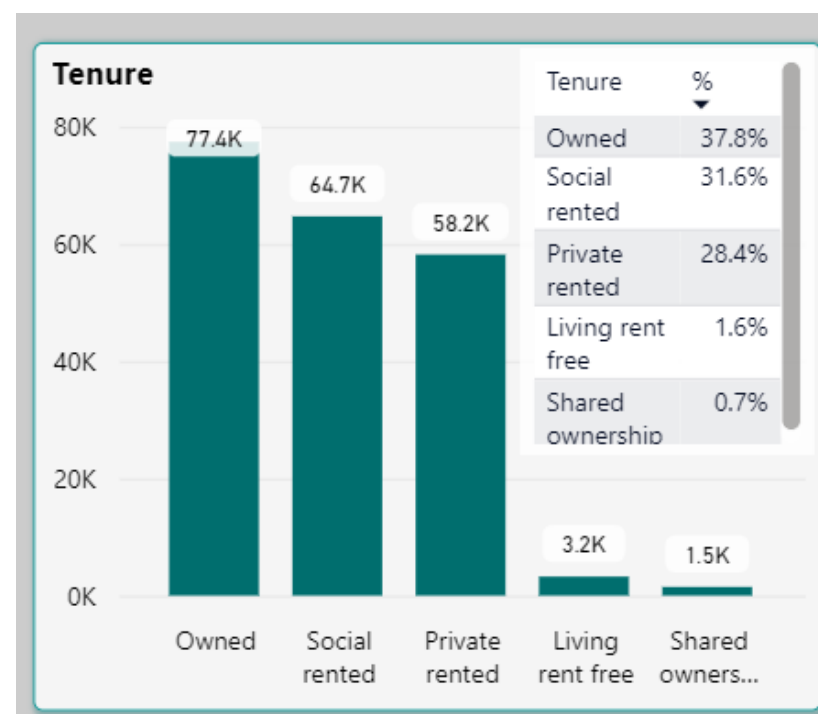
- Our population has grown by 48,900 between censuses, it was 503,100 in 2011.
- The largest increases between censuses have been in the 10-14 age group, rising by 9,500 and the 35-39 age group rising by 8,000.
- Proportionally, the 10-14 and 55-59 age groups have changed most, both growing by 36%.
- The median average age band is 30-34 years old, the median age is 31.
- The census recorded 214,700 households in Manchester.
- Based on census figures, there are 4,773 people per square kilometre.
- Census 2021 captured 94% of residents and 93% of households, based on ONS estimates.

Change in Housing Tenure in Manchester between 2021 and 2010 (Census/ONS)

2021 Census



2011 Census



Supporting Families Evaluation 2023

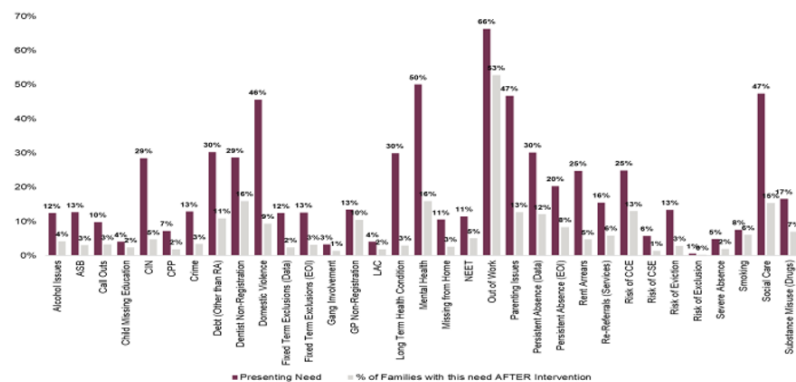
The evaluation is based on...

The evaluation captures intelligence from families that have been worked with from April 2015 – March 2022

Cohort	Number Evaluated (Outcome & Impact)		
	Intervention	EHA	Total
1. Presenting Needs	6,633 (45%)	8,240 (55%)	14,873
2. Impact at End of Intervention*	5,158 (45%)	6,325 (55%)	11,483
3. Impact at 12-months after EOI*	4,724 (46%)	5,606 (54%)	10,330

* Cases that have come to a 'Planned Ending'

Support has led to reduced needs



Where our Strategy Sits - Our Governance

- Manchester's Children's Board is comprised of representatives from the local authority, police, health, voluntary and community sectors and schools, who provide services to children, young people and their families. They each share a commitment to partnership working and improving the life chances of children and young people in our city. The Board also shares a common purpose to address institutional, budgetary, cultural and linguistic barriers to working together across traditional agencies with a common strategy to improve outcomes for children and young people. Manchester's Children's Board is a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- This strategy is owned and governed by Manchester's Children's Board. The Children's Board will scrutinise our progress on delivering agreed outcomes to be assured that our approach is robust. The operational delivery will be overseen by the multi-agency Early Help Operational Board as well as other relevant agency specific forums.
- Local partnership working groups have committed to work together to develop and implement a three year-multi-agency delivery plan which will translate our vision and shared priorities into tangible change at the grass-roots level, reflecting the priorities of their local communities. Each partner in Manchester's Early Help system is documenting the actions they commit to undertaking to support the system to meet its agreed objectives. This includes timescales for delivery and measures of success and impact. Monitoring of

progress will take place at a local delivery level via the Locality Early Help Network and Children's Social Care Partnership meetings (quarterly) where progress against actions will be tracked by partners and barriers/risks to progress identified.

- This plan will be overseen by the Early Help Operational Board who will track partnership progress quarterly. The Board is held to account by the Manchester Children's Board. Where progress against objectives is not on track reporting to the Children's Board will take place by exception.
- Through the Children's Board, the city owns the Early Help strategy and its delivery and is well placed to embed it across the organisations which make up the board.

How Are We Going to Deliver This?

- A Delivery plan which articulates our shared priorities has been developed. This identifies the key objectives relating to each of the agreed priority areas and the actions which will be undertaken to meet them. Measures of success and impact will quantify progress and identify owners for these actions; agreed timescales for delivery and review dates will provide transparency to the partnership and the Children's Board that we are on track to deliver our priorities.
- Each partner in Manchester's Early Help system has committed to document the actions they will undertake to support meeting the system's agreed objectives.
- Within Manchester City Council's Early Help Service actions and progress will be captured and monitored at a locality level

to ensure delivery appropriately reflects the diverse needs of local communities whilst supporting and aligning with the wider strategic priorities of the City.

- Monitoring of progress will take place at a local delivery level via the Locality Early Help Network and Children's Social Care Partnership meetings (quarterly) where progress against actions will be tracked by partners and barriers/risks to progress identified.
- Overall partnership progress will be tracked quarterly at the Early Help Operational Board, as per existing accountability and governance mechanisms.
- Progress will be reported bi-annually to the Children's Board.

Forward View

National policy changes resulting from the McAlister Review and the latest national Children's Social Care Strategy Stable Homes Built on Love have seen us respond to the launch of Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme in Manchester. This Early Help strategy recognises the enhanced opportunities for early intervention that these and those of the evolving Family Support and Thriving Families models offer in terms of further improving the outcomes of our families.

Manchester's candidature to become a UNICEF Child Friendly City states our commitment to advance children's rights and to work with UNICEF UK to put them into practice over the next 2 to 3 years.

Annex 1: Strategic Fit

The Early Help Strategy is intrinsically linked to the aims and priorities of many strategies and documents. The following have informed the development of the Early Help strategic approach in Manchester:

[Our Manchester Strategy - Forward to 2025](#)

[Manchester's Children and Young People's Plan 2020 – 2024](#)

[Building a UNICEF Child-Friendly City](#)

[Making Manchester Fairer: Anti-Poverty Strategy 2023-2027](#)

[Children and Young People Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#)

[Supporting Families Programme Guidance 2022 - 2025](#)

Manchester's Start Well Strategy

[Early Help Systems Guide - 2022](#)

Reform Investment Plan 2022

[Best Start for Life 1,001 Critical Days](#)

[Stable Homes, Built on Love – Implementation Strategy and Consultation](#)

[Build Back Fairer in Greater Manchester: Health Equity and Dignified Lives - report by Sir Michael Marmot](#)

[Reducing Parental Conflict - Promoting Positive Relationships in Manchester](#)

Manchester Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (Consultation)

Early Help is everyone's business.

For information on support services visit:

hsm.manchester.gov.uk

For practitioner support visit:

manchester.gov.uk/earlyhelppractitioner