

Manchester City Council - Community Cohesion Metrics

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Help the Council understand how “community cohesion” is measured in local government, and propose a practical approach we could adopt.

Two routes (depending on your interest and time):

- B1: Rapid review/scoping review of how local authorities and similar organisations measure community cohesion (UK and relevant international examples).
- B2: Prototype “Community Scorecard Toolkit” (an outline toolkit: indicators, suggested data sources, survey questions, and reporting template).

This could involve:

- Search and summarise academic and practitioner sources on community cohesion measurement.
- Identify usable indicator sets (quantitative + qualitative).
- Recommend a “minimum viable” cohesion measurement approach for a local authority setting.
- Optionally create a simple toolkit outline (templates + guidance) if time allows.

Expected outputs by the end:

- A rapid review report (short, practical, with key findings and recommendations).
- A draft measurement framework (indicators + data sources).
- Optional: a prototype Community Scorecard Toolkit outline (templates/guidance).

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS



Organisation and Team

Performance, Research and Intelligence



Working Arrangement

Hybrid



Selection Method

Interviews will be held in person
(at the University of Manchester)

SUPPORT AND TRAINING

- 1-1 supervisions/mentoring and shadowing colleagues 'on the job' rather than formal teaching.
- We would like the student to be part of the team for their placement and work alongside the multi-disciplinary team in Performance, Research and Intelligence - where possible we would also encourage the student to sit in on some relevant meetings, observe a council committee and perhaps a site visit some front line council services in community settings.
- If possible given the subject matter we will arrange time for the student to interact with colleagues in Crime & Community Safety, Public Health, Equality & Inclusion.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

ESSENTIAL

- Good written and verbal communication skills.
- Able to carry out a literature review online, identifying credible sources.
- Digital literacy and confident with Excel and Powerpoint - and interpreting simple statistics.
- Able to manage and plan own workload as part of a team.
- Willingness to learn the Local Government context and the concepts around the community cohesion theme and how to construct a measurement framework.

DESIRABLE

- Familiarity with the local government context and a passion for the subject matter.
- Confident in visualising data, user centred design (thinking how the outputs would be used by practitioners).
- Knowledge of how measurement frameworks or logic models work and how to identify robust and practical indicators.