

# BRIEFING TO OLDHAM HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

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### *Oldham: A Place where Children and Young People Thrive*

#### Establishing a Children and Young People's Strategic Framework

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Date: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018

#### Requirement from the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- a) The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note and endorse the approach to establishing a strategic framework within which partners deliver on the ambition for Oldham to be a **'place where children and young people thrive'**.
- b) The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve the proposal to establish the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board.

#### 1. Background:

Oldham has a long history of working in partnership to improve outcomes for children and young people based on our understanding of local needs and priorities and in line with national drivers. The emergence of a distinct agenda for children and young people at a GM level and changing local context means that it is timely to revise Oldham's arrangements to ensure clarity of purpose and effective governance arrangements within an agreed strategic framework. The current partnership structure is fragmented and what was meant to be the overarching partnership body the Best Start in Life Partnership is no longer fit for purpose.

This report sets out the key aspects of Oldham's emerging strategic framework and identifies the role of the proposed Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board to deliver the ambition of Oldham being **'a place where children and young people thrive'**.

#### 2. Developing the Strategic Framework:

A draft 'starter for 10' version of the framework sets out how Oldham's partner agencies intend to deliver the ambition for our children and young people and identifies how by working together our key organisations and most importantly our

children, young people and their families can create and sustain a great future where everyone has the chance to thrive wherever they live in the Borough and whatever challenges they might face.

In order to thrive we know it's essential that across the life course our children and young people -

- Are safe and feel safe
- Are as healthy as they can be including emotionally and mentally
- Enjoy growing up in Oldham and do well in the early years, school and college
- Have things to do and opportunities to contribute to their communities
- Are supported to make the successful journey into adulthood, work and independence

We know that for some living in Oldham achieving these outcomes will be more difficult for a variety of reasons including poverty. For children and young people with SEND and for those who are or have been in care or subject to abuse and neglect partners will work to ensure targeted and specialist support is directed to best effect.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is aware of many of the local challenges in achieving this vision some of which have existed for a long time. We are also aware of what our children and young people are telling us via survey and engagement work including '**a curriculum to prepare us for life**'. A new needs assessment is currently being scoped and this will begin to inform Oldham's new Children and Young People Strategy scheduled for the autumn.

Alongside the high level outcomes as set out above, the framework will set out the key commitments that Oldham partner agencies will make to children and young people such as –

- Every Oldham child will be supported to have the best start in life.
- Every Oldham child will be start school ready to learn.
- Every Oldham child will be prepared for adult life through their school education.
- Every Oldham child will be have the opportunity to study at a school rated good or better.
- Every Oldham child will be supported to achieve their ambitions for post-16 education.
- Every Oldham child will be offered the necessary protection and support if and when they need it.
- Every Oldham child will be supported to make their voice heard to help design and improve children and young people's services.
- Every Oldham child will be supported to enjoy being a part of and make a difference in their local community.

The draft framework sets out the current improvement programmes for the Borough all of which require partners working together

- Getting to Good' in Children's Social Care and Early Help
- SEND Improvement Programme
- Opportunity Area Programme
- Right Start 0 - 5 Programme
- Startwell Integration Programme
- Education Partnership Programme

Whilst these programmes have outcomes for children and young people as their focus the importance of support to families and carers is vital to ensure success. Alongside these programmes are those with a wider focus such as Health Improvement and our work to create Thriving Communities which will also have a significant impact.

It is intended the framework will also ensure alignment to the emerging GM landscape including the 10 priorities set out in the Greater Manchester Health and Wellbeing Framework for Children and Young People. The three top priorities in the GM Framework are;

**early years and school readiness, mental health and resilience** and the **prevention of avoidable hospital admissions**, all of which feature in local transformation programmes.

### **3. The Children and Young People's Partnership Board:**

In previous years Oldham had a Children's Trust Board which evolved into the Best Start in Life Partnership. We now intend to establish the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership Board to bring partners together in a formal way to ensure delivery of our ambition.

The Partnership Board will oversee the progress in achieving our objectives and partners will support and challenge each other to ensure that collectively and as individual organisations our commitment to ensuring Oldham's children and young people thrive is relentless. In fulfilling its function, the Partnership Board will hold to account those thematic partnerships which have a particular area of improvement focus.

Whilst the Partnership Board will work alongside other key strategic partnerships within the Borough it will be accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

In line with statutory requirements, Oldham Council has a Director of Children's Services and a Lead Member for Children's Services. Both these individuals will play a key role in driving success and be the lead representatives within the Greater Manchester governance structure for children and young people. The Lead Member will chair the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership Board and have reporting accountability to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Partnership Board will develop its own set of Key Performance Indicators drawn from existing KPI's across the system. Members of the partnership will play a crucial role in delivering our ambition and will represent statutory and non- statutory partner organisations.

#### **4. Next Steps:**

The next phase of activity is to involve partners in developing the framework more fully via a series of workshops which will also include children and young people. The framework will then be the basis on which the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board establishes Oldham's strategy and associated action plan.

Alongside this it is intended to formally establish the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board with agreed membership and terms of reference. A key objective for the board will be to ensure the child and young person's voice is evidenced in the discharge of its function and that ongoing engagement and co-production become embedded into partnership work.

#### **5. Recommendations:**

- c) The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note and endorse the approach to establishing a strategic framework within which partners deliver on the ambition for Oldham to be a **'place where children and young people thrive'**.
- d) The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve the proposal to establish the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board.