Data Fellowship Project 2024

Manchester City Council – What works for school readiness? Evaluating interventions in the early years

Organisation and Team

Manchester City Council – PLACE Team, Performance, Research, and Intelligence

Application Criteria

Essential:

- Problem Solver, Curious Investigator and Self-Motivated
- Understanding of Qualitative Methods
- Ability to find & summarise existing evidence/examples/learning
- Confident communicator
- Good ICT skills (standard Microsoft)
- Mapping skills
- Data visualisation

Desirable:

- Experience of complex quantitative analysis
- Cluster analysis
- Interest in education
- Able to explain complex information concisely

Project Outline

The COVID-19 pandemic considerably affected our youngest and most disadvantaged residents considerably and the 2022 cohort in Manchester experienced the one of greatest drops in the proportion of children assessed as 'school ready'. For our most disadvantaged children, this gap increased further. A children's 'Kickstarter' scheme was prioritised for investment and to help to fill gaps created by the pandemic. A 3-tier support offer delivered by a collaborative task force of services to provide universal support and interventions for children and families in early years was devised and implemented across Primary Schools in Manchester

Using both routinely collected and novel data sets, this project will evaluate the effectiveness of this three-tiered approach, both in terms of the outcomes for children and financially.

The evaluation will compare the three differing approaches to understand which the necessary and contingent elements are to effect this change. The project will also aim to identify and understand any existing barriers (geographical, social, cultural or other) which may affect participation in the intervention. The final evaluation will identify recommendations for further practices.

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Practical Considerations

The successful applicant will be expected to work primarily at the Town Hall Extension, although the opportunity will be hybrid with a laptop provided for the duration of the placement and some working will be done remotely, provided the successful candidate is able to provide assurance around the suitability of their remote-working location

Selection Method

Interviews

Supporting Information

The successful candidate should be comfortable with using the standard suite of Microsoft 365 software. It is expected that the majority of the initial research aspect of the project will be undertaken using Microsoft Excel to manipulate data and identify potential lines of enquiry. Experience of using mapping software would be highly desirable. It is also expected that a final presentation of the completed project findings will be delivered to senior stakeholders in the organisation using Microsoft PowerPoint.

Support and Training

In-house training and support will be provided, for all aspects of Excel and PowerPoint that will be essential to complete this work, although a minimum level of proficiency with both pieces of software would be expected of the successful applicant. Support and training will also be provided for use of any additional platforms/systems required for use during the project.