

Report to East Oldham District Executive

Thriving Communities Programme Update

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr S Fielding, Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise

Officer Contact: Rebekah Sutcliffe, Strategic Director of Reform

**Report Author: Vicky Sugars – Strategy, Partnerships and Policy
Manager
Ext. 3303**

Reason for report

The report gives an overview of the Thriving Communities programme. Vicky Sugars – Strategy, Partnerships and Policy manager – will attend to present this item.

Recommendations

1. That the District Executive note the information presented.

The Thriving Communities Programme

The Thriving Communities (TC) programme is part of the Oldham Cares programme (health and social care devolution) and is therefore primarily about moving the health and social care system into a place that both values and invests in early intervention and prevention, community based solutions and social action.

It will do this through developing and growing community capacity across the borough through effective collaboration and ways of working with communities and the Voluntary, Community, Social, Faith and Enterprise (VCSFE) sector.

The overarching vision is for people and communities to have the power to be healthy, happy, able to make positive choices and both offer and access insightful and responsive support when needed.

The objectives of Thriving Communities Programme are as follows;

- To deliver direct improvement to the health and wellbeing of all people living in Oldham and in doing so help address health inequality.
- To adopt an asset based approach to commissioning that draws upon the strengths of individuals, families and communities and supports a thriving VCSFE across the borough.
- To work with the VCSFE to develop a sustainable approach to funding of the sector.
- To further connect and maximise the impact of the VCSFE and help align it to the needs of residents
- To maintain and grow community capacity across the borough.
- To engage people and communities in the design and delivery of services.
- To develop an approach to social prescribing that supports the whole of the Oldham Cares system and bridge dependencies with other elements of reform such as place based integration.
- To support early intervention and prevention.
- To support the building of the Oldham brand and attract investment to the borough.
- To ensure that the resources of the wider social care system are directed towards places and the people that need it most and enable positive demand management.

Programme Overview

The diagram below and content below gives a summary of the main work areas.

Figure 1.1 - The Thriving Communities Programme Structure

The Thriving Communities Programme



1. **Insight** - The insight workstream identifies and describes existing community assets, builds good practice, captures evidence of impact and change, conducts further research through innovative approaches and in doing so, establishes a detailed, rich and dynamic intelligence resource for the programme with a much wider relevance for other programmes and work streams.
2. **Leadership & workforce** – The leadership and workforce workstream will help reshape the way leadership and workforce development is undertaken across the borough to enable our staff and leaders to more consistently adopt an asset and place based approach and operate in a system that supports that. This will complement the wider GM Leaders work and establishment of the co-operative workforce aspired to in the Oldham Plan. The collective impact of such a workforce has the potential to drive design, innovation and change at a scale and pace not previously achieved.
3. **Social Action & Infrastructure** – The delivery workstream of Thriving Communities, this will create the conditions and opportunities for people to improve their lives through social prescribing supported by Asset Based Community Development work. The Social Action Fund¹ and Fast Grants will support, enable and inspire ideas and opportunities that make real and lasting change for people and their communities. This will be evidenced through how individuals interact with and are supported by formal, informal services and each other.

¹ The Social Action Fund is a working name which will be coproduced through engagement with stakeholders.

4. **Thriving Communities Hub²** - Leaving a legacy of system change which transforms the way the VSCFE and public services interact and commission. Drawing in the best in academic research to attract funding to the borough and drive innovation and transformation in how we deliver care across the health care system with an emphasis on moving to earlier community support models. The Thriving Communities Hub is an opportunity to firmly establish a meaningful centre of excellence and delivery for social change built on evidence, practice and impact.
5. **Funding** - The funding work stream will seek to multiply the programme allocation through match-funding and other investment opportunities. The aim is to use the core budget required for the delivery of the base programme to develop its reach and attract funding into Oldham Cares in order to do more.
6. **Wider Engagement** – This workstream looks at ensuring stakeholders are committed to and strategically aligned to the direction of Thriving Communities programme and the new asset and place based way of working and thinking. This will be achieved by working locally, regionally and nationally.

Key summary of achievements so far;

- The formation of a collaborative and effective multi-organisation partnership which is embodied through Thriving Communities Delivery Group.
- The Working Together Event in Oldham was a success – 200+ attendees, positive feedback on the ambition and approach received along with development points identified for the Thriving Communities Hub (working name) concept and positioning.
- Asset mapping prototype complete in Oldham West with 60+ assets engaged and more expected to be engaged in the future.
- Social prescribing now active in 3 GP surgeries and also within the Integrated Multi-Disciplinary Team, referral pathways being developed across Oldham West and will build upon the positive work from partners such as Mind and Early Help in their role
- The Thriving Communities index has undergone multi-agency consultation with positive responses and now entering Proof of Concept build stage.
- GM People and Communities team visit was held successfully – positive feedback on the work to date, approach and engagement with partners and we continue to collaborate effectively with this team.
- Working with North West Employers to deliver a comprehensive assessment of Oldham partner's leadership and workforce in terms of asset and place based capacity and capability.
- Created a workforce development approach through the Place Based Integration site in Holts and Lees.
- Innovation fund entering final stage of planning
- Fast Grants are now in action and are helping the communities such as the Plastic Band group and the Community Café.
- Thriving Communities Hub concept developed and undergoing consultation with the VCSFE and other partners.
- An initial Place Based Integration site up and running in Holts and Lees and other sites in Limehurst, Focus Care and next Oldham West now in development.
- Place based learning group and system learning group established to explore and challenge system constraints
- The team consistently supports bids to draw in additional funding - reading friends bid successfully won to a value of £10k

² Formerly known as the School of Thriving Communities – name change driven through VCSFE co-production