

- **Creative**
- **Engagement**
- Partnership for Young People

Creative and collaborative solutions to backing youth and play during and after COVID-19

**PHASE 2: SUMMER 2020**



# ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP

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The Creative Engagement Partnership for Young People was established in March 2020 by organisations providing outstanding opportunities for children and young people in Manchester through youth work, play, arts, culture, heritage and sport during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is an informal partnership addressing three core challenges for the youth and play sector:

1. **Safety of young people** – how can we support young people to be safe and healthy (physically and mentally) in the coming months and in the long term
2. **Business continuity** – how can organisations ensure that they can stay in business, with significant financial and contractual challenges ahead, and secure their long-term future
3. **Business transformation** – how can organisations change what they are doing to meet need with restrictions on usual delivery models, using their assets and expertise, and adapt to medium and long-term challenges

We recognise that addressing all three challenges in a creative, ambitious, strategic and coordinated way is critical to ensuring the strength, vibrancy and sustainability of the sector, and ultimately ensuring positive outcomes for the city's children and young people. We are seeking contributions from a broad range of organisations drawing on practice and partnerships from across all sectors, including arts and sports, in addition to youth and play, and connecting to business.

The partnership, and its work, is constantly growing and evolving, meeting the needs of children and young people and the sector, and ensuring that this work is aligned to wider activity locally, regionally and nationally. Phase 2 of the partnership's work covers the summer period, until September 2020.

Engagement with the sector and wider stakeholders is ongoing, and will shape future activity. The partnership is supported and administered by Young Manchester, but not led by them.

For more information please contact [enquiries@vounamanchester.org](mailto:enquiries@vounamanchester.org)



# WORK STREAMS

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The partnership has established a number of activities and work streams to address the three identified challenges. These work streams have focused on:

- Sharing learning, guidance and best practice
- Sharing opportunities for children and young people
- Providing clear routes for referral and support (for young people and the sector)
- Supporting new joint projects and initiatives
- Ensuring a legacy to work, development and learning

Each work stream has a lead partner, supported by a working group of partners. Implementation of each work stream is coordinated centrally by Young Manchester, with support from infrastructure partners including Manchester City Council, Macc and Curious Minds.

## **A note on our approach:**

Our communities and organisations are our greatest asset – whilst activity under this partnership will focus on meeting need (as it should within the current context), it must be framed by a strengths-based approach and harnessing the assets of the sector, and importantly of children and young people themselves.

We must ensure that our work continues to be framed by our core principles of youth work, partnership, collaboration and young people's voices.



# WORK STREAMS (cont)

In July 2020 the work streams were reviewed, in light of the changing context faced by children, young people and families, the shifting environment for youth and play work delivery, and the priorities identified by young people, partners and other stakeholders. From July 2020, the following work streams are active:

WORK STREAM	OUTCOMES	NOTES
<p>1. Online Platform</p> <p>(led by Young Manchester, with MCC Youth Strategy Team leading on the summer offer)</p>	<p>Children, young people, their families and the sector are better informed and supported through centralised collation and dissemination of tool, resources, materials and information</p>	<p>Manchester’s central hub is now live at <a href="http://hub.youngmanchester.org">hub.youngmanchester.org</a></p> <p>A database of summer provision is also available, via MCC, and accessible via the hub</p>
<p>2. Arts sector/youth sector exchange</p> <p>(led by the Strategic Lead for Arts and Culture – Contact)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve exchange of best practice activities and techniques between arts and youth sectors (CPD)</li> <li>2. Signposting for pastoral support for arts and youth workers The Youth &amp; Arts sectors working together to prepare young people for the transition from lock-down.</li> <li>3. A collaborative skills sharing platform across both sectors that can last beyond the crisis.</li> </ol>	<p>The city’s new Strategic Lead for Arts and Culture in youth work (Contact) will lead the development of this area of work over the summer and autumn, linking closely to wider networks including the Manchester Cultural Education Partnership (MCEP) and Participation Network.</p>



# WORK STREAMS (cont)

WORK STREAM	OUTCOMES	NOTES
3. Referrals and crisis support (led by MCC Youth Strategy Team)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ensure that the most up to date information on support available to children, young people and their families is available, via a range of means</li><li>2. Ensure that all professionals working with young people are aware of MSP referral processes, with up to date contact numbers</li></ol>	Partner are exploring the potential for a permanent group to cover this area of work, including the remit of the group and alignment to wider support and services including safeguarding, ACEs, wider children's services.
4. Communications (led by Greater Manchester Youth Network)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ensure key messages from the sector are communicated to stakeholders</li><li>2. Ensure support, provision and activities are communicated effectively to show the Manchester offer</li><li>3. Young people's voices are being heard</li><li>4. The importance of youth work is showcased and seen by stakeholders</li></ol>	<p>A permanent youth sector communications group for the city is being established, and resources secured to ensure that it is effective and inclusive, and is at the forefront of communications and engagement work in the city.</p> <p>If you would like to get involved please email Alex on <a href="mailto:alex.fairweather@gmyn.co.uk">alex.fairweather@gmyn.co.uk</a></p>



# WORK STREAMS (cont)

WORK STREAM	OUTCOMES	NOTES
<p>5. Inclusion and Access  (led by Young Manchester)</p>	<p>That all children and young people in Manchester, are, and feel, included as full citizens of the city and all physical and digital opportunities are available to them, not matter that barriers that they face (which are our fault, not theirs).</p>	<p>A permanent Inclusion and Access group for the city is being established, and resources secured to ensure that it is effective and inclusive, and is at the forefront and inclusion work in the city.</p> <p>This work would closely align to Strategic Lead work (led by GMYN) and the MCC Inclusion Strategy work, including connecting the VCSE sector to education and supporting Post-16 work.</p>
<p>6. Funding and Fundraising  (led by Young Manchester)</p>	<p>The youth and play sector is adequately and effectively resourced to meet the needs of children and young people now and in the future</p>	<p>Strategic oversight of fundraising across the city is supported by the Sector Leaders Group, with connections from that group into geographical and thematic partners.</p> <p>YM will continue to explore opportunities for partnership projects and consortiums at a local and national level.</p> <p>The creation of a 'Youth and Play fundraisers group' is being explored.</p>



# WORK STREAMS (cont)

WORK STREAM	OUTCOMES	NOTES
7. Leadership Development and support (led by Young Manchester)	Youth and Play sector leaders are supported to address individual, organisational and collective challenges in the current climate	<p>A new Leadership Development Programme for the youth and play sector is currently being piloted. This should be a permanent element of the offer to the sector.</p> <p>Opportunities to expand this work will be explored, with a specific emphasis on supporting 'emerging leaders' and increasing the diversity and presentation of VCSE and wider leadership positions in the city.</p>
8. Staff Wellbeing (led by Young Manchester)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Our colleagues understand that wellbeing is a priority</li><li>2. Our colleagues know what options are available to them to help them to be proactive about their wellbeing</li><li>3. Our colleagues know what support is available to them when things are not going well.</li><li>4. Organisations and leaders are better able to support their staff because of our collective effort in this area</li></ol>	<p>A staff wellbeing package for the sector is currently being completed and will be delivered over the summer.</p> <p>Staff wellbeing will be a permanent element of the offer to the sector, supported by Young Manchester.</p> <p>Current work will be reviewed and an ongoing programme of work in this area agreed and resourced.</p>



# WORK STREAMS (cont)

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WORK STREAM	OUTCOMES	NOTES
9. Learning, legacy and future proofing (led by Young Manchester)	Activities, outcomes and learning from this period inform our future practice, including strategy and funding for the youth and play sector in Manchester	A specific project will be developed and agreed over the summer to support ongoing learning from this period and activity delivered by youth and play partners, and ensure that a legacy is created.
10. New projects (led by Young Manchester)	That all children and young people in the city have access to quality opportunities, which are shaped by them and support them through this period and beyond	This work stream will not be supported by a formal group, but Young Manchester will provide opportunities for youth and play partners to connect, share learning and ideas, development partnership projects and explore funding opportunities.



## WORK STREAMS (cont)

WORK STREAM	OUTCOMES	NOTES
<p>11. Detached Youth Work (led by M13)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Young people are safeguarded (safety at home, on the streets, food and financial poverty);</li> <li>2. Young people have good health and mental well-being;</li> <li>3. Young people understand COVID-19, national and local issues, responses and safety measures, their own feelings and the impacts of their actions;</li> <li>4. Young people are not criminalised through their presence on the streets;</li> <li>5. Young people are engaged in safe, positive activities both outdoors (within guidelines) and indoors</li> </ol>	<p>The detached youth work group will continue, supported by the Strategic Lead for detached youth work in the city (M13) and linking to related programmes of work including the summer programme and violence impacting on children and young people.</p> <p>Detached youth work remains a priority for the sector, both in developing good practice and securing significant additional investment.</p>
<p>12. Summer Programme (led by MCC Youth Strategy Team)</p>	<p>Children and young people have access to high quality opportunities that help them to be happy, healthy and safe over the summer period.</p>	<p>MCC Youth Strategy team have coordinated a city-wide offer for children and young people, bringing together work across youth and play, arts and culture, leisure, parks, libraries and more.</p> <p>The full offer is available via the MCC website and <a href="http://hub.youngmanchester.org">hub.youngmanchester.org</a></p>



# STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

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## Scope and reach

Whilst the partnership is focused on the city of Manchester, and supporting children and young people in the city, we would welcome support and partnership from across Greater Manchester, the North West and beyond.

## Connection to wider opportunities

We hope that this partnership will provide a framework for wider collaboration and investment, allowing Young Manchester and partners to engage funders and supporters with a specific offer that meets local need. Plans for local and national emergency funds are underway, and we know funders are exploring options for supporting the sector. This partnership seeks to compliment that work, not compete with it or add additional layers of bureaucracy between the VCSE sector and funding opportunities.

## Legacy

This partnership is here for the long term. Whilst the focus for the partnership is on direct and immediate support to organisations and the young people they serve, it is also important for the work to support long-term sustainability.

Secondary outcomes should include creating capacity, capability, networks and resources within the sector that will benefit children and young people in the future, well beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Inclusion and access

We have establish a work stream for inclusion and access, but this area of work is also cross cutting, and should be considered in all work undertaken through the partnership, ensuring that our work is available to all.



# ONLINE PLATFORM

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Our central online platform is now live – [hub.youngmanchester.org](https://hub.youngmanchester.org)

We have established one central online space to share information, guidance, best practice and opportunities (using the information gathered and developed through the work streams above).

It is not a replacement for specialist sites or the work of individual organisations, but provides further opportunities to collate and promote best practice and the great work happening across the city.

The platform covers the following:

- **Advice and guidance** – national and local official guidance for the sector, including sector specific advice e.g. from NYA
- **Digital youth work and safeguarding** – guidance, best practice and advice on engaging young people online
- **Projects and activities** – promoting work happening across the city for children and young people, as a resource for young people, families and others (e.g. schools)
- **Referrals and support** – signposting to services and provision still available
- **Funding** – an overview of funding opportunities for the sector, locally and nationally



# THE PARTNERS



