

## ***HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD Agenda***

Date Thursday 31 October 2024

Time 10.00 am

Venue Lees Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1NL

Notes 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST- If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote he/she is advised to contact Alex Bougatef or at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

2. CONTACT OFFICER for this agenda is email [constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk)

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - Any Member of the public wishing to ask a question at the above meeting can do so only if a written copy of the question is submitted to the contact officer by 12 noon on Monday, 28 October 2024.

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[https://www.oldham.gov.uk/homepage/1449/attending\\_council\\_meetings](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/homepage/1449/attending_council_meetings)

### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD**

Councillors Brownridge, Davis (Chair), Mushtaq, Nasheen, Shuttleworth and Sykes

- 1 Apologies For Absence
- 2 Urgent Business  
Urgent business, if any, introduced by the Chair
- 3 Declarations of Interest  
To Receive Declarations of Interest in any Contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting.
- 4 Public Question Time  
To receive Questions from the Public, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.
- 5 Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 3 - 8)  
The Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024 are attached for approval.
- 6 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment  
Website demonstration
- 7 OSCP and OSAB Reports (Pages 9 - 114)  
Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership and Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Reports 2023-24
- 8 Better Care Fund 2024-25 Quarter 1 Submission (Pages 115 - 118)  
The content of the Quarter 1 Better Care Fund Submission to be presented to the Board to be noted.
- 9 Health and Wellbeing Strategy Update (Pages 119 - 128)  
An update to the Health and Wellbeing board on Oldham's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

## HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD

12/09/2024 at 10.00 am

**Present:** Councillors Davis (Chair), Mushtaq, Nasheen, Shuttleworth and Sykes

Also in attendance: Rebecca Fletcher- Director of Public Health  
Rev Jean Hurlston- Voluntary member  
Simon Blair- OCL  
Anne Mcann- Public Health Service  
Charlotte Stevenson- Public Health Service  
Gerard Jones- Children's Services  
Anna Tebay- Public Health Service  
Lorraine Black- First Choice Homes  
Andrea Edmondson- NHS  
Laura Windsor-Welsh- Action Together  
Charlotte Walker- Adults Services  
Susannah Reeves- OSFC Principal  
Steve Senior- Consultant in Public Health  
Dr John Patterson- NHS  
Anna Da Silva- Northern Roots  
Steph Wild- Northern Roots  
Michelle Scholes- IGP Care  
Justine Starr- IGP Care  
Kristina Atkins- IGP Care  
James Mulvaney- Policy Lead  
Jon Taylor- Data Insight and Intelligence Lead  
Emily Baylis-Tunney -Data Insight and Intelligence Analyst  
GMP Representative  
Durga Paul- Constitutional Services

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Brownridge, Jayne Ratcliffe, Paul Knight, Nasir Dad, Liz Windsor-Welsh and Mike Barker.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions for this meeting to consider.

5 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 be approved as a correct record.

6

## **JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

The Data Insight and Intelligence Analyst presented a demonstration of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Website. Work has been done to add detail to various sections of the site, so an overview was provided to the Board with updates to the site highlighted.

The Board were talked through navigating the website, starting with reviewing headline figures on the Home Page, and progressing into dedicated pages where more detailed reports and visual resources are provided.

The Board were informed that all data and reports available to the Council and in the public domain would be available on the JSNA website.

Members of the Board queried whether it was possible to look at the data at a Ward level, the Officer confirmed that all information in the Public Domain can be added to JSNA.

**RESOLVED:** That the Board noted and commended the work being done on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Website

7

## **OLDHAM CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL**

The Board heard from Dr Steven Senior, Consultant in Public Health and Chair of the Bury, Oldham, and Rochdale Child Death Overview Panel.

The Bury, Rochdale, and Oldham Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) reviews all deaths of children normally resident in the three local authority areas.

The Board heard a report which provided an analysis of deaths reported to CDOP and reviewed by CDOP in 2021/22, 2022/23, and 2023/24. It also includes key demographic data on the population of children in Bury, Rochdale, and Oldham, as well as data on important contributors to child mortality, such as rates of premature births, child poverty, and homelessness among families with children.

Birth rates in Bury, Rochdale, and Oldham have fallen since 2016 but remain above average for England. The Office for National Statistics projects that the numbers of children living in the three local authority areas will be similar in 2030 to 2023.

Numbers and rates of child deaths in Bury, Rochdale, and Oldham have fluctuated year to year but overall stayed constant. Child death rates have tended to be higher than average for England in Oldham and Rochdale while rates in Bury have been similar to the England average.

Children living in areas of higher deprivation continue to be more likely to die, as are children from Asian ethnic background

(potentially because they are more likely than White children to grow up in areas of deprivation). Rates of child poverty and homelessness have increased since 2020/21 in all three areas covered by the report.

Along with the effects of poverty, CDOP continues to identify known, modifiable risk factors in its reviews of child deaths. 57% of deaths reviewed by CDOP between 2021/22 and 2023/24 had one or more risk factors identified. The most common category of modifiable factor were factors relating to the physical environment and factors relating to service provision (both present in 41% of deaths reviewed).

Known modifiable risk factors identified in reviews of child deaths included: smoking, alcohol misuse, and substance misuse during pregnancy and in the households; Unsafe sleeping arrangements, potentially linked to overcrowded housing or alcohol use by one or both parents; and Parents who are blood relatives, linked to 25.9% of deaths categorised as due to 'chromosomal, genetic, and congenital anomalies'.

Based on the analysis of deaths reported to and reviewed by CDOP, as well as of the publicly available data presented above, this report recommends that:

- Child poverty: Health and Wellbeing Boards should note the worsening in measures of child poverty and to work with local partners to ensure that local antipoverty plans address increases in childhood poverty.
- Smoking, alcohol, and substance misuse: Health and Wellbeing Boards, with partners, should continue to work to reduce smoking, alcohol, and drug misuse in pregnancy by:
  - 1) Ensuring smoking status and alcohol or substance misuse problems are identified early by ensuring that pregnant people are asked about smoking status, alcohol use, and substance use, that this information is recorded, and referrals to appropriate services are made; and
  - 2) Continuing wider work to reduce the prevalence of smoking, alcohol misuse, and substance misuse across the population and ensuring provision of smoking cessation and drug and alcohol treatment services.
- Safe sleeping arrangements: Health and Wellbeing Boards, with partners, should continue to promote safe sleeping practices, noting the possible relationship between unsafe sleeping arrangements and overcrowded or otherwise inappropriate housing and with alcohol use by parents. Safeguarding partnerships should ensure for children who have additional vulnerabilities that are captured in child protection or child in need plan.
- Consanguinity: Health and Wellbeing Boards should work with partners and community organisations to raise awareness of the increased risk of death and illness faced by children born to parents who are close blood relatives and assure themselves

that genetic counselling and testing services are being offered appropriately.

Members discussed the work being done to tackle some of the issues highlighted in the report and noted that smoking in pregnancy was at an all-time low and below 10%. Work is also being done to educate parents on safe sleeping and progress has been made.

Members were in agreement that child poverty seems to be the underlying cause of the majority of child deaths and tackling child poverty should continue to be a priority.

**RESOLVED** that, the Health and Well Being Board note the Child Death Overview Panel Report.

8

### **CORPORATE PLAN**

The Board received an update on the development of The Oldham Plan. This is a refreshed plan with more focus that moves away from Covid Recovery which was heavily featured in the previous Oldham Plan. The Board were provided with a summary of the Partner feedback and insight on Housing, Economy and Environment, Education and Skills, Health and Well Being, Public Spaces and Community Safety, Poverty and Inequality.

The emerging priorities identified 4 key missions;

1. Building Homes, Building Futures
2. Communities that thrive
3. Delivering Economic Growth and Opportunity
4. Pride in Oldham

The Board were provided with a brief summary of the Vision and Actions within the Oldham Plan to achieve the key missions.

Members provided feedback on the presentation and suggested amending some of the working to avoid confusion to residents about some of the changes happening in Oldham. The Officer noted that the plan was still in draft stages and changes could be made.

**RESOLVED** that, the Health and Well Being Board note The Oldham Plan.

9

### **HEALTH INEQUALITIES PLAN UPDATE**

The Board heard of how in June 2022, the Health and Well Being board agreed a health inequalities plan broadly aligned to the Marmot review 'Build Back Fairer in Greater Manchester: Health Equity and Dignified Lives'. The Oldham plan has 6 thematic areas and 57 actions. Each theme had an identified senior sponsor to drive the work.

- Children and Young People – Gerard Jones,
- Health in all Policies/ Communities and Place – Mike Barker and Laura Windsor Welsh

- Health and Wellbeing, and Health Services – John Patterson and Rebecca Fletcher
- Work and Unemployment – Majid Hussain and Charlotte Walker
- Housing, Transport and Environment – Paul Clifford and Nasir Dad
- Income, Poverty and Debt – Sayeed Osman.

Many of the actions were not new but have been brought together in this plan as means of coordinating the approach, accentuating delivery and raising visibility. Each of the thematic areas had the opportunity of a focused review at a Health and Wellbeing board to share good practice and raise system barriers. This piece of work was in response to the stark inequalities that Oldham experiences between the borough and England average, and within our least and most deprived wards of Oldham. The gap in inequalities has not reduced as a result of this piece of work but has been pedalling against a backdrop of a cost living crisis.

The Head of the Public Health Service provided a brief summary of each of the areas and reflected on the last 2 years work.

Members noted that some of the Sponsors named in the plan were no longer in post and questioned what was being done in their absence. The Director of Public Health confirmed the actions and workplan set were still being carried out by Officers, but that new sponsors would be introduced to lead.

Members of the Board suggested the creation of a sub-committee to track the progress of the Health Inequalities Plan.

**RESOLVED** that,

1. The Health Inequalities Plan be noted by the Health and Well Being Board.
2. The Board look to create a Sub Committee to track the progress of the Health Inequalities Plan.

10

## **NORTHERN ROOTS**

Anna Da Silva and Steph Wild from Northern Roots presented to the Health and Well Being Board. The Board heard about the Social Prescribing work being done at Northern Roots and how there are thousands of papers which evidence the mental, physical, social and communal benefits of gardens, gardening and access to nature.

The Board heard of how the Charity began and how far it has come, as well as being given an overview of the current staffing.

Northern Roots is long term person focused, and they have supported 67 participants so far but with the additional funding they expect to have more users. Specific user experiences and outcomes were shared with the Board to highlight instances of progress and the good work being done.

**RESOLVED** that, the Health and Well Being Board note The Northern Roots Presentation.

11

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

**RESOLVED** that, the Membership update be noted by the Health and Well Being Board.

The meeting started at 10:00am and ended at 12:00pm





# ANNUAL REPORT

1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2023 -  
31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024



This report is a public document.

It can be accessed on the website of Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership:

<https://www.olscb.org/about/publications/>

Approved by Oldham Safeguarding Children Partners on

**Independent Chair:** Dr Henri Giller

**Report compiled and written by** Oldham Safeguarding Partnership, Business Unit

**Date of publication:** 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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**Availability and accessibility:** if you would like to receive this report in any other format, please contact [OSCP.group@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:OSCP.group@oldham.gov.uk)

# Contents

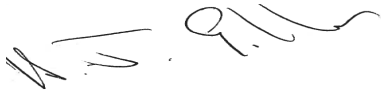
Message from the Independent Chair	4
Purpose of the Report	5
Partnership Working	6
Oldham Partnership Model	7
Reflections from our Statutory Partners	10-11
The Local Context/Profile of Safeguarding in Oldham	13-14
Introducing Working Together 2023 – Driving improvements	15
Activity and Impact	16-24
Voice of Children, young people, and families	25, 36
Learning & Quality Assurance Activity	27-29
Independent Scrutiny	32-33
Plan on a Page 2023-24	34-36
Funding	37
Statements from OSCP Agencies (Appendix 1)	37
Keep in touch	39

## Message from Independent Chair

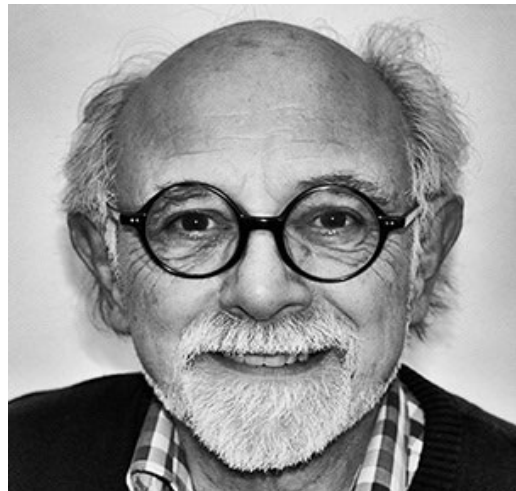
The 2023-24 annual report of the Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership demonstrates the continuing strength of effective local safeguarding activity in the period. The Partnership has consolidated a number of earlier gains in this period and now presents as a robust set of arrangements to safeguard the interests of children and young people.

- The structures of the Partnership have been streamlined and the representation of agencies and interests within them strengthened.
- Priority actions have been identified and progressed and key outcomes evidenced and promoted.
- The Partnership has engaged with stakeholders, particularly those vulnerable or at risk of compromised safeguarding and listened to their needs and concerns.
- The Partners have been challenged and held to account where necessary to ensure improved performance where required.

The gains of the past 12 months will now be taken into the work programme for 2024-25 and built into the revised structures of the Partnership as laid out in Working Together 2023.



**Dr Henri Giller, Independent Chair of the Oldham Safeguarding  
Children Partnership**



## Purpose of the Report

Working Together 2023, requires the Safeguarding Children Partnership to publish a report on an annual basis. The purpose of this report is to set out what activities' partners have undertaken jointly between April 2023 and March 2024. The focus of this report focuses on multi- agency priorities, learning, impact, evidence, and improvements.

The report contains the following:

- Evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children, adults, and their families from early help to children in care and care leavers.
- How, effective arrangements in Oldham which exist to enable safeguarding partners to effectively work together to keep children safe.
- What partnerships have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews.

Our report this year is written against the five priorities:

1. Neglect
2. Complex and contextual safeguarding
3. Transitions
4. Domestic abuse
5. Child mental health and the impact of trauma

## OSCP Vision

**“For everyone to work together to ensure that all children and young people feel safe within their homes, schools and communities”.**

The vision of Oldham Safeguard and aims of the Oldham Safeguarding Partnership are the six stated in the Oldham Strategic Safeguarding Plan 2024 – 2027.

### **Vision:**

1. Excellent practice is the norm across all practitioners in Oldham.
2. Partner agencies hold one another to account effectively.
3. There is early identification of new safeguarding issues.
4. Learning is promoted and embedded.
5. Information is shared effectively.
6. The public feel confident that children are protected.

## Partnership working

Oldham Safeguarding Children Partners work together to promote a child-centred approach to safeguarding, listening to children, empowering families and, where needed, providing services that are professional, evidenced-based, and effective. The partners continuously strive to improve and challenge each other to learn the lessons from daily practice.

Working Together 23, highlights that strong, joined up leadership and clear accountability is critical to effective multi agency safeguarding, bringing together the various organisations and agencies.

Oldham safeguarding children partnership have named Lead Safeguarding Partners.

The Lead Statutory Partners (LSP) responsible for the safeguarding arrangements under the Oldham Safeguarding Partnership are:

- Oldham Council
- Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (Oldham)
- Greater Manchester Police

The Lead Safeguarding Partners for Oldham's Safeguarding Arrangements are the Chief Executive of Oldham Council, who is also the Accountable Officer for Oldham operation of Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership, and the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police.

Each Lead safeguarding Partner have appointed a delegated safeguarding partner.

The lead safeguarding partners have opted to delegate their functions to the following Senior Officers:

- Director of Children's Services (DCS) – Oldham Council
- Assistant Director Quality, Safety & Safeguarding – Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (Oldham)
- Oldham Divisional Commander – Greater Manchester Police

Whilst the Lead Safeguarding Partners delegate their functions, they remain accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their agency. They are accountable for meeting the statutory and legislative duties of their agency.

During the past year, all relevant safeguarding agencies have continued to demonstrate a clear and tangible investment in wanting to improve our responses to children and young people in Oldham.

Safeguarding is everyone's business, and the Oldham Safeguarding Partnership will provide lead responsibility in demonstrating what this means for all people and professionals living and working in the local community.

# Oldham Partnership Model

## Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership:

The Strategic Partnership in Oldham are responsible for setting the strategic aims and priorities of the Oldham safeguarding children partnership, agreeing, and monitoring the partnership budget to deliver on those aims and priorities, monitoring the performance of the partnership, holding partners to account, providing scrutiny and challenge.

The Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership meets bi-monthly. It has the following partnership representation:

- Director of Children's Services – Oldham Council,
- Director of Social Care and Early Help - Oldham Council
- Assistant Director Quality, Safety & Safeguarding – Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (Oldham)
- Designated Doctor – Clinical Director, Community Paediatrics (Oldham)
- Designated Nurse – Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (Oldham)
- Chief Superintendent – Oldham District Commander, GMP
- Cabinet Member Children and Young People
- Director of Education - Oldham Council
- Director of Public Health - Oldham Council
- Secondary Head teacher,
- Primary Head teacher,
- Special school representative
- Further Education representative
- Voluntary Sector representation
- Head of Community Safety Services

## Statutory Partners Meeting

The partners:

- Agreed the agenda for the Partnership.
- Received exception reports from subgroup chairs.
- Prepared for Safeguarding Accountability meeting.
- Identified cross cutting themes with the Adult Safeguarding Board.

## Safeguarding Review and Learning Hub Subgroup

The learning hub:

- Defined what good looks like.
- Facilitate the effective management of Child Safeguarding Reviews.
- Act as a conduit at a local level for the delivery of any national reviews.
- To develop and drive the partnership training plan, influenced by strategic priorities and learning from reviews.
- To develop a culture of continuous learning and improvement across the Partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and promote good practice.
- Lead on the learning and improvement activity of the Partnership. This will include undertaking multi-agency case evaluations, monitoring partner agency compliance with Section 11 responsibilities, collating and providing analysis of partnership performance data.
- Be responsible for the consideration of serious incidents and/or child deaths which have

occurred as a result of abuse or neglect, as per Working Together 2023 guidance.

- Undertake rapid reviews within 15 working days and will lead on the completion of any local safeguarding practice reviews. This group will also act as the co-ordination group for any national safeguarding practice reviews. Oldham's rapid review process is part of a Greater Manchester initiative (led by Salford as an early adopter) to ensure a consistency of approach across the GM safeguarding partnerships.

### **Rapid Review Panel**

This is an agreed subset of the safeguarding and Learning review group which will meet as and when required to respond to rapid review referrals. The panel follow the Practice Review Guidance 24.

### **Performance Subgroup**

The Performance subgroup:

Deliver a QA performance framework (inc overseeing Audits) and scorecard that is focused on improving outcomes for children.

- Develop and implement appropriate thresholds, policies and procedures that are focused on improving outcomes for children and families.
- Work alongside the Safeguarding and Review Group to provide quality assurance and analysis.
- Lead on continuous improvement for the Partnership, seeking data, intelligence, and audit findings to evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding services for children and young people in Oldham.
- Be responsible for analysing multi-agency safeguarding performance data and the findings from case reviews to inform the Partnership of relevant trends in safeguarding performance, risks to the attainment of the Partners' business priorities and emergent safeguarding needs that require a response from the Partnership.
- Conduct audits informed by the Partnership priorities, data intelligence and the findings from case reviews (local and national)
- Undertake audits on both a single and multi-agency basis and include annually at least one 'deep dive' in addition to 'dip dives.'
- Receive single agency audit reports and performance reviews and challenge their conclusions where merited, and identify any significant issues that need to be monitored and/or raised to the Strategic Partnership or Statutory Partners Meeting
- Develop and monitor action plans resulting from performance data analysis and audit and ensure that such action plans are completed in a timely manner.
- Identify whether practice has changed as a result of completed action plans, using performance data or re-auditing where required.

### **Task and Finish groups**

The purpose is to lead on time limited, task specific pieces of work as directed by subgroups and/or Strategic Partnership

### **Safeguarding Accountability Meetings**

These quarterly meetings are to provide safeguarding assurance to the Chief Executive of LA, Accountable officer for CCG and Chief Superintendent for GMP.

### **School Network Designated Safeguarding Leads**

Hold termly with DSL's to ensure communication and discussion with schools/colleges.

### **Policy subgroup**

Oldham Safeguarding Partnership continue to adopt Greater Manchester policies and procedures. This



group is now a virtual group. The role of the local policy and procedures group will be to support the maintenance and review of Greater Manchester safeguarding policy and procedures; to review the effectiveness of policies and procedure as directed by Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and learning and improvement activity and make recommendations for modifications as required. The policy sub-group will lead on guidance on information sharing, but all sub-groups will need to be mindful of the implications of information sharing, current practice, and standards and how improvement can be attained.

All subgroups have worked towards achieving the priorities detailed within the 2023/2024 OSCP Business Plan.

Subgroups exist under the current arrangements which drive forward the work of the OSCP. Safeguarding partners take a shared responsibility in chairing the subgroup meetings which maximise the opportunities for joint working on shared priorities.

This arrangement has remained consistent and stable during 2023/2024.

## Reflections from our Statutory Partners

Oldham district of Greater Manchester Police has gone through a period of change in the last 12 months with a number of moves within the Senior Leadership Team. I was posted here permanently as the district commander in February of 2024 and I would expect that Oldham should start to see some stability from police leadership. On arrival I set three priorities for Oldham District Policing, the number one priority is child protection.

As a district we have our own internal child protection plan to ensure that we get our policing response right - That we respond to incidents quickly, that we arrest perpetrators and that investigations are allocated to the right resource and progressed as quickly as possible with successful outcomes. We have started to see improvements but now is not the time for complacency and I will continue to drive the policing response in this area.

Force wide, Greater Manchester Police continue to strive to improve in all areas and recognise child protection is a priority. Work is ongoing force wide to identify best practice and achieve consistency of response to child protection across the force, to ensure that no child GM wide is left with a substandard service.

The support and joint agency working within the Oldham Safeguarding Partnership is strong and this, along GMP's commitment to continual improvement, will make Oldham a safer place to live, work and visit.

The leadership within Oldham District remains focused on continuing to build and develop the excellent partnership we have already established. We are working hard, together, to embed the changes outlined in working together but also to embed learning from case reviews throughout our organisations. We recognise that we need to make the learning relevant to the target audience and ensure that it lands with our front line to embed the learning and result in real change.

We have made clear our commitment to provide well defined objectives and ensure that we put the right measures in place across the partnership to be able to demonstrate real change and tangible outcomes.

We continue to investigate a number of serious and complex crimes within the district and through the partnership. We are determined to seek justice and safeguard all victims of crime.

As a police force we cannot achieve the outcomes that we need without partnership working, hence it will remain a priority for me to build on these relationships and ensure that we are working as a true partnership. The introduction of 'Right Care, Right Person' in September 2024, will result in some changes but is something we have been planning for some time and Oldham will be ready to deliver.

We are looking forward to a new era for the OSCP with the new working together arrangements which should bring greater scrutiny, challenge, and performance".

**Estelle Mathieson, Chief Superintendent, District Commander, Oldham**



The Oldham Safeguarding Children's Partnership is the cornerstone of our mature and effective multi-agency response to safeguarding children and young people and supporting families in Oldham. It has been a challenging year in which all agencies have sustained high levels of demand impacted by the social deprivation faced in our communities. We have maintained a relentless focus on improving our response to complex and contextual safeguarding, domestic abuse, children's mental health, neglect, and transitions for children and young people at all key points in their lives.

OSCP has worked at pace to implement action plans from the learning from local reviews into practice improvement through the Learning Hub sub-group and strengthened performance management through the Performance sub-group. We continue to deliver a comprehensive training offer to schools and colleges aligned with our key priorities and have implemented new partnership arrangements in line with the Working Together 2023 guidance. We have recognised the need as a partnership to expand the scope and impact of early help to prevent harm to children and young people and family breakdown and will focus on revising and implementing the Oldham Partnership Continuum of Need in 2024/25 to continue to provide better place based early help services centred around Family Hubs as part of a comprehensive integrated family help offer to support families where they live.

**Gerard Jones - Managing Director of Children & Young People (DCS)**



NHS GM has maintained the CCG statutory duties across the GM Safeguarding Children Partnerships as one of the equal and joint statutory partners (Local Authority, ICBs and Chief Officer of police). Full representation has been maintained at Safeguarding Children's Partnerships, and associated subgroup meetings, to fulfil and discharge both commissioning and statutory safeguarding responsibilities. This has enabled the ICB to work with its partners to ensure learning from local and national child death and safeguarding reviews has influenced and strengthened practice.

NHS GM has continued to discharge our statutory safeguarding duties throughout 2023-24 in relation to safeguarding babies, children, and young people.

The NHS GM Chief Nurse holds the statutory accountability for safeguarding and is supported by the Deputy Chief Nurse and Associate Director of Safeguarding. Statutory safeguarding responsibilities are delegated to the Associate Director of Quality and Safety in each of the GM localities and delivery of the statutory functions are undertaken by the locality Designated Teams

**Andrea Edmondson**  
**Associate Director Quality & Safety (Oldham)**  
**NHS Greater Manchester**



# Strategic Aims and Principles

## **Our strategic aims include:**

- Excellent practice is the norm across all practitioners in Oldham.
- Partner agencies hold one another to account effectively.
- There is early identification of new safeguarding issues.
- Learning is promoted and embedded.
- Information is shared effectively.
- The public feel confident that children are protected.

## Principles underpinning our work:

- We will ensure that children and their families are fully engaged and listened to so that their voices and lived experiences are integral to the development and delivery of services.
- We are committed to working together with all partner agencies, organisations, and communities who have a role to play in safeguarding, to ensure that children are safe, well and able to reach their full potential.
- We will continually measure the impact of work undertaken through OSCP to ensure that there is accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice with a focus on continual learning and improved outcomes for children.

## The Local Context.

Oldham forms one of the ten local authority areas that comprise the Greater Manchester conurbation. Oldham will continue to work closely and collaboratively with its counterparts on both a regional and sub- regional basis. Oldham will actively participate in the initiatives of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, particularly with respect to the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership.

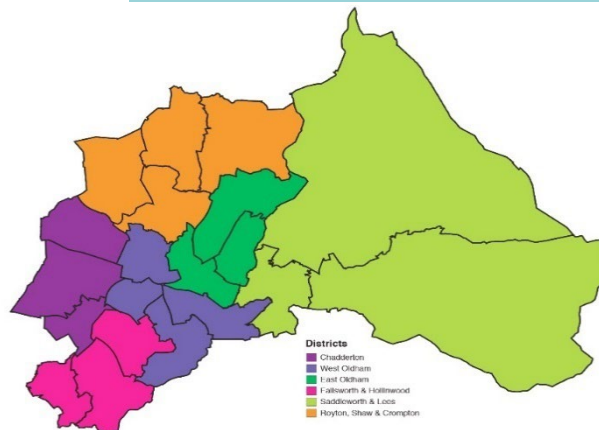
Understanding the context of life in Oldham for children, young people and their families is a fundamental point for the safeguarding partners.

**82,393 Children and Young People**

**Aged 0-25 live in Oldham.**

There are 61,000 children and young people aged 0-17 (25% of Oldham's population). Numbers of children and young people are projected to fall by 5% over the next decade.

**Oldham has a population of 246,130 people making it the 6th largest borough in Greater Manchester.**



**Almost two-fifths (38%) of children under 16 in Oldham live in poverty.**

**Oldham has a diverse population with 32% of residents from Black, Asian and Minority ethnic groups (BAME).**

# Profile of Safeguarding in Oldham

Contacts to MASH

26,000



Contacts converted to Referrals

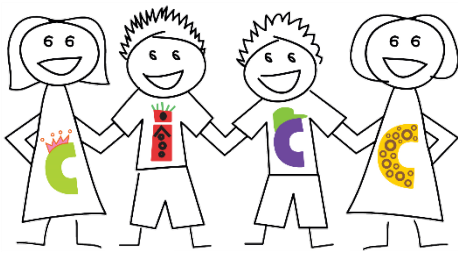
5430



3,644 referrals made to Targeted Early Help



2059 S47 enquiries initiated



597 children looked after as of March 2024



510 children on child protection plans as of March 2024



384 children electively home educated

## Introducing Working Together 2023. Driving improvements

Following the Oldham Safeguarding Childrens Partnership (OSCP) Development Day in January, an agreement was made that a Strategic Assessment would be undertaken on the Multi Agency Partnership Arrangements. This provides an opportunity for OSCP to have a comprehensive understanding of the areas for improvement. It focused on the following:

- To assess the current effectiveness and governance of the OSCP.
- To support the partnership to drive improvement to the broader practice system, and to support reform to align with the requirements of Working Together 2023, and the new National Framework for Children's Social Care.
- To develop and implement a QA & Performance Framework to enhance safeguarding effectiveness.

Methodology undertaken:

- Interviews with most stake holders
- Reviewed Partnership documents on website
- ToR of the Board and subgroups
- Work plans and minutes from selected meetings.
- Observation of selected meetings
- 'Desktop' review of other LSP arrangements, GM and nationally.
- What Works for Childrens Social Care Safeguarding Partners Annual Report Analysis 2021/22, published Dec 2022
- Six Steps for Independent Scrutiny -Safeguarding Childrens Partnership Arrangements University of Bedfordshire
- Child Practice Review Panel Annual Report January 2024
- Working Together 2023 – Task and Finish Group, to progress the project plan and strategic assessment.



# Activity and Impact – Domestic Abuse

## Domestic Abuse.

Domestic abuse, and the effect it has on children and families in Oldham is sadly a repeating issue over many years of Annual Reports and plans. Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership remains committed to preventing Domestic Abuse and making sure that the correct support is available for any child affected by it.

There is an ongoing ambition for health within Oldham to target low level domestic abuse and work with victims and their families to provide early intervention and support. The aim is to deliver this via Primary Care.

In 2023/24 there were 44 individuals per 10,000 population referred to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference due to high risk domestic abuse, and in 30% of these cases there was also a child in the household. However the MARAC rate had fallen from 50 per 10,000 population in 2022/23.

## 2023- 2024 key priorities:

1. Strengthen the support offer for victims at a standard and medium level of risk.
2. Improved communication of the support offer, including increasing the availability of online self-help resources
3. Completion of a multi-agency training audit to identify gaps and build capacity of services to support victims of abuse and their children.
4. Specific capacity building initiatives – CHIDVA, IRIS with GPs and Senior IDVA supporting Children's Services, seek additional funding for hospital IDVA.
5. Extend the commissioned intervention with perpetrators of Domestic Abuse to March 2025
6. Disruption work with the identified high harm cohort.
7. Further improving operation of Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
8. Revisiting Operation Encompass to ensure that the process provides the most appropriate, timely information to schools so children affected by Domestic Abuse can be supported.
9. There are impending changes in May 2023 to how referrals to services are processed at the 'front door' (MASH) and this presents additional opportunities for early intervention.

## Activity

### In 2023 – 2024 we:

- Continued to implement the Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Strategy informed by the Safe Lives review of domestic abuse in Oldham, including improved support for victims and their children, work with partners and capacity building with professionals.
- Embedded the Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Policy as part of the programme of training and awareness raising delivered to professionals.
- Maintained and distributed the Domestic Abuse Directory for professionals to ensure that staff supporting victims of domestic abuse have access to information about the range of support available.
- Invested in increased capacity in the Domestic Abuse Team including creation of a dedicated Independent Domestic Violence Adviser supporting children (CHIDVA), and changed the team's operating model to strengthen the step-down support for survivors of abuse to prevent escalation and repeat victimisation.
- Recommissioned behaviour change work with both adults and young people who have been perpetrators of domestic abuse to 2024/25.
- Expanded provision of safe accommodation for victims of abuse and their children, through recommissioning refuge, expanded use of dispersed accommodation, contributing to the men's refuge in Trafford and enabling victims to remain in their home through sanctuary schemes.



- Investment in VCFSE Women's Network who have provided community-based support for survivors of domestic abuse as well as enabling peer support.
- Delivered a White Ribbon conference attended by around 80 young people from secondary schools which raised awareness of violence against women and girls

## Impact

- The rate of referral to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment conference reduced from 50 per 10,000 population in 2022/23 to 44 in 2023/24.
- 397 professionals participated in domestic abuse training in 2023/24, supporting the upskilling of the workforce around domestic abuse including 100 who have attended domestic abuse train the trainer courses so that they can upskill other staff.
- Provided 374 victims of domestic abuse with 455 children with access to supported safe accommodation.
- Increased delivery of behaviour management support for perpetrators with 98 adults and 131 young people referred for support.

## Areas for Reflection and priorities in 2024-2025..

We will:

- Ensure there is a robust local offer to children and families which offers early help, protects them, and reduces the impact of their experiences.
- Have a range of interventions and measures available to reduce the risk presented by perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- Have a preventative approach to those at risk of becoming perpetrators.
- Ensure support is coordinated and will be a whole family with an approach to upscale communication and awareness raising to meet scale of challenge
- Ensure our communities will be able to spot signs of abuse and will challenge where necessary
- Refresh strategy and safe accommodation needs assessment.
- Prevent abuse and intervene at the earliest point by investment in workforce development with up-to-date knowledge and skill set for all those working with children and families.
- Provide support for those who experience abuse, strengthen offer around recovery programmes and peer support.

# Activity and Impact – Complex and Contextual Safeguarding

## Complex and contextual safeguarding

Complex Safeguarding is criminal activity (often organised), or behaviour associated with criminality, involving children and young adults (often vulnerable) where there is exploitation and/or a clear or implied safeguarding concern.

Over 2023-24 the partnership continued the work from the previous year regarding the Peer Review of services in the borough, and started to progress the learning from [The review into historic safeguarding practices in the borough of Oldham](#)

### 2023- 2024 key priorities:

- Continue to take robust and early action to share intelligence and challenge the operations of perpetrators of exploitation ensuring we maximise the use of all agencies and the legal powers available to us to disrupt the behaviours.
- To support the development of more in-depth analysis of local trends and themes to continue to inform and drive targeted service delivery.
- Strengthen the transitional safeguarding offer.
- Implementation of a contextual safeguarding approach – this will include an audit of processes, procedures, and forms to ensure that context is robustly considered and rooted in our practice; as well as practically implementing the approach.
- Strengthen the prevention offer for CSE, CCE and youth violence.
- Complex and contextual safeguarding to continue to be offered within the OSCB training offer, alongside training continuing to be offered within schools, colleges, faith sector, residential homes, and wider partners.
- Multi agency audits to take place.

## Activity

### In 2023 – 2024 we:

- Children and young people at risk of or experiencing all forms of exploitation will receive the right support at the right time in order to keep them safe.
- Built capacity in areas of the statutory partnership and community partners to be able to recognise and respond to all forms of complex and contextual safeguarding that affect the lives of children and families.
- Had a continued focus on the mapping and development of the community level support offer.
- Developed a robust multi-agency response to criminal exploitation and gangs and the embedding of our contextual approach to complex safeguarding.
- Raised awareness, confidence, and skills to ensure the earliest identification of complex safeguarding, by professionals, carers, and the wider community.
- Delivered sessions to up to 5000 students covering sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, county lines, substance misuse, knife crime, healthy relationships,
- Delivered training to approximately 800 professionals, including school staff, residential staff, and partner agencies.
- Developed a robust prevention, offer that is led by the firsthand experiences of survivor/victims of exploitation and ensuring that community partners plan a vital role shaping and supporting Oldham's response.

- Hold perpetrators to account through improved disruption and prosecution and build our knowledge by understanding from perpetrators how they exploit children and adults at risk.
- To embed a Contextual Safeguarding Approach across the Partnership and ensure a consistent understanding of how to respond to emerging and changing trends.

## Impact

- The partnership will know when there is a difference in children and young people's lives when less children will be subject to exploitation and where it is effective support and services including perpetrators prosecuted.
- From April 2023 to March 2024 the Complex Safeguarding Hub received 155 referrals into the service, of these 63% were accepted into the team with the remaining 37% being signposted to support from either Catch 22 or KOGs.
- 57 young people received support from the complex safeguarding team, 23 of these young people received support in relation to Sexual Exploitation and 34 young people received support in relation to Criminal Exploitation.
- Professionals are able to identify, support and refer children and young people at risk of or experiencing all forms of exploitation.
- There have been 35 arrests undertaken by the Complex Safeguarding Police Team in relation to exploitation. There has also been an arrest and charge made in relation to modern day slavery.
- There have been 21 Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWNs) issued over the last 12 months as part of ongoing disruption into Child Exploitation in the borough.
- An example of positive work is successfully supporting a young person into employment, which has in turn decreased missing episodes and further reduced the risk of criminal exploitation.
- Missing and Child Exploitation meetings were held monthly, attended by representatives from the wider partnership. The MACE meetings include the top 10 missing children and young people to ensure the right support is in place to disrupt/reduce missing. This meeting also explores emerging trends and hotspots.
- The Complex Safeguarding Hub continued to work with partners to improve our contextual safeguarding approach and offer within the Oldham Borough.
- The Complex Safeguarding hub work closely with KOGs (Keeping Our Girls Safe), Catch 22 and Positive steps in relation to prevention and diversion.
- The Complex Safeguarding Hub work closely with the Youth Service and KOGs to learn from young people and survivors lived experiences, to shape and influence the offer implemented within the borough.

## Areas for reflection and priorities 24-25

### We will:

- Continue to take robust and early action to share intelligence and challenge the operations of perpetrators of exploitation ensuring we maximise the use of all agencies and the legal powers available to use of all agencies and the legal powers available to disrupt behaviours.
- Support the development of more in depth analysis of local trends and themes to continue to inform and drive targeted service delivery.
- Support the implementation of the adolescent safeguarding framework.
- Implementation of a contextual safeguarding approach. This will include an audit of processes, procedures, and forms to ensure that context is robustly considered and rooted in our practice; as well as practically implementing the approach.
- Strengthen the prevention offer for CSE, CCE and serious youth violence across the partnership.

- Complex and contextual safeguarding to continue to be offered within the OSCP training offer, alongside training continuing to be offered within schools, colleges, faith sector, residential homes, and wider partners.

## Activity and Impact – Neglect

### Neglect

The causes of neglect are manifold, and it has the potential to impact on many aspects of a child's development – physical, emotional, behavioural, educational. The Oldham Neglect Strategy recognises the multi-faceted origins of neglect and alerts all partner agencies to ensure that they are engaged in the recognition and response to its occurrence and impact.

We want Oldham to be a borough where the conditions are right for children to be able to thrive. Neglect is an important issue and experiencing neglect can significantly compromise a child's development. Therefore, early identification and timely intervention are extremely important to ensure the safety, wellbeing and development of children and young people. Oldham is committed to effectively tackling the issue of neglect and this strategy will inform the actions needed to do so.

### 2023- 2024 key priorities:

- Work in partnership with families and communities to overcome factors which prevent parents/carers from meeting the needs of their children.
- Improve the awareness, understanding and the early identification of neglect through workforce development and communications.
- Improve the quality of the multi-agency response to children and families living with neglect captured through case reviews, audit and voice of children and families.
- Identify opportunities for children, young people, and families to share their experiences in order to shape and develop our multi-agency response to neglect.
- Continue to rollout GCP2 training to wider partners.
- Prevention of the causes that lead to child neglect rather than only responding to the symptoms by understanding the scale of neglect in Oldham and how it's affecting our families.
- Ensure there is a strong partnership response with a common understanding of the spectrum of neglect and a recognition of the need to work with families at the earliest opportunity to prevent harm.
- Have a provision of strengths-based support for families from voluntary and statutory organisations in Oldham.
- Provide opportunities for children, young people, and families to share their experiences in order to shape and develop our multi - agency response to neglect.

### Activity

- In September 2023, the training rolls out of the GCP2 tool across Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership agencies began. The training of GCP2 was rolled out across Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership agencies so that the new approach would be embedded.
- A new foundation training course (Neglect Matters) has been developed and delivered to practitioners.
- Support surgeries for GCP2 trainers available to practitioners who have accessed training and are working with neglect tools.
- Neglect subgroup developed to include Statutory Partners and relevant partners.
- Developed a draft data set surrounding neglect to identify key themes and trends with health and other relevant partners.
- Lessons learnt from Serious Case Reviews in relation to neglect are part of the Neglect Subgroup. Both Local and National reviews are considered.

- Development of a parenting offer.
- Action Together completed engagement work with children and young people to understand their views.

## Challenges

- Confidence of practitioners who have completed training to undertake GCP2 assessment.
- Concern practitioners across the partnership are desensitised to neglect impacting on early identification and intervention.
- Lack of consistent approach to neglect across the partnership.

## Impact

- 104 staff have been trained in the GCP2. The Neglect Subgroup monitors activity in relation to GCP2 completions and impact.
- Practitioners have reported that they are implementing the GCP2. Neglect concerns have been identified. Practitioners have advised families of what universal services are available to them.
- The voice of children and young people have started to be collated. Action Together have established a steering group. The group will meet on a regular basis to support the collation of themes from participatory activity.
- Those who have accessed the GCP2 training evaluated that they are able to identify the prevention of the causes that lead to child neglect rather than only responding to the symptoms. They have more understanding of the scale of neglect in Oldham and how it's affecting our families.
- Increase in the number of GCP2 completed with Targeted Early Help Team. 9 were open. 7 offered Targeted Early Help 2 escalated. 1 family had involvement from CSC and one family received support from both Target Early Help and Children Social Care.
- 3 Early Help cases evidenced some impact. For example, home conditions were up and down, or showing slight improvements. Major repairs were still required. Other aspects of the plan progressed slowly.
- 1 GCP2 case required further investment from Targeted Early Help and a referral to specialist service "Tidy Home Tidy Mind due to hoarding/MH took place.
- Early Help had 4 cases that evidenced clear improvement because of GCP2 i.e. improved home conditions, robust safety plans, a "decluttering" task sheet and Housing being held to account for repairs.

## Areas for reflection and priorities 24-25

We will:

- Continue to have a clear and robust offer of support at the earliest opportunities.
- Work towards narrowing the gap to reduce the numbers of children living in poverty.
- Have a commitment to elevate child and adolescent neglect.
- Have a confident and competent workforce that recognises and responds to neglect at the earliest opportunity.
- Work in Partnership with families and communities to overcome factors which prevent parents/carers from meeting the needs of their children.
- Improve the quality of the multi-agency response to children and families living with neglect captured through case reviews, audit and voice of children and families.
- Identify opportunities for children, young people, and families to share their experiences in order to shape and develop our multi-agency response to neglect.
- Build community and voluntary sector links to spot, support and respond to issues of neglect. Particular activity to be targeted at being inclusive of Oldham's diverse community.

## Activity and Impact – Transitions

OSCP are committed to planning at the earliest possible stage for the transition of children and young people who will require services in young adulthood, ensuring robust outcomes.

A transitions strategy which is founded on a principle of preventative and strengths-based practice will facilitate an offer of services that from the perspective of the young person and their family is positive and seamless, aligning with their aspirations.

The focus for the Safeguarding Partnership is on widening the strategy to include key partner agencies who have a role within transitions and to those areas of safeguarding that have been identified as priorities such as complex safeguarding and mental health.

The partnership knows there is a difference in children and young people's lives when young adults tell us they are receiving the right support at the right time.

### Key Priorities 23-24

- Project Governance & Planning
- Strategic Transitions Board was established in late 2023, to provide strategic direction and oversight to the development and implementation of the transitions work programme, ensuring that the project objectives are met. The Board is co-chaired by the DASS & DCS.
- Governance structure includes a multi-agency Transitions sub-group, which reports into the Strategic Board on a monthly basis, along with a joint commissioning sub-group.
- Project plan & highlight reporting covers the following workstreams:
- Processes & Procedures,
- Professional Practice & Service Model,
- Data & information,
- Housing & Commissioning Support.

### Activity

Embedment of the first phase of the Transitions project included:

- Development and launch of a multi-agency 'Preparing for Adulthood: Oldham's Transitions Policy.'
- Establishment of a Transitions Hub, with supporting processes.
- Development of Mosaic forms and workflow to support the transitions processes and to improve data recording.
- Practice resources and training were put in place to increase understanding amongst ASC & CSC workforce.
- A consolidated dataset has been developed and initial tracking mechanism put in place, based on referral data in Mosaic.
- Joint commissioning sub-group established, with representation from CSC, ASC, Education, Health & MioCare.
- Preparatory work undertaken to develop a joint commissioning strategy for Transitions.

### Areas for reflection and priorities for 24-25

We will:

- Be committed to planning at the earliest stage for the transition of children and young people who require services in young adulthood.
- Have a transition strategy that is founded on a principle of preventative and strengths-based

practice.

- Offer services that are positive and seamless, aligning with young people's aspirations.
- Include key partners who have a role within transitions and to those areas of safeguarding that have been identified as a priority (complex safeguarding and mental health)
- Data cleansing to be undertaken to ensure accuracy and completeness of information.
- Further work is ongoing to develop a Transitions dashboard and to improve demand forecasting.
- Housing and commission support
- Work is in progress to develop a commissioning handover process between CSC & ASC.
- Modelling of potential MioCare service offer to be scoped.

## Activity and Impact – Childrens Mental Health and the impact of trauma

We will support healthy emotional development and help children and young people to become thriving adults. Our commitment is to support the right children and young people living with mental ill health and/or the impact of trauma to be able to access the right level of support at the right time. This includes caring for the most vulnerable with appropriate mental health support through services working together.

This is reflected in the Mental Health Strategy. Accountability and governance for this workstream is a key priority for Partners and once embedded it will oversee a robust partnership response to supporting the mental health and emotional wellbeing of our children and young people up to the age of 25 years.

Partnership agencies will continue to invest in the creation of a workforce which understands how to use early intervention to prevent lifelong trauma, and how to help children and families recover from the impact previous trauma has on their lives.

The partnership knows there is a difference in children and young people's lives when we have reduction in the number of children and young people experiencing mental health/emotional wellbeing issues and where this is the case, they receive timely and appropriate support to address their needs.

### Key Priorities 23-24

- Children and young people living with mental ill health and/or the impact of trauma are able to access the right level of support at the right time.
- Partnership agencies will continue to invest in the creation of a workforce which understands how to use early intervention to prevent lifelong trauma, and how to help children and families recover from the impact previous trauma has on their lives.
- Develop an Emotional Wellbeing Mental Health Strategy for Oldham as part of the Greater Manchester ICB (GM) commissioning strategy and Oldham Local Authority commissioning strategy.
- To set priorities and agree action plans which will be delivered by members of the Partnership Group.
- To oversee the CYP MH actions in the SEND improvement plan.
- Development of whole system approach linked to adult all age mental health services, including transitional arrangements to adult services.
- Improve access to "Getting Advice," "Getting Help," "Getting More Help" and "Getting Risk Support" as part of a graduated needs-based approach.
- Ensure the voice of local families and lived experience are at the heart of everything we do.
- Regularly report on progress to the 'all age locality mental health board' and SEND Lip Exec Board.
- Enable equity of participation and promote collaboration between local contributors to improving Oldham child mental health outcomes.

### Activity

- Improving population health outcomes, clinical outcomes, and family experience.
- Developing priorities for agreement through system and partner governance.

- Ensuring that people with lived/living experience are shaping the plans.
- Ensuring the plans are based on an Oldham whole system needs assessment and evidence base. Partners will contribute to the health needs assessment with anonymised data and intelligence.
- Developing a delivery plan and monitoring progress against the plan.
- Providing a forum to harness the expertise from providers across the full spectrum of delivery and work together to improve pathways and address gaps.
- Providing visible leadership and commitment to the development of mental health services across Oldham.
- Providing a forum for partners to work together to develop services, address inequalities and resolve issues.
- Developing and managing a risk and issues log.
- Escalating issues through system governance as required.
- Ensuring alignment of the Oldham delivery plan with national, GM and partner strategies and plans.
- iTHRIVE model developing and directory completed.
- Children and Young People Mental Health Partnership developed. TOR agreed and initial partnership meeting held 13th June 24
- Progress of commissioned CAMHS practitioner post to support youth justice team ongoing

## Impact

- Reduction in waiting times for children and young people accessing CAMHS, has meant that there are improvements for these individuals in being able to access the right support at the right time. Scrutiny will continue to try and further reduce access and wait times.
- Development and cascading of the iTHRIVE directory to partners supports access, for children and young people, to receive the right support, at the right time, by the right service.

## Areas for reflection and priorities for 24-25

We will:

- Support healthy emotional development and help children and young people to become thriving adults.
- Support the right children and young people living with mental ill health and or the impact of trauma to be able to access the right level of support at the right time.
- Ensure accountability and governance is a key priority. Oversee a robust partnership response to supporting the mental health and wellbeing up to the age of 25.
- Continue to invest in workforce development.
- Work towards a reduction in the number of children and young people experiencing mental health and emotional wellbeing issues.
- Identify a clear pathway of response for children and young people requiring mental health support.
- Safeguarding input into the definition of a new CYP MH partnership group which will incorporate safeguarding and trauma informed approaches within an Oldham-wide programme of work to improve CYP MH outcomes.
- Work in partnership with ICB commissioning to establish and embed a new CAMHS practitioner post to support the youth justice team.
- Increase the awareness / competencies related to systemic practice through workforce development programme.
- Increase the number of awareness sessions, level 1 training, level 2, systemic champions, train the trainer etc.
- Support the establishment of the Mockingbird specialist fostering model in Oldham, through awareness raising and expansion of the model.



# Voice of children, young people, and families

Action Together are working with the children and young peoples' VCFSE sector, the Safeguarding Children's Partnership and Children's Services to engage with young people to capture their voice around what is important to them about safeguarding.

Building on what we already know as a Partnership from the Make your Mark survey results and insight gathered by the Oldham Youth Council, Children in Care Council and Barrier Brakers, we will be engaging young people in their communities around the following things:

- What does safe and unsafe look like for young people, at home, at school and college and in their communities?
- What kinds of risks do young people encounter and how do they currently manage those risks?
- Who are the trusted adult in young peoples' lives and how do they access them?
- If young people oversaw keeping young people safe, what would be the most important things that they would be doing something about – and what might those things be?

Through this engagement we'll be testing if what we (as the partnership) think are the priorities for safeguarding children and young people reflect what young people think are the priorities, and we'll be using this insight to shape those priorities and the work plans that sit underneath.

We're aligning this engagement work alongside the planned Youth Offer Needs Assessment engagement work that is going to be delivered through the autumn/winter led by the Youth Service.

What we did during 23-23 with Action Together.

- Series of collaboration workshops have taken place.
- Framework and approach have been tested with residents and VCFSE groups.
- Established Engagement and Insight Leads Group leading the work (meeting monthly for 12 months)
- Established Engagement and Insight Network (meeting quarterly for last 6 months)
- Council have invested in Engagement HQ digital platform.
- Children and Young People's Participation Framework developed.

## Children and Young Peoples Participation Framework 2023 – 2030

OSCP will provide a collective vision and approach to participation and for how we can continue to build on the meaningful participation of our children and young people to ensure they are actively engaged in decision making processes and upholding their rights.

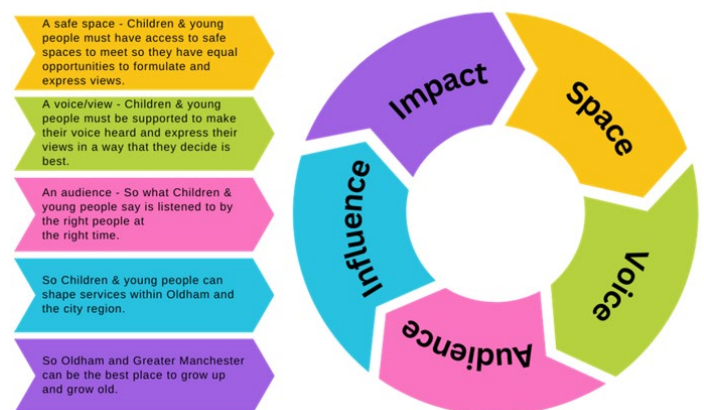
Action together will be commissioned to support the development of a culture of participation across all services working with and on behalf of young people. This will guarantee the place of children and young people's participation as a long-term priority with its principles reflected and embraced in all future strategies, and in turn practice.

The framework will be for:

- Everyone working with and on behalf of children and young people up to the age of 19 and including those young people with additional needs and care experience up to the age of 25.
- It is also relevant to other partners, both statutory and non-statutory who have a central role in supporting Oldham to achieve positive outcomes for our children, young people, and families.
- Most importantly this framework is for the children and young people of Oldham.

The Lundy Model of Participation will support professionals from across the Borough in their direct support of children and young people's participation. It provides clear parameters and conditions for successful participation to ensure that the voices of our children and young people can be heard.

### The Lundy Model



## Children's engagement - White Ribbon Conference for young people 29 November 2023

Oldham is now White Ribbon Accredited. As part of our White Ribbon two weeks of action, Oldham Council, Youth Council and Safeguarding Children Partnership invited local schools to attend our, Me, Myself, and I Conference. This work forms parts of the council's efforts to raise awareness of the White Ribbon campaign and aims to prevent violence against women and girls.

67 year 9 pupils from 11 schools attended.

This Conference provided young people with the opportunity to watch a performance piece which focused on the self and how our values, attitudes and behaviours are influenced. It explored both positive and negative narratives, and behaviours which may lead to things such as domestic abuse, harmful attitudes and social norms that contribute to gender inequality.

<https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/children-and-youth>

<https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/news/2023/12/14/oldham-council-holds-me-myself-and-i-conference-with-local-schools-to-change-the-story>



Members of Oldham Youth Council have expressed a wish to become white ribbon ambassadors and champions. One of the training programmes is available from White Ribbon a cohort of young people will be trained and actively engaged in will be actively involved in the combating gender-based violence.

After attending the conference pupils from a secondary school in Oldham have developed a training resource on gender-based violence. The OSCP training

consultation is supporting them to further develop this piece of work. The aim being this being a standardised learning resource that can be used by other secondary schools and colleges.



The Youth Service together with members of the partnerships Complex Contextual Safeguarding sub group, worked with Young People to learn from their lived experiences around Child Sexual Exploitation and this video was produced to capture the young people's voice and lived experiences.

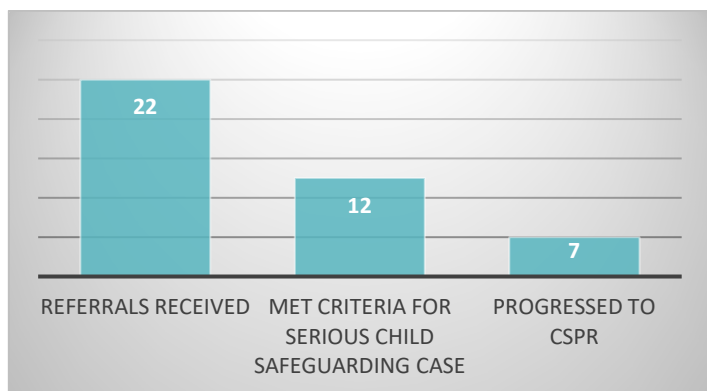
[Young Peoples experiences around CSE Video](#)

# Learning & Quality Assurance Activity

## Case Reviews

The Safeguarding Partnership has a statutory duty to review serious child safeguarding cases with the aim of identifying learning, improvements in practice and protecting children from harm.

A serious child safeguarding case is one in which, “abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected, **and** the child has died or been seriously harmed.” (WT 2023)



During the 2022-2023 period the partnership received 22 referrals for consideration of whether they met the criteria to notify to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and therefore progress to a Rapid Review process. Comparative analysis of Case review data across all 10 GM boroughs, showed that Oldham received the most referrals.

In the five cases that did not progress to a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review. One related to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards on a young person going through transition between children’s and adult services. Two concluded that no further review process required to bring about improvements, and action plan’s were implemented and completed. One case is to be included in thematic learning on youth violence. One case, much of the majority of the improvements to be made were single agency for Children’s Social Care therefore a single agency review is underway.

## Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Two Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews were concluded within 2023-24; one which originated in 2022, and another which started in early 2023 and completed just before the period of this annual report.

### Local Learning Example: Child T

Child T is a 7-month-old baby. A Rapid Review was completed, and the case did meet the criteria for a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review.

Child T arrived at nursery with her mother at the start of the day. Some six and a half hours later, an ambulance was called to attend to her. Child T was in respiratory arrest and was taken to hospital. Child T was identified to be suffering none accidental injuries.

At the conclusion of this review, the areas of learning identified were:

- Adherence to Safe Recruitment Processes
- Oversight and Scrutiny of Nursery Provision

Following rapid review processes and consultation with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, it was agreed that lessons could be learnt both locally and nationally.

Response from Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership:

- Bespoke training around early years recruitment was offered during 23/24. The impact was the increased knowledge base in EYFS sector around best practice.
- Guidance / briefing to rolled out across EYFS Management and Leadership across Oldham to draw attention to the necessity for policy compliance oversight and effective implementation.
- Attendance at Safer Recruitment & LADO training was monitored and action taken.
- The review of existing EYFS safeguarding toolkit.

### Good Practice:

Some key good practice themes were drawn out of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews 2023 – 2024:

- Some strong examples of where professionals spending time building trusted relationships with young people has allowed the young person to talk openly about their experiences in a way they will not with other professionals.
- School had a greater insight into the children's lived experiences than any other service.
- Police recognised the risk to children and used their Police Powers of Protection appropriately.

### Some Learning and Themes from case reviews 2023 – 2024

- Sexual Abuse and Disclosure
- Voice of the Child
- Neglect and Cumulative Harm. Broad understanding of neglect and impact was not evident.
- Serious Youth Violence
- Information sharing is a repeat theme, this is more in terms of decisions being made without full scoping of information which may be available than any resistance to share.

## Quality Assurance

### MACE – Transitions

Over 2023 – 2024 Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership further embedded the MACE (Multi-Agency Case Audit) model where all partner agencies come together to jointly audit a cohort of cases around a particular theme. This is a significant commitment from all partners.

In November 2023 the Partnership focussed on the theme of Transitions

The cases for the cohort were randomly selected from a cohort of Children's Social Care cases to cover three types of cases.

- Open to Children's Social Care and actively transitioned through to Adult Social Care.
- Opened to Adult Social Care within 12 months of 18<sup>th</sup> birthday but had a history of involvement with Children's Social Care prior to being 18.
- Children with SEND who transitioned across from Children's Social Care to Adults

Some of the key findings from this, which will be taken forward were:

- Systemic issues, capacity, and consistency
- Transitions Hub – early in its implementation
- Timeliness - These include misunderstanding of the most appropriate points to undertake Capacity assessments.
- Cumulative assessment, recognition of problems with engagement and use of information across transition.
- Sufficiency and availability of resources for young people in this cohort

## School Safeguarding Audit 2023

The School Safeguarding Audit (s175) was sent to all maintained, academies and independent primary school, secondary, special schools, and colleges in Oldham on 1 April 2023.

The audit tool is a bespoke tool for schools and based around the expectations on education establishments of DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022, plus some local contextual questions regarding safeguarding practice.

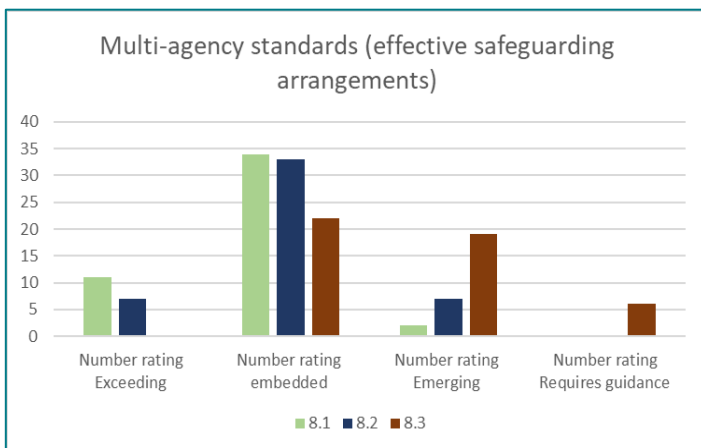
Schools and colleges were requested to grade themselves in eight areas of safeguarding (requires guidance/emerging/embedded/ exceeding) to evidence compliance with the standard question.

### Summary of Progress

- A total of 115 audits were requested. Schools and colleges were given an initial deadline of 16 June 2023. As of this date, 49 settings had returned (55%) the audit to the OSCP.

Some academies trusts have commissioned their own safeguarding audits as evidence of compliance and individual conversations are being held to discuss these and information required as part of the OSCP audit process.

Ultimately the duties and the responsibilities lie with the education settings, the role of the partnership is to support rather than to model school and colleges policies. Where settings are emerging or there are gaps. That then will then feed into the safeguarding partnership training programme for the coming year and the termly education network meetings.



There are areas of very high % compliance with standards, notably the first three sections: professional curiosity, governors, and DSL. The partnership recognise the great amount of safeguarding work that takes place in schools.

## What are we doing?

Safeguarding children effectively requires a knowledgeable and skilled workforce. By delivering multi agency training Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership aims to provide staff with good quality training that enhances inter agency communication, cooperation and provides a place to reflect on practice.

The training programme continues to be closely linked to the priority safeguarding concerns identified in the partnership annual business plan.

## Who is doing this?

The training pool continues to be the core delivery system for training which enables us to be Oldham centric in our work, all evaluation forms tend to reference the benefit of receiving local knowledge from local staff/services. We have devised a comprehensive person specification for training pool members and offer a train the trainer course to all our pool members. We are in the process of reviewing training courses and recruiting to the training pool.

**Attendance so far** - Over 2023-2024 there were 50 training opportunities with 1,025 attendees from across the partnership accessing a variety of blended learning approaches including face to face classroom-based, online based, briefings and webinars.

**Training Safeguarding Spotlight** - We have retained the quarterly training offer (safeguarding spotlight) in place of an annual plan as this enables us to be flexible to any emerging needs or trends as identified via Safeguarding Reviews and the Strategic Learning Hub.

## Learning through the website.

Our website had been redesigned a new safeguarding topics facility will enable us to house a variety of information including videos from professionals that will enhance learning, this includes.

ABCs of Trauma – facilitated by our local CAMHS team.

A- ACES / Attachment

B- How trauma can affect behaviour

C- Communicating with distress children (PACE model)

The ABCs will be a good precursor to accessing the free Aces and Trauma Home office e-learning module house on our website.

The Role of the HBV IDVA facilitated by our local HBVA Specialist complements the Home Office HBV e-learning module and provides a link into local specialism.

The GCP2 facilitated by the Training Consultant Provides an overview of the tool and is mandatory watching for those attending our Neglect Matters Training (neglect foundation).

Our local e learning module has been reviewed; updates will be made via Oldham College who have facilitated the platform for us.

## The Cut It Out campaign

Cut it out is a training initiative directed at hairdressers and the beauty economy that aims to raise awareness of domestic abuse. A bespoke training session for 23 students and apprentices was devised and rolled out at Oldham College this training year. Further sessions will take place in 24-25.

## Safeguarding in Education

Over 2023 – 2024 Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership facilitated four training sessions to designated safeguarding leads and deputies as part of the statutory requirement to update training to support their safeguarding role in school and college.

Whole school foundation safeguarding training sessions were provided to 14 primary schools and academies and 4 secondary schools.

Having assurance around safeguarding is a core responsibility for any school governing body, and six training sessions were delivered to school governors over the year equipping them with the safeguarding knowledge to underpin their role.

Termly network meetings for Designated Safeguarding Leads have been coordinated and chaired by the Safeguarding Education Advisor. In the year 2023/24 attendees have continue to

receive updates on DfE statutory safeguarding guidance such as Keeping Children Safe in Education, and changes to local procedures and practice. Guest speakers are invited to these network meetings. DSL's are involved in learning sessions from Rapid Reviews. All relevant recommendations and actions are shared with all DSL's.

Links with Early Years providers have developed during this year. Providers are invited to information sharing and training sessions four times per year. These sessions were delivered by the Oldham LADO. Attendance has been successful with over 50 attendees per session. The Safeguarding Education Advisor will be attending the Oldham Safeguarding EY Strategic Partnership meetings to develop and strengthen the partnership.

Regular meetings took place with Residential Homes and After School clubs. This will be developed further in 2024 – 2025.

### Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2)

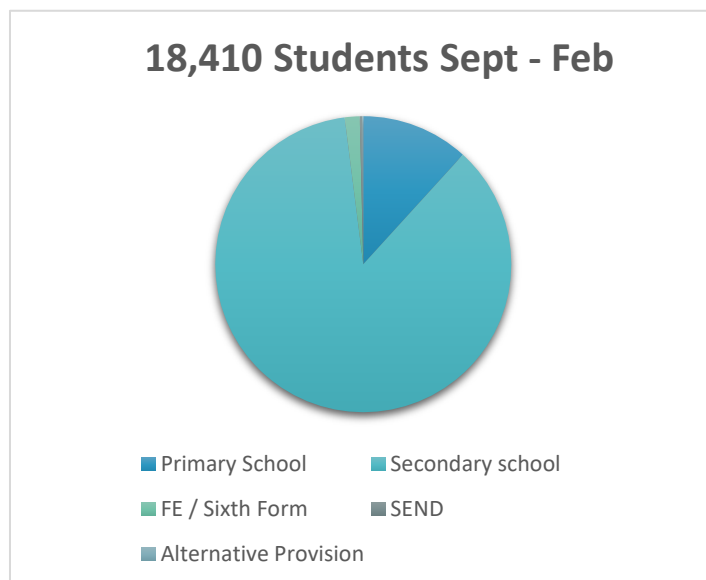
In 2022 – 2023 the partnership began to plan for the implementation of the Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2). GCP2 is an assessment tool that helps practitioners take a strengths-based approach to measuring the quality of care a child is receiving and supports them to identify neglect.

In September 2023 the training roll out of the tool across Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership agencies began. 104 staff have been trained in the GCP2. The Neglect Subgroup monitors activity in relation to GCP2 completions and impact.

A new foundation training course (neglect matters) has been developed and delivered a Neglect Advanced course is in the process of being written.

### Training in schools and colleges:

Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership provide three core services to schools: Training, professional advice / support, and direct delivery of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and health education in schools.



During 2023/24 the Training Officer for Children and Young People delivered sessions to a total of 18410 students across the borough:

Alongside the work with children and young people, this offer from the Partnership also impacts education professionals, is offered to professionals from other agencies and to parents and carers. In this same period of September to February sessions were delivered to:

365 Education Staff

85 Professionals from non-education agencies

280 Parents and Carers

The contribution that this makes to supporting children to recognise that they or a friend is experiencing harm or abuse, and in developing their knowledge for the future is an area of strength for Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership, Community Safety Partnership, Health, and wellbeing strategy and more.

Priority for 24/25 is to develop summary of impact.

## SCRUTINISING THE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP IN OLDHAM (APRIL 2023 TO MARCH 2024) Dr Henri Giller, Independent Chair of the Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership

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This section of the annual report provides the independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the local arrangements by the Independent Chair of the Partnership as required by current legislation and regulation. The period covered by this report represents the fourth year of the current partnership arrangements. (These arrangements will be the subject of review later in 2024 and change during 2025.) The criteria used for this independent scrutiny are those developed nationally in the report “Six Steps for Independent Scrutiny” (2022).

### Local Safeguarding Children Partner Leadership

LSCP statutory partner leads (Local Authority, Police, NHS (ICB)) are fully committed and engaged in the local safeguarding arrangements in Oldham. In addition to their participation in the regular (bi-monthly) Partnership meetings, the partnership leads meet on a monthly basis to consider key strategic and operational innovations and challenges and identify the actions that need to be progressed either by sub-groups of the Partnership or by the agendas of allied Partnerships (eg Health and Well-Being, Domestic Abuse Partnership etc). The statutory partners continue to actively participate in relevant sub-groups and working groups of the Partnership and attend the quarterly accountability meeting convened by the Chief Executive of the Local Authority along with lead elected members of the Council.

### Engagement of Relevant Agencies

All relevant agencies to child safeguarding are engaged with the safeguarding partnership or are in communication with it. The monthly newsletter of the partnership is widely circulated and publicises the latest findings on safeguarding and training opportunities provided by the Partners. Formal engagement of members of relevant agencies is continuously under review. Particular emphasis of late has been given to representatives of faith organisations and community groups from minority communities.

### Outcomes for Children and Young People

Engagement of children and young people in the activities and work of the Partnership has been a key objective for some time, and for the period under review positive outcomes in this area has taken place. This has been particularly the case with respect to children and young people susceptible to exploitation (criminal, sexual or otherwise) and notable liaisons and linkages have been made with some high-profile local agencies involved with young people, such as KOGS (Keep Our Girls Safe). Representing and promoting the voice of the child in the Oldham safeguarding arrangements has been the hallmark of the local approach. This, in turn, has led to revisions of policy and practice in action.

### Quality Assurance and Information Sharing

Information gathering across the contributing partners and the sharing of this continues to be a major commitment and strength of the Oldham Partnership and one which drives the partners to better and more effective working. The strategy of seeking connectivity between quantitative data gathering and analysis and the qualitative evaluation of stakeholders’ perspectives on safeguarding need and practice is a key feature of the local arrangements.



## Learning from Experience

Local reviews of critical safeguarding incidents continues to be undertaken both on an individual case basis and thematically. Key messages have emerged from such reviews of late around neglect, serious youth violence and the need to improve the experiences of those that require continuing support in their transition from childhood to adulthood. The National Panel overseeing the quality of reviews into serious safeguarding incidents involving children have commented positively on Oldham's approaches to these issues.

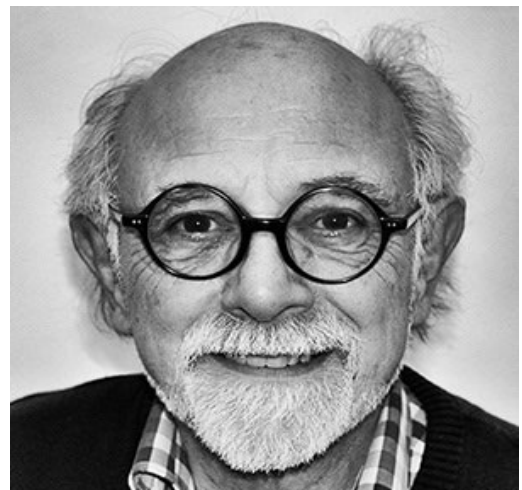
## Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training and Workforce Development

The Oldham Partnership continues to provide and co-ordinate a substantial programme of training and workforce development initiatives. Significant numbers of staff from the partnership have been engaged in these training initiatives in the period, not only receiving "core" safeguarding training and information but specialist programmes on new or evolving safeguarding issues.

In addition to partner staff training, the training, familiarisation, and information giving to children and young people in Oldham is a significant feature of the local arrangements. The key training input to schools, for example, is able to reach several thousand pupils in a given 12-month period.

The messages from this independent scrutiny are clear. The Oldham safeguarding partnership is strong and seeks to consolidate its strengths across all stakeholders in the Borough.

***Dr Henri Giller – Independent Chair***





# Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership

## Annual Business Plan April 2024 to March 2025

Domestic Abuse <i>Lead: Bruce Penhale</i>	Complex & Contextual Safeguarding <i>Lead: Leanne Cooper</i>	Transitions <i>Lead: Nick Whitbread/Charlotte Walter</i>	Childrens Mental Health and the impact of trauma <i>Lead: Lynsey Yeomans, Jen Robertson</i>	Neglect <i>Lead: Tony Decrop</i>
<p>A local offer to children and families who are at risk of, or experiencing, domestic abuse which protects them and reduces the impact of their experiences.</p> <p>To have a range of interventions and measures available and being used to reduce the risk presented by perpetrators of domestic abuse, and an aligned preventative approach for those who are at risk of becoming perpetrators.</p> <p>To have a Partnership workforce with up to date, applicable knowledge in relation to Domestic Abuse.</p>	<p>Children and young people at risk of or experiencing complex and contextual safeguarding will receive the right support at the right time to keep them safe.</p> <p>We want all our children, young people, and adults to live in a Borough where they feel safe and protected from complex or contextual safeguarding in all of its forms.</p> <p>Develop a confident and competent workforce who can recognize and respond to complex and contextual safeguarding at the earliest opportunity.</p>	<p>Planning will start at the earliest possible stage for the transition of children and young people who will require services in young adulthood.</p> <p>A transitions strategy which is founded on a principle of preventative and strengths-based practice will facilitate an offer of services that from the perspective of the child and family is positive and seamless.</p>	<p>Children and young people living with mental ill health and/or the impact of trauma are able to access the right level of support at the right time.</p> <p>Partnership agencies will continue to invest in the creation of a workforce which understands how to use early intervention to prevent life long trauma, and how to help children and families recover from the impact previous trauma has on their lives.</p>	<p>Neglect in childhood can affect lifelong outcomes. There will continue to be a clear and robust offer of support at the earliest opportunity, balanced with child centered intervention and protection if required.</p> <p>A confident and competent workforce who are able to recognise, respond to neglect at the earliest opportunity.</p>
Objective areas which will achieve this over 2024 - 2025				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and evaluate the effectiveness of Encompass processes locally.</li> <li>Embed Talk Listen Change work focusing on domestic abuse in adolescent relationships.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop cross board (Community Safety Partnership, Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership and YOS Management Board) joint understanding and response to the GM VRU Violence Strategy.</li> <li>Evaluate impact of Missing from</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular updates on improvements made to transition through the Strategic Transitions group.</li> <li>Processes will be developed to listen and respond to the experiences of adolescents and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguarding input into the definition of a new CYP MH partnership group which will incorporate safeguarding and trauma informed approaches within an Oldham-wide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consolidate GCP 2 implementation across the partnership workforce via growing the pool of trainers, training more staff and ensuring the right children and families are accessing the assessment tool to</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of the PHSE input of Children and Young People's Safeguarding Trainer in schools on the DA agenda.</li> <li>• Reduce Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage through increasing workforce knowledge of these areas, and a process of evaluation of the responses and interventions offered.</li> </ul>	<p>Home and Care strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a training needs framework to support the delivery of training across the Partnership workforce, including promoting best practice.</li> <li>• Develop a communications campaign for professionals, parents, and communities.</li> <li>• Work with Children, Young People and Adults at Risk to learn from their lived experiences.</li> <li>• Review referral pathways in relation to community and gang related activity and earliest possible help.</li> <li>• Clarify Oldham's multi-agency offer for the prevention of exploitation and ensure this is embed across mainstream service delivery and commissioning.</li> <li>• Reach out to Oldham's communities by working closely with VFCS colleagues to gather insight into perceptions, barriers to reporting and to co-design local solutions.</li> <li>• Take robust and early action to challenge the operations of perpetrators of exploitation ensuring we maximise the use of all agencies and the legal powers available to us to disrupt the behaviours, working with the National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company and Youth Justice Service to understand and change perpetrator behaviour.</li> <li>• Assess and improve our local response to children and vulnerable adults at</li> </ul>	<p>young adults who in the process of or have experienced transitional planning.</p>	<p>programme of work to improve CYP MH outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in partnership with ICB commissioning to establish and embed a new CAMHS practitioner post to support the youth justice team.</li> <li>• Increase the awareness / competencies related to systemic practice through workforce development programme. Increase the number of: awareness sessions, level 1 training, level 2, systemic champions, train the trainer etc.</li> <li>• Support the establishment of the Mocking Bird specialist fostering model in Oldham, through awareness raising and expansion of the model.</li> </ul>	<p>support interventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding the preventative offer at the earliest level.</li> <li>• Develop workforce that has the awareness and confidence to respond to the earliest possible signs of neglect.</li> <li>• The partnership to build community and voluntary sector links to spot, support and respond to issues of neglect. Particular activity to be targeted at being inclusive of Oldham's diverse community.</li> <li>• The development of Early Help Family Hubs.</li> </ul>
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	<p>risk who go missing from home and/or care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Capture the experiences of front line practitioners across services working on complex cases to explore best practice, overcoming challenges and inform a programme of wellbeing and resilience support for staff managing complex and contextual safeguarding</li></ul>			
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## Funding

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Partner contributions remain in place.

A priority for 24-25 will be to break down of costs in delivering the arrangements and will include an assessment of the impact and value for money.

GMCA	-12,900
DSG	-110,000
Health	-71,999
Schools Income (SLA's)	-63,086
Council	-125,516
Total	-383,501

### **Appendix 1 - Statements from Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership agencies.**

In addition to the Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership's Annual Report setting out information on safeguarding trends locally, the actions of the Partnership over the last year, and priorities for the coming year, agencies are invited to provide highlights of their own safeguarding work for publication as Single-Agency Statements.

[Single Agency Reports 23-24](#)

I would like to thank you and the rest of your team for the amazing help and support you have given xxxxxx since beginning your work with him. You and your team managed to bring his confidence back through praise and positive reinforcement and he is now on the correct path and making good choices.

I felt nervous coming into the meeting but you eased that by explaining what was going to happen and when we would get a chance to speak

"I really wanna go into construction ya know...the exams have been alright...I'm glad I'm doing my exams now I can think about a job now I can focus

Thank you \*\*\* for being there for me these past few months. You've not only helped with my home life, I feel better about myself.

I feel that we had the chance to speak and feel heard

I have changed as a person, being able to open and understanding where I went wrong has been a positive and this is due to not taking drugs and consuming alcohol, I feel that I have been more open

I feel that I have good support, we all have a good relationship with our worker, I can speak to her if there are any problems.

Thank you \*\*\* for helping out K, I was worried he was going to go down the wrong path like I did. It's good to know to theirs people out there like you who help support the kids, wish we had people like you when I was a kid

I'm not good with words but I don't think words could explain how much I appreciate your effort. Thank you so much!

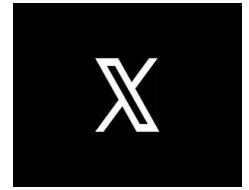
# Keep in touch

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[@SafeguardOldham](#)



Email: [OSCP.Group@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:OSCP.Group@oldham.gov.uk)



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# OLDHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

## Annual Report and Single-Agency Statements 2023-24



# Contents

<b>Helping people live safely in Oldham</b>	<b>3</b>
What is Safeguarding?	3
Who are the Safeguarding Board?	3
Safeguarding is everyone’s business	3
The Board’s core duties	3
<b>Profile of abuse and neglect in Oldham</b>	<b>4</b>
Safeguarding referrals that became a formal safeguarding enquiry	4
Sex, age, and ethnic group of safeguarding referrals	5
Who reported the concerns	5
Mental Capacity	6
Types of safeguarding abuse	6
Where the abuse took place	7
Number of closed safeguarding referrals and enquires	7
Safeguarding - What does good look like?	8
<b>Message from OSAB Independent Chair</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Safeguarding Adult Reviews</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Listening to Lived Experience</b>	<b>11</b>
Capturing the voice and experiences of the adult	11
How are the Board ‘Making Safeguarding Personal’?	11
<b>Working in Partnership in 2023-24</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Plans for 2024-25 and beyond</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Single-Agency Statements</b>	<b>16</b>
Action Together	16
Adult Social Care, Oldham Council	17
Age UK Oldham	20
Doctor Kershaw's Hospice	22
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service	23
Greater Manchester Police,, Oldham	24
KeyRing Living Support Networks	26
Mind (Tameside, Oldham and Glossop)	28
MioCare Group	29
NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care	31
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	33
Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust	34
Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust	35
Positive Steps	36
Probation Service	37
Turning Point	38
<b>What to do if you are worried about an adult</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Stay in touch</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Thank you from the team</b>	<b>39</b>

# Helping people live safely in Oldham

## What is Safeguarding?

“Safeguarding means protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect.” Care Act 2014

Safeguarding is also about respecting an individual’s views, wishes, feelings and beliefs when acting in the interests of their wellbeing.

Oldham’s Safeguarding Adults Board is responsible for leading adult safeguarding arrangements in the borough. It does this by bringing together a huge number of teams and organisation to ensure services work together effectively; helping people to live free from harm and protecting their human rights.

## Who are the Safeguarding Board?

By law, the Board’s membership must include Oldham Council and the Oldham based teams from Greater Manchester Police and NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care.

Working as a collaborative, the Board brings together representatives from the following sectors and services:

- Voluntary sector organisations
- Healthwatch Oldham
- Probation Service
- Greater Manchester Police
- Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust
- Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust
- North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- Public Health
  - Oldham Housing organisations
  - Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
  - Oldham Council
  - NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care
    - Mind
    - Advocacy services
    - Substance misuse services.

The Board is managed by an Independent Chair who is responsible for providing safeguarding leadership

and oversight. Through the work of the Board, the Chair seeks assurance from partner agencies that they are working together effectively to help keep people safe.

## Safeguarding is everyone’s business

There are many different types of abuse and neglect such as financial and sexual abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse, modern day slavery and even self-neglect; all of which can happen at home, in the community or within places where care is provided.

The safeguarding responsibilities of the Board are just part of the solution. Our greatest resource for identifying and reporting safeguarding concerns are families, friends, and members of the public. Therefore, our ongoing mission is to ensure that safeguarding is everyone’s business by encouraging people to be curious, highlighting the signs to look for and making it easy to make a safeguarding referral.

### The Board had three core duties:

1. Conduct a **Safeguarding Adult Review** where there is evidence to suggest that someone has experienced harm as a result of abuse or neglect.
2. Produce a **Strategic Plan** setting out the changes the Board wants to achieve and how organisations will work together to help keep people safe.
3. Publish an **Annual Report** setting out information on safeguarding trends locally, the actions of the Board over the last year, and priorities for the coming year.

This Annual Report provides an overview of safeguarding trends in Oldham during 2023-24. It also provides information on the Safeguarding Adult Reviews commissioned by the Board and how the learning from these reviews has shaped and improved the way services work in Oldham.

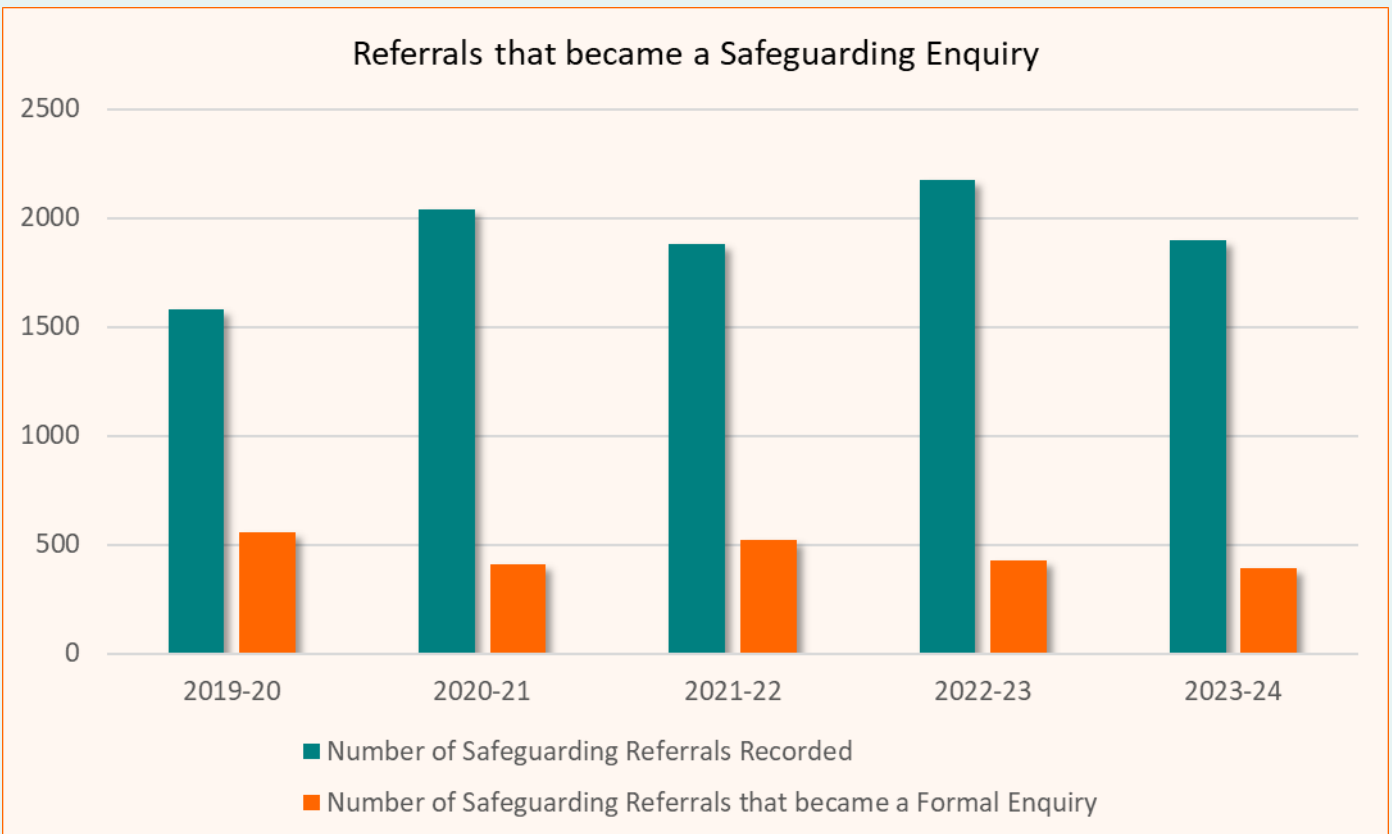
# Profile of abuse and neglect in Oldham

The following information shows the numbers and types of safeguarding abuse recorded for Oldham residents in 2023-24. This data has been compared to the numbers and types of safeguarding abuse from previous years to help us understand any changes or new types of safeguarding concerns that need to be addressed.

## Safeguarding referrals that became a formal safeguarding enquiry

Each safeguarding referral received is investigated and if we believe that an adult with care and support needs is at risk of serious abuse or neglect and is unable to protect themselves because of those needs, the referral becomes the subject of a formal safeguarding enquiry. The purpose of a formal safeguarding enquiry is to ensure that the referral is investigated, to gather more information, to collect the views of the adult at risk of serious abuse or neglect and the views of anyone else who may be relevant, and to prevent, or stop, abuse from occurring.

The chart below shows the number of safeguarding referrals that have gone on to become formal safeguarding enquiries over the last five years.



During 2023-24, a total of 1896 safeguarding referrals were received and of these, 390 became a formal safeguarding enquiry. The number of safeguarding referrals decreased by 13% in 2023-24 compared to the previous year. The decrease is thought to be a result of awareness raising activity and training provided by the partnership in relation to the criteria for a formal safeguarding enquiry and alternative safeguarding pathways such as referrals to the Independent Domestic Violence Advisory (IDVA) Service and the Changing Futures team who support adults with multiple and complex dependencies. Practitioners are also utilising the OSAB Tiered Risk Assessment and Management (TRAM) Protocol which is designed to support cases who are at risk of serious harm or death.

Whilst the number of overall referrals has decreased, the proportion of those that have led to formal safeguarding enquiries has remained relatively consistent, increasing from 20% in 2022-23 to 21% in 2023-24.

## Sex, age, and ethnic group of safeguarding referrals

Of the 1896 safeguarding referrals in 2023-24, 55% (1050) related to women and 45% (843) related to men. There were a further three safeguarding referrals where the sex was unknown. This is a similar split as previous years.

As women make up 52% of the total adult population in Oldham, this means that the percentage of safeguarding cases per head of population in 2023-24 were slightly higher for women than for men.



**safeguarding referrals  
were about women in  
2023-24**



**safeguarding referrals  
were about men in  
2023-24**



**Of the 1896 safeguarding referrals in 2023-24:**

- 671 (35%) were 18-64 years old
- 276 (14%) were 65-74 years old
- 493 (26%) were 75-84 years old
- 464 (25%) were 85 years old or older

Considering different age groups, during 2023-24, it was recorded that around 65% of all safeguarding referrals related to someone aged 65 or over. Whilst the percentage of people aged 85 years and over has increased slightly from 23% to 25% the breakdown by age group has remained relatively consistent over the last few years.



**Of the 1896 safeguarding referrals in 2023-24:**

- 1573 (83%) were White British
- 148 (8%) were Asian/British Asian
- 126 (7%) were Unknown/Undeclared
- 30 (2%) were Black/African/Caribbean/Black British
- 19 (1%) were Mixed/Other Ethnicity

Considering the ethnicity of Oldham residents, during 2023-24, it was recorded that 83% of all safeguarding referrals related to White British people. This is largely the same proportion as previous years. As White British people make up 65% of the total adult population in Oldham, this means that the percentage of safeguarding cases per head of population in 2023-24 were slightly higher for White British people.

Overall, the 2023-24 figures suggest that White British people aged 65 years old and over were more likely to be the subject of a safeguarding referral compared to any other group.

## Who reported the concerns

**Of the 1896 safeguarding referrals in 2023-24:**

- 30% were referred by Health services
- 25% were referred by a service Provider
- 21% were referred by a Professional
- 13% were referred by 'Other'
- 10% were referred by Someone Connected
- 1% were self-referred



In 2023-24, most safeguarding referrals were made by practitioners from health services (562 referrals) and local providers of care and support (479 referrals).

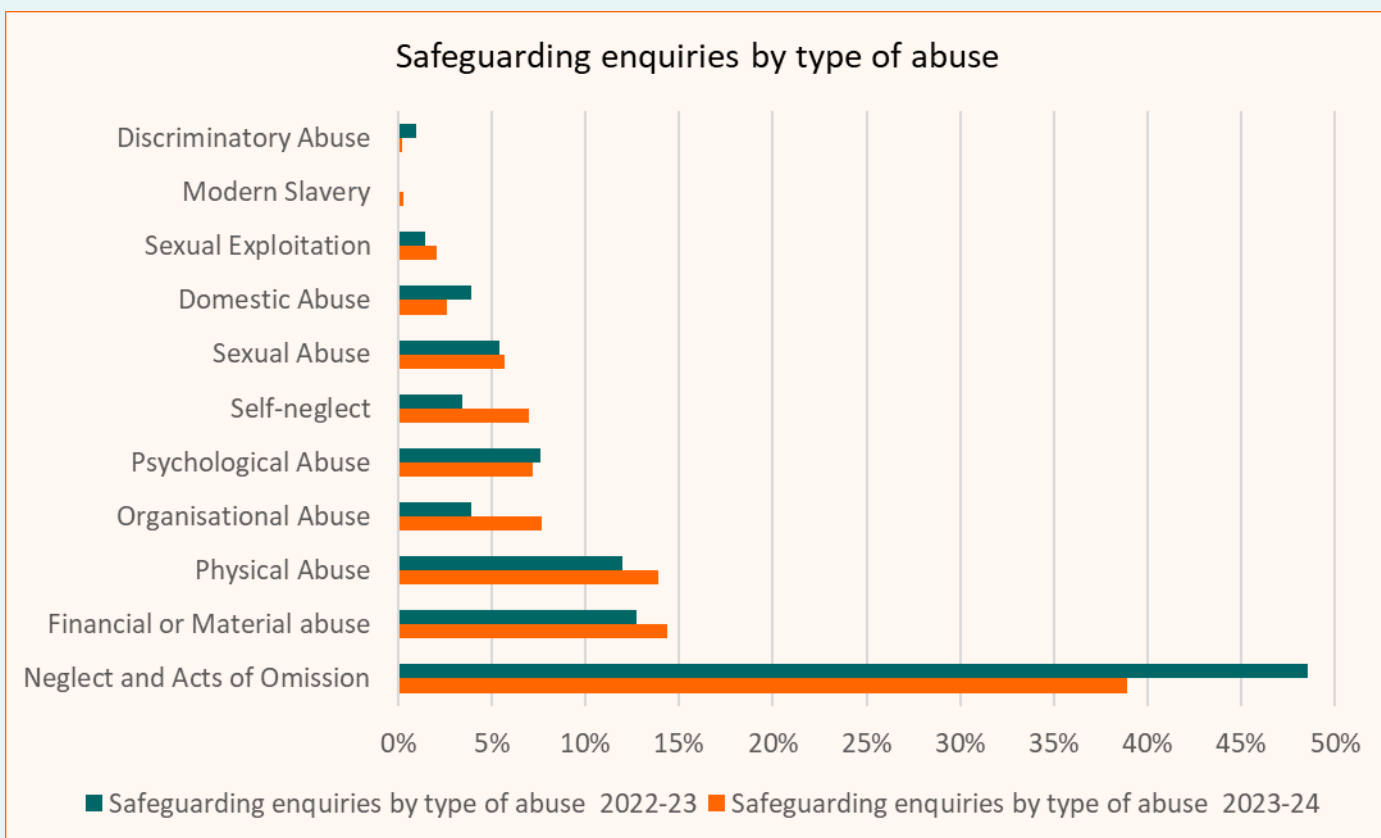
## Mental Capacity

A person lacks mental capacity if their mind is impaired or disturbed in some way, which means they are unable to make a decision at that time as they cannot understand the information relevant to the decision; retain that information; or use or weigh up that information as part of the process of making the decision. Examples of how a person's brain or mind may be impaired include mental health conditions, dementia and intoxication caused by drugs or alcohol misuse. The 2023-24 figures include a high proportion of complex safeguarding enquiry cases with 43% of the closed safeguarding enquiries involving people who lacked capacity to make their own decisions. This has stayed relatively consistent as in 2022-23 the proportion was 46%.



## Types of safeguarding abuse

The chart below shows a breakdown of the types of safeguarding abuse investigated in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23. Some safeguarding investigations can involve the recording of more than one category of abuse for the same person and these are the cases that often involve multiple agencies working together to ensure those involved are safe.



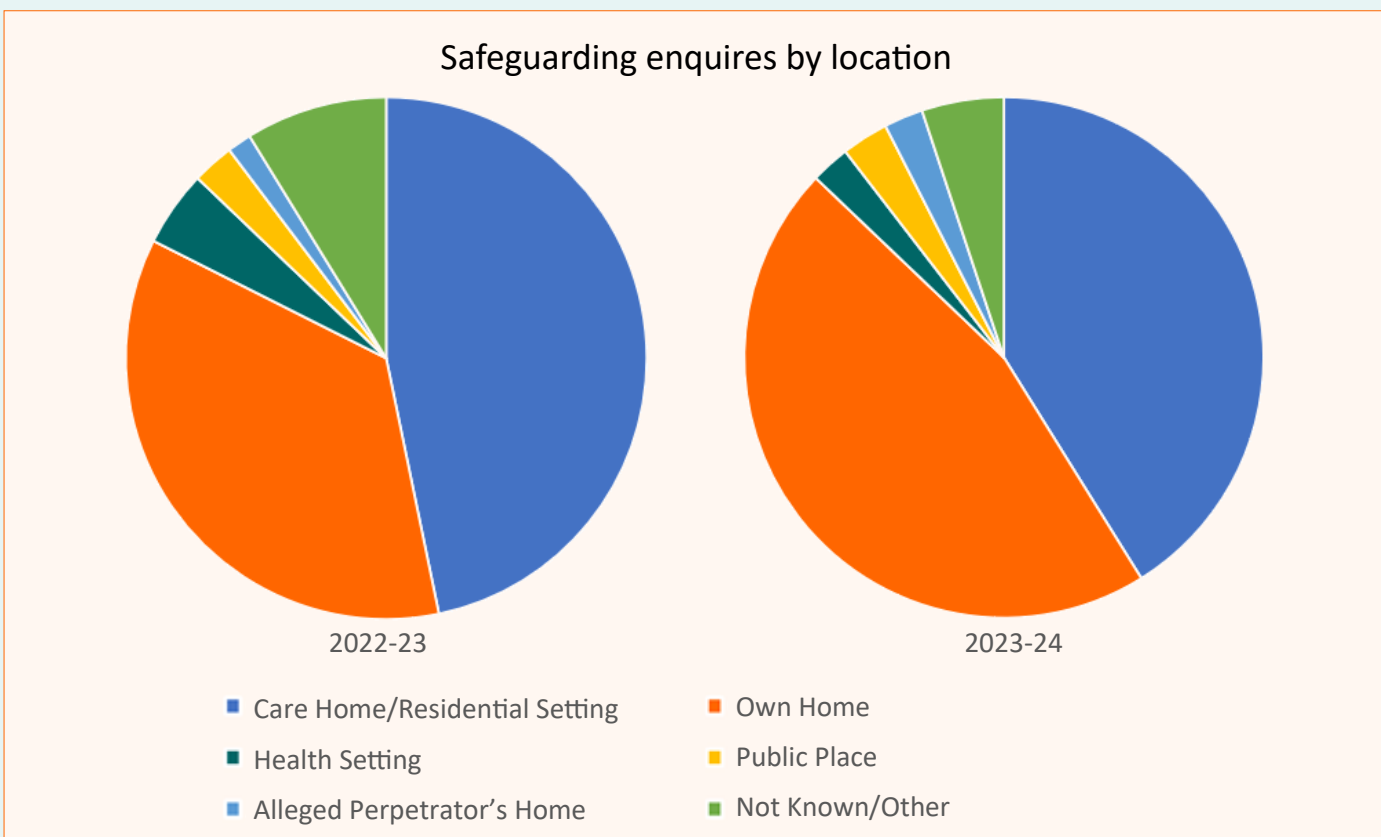
Modern Slavery is an umbrella term for all forms of slavery, human trafficking, and exploitation. It includes holding a person in a position of slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour, or facilitating their travel with the intention of exploiting them soon after. In 2023-24, there were twelve safeguarding referrals received related to Modern Slavery in Oldham. Only two of these progressed to a safeguarding enquiry, as it is often the case that the potential victims do not have care and support needs. These cases are usually responded to through alternative processes rather than via a safeguarding enquiry. Local professionals are being encouraged to recognise the signs of Modern Slavery and provided with the details of the alternative processes that can be used to respond to concerns about Modern Slavery through multi-agency training, practitioner guidance and briefings that the Board introduced throughout 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Although the proportion reduced compared to the previous year, the most common form of abuse in 2023-24 related to neglect and acts of omission. These are cases where a person who is responsible for the support of an adult at risk has failed to provide adequate care or essentials such as medicines, nutrition, heating etc. Neglect and acts of omission has consistently been the most common form of abuse over the last five years. The proportion has increased from 33% in 2020-21, to 39% of cases investigated in 2023-24.

Financial or material abuse includes theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with financial matters, or the misuse of someone else's finances. This category accounted for 13% of safeguarding enquiries in 2023-24, making it the second most common form of abuse. This was also the case in 2022-23, although the proportion has increased from 9% to 13%. It is thought that this has been impacted by new resources aimed at encouraging practitioners across the partnership to recognise the signs of financial abuse and exploitation.

## Where the abuse took place

The charts below show that for both 2022-23 and 2023-24 the most common places where the reported abuse or neglect took place was within a care home/residential setting or the person's own home.



## Number of closed safeguarding referrals and enquiries



2631 safeguarding referrals and enquiries were closed in 2022-23

2569 safeguarding referrals and enquiries were closed in 2023-24

During 2023-24, a total of 2569 safeguarding referrals and enquiries were closed which was slightly fewer than the 2631 closed during the previous year. The 2569 closed is more than the 1896 referrals received in the year, this is due to a push by Oldham's Strategic Safeguarding Service to increase the number of timely closures of referrals and enquiries and includes the closure of outstanding cases from 2022-23.

OSAB regularly review safeguarding data. In 2023-24, the Board oversaw further development of a detailed data 'dashboard'. The insights from this are used by the Board to review safeguarding resources such as training and guidance and where appropriate, adjust the way services work together to keep people safe in Oldham.

## Safeguarding - What does good look like?

When Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board report on safeguarding data, we often focus on safeguarding enquiries, because this is a statutory responsibility. But this is only part of the picture. In 2023-24, Adult Social Care worked with other partner agencies to deal with a further 1506 safeguarding referrals that did not meet the criteria for a safeguarding enquiry, but often involved a great deal of work to keep people safe and well.

In Gemma's case a referral was made about domestic abuse, self-neglect, and financial exploitation. The story involves a number of agencies and is provided to demonstrate what we have learnt to date, what has been making a difference to safeguarding practice and to outcomes for individuals, and where we are experiencing challenges.

### Gemma

Gemma is a bubbly, chatty, friendly person. Her resilience is one of her key strengths. She has hopes and aspirations for her future and would like to live in a new town, with a job, good relationships, good mental wellbeing, independence and contact with her child.

Gemma was referred to Adult Social Care in 2023 due to safeguarding concerns of domestic abuse, self-neglect, and financial exploitation. A multi-agency team of safeguarding partners began to work with Gemma in relation to her wellbeing and safety. Through a trusted professional approach, the people working with her were able to build trust over time by outreaching to her. Gemma's care and support needs, mental capacity in relation to safe relationships, accommodation, health, welfare and finances, and the risks of her current situation became clear through months of multi-agency working during 2023-24.

Gemma had been neglected and sexually abused and exploited as a child. She was now experiencing ongoing trauma as an adult with no consistent access to safe accommodation, food, or finances, and was experiencing abuse from her partners, family members and strangers.

The impact of trauma, untreated attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and the use of substances and alcohol from an early age were impacting upon Gemma's risk perception,

impulsivity, and capacity to make decisions regarding her relationships, finances, accommodation, health, and welfare. Although she was initially verbally captious, concerns remained that the level of risk Gemma was experiencing remained high over time and there were also concerns that she was unable to protect herself from the risk of abuse. The team around Gemma consulted Oldham's Adults Complex and High Risk Panel (CaHRP) for advice and guidance regarding risk management whilst assessments were ongoing.

Gemma was initially thought to have capacity in relation to safe relationships, accommodation, health, welfare, and finances, but concerns that she was unable to use information to make decisions in these areas led to specialist assessments being completed and she was found to lack capacity regarding these decisions at this time.

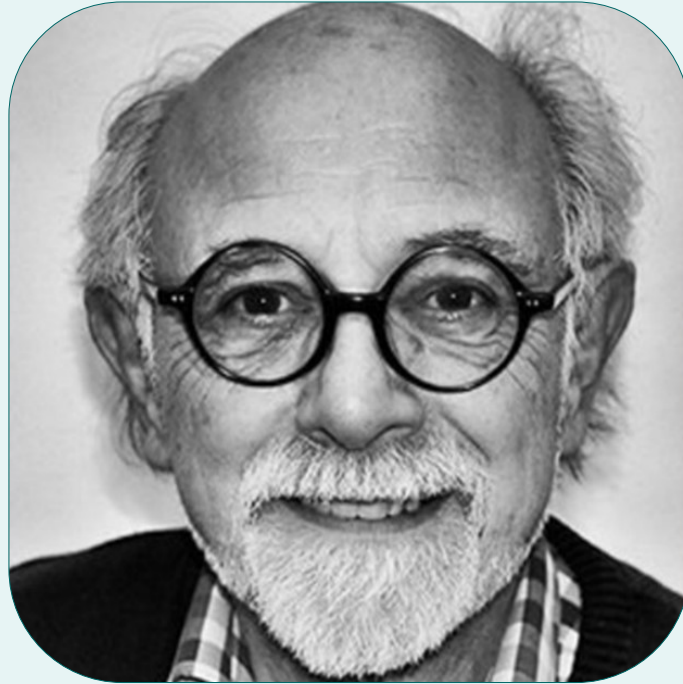
The team around Gemma continued to risk assess and respond on a weekly, and daily basis at times to maintain her safety whilst they searched for safe and supportive accommodation that could meet her complex needs. With legal guidance and support, an application was made to the Court of Protection and a judge agreed the protection plans proposed by the team around Gemma. She is now living safely in a therapeutic environment.

Although restrictions to keep her in place are initially high, with ongoing support in a safe space, she can now begin the process of recovery and has the best chance of regaining capacity and independence in the future. For now, Gemma has told the team around her that she loves her new home and that things are improving for her.





# Message from the OSAB Independent Chair



“ This annual report of the Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board for 2023-24 once again demonstrates the extent of activity undertaken by a wide range of local agencies for the residents of Oldham. The report reflects both the strength and depth of safeguarding work delivered within localities to identify and address safeguarding need and the extent of innovation and commitment shown by those working in such settings.

I would draw your attention to the actions chart laid out on pages 12-14 of this report which clearly demonstrates the variety of work that has been undertaken in the year.

The report also demonstrates how safeguarding initiatives commenced in Oldham have been taken up by other boroughs and, in some instances, actioned across Greater Manchester.

The conclusion of the reporting period of this report (March 2024) also marks the conclusion of the Safeguarding Board’s three-year strategy. A new three year strategy statement for the period 2024-27 has now been produced and seeks to deliver on a number of safeguarding priorities including:

- Improved joint working with the Oldham Safeguarding Children’s Partnership.
- Enhanced staff training on issues relating to the mental capacity of individuals with safeguarding needs.
- Combatting exploitation and issues of complex safeguarding arising from risks encountered outside of the family home.

All of the partners to the Board are committed to making the impact of this new strategy statement as successful as the last.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Henri Giller'.

Henri Giller  
Independent Chair  
Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board

# Safeguarding Adult Reviews

The Board has a legal duty to carry out a **Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR)** if it believes that someone has died of, or experienced, serious abuse or neglect. The aim of a SAR is to review the way agencies worked together to safeguard an individual or family. Learning from the review is shared across agencies and used by the Board to review the way services operate in order to prevent a similar situation.

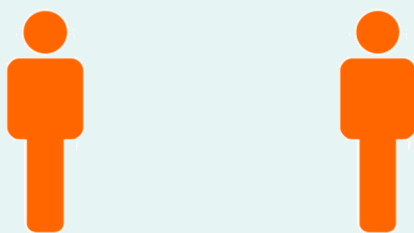
Central to the process is the involvement of the family or the individual, if they are still alive. This ensures that we capture the experiences of people who use services and use this insight to inform any changes.

The following information shows the decrease in the number of reviews commissioned by the Board in 2023-24 to compared to the previous year.

**2022-23 4 Safeguarding Adult Reviews**



**2023-24 2 Safeguarding Adult Reviews**



Common learning themes emerging from SARs completed by the Board involved the assessment of an individual's mental capacity in line with the Mental Capacity Act (MCA); multi-agency management of risk; Complex Safeguarding and exploitation; recording decision making and sharing information; and safeguarding transitions which is the term used to describe the period of change in a young person's life as they move from childhood to adulthood and the way services in Oldham support young people between the ages of 14 and 25, as they move from children's to adults' services.

The findings below came from a SAR completed in 2023-24. The [SAR Report](#) is available on the OSAB Website.

## Jason

Jason was only 45 when he died. He was addicted to class A drugs and was the victim and perpetrator of crime. He received treatment for substance misuse either side of a custodial sentence. Following release, Jason's engagement with the substance misuse service was poor.

Jason was the victim of domestic abuse; most occasions were linked to male family members. Jason attended A&E after being stabbed in the buttocks, a practice known as 'bagging'. This is when a person gets stabbed in the rectum and often leads to the victim having to use colostomy bags for the rest of their life. It is thought this is a form of humiliation. It is a technique being used more often by Organised Crime Groups. Jason spent time begging. He had money stolen and disclosed to a mental health worker that he was being 'cuckooed'. Jason presented as homeless after experiencing several forms of harassment and abuse at his property from family members and unknown others. He was supported by services into temporary accommodation.

Jason was seen by a mental health practitioner due to expressing suicidal thoughts. He did not require assessment under the Mental Health Act. The SAR found a recurring theme in agency records that Jason was self-neglecting and prioritising his substance misuse over his physical and mental health. Practitioners had determined that Jason did have the mental capacity to understand the risks he was putting himself at in relation to his physical health. He was felt to have the capacity to make an 'unwise decision' in line with the MCA.

The SAR suggested the need for improved multi-agency risk management including single-agency escalation processes; record keeping; legal literacy around the MCA; and professional curiosity.

# Listening to Lived Experience

## Capturing the voice and experiences of the adult

The Care Act describes how agencies need to work together to help individuals and families live free from abuse, harm, and neglect. The Board recognises that whilst anyone can become a victim of abuse there are some who, due to their situation or the environmental factors around them, are at greater risk of experiencing harm. In addition, Oldham has an ethnically diverse population and areas with high levels of poverty. We are committed to working together to make sure that safeguarding is everyone's business, and we are committed to working with local communities to listen to and understand their experiences.

Capturing the voice and experiences of those at the centre of Safeguarding Adult Reviews is vital to help us make effective improvements to front line services and recovery pathways for those who have experienced abuse or neglect. Whilst the feedback from these reviews has helped to shape and inform the strategy and business plans of the Board and in turn, the training and practitioner resources produced throughout 2023-24, the Board recognises that capturing the voices and first-hand experiences of those who have accessed help and support is a key area for development and there is more to do to improve how we engage with adults as a partnership.

### How are the Board 'Making Safeguarding Personal'?

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is a way of working that should be seen across all practice areas, not limited to safeguarding, where practice is person-centred, outcomes focused, and strengths based and develops a range of responses to support people to improve or resolve their circumstances.

During 2023-24, the Board assessed the application of the MSP principles by scrutinising case files, listening to feedback from multi-agency practitioners and scrutinising the experience of an adult, Ade, whose family had voluntarily provided their thoughts and feedback about a safeguarding enquiry to partner agencies.

The results of this extensive project influenced the Board's work during 2023-24 and will continue to during 2024-25. As a result of the project, the Board will redraft the overarching multi-agency adult safeguarding policy and procedures to place renewed focus on MSP; there will be changes made to electronic recording systems so that MSP is considered at the earliest possible opportunities; new practitioner briefings about MSP will be produced for all agencies; the OSAB '[What to Expect](#)' leaflet will be promoted and practitioners will be encouraged to share this with anyone involved in safeguarding enquiries; and key agencies will be asked to provide assurance about their plans for the development of feedback processes for people subject to Section 9 Care Act Assessments or Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries.



# Working in Partnership in 2023-24

The role of the Board is to ensure that agencies across Oldham work together to help adults live safely. To provide clear direction, the Board produces an strategic plan every three years. 2023-24 represented the final year of the [2021-24 Three-Year Strategy](#). The Board produces an annual business plan which translates its agreed ambitions for the three-year period into an programme of work shaped by learning from SARs and

feedback about experiences of accessing services; the [Business Plan for 2023-24](#) was published at the start of the year. The timeline below sets out just some of the headline achievements during 2023-24 as partner agencies worked towards achieving their annual plan. In addition, pages 16 to 38 detail partner agencies' own safeguarding work throughout 2023-24 and their future plans.

April 2023



## Refining the OSAB TRAM Protocol

Recognising its importance as part of the safeguarding prevention offer, the multi-agency risk management processes in the [Tiered Risk Assessment and Management \(TRAM\) Protocol](#) were reviewed based on practitioner feedback. The process for referral to the Adults Complex and High Risk Panel was strengthened and a [two-page flowchart](#) simplifying processes was produced. This was later followed by agencies providing confirmation that the TRAM protocol is being effectively embedded in practice.

OSAB offered **9** different multi-agency training courses in 2023-24. These were attended by **794** practitioners and managers representing **67** different services from across the statutory and voluntary sectors!

**DID YOU KNOW?**

May 2023



## OSAB Practitioner Briefings

OSAB produced eleven [grab guides](#) and [seven-minute briefings](#) in 2023-24, starting with those providing practitioners with an overview of different forms of exploitation in May. These covered key topics ranging from the [safeguarding transitions process](#), essential learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and [supporting victims of rape and sexual assault](#). A new [OSAB Seven-Minute Briefing Team Discussion Feedback Form](#) was developed to record and evidence how briefings are being used.

June 2023



## Assurances

OSAB accepted timely assurance regarding the instability of some care providers. Additional assurances about other practice areas were provided in 2023-24 including Channel and Prevent work, housing conditions, implementation of 'Right Care, Right Person' by Greater Manchester Police, and safeguarding and oversight of out of borough placements. Innovative responses to increased workloads and pressures on staffing, particularly in relation to cost of living, were also reported to OSAB.

July 2023



## Transitions Progress

An extraordinary Board meeting was held with Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership to reflect upon the current position of Transitions, considering the major lessons determined through SARs and children's reviews. The [Oldham Transitions Policy](#) was published and by November, a new Transitions Strategic Board was established supported by several groups focused on specific workstreams.

August 2023



## OSAB Modern Slavery Appreciative Inquiry

An appreciative inquiry was undertaken utilising key questions to help care sector providers uncover existing strengths and opportunities in their services in relation to modern slavery. This led to new checks being embedded into standard quality monitoring activity and further awareness raising via comms and the delivery of presentations to providers.

OSAB representatives contributed to the development of new [Greater Manchester Guide to Exploitation and Organised Immigration Crime in the Care Sector](#). This is now being used by operational teams across the region and has received excellent feedback.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

OSAB discussed the findings of the National Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), determined the recommendations that were relevant to safeguarding adults and agreed appropriate actions in response.

**DID YOU KNOW?**



## September 2023

### *OSAB Making Safeguarding Personal Audit*

Partner agencies audited the consistency of the application of the Making Safeguarding Personal principles considering person-centred, outcomes focused, and strengths based practice. This included scrutiny of records, lived experience examples and feedback discussions with practitioners. The audit provided insight which enabled positive actions to be set including changes to IT systems and the development of mechanisms to collect feedback from individuals. OSAB are also working with the University of Sunderland on a research project considering the involvement of older people in adult safeguarding.

## October 2023

### *OSAB Business Unit Developments*

The OSAB Business Unit help the board to fulfil its role to lead strategic and operational safeguarding adults work within Oldham. The capacity of the Business Unit was reduced by 50% for the first six months of 2023-24. In May, a new Business Manager was appointed and by October, they were joined by a new Business Coordinator. This brought the unit back to full capacity. Throughout the year, the unit have worked diligently to ensure consistency of quality output for practitioners and OSAB members, deliver the OSAB statutory duties and support the various OSAB forums and functions.



## November 2023

### *National Safeguarding Adults Week*

#### *New Resource Launch*

Resources providing an overview for identifying, preventing and responding to *adult sexual exploitation* and *financial exploitation* were added to the already published *Cuckooing Guidance* and *Modern Slavery Toolkit*. A different resource was promoted each day alongside associated seven-minute briefings.



## December 2023

### *CQC Assessment Readiness Event*

A well attended OSAB event to discuss the extent to which the partnership was ready for forthcoming Care Quality Commission (CQC) review and assessment was held. Invitees included an extended group of partner agency representatives. The event clarified what CQC are looking for, the roles and expectations of different partner agencies and current strengths and challenges in relation to partnership working. It was agreed that progress with readiness for CQC assessment would be a regular discussion at OSAB meetings.



#### *Training Opportunities*

Practitioners were also given the opportunity to attend training sessions including the launch of a brand new session focused on Professional Curiosity and Unconscious Bias. Other sessions were related to Self-Neglect and Hoarding, How to make a Safeguarding Adult Referral and local risk management processes (TRAM Protocol).

The Board supported numerous public campaigns to raise awareness of safeguarding issues including Hoarding Awareness Week, Mental Health Awareness Week, International Day of Older Persons, Carers Week and International Suicide Prevention Day.

In addition, information on how to raise a safeguarding concern was sent to all residents in Oldham via the free local newspaper.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

#### *Safeguarding Adults Week Pledge*

OSAB partner agencies made a pledge to ensure that as many practitioners as possible were given the time for personal development related to safeguarding. **141** practitioners representing **35** different services attended the training and positive feedback about the new resources was abundant!

## OSAB.org.uk, @SafeguardOldham and Safeguarding Bulletin

During 2023-24, the *OSAB website* was visited more than **14,000** times! The most popular pages were the News and Events page where all new policies, guidance, and training events are promoted, the Policy and Procedure page, and the page detailing how to book multi-agency training and recommended eLearning. The busiest period was undoubtedly during Safeguarding Adults Week.

During 2023-24, @SafeguardOldham tweets have been seen more than **34,000** times! This led to the number of followers increasing by **10%**.

Subscribers to the fortnightly *Oldham Safeguarding Bulletin* increased by more than **40%** during 2023-24!



## Eggshells - OSAB Short Film

The *Eggshells short film* was designed to help everyone recognise the signs and promote an understanding of escalating domestic abuse over time, particularly coercive and controlling aspects.

It was co-produced with a team of professional artists, partners from health and social care and a group of women from Oldham who courageously shared their lived experience as a way of helping others going through the same experiences.

Since its launch, Eggshells has been viewed more than **844,000** times! The film has also received more than **27,000** likes and more than **2,300** comments from people all over the world!

### January 2024

#### Cost of Living and Safeguarding

In January and throughout the year, OSAB welcomed updates concerning the connection between cost of living and safeguarding and partnership work around residents who were vulnerable or needing support from the cost of living crisis response. Assurances were given about a 'Clean Room' approach where crisis support agencies were brought together with wider support agencies to understand if households requiring repeat cost of living support were known to, and engaging with, support from wider services or had recently had contact with social care, to identify if any further partnership action was required.



During 2023-24, OSAB have screened seven referrals for SARs. Two of these were determined to meet the statutory criteria. In the same period, OSAB completed two SARs and continued work on a further three SARs!

**DID YOU KNOW?**

### February 2024

#### OSAB Trauma Informed Practice Guidance

In addition to ongoing multi-agency training and the provision of an OSAB Practice Informed by Trauma podcast, new OSAB Trauma Informed Practice Guidance was developed. The document explores the impact of trauma on the brain; the effects and impact of trauma; hints, tips and tools to use, the importance of the language we use and more.



### March 2024

#### Improving Legal Literacy Around the Mental Capacity Act

Agencies provided some clear assurances of their ongoing commitment to achieving legal literacy around the MCA. It was found that proportionate measures were in place that reflect the differing roles of agencies and staff within agencies, particularly in relation to levels of knowledge and training around the MCA and single and multi-agency training was working well alongside OSAB guidance documents.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

OSAB received great feedback about the TRAM Protocol from the Safeguarding Adults Boards in Wigan and Tameside. Both areas have asked if they can adopt the Protocol crediting OSAB.

Numbers of referrals to the Adults Complex and High Risk Panel (CaHRP) have reduced throughout 2023-24. It is thought that this is due to the successful implementation of the TRAM Protocol as a whole, as more cases are believed to be being well managed at the lower tiers via the Team Around the Adult (TAA) approach. This is also likely to be a further factor that has contributed to the reducing numbers of safeguarding adult referrals.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

OSAB has established a new Hoarding Improvement Partnership to enable multi-agency reflection about cases, influence local practice and promote awareness amongst practitioners and with the public.

# Plans for 2024-25 and beyond

Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board has made significant progress over the last twelve months. Progress against existing priorities and potential new priorities for the partnership were considered at a development session held in May 2024. This resulted in partner agencies developing a [new three-year strategy](#) for 2024-27 (Click on the image below to take a look).



As part of the strategy partner agencies agreed a new overarching vision for the Board:

## The New OSAB Vision

*“For Oldham to be a place where safeguarding is everyone’s business, where accountability is in place in order to safeguard people and where people are supported in their right to live safely. A place where partner agencies work together to prevent abuse and neglect and are committed to delivering excellent safeguarding practice through a culture of learning.”*

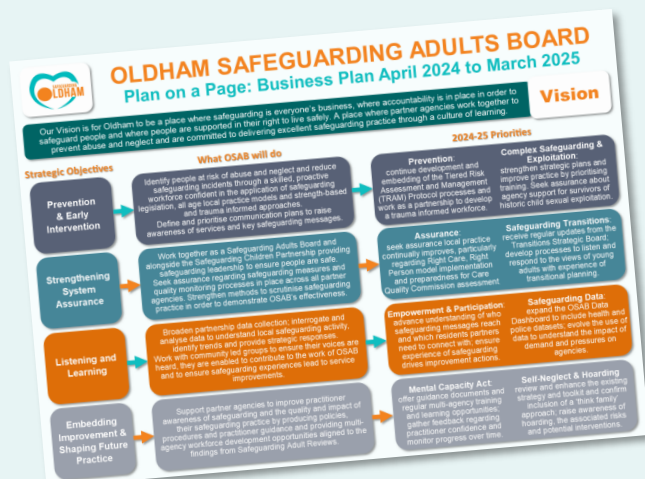
Partner agencies also selected four high-level strategic objectives as:

- **Prevention and Early Intervention**
- **Strengthening System Assurance**
- **Listening and Learning**
- **Embedding Improvement Shaping Future Practice**

Board plans for 2024-25 were agreed and published as the annual OSAB Business 'Plan on a Page' (Click on the image on the right to take a closer look). Highlights of the key plans for 2024-25 follow.

The Board will:

- continue to work alongside the Safeguarding Children Partnership to support the work of the new Strategic Transitions Board with the development of local **safeguarding transitions** processes; relevant Safeguarding Adult Reviews will continue to be used to understand and utilise the systemic learning when Transition cases present learning opportunities; and processes to listen and respond to the experiences of people with lived experience of transitional planning will be established.
- respond to local learning around the **Mental Capacity Act** by providing practitioners with supportive guidance documents, regular multi-agency training and other learning opportunities.
- build on the work undertaken to improve safeguarding practice in relation to **complex safeguarding and exploitation** by focusing on refreshing the adult strategy, rolling out multi-agency training and collaborating with local community groups to design and launch a communications campaign about the signs of exploitation and how to report concerns.
- continue to drive forward the threefold purpose of the new **Hoarding Improvement Partnership**: raising awareness of hoarding with the public and practitioners; sharing good practice examples between frontline practitioners; and strategic development, concerning the need to enhance the local response.
- strengthen procedures for ensuring local **safeguarding practice continually improves** by aligning with statutory requirements for safeguarding audits in place for the Safeguarding Children Partnership and expanding these to include partner agencies operating exclusively in relation to adults.



# Single-Agency Statements

In addition to the Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board's Annual Report setting out information on safeguarding trends locally, the actions of the Board over the last year, and priorities for the coming year, agencies are invited to provide highlights of their own safeguarding work for publication as **Single-Agency Statements**. The following pages contain the statements from Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board partner agencies.

## Action Together



Action Together CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) is the local infrastructure organisation for the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Oldham, Rochdale, and Tameside.

We connect people with what's happening in their community, develop community ideas into action, strengthen local organisations, and provide strategic influence for the charity and voluntary sector. Action Together also leads a partnership of charities that deliver the Oldham Social Prescribing Service.

Action Together hosts Healthwatch Oldham (HWO), the consumer champion for health and social care in Oldham. The role of HWO is to gather the views of local people to help shape the way services are provided, understand what is important to service users, and hold services to account. HWO plays a key role engaging with hard to reach and vulnerable groups across Oldham.

### Safeguarding and Action Together

Safeguarding runs through everything we do within the organisation. Our approach is to ensure that all our staff and volunteers have awareness and training at the right level for their role with us. This means that all our staff and volunteers, including our emergency response volunteers, undertake a safeguarding awareness training session that covers both safeguarding children and safeguarding adults at risk.

Our Social Prescribing teams receive further detailed training as part of their induction and ongoing Continuing Professional Development.

We deliver Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk awareness training to anyone in Oldham who works or volunteers in the VCFSE as part of our regular training programme.

We also support VCFSE organisations to achieve our Quality in Action Award, the locally recognised quality assurance award for VCFSE groups and organisations. One of the modules in the framework focuses on safeguarding and ensures that groups and organisations have appropriate safeguarding policies, procedures, and training in place for their staff and volunteers, and also focuses on safer recruitment practices for staff and volunteers.

### Safeguarding in 2023-24

The key adult safeguarding themes for Action Together in 2023-24 continued to be risk of suicide or self-neglect, closely connected with housing issues and the need for a multi-agency approach between substance misuse services, mental health services and approaches to support people who experience hoarding.

As the local infrastructure organisation for the VCFSE sector one of our key functions is capacity building for volunteers and staff in the sector. To this end, we deliver a regular programme of Safeguarding Adults at Risk Training.

In 2023-24, we reviewed and updated our training materials to reflect recent Safeguarding Adult Review learning. We also secured UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funding to increase our ability to deliver capacity building support to the VCFSE and enhance our training and workforce development offer to include training on trauma informed approaches, work with men and boys and peer mentoring, to name a few additions which relate more broadly to increasing knowledge and skills in the sector around safeguarding.

Within the Social Prescribing Service, one of our top achievements has been working closely with the Adult Referral



Contact Centre (ARCC) to embed a social prescribing link worker into the integrated ARCC team. This has ensured that an informed multidisciplinary team approach can be implemented at the earliest possible point and that people who come through the ARCC, but who do not need a statutory service, receive the appropriate level of support in a timely manner.

Social Prescribing has attended and been an active member in many Team Around the Adult (TAA) meetings which has had some positive results for individuals.

## Successful Multi-Agency Safeguarding Work

We received a referral from Children's Social Care to support a lady with benefits advice, housing, loneliness and isolation. When we met with the lady, it became clear that she was struggling with mental health, relationships and home educating her child.

Once a relationship was built with the Social Prescribing Link Workers, she disclosed domestic violence and how this was affecting her and the child. We were able to get the Independent Domestic Violence Advisory (IDVA) team involved. Through joint working with Adult Social Care and IDVA team, the lady has been able to leave the relationship and move to a safe place.

## Safeguarding Priorities in 2024-25

Our key adult safeguarding priorities for 2024-25 will be:

- To further develop the workforce development offer for the VCFSE sector around adult safeguarding key themes. We have secured some external grant funding to increase our capacity to develop our broader workforce development offer, and a key priority will be around safeguarding.
- to continue the Social Prescribing team contribution to the development of place-based integration to ensure multi-disciplinary team and integrated working improve outcomes for residents.
- To continue to embed our recently transformed Social Prescribing delivery model which enabled us to place a link worker within the ARCC team. This was a key development to ensure that the step-up and step-down pathway between Adult Social Care and Social Prescribing continues to be stronger.
- To develop the relationship between Social Prescribing, Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and Early Help to strengthen the whole family, whole household approach.

## Key Challenges

Challenges continue to be demand and the complexity of cases, this is made more difficult because of the waiting lists in other services meaning individuals stay with Social Prescribing longer.

## Adult Social Care, Oldham Council



Adult Social Care is an Oldham Council service which supports Oldham residents to be independent, healthy, safe and well. Adult Social Care facilitate this by:

- working in a person centred and strengths-based way to enable residents.
- identifying where prevention and self-help opportunities can assist residents to stay independent, healthy, safe and well.
- supporting residents to access information and advice and working to ensure residents can find out about local support and other services to help them to look after themselves in local communities and make informed choices about care and support.
- supporting residents to recover and be enabled to be as independent as they can with the help of friends, family, and the community.
- assessing residents who need care and support and ensuring they receive services that support them to live as independently as possible.
- providing support for residents who need care and support to protect themselves from the risk or experience of abuse to safety plan when they are unable to do so independently due to care and support needs.
- providing support for carers for people with care and support needs to have an assessment of their own needs as a carer and to receive advice, guidance and support which helps them to stay healthy, safe and well.
- assessing residents who need statutory assessment under the Mental Health Act 1983.
- assessing residents who lack capacity to make decisions regarding accommodation, care and treatment and are deprived of their liberty in a hospital or care home settings, which determines if care restrictions in place are necessary, proportionate and in their best interests, and making recommendations regarding less restrictive care, where appropriate.

Adult Social Care work in partnership with people with care and support needs, other council services, the local community, carers, social care provider organisations and other safeguarding partnership organisations, to prevent and delay the appearance of care and support needs, promote wellbeing and safety, promote human rights, and ensure that people with care and support needs can live safely free from the risk or experience of abuse.

Our statutory duties derive from the Care Act 2014, the Mental Capacity Act 2005, the Mental Health Act 1983, and the Human Rights Act 1998.

## Safeguarding and Adult Social Care

Safeguarding is the top priority for Adult Social Care and for Oldham Council. We work both preventatively and responsively to ensure that adults with care and support needs can live safely free from the risk or experience of abuse. Adult Social Care have a statutory duty to make safeguarding enquiries under section 42 of the Care Act 2014 when there is reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there):

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs)
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect and
- as a result of those needs, is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Adult Social Care also has the power (at its discretion) to decide whether to make non-statutory safeguarding enquiries.

Our approach to working with adults is to make safeguarding personal. We do this by:

- Promoting wellbeing and safety through empowering conversations which are person centred, trauma informed, strengths and rights based.
- Working preventatively to help adults with care and support needs to build an understanding of what abuse is, how to recognise the signs, and where to seek help.
- Working proportionately alongside adults with care and support needs who are experiencing or at risk of abuse and neglect in a person centred, outcomes focused way that is meaningful to them and supports them to lead decisions about their safety.
  - Working in the best interests of adults at risk who lack the capacity to make decisions about their safety, ensuring that their voice and previous wishes and feelings are represented through advocacy, and that they are protected from the risk or experience of abuse.
  - Using approaches which support recovery for people who have experienced abuse and trauma.
  - Being accountable for our practice.

Our approach also involves recognising when others, including children, adults who do not have care and support needs, and the public may be at risk of abuse or harm, and reporting our concerns to our safeguarding partners. We work in partnership with other services and organisations to effectively:

- Respond to safeguarding concerns.
- Contribute to multi-agency safeguarding forums.
- Contribute to, develop and implement safeguarding strategy.
- Learn from when things have gone wrong and implement change.

We are accountable for our practice and our approach seeks to recognise:

- Our strengths
- Our challenges
- Our opportunities for ongoing development.

## Safeguarding in 2023-24

For a third year, we have continued to see a trend in complex safeguarding concerns for individuals at risk of criminal and sexual exploitation. Thematically, they are complex, requiring person centred, trauma informed responses, mental health assessments, mental capacity assessments (often executive functioning), an outreach approach, the use of legal frameworks, and intensive multi-agency partnership working to assess, manage and reduce initial risks to an individual's safety and wellbeing. Working with the court of protection and specialist providers to ensure rights, risks and recovery are prioritised are also key aspects of our approach.

As with complex safeguarding, transitional safeguarding for young people moving into adulthood has also been a trend for the last three years. The two remain closely connected and thematically also require the practice responses described above to promote individual wellbeing, safety, and recovery.

In 2023-24, we began to see more activity related to concerns of modern slavery, forced labour and labour abuse for care staff in care settings. This has included responding to notification of suspension of sponsorship licences for commissioned providers. It has also included responding to safeguarding concerns for care staff, and consideration of how risks to them impact on the safety of people receiving care and support. A multi-agency approach has been taken, which has effectively harnessed the strengths of the existing safeguarding partnership and required new safeguarding relationships to be established with central government agencies.

Following a continuous increase in demand for the past three years, 2023-24 saw a total of 1896 new Safeguarding Concerns received. This was a 12.5% decrease on the previous year when we received 2168 Safeguarding Concerns. The decrease is thought to be linked to the impact of partnership training regarding Care Act safeguarding and alternative safeguarding pathways. In addition, the impact of the OSAB Tiered Risk Assessment and Management (TRAM) Protocol is also supporting high risk cases which are not safeguarding

concerns to be responded to via an appropriate approach.

Of the Safeguarding Concerns received in 2023-24, 390 had an outcome of safeguarding enquiry. Of these, 342 were section 42 safeguarding enquiries with the remaining 48 being non-statutory enquiries. In 2023-24, the safeguarding concern to enquiry conversion rate was 20.6%. This is a slight increase on the 19.8% rate in 2022-23, highlighting that of the safeguarding concerns received more of them are now appropriate for Care Act safeguarding. The conversion rate also highlights the significant amount of preventative safeguarding activity which is being undertaken by Adult Social Care. In 2023-24, we completed 411 Safeguarding Enquiries (371 section 42 enquiries and 40 non-statutory enquiries). Last year, we completed 339 enquiries (301 section 42 enquiries and 38 non-statutory enquiries). This is an increase of 21.2%

Ongoing strategic and operational progress has been made in 2023-24 to support our understanding of and response to complex safeguarding, with positive relationships being built with service users, advocates, providers, and the court of protection at an operational level, and a phased approach to promoting safety, wellbeing, recovery, and independence. The strategic safeguarding service has contributed significantly to both the development of partnership guidance on complex safeguarding and Oldham's complex safeguarding strategy and continues to work with peers from Children's Social Care and across the North West to continuously improve the approach and offer in this area.

Further strategic progress has been made by Children's and Adult Social Care in 2023-24 in relation to transitional safeguarding through the creation of the Strategic Transitions Board. The board's work supports strong strategic, operational, prevention and statutory responses to young people moving into adulthood, including those who are at risk of abuse.

Adult Social Care have consistently supported the work of OSAB, contributing effectively to strategy, board priorities and subgroup activity including the development of policy and procedure, creating, and delivering multi-agency training, quality assurance audits, Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) referral screenings, SAR review panels and delivering against SAR action plans. We have also been able to contribute more consistently to partnership forums such as Channel.

We have also made significant progress in 2023-24 concluding episodes of historical safeguarding activity which required closing in our recording systems in order to improve data accuracy.

## Safeguarding Adult Review Learning

We have continued to embed SAR learning into the way we support adults in 2023-24 by:

- Making further progress to embed the TRAM Protocol and the Adults Complex and High Risk Panel (CaHRP) at an operational level in Adult Social Care. Multi-agency training concerning these risk management processes has

frequently been delivered by members of the Strategic Safeguarding Service and uptake of this training by Adult Social Care staff has been high. The Safeguarding Lead has supported teams across the service to translate theory into practice through modelling use of the TRAM Protocol approach and providing advice and guidance to teams regarding use. The Head of Service for Safeguarding continues to chair the Adults CaHRP and the OSAB Business Unit continue to organise and administer.

- Developing and rolling out Mental Capacity theory to practice training to our workforce which is supporting them to recognise the standards required in relation to Mental Capacity Act practice, translate theory into their practice and record effectively in relation to mental capacity decisions.

## Successful Multi-Agency Safeguarding Work

We were involved in several successful multi-agency initiatives during 2023-24. These included:

- Delivering training to the local safeguarding children's partnership regarding the impact of parental hoarding on children.
- The Strategic Safeguarding service making a significant contribution to the subgroup activity of OSAB. This has included supporting the production of policy, procedure, guidance, and training, leading an audit concerning the Making Safeguarding Personal principles. the delivery of multi-agency training concerning Making a Safeguarding Adult Referral, Risk Management (TAA and TRAM), Mental Capacity Act, Self-Neglect and Hoarding,
- We have also continued to work successfully at a regional level, sharing our expertise regarding multi-agency risk management and complex safeguarding with regional partners and supporting localities who have adopted Oldham's TRAM Protocol approach with advice and guidance from our learning journey.

## Safeguarding Priorities in 2024-25

The key safeguarding priorities for Adult Social Care going into 2024-25 will be:

- Delivering and evidencing high quality safeguarding services: Adult Social Care will be continuing to deliver a programme of transformation in safeguarding and prepare for the implementation of Care Quality Commission (CQC) regulation. Our key priorities will include enhancing our data reporting to support data informed transformation, streamlining our safeguarding processes, and enhancing our quality assurance systems.
- Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP): Adult Social Care continues to strive to deliver high quality safeguarding practice

through personalised, strengths based and outcome focused conversations. The Strategic Safeguarding Service will be working to support consistency across the service in the holding and recording MSP conversations through updates to our practice guidance, the streamlining of safeguarding processes and revisions to safeguarding documentation.

- **Co-production:** The development of a co-production strategy is a key priority for Adult Social Care in 2024-25. We are currently working at regional level to support and develop an approach which will ensure Oldham residents are able to shape the future of Adult Social Care in Oldham and ensure our safeguarding responses are provided in ways that are meaningful to Oldham residents.
- **Adult Social Care Realignment:** The realignment of Adult Social Care in Clusters and Mental Health is a key priority for 2024-25 in order to ensure that we can continue to deliver high quality wellbeing and safeguarding services in line with our statutory duties this year and for the future.
- **Complex and Transitional Safeguarding:** Adult Social Care will continue to progress and implement strategic plans for complex and transitional safeguarding in partnership with Children’s Social Care and the safeguarding partnership.
- **Financial Pressures:** Adult Social Care will continue to monitor the impact of financial challenges to ensure we are able to safeguard vulnerable adults.

Like all local authorities across the country, Oldham Council is operating in a challenging financial climate with cuts to funding from central government, the covid-19 pandemic, the cost of living crisis, and rising costs of care provision at a time of sustained increased demand for services, resulting in highly challenging operating conditions.

Dedicated strategy and innovative ways of working including reviewing what we do and how we do it are underway to ensure our workforce can continue to meet our statutory safeguarding duties and ensure the financial stability of Oldham Council.

Workforce capacity is a further challenge for Adult Social Care. Like all local authorities, we have seen an impact on the ability to recruit experienced social workers since the covid-19 pandemic. A dedicated strategic approach to stabilising the Adult Social Care workforce, ‘growing our own’ Social Workers through apprenticeships and career development opportunities, and ensuring our workforce is well trained, is in place.

We will also be holding data informed conversations with top referring partners to ensure that people at risk of abuse are supported to access the most appropriate safeguarding support and pathways from the point of disclosure or concern, and that Adult Social care are able to meet its statutory duties to people with care and support needs effectively.

## Key Challenges

The main challenges will be financial stability and workforce capacity.

# Age UK Oldham



Age UK Oldham aims to provide opportunities for the entire spectrum of older people in the local area. At its inception, traditional services were targeted towards more dependent older people but the charity has now expanded its role to include preventative projects and we aim to improve the physical and emotional health of older people in the community and to foster asset-based community development. We have a wide and varied portfolio of activities delivered both in-house and in numerous neighbourhood buildings and offer both close and arms-length support in the community helping to reduce social isolation which has a positive impact on those older people living with physical and mental health conditions.

## Safeguarding and Age UK Oldham

Safeguarding is fundamental to the work we do and is everyone’s

responsibility. Training of all staff, volunteers and contractors who meet routinely with older people is essential, ensuring they recognise any potential issues, instilling confidence in them to assist. Equally important is our prevention strategy, both in taking a person-centred approach to individuals and ensuring our services are designed to help people to live safely and independently for as long as possible.

## Safeguarding in 2023-24

During 2023-24, the ‘Cost of Living Crisis’ affected pensioners on a fixed income and for some, led to an increase in referrals relating to a number of concerns including:

- Financial difficulties for older people have impacted on their ability to maintain a safe and liveable home environment e.g. difficulties with heating bills leading to damp, unsanitary and unhealthy conditions, white goods replacement, bedding and household supplies are all major factors.
- Hunger and malnutrition are also a concern. We are often in the position of supplying basic groceries and emergency meal packs as a temporary measure until our Personal

Independence Payment (PIP) Social Prescribers can help with benefits checks and other support.

- Hoarding has emerged as a concern for older people who have become anxious and isolated in later life and often leads to self-neglect and poor health. Taking time to grow relationships whilst slowly helping to declutter their homes in a non-judgemental way is how we at Age UK Oldham gain trust and slowly introduce other agencies/services/activities to augment their support network and prevent reoccurrence.
- Becoming victims of scams has become more prevalent in this age group. Living alone without support leaves householders open to doorstep, phone, mail and online criminals who are adept at recognising signs of potential vulnerability. Older people are more susceptible to financial abuse when they become lonely or isolated and most of our services delivered in the local community focus on prevention and inclusion to ensure that people have the confidence to approach our staff with their concerns.

## Safeguarding in 2023-24

We continued to take advantage of the OSAB's wide variety of training offers (including 7-minute briefings) with the online sessions being particularly valuable and accessible. This meant that we were able to reach every level of our workforce and have great examples of safeguarding alerts from staff who come into contact with the general public. For example, when an older lady came into the office expressing her concerns around her son gaslighting her regarding memory loss we were immediately able to phone the safeguarding team for advice and guidance.

From our experience, the development of Oldham's Adult Referral Contact Centre (ARCC) team and our growing relationship with their staff has enabled closer working relationships. It has given us greater opportunities to discuss possible safeguarding issues informally to agree the best routes forward.

## Successful Multi-Agency Safeguarding Work

We supported an older lady who was at risk of cuckooing and financial abuse by taking a multi-agency approach and working together with Adult Social Care, Police, KeyRing, Housing, OPAL and family to gather joint intelligence to best protect the lady and provide her with the most appropriate ongoing support.

This enabled her to remain living safely in her own home and thereby maintaining her independence. With the support of OPAL and Housing she was re-housed, continued to remain engaged with services and is now living safely in her new home.

## Safeguarding Priorities in 2024-25

Our key safeguarding priority for 2024-25 will be related to Hospital Discharge.

We will continue to build relations with health colleagues as our involvement in the pilot Front Runner discharge scheme has shown that our provision and delivery of our preventative services, including strength of day care for people with dementia, has an impact on:

- the number of admissions to wards from A&E, and subsequent deconditioning of patients with dementia.
- the length of stay and number of ward moves when hospitalised, thereby increasing available hospital beds.
- readmission rates, failed discharges, and costly community care packages, as a result.
- the prevention of carer crises and the risk of both short and long term admission into residential care.

Our staff maintaining close contact and being a watchful eye on vulnerable older people in the community is a significant factor in reducing deterioration, crisis, safeguarding risks and unnecessary hospital admissions.

It is a priority for Age UK Oldham to continue to support older people face-to-face wherever possible, be that in their own homes, at our day care and through our range of other services.

## Key Challenges

2024-25 brings major challenges in our delivery of Preventative Services which has always been our key goal and the bedrock of our service offer. Social Prescribing (of which we were the pioneers some ten years ago) is now becoming embedded in Oldham but our concern is the dwindling resources of organisations such as ours to provide low level support for those people who are not totally independent but neither are they eligible for assessed care needs care packages.

Our services and projects at this level contribute to:

- the prevention of failed hospital discharges where practical measures ensure a safe discharge environment and low level continued support in the community.
- the prevention of carer breakdown e.g. Day Care provision and support.
- the prevention of costly and premature admission to residential care.
- averting the need for crisis intervention.

In the past, we have subsidised preventative services (in 2022-23 we contributed £405,056 from our independent income) but the financial climate of funding cuts and reduced income from our independent income generation has meant facing the challenge of a forced major reduction in this subsidy for the coming year.



Dr Kershaw's Hospice provides palliative and end of life care for the people of Oldham who have a life limiting condition. This specialist care extends across an Inpatient unit, Community Services and a Wellbeing Centre.

## Safeguarding and Dr Kershaw's Hospice

Safeguarding is at the heart of all our hospice services, supporting the provision of high-quality palliative and End of Life care, protecting the wellbeing and human rights of patients, staff, visitors, and volunteers and providing an environment that is free from harm, abuse and neglect.

### Safeguarding in 2023-24

The Hospice dealt with two adult safeguarding concerns in this time frame. The two were completely different.

We dealt with a non-disclosure from referring professionals that a patient admitted for Hospice care had licence restrictions and had a sexual harm prevention order in force. This communication failure was escalated to the Oldham Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for further investigation.

We also dealt with a patient allegation that he did not consent to care, this was reported to MASH and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). This was fully investigated and no further actions were required.

During 2023-24, the hospice:

- had proactive membership within the OSAB Board governance structure.
- has tried and tested systems in place for reporting safeguarding incidents and concerns. Safeguarding incidents at the Hospice are rare but processes are in place to manage these. The hospice has an ethos and a culture of proactive and reflective learning. Any incident or safeguarding concern is seen as an opportunity to drive quality and improve systems.
  - has promoted all aspects of safeguarding training in a bespoke manner. The Hospice provides safeguarding training on adults and

children and also includes Prevent and Restraint training. All of which are well evaluated.

- ensured that it adhered to the six principles of safeguarding and this is referred to throughout the core mandatory training and delivered in line with Royal College of Nursing intercollegiate document recommendations.
- ensured that the safeguarding lead and safeguarding deputy lead have attended level 5 training.
- achieved compliance for safeguarding adults training at 98% for clinical staff and 100% for non-clinical staff. The compliance for Prevent is 98%. Compliance for Mental Capacity Act, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and Restraint training is 98%. Compliance for Learning Disability, Autism, and Mental Health Awareness training is 100%.

### Successful Multi-Agency Safeguarding Work

The hospice works closely with MASH and adheres to an open and transparent approach in line with our values. The main area for this close working was during investigation of an incident.

### Safeguarding Priorities in 2024-25

Our safeguarding priorities in 2024-25 will be:

- to be a proactive member in the OSAB Policy, Procedure and Workforce Development Subgroup.
- to be an active participant in the Greater Manchester Hospices Safeguarding forum.
- to continuously develop safeguarding training, optimise staff awareness and empower them to know how to respond to any safeguarding concerns.

### Key Challenges

Our key challenges in 2024-25 will be:

- the continued cost of living crisis and how this will impact patients and staff.
- keeping our Safeguarding Adults and Children mandatory training compliance above 90%. We will continue to support all staff to attend training.



Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) is one of the largest Fire and Rescue Services outside London with more than 1,637 members of staff and 41 fire stations, covering an area of approximately 500 square miles and a culturally diverse population of 2.8 million people. Our vision is to make Greater Manchester a safer place by being a modern, community focused and influential Fire and Rescue Service. We aim to provide the best emergency response we can to our communities - this is our primary function, but our role is much broader than this. We are focused on prevention and protection work to try and stop incidents happening in the first place, improving community outcomes in a variety of ways, educating and developing young people and providing a person centred Home Fire Safety Assessment service.

## Safeguarding and GMFRS

Safeguarding is a strategic responsibility of the organisation which is centrally managed through the Safeguarding Policy and Practitioners Group chaired by the lead safeguarding officer. All internal safeguarding processes are aligned to the organisation safeguarding policy, which was most recently reviewed and revised in 2023 and will be updated again in 2024. The approach to safeguarding throughout the organisation is policy driven and systematically structured. Effective compliance monitoring of performance and practice is undertaken at an individual borough level and at an organisation wide level.

## Safeguarding in 2023-24

The key adult safeguarding trends identified in 2023-24 by GMFRS were related to Self-Neglect; Hoarding; Mental Health; Substance Misuse; and Care and Support Needs.

Our top adult safeguarding achievements in 2023-24 were:

- Level 3 accredited training and supervision support sessions for designated safeguarding officers.
- Revision of the safeguarding policy and procedure.
- Introduction of a new UK GDPR compliant internal safeguarding reporting system.
- Utilisation of our case management system to ensure all safeguarding concerns are effectively recorded and managed as required.
- Internal performance and compliance monitoring for safeguarding referrals.

## Making Safeguarding Personal & Safeguarding Adult Review Learning

The GMFRS approach to safeguarding from policy to practice strives to make safeguarding personal with the focus on the

individual and their needs at all times. The GMFRS Home Fire Safety Assessments adopt a person-centred approach, focusing the questions within the fire risk assessment on the Person, Occupation (their activities) and the Environment which they live in. This approach allows not only fire risks to be identified but also safeguarding concerns.

Learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) is discussed at the Safeguarding Policy and Practitioners Group meetings and the learning disseminated throughout the organisation to improve policy and practice.

Making safeguarding personal and SAR learning are embedded in the learning resources provided to designated safeguarding officers and all front line staff.

## Successful Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Work

Throughout 2023-24, GMFRS supported safeguarding professionals meetings.

GMFRS also supported and contributed to the OSAB Policy, Procedure and Workforce Development Subgroup and the OSAB Hoarding Improvement Partnership and provided hoarding awareness training to partner agencies.

## Safeguarding Priorities in 2024-25

GMFRS safeguarding priorities in 2024-25 will be:

- Development and support of designated safeguarding officers.
- Improved training opportunities for all front line staff.
- Supporting the safeguarding boards throughout Greater Manchester.
- Ensuring the safeguarding reporting and recording process within GMFRS is GDPR compliant.
- Improving the quality of safeguarding referrals through training and support provided to front line staff.

## Key Challenges

Staffing levels within the prevention teams are as such that attendance at all professionals' meetings is not possible. However, demand is managed through focused prioritisation to ensure all required actions from the organisation are carried out to support vulnerable individuals within the community.



The purpose of Greater Manchester Police (GMP) is to fight, prevent and reduce crime, keep people safe and care for victims. There are five priorities:

- Responding to incidents and emergencies.
- Investigating and solving crime.
- Preventing and reducing crime, harm and anti-social behaviour.
- Delivering outstanding services.
- Building public trust and confidence.

GMP are committed to improving our response to Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Adults in the community.

Policing have recognised that we are not always the right people to respond and provide services especially to those in mental health crises. To that end, the force is introducing Right Care Right Person by the end of 2024 which lays out what the police responsibilities are in these areas.

## Safeguarding and Greater Manchester Police

GMP have a strong focus on protecting the most vulnerable in our society and safeguarding is front and centre in everything that we do.

Safeguarding is at the top of the agenda for all governance and performance meetings both at local and force levels.

Locally, we have a Detective Superintendent over Crime and Vulnerability, a dedicated safeguarding and vulnerability Detective Chief Inspector and a dedicated adult vulnerability Detective Inspector. We have officers and staff in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) teams and more recently have Police Constables in our district investigation teams for Domestic Abuse.

Locally, police chair MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conference) and co-chair MAPPA (multi-agency public protection arrangements).

The Force have appointed a Detective Superintendent for Violence against women and girls (VAWG) and have identified VAWG and Domestic Abuse offender cohorts for proactive targeting.

The District Operating Model is undergoing a force wide change which will see the reintroduction of Domestic Abuse teams and the

introduction of a Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) officer.

## Safeguarding in 2023-24

In terms of Adult Safeguarding, we have seen a reduction in Domestic Abuse crime (across Oldham and Greater Manchester) although we have seen an increase in detections across Domestic Abuse crimes and rape at Oldham.

Stalking continues to be a concern with many of the crimes being Domestic Abuse related, however for those victims that are not Domestic Abuse related we have fewer referral options to other agencies.

The implementation of the Right Care, Right Person model will take place by end of 2024 and will likely have an impact on all partners which will need to be closely monitored.

During 2023-24, Oldham significantly improved our results in safeguarding vulnerable missing adults. We have seen a reduction of 33% from the previous year (1304 from 1935). But crucially, repeat missing episodes have also seen a reduction, now accounting for 9% of the missing total from 11% in 2022-23. This has been achieved in no small part through the embedding of our recently introduced Prevention Hub and ongoing work with our partners and care providers.

We have seen a near 20% increase in charges of Non-Fatal Strangulation in Oldham.

We have arrested, charged, and remanded many of our most dangerous domestic offenders. One example being R v Jackman, who has been convicted of attempting to cause grievous bodily harm, three counts of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, two counts of common assault, intentional strangulation, burglary and failing to surrender to bail. The Oldham Times reported as follows: "When passing sentence, Judge Timothy Smith labelled Jackman a "serial abuser of women with whom you are or have been in a relationship. You are in short, a violent and cowardly bully." Jackman was sentenced to nine years in prison and five years on licence, he must serve at least two thirds of the nine years before he is eligible for release.

A further example of work is Op Hollow. This is a case where Police have learned of an individual being subjected to forced adult working. Officers attended and safeguarded this individual. Following the initial report, a small investigation team was set up, acted swiftly and conducted numerous arrests and warrants. Consequently, several nominals were charged and remanded to prison. The Police have continued to support the victim with Officers present with her in Europe to support her giving evidence in the trial.



Police continue to support vulnerable people and actively refer to the National Referral Mechanism. In Oldham, we have an experienced Modern Day Slavery (MDS) single point of contact (SPOC) who guides and advises on all our MDS investigations.

## Safeguarding Adult Review Learning

GMP have a central Serious Case Review team who contribute to all Safeguarding Adult Reviews across Greater Manchester. This central team provide consistency across GMP in terms of preparing reports and collating learning which is then cascaded and shared for the benefit of the Force.

We regularly share 7-minute briefings from OSAB when the learning is relevant to Policing.

## Successful Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Work

We have supported OSAB by providing material in relation to MDS and financial abuse to support the training and development of partnership staff.

We are also leading on introducing a cuckooing tracker and fortnightly meeting which partners are now to be invited to. Together, as a partnership, we identify concerns and intelligence around cuckooing and tackle it.

## Safeguarding Priorities in 2024-25

Our district commander Estelle Mathieson has set Oldham's district priorities as:

- Intelligence Gathering
- Child Protection
- Domestic Abuse.

The force has commitment to deliver local Domestic Abuse teams and a Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC) Officer in every district. Our main objectives will be in line with those of the force, reduce and detect these types of offences and safeguard the victims.

Assistant Chief Constable Rick Jackson has stated: 'There is a commitment to enhance the drive to prioritise child protection. Recognising that it is incumbent on every person in the force to look after the needs of our most vulnerable. This will look at strengthening investigation standards, leadership governance response and identification of risk.'

The Force are implementing the Operation Soteria transformation programme which aims to transform the policing response to rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO).

## Key Challenges

The key challenges for Oldham are replicated nationally in policing following the success of the uplift programme. This programme focused on bringing people from a range of backgrounds and communities, and of different skills into policing. There is an inexperienced workforce who require training and support to deal with the complexities of safeguarding.

There is a national issue around the shortfall of detective resources, which again is being addressed through the uplift programme, but there is a knowledge and experience gap. Locally, we are managing this with enhanced training and coaching, using both internal resources and externally through the Oldham partnership training offer.

There is a force performance management framework and analytical capability to assess gaps in performance, with a clear governance structure so that issues can be quickly identified and addressed.

GMP has competing demands which are directed by governmental priorities, in addition to the local needs of the people of Greater Manchester.

The GMP Plan on a Page underpins our approach to improving and ensuring that we move towards being an outstanding force.

The national project of Right Care, Right Person is being introduced in 2024 and will bring opportunities to Oldham to ensure that, as a partnership, we continue to work closely together.

# KeyRing Living Support Network

**KeyRing**  
... We're Life Changing

KeyRing are an adult social care provider in England and Wales supporting adults at risk of harm and abuse in their own homes.

## Safeguarding and KeyRing

As a national adult social care provider providing services to adults at risk, safeguarding is a core element to the work we do and the support we deliver on the ground. We work with very complex individuals who are classed in the main, as on the “edge of care” or “not eligible” for care and support under the Care Act. This means the members we work with have often “fallen through the net” or have had multiple interventions over their lifetime with no positive or effective outcome in their lives. This leaves a legacy of distrust, non-engagement and poor outcomes in the very services that are there to support individuals in times of greatest need. This means that relationship building and trust is vital along with providing the resources and giving the “right support at the right time”.

KeyRing have a national Safeguarding Lead who is also the Practice Development lead. This means that there is full oversight of all of the safeguarding logs across the country drawing on best practice initiatives and learning from OSAB and frontline workers’ experiences of reporting and recording safeguarding concerns. KeyRing also ensures we support members to develop their own knowledge and confidence when it comes to keeping themselves safe and well, both at home and in their communities.

We have easy read safeguarding guides for members that follow the Making Safeguarding Personal Principles. KeyRing’s national hub development programme incorporates core training modules on Making Safeguarding Personal, delivered by the Practice Development Lead and developed alongside KeyRing’s national Member Voice group.

KeyRing is committed to ‘outcomes focused safeguarding’ where the individual’s needs and wishes are central to the development of personal outcomes. By having a focus on ‘outcomes’ at the start, and throughout, the process ensures a greater focus on the person at the centre. Safeguarding should not restrict people from living the life they choose and our Positive Risk Taking Policy provides guidance on creative approaches to supporting people to manage their risks.

## Safeguarding in 2023-24

In 2023-24, KeyRing in Oldham recorded the most safeguarding logs in relation to welfare concerns, this was also the case in 2022-23. The second highest category was self harm and self neglect.

In 2022, all of our policies and procedures were reviewed

including updating guidance for members and volunteers. The following steps were taken throughout 2023-24 and are now implemented and embedded in our practice:

- New Member Handbook – We co-produced our new member handbook including sections around keeping safe and how to report concerns. Internally, we also co-produced Keeping Safe from Abuse guides that are used with members in hubs that were created with the KeyRing self advocates.
- Internal Safeguarding Protocol - We have a new internal safeguarding form and reporting process to make it easier to record safeguarding concerns as they arise. The logs go to area managers and the national safeguarding lead for oversight and development of best practice.
- National Hub Development Programme - KeyRing’s national hub development programme includes a national hub resource folder that is overseen by the Practice Development Lead and developed alongside KeyRing’s National Member Voice Group. The programme also involves regional hub leads who meet every six weeks to share best practice and resources. All teams contribute to the sharing of information and resources around safeguarding. Topics include staying safe online, staying safe in the community and staying safe in relationships. Hub leads take these examples of best practice and share amongst their peers at team meetings and at their local hubs for members’ benefit.
- Education around Health and Support – Hubs invite speakers and specialists in the field of health and social care who also advise around physical and sexual health, focusing on women’s and men’s health and the different needs that this brings around screening, self awareness of the importance of respecting your own body and awareness of issues around consent and coercion. We have a twelve week health programme called Top to Toe that was developed for the learning disability community in the South West that we tailor for members around the country. Oldham delivered a health programme to members called “My Health My Way” which was a project to help bridge the gap in health inequalities for those with a learning disability and/or autistic people in Oldham. The project was funded through Action Together’s One Oldham Fund. Part of the funding was also used to support people to understand finances and budget better especially in the current times. The programme aims were improved health services for people with learning disabilities and/or autism; more people receiving their annual health checks; GP surgeries and other health centres being more inclusive

for people with disabilities and improved communication; fewer missed appointments within health services; accessible health hubs being run within communities on a weekly basis; and accessible information being created by all health services on a permanent basis.

- National Safeguarding Reference Group (SRG) – Our SRG meets quarterly and is made up of all levels of the organisation with representation from across England. The group is also attended by the named trustee for Safeguarding. The SRG gives an opportunity for managers to learn from each other which enables any change in practice to be identified and implemented. The Oldham managers attend the SRG and share the OSAB 7-minute briefings that are produced, these are then shared across the organisation. Oldham manager Jane Dodgson also sits on the OSAB and shares learning and reflections from Oldham Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) amongst other things. The group takes learning from the national safeguarding logs that have come through that quarter. Managers talk through case studies and other examples from the teams themselves based on specific themes to build knowledge and confidence. Themes covered throughout 2023-24 included digital safeguarding and staying safe online; best practice for the prevention of Financial Abuse - using OSAB's guidance; members as perpetrators and the challenges this may pose to those supporting them; learning from Oldham SARs, Learning Disabilities Mortality Reviews (LeDeR), inquests, and complaints that we have been involved in as a provider.
- Safeguarding Adults Week – We recognise Safeguarding Adults Week every year and put out special briefings. We also support and encourage teams to do themed sessions with members sharing information and resources.

## Safeguarding Adult Review Learning

As well as the methods of sharing SAR learning detailed above, KeyRing discuss OSAB 7-minute briefings at group supervisions with the whole team to help improve knowledge and practice.

Over the past twelve months, we have led on several Teams Around the Adult (TAAs) for people we support, we have informed Adult Social Care about the Tiered Risk Assessment and Management (TRAM) Protocol and encouraged them to use the process to improve the quality of service being provided for individuals and improve communication and joint working.

The team have also attended several training sessions provided by OSAB.

## Safeguarding Priorities in 2024-25

Learning from SARs, LeDeR and Inquests - Due to the complex nature of Oldham's intensive and preventative services and the

individuals we support in Oldham, we are involved in SARs, LeDeR reviews, inquests and complaints. It is vital that we take the learning and reflections that come out of all of these and use it to look at current practice and make any changes that need to happen as a result for the organisation. Any learning is used in our training and policies and procedure reviews.

Learning and Reflection from Safeguarding Logs – Building on the above example, we will continue to raise awareness of safeguarding themes and topics that are coming through our internal logs affecting our membership, changing practice where identified as part of the SRG.

Team Wellbeing and Support – We recognise that in areas such as Oldham where we have a large number of members and a large frontline support team, we have to be mindful of the impact that member deaths and safeguarding cases have on the team. We are in the process of commissioning interventions for Trauma Response around Decompression and Resilience training. This will be delivered by experienced psychologists who will work with small groups face to face initially on the decompression aspect, which is a therapeutic session to discuss the impact of events and how they have experienced the trauma or episode. This will then be followed up with Wellbeing Webinars to discuss resilience and methods individuals can employ to support them through future events.

Safeguarding Supervision – We plan to incorporate OSAB's safeguarding supervision minimum standards into team and group supervision sessions around safeguarding. This will tie in with the work around trauma support for teams..

## Key Challenges

KeyRing are still experiencing difficulties in recruiting to support positions and support volunteers. This has been the case since Covid-19 struck and it has created a significant issue for the health and social care sector. This affects the team capacity for the number of cases we can support and also the time available to monitor and support complex safeguarding reports. To support this, we have begun to embed Making Safeguarding Personal into the staff and volunteer inductions at a very early stage and this is also included in the online training that new starters complete prior to meeting any members. We also include safeguarding good practice at every group supervision session and one to one supervisions.

There is still some work to be undertaken to embed the TRAM Protocol on a multi-agency basis as KeyRing are still receiving varying responses from partners. Some teams are very aware of the protocol and follow it correctly however others are less aware. KeyRing will continue to promote the protocol with other professionals in Oldham.

# Mind (Tameside, Oldham & Glossop)



Tameside, Oldham and Glossop Mind (TOG Mind) are a charity that provides a range of mental health and wellbeing services. These services are available for children, young people, and adults of all ages. Interventions include crisis support, counselling, art therapy, guided self-help, coaching, group-work, peer support and others.

## Safeguarding and TOG Mind

TOG Mind recognises it's responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all vulnerable or 'at risk' adults by protecting them from harm, recognising and responding to concerns and ensuring everyone within our organisation is aware of their individual responsibility to safeguard the welfare of vulnerable or 'at risk' adults.

TOG Mind's policies are underpinned by our values of:

- **Relationships:** we listen and ask questions to understand others and to build trust. People matter to us both inside and outside our organisation.
- **Aspiration:** we support one another, clients, and communities to achieve better mental health.
- **Learning:** we seek insight and grow from experience; finding new or better ways to contribute to the field of mental health.
- **Potential:** we encourage personal responsibility for development by discovering and realising the abilities and energies of people.

We approach safeguarding through thorough training structures, robust policies and procedures and ensuring staff feel supported and confident in their duties.

We are a person-centred and trauma-informed organisation, and this impacts how we communicate and work with clients around any risk or safeguarding concerns.

## Safeguarding in 2023-24

Based on our 2022-23 findings of an increase in domestic abuse reports, we have sourced DASH training for our practitioners to improve their confidence.

Due to the nature of our organisation, the vast majority of safeguarding incidents relate to suicidal ideation and self-help. During 2022-23, we had 2743 risk and safeguarding incidents (across both Oldham and Tameside and adults and children) and comparably in 2023-24 we have had 3052. This is likely due to an increase of referrals stemming from improved partnership working with Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust and increased awareness of raising incidents due to extensive training provided to our teams.

Of the 3052 cross-organisational incidents, 1515 related to adults in Oldham experiencing suicidal ideation/planning and 175 related to adults in Oldham engaging with self-harm/injury behaviours.

Our top adult safeguarding achievements in 2023-24 included:

- senior leaders attending OSAB subgroups to use our agency insights to work together with the rest of the system.
- staff reporting feeling more empowered to arrange and drive multi-disciplinary meetings with partners.
- continued improvement of multi-disciplinary working through co-location and partnerships with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), the Adult Referral Contact Centre (ARCC), mental health wards, and other voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) agencies.
- strengthening our whole-family approach through the delivery of families workshops, our internal families steering group and the improvement of pathways through transition periods.
- continuing progress in the utilisation of our internal safeguarding steering group.
- strengthening governance structures with our subcontracted partner agencies that are delivering on crisis and communities work.
- increasing attendance of OSAB training for the frontline workforce.
- increasing online safeguarding-related training provision through the rollout of online platform Me Learning.

## Making Safeguarding Personal

Management and frontline workers are orientated on Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) through our continuously reviewed internal Level 2 and 3 training. This is done through the use of multiple case studies and discussing at length how we would address any concerns using the MSP framework.

The training also includes 7-minute briefings and exploration of how MSP could have been used more effectively.

We also embed MSP through our duty management structure. Should concerns arise, practitioners always have management support to de-brief and discuss next steps. Within these conversations we discuss all components of the person's life including their relationships, personal circumstances, values, beliefs, culture etc. Additionally, this year we

have implemented a robust case auditing structure alongside our regular case management. This has served to provide more opportunities to discuss cases with practitioners to approach the cases through different lenses in order to ensure a person-centred approach. This also allows us to pick up and address any emerging themes among their caseload that the practitioner or client may need additional support with.

This process feeds in centrally to our safeguarding steering group to pick up organisational themes. We can then refer on to groups such as the OSAB or the suicide prevention board.

## Successful Multi-Agency Safeguarding Work

We have successfully worked with Public Health and the Oldham drug and alcohol provider, Turning Point, to develop a flexible model that meets the needs of those struggling with both their mental health and drug and alcohol use. This aligns with the Public Health 2017 guidance on effectively meeting the needs of those with a co-occurring condition and prevents those people from slipping through the net and supports them to be effectively safeguarded.

## Safeguarding Priorities in 2024-25

Our key adult safeguarding priorities for 2024-25 are:

- familiarising our workforce with updated ARCC/MASH procedures and structures.
- improving training and confidence around the Care Act and upskilling staff on appropriate measures and duties for both ourselves and partner agencies.
- rolling out of specialist training on person-centred safety planning and risk management.
- continuing development of our service-specific operating procedures and risk assessments.

## Key Challenges

Our key challenges going forward will be related to time and resource; inconsistency in knowledge due to staff turnover; responding to the current climate of funding cuts; tightening of service criteria externally due to added pressure in the system; responding to the increase of referrals and complexity of cases under our services; and managing the expectations of staff and clients in consideration of these pressures.

# MioCare Group



The MioCare Group is a Council owned company who, as part of the wider integrated community health and social care service, provides a range of services to adults with Learning Disabilities and older people who require support outside of hospital.

We do this with the aim of supporting people to maintain their independence and to live in their own homes for as long as possible.

## Safeguarding and MioCare Group

Safeguarding is a priority for the Group and features in all elements of our operational activity, leadership and governance. We ensure that all employees are equipped with the skills, knowledge and support required in order to identify and act upon any concerns.

Safeguarding training is mandatory for all roles across the Group,

reiterating that all employees have a role to play in ensuring that people are safeguarded and that the safety of the people we support is never compromised.

## Safeguarding in 2023-24

In 2023-24, we had 21 safeguarding incidents which were reported as medium or high. Twelve of these were 'acts of omission' relating to medication errors, staff conduct and use of equipment. All were reported in line with the relevant policy and procedures and escalated through to disciplinary procedures where necessary.

We have continued to report low level concerns via the OSAB's procedure; when looking at themes and trends, the majority of these are low level medication errors and behaviour related incidents.

Our top adult safeguarding achievements in 2023-24 were:

- Safeguarding Champions - we introduced a Safeguarding Champion role into all of our services. These are people who have expressed an interest in representing their service and the people they support, gaining new knowledge and skills to strengthen work in this area. They have all been provided with Safeguarding for Managers

and Designated Leads training and a bespoke Whistleblowing course which is based on our own policy and procedure. The group get together frequently in a meeting facilitated by our Director of Care.

- Safeguarding Working Group - the Director of Care chairs a Safeguarding working group which is attended by the Service Directors, the Quality and Improvement Manager and all Registered Managers. This group has worked together to improve systems and processes to record and monitor safeguarding incidents, ensuring that reviews are undertaken in a consistent and timely manner and that learning is shared and acted upon.
- Safeguarding training for the people we support - we have worked with Pathways Associates to provide Safeguarding Training for the people we support in both Learning Disabilities and Older People's Services. Training has been delivered in an accessible format to meet the communication needs of the people we support which has ensured that key messages are understood.

## Making Safeguarding Personal

In 2023-24, we worked with Pathways Associates to design and develop a bespoke training offer for the people we support in both older people's and learning disability services.

The course provided the people we support with information about what safeguarding is, how to raise a concern they may have for themselves or others and how to keep themselves safe. The course was delivered in a format to meet the needs of the people attending and to meet their communication requirements and preferences.

This course was a step-change for us and just the first step we are making in ensuring that the people we support are involved in safeguarding in a very meaningful and personalised way.

## Safeguarding Priorities in 2024-25

Our safeguarding priorities for 2024-25 can be categorised into four broad areas.

Safeguarding Leadership:

- Further embed the role of the Safeguarding Champions.
- Continuously improve the collection and analysis of safeguarding data.

Prevention and Early Intervention:

- Further develop skills that will support a proactive and responsive approach to safeguarding.
- Work collaboratively with people who use services to shape our approaches to safeguarding.

Listen, Learn and Act:

- Reflect on and share learning from our safeguarding experiences. Use our learning to adapt, amend and improve safeguarding processes as required.
- Listen to and meaningfully engage people we support and people with lived experience to both plan and enhance our organisation wide safeguarding approaches.

Safeguarding Excellence:

- Further develop our data analysis methodology and reporting. Introduce self-audit tools and qualitative reviews and audits across all MioCare services.
- Look to external organisations to support our continuous improvement, for example engaging with Skills for Care, Ann Craft Trust, the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), local government and Advocacy groups.

## Key Challenges

Our key challenges going forward will be related to:

- Budgetary constraints - we are working with the Local Authority to address key challenges and plan for future efficiencies.
- Transitions - we continue to attend the transitions joint commissioning and subgroups to support development of the local transition pathway.
- Recruitment and retention- we are in the process of refreshing our workforce strategy.
- Appropriate housing - we are working with commissioners to support a specialist housing strategy.

Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) are partnerships of health and care organisations that come together to plan and deliver joined up services to improve the health and wellbeing of people who live and work in their area. Their purpose is to improve outcomes in population health and healthcare; tackle inequalities in outcomes, experience, and access; enhance productivity, value for money and support broader social and economic development in their area efficiency. This will be delivered in neighbourhood, place, combinations of places and Greater Manchester (GM) system. NHS GM and the GM Integrated Care Partnership have joined everyone up to offer better connected services across our ten boroughs. From NHS GPs and hospitals, councils, fire and police services, to companies, charities and community groups, all are collaborating to support those with health issues, and act sooner to keep people well and living a good life.

Everyone needs different services as they grow up, get on and grow older. An integrated system of services works better to help people and families stay well.

## Safeguarding and NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care

GM Integrated Care System contains a robust Safeguarding Service which consists of Designated Nurses and Designated Professionals for adults, children and children looked after within each of its ten localities. As with all localities, in Oldham, the Designated Professional for Adults advises the locality on safeguarding as stipulated in the Care Act.

The Designated Professional is responsible for providing expertise, professional leadership, advice, support and expert guidance in respect of safeguarding, adult protection, domestic abuse, Prevent, mental health, mental capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) across the Oldham Health Economy. They are also the Designated Professional with strategic and professional leadership for the Mental Capacity Act. In particular, they advise the NHS and independent hospitals, nursing home settings, as well as community settings throughout the Oldham Borough. Any specialist commissioned services are also advised as needed. The Designated Professional provides support to the quality and risk workstream within the context of safeguarding and in addition, provides support and advice to clinicians in individual cases. Safeguarding supervision is delivered to staff in areas where these issues may be particularly prevalent and/or complex.

The Designated Professional provides expert advice and leadership to ensure that commissioned services are providing safe services in relation to safeguarding adults. They lead locality health contributions to Oldham's Safeguarding Adults Board, Community Safety Partnership and Domestic Abuse partnerships (including their subgroups) to ensure appropriate health representation within its multi-agency partnerships. This collaboration ensures recommendations arising from national, local and statutory reviews are fed into local health collaboratives and wider GM system learning to ensure learning is embedded into practice.

## Safeguarding in 2023-24

Themes and trends identified in 2023-24:

- The Oldham Integrated Care place-based team host the localities Continuing Health Care and Complex cases team who case manage those individuals within the area who are eligible to health funded packages of support. Over the course of 2023-24, the team have reported and responded to a number of allegations of neglect within the Care Home Sector where nursing provision has been offered. Team members have accessed safeguarding supervision and advice to respond to the issues and ensure safe and effective care is maintained.
- Challenges have been identified with a reduced availability of nursing placements owing to care home closure or changes to registration to type of regulated activity being provided. This in turn has encountered challenges around sourcing placements near to people's place of ordinary residence which can be monitored more easily by the locality team.
- Following some discreet enquiry, some soft intelligence relating to several late presentations to labour wards identified safeguarding risks to women potentially being trafficked into the area whilst accessing maternity services. Some targeted learning across maternity services relating to professional curiosity around human trafficking for the purpose of baby farming has been delivered to enable staff to identify and respond to key signs and report issues to relevant authorities for appropriate line of enquiry.
- A trend identified through Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) has been challenges coordinating Mental Health care following prisoner release, when a patient is repatriated to Oldham from prison, out of area approved premises or hostel accommodation. Locality Mental Health services are proactively working with partners to develop safer pathways which is reviewed as part of NHS GM's Quality, Safeguarding and Assurance Governance.
- Recruitment challenges within the community learning disability community team has raised risks for some residents of Oldham where learning disability has been suspected but has not been diagnosed. Risks have included health concerns where additional support would

encourage access into Primary and Secondary care services further to gaining access to a Care Act assessment of needs which would include a learning disability lens. An enhanced screening pathway is in development whilst recruitment to psychology (diagnostic services) continues.

Top safeguarding achievements in 2023-24:

- A process has been put in place to progress cases to the court of protection where a Deprivation of Liberty has been identified within a community health funded placement. This process supports the review of least restrictive practices being used in people's best interests and upholds their Human Rights.
- The NHS GM Safeguarding team have established membership at each of the NHS GM's Safeguarding Delivery Groups. This ensures both locality and system alignment, assurance and delivery across the NHS commissioning and safeguarding statutory functions.
- The Safeguarding team have established an NHS health collaborative which brings together commissioners and providers of health services to review safeguarding activity, learning and assurance across the locality and wider GM system.
- The NHS GM Safeguarding team in Oldham have joined partners in the development and progression of work in the Strategic Transitions Board. A health voice within this group supports coordinated transition of secondary care services including mental health, learning disability and sexual health provision into adulthood.

## Successful Multi-Agency Safeguarding Work

The Designated Professional has led a group of partners to develop the OSAB Modern Day Slavery Toolkit. The toolkit aims to explain plainly what Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking are, and how everyone across Oldham can help tackle this complex and hidden crime. Work has also commenced on the development of a complex safeguarding multi-agency training package with colleagues from Adult Social Care, police, and the Community Safety Partnership.

During 2023, there was a national increase in reports of concern regarding potential modern slavery, human trafficking, labour abuse and organised immigration crime in the care sector. The Designated Professional supported GM Challenger in developing a guide for staff working in provider organisations, commissioning bodies, voluntary sector organisations and other public sector bodies who may come into contact with individuals working in the care sector and to reduce the likelihood of exploitation within the sector.

The Designated Professional has led a task group to develop OSAB Safeguarding Supervision Guidance to support the Care Act Statutory Guidance which states regular face-to-face supervision from skilled managers is essential to enable staff to work confidently and competently in difficult and sensitive situations. The aim of this guidance is to set out safeguarding supervision principles, with some suggested models for practice to assist in the delivery of safe practice. It is intended

to provide an overarching framework for all staff working in multi-agency agencies whilst acknowledging that many have different management structures, and existing proportionate and effective supervision systems that reflect the structure and role of each agency.

The GM Deprivation Programme is a three-year scheme which prepares GPs to work in disadvantaged communities and embeds a culture of resilience, wellbeing and development. The Designated Professional developed a training package for the Oldham cohort of GPs focusing on the importance of learning disability annual health checks, learning from LeDeR (mortality reviews) and local Safeguarding Adult Reviews. This was delivered with colleagues from Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust Learning Disability Team and members of the locality Learning Disability Good Health Group.

During 2023-24, some areas of learning from statutory reviews were identified and disseminated across the health economy. This included Routine Enquiry (a term used to describe asking all service users about their experience of domestic and sexual violence), guidance to engage individuals who choose not to use services, and Think Family (a holistic approach that seeks to review all vulnerability within a household).

## Safeguarding Priorities in 2024-25

Safeguarding priorities in 2024-25 will include:

- Strengthening Mental Capacity implementation and documentation including legal literacy within children's services.
- Strengthening safeguarding systems within Primary Care and the role of the named GP for safeguarding.
- Embedding the safeguarding health collaborative across the Oldham footprint (joining hospital acute and Foundation Trusts, and Primary Care)
- Reinforcing the pathway for learning from LeDeR reviews into the established Learning Disability Good Health Group
- Developing multi-agency safeguarding practitioner guidance when faced with issues around assisted suicide.

## Key Challenges

During the transition from Clinical Commissioning Group to an Integrated Care Board, a number of restructures have required a review of the ways of working, to ensure that Oldham residents are at the forefront of decision making. As part of the new organisational structure, the Designated Professional has gained system responsibilities on top of locality and partnership obligations. Holding the workstream leadership for Modern Slavery across the GM safeguarding system and servicing the GM delivery groups to align safeguarding practice and statutory duties across the ten localities impacts on capacity to achieve priorities within timescales.





North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust (NWS) provides 999 emergency pre-hospital care, Patient Transport Service for pre-booked journeys, and the North West Regional 111 service. NWS serves the whole of the North West footprint - over 5400 square miles and has over 300 job roles.

## Safeguarding and North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust

The NWS Safeguarding Team provides representation for each of the NWS service lines and the 3.6 Whole Time Equivalent Safeguarding Practitioners engage with statutory processes as well as internal and external demands. The Practitioners are supported by 1.8 Whole Time Equivalent administrators and sit within the wider NWS Quality Directorate, managed by the Head of Safeguarding.

The Safeguarding Team aim to ensure that safeguarding expectations are well understood throughout all NWS service lines and support all areas with safeguarding governance, such as the Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF), training and complex incident support. Uniquely for a healthcare provider, the NWS Safeguarding Team encompass both the adults and children's disciplines.

## Safeguarding in 2023-24

By the nature of our contact with patients, we are providing support at the most vulnerable times in peoples lives and a high number of vulnerabilities are reported, the introduction of an early help pathway for adults has been well received by NWS staff and for any given week, the number of safeguarding concerns raised is around just under half of the number of early help requests, in addition many social prescribing pathways are utilised to request support for our patients.

Our top adult safeguarding achievements in 2023-24 included:

- A full root and branch reform of the safeguarding training needs analysis - aligning all job roles to the requirements of the intercollegiate documents.
- Improved Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) processes and governance around managing allegations
- The NWS Safeguarding Practitioners provided returns for a high number of screening requests

regionally: 32 for Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), 92 for Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), and 39 for Child Reviews. Not all have progressed to become statutory reviews. Practitioners have been engaged with multiple review panel meetings and produced agency Individual Management Reports (IMRs).

- The Safeguarding Team had input into the PSIRF, sexual safety workstreams, Freedom to Speak Up (FTSU), and liaison with NWS Mental Health team and High Intensity User team.

## Safeguarding Adult Review Learning

NWS utilise learning from SARs. This is fed into the face to face safeguarding training element of the NWS Mandatory Training programme. The cases are utilised as safeguarding examples and true experiences of the learning found when SAR screenings are undertaken.

For example, the training incorporates the patient journey and is referenced in multiple aspects of training, so the self-neglecting person may go on to disclose Domestic Abuse and Violence and may then become unresponsive and require complex airway management. The whole scenario is unpicked to ensure all aspects of learning are understood.

## Safeguarding Priorities in 2024-25

The safeguarding priorities for NWS in 2024-25 will include:

- Further embedding safeguarding oversight into the internal incident reporting process.
- Development of IT to explore direct safeguarding referrals from certain staff groups, likely linking to NWS electronic patient records.
- Safeguarding supervision implementation and what this is going to mean in each service line.

## Key Challenges

Our key challenges will be related to staffing and visibility.

- Staffing - the NWS Safeguarding Team is small and it is being considered if this could be expanded however this is likely to be only a modest uplift.
- Visibility – NWS has a huge footprint and workforce, the ongoing development of a dedicated safeguarding space on the Green Room (staff intranet) will help this and enable all safeguarding resources to be available in one accessible place.

The Care Act provides statutory legislation for adults at risk, it is expected that health will cooperate with multi-agency partners to safeguard adults. As a health provider, Royal Oldham Care Organisation and Community Services is affiliated under the wider remit of the Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust (NCA). NCA and its Care Organisations have responsibilities to provide safe, high quality care and support.

## Safeguarding and Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

Adult safeguarding responsibility and accountability is embodied at board level and is encompassed within the Group Chief Nurse role and responsibilities. The operational and strategic delivery of the Oldham Safeguarding adult programme is led by the Assistant Director of Nursing for Safeguarding Adults for NCA under the leadership of the Royal Oldham Director of Nursing, NCA Group Associate Director of Safeguarding and the Deputy Chief Nurse for NCA.

A collaboration across workstreams within Royal Oldham Hospital and Community Service includes increased visibility across all wards and departments to support with adult safeguarding concerns, this includes the Royal Oldham Emergency Department whereby daily drop-in sessions are facilitated by the Safeguarding Named Nurse and Safeguarding Specialist Practitioner, thus offering additional safeguarding support and placing the person at the centre of the safeguarding concern within these areas.

The NCA encompass a Nursing Assessment and Accreditation System (NAAS), a Community Assessment and Accreditation System (CAAS) and a Theatre Assessment and Accreditation System (TAAS). The NAAS/CAAS/TAAS provides a programme of audit aligned with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) key lines of enquiry (KLOE). Inclusive within the programme of audit are the safeguarding standards, providing further safeguarding assurance that safeguarding measures are routinely audited. The Safeguarding Service support this audit programme providing safeguarding advice within relevant internal learning environments within Royal Oldham Hospital. The learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) is a core agenda item held within the governance structure of the Safeguarding Steering Group within Royal Oldham Hospital. The learning is discussed at length and disseminated to the wider staff groups within each service, team safety huddle and multidisciplinary teams.

The NCA are required to meet the NHS/Greater Manchester, Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk Contractual Standards. The standards are monitored by NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (ICB) with internal reporting through the NCA governance process inclusive of

safeguarding steering groups for both adults and children, escalation through the Quality and Effectiveness Management Group (QMEG) and the NCA safeguarding committee. The NCA Safeguarding Service strive to maintain trajectory compliance as outlined within each standard, remaining abreast of current guidance and legislated changes.

## Safeguarding in 2023-24

During 2023-24, the demands on the Adult Safeguarding team remained multifaceted, complex and challenging, self-neglect and mental capacity are the key themes emerging across the NCA. The Adult Safeguarding team has continued to strengthen the existing embedded adults safeguarding practices across the organisation, achieving full compliance threshold for Adult Safeguarding Level 3 programme of training, as outlined in the Greater Manchester Contractual Standards Requirements. A new Standard Operating Procedure was developed to triangulate internal safeguarding governance and inquest reporting arrangements. With regards to learning from SARs, this has strengthened connectivity offering wider contextual learning across the NCA. The NCA Safeguarding Team relaunched the Safeguarding Champions meeting and introduced a NCA wide Safeguarding Newsletter, ensuring adult safeguarding remains at the forefront in everyday practice.

## Safeguarding Priorities in 2024-25

The NCA adult safeguarding service will continue to:

- work towards achieving full compliance with the Contractual Safeguarding Standards
- deliver the Adult Safeguarding Level 3 and Mental Capacity Act (MCA) Training programme across the NCA.
- strengthen the governance and reporting arrangements for SARs and DHRs thus embedding the recommendations, and learning across the NCA.
- work towards the priorities of OSAB.

## Key Challenges

Despite the achievement of full compliance threshold for Adult Safeguarding Level 3 training, challenges remain with regards to staff continuing to incorporate adult safeguarding practices once this programme of training has been undertaken. To address this concern the adult safeguarding service continue to offer visibility offering further assurance that safeguarding practices remain embedded in every day practice. Senior Management and Safeguarding Assurance visits are scheduled across wards and departments on a two-weekly basis, identification of safeguarding concerns, are addressed during the assurance visits with additional training raised as a priority as required

Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust (PCFT) is proud to provide Mental Health and Learning Disability services to people across Greater Manchester. We serve a population of 1.3 million and our vision is a happier and more hopeful life for everyone in our communities. More than 4000 dedicated and skilled staff deliver care from around 200 different locations in five boroughs.

## Safeguarding and Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust

PCFT continues to be committed to ensuring the principles and duties of safeguarding adults at risk are holistically, consistently, and conscientiously applied at the centre of what we do. Safeguarding adults is 'everyone's responsibility'. Our Trust Safeguarding Strategy recognises a 'Think Family' approach as children, adults and their families and carers do not exist or operate in isolation. Our safeguarding families team, including a Named Professional for Safeguarding Adults, provides training, advice, support and guidance to all our staff working in Oldham.

## Safeguarding in 2023-24

The key themes to emerge through our safeguarding consultation system are domestic abuse, historic sexual abuse and financial abuse. We delivered lunch and learn sessions and additional training on these themes in 2023-24. Learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) across the Trust footprint highlights the understanding and implementation of the Mental Capacity Act as a learning theme.

During 2023-24, our top safeguarding achievements included:

- reviewing the safeguarding supervision policy and implementing a monthly safeguarding supervision drop-in for adult staff across the PCFT footprint.
- compliance with our level 3 safeguarding adults training increasing by 18%; this is inclusive of a staffing matrix review to ensure that the correct colleagues are assigned to this essential-to-role training across Oldham.
- supporting Safeguarding Adults Week 2023 by offering a range of training options and promoting learning in Oldham, at which there was good attendance.

## Successful Multi-Agency Safeguarding Work

Oldham borough colleagues operate an 'Always Learning' themed month with safeguarding themes including Professional Curiosity in March 2023 and Sharing Information in January 2024. Furthermore, they have shared "Stop for 5"

messages regarding indecent images and Care Act assessments.

## Safeguarding Adult Review Learning

Briefings produced by OSAB are widely disseminated to teams. PCFT have also rolled out a successful multi-agency training offer to develop learning about professional curiosity, which is often a theme in reviews.

## Safeguarding Priorities in 2024-25

The safeguarding priorities for PCFT in 2024-25 will include:

- enhancing work within the Trust in relation to the Mental Capacity Act to ensure knowledge, compliance, and governance.
- continuing to promote and develop safeguarding supervision in the Trust, expanding our offer and embedding our new recording system in relation to engagement and attendance with safeguarding supervision and evaluate effectiveness and compliance.
- enhancing work within the Trust in relation to domestic abuse awareness, prevention and support for both staff and patients/service users.
- continuing to enhance the additional safeguarding training offer, developing how we embed and promote additional learning and development in safeguarding.
- working with inpatient services and quality teams to enhance safeguarding knowledge and awareness to ensure safeguarding practices are robust and offer high levels of care.

## Key Challenges

Key challenges remain around the Mental Capacity Act compliance and governance however, PCFT will be recruiting a Mental Capacity Act Lead to lead a focus on this workstream.

There are also challenges in relation to recording safeguarding referrals and activity across the Trust footprint; this is captured on the PCFT risk register and a robust response is being implemented.



Positive Steps is a charitable trust that delivers a range of targeted and integrated services for young people, adults and families that recognises the diversity of the people with whom we work.

We are a unique organisation delivering a combination of statutory, voluntary and traded services – funded through local authority and charitable trust grants, charitable donations, contracts based on payment by results, and income generated through our trading arm – where all profits fund our charitable activity.

## Safeguarding and Positive Steps

Safeguarding is at the heart of all of the work within Positive Steps from the universal offer of the careers advice and guidance to working with vulnerable groups within the Youth Justice Service and Young Carers. Practice is guided by safeguarding policies and procedures across the organisation with specific departmental policies available where needed.

## Safeguarding in 2023-24

During 2023-24, Positive Steps recognised trends in relation to:

- Social Housing - waiting lists, lack of provision, poor quality, overcrowding. This is a particular issue for single adult males, in particular those on probation or who are affected by substance dependency.
- Finances - debt, increase in cost of living, benefit entitlement, increase in numbers falling into poverty.
- Mental health - hoarding and self-neglect, thresholds, access to services due to high waiting lists.
- Substance use
- Social isolation.

Our top safeguarding achievements in 2023-24 included:

- a significant increase in referrals to the Wellbeing Service, meaning a reduction on services such as probation and recalls to prison.
- development of an Adult Self-Neglect and Hoarding Group in place in collaboration with TOG Mind.
  - embedding the Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP) Community Drop Ins allowing us to reach a wider audience; leading to a reduction in waiting lists to EIP due to the drop ins providing initial support to those not requiring longer term support.
  - a reduction in numbers escalating to Adult Social Care and

Mental Health services due to successful preventative work.

- delivery of Household Support Fund to provide essential finances to families experiencing hardship.

## Successful Multi-Agency Safeguarding Work

Positive Steps EIP team are involved with the Oldham Hoarding Group, which is facilitated by a senior engagement worker from EIP alongside a Living Well project manager from TOG Mind. The group is peer support for hoarders assisting other hoarders and is part of the North West Hoarders facilitators group. Their involvement includes attending forums, symposiums and meeting sessions delivered by a psychologist who coordinates the North West network of psychosocial intervention and peer support groups for people who exhibit hoarding behaviours. This is ongoing work which is being strengthened by including a variety of services to deliver wrap around support. Agencies involved include social services, the fire service, First Choice Homes Oldham, Great Places, Onward Housing, Regenda, NHS agencies, TOG Mind and Positive Steps. The aim of the group is to:

- help reduce the huge amount of stigma attached to the term 'hoarding'.
- differentiate hoarding and self-neglect.
- personalise the support offered to people.
- improve the support offered to people who exhibit hoarding behaviours.

## Safeguarding Priorities in 2024-25

Positive Steps safeguarding priorities for 2024-25 will be:

- continuing to expand the community drop in offer by delivering a place-based approach to areas with low referral numbers, or areas who require additional support to engage.
- a focus on transition age (16-25) individuals where there is a gap in support.
- reviewing of all safeguarding policies and procedures.
- strengthening relationships with housing providers and housing teams within Oldham Council.

## Key Challenges

A key challenge will be high referral numbers across the partnership. We will continue to offer preventative, community based work to reduce the impact on services at a higher level.

The Probation Service is a statutory criminal justice agency that supervises adults released from prison on licence and those on community sentences as imposed by criminal courts. The Probation Service additionally delivers accredited programs, unpaid work and the victim contact services. Our priorities are to protect the public by the effective rehabilitation of people on probation. We work closely with partners in the delivery of our objectives.

## Safeguarding and the Probation Service

The role of the Probation Service is to protect the public. Safeguarding adults is a key priority within this; built into strategy, policy and operational procedure.

## Safeguarding in 2023-24

During 2023-24, the Probation Service recognised that:

- the cost of living crisis alongside a housing crisis exacerbated the instability and vulnerability of many people on probation and their families.
- safeguarding victims of domestic violence together with a high incidence of mental health issues and substance abuse, often underpinned by childhood trauma, continued to present high levels of safeguarding concern.

Our top adult safeguarding achievements in 2023-24 included:

- quality assurance activity evidenced the reliability of Probation Practitioners requesting police domestic abuse checks and safeguarding checks, in line with policy, to inform risk assessments and risk management plans.
- the Oldham Probation Delivery Unit identifying a safeguarding single point of contact (SPOC) practitioner with an agreed plan to become part of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team, attending daily risk meetings with a view to working from MASH one day a week.

## Successful Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Work

The Probation Service is the lead responsible authority delivering MAPPA (multi-agency public protection arrangements) in Oldham. Quality Assurance evidences that delivery is to a high standard, engaging partners effectively to safeguard victims and potential victims of violent and sexual offences.

The Probation Service delivered MAPPA Duty to Cooperate (DTC) training to partners via the OSAB training strategy on five occasions during 2023-24, raising awareness and commitment to public protection via these statutory arrangements.

## Safeguarding Priorities in 2024-25

Priorities in 2023-24 will be to:

- embed the safeguarding SPOC in Oldham MASH. Once this approach is fully implemented, we have intentions of additionally linking the Victim Liaison Officer into MASH more directly as part of safeguarding strategy.
- ensure information from safeguarding checks is translated more reliably into risk management and sentence plans and then delivery of evidenced activity by the Probation practitioner.

## Key Challenges

Government measures to address prison overcrowding present a number of challenges. People are being released from prison sooner creating additional pressure on service capacity and in particular accommodation, drugs and alcohol and mental health services. This will be managed by working closely with local partners to maximise use of the resources available, alongside the Probation Service developing strategies and expanding resources to meet increased need such as expansion of the Community Accommodation Service Tier 3 (CAS3).

We are Turning Point. We are an organisation that support people in the community who have issues with drugs or alcohol. We offer one-to-one support, workshops and group support. We also work alongside other support services within the community. The aim of our service is to reduce the harm and impact that drugs and alcohol have on individuals and the community, and to support people in working towards a drug or alcohol free lifestyle.

## Safeguarding and Turning Point

Safeguarding is key to all the work we do with service users. We work with people to understand the impact of safeguarding issues such as the impact of substance use on children and loved ones, the potential for self-neglect, Domestic Abuse and self-harm or suicide. For some service users, where there are associated severe physical and Mental Health issues, we work with social care to identify appropriate care packages.

We focus on harm reduction to keep our clients safe, assessing risk for clients who have children, making referrals and liaising with Children's Social Care to ensure all information is shared. We also liaise with other partner agencies in relation to issues such as Domestic Violence, self-neglect, suicide prevention and risk management.

## Safeguarding in 2023-24

We found that we were liaising with Adult Safeguarding increasingly regarding vulnerable adults who were drinking dependently and struggling to engage with services. We are increasing understanding for all staff around the Mental Capacity Act. We are also offering a more family centred approach with specialist workers being able to work more closely with social services to reduce risk.

Our top adult safeguarding achievements in 2023-24 included:

- embedding a learning culture from incidents and deaths.
- continuing training and supporting staff with multi-agency working.

- reviewing and updating ongoing training plans for suicide prevention and safety planning.

## Successful Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Work

We took the lead chairing the Team Around the Adult (TAA) meetings for a dependant alcohol user who was working with our service alongside a number of other concerned professionals. We were able to discuss the client at our internal Complex Case Review meeting and give the client a personalised plan to achieve their goals that fits outside of the usual Turning Point pathway to support their individual needs.

Turning Point also facilitated the colocation of an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) in the Turning Point office to support the joint working between substance misuse service and the IDVA service. There has also been an agreement to share training opportunities and to support with increasing understanding around what each service has to offer. This has had a positive impact on the support being offered. This has meant better outcome for clients in the borough being able to more easily access both services.

## Safeguarding Priorities in 2024-25

Priorities in 2024-25 will be to:

- offer further training and support for staff around learning, confidence and documentation of Mental Capacity Act.
- embed a 'think family' approach across the service.
- develop a twelve-week rolling training programme around all aspects of the service including safeguarding issues for staff to access at any point.

## Key Challenges

Key challenges will be resource and staff in Turning Point and other agencies increasing the demand for support and growing need in the local area.

# What to do if you are worried about an adult

Abuse and neglect can happen anywhere, be carried out by anyone and can take many different forms. If you are experiencing abuse, or you think someone you know is experiencing or is at risk of being abused or neglected, and they are not able to protect themselves then please report it.

The Oldham **Adult Referral Contact Centre (ARCC)** has been set up to help adults and families looking for support and can be contacted via the following email address: [ARCC@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:ARCC@oldham.gov.uk).

In addition, the Adult **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** has been set up to help people report a safeguarding concern and can be contacted via the following email address: [Adult.Mash@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:Adult.Mash@oldham.gov.uk).

Both services can be contacted on the following number:



**ARCC and MASH:  
0161 770 7777**

## Stay in touch

If you have any queries about this Annual Report or would like more information, please contact the OSAB Business Unit at:

the bulletin, complete the sign up form on the OSAB website:

[www.OSAB.org.uk/Bulletin](http://www.OSAB.org.uk/Bulletin)



**OldhamSafeguarding  
AdultsBoard  
@oldham.gov.uk**

Please also follow us on X (formerly Twitter) and share our content to raise awareness of safeguarding and exploitation and what people can do to keep themselves and their families and friends safe in Oldham:

 **@SafeguardOldham**

Oldham Safeguarding Bulletin is a way of keeping yourself up to date with news from Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board and Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership partners across Oldham. To be sent

## Thank you from the team







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## Report to HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

### Better Care Fund 2024-25 Quarter 1 Report

**Portfolio Holder:**

Councillor Barbara Brownridge, Cabinet Member Health & Social Care

**Officer Contact:** Jayne Ratcliffe, Director of Adult Social Care (DASS)

**Report Author:** Alison Berens, Head of Commissioning and Market Management – Older Adults and Brokerage

**Contact:** 1792 / [alison.berens@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:alison.berens@oldham.gov.uk)

**Date:** 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

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#### Purpose of the Report

At the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024, the Board agreed to delegate the decision to submit quarterly reporting templates to the Place-Based Lead and Oldham Council's Chief Executive in consultation with the Director of Adult Social Services (DASS). Subsequently the Quarter 1 report was prepared for submission for the deadline of 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024, this was approved in accordance with this and submitted. It is now brought to the Board to note. The deadline for the Quarter 2 Report is the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024. Work is well underway to ensure this is submitted on time and a subsequent report will be brought to a future Health and Wellbeing Board for information.

#### Requirement from Oldham's Health and Wellbeing Board

1. Note the content of the Quarter 1 Better Care Fund Submission.
2. Note Quarter 2 submission is in progress and will be submitted with delegated approval from the Place Based Lead in consultation with the Director of Adult Social Services.

## 1. Background

### The Better Care Fund

1.1 The Better Care Fund's vision has been to support people to live healthy, independent and dignified lives, through joining up health, social care and housing services seamlessly around the person. The BCF Policy Framework centres of these objectives and now sets separate National Condition for each:

- enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
- provide people with the right care, at the right place at the right time.

1.2 As well as supporting delivery of the [Next Steps to put People at the Heart of Care](#), the BCF programme underpins key priorities in the NHS Long Term Plan by joining up services in the community and the government's [plan for recovering urgent and emergency care \(UEC\) services](#).

1.3 Differing from previous years, the current BCF plan spans two years for the period 2023-25, with the delivery of the BCF supporting two key priorities for the health and care system that align with the two existing BCF objectives of:

- improving overall quality of life for people, and reducing pressure on UEC, acute and social care services through investing in preventative services
- tackling delayed discharge and bringing about sustained improvements in discharge outcomes and wider system flow.

## 2. Current Position

2.1 The BCF continues to consist of three main funding contributions: NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (NHS GM ICB) contribution to the BCF; the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG); and the Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF).

2.2 Due to increases being received for the Disabled Facilities Grant and Discharge Funding in 2024/25, the total value of the BCF in Oldham for 2023-25 period is £81,584,498. This is broken down as follows for 2023-25:

Funding Sources	Income Year 1 (2023/24)	Income Year 2 (2024/25)
DFG	£2,343,287	£2,555,942
Minimum NHS Contribution	£21,951,512	£23,193,968
iBCF	£11,187,623	£11,187,623
Additional LA Contribution	£0	£0
Additional ICB Contribution	£822,739	£462,916
Local Authority Discharge Funding	£1,568,487	£2,614,146
ICB Discharge Funding	£1,420,360	£2,275,895
<b>Total</b>	<b>£39,294,008</b>	<b>£42,290,490</b>

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- 2.3 The Quarter 1 submission only required provision of information in relation to the use of the Local Authority and ICB Discharge Funds, which as outlined above account for a total of £4,890,041 out of the total funds available for 2024-25 of £42,290,490.
- 2.4 It should be noted that the templates for submission regularly change from year to year and within year. Within year new templates are often issued close to the deadline for submission, which increase the challenge of providing the report to a Health and Wellbeing Board sufficiently in advance for sign-off, therefore delegation was put in place to ensure compliance in the returns.
- 2.5 Three further submissions will be required during the current financial year:  
Quarter 2 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024  
Quarter 3 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025  
Year End Submission – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025  
We have been advised that the Quarter 3 and Year End Submissions are likely to remain in similar templates to the Quarter 2 Submission, requiring significantly more information than the Quarter 1 submission. .
- 2.6 Progress is underway for the completion and delegated sign off of the Q2 return. This requires considerably more detail than the Q1 return, requiring the Capacity and Demand information, expenditure and outputs to date. We have been advised that the template will remain substantively the same for Q3 and the Year End Submission.

### **3. Key Issues for the Health and Wellbeing Board to Discuss**

- 3.1 The BCF funding received may only be used for the purposes of:
- meeting adult social care needs
  - reducing pressures on the NHS, including seasonal winter pressures
  - supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready
  - ensuring that the social care provider market is supported.
- 3.2 The 2024-25 BCF plan meets the national objectives by outlining Oldham’s joint commissioning approach to embedding integrated, person-centred health, social care and housing services. It enable people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer, supports people to remain independent at home and considers any unmet demand as well as patterns of referrals and learning from previous years. The intention of the plan is to ensure that people are provided with the right care, in the right place and at the right time
- 3.2 Working collaboratively across health and social care, funding is utilised to support the needs of the Oldham population through the following schemes:
- Residential enablement at Butler Green and Medlock Court
  - Falls prevention
  - A range of dementia services across the borough
  - Community equipment and wheelchair provision
  - Minor adaptations

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- A range of Falls Services
  - Warm Homes
  - Alcohol liaison
  - Carers' support
  - Dementia support services
  - Stroke support services
  - A range of services to support hospital discharge.

3.3 The council and ICB will be jointly reviewing the schemes/programmes currently funded through the BCF both in consideration of the financial pressures the organisations are under, ensuring that we are achieving VFM and meeting the meeting the needs of the fund i.e. the national conditions and population's needs.

3.? The council and ICB are beginning to work jointly on planning for 2025-26 activity, however as the current funding round finishes in March 2025, we do not know the funding envelope until the Autumn Statement and local financial settlements are released.

#### **4. Recommendation**

4.1 Note the content of the Quarter 1 Report.

#### **5. Appendices**

1. 2024 – 2025 Quarter 1 Submission document



Oldham HWB.xlsx

2. HWB Report on Better Care Fund 2023-25; End of Year 2023-24 submission and Planning template for 2024-25



HWB Report\_BCF  
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## **Report to HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

### **Oldham Health and Wellbeing Strategy Update**

**Portfolio Holder:**

Councillor Barbara Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing

**Officer Contact:** Dr Rebecca Fletcher, Director of Public Health

**Report Author:** Dr Rebecca Fletcher, Director of Public Health

**Date:** 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

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#### **Purpose of Report**

To provide an update to the Health and Wellbeing board on Oldham's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

#### **Executive Summary**

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in March 2023. The strategy contains five priorities for action. This report provides an update on the strategy and progress on the priorities. The board are asked to consider the progress below.

#### **Recommendations**

The board are asked to consider the report, and the progress made against the priorities.



**Title Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

**1. Background**

1.1. The Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and the Health and Wellbeing Board aim to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Oldham and reduce inequalities for all ages. The responsibility for developing and delivering the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (and the Joint Strategy Needs Assessment) sits with the Health and Wellbeing Board and rests with all the members of the board. Oldham Health and Wellbeing Board is chaired by Cllr Peter Davis, and has good representation from partners.

1.2. This strategy was developed over twelve months through reviewing data on health and wellbeing, engagement with residents, and coproduction with members of the board. Since the approval of the strategy, the Health and Wellbeing Board has had focused meetings on each of the priorities.

1.3. Below are updates on all five priorities in the strategy

**2. Supporting our residents to gain the knowledge and skills to confidently make choices and make decisions about their own health**

2.1. The Oldham Engagement Framework, is being developed by a cross-sector partnership group. The Oldham Engagement and Insight Leads Group was established 12 months ago to work together to co-design a Framework for how all partners across Oldham engage with residents and use the insight to influence decision making.

2.2. In the last 6 months the group have worked together to:

- Design and launch The Engagement and Insight Network, bringing together a wide range of partners in Oldham, to develop a networking space for anybody whose work involves community engagement, engaging with people in Oldham or who is interested in engagement. The Network has met twice (bringing together 40-50 people each time) and has focused on co-ordinating engagement activity, The Big Oldham Convo (Engagement HQ) and co-designing the engagement toolkit element of the Framework.
- Implement the Big Oldham Convo (Engagement HQ) as the digital engagement and insight capture platform.

2.3. In the next 6 months the priorities for the work are:

- Finalise the Engagement Framework guidance and toolkit
- Have each member of the Engagement and Insight Leads Group given the ability to administrate The Big Oldham Convo (Engagement HQ)
- Members of the Engagement and Insight Network to plan and deliver a large public engagement event at Oldham Sports Centre in September.

**3. Giving children the best start in life**

**3.1. Measures**

- The infant mortality rate increased for 2019-21 to 7.2 per 1,000, with the gap further widening compared to the England average. However, the rate for the most recent period (2020-22) has seen a decline to 6.4 per 1,000, similar to the 2018-20 rate. The England rate has remained consistent at 3.9 per 1,000 throughout. This latest Oldham rate translates to 59 infant deaths over the most recent three-year period (2020-22).

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- The percentage of children achieving a good level of development falls 4.4 percentage points below the England average for the most recent cohort (2022/23). Between 2021/22 and 2022/23, Oldham's rate increased by 3 percentage points, evidencing improvement on this measure.
  - The latest under 18 conception rate is 20.5 per 1,000, compared to the England rate of 13.1 per 1,000. This translates to 106 conceptions to under 18s for 2021.

### **3.2. Implement a targeted action plan to reduce infant mortality**

We continue to offer and improve our universal and targeted services to reduce the risk factors associated with infant mortality. These include:

- Advice to pregnant women on smoking during pregnancy and around the infant
- Immunisations for pregnant women and the infant
- Promotion of breastfeeding
- Targeted genetic counselling for close relation marriages
- Promotion of the healthy start programme
- System wide anti-poverty work with families.

Our 'Reducing Infant Mortality Action Plan' is being updated and the ToR for the action planning group have been refreshed. Priorities for the group have been based on the national and local evidence base. Smoking in pregnancy is a key risk factor for infant mortality as well as still birth, prematurity and babies being born small for gestational age. The detail on this is in section 3.3 below

Safe sleep advice is an important way to reduce the rate of Sudden Unexpected Deaths of Infants (SUDI). The Tackling Infant Mortality Group have developed a tool to support person centred conversations with new parents on safe sleep. This is based on guidance from The Lullaby Trust.

### **3.3. Improve communications about healthy pregnancy from pre-conception to birth**

Clinical pathways for care in pregnancy have been reviewed to ensure standardisation, particular focus has been applied to Badgernet (the new electronic patient record in maternity services) and collaborative working with GP's. Emphasis has been placed on the need for early engagement to reduce deviations in care and identify early risks in pregnancies.

Smoking rates in expectant Mothers has also reduced following some collaborative working between acute and community maternity staff. The rate is now below 10%. Smoking in pregnancy holds direct links to stillbirths. The latest figure for smoking in pregnancy is from 2022/23 and is the first time in more than 13 years that our rate is similar to the national average. In 2019/20, 13.6% of pregnant women were still smoking at the end of their pregnancy compared to the England rate of 10.4%. In 2022/23, 9.6% were smoking in Oldham, compared to 10.3% in the North West, and 8.8% in England.

Health inequalities are a focus of Oldham maternity services, with a view to reducing the inequalities which currently exist in relation to access, experience and outcomes for babies, children and families. This includes a focus on encouraging parents to be to register their pregnancies with the service early in pregnancy. The conversations in relation to Early hubs are continuing, and the value of these hubs for early contact is widely recognised.

### **3.4. Provide family-focused, coordinated support in our communities**

Our integrated children and families service brings together our Family Hubs, and the Healthy Child Programme. Excellent progress has been made with delivery of Oldham's Family Hub and Start for Life Programme.

- Capital funding has been utilised to refurbish and rebrand the 5 existing children's centres (CCs) as Family Hubs. The hubs provide open access to a welcoming safe environment:
  - Beaver Hub launched in July 2024

- 
- Stanley Rd hub is open, launch on the 20 March 2024
  - Spring Meadows, Shaw and Medlock Vale CCs launched June 2024
  - Alexandra will be launched in the autumn term.
  - All hubs provide a clinical and non-clinical space to enable midwifery teams to provide antenatal and post-natal care. New spaces have been created in Oldham library (7<sup>th</sup> hub) and Failsworth Town Hall.
  - A new Family Hubs website which provides users with information and support on our Family Hub and Start for Life offer. Site reaching **2-3,000 users** per month.
  - **10,000** leaflets being printed as part of our new branding work and have been distributed to residents via the Hubs, local events, VCFSE sector and staff working closely with residents.
  - Parents can access a range of universal information and support on parenting through the website 24/7. This includes information about face-to-face delivery and online parenting programmes, Solihull online parenting courses, Essential Parent digital library and the Chathealth text messaging service. Parents can also access support on home learning, speech development, infant feeding, perinatal and infant mental and breastfeeding.
  - Social networking opportunities have increased through the commissioned Homestart and Dad Matters activities:
    - Oldham has a well-established Early Attachment Service supporting families around parent–infant relationships and perinatal mental. Investment has been utilised to increase capacity within this service and to fund a Mental Health Practitioner Talking Therapies. This post supports lower level/ universal mental health support across FHs, baby clinics

## **4. Improving mental health and mental wellbeing**

### **4.1. Measures**

- Latest (2022/23) levels of people reporting high anxiety are similar to 2020/21 figures. The gap has widened when compared to the latest England average to 1.5 percentage points.
- There has been no further update to the loneliness measure.
- The number of adults in structured drugs and alcohol treatment has increased by 25% from Q1 2023/24 to Q4 2023/24.

### **4.2. Establish clear routes to accessing support and care for all communities**

The Family Hubs Programme has a public health approach to mental health and wellbeing embedded throughout the programme. This includes improving access to perinatal infant mental health (PIMH) support, early attachment service and Talking Therapies. PIMHs champions have been trained and are delivering a family focused approach in hospital and community settings and through peer support.

Connect 5 Training builds capacity, capability and confidence by enabling people to look after their own and others' mental wellbeing through proactive conversations. Over 200 more Oldham professionals and volunteers have received Connect 5 training. This has further embedded this approach across a number of agencies that serve our residents. The trained cohort included representatives from some of our community groups working with our ethnic minority communities, such as: SAWN (Support and Action Women's Network), and Yuvanis. In addition, training has been provided to groups that work with vulnerable adults such as Salvation Army, those that work with residents around increasing physical activity (the Failsworth Walking Group) as well as governors from some of our schools. We have been successful in obtaining a final year of funding for 24/25 from GMCA and so we will be building on these previous success.

### **4.3. Improve the physical health and wellbeing of people with mental ill-health**

For some people with a mental illness, physical ill-health is seen only as part of the mental health condition or related medication even when their symptoms could mean there is evidence of a physical health problem. This diagnostic overshadowing can lead to inadequate medical treatment for physical health conditions in people with mental illnesses, leading to increased mortality and



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poorer treatment outcomes. Major causes of death in people with severe mental illness include chronic physical medical conditions such as cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, diabetes and hypertension. Undertaking annual physical health checks for people with severe mental illness helps contribute to a reduction in all these domains.

- Smoking cessation and weight management for residents with serious mental illness (SMI):
  - ABL started to run the co-located Community Mental Health clinics in October 2023. Clinics run every Friday 9-1pm, clients can be supported by both a smoking and/or weight management advisor. Delivering the service from a Community Mental Health venue means there are clinical staff available to support any pharmacotherapy issues.
  - Current offer includes behavioral support alongside NRT, and pharmacotherapy such as Zyban. Vape pathways are also included as is the ABL service wide Swap to Stop, whereby people accessing the community mental health support are able to receive free vapes for a longer period of time than the standard offer. Using a Swap to Stop approach will allow some entrenched clients to move away from tobacco use to a less harmful vape product. This ensures the benefit of a holistic approach whereby smoking cessation is integrated in the patient's overall mental health treatment plan.
- ABL Stop Smoking Leads are also continuing with further service development to support SMI clients and explore ways to increase referrals for this cohort, working closely with PCN clinical leads and identifying GPs that have a low referral rate to the smoking service. They are also looking to build on existing partnership working with community mental health providers, including the voluntary sector.

## 5. Reduce smoking

### 5.1. Measures

- Latest QOF data for smoking indicates that 16.7% of Oldham's population currently smoke, compared to 14.7% across England.
- Smoking at time of delivery has decreased from 10.7% (2021/22) to 9.6% (2022/23), meaning Oldham's performance is improving. Data has been statistically significantly worse than the England average up until the most recent year, whereby we are now similar.
- Latest data for 2022/23 shows 58.8% of Oldham adults have never smoked, up from 55.5% for 2021/22. Latest data is similar to the England average of 59.3%.
- However, we know there is considerable variation in smoking prevalence across the borough and that in some wards, particularly those with high levels of deprivation, rates are considerably higher.

### 5.2. Make high quality evidence-based stop smoking support accessible to all smokers

Oldham Council were recently awarded £321,524 per year for up to 5 years covering financial periods 2024/25 to 2028/29, as part of the government's plans to create a smokefree generation. This funding is in addition to our current spend of £339,500 per year for specialist community stop smoking support. As approved by Cabinet in February 2024, the allocated additional funding will supplement ABL Health Ltd (Your Health Oldham), who deliver our current stop smoking service (as part of the Health Improvement Service), to bolster the current stop smoking offer. The funding will be used to create additional capacity to deliver stop smoking support and will increase the provision available in the borough to improve the number of people stopping smoking and, thus, reduce smoking prevalence and the impact of tobacco related harm. Specifically, the funding will be used to target and support certain priority groups which may have entrenched smokers that are most at risk of tobacco-related harm, thus tackling health inequalities as well as supporting targets for reducing smoking prevalence.

Oldham Council were also recently successful in receiving approval for an expression of interest for participation in the national 'Swap to Stop' scheme, for our community stop smoking service to provide vapes directly to clients who are accessing stop smoking support. Vapes will be provided

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alongside behavioural support by our community stop smoking service, Your Health Oldham, to allow for the best intervention package to support a client with their quit attempt. As well as offering vapes as a quit aid to all people accessing the stop smoking provision, the service will assertively target groups including who are most at risk of tobacco-related harm including routine and manual workers, those from Black and other ethnic minority communities, LGBTQ+ community, those with long term conditions and those living in the most deprivation.

### **5.3. Embed tobacco control approach into all relevant public policies**

Oldham Tobacco Alliance has now been in place since September 2021. The strategic partnership oversees the delivery of the locality Tobacco Control Action Plan, which drives forward a whole system approach to making smoking history. The coordinated and comprehensive approach to tobacco control across Oldham (aligned to national and regional policy and evidence base) aims to reduce smoking prevalence and harm from tobacco by making smoking less accessible, acceptable and desirable, empowering successful quitting and stopping young people starting to smoke in the first place.

Considerable progress has been made by the Alliance since its inception, including successful joint communications and engagement activity, considerable system-wide workforce development, comprehensive policy review and a continued focus on enforcement of tobacco legislation (including underage sales) and a persistent approach to tackling illicit tobacco and unregulated vapes. The Alliance continues to review smoking cessation provision locally in order to ensure there is high quality, evidence-based specialist stop-smoking services available to everyone who smokes (including access to alternative products to support people to quit smoking successfully) whilst ensuring that there is appropriately targeted support for those most at risk of tobacco-related harm and any emerging vulnerable groups (such as the digitally excluded, asylum seekers) and overseeing that there are effective pathways in place and support available for alternative forms of nicotine and tobacco, including shisha, and the use of tobacco with illicit substances.

To ensure that the work of the Tobacco Alliance continues to be effective, the partnership is undertaking a CLear self-assessment, which is an evidence-based approach that allows localities and alliances to Challenge their existing tobacco control services, review their Leadership for comprehensive action on tobacco control and consider the Results demonstrated by the outcomes achieved, measured against national and local priorities. This process will allow the Alliance to consider and evaluate progress to date and enable a refresh of local priorities and our locality tobacco control plan, in line with the release of the anticipated refreshed national Tobacco Control Plan for England and the revised GM Making Smoking History delivery framework. Findings from the self-assessment and next steps will be shared at a partnership event in Autumn 2024.

## **6. Increasing physical activity**

### **6.1. Measures**

- The gap between Oldham and England has widened further and latest data for 2022/23 shows 57% of Oldham adults to be physically active, compared to 67.1% for England. This measure is from the Active Lives Survey (ALS). We will continue to work in a whole system approach through the Place Partnership work and wider and will monitor the next ALS results.
- The percentage of physically active children and young people was slightly up from the previous academic year to 47.8% (47.5% in 2021-22) and going in the right direction from previous years. This is higher than GM (45.6%) and England (47.0%) in 2022-23.

### **6.2. Supporting voluntary, community and faith organisations to be able to provide services and work with their communities to increase physical activity.**

We are continuing to work as a system to support our VCF organisations to feel confident and capable to deliver, facilitate or signpost to local physical activity opportunities in a hyper local way

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for our communities. The One Oldham Fund grants programme administered by Action Together Oldham continues to support VCF projects that focus on reducing health inequalities and promote preventative activity like increasing physical activity levels. As a system we continue to support these organisations to increase skills and knowledge around physical activity and two examples include the Active Through Football programme supporting local residents and leaders to become trained to deliver football related activities and OCL who upskill with dance and fitness related qualifications.

**6.3. Improving communication with both residents and businesses to embed the message that any movement matters, for people of all abilities.**

We are seeing more through our Council communication channels which promote opportunities to move more including active travel, walking and sport activities & events. We have also promoted the recent Tour of Britain Women's event which saw the best female cyclists in the world come through our town. This will no doubt inspire many to cycle more.

**6.4. Celebrating and championing positive examples of Moving More through the #Oldham #MoveMoreFeelBetter social media campaign.**

We continue to use the #Oldham #MoveMoreFeelBetter campaign to celebrate and champion examples of Moving More in our borough. We have also been working with Diva Creative to help create some videos and narrative about the campaign so that we can share this to encourage more people to use it and understand it. The cost of working with this agency was fully funded by money secured for Oldham from GM Moving.

**6.5. Widening access and participation in physical activity, sport and active travel, providing more inclusive options of ways to be active every day, and closing the inequalities gap in activity levels.**

Working with our communities especially in those areas of most need through a proportionate universalism approach we will carry on trying to reduce the inequality gap that some of our residents' face. In our recent Place Partnership submission for the next stage of funding from Sport England we plan to expand our approach from two of our districts Central (Glodwick) and South (Failsworth) into all five districts to tackle inactivity and the inequalities, whilst also aligning to the Place Based Integration work that Oldham is prioritising as a preventative measure.

**6.6. Maintaining and creating safe green spaces and other high quality activity spaces to increase confidence & access to opportunities to be active.**

Having secured external funding to improve some of our local facilities in our communities we have started to see some of the capital work taking place after (some) improvements in our weather.

We have started to see Cricket Non-Turf Pitches (NTPs) installed in Oldham Edge, New Barn Playing Fields, George Street Playing Fields & Heyside Playing Fields. There is one remaining which will go in at Hathershaw College for community and school use. This was totally funded (100%) by external funding from the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

We have also started to see improvements to some of Tennis Courts in parks including Alexandra, Chadderton, Dunwood, Higher Crompton, Lower Memorial and Werneth. This was 96% funded by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) / Tennis Foundation with a contribution from the council. Extra outdoor gyms have also been installed and activated which has been led by Environmental Services colleagues.

## **7. Recommendations**

7.1. The board are asked to consider the report, and the progress made against the priorities.

## **8. Appendices**

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8.1. A page overview of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy is provided below

Oldham Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 – 2030: Priorities

**Supporting our residents to gain the knowledge and skills to confidently make choices and make decisions about their own health**

- Develop a common framework for engagement to ensure residents can share services to their needs
- Adopt a resident focused approach to communication and tailor messages
- Support established peer and patient support groups to grow and improve reach
- Build a local approach to communication using the Health Foundation toolkit

- Supporting our residents to gain the knowledge and skills to confidently make choices and participate in decisions about their own health will underpin improvement against all the measures included in this strategy.

**Giving children the best start in life – focus on reducing infant mortality**

- Implement a targeted action plan to reduce infant mortality
- Provide family-focused, coordinated support in our communities
- Improve communications about healthy pregnancy from pre-conception to birth
- Normalise breastfeeding and become a UNICEF Baby Friendly Borough
- Ensure access to early education and increase % children who start school ready to learn

- Reduce infant mortality rate to England average
- Increase % of children who achieve a good level of develop by age 5 to England average
- Reduce under 18s conception rate to England average

**Improving mental wellbeing and mental health**

- Support community organisations and networks to grow and support residents
- Promote the use of shared language and reduce stigma across communities
- Establish clear routes to accessing support and care for all communities
- Provide support to education workforce on emotional health and wellbeing
- Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and substance misuse
- Improve the physical health and wellbeing of people with mental ill-health

- Reduce % of people reporting high levels of anxiety to less than England average
- Reduce % of people who feel lonely to significantly less than England average
- Increase drug treatment places by 20%

**Reduce smoking**

- Embed tobacco control approach into all relevant public policies
- Promote smokefree homes and community spaces
- Ensure that comms around smoking, vaping and alternative forms are tailored
- Make high quality evidence-based stop smoking support accessible to all smokers
- Reduce uptake of smoking and vaping in young people and enforce legislation

- Reduce the % of population smoking to England average
- Reduce smoking in pregnancy to England average
- Increase the % of adults who have never smoked, to England average

**Increasing physical activity**

- Support VCFSE to increase physical activity,
- Promote use of foot and cycle paths
- Celebrate and champion physical activity via social media and other campaigns
- Widening access and participation, providing more inclusive options
- Take a strengths-based community approach
- Maintain and create safe green and other activity spaces

- Oldham will have the same % of adults who are physically active as England as a whole

Key Goals

Measures

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