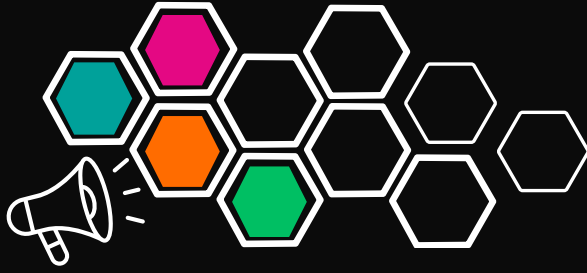


**RECLAIM**



# **LISTEN UP!**

A Greater Manchester Youth  
Manifesto for Change

**GREATER MANCHESTER'S YOUNG  
PEOPLE DESERVE TO BE LISTENED TO,  
NOT JUST HEARD.**



# RECLAIM

## LISTEN UP!

A Greater Manchester Youth Manifesto for Change

**This manifesto has been developed and designed by working-class young people aged 14-17 across Greater Manchester.**

**RECLAIM is a youth campaigns charity that is committed to building a fair and just world for and with all working-class young people.** They build knowledge, power, community and solidarity with working-class young people to campaign on the issues that affect them the most.



# RECLAIM

As young mancunians we take pride in our history, our diversity and our achievements. We work hard and we stick together.

But the future is increasingly harder for working-class young people. Politicians blame everyone but themselves, but it is time for them to take accountability. We want them to listen to us, learn from us and invest in solutions shaped by us.

That accountability starts in Greater Manchester. We want to see Our Pass extended for all 11-16 year olds. We want more youth spaces and green spaces so we can grow together. And we want an education that equips us for more than just the workplace.

There are over 898,000 young people under 25 living in Greater Manchester and we all should be entitled to the same opportunities, regardless of our postcode. The Mayor of Greater Manchester has the power to make that happen.

Many of us don't have a voice in this election, but we want a mayor who will invest in working-class young people now.

**We take pride in Greater Manchester, let Greater Manchester take pride in our future.**

**LISTEN UP!**

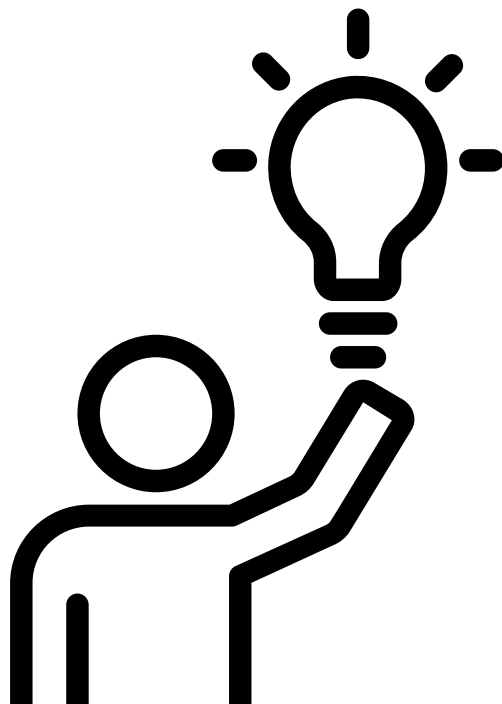
A Greater Manchester Youth Manifesto for Change

## EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS

Our education system doesn't teach us the skills we need for life. One size doesn't fit all, and the current curriculum doesn't support us to build critical skills to deal with real world problems.

**77 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION BELIEVE IT'S TIME TO RETHINK THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION AND CHANGE THE SYSTEM.**

77 percent of the population believe it's time to rethink the purpose of education and change the system. We know that national change is needed, but we believe that some of that change needs to be directed locally.



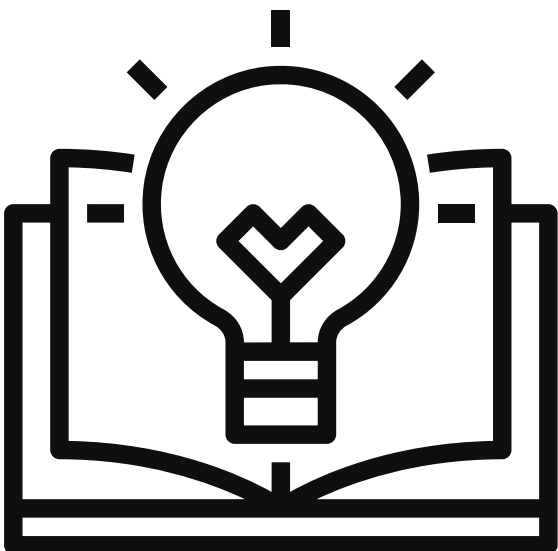
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Whether you choose a vocational or academic route, all young people should be entitled to develop and apply critical thinking skills which help us to more deeply engage with the world around us.

- **Ensure there is an equal entitlement delivered for critical thinking and citizenship learning embedded in EBacc and proposed MBacc routes.**

We know that some of our best learning doesn't happen inside schools and that there is increased pressure on schools and colleges to deliver for young people. We want more applied and diverse ways of learning the skills we need for life outside of the classroom, and we want those opportunities to be accessible to all working-class young people.

- **Invest in more opportunities across the region for young people to access external activities that develop their skills, knowledge and confidence and support them to learn core life skills.**



## SPACE

Greater Manchester has a vibrant social scene, but none of it is for us. The lack of diverse and accessible spaces means that 40 percent of all Year 10 students in Greater Manchester feel there are no good places for young people to spend their free time.

“ —

**1 IN 5 YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DISENGAGED FROM PARTICIPATION IN ARTS, CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT, WITH THE MAJORITY OF THOSE IN WORKING-CLASS COMMUNITIES.**

— ”

As young people we want access to spaces that are ours. Spaces that feel safe, that support our mental well-being and build our experiences. There aren't enough youth spaces for us to access, and those that exist are often on the outskirts of communities and inaccessible.

- **Invest in more youth centres and youth provision, ensuring each borough has what it needs including youth spaces within city and town centres.**
- **Ensure young people across our communities are supported in the planning, design and delivery of youth provision.**
- **Develop a digital resource for young people in Greater Manchester that allows us to see what youth services and activities are available.**



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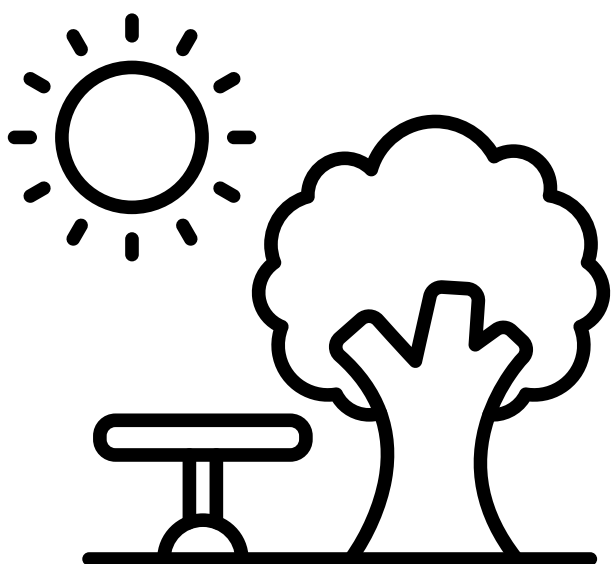
The activities on offer don't reflect the diversity of cultures and interests of working-class young people in Greater Manchester. 1 in 5 young people are disengaged from participation in arts, culture and entertainment, with the majority of those in working-class communities.

- **Provide support for a broad range of arts, cultural and entertainment activities accessible for all young people.**

There is little green space for young people to socialise outside safely and autonomously. We want spaces where we can relax, play and wind down.

- **Introduce a 'youth green space quota' ensuring that young people in each borough have an equal right to green space both now and in any future planning.**

“ —  
AS YOUNG PEOPLE WE  
WANT ACCESS TO SPACES  
THAT ARE OURS. — ”



# RECLAIM



## TRANSPORT

Every young person in Greater Manchester should be able to access affordable, efficient and safe transport regardless of where they live. We want to access every bit of the region to socialise, study and work, but for many of us and our families the regular cost can be too much.

We know transport is improving in Greater Manchester through the creation of the Bee Network, but we want a Mayor who will build on the success of Our Pass and commit to improving public transport for young people.

- **Extend the Our Pass scheme to all 11 - 16 year olds in Greater Manchester.**
- **Ensure Our Pass covers trams and local train journeys.**
- **Develop bus routes that make it easier for young people to access youth provision across the region.**
- **Invest in creating a safer public transport system through better infrastructure and enabling bystander support.**

“

WE WANT A MAYOR WHO WILL BUILD ON THE SUCCESS OF OUR PASS AND COMMIT TO IMPROVING PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.



“ —  
WE WANT GREATER  
MANCHESTER TO SET THE  
STANDARD FOR HOW  
POLITICS SHOULD BE DONE.  
— ”

## A BETTER POLITICAL CULTURE

The biggest barrier for young people engaging in politics is politicians. The UK's toxic political culture of dishonesty and unaccountability, and the lack of transparency from political leaders means that as young people politics feels hopeless. We want Greater Manchester to set the standard for how politics should be done.

- **Invest in education programmes that explain how politics works and supports young people to engage in decision making within the Combined Authority.**
- **Ensure that political decisions are communicated accessibly and transparently to young people across Greater Manchester.**



## WE ASK THE NEXT CANDIDATE TO....

- Ensure equal entitlement delivered for critical thinking and citizenship learning embedded in EBacc and proposed MBacc routes.
- Invest in more opportunities across the region for young people to access external activities that develop their skills, knowledge and confidence and support them to learn core life skills.
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**IT'S TIME TO LISTEN UP TO  
GREATER MANCHESTER'S  
YOUNG PEOPLE!**



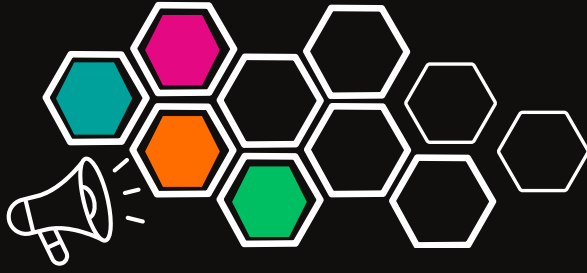
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**RECLAIMproject**



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**<https://www.reclaim.org.uk/listen-up>**



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