Creating opportunity, tackling inequality

Oldham Children and Young People Plan 2013-16
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1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the Children and Young People Plan

1.1.1 Oldham’s Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) is the strategic document which sets how a wide range of organisations across the Borough will work together to improve outcomes for all children and young people aged 0-19, and up to the age of 25 for young people with limiting long-term conditions, disabilities and those leaving local authority care.

1.1.2 The Plan is one of a suite of documents which describe Oldham’s ambition to transform the social, economic and physical environment of the borough. The Plan puts in place a vision for children, young people and their families in the borough and brings together, in one place, the number of core issues and current known challenges that need to be addressed in order to improve the well-being of local children and young people. It identifies the key priorities over a 3 year period and sets out how, through a range of supporting strategies, plans and appropriately targeted interventions, the priorities will be achieved.

1.1.3 Oldham Children’s Trust Board is the strategic partnership responsible for ensuring the anticipated outcomes for local children, young people and families set out in the Plan are achieved. This Board is made up of senior representatives from across all partner agencies in Oldham and is the prime forum for promoting cooperation between key partners to ensure the lives of local children and young people improve.

1.2 National and local context for children’s services

1.2.1 Over the last few years, there has been far-reaching change in government policy and legislation around health, education and social care which has led to a range of new policies and initiatives affecting children’s services, both on a local and national scale.

1.2.2 Nationally, a whole scale, independent review into how local authorities and other agencies work together to safeguard children and young people was led by Professor Eileen Munro. The review concluded that child protection has become too focused on compliance and procedures and has lost its focus on the needs and experience of individual children, as a result she recommended a raft of changes to social work practice, recording and reporting and inspection. At a local level, the Council has embarked on an exciting journey to merge adult and children services to offer greater capacity to build on the strengths of both services and increase capacity to address areas for improvement. Tangible examples of what this means in practice includes the current development of an all-age safeguarding approach and the establishment of an all-age disability service.

1.2.3 Educational reforms have led to greater school autonomy, with the creation of Academies and free schools and a drive to improve pupil standards through revised qualifications. The introduction of the Pupil Premium offers schools additional resources to help close the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers. Local authorities are also now expected to work with schools, colleges and employers to promote participation in education, employment or training for all 16 and 17 year olds, and to intervene where there is no engagement in learning up to age 19 or 25 in the case of those with special educational needs or disabilities.
1.2.4 As at 1 April 2013, 9 schools in Oldham had become Academies and 2 applications for free school status had been submitted, which are independent of local authority control. At a local level, work is also underway to pursue the setting up of a formal cooperative – Oldham Learning Cooperative (OLC) Trust. The aim of this initiative is to establish a sustainable way of securing high performance from all education providers from early Years to higher education through collective ambition and a pooling of expertise.

1.2.5 A greater focus on early intervention has shaped national policy in the early years through reforms such as free childcare for vulnerable two year olds and for families accessing multiple services through the Troubled Families Programme. At a local level, our leading work on early years and troubled families is being carried out through the Community Budgets framework. This is providing us with a genuine opportunity to work differently together – to re-focus our services; to be less reactive and more focused on prevention; and to help families become more capable of self-help or supported self-help, thus reducing dependency on the public sector later in life. Key local developments include the establishment of ‘district family panels’ as a means of providing an effective multi agency intelligence hub for identifying and working with our most troubled families, and the development of an early help offer in Oldham for 0-19's (25 for those with additional needs).

1.2.6 In health services, General Practitioners organised into the Oldham Clinical Commissioning Group and are now responsible, supported by Health and Wellbeing Boards, for the commissioning of local health provision. As such Oldham Children’s Trust Board has an important role to play, alongside Oldham’s Health and Wellbeing Board, in agreeing key health priorities for children, young people and families. Public Health responsibilities have also now passed to local authorities. In Oldham this means that the commissioning responsibility for school nursing now sits with the local authority, and health visiting will transfer in early 2014. This more seamless alignment of public health responsibilities and activities will help to ensure there are even greater opportunities to make substantial improvements in the health outcomes for local children.
2 The Local Ambition

2.1 Vision for Oldham

2.1.1 Oldham is committed to developing a co-operative future where local organisations work together with local people to deliver improved outcomes through innovation and new ways of working, and with a particular focus on driving forward economic growth, job creation and delivering a reformed public service. The overarching ambition for Oldham is “to be a productive place with healthy, aspirational and sustainable communities”

2.1.2 In specific respect to children and young people, a complimentary vision has been developed. It is a vision of excellent services for all, with the most help for those who need it…

“Creating opportunity”… our vision is to ensure excellent services for all, working with families so that all children and young people are given the opportunities they need to enjoy a happy, healthy and safe childhood, and to develop into skilled and independent adults able take their productive place in society

“Tackling inequality”… we know that behind the story of our success there are some real challenges and inequalities between relatively wealthy and relatively poor areas of the borough and between children with particular needs. Our vision is to target the most support on those who need the most help, ensuring that every child in every part of the borough, no matter what their background or their need, have their gifts and talents recognised and the opportunity to thrive within their families and communities

2.2 High-level desired outcomes

2.2.1 Achieving our vision will mean that by 2016 children and young people in Oldham will:

- be safer from harm and neglect;
- have greater access to a high quality learning offer across the ages from early years to higher education;
- lead healthier and more active lifestyles;
- have improved access to joined up and effective local services and amenities;
- have raised aspirations and expectations; and
- enjoy better life opportunities.

2.3 Priority themes: “The 4 P’s”

2.3.1 In order to deliver against these ambitions, we have identified three overarching themes which reflect the areas we most need to focus on with partners, so that we can use our common resources more effectively to get it right for more children and young people in the future. These are:
**Prevention and Early Help:** We will support children, young people and families by providing appropriate and timely intervention as early as possible to help boost the capacity of families and to avoid developing problems.

**Protection:** We will seek to protect Oldham’s children and young people to keep them safe from harm and neglect so that they can grow up in an environment that allows them to thrive.

**Participation and Progression:** We will work together as partners to ensure Oldham has excellent education, development and employment opportunities, as well as an exciting range of play, sports and cultural activities for our children and young people so they can develop into active and productive citizens in our communities.

### 2.4 Commitments and delivery vehicles

#### 2.4.1 To achieve our ambitions, we have identified a series of high-level actions that partners will focus their joint efforts on over the next 3 year period, along with the identification of key supporting delivery plans and transformational initiatives:

**Theme 1: Prevention and Early Help**

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<th>Our commitment is to work together to...</th>
<th>Core delivery plans <em>under development</em></th>
<th>Transformational initiatives <em>under development</em></th>
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| 1.1 Provide high quality maternal health and early parenting support to improve parent/child attachment pre birth to 2 years; and to improve maternal and child health through the antenatal period | • Children’s Centres District Plans  
• Oldham’s Early Years New Delivery Model Implementation Plan  
• Early Help Offer (0-4) ‘Ready for Learning’ – with particular emphasis on the 2yr old offer  
• ‘Giving every child the best start in life’ theme within Oldham’s Health and Well Being Strategy | • Devolved Early Childhood Services Integrated Teams  
• 0-5 ‘8 stage assessment model’ (First implementer Coldhurst and St Mary’s) *  
• Healthy Child Programme (0-4) * - 2 Yr old offer  
• Refreshed commissions for health visiting and midwifery that include the 8 stage assessment model |
| 1.2 Improve targeted early intervention services (including the creation of family focus teams) to support families who need extra help at the earliest opportunity | • Early Help Offer (0-19) including investment and commissioning strategy  
• Children’s Centres District Plans  
• Oldham Early Years New Delivery Model Implementation Plan  
• Local Safeguarding Board Children Plan  
• Young Carers Strategy | • Single entry point for all early help services*  
• Workforce reform and outcomes framework*  
• 0-19 ‘assessment model’*  
• eCAF - Common Assessment Framework*  
• Healthy child programme (0-19)  
• Delivery of the free early education entitlement to targeted disadvantaged two year olds  
• Troubled Families Programme (PSR) |
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| **1.3 Support children and young people to develop positive behaviours and make healthy life choices, providing effective and responsive services when problems arise** | • Youth Justice Strategic Plan  
• Drug & Alcohol Strategy Action Plans  
• Teenage Pregnancy Strategy  
• Sexual Health Strategy  
• Children’s Mental Health Commissioning Strategy  
• Oldham Healthy Weight Strategy | • Transforming Justice Programme (PSR)  
• Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) programme  
• Family Information Service online  
• eCAF - Common Assessment Framework* |
| **1.4 Work across the partnership to tackle the root causes of child and family poverty** | • Child and Family Poverty Strategy* | • Get Oldham Working Campaign  
• Free Early Education Entitlement for all 3 and 4 years olds and disadvantaged 2 year olds |

**Theme 2: Protection**

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| **2.1 Further develop and reform safeguarding practices that protect and support children at risk** | • Local Safeguarding Board Children Plan  
• Missing from Home (MFH) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy and Action Plan | • All-age safeguarding approach  
• Child Sexual Exploitation Training for Magistrates and Licensing Team  
• Oldham's E-Safety Programme (inc. new focus on pornography)  
• Safeguarding training for Oldham Mosques  
• Safeguarding best practice meetings with Children's Homes and Independent Foster Agencies  
• Multi-agency children's safeguarding performance framework, with clear focus on ‘the journey of the child’ |
| **2.2 Ensure all children looked after by the local authority (inc. care leavers) receive the support they need and are able to lead an independent life** | • Looked After Children Commissioning Strategy and Action Plan  
• Oldham Pledge to looked after children and young people | • Oldham’s Adoption Reforms  
• Street Grooming Theatre Production  
• Oldham Pledge Review (1 to 1 interviews with 206 looked after children) |
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| 3.1 Drive improved pupil standards of attainment and achievement through the provision of good or outstanding schools and other education settings throughout Oldham | Education and Skills Strategy (of which School Improvement Strategy is part) | Oldham Learning Cooperative Trust *  
Pupil Premium Programme  
Virtual School Head |
| 3.2 Ensure the full participation of young people post 16 in appropriate education, employment and training opportunities to enhance their future employability | Raising of Participation Age Strategy *  
NEET Strategy  
Volunteering Strategy *  
Information, Advice and Guidance Offer | 16-19 Offer  
Youth volunteering and pre-employment offer  
Get Oldham Working Campaign and the pledges to create a range of opportunities for our young people |
| 3.3 Provide opportunities for children and young people to participate in a range of leisure and cultural activities, and to become active citizens contributing to their communities | Sports and Physical Activity Strategy *  
C&YP Participation and Engagement Strategy | Oldham’s ‘Youth Offer’ *  
Oldham’s Myplace centre  
Young Inspectors Programme |
| 3.4 Reform services and improve outcomes for children and young people aged up to 25 with additional needs, disabilities and other health needs | 0-25 Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy * | All Age Disability Service *  
Special Educational Needs and Disability Pathfinder  
Special Educational Needs and Disability Local Offer |
2.5 Delivering success

2.5.1 Oldham Children’s Trust Board will jointly examine and challenge progress against priorities contained in this plan to ensure there is early identification of issues amongst all partners and collective ownership and accountability for necessary corrective action. The Board is firmly positioned within the Oldham Partnership which provides the setting for partners in the borough to work together to improve services in the borough. It also has crucial links with the Local Children Safeguarding Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2.5.2 The effective implementation of this Plan relies on a workforce that is responsible for delivering and providing excellent services for all of our children. In Oldham, we have a dedicated and hard-working workforce spanning a number of areas, such as teachers, GPs, health visitors, social workers, librarians, youth workers, nurses and police officers, operating across a range of statutory, private and voluntary settings. Our commitment to valuing, respecting and investing in our workforce will be critical to achieving our vision and driving forward improvements needed in the well-being of local children, young people and families.

2.5.3 Finally, effective implementation of the Children and Young People Plan also requires effective consultation and engagement with children, young people and their families. Maintaining an ongoing dialogue with service users will be vital in driving improvement; ensuring challenge and accountability; as well as ensuring that our priorities remain relevant. As we recognise the valuable role that children and young people can play as representatives and advocates for other children and young people and in contributing to local ambitions, we have also asked the Oldham Youth Council to lead on a Children and Young People Youth Action Plan to support delivery of the priorities contained in this plan.