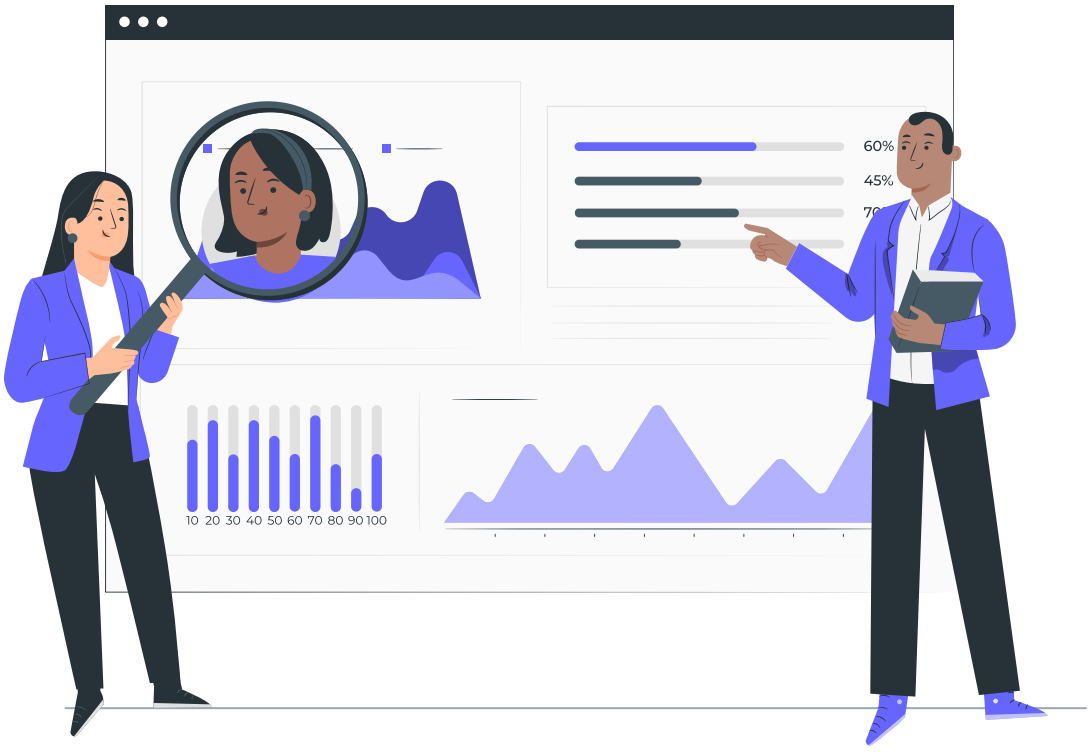
VenturEd Solutions™

SUCCESS STORY

How we support Manchester City Council with school data insights and driving attendance improvements



Background

Manchester City Council was established in 1974, and today it oversees 224 schools. The council implemented Xporter and XVault in 2019 to support the automated data collection from schools' MIS platforms.

We spoke to Senior Data Officer, Alison Fletcher, and Project Manager for Education Services, Nicola Hughes, about how the council has successfully leveraged consistent and timely data collections to drive team collaboration, manage resource allocation and develop insight driven projects that supports their school community.



Manchester City Council

ABOUT

- Established in 1974
- 224 schools
- Using XVault since 2019

PRODUCTS

Xporter | XVault

TEAM

Alison Fletcher
Senior Data Officer

Nicola Hughes
Project Manager for Education Services

The challenge

Manchester City Council's schools, education and childcare service plays a key role in managing a wide range of data-driven functions, including education data reporting, statutory returns, admissions, the EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) service, attendance, and analysis that supports their school community and social care teams.



With a strong emphasis on **accurate and timely data,** the Council required an improvement to their data collection processes to overcome issues related to data consistency, timely access, and to eliminate as much manual processing as possible.

The council previously had a system in place, but there was still clear gaps for improvement: although the previous solution provided a level of automation, data remained fragmented and inconsistent, with significant manual intervention required to ensure consistency, validity, and successful integration.

The lack of an **optimised data collection system** meant that data quality varied greatly depending on the MIS used at the individual schools. Some schools transferred files manually, often missing deadlines or failing to submit the required data entirely.

This inconsistency placed a heavy burden on the Council's data team, who were responsible not only for chasing submissions but also for diagnosing and resolving technical issues related to data transmission and connectivity.



"We had some problems with data coming in weekly and could not rely on a consistent level of information received by all our schools," Alison Fletcher reveals.

"We had a cohort of schools on a specific MIS that had to manually send the files to our central team. We didn't always receive the files when required, leading us to spend time manually chasing the schools for the information."

The disconnected nature of the data environment hindered collaboration between teams and services within the council, such as education, social care, and early help. Without reliable, up-to-date information, teams had limited visibility into school attendance patterns or family-level concerns, limiting their ability to respond promptly to emerging issues.

Manchester City Council needed a solution that could offer:

- **Automated data collection** across all schools on a reliable daily basis
- **Reduced dependency** on manual effort and reports
- I**mproved data quality** and availability for all teams
- **Seamless integration** across platforms and departments



The solution

Following a detailed consultation process, it became clear that the goal was not to reinvent the Council's existing policies and procedures, but rather to optimise them by increasing effective automation, improving consistency, and eliminating manual processes where possible.

To address these challenges, Xporter and XVault were implemented as core components of their education data infrastructure.

Xporter was used to automate the extraction of data from various school MIS platforms across Manchester. This removed the need for schools to manually send files and ensured data was collected accurately and consistently.

XVault serves as the aggregation and integration layer, consolidating data from all participating schools into a single, centralised aggregated environment which feeds directly into the Council's System C EYES platform, enabling timely updates and 24/7 access for all teams.



In addition to streamlining data flows, the Council made use of the XVault reporting tools across several departments including Education, Social Care, Virtual School and Early Help to provide access to up-to-date school and pupil data, without the need for any technical support or manual report generation.

“Having a consistent connection with the schools, and not having to chase them for files, helps support various teams and services within the council,” Alison explains.

”We also use XVault reporting to provide various teams with access to core information across our school estate.”

Results and impact

The implementation of these solutions has significantly enhanced the operational efficiency and collaborative efforts at the Council. By shifting to a fully automated, daily data collection model, the Council has seen a measurable transformation in how data is gathered, accessed, and used across multiple teams and services.

> **“Because of the improvements of working on a different system, we are more joined up than we were before. The data collection supports various departments and provides valuable pieces of information for everyone involved.”**

What benefits have the council gained?

Significant time and resource saving

“I think the resource in time is considerably less than what we used to have; we can focus on other work now. We've gone down from having someone working on it full time to probably one day a week.”

Improved data availability and consistency

“Because the data collection from Xporter into XVault is daily and we've got all the schools data coming into a central location, this provides availability for key information such as attendance on a consistent basis.”

Enhanced collaboration

“We work more effectively and collaboratively with other services since reducing the amount of time fixing school connections and manual tasks. We’ve been doing more work around research and analysis with other teams. I would say that's the biggest impact.”

Improved attendance reporting

“Reporting on attendance helps support our intervention strategies for each family. For example, if a child is frequently absent due to health issues, early help teams can coordinate with health support workers to implement a multi-agency approach.”

“We've introduced early detection to track poor attendance. There’s a lot of work happening at the council to look at reducing severe absence by working with both the children and their families, and adopting flexible intervention strategies.”

Strategic outcomes

The introduction of Xporter and XVault has improved Manchester City Council's ability to effectively measure the impact of its work with its school community, children and their families. This has become central to service planning, performance evaluation, and accountability.

Highlighted below are some of the key outcomes evidenced at the council by Alison Fletcher, Senior Data Officer.

- **Efficient resource allocation**
  "Accurate data helps in allocating resources efficiently, ensuring that families receive timely and appropriate support."

- **Improved outcome measurement**
  "It supports in evaluating impacts on improved school attendance. It is one of the key metrics used in measuring the success of the programme."

- **Better ability to demonstrate impact**
  "Positive changes in attendance can indicate that the interventions are having a beneficial impact on the family's overall wellbeing."

- **Reporting and accountability**
  "The attendance data is used in reporting outcomes to stakeholders and ensuring accountability for the programme's effectiveness."

To find out more, visit **venturedsolutions.co.uk** to get in touch with our team and discuss how XVault could support your organisation to work with school data in powerful new ways.

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