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GM POLICY HUB

GM Policy Hub update

May 2025

Paul Waugh MP visit

We were delighted to welcome one of our Greater Manchester MPs to campus last month. Paul Waugh, MP for Rochdale, visited The University of Manchester and spoke with four academics about their local-focussed research.

Professor Neil Humphrey discussed #BeeWell data on young people's wellbeing, noting high levels of optimism in Rochdale's young people.

Dr Luke Munford spoke on health inequalities and community resilience in Rochdale, recommending that health should be included in all policies.

Professor Rose Broad outlined research on the abuse women runners face in the area, suggesting that women runners must be treated as a distinct group when tackling violence against women and girls.

Dr Marianne Sensier discussed research surrounding investment in Rochdale, sharing the need for a shared narrative for Rochdale and Atom Valley, and the need for improved physical infrastructure and social capital to increase productivity.



A photograph of four young people walking away from the camera on a grassy path. From left to right: a girl with a red and black plaid backpack, a boy in a grey hoodie, a girl with a blue backpack, and a boy with a black bag. They are walking towards a line of green trees in the background.

New briefing note on young people's wellbeing

The OECD has ranked the UK's young people fourth from bottom across nearly 74 countries in terms of life satisfaction. Adolescent wellbeing is a predictor of school attainment, adult mental health, relationships, and socioeconomic outcomes.

In partnership with the GM Policy Hub, the Social Market Foundation has released a briefing note on the #BeeWell research project, titled *#BeeWell: The state of young people's mental health in England*.

This briefing details how successful #BeeWell has been in improving young people's sense of belonging, and calls for a wellbeing measurement programme to be included in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill.

[Read the briefing here.](#)

Upcoming seminar | Against the clock: Delivering local climate change targets | 11 June

In May, we held our GM Policy Hub seminar, *'Attending to absence: Supporting schools to increase school attendance.'* We heard from Professor Caroline Bond and Dr Matthew Fletcher, an educational psychologist at Wirral Council.

Join us at our next seminar on Wednesday, 11 June which will explore how local authorities can set, review, and address their climate change targets.

Dr Chris Jones, Knowledge Exchange Fellow at The Tyndall Centre, and Samantha Nicholson, Director of Manchester Climate Change Agency will explore and discuss how local authorities can evolve their response to climate change targets in a new and changing context.

[Register now.](#)



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