

## **MANCHESTER JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2015/16**

### **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (STARTING WELL AND DEVELOPING WELL)**

#### **CHAPTER: The Local Context**

##### **Introduction to the Children and Young People's JSNA**

Giving every child the best start in life is crucial to reducing health inequalities across the life course. What happens before and during pregnancy, in the early years and childhood can have a life long effect on many aspects of health and wellbeing in adulthood, from obesity, heart disease, mental health, educational achievement and economic status. Opportunities to offer additional support and care at key stages such as prior to conception, during pregnancy and in the early years can significantly improve outcomes.

Effective partnership working is essential in improving health outcomes for children and young people. Tackling health inequalities, improving the wider determinants of health such as deprivation, child and family poverty, housing and education, and having a prevention and early help focus throughout all programmes of work will improve health outcomes.

Children and families should be supported as early as possible. Partners in Manchester should continue to work hard together to ensure that the right services are delivered at the right time to really make a difference.

The vision for services for Children and Families in Manchester is that we will:

- Keep children safe, healthy, aspiring and achieving, so they are able to enjoy and contribute to Manchester's future success
- Narrow the gap for vulnerable children and young people
- Support families to be independent and resilient, bringing up their own children wherever possible (challenge the cycle of low aspiration, deprivation, abuse and neglect)
- Ensure that high quality alternative care is provided for children who need it when this is the safest and best option for them.

[\(A Vision for Services for Children and Families in Manchester 2015\)](#)

It is important to constantly review and assess the needs of our population and use our learning and knowledge from this to ensure that services are reviewed, commissioned and provided to meet those needs. A mix of universal services (services for everyone) and targeted services (services for those most in need), is required to improve health outcomes and tackle health inequalities in Manchester.

There is a sound economic case for investing in prevention and good support in the early years. Investing in the early years will yield returns in the future and will contribute to avoiding the human and economic costs associated with adverse childhood and adult life experiences.

[The Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer in 2012 \(2013\)](#) estimated the costs of dealing with a range of health and social care problems as follows:

- Youth unemployment - £133m a week
- Youth crime - £1.2 billion per year
- Educational underachievement - £22 billion per generation
- One year in children residential home - £149,240
- One year in foster care - £35,152
- Admission to inpatient Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS) – £24,482

A shift in approach to preventative measures in child health will therefore have a profound impact on children's lives and save money in both the long and short term.