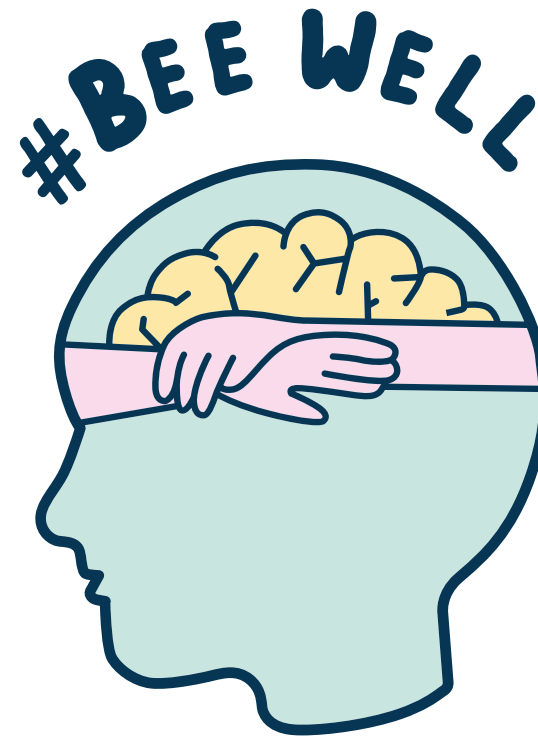




together
we are

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**

YOUTH LED ACTION FUND

2026/27



In 2026/27, #BeeWell in Greater Manchester is looking to fund young people to respond to #BeeWell headline findings and start conversations on what should change in their local area to support young people's wellbeing. The focus will be to empower young people to lead responses and spark future action on the data. Our team are here to help throughout the projects, and would love to hear how you think we can best work together.

These projects will aim to bring together different #BeeWell stakeholder groups to explore the 'why' and the 'so what' behind the data, create recommendations and inspire action amongst partners. The Lundy Model of Participation should be used throughout projects and the #BeeWell team will support with ensuring appropriate audience and influence for the work.





Overview

Funding

£15k is available for this fund, with awards ranging from £500 to £2,500 for up to 15 projects across Greater Manchester. Further funding may be available to develop these projects into 2027-2030, dependent on the direction of the fund based on year one learnings. Projects are encouraged to apply for funding dependent on the scope of the work they are looking to undertake.

#BeeWell would also provide support with connections to partners to influence where appropriate, and with comms.

Outcomes

Projects should support youth voice and leadership on wellbeing priorities. This could look like the creation of events, campaigns or activities for young people to get involved in.

Young people will be empowered to create projects that produce recommendations or action in response to the headline findings.

A key element of successful projects will be partnership working with young people and at least 1 or 2 of: schools, local authority, VCSFE partner, local businesses, or others, as relevant for the work. We hope the fund can bring together partners to collaborate on a new piece of work.

Comms activity to celebrate youth-led action and participation in our annual #BeeWell headline findings reporting, including sharing your learning at our annual event in March/April 2027.



Examples of deliverables

Short-term or smaller projects

(E.g. for £500-£1k)

- Standalone engagement session(s) with young people.
- An event or campaign on headline findings or local data.
- Recommendations created on how to respond to the findings.

Larger projects

(E.g. for £1k-2.5k)

For grants over £1k, we would be looking to ensure there is medium or longer-term impact. Examples completed previously and new suggestions from our Youth Steering Group include: training for young people/staff, or creating new spaces, resources, activities.

Recommendations will be created on how to respond, along with some action to address the data.

Necessary outputs for all

- A case study (written/video) on the project and its impact.
- Outline of spend.
- Detail of how The Lundy Model has been used in the project.
- Use #BeeWell data to inform work.
- Host a marketplace stall or share other content for our event in March/April 27.
- Minimum of 5 quotes from young people on the data & action that should be taken.
- Minimum of 5 photos of the projects with permissions for us to use in #BeeWell comms.
- Offer additional comms opportunities where appropriate.



The Lundy Model of Participation

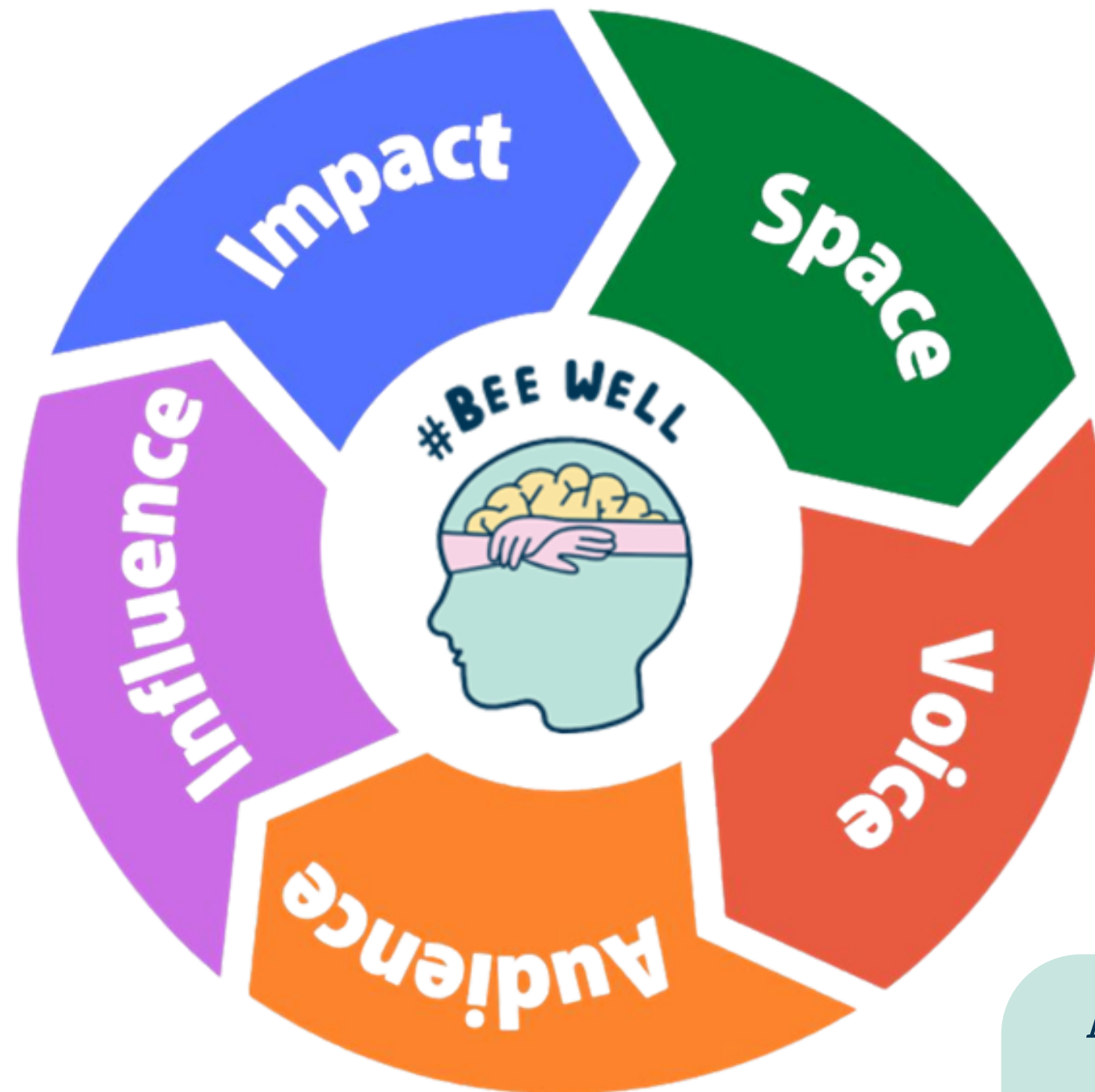
We all will: Share with young people how their work has had an impact in GM.

You will: Make local connections for young people's work to have influence.

We will: Champion this work across Greater Manchester, amplify their messages and follow-up with partners on action taken as a result.

You will: Make local connections so the work undertaken has the right audience.

We will: Support you to identify any additional partners in GM during or after the projects, so young people are speaking to the right people at the right time.



You will: Create a safe and inclusive space for young people to form and express their views.

You will: Ensure young people can share their feelings and wishes in a way that suits them. Share young people's voice on wellbeing priorities to the #BeeWell team.

All projects should aim to meet the different areas of The Lundy Model, however we appreciate some projects may focus on one or two elements more than others. As part of decision-making, we'll aim for a breadth of projects that cover these elements.



The Headline Findings

Our #BeeWell Youth Steering Group selected the following themes as their focus for 2026 onwards:

- The role of the community in supporting wellbeing and reducing loneliness is significant.
- The importance of relationships and school belonging in improving school attendance.
- The importance of being prepared for life for your wellbeing and your hope and optimism for the future.

The next pages outline data that sits underneath these themes, along with why they were selected by the #BeeWell Youth Steering Group and relevant regional and national policy areas that could be useful to consider.

Projects should address these themes, or provide a clear rationale with use of local #BeeWell data on why these have not been selected as a focus, and how they'll have influence and impact.

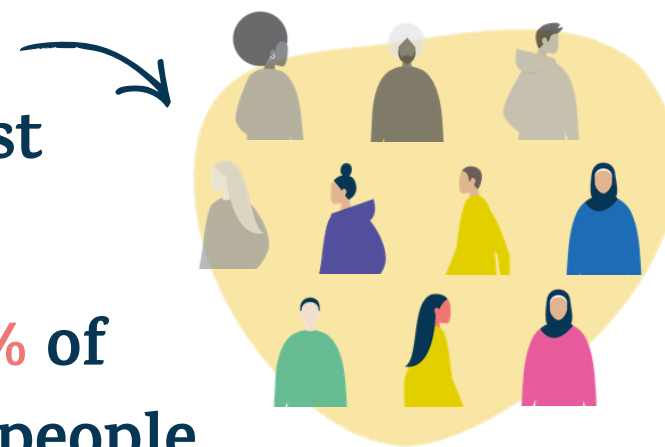


The role of the community to support wellbeing

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE DATA

38% (just less than 4 in 10) of young people reported feeling lonely at least occasionally.

However, this rises to **67.6%** and **71.7%** of gay/lesbian and bi/pansexual young people.



55% (approx. 11 in 20) of young people in Years 7, 8 and 10 strongly agreed or agreed that they can trust people in their local area. This ranged from **39% to 70%** across Greater Manchester's 65 neighbourhoods.

56.3% of young people feel that, away from home or school, there is an adult that listens to them. This declines as young people get older, from **63.6% of Year 7s** to **47.7% of Year 10s**.

We wanted to focus on data that shows how important a sense of community is to improve wellbeing and reduce loneliness. It's important for young people to feel like they have someone they can trust and that listens to them, to feel less lonely.

Community shapes who we are, and connects to our relationship with school, too. We want to highlight inequalities in the data, for LGBTQ+ young people and across different neighbourhoods.

Our Youth Steering Group said...

National and regional context - how can your project influence...

- Live Well - Greater Manchester's commitment to ensuring great everyday support is available in every neighbourhood.
- Youth Matters: National Youth Strategy - setting out a vision for all young people to have a safe place to go, someone who cares for them and a community they feel a part of.



Relationships and experiences at school

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE DATA

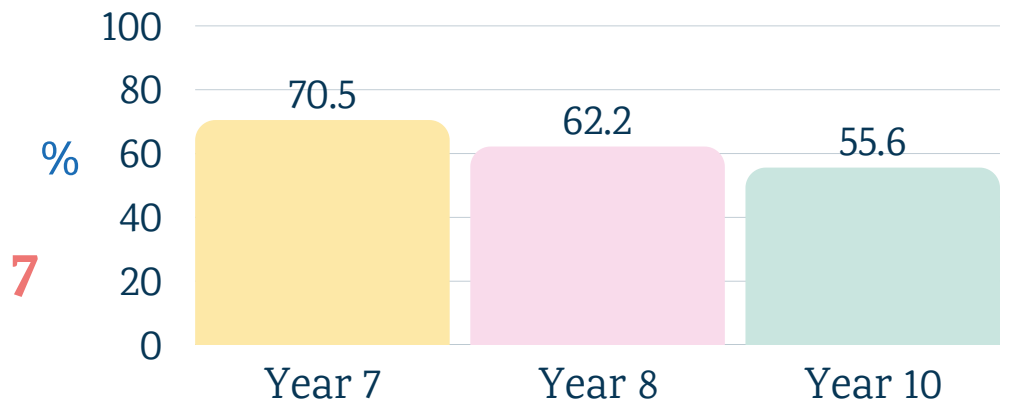
Our Youth Steering Group said...

The data shows how important it is for young people to have good relationships with teachers. You spend a lot of time at school, so it's important to feel like you belong. It isn't easy to be a young person, and schools should be supportive, safe places.

Experiences at school can impact your wellbeing, shape how you see your future and how you engage in employment. We want to look at how schools respond to attendance issues and show how important belonging and relationships are in driving it.

55.6% of young people in Year 10 feel like they belong at their school, compared to **51%** of Year 10s last academic year.

More young people feel like they belong in **Year 7 (70.5%)** and **Year 8 (62.2%)**.



Young people are more likely to report strong relationships with school staff when they are younger, with **32% of Year 7s** reporting the highest scores for relationships with staff, compared to **21% of Year 10s**.

#BeeWell research on attendance found that stronger relationships between staff and young people led to better attendance at school. For girls, worsening mental health predicted lower attendance, while higher attendance led to improved school belonging.

National and regional context - how can your project influence...

- The Greater Manchester Attendance Alliance, working to explore how we improve young people's attendance in GM.
- Every child achieving and thriving - Government White Paper, with a focus on school inclusion.

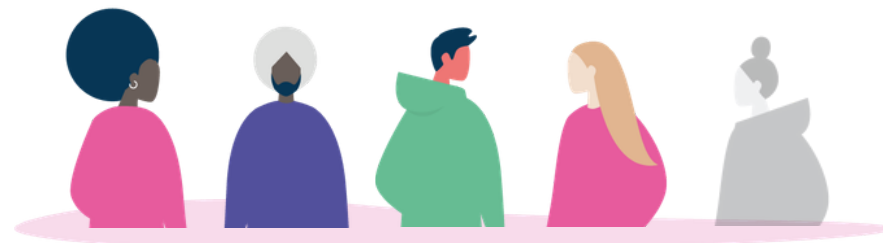


Feeling prepared for life

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE DATA

80% (4 in 5) of young people in Year 10 agreed that when they finish their education, they will have the skills and knowledge needed to be prepared for life.

This has increased from **76%** of Year 10s in the 2021 survey.



66% (2 in 3) of young people in Year 10 found their careers education useful, which has risen from **58%** in 2021.



Our Youth Steering Group said...

We chose this as we think that most young people feel worried about the future and the jobs available to them, but can feel pressured into following more traditional routes rather than understanding all the options and changing job market around us. We want to look at how careers education is delivered, how it resonates with young people, and encourage more opportunities and experiences to become available for young people across Greater Manchester.

The percentage of young people in Year 10 that agree or strongly agree to having hope and optimism for their future continues to steadily increase, rising to **83.9%** this year.

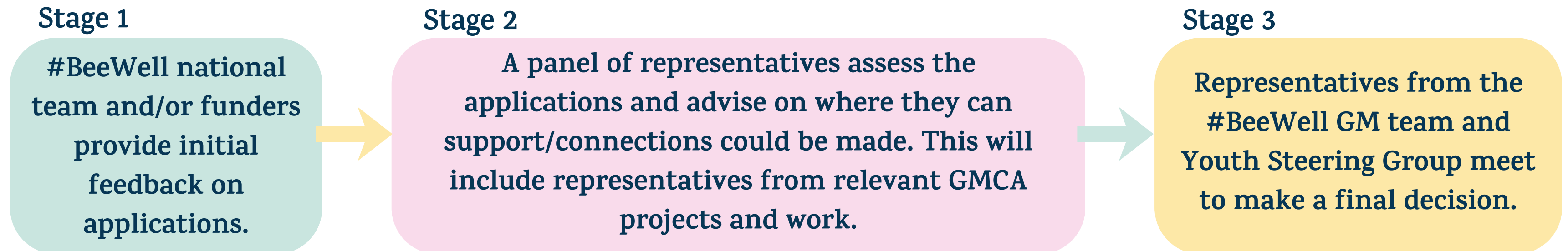
National and regional context - how can your project influence...

- Greater Manchester's digital tools to support young people to explore their future: Beeline, Curriculum for Life & GMACS.
- Mbacc - aims to guarantee every young person has a clear path and line of sight to the good jobs and training opportunities in GM.
- The Milburn Review - an independent review of the national increase in the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).



How will we make a decision on which projects are selected?

We will bring together a panel of #BeeWell partners and supporters to evaluate projects and offer connections and support to the work. This could be to help ensure young people's work is connected to the right audience, or feeding back where it has had influence. Our decision-making process will look like this:



Projects will be assessed based on criteria that considers how the Lundy Model of Participation and #BeeWell insights will both be used. Evaluators will also be considering how we can ensure a breadth of projects that deliver a variety of activity, whilst aiming for a balance in projects from across Greater Manchester's ten localities. Please note, if we receive a high volume of applications we may need to close applications early.



Expected timeline for delivery

We anticipate the timeline for individual projects to vary depending on their focus and delivery, but aim for this to provide an outline of key moments and requirements for reporting.

September 2026

Applications open in September, up until 5pm, Tuesday 20th October.

November 2026

Successful projects are informed by early November, contracts are then set up with The University of Manchester.

February 2027

(At least) Interim reporting or early updates required. Funding to be issued either partially at interim reporting or entirely on completion, depending on the project and funds applied for.

April 2027

Latest reporting due before April 2027, for funding to be issued. Reflections and learning for future delivery.

October 2026

Our panel considers the applications, with suggestions made on supportive connections we can offer. We aim for final decisions to be made in late October, subject to the number of applications.

December-March 2026

Project delivery underway. Regular communication with #BeeWell team on how we can support each other, and opportunities for comms to celebrate the work identified.

March 2027

Projects share their work and learning at headline findings event. Interim learnings or opportunity to involve more stakeholders welcomed for this event. Comms is shared on the projects.



Thank you for reading!

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or want to discuss the funding further.



Email
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Instagram
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