Manchester’s ‘Family Poverty Strategy’ is being refreshed for the City as part of a wider stakeholder commitment to reducing inequality in Manchester.

It is shocking that in 2017 over a third of the children growing up in our City are in households with an income that is less than 60% of the average national. These families are generally concentrated in particular neighbourhoods, and are disproportionately affected by cuts to welfare benefits and public services.

However, we recognise that these families have a lot of strengths and much to offer. As the strategy moves towards its implementation stage we have engaged with families in the community and with the City Council, as we are very keen to ensure that young people in the City have a strong voice and are helping to shape its delivery.

Building the resilience of children and young people, as well as improving their access to opportunities, will increase their chances of success whatever their starting point.

Young Manchester’s Poverty Speaks Volumes project with the Webb Memorial Trust will ensure that young people have a voice in their city.

Through the project a youth organisation in Manchester will be commissioned to lead their own debate on the impact of poverty and devise solutions to reduce generational equality.

Using a range of creative methods, including drama, art, digital content and storytelling, the organisation will conclude the project in a performance or film. Their clear recommendations for shaping a better future for young people and families will be shown to key policy and decision makers.

Given the importance of addressing poverty for young people in the City and our ability to work alongside the Webb Memorial Trust who are also contributing resources, it is a timely opportunity for Young Manchester.