

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD
22/01/2019 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillor McLaren (Chair)
Councillors Ball (Vice-Chair) and Taylor

Independent Members: Rev. Jean Hurlston

Also in Attendance:

Lori Hughes	Constitutional Services
Dami Awobajo	Head of Business Intelligence
Andrew Hunt	Strategy Partnerships and Policy Manager
Sheena MacFarlane	Libraries, Heritage & Arts
Claire Smith	Executive Nurse CCG
Andrew Sutherland	Director of Education and Early Years
Shirley Woods-Gallagher	Assistant Director of Education (SEND)
Andrew Robinson	POINT
Janet Wray	Nurse Consultant
Subnum Hariff-Khan	Library and Information Manager

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Curley, Leach, Toor and Williamson.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

3 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 27th November 2018 be approved as a correct record.

6 **MINUTES OF THE HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on 15th November 2018 be noted.

7 **MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY (GMCA) HOUSING, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Housing, Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny meetings held on 11th October 2018 and 15th November 2018 be noted.

8 **MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY (GMCA) CORPORATE ISSUES AND REFORM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Corporate Issues and Reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 23rd October 2018 and 20th November 2018 be noted.

9 **MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY (GMCA) ECONOMY, BUSINESS GROWTH AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 12th October 2018 and 16th November 2018 be noted.

10 **SEND - PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Board were provided with a detailed update on Oldham's progress against the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) related to the SEND Inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in October 2017. The Board had requested an update following the previous report in October 2018. The report also contained information on key related areas of work requested by the Board.

Oldham had been subject to bi-monthly joint monitoring/support meeting from the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England related to progress against the WSOA. The outcome in September 2018 had been very positive with confirmation of a forward direction of travel and continuous improvement made in all areas. The inspection process by Ofsted had changed and all local areas with a WSOA for SEND would now be re-inspected and it was anticipated that this would take place anytime from March 2019. As part of the new process Oldham's bi-monthly monitoring/support with DfE/NHS England would continue until the revisit took place.

The DfE and NHS England recognised the work progress on the 'AMBER/GREEN' priority Area 3, particularly related to the timeliness of Education Health Care Plans within the 20-week statutory timescale. It was noted that significant progress had been made with reference to the timeliness of issuing plans being 100% with a similar figure predicted for February due to a more robust process being put into place and additional staffing.

The Board had requested an update on key areas at the meeting held in October. These included:

A Voice of the Child Corporate Strategy, which included SEND, had been developed with engagement and involvement of children and young people across numerous services. The delivery of the strategy would be co-ordinated under each agreed objective within the document. Communication plans would also be developed. The objectives were outlined in the report.

The contract on waiting times for intervention with reference to Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services demonstrated 100% compliance with key performance indicators with referrals screened within 24 hours and first contact within 12 weeks of referral.

The percentage of young people with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCs) in Oldham compared to statistical neighbouring and GM authorities was outlined in the report.

Members were informed that 10 EHC plans had been issued so far this year compared to none at this point last year.

The Board was invited to a SEND event on Sunday, 3rd February 2019.

Members thanked the staff for the hard work.

Members sought and received clarification on 12-week wait for healthy young minds and urgency was looked at as part of triage and put in place where needed. The whole school framework was an early intervention model. Members asked what was planned for the increasing number of home-schooled children and informed that funding had been made available for a co-ordinator doing home visits to assist where there was limited information and use the health visiting assessment which demonstrated joint working.

Members were pleased about young people and parents being involved in the design and asked how any issues were acted upon and officers were also asked about children's emotional and spiritual development and referred to an initiative at Kingfisher School. Members were informed of a health and wellbeing event that had been held where young people had presented the work and schools took the information back to develop practice. Students were also very involved in development of EHCs, every plan should have the voice of the child and at age 16 the ambition of the young person was

captured. Bespoke work had been done with regard to funding a sports development programme and individual goals.

Members asked if the performance was sustainable and if there was an informal external review. Members were informed of the bi-monthly visits from the DfE and CQC. Detailed audits were completed prior to those meetings and extensive internal governance was also in place. It was a continual journey and officers said there was sustainability with cultural change and the investment made by the local authority. An inclusion strategy was being developed and would possibly be launched in March 2019.

Members asked how many people may be involved in EHC plans and how often they were reviewed? Members were informed that there were 2,054 live EHC plans and all were subject to an annual review. Involvement depended on the needs of the young person which included assessments which were dependent on those particular needs.

Members asked about preparation for any upcoming inspection. Officers were aware of the challenges and working to develop a communications strategy and engage more widely.

RESOLVED that:

1. The SEND Update on progress against the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) be noted.
2. The Board to receive a short report in June or July 2019 following any outcome from Ofsted.
3. The Board to receive a further update in 12 month's time.

11

OLDHAM COUNCIL LIBRARIES UPDATE

The Board gave consideration to a report which provided an update on the Oldham Council Libraries' Performance and outlined current challenges and developments.

Oldham Libraries had made significant progress on library service improvements which built on past achievements and continued to innovate and invest in both service and staff development. Members were informed of improvements to library environments which reflected the changing use of libraries offering greater flexibility to use the space for cultural and digital events. Funding had been approved for the new Royton Library. Members were also informed that a Sensory Room had been launched in March 2018 and Oldham was the first library service in Greater Manchester to provide this type of facility.

Members were informed of activity work with youth workers and partners across Oldham, the working relationship with Manchester University and participation in the Carnegie Library Lab development programme which encouraged children between the ages of 3 – 6 to explore, investigate and learn through counting and coding activities. Oldham was also chosen as one of four authorities to deliver the ‘Reading Friends’ and had been provided with funding to deliver the programme across all 10 GM authorities. As part of this programme groups were being helped to combat social isolation through social reading activities.

The mixed model of the Home Library Services which included access to the RNIB service, collection by friend for family or home delivery by a volunteer and the digital officer which included the introduction of Micro:bit lending, coding clubs and e-books offer was also highlighted. The service had also been shortlisted for the North West Cultural Education Awards and awarded funded places for staff on courses and conferences. The volunteer offer was being strengthened by working with Arts and Heritage.

The Board were provided with the key performance statistics.

The Board were informed of significant building infrastructure challenges and continued investment was also required to upgrade self-service kiosks, wifi infrastructure and people counters to ensure Resident First continued to be supported as well as the ‘digital by default’ agenda. Libraries were welcoming and accessible at the forefront of the digital agenda. The service was working with colleagues to develop digital inclusion to understand needs but this was still being developed.

Members asked about support for areas without libraries and if the Library could supplement schemes delivered by partner organisations. Officers could discuss this arrangement and look at a model similar to that of materials delivered to residential homes.

Members asked what was included in the audio offer and were informed that the press reader was included which included 100’s of newspapers and other periodicals accessed with a library card.

Members commented on the innovative projects. Members asked about work with schools and how students were encouraged to use libraries. Members were informed of a revised school’s offer and work in partnership with Gallery Oldham which included a whole day visit, co-ordination and

development of a young people's volunteer scheme and targeting teenaged young people. Officers were developing a young people's focus group and speaking to the Youth Council and Oldham Theatre Workshop. Work was also ongoing with other focus groups and an analysis being undertaken to engage with communities.

Members referred to numbers dwindling on job clubs. Officers did not have the information readily available but would look into it.

Members asked about equalities and work with homeless people. Members were informed of work with the homeless, providing staff with awareness. Different models were being explored. A project had been done on holiday hunger.

Members made reference to partners who could meet challenges around digital access and were informed of some who had been identified such as Hack Oldham, schools and colleges.

Members also made reference to shared facilities and were informed of current shared sites.

RESOLVED that:

1. The update on Oldham Council's Libraries be noted.
2. The Board receive an update in six months' time which addressed the collaborative schools offer with a more in-depth update in twelve months.
3. The Board receive an update in 12 months which included the extension of home services to community centres and similar venues and homeless facilities.

12

GENERATION OLDHAM UPDATE

The Board gave consideration to a report which provided an update on the Generation Oldham Community Energy Programme.

Oldham Community Power was the largest community energy provider in Greater Manchester and had consolidated its position over the last 12 months. The wider Generation Oldham programme was progressing with the Council working with Forum for the Future to develop 'Power Paired' which was an online service to match up community energy groups with the owners of assets which could be used for community energy schemes. Oldham's leadership at GM level continued with the delivery of the COALESCCE EU funding project and a potential new approach to community energy modelling with a social investment managing organisation. The Council would be a

partner in a consortium bid to develop this new approach to which Oldham Community Power and other community energy organisations across GM could take advantage.

Oldham Community Power was the largest community energy scheme in Greater Manchester. A number of performance measures were recorded which included total money saved by the sites, total carbon saved since installation, value of community shareholding and number of society members.

Generation Oldham was established to help the community, engage on climate change, address more jobs across Greater Manchester in the low carbon economy and provide opportunities for benefits to residents.

Members queried other methods being used other than solar panels. Members were informed of renewable heating incentives such as mass boilers and heat pumps and owners being encouraged to retrofit.

Members raised the issue of providing energy to those in fuel poverty. Members were informed of spare power being provided to the grid at the present time. A consultation was expected on changes to the scheme.

Members queried Phases 2 and 3 and were informed that there was a challenge in the identification of buildings.

RESOLVED that:

1. The update on Generation Oldham be noted.
2. The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board meet with the Cabinet Member and the Strategy Partnerships and Policy Manager regarding Phases 2 and 3.
3. A Generation Oldham Update be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Board in 12 months on how the programme was being promoted across Greater Manchester.

13 **GENERAL EXCEPTIONS AND URGENT DECISIONS**

There were no General Exceptions or Urgent Decisions to be noted.

14 **COUNCIL MOTIONS**

The Board gave consideration to a report which provided an update on two motions which had been referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Board by Council.

The first motion was entitled "Keeping Our Villages and Rural Areas HGV Free". A workshop had been convened on 8

January 2019 with members from the Board, Residents' Associations, Head of Public Protection and Highways Officers.

The workshop agreed to:

1. Work with residents' associations, starting with one or two pilot schemes within existing weight restriction areas in place with six to eight observers who would be trained by Trading Standards. Funding would be an issue for any signage and would need to be addressed.
2. Current weight restriction areas be reviewed with regard to signage.
3. Highways England be approached regarding signage on the M60 to continue through to the M62 and not via Broadway.
4. Diversion signs in the event of any M62 closure be progressed with Highways England.

The second motion was entitled "Improving Public Safety in Oldham's Night Time Economy". Full Council resolved to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board to examine, in conjunction with relevant partners, including the Oldham College, Oldham Sixth Form College, University Campus Oldham, schools with post-16 provision, licensed premises and public and private hire taxi businesses, the practicality of establishing such schemes as soon as possible in our town and district centres.

The Board determined to have a workshop to address the motion's resolution.

RESOLVED that:

1. The outcomes of the Overview and Scrutiny workshop held on 8th January 2019 as outlined in the report be endorsed.
2. A workshop be organised to address the 'Improving Public Safety in Oldham's Night Time Economy' motion.

15 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Board gave consideration to the Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme for 2018/19.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme for 2018/19 be noted.

16 **KEY DECISION DOCUMENT**

The Board gave consideration to the Key Decision Document which listed key decisions to be taken from 14th January 2019.

The Board requested a report on Alexandra Park and the Northern Roots reports be scheduled for a future meeting and address what was being planned and how to use the Co-operative Council to include local residents.

RESOLVED that:

1. the Council's Key Decision Document be noted.
2. A report on Alexandra Park and Northern Roots be brought to future meetings.

17

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the date and time of the next Overview and Scrutiny Board to be held on Tuesday, 5th March 2019 at 6.00 p.m. be noted.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.57 pm