

Manchester: A city where ambition meets impact

Manchester City Council is recruiting three transformative Adult Social Care leaders to help shape the future of a city that's rewriting the rules on public service innovation and inclusive growth

Among the UK's core cities, Manchester isn't just leading – it's setting the pace. With a bold and far-reaching transformation agenda, the city's momentum is matched only by its ambition. While economic growth and physical regeneration often grab the headlines, it's Manchester's unwavering commitment to inclusive growth – making sure every resident benefits from the city's success that truly defines its future. At the heart of this mission is a renewed focus on adult social care. Over the past few years, Manchester has been on a journey of transformation: stabilising services, increasing capacity, investing in its



workforce, and reducing waiting lists. The city has begun reshaping how support is delivered – shifting from crisis response to early intervention,

from fragmented care to joined-up support, and from systems-led thinking to what really matters to people.

One standout example is Manchester's reablement service, which helps people recover, regain independence, and return home safely after a crisis or hospital stay. It's an example of what good care looks like: empowering, person-centred, and focused on what matters to individuals and their families.

This progress owes much to the leadership of Bernie Enright, the outgoing Strategic Director of Adult Social Services, whose vision and compassion have laid strong foundations for the next phase of transformation. Now, the Council is looking for a new Strategic Director to build on that legacy and lead the next phase.

The Council is recruiting three senior leaders to help drive the next chapter of this transformation:

- Strategic Director of Adult Social Services (DASS)
- Director of Adult Social Care Commissioning and Transformation
- Director of Adult Social Care Operations

These are career-defining opportunities in public service. You'll be joining a council with a formidable track record, a high-performance culture, and a clear, shared ambition to reduce inequality and improve outcomes for residents.

Tom Stannard, Chief Executive of

Manchester City Council, believes the timing couldn't be better: 'We've got a refreshed senior leadership team, strong political support, and a clear, shared ambition. As our new Strategic Director of Adult Social Services, you'll be joining at a pivotal moment. The opportunity is significant and so is the responsibility. You'll shape the future of a critical service, at a time of growing complexity, increasing demand, and high public profile.'

Manchester's adult social care services already have a strong foundation, recognised nationally. But as Tom puts it: 'The transformation story so far is just the tip of the iceberg. We're building on success, not starting from scratch.'

'That transformation is underpinned by a robust and sustainable budgetary approach, ensuring adult social care remains well-resourced and supported. It's created the conditions for innovation, integration, and real impact.'



Tom Stannard – Chief Executive, Manchester City Council

A key strength is Manchester's partnership with the NHS. The Manchester Local Care Organisation – a joint structure between the Council, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Greater Manchester Mental Health Foundation Trust, and the Manchester Primary Care Partnership – delivers a preventative, community-focused model that's both integrated and responsive.

This is Manchester's way: collaborative, bold, and always people-first.

'You'll be joining a highly motivated, committed workforce,' says Tom. 'We're looking for leaders who can build on that strength, keep people inspired, and bring a strong regional, if not national, reputation in social care.'

The recruitment process reflects the importance of these roles. The Strategic Director (DASS) will be appointed first and will help shape the appointments of the other two directors, ensuring alignment, shared purpose, and a strong leadership team from day one.

For the right candidates, this is more than a job. It's a chance to shape the future of adult social care in one of the UK's most ambitious and values-driven cities.

Whether you're shaping strategy, driving transformation, or leading operations, you'll be part of a team that's redefining what adult social care can achieve in a modern, inclusive city. ■

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£111,669 – £123,071

Manchester is a city that defines innovation, energy and ambition. Known around the world for its culture, sporting success and diversity, it's also a place where local government has shaped national policy and pushed the boundaries of what's possible. From pioneering transport reform to integrating health and social care, Manchester City Council has consistently led from the front.

Now, as we enter the next stage of our journey, we're seeking three outstanding leaders to shape the future of Adult Social Care in our city. These roles provide a unique platform to deliver transformation at scale and affect the lives of thousands of residents.

This is about more than managing services – it's about reimagining what Adult Social Care can be. You'll play a pivotal role in driving forward innovation, furthering the importance of health in our services, building purposeful partnerships across the city, and leading a highly motivated workforce. You'll also contribute to the national conversation about the future of social care, ensuring Manchester continues to be seen as a beacon of ambition and achievement.

We're looking for visionary leaders with the authority, creativity and resilience to operate at the highest levels. You'll bring a track record of impact and improvement, a commitment to inclusion, and the ability to inspire confidence in colleagues, politicians, partners and communities. Above all, you'll share our determination that every resident in Manchester has the opportunity to live the best life possible.

For further details, visit: leadinginmanchester.co.uk

For an informal conversation, please contact our recruitment partners at Starfish Search:

Tom Ripley
07701 217 520 or tom.ripley@starfishsearch.com

Tim Farr
07756 293 292 or tim.farr@starfishsearch.com

Closing date: Sunday 9 November 2025



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