

***CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY BOARD  
Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
Agenda***

Date Thursday 23 January 2025

Time 6.00 pm

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 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

2. CONTACT OFFICER for this agenda is email Constitutional Services-constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk

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Councillors Adams, Z Ali, Ball, Bishop, Hobin (Chair), Hughes, S. Hussain, Iqbal, McLaren, Moores (Vice-Chair) and Shuttleworth

Item No

- 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 SEND Update (Pages 3 - 14)  
Special educational needs and/or disabilities and alternative provision: Local area progress report
- 6 Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report (Pages 15 - 52)  
Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024
- 7 Oldham Key Stage Outcomes 2024 (Pages 53 - 72)  
A report to examine key outcomes from Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) through to Key stage 4 (GCSE) 2023-24.
- 8 Work Programme (Pages 73 - 80)  
To consider and note the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board's Work Programme 2024/25
- 9 Key Decision Document (Pages 81 - 94)  
Details of key decisions to be considered by the Cabinet at future meetings.
- 10 Rule 13 and 14  
To consider any rule 13 or 14 decisions taken since the previous meeting.



## **Report to Children and Young People Scrutiny Board**

# **Special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision (AP): Local area progress report**

### **Portfolio Holder:**

Cllr Ali and Cllr Mushtaq

**Officer Contact:** Matt Bulmer, Director Early Years, Education & Skills

**Report Author:** Amber Burton, Assistant Director, SEND & Inclusion

**January 2025**

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### **Purpose of report**

A joint Ofsted/CQC area SEND inspection of the Oldham partnership took place between Monday 26 June 2023 and Friday 30 June 2023. This report summarises the progress and impact of actions since the local area inspection. It brings together and captures delivery of the local area partnership's priority action and improvement plan to date.

### **Executive Summary**

During the inspection, it was recognised that local partnership leaders and parents/carers had co-produced a new and ambitious SEND & Inclusion Strategy, in collaboration with children and young people, education, health, and social care partners. The inspection report stated that the strategy was well thought out and reflective of the then needs within Oldham. Areas for development have been embedded within the SEND & Inclusion Improvement Programme, which underpins the strategy.

The inspection report also recognised that the local area partnership worked actively with Oldham Parent Carer Forum (PCF), whose members represent the families of children and young people with SEND and that the PCF has strategic influence and is part of the SEND partnership board. This helps to join up services and keep children and young people at the heart of leaders' plans.

Despite the positive elements identified in the inspection report, other areas were identified as significant concern, particularly in partnership working at the organisational level and in access to health services and provision.

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As a result of the inspection, Ofsted required the local area partnership to prepare and submit a Priority Action Plan (PAP) to address the two identified areas for priority action. Oldham's local area partnership PAP was approved by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in October 2023.

Our parent/carers organisation, POINT, remain integral throughout our partnership response. Actions relating to areas for development have been embedded in our existing SEND & Inclusion Improvement Programme, which Ofsted/CQC felt was ambitious.

Delivery of the PAP is overseen by the Local Inclusion Partnership Executive Board, which meets monthly to drive partnership accountability, assess progress, monitor risks and impact. The LIP Exec is informed by key partners through the Local Inclusion Partnership Programme Board, which brings together key workstreams.

Significant progress has been made to fulfil the commitments made in the PAP through close partnership working between key partner organisation; the council, the integrated care partnership, parents/carers, and schools/settings. Of a total of 40 PAP actions:

- Thirty-three actions (83%) have been marked as complete within timescale.
- Seven actions (17%) are incomplete, however, three of these are still on track, albeit with revised timescales of 2024/2025.
- One action has not been started yet, however is on track with initial appointments and first evaluation in December 2024.
- One action is vulnerable and one at risk of not being completed.

For the 'vulnerable' and 'at risk' actions and any other vulnerabilities around inclusion, a risk register is maintained. This includes all high-level risks that the LIP Executive Board need to be sighted on. All risks have mitigating actions attached to them.

Whilst significant progress has been made, there is recognition that work is still to be done to improve experiences for children, young people and families across Oldham and we remain ambitious in delivering a better system for them.

## **Recommendations**

- Note and comment on the progress since the local area SEND inspection in 2023.
- Note that key actions/issues that require focus from the LIP Executive Board will remain in the high-level action plan owned by the board. This will include ongoing monitoring of PAP actions will be included within the high-level plan.

**Special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision (AP): Local area progress**

**1. Background: where we were**

1.1. Following the local area inspection in June 2023, in August 2023 the managing director of children and young people for Oldham council and the chief executive of greater Manchester integrated care board received the inspection report, which determined the following outcome: *‘There are widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), which the local area partnership must address urgently.’*

1.2. As a result of the inspection, Ofsted required the local area partnership to prepare and submit a priority action plan (PAP) to address the identified areas for priority action, which consist of:

**Priority area I:** Leaders at Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council and NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board should cooperate to urgently improve the shared strategic governance, oversight, support, challenge, and planning to deliver effective strategies to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND in Oldham.

**Priority area II:** Leaders at Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council and NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board, including commissioners and providers, should act urgently to identify and address the delays and gaps in service provision to meet the full range of needs of children and young people with SEND, aged 0 to 25, in Oldham. This includes speech and language provision, neurodevelopmental pathways and community paediatrics.

1.3. Supplementary to the priority areas of action, the report stated three areas for improvement:

**Area for improvement I:** Leaders across the partnership should improve transitions between children's and adult services in health, education and social care, and improve their strategy in relation to preparing children and young people with SEND for adulthood from the earliest years.

**Area for improvement II:** Leaders across the partnership should embed and improve processes for the quality assurance of EHC plans and use this to further improve the quality and timeliness of outcomes and provision in new and existing EHC plans.

**Area for improvement III:** Leaders across the partnership should improve annual review processes so that the finalised review documentation is completed and returned in a timely manner.

1.4. To address the priority areas and the areas for development, the local area partnership worked to develop the priority action plan (PAP), which was submitted to Ofsted/CQC for approval in October 2023, gaining approval shortly after.

1.5. A monitoring inspection of the PAP response and impact was expected to be carried out within approximately eighteen months of the inspection to assess how the partnership responded to the issues raised. This initially suggested a return visit by Ofsted/CQC in spring 2024. However, since a change in government has happened, this has led to a ‘pause’ of re-visits following the government’s intention for the inspection process to be reviewed and amended. We now expect a return visit in the summer term 2025.

1.6. Regardless of Ofsted/CQC future processes, our improvement programme has continued at pace. This report summarises the work that has been undertaken since the inspection and includes the main achievements the local are partnership have secured.

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## 2. Response to the local area inspection

- 2.1. New governance arrangements were set up by the Oldham Local Inclusion Partnership to have oversight of the Priority Action Plan and Improvement Plan. Oversight includes the Local Inclusion Partnership Executive Board (LIPEB), initially chaired by the Chief Executive of the council, and then, from January 2024, by Dame Christine Lenehan, previously Director of the Council for Disabled Children and now the government advisor for SEND and inclusion. This was to provide external support and challenge to the partnership and to direct accountability in a way that resolves issues and removes barriers to success related to priority actions.
- 2.2. The LIPEB brings together key statutory partners, i.e. Oldham MBC and the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board, along with POINT, our parent/carer organisation and wider system partners.
- 2.3. The Local Inclusion Partnership Programme Board (LIPPB) sits under the LIPEB to ensure that the objectives of the SEND & Inclusion Improvement Programme are clearly articulated, and that progress remains on track. Where this is not the case, the programme board escalates to the exec' board.
- 2.4. Both the LIPEB and the LIPPB are multi-agency, including parent/carer representation and school representation across primary, secondary, special, and alternative provision, as well as early years and further education settings.
- 2.5. Changes have been made to the previous structure and systems have been streamlined. The Children's Collaborative is now in place and there has been lots of engagement about the SEND system and health transformation, including at the Greater Manchester level.
- 2.6. The Oldham Integrated Care Partnership Committee has been enhanced and the relationship with Greater Manchester has been clarified, i.e. Greater Manchester is for oversight only; local areas have full accountability and responsibility. Quality assurance and collaboration are enabled through the Greater Manchester system. There is a Greater Manchester SEND Quality Assurance framework in place.
- 2.7. Work on the new governance system in Oldham, feeds up from complex cases panels and joint commissioning panels. This informs the new strategic collaborative commissioning group, which now has terms of reference and a standing agenda. Impacts around what providers are experiencing are built into the system.
- 2.8. The SEND & Inclusion Improvement Programme has been developed to ensure that the priorities identified by the local area have focus, direction and strategic oversight. This is to ensure that the actions taken by the local area are in line with identified areas of development based on shared intelligence and agreement regarding the response to that.
- 2.9. Each meeting has a chair, whose role is described within the ToR for each meeting. In addition, there is a programme lead for all workstreams that sit under the SEND & Inclusion Improvement Programme.
- 2.10. The new and embedded partnership governance arrangements and programme structure have provided a footing for strong partnership working. Colleagues and representatives from across the partnership are working together to deliver actions.
- 2.11. Oldham's SEND and Inclusion Service incorporates multiple specialist teams, that work together to address the needs of the local population. We are also aligned with local partners across Greater Manchester and are active partners in Greater Manchester meetings, where we take a lead on key issues for the region, e.g. developing data and supporting providers in challenging Ofsted on their understanding of unregistered alternative provision.
- 2.12. The Parent Carer Forum, in partnership with the SEN Team at Oldham Council, have continued to deliver an Annual Engagement Schedule for families.

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- 2.13. The Parent Carer Forum attends the Family Hub centres every other week and across all five districts in Oldham. Each month the forum operates their own drop in, which offer themed events and access to practitioners from education, health, and care; enabling families to receive regular information, advice and support. The themed events include children's SEND commissioners, CAMHS, educational psychologists and other specialists and cover a wide range of topics, including transition.
- 2.14. There remains a wide range of support mechanisms for families to access, many of which are delivered by POINT, including:
- Oldham SENDIAS Service.
  - Mediation and dispute resolution service.
  - Short breaks play and leisure.
- 2.15. Discussions with POINT about the Oldham SEND Local Offer, has led to proposing and actioning a different way of commissioning so that information for parents/carers is improved. This has resulted in POINT now being the provider of the local offer which means it will be 'by parents/carers, for parents/carers.'
- 2.16. There is an extensive programme of external funding bids that have been successful (DBV, ELSEC, HNPCA, CPP). All of these have an element of joint commissioning and collaborative working. Grant funded projects include:
- **Delivering Better Value (DBV):** Over £1m invested in front line staff, integrated within existing services to target early identification and intervention.
  - **Change Partnership Programme (CPP):** Over £1m invested in front line staff, integrated within existing services to target testing of reforms around statutory processes and shaping the system so that it provides a sustainable approach that works better for children, young people, and families.
  - **Early Language Support for Every Child (ELSEC):** Over £1m invested in specialist SLCN staff, integrated within existing services to target front line delivery of provision to meet the needs of children in early years and primary schools at the universal and targeted level.
  - **High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA):** Over £6m invested in developing additional specialist capacity in mainstream schools and settings. This has already created over 100 additional places, that are benefitting children and young people. The next phase will see a further £5m invested in new projects.
- 2.17. We have reviewed, amended, and published the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the children's elements of the Section 75 agreements have been reviewed and additional services submitted.
- 2.18. Barrier Breakers have produced a video on joint commissioning, and this has been published.
- 2.19. Directorate Management Team approved a Delegated Decision Report in January 2023 to commission Secondary Language Link for all secondary schools (maintained and academy). Due to the success of the Secondary Language Link programme during 2023/2024, the programme has been extended and commissioned for another academic year. This is benefitting children in secondary schools.
- 2.20. **Speech & Language Therapy Service (S&LT)**
- 2.21. A S&LT waiting list recovery plan was produced, post inspection, and continues in the implementation stage. The plan detailed the timescales for reduction of waiting list numbers and this is on track.
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- 2.22. Following speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN) workshops, information was collated, gaps were identified, and training has been mapped against universal, targeted and specialist levels. A final co-produced offer has now been implemented and will run through the academic year 2024 – 2025.
- 2.23. Secondary Language Link was commissioned for all maintained and academy secondary schools from Sep 23. This was successful and had positive feedback with many schools requesting an extended commission. Secondary Language Link has, therefore, been commissioned for a further year, 2024/25.
- 2.24. **Child and adolescence mental health service (CAMHS) and neurodevelopmental pathways**
- 2.25. Optimise were commissioned (in 23/24 until Sep 24) by Greater Manchester ICB to provide Neurodevelopmental assessments for this cohort with an improved access time of four months. This was to address a lack of clinical capacity for the 16-18 age range.
- 2.26. In 2023/24, the ICB allocated £700,000 to Pennine CAMHS of recurrent funding for clinical staffing to address the previous capacity gap in the 16-18 age range.
- 2.27. In Jan 2024, the ICB recruited to interim CAMHS commissioning and programme manager capacity to address the gap of a CAMHS commissioner since 2021 and support CAMHS commissioning activities, the development of an Oldham CYP MH Partnership (gap since 2021) and the co-production of multi-agency CAMHS strategy (gaps since 2019/20) with commissioning recommendations for 25/26 financial year.
- 2.28. In 2024/25 (Q1-Q2), Oldham commissioners and providers have participated in the development of an ICB Greater Manchester Neurodevelopment programme for improving outcomes across localities and reducing variability of care across Greater Manchester. This programme has completed its initial design phase and has now moved into local implementation groups.
- 2.29. In 204/25 (Q1), the Child Dynamic Support Register (DSR) was reviewed, and new policy and procedures completed to be compliant with national guidelines. Additional CAMHS commissioner capacity utilised to re-establish Oldham Care Education Treatment Reviews (CETRs) for some of the highest need neurodiverse children and young people at risk of a CAMHS inpatient admission.
- 2.30. In 204/25 (Q1), system mapping and refresh of the iTHRIVE Directory of services was completed. The iTHRIVE Directory has been promoted throughout the local authority, NHS, third sector organisations, Oldham Child Mental Health Partnership, Corporate Parenting Board, and social care directorate management team.
- 2.31. In May 24, ICB Board members were presented with and agreed a plan for Oldham mental health commissioning leads, with Bury and Heywood, Middleton, and Rochdale leads, to progress with a procurement process for a new service (three-year contract) across the Northeast Greater Manchester sector. This service will provide ADHD/ASD assessments for 16–18-year-olds and any previously waiting for assessment who have turned 18.
- 2.32. CPS and CAMHS worked together to utilise the single point of entry (SPOE) to support any complex decisions in relation the most appropriate clinical assessment. CPS and CAMHS attended the SENCo development day in May 24 to support schools' knowledge of quality referrals.
- 2.33. In Sep 24, ICB investment: Children Complex Case Coordinator; dedicated clinical capacity recruited for managing DSR and CETR processes and for providing better quality care coordination for our most complex children and young people with special needs.
- 2.34. In Sep 24, Pennine Oldham CAMHS agreed to incorporate a new 'prioritisation criteria' for Neurodevelopmental referrals which will help to prioritise looked after children and those with greatest additional needs.
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- 2.35. In Sep 24, Oldham CAMHS started to accept referrals for Neurodevelopment assessments for the 16-18 age range in Oldham because of ICB additional funding and persistent recruitment actions.
- 2.36. **Community Pediatric Service (CPS) and neurodevelopmental pathways**
- 2.37. A sleep proposal has been developed and is currently going through approval processes.
- 2.38. A Health Passport has been shared with working group members for young people with complex health care needs.
- 2.39. A clear transition pathway is in place for dietitian for transition to adult LD dietitian.
- 2.40. There are ongoing conversations between education, health and ICB colleagues regarding commissioning options.
- 2.41. Compliance for advice to contribute to EHC needs assessments is high and achieving the KPI target for the service >95%.
- 2.42. In June 24 the ICB Greater Manchester Neurodevelopmental programme was in progress with workstreams and named leads.
- 2.43. Actions to address the CPS waiting list mean that:
- The number of new patients on the neuro-developmental waiting list continues to reduce and in early May this was reduced to 216 with a waiting time of 24 weeks.
  - By comparison the waiting time in July 2023 was 46 weeks with 470 new patients waiting.
  - By June 24 there were 207 patients on the new patient waiting list and the wait time was 24 weeks for most new patients. This is in the context of staff sickness, which has impacted on clinical capacity in June.
  - By September 24 there was significant improvement, with waiting times reducing from 46 to 20 weeks.

### **3. Current position and impact of actions taken so far**

- 3.1. Partnership working is much stronger because of the LIP Executive Board, and this has seen significant agreements and actions are a result of discussions, e.g. investment for the S&LT recovery plan, CAMHS additional capacity.
- 3.2. A strength of the system is the partnership working with POINT and this has been in place for some years. The impact of improved partnership working at the organisation level has resulted in key projects being more influenced by parents/carers and some innovative commissioning decisions, e.g. to move the local offer to POINT so it can become, by parents/carers, for parents/carers.
- 3.3. Communications with wider partners have been improved and the range of approaches to ensure participation across the system has been strengthened.
- 3.4. Locally we work collaboratively in a structured and targeted way with a shared vision that works in the best interests of children and young people.
- 3.5. Grant funded programmes are designed to support earlier identification and intervention to avoid the need for higher levels of support later. Although early in implementation, there are already signs that they are making a positive difference.
- 3.6. Local specialist support is of high quality, and this is show in the feedback we receive from children, young people, schools/settings, and families. Where services are involved, this is felt to be good and effective.

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- 3.7. Language Link is being used very well in our secondary schools and around 900 children have been assessed using it so far. It is targeted at:
- Identifying need: standardised assessment for KS3 students.
  - Informing intervention: planned groups for different language skills.
  - Tracking progress: in-built outcomes measures.
  - Supporting professional development: SLCN toolkit.
  - Informing the strategic direction of the school: data analysis.
- 3.8. Although still early in looking at transformation of S&LT services, Secondary Language Link can have an impact on provision, i.e. it works well in equipping schools to improve the offer at the universal level. This is the direction we need to go in, to avoid a continuance of high referral rates to S&LT services, which have resulted in long waiting lists. Schools feedback that they have found the programme valuable, and it is making a positive difference for children and young people with SLCN.
- 3.9. Reduction in S&LT waiting list by over 50%, including a targeting of longest waits. The waiting list has been reduced by over 840 children and young people who are either currently in receipt of specialist support, have completed the clinical support and now have improved outcomes or are able to manage their needs within the home and school or who were clinically discharged from the service.
- 3.10. 55% of respondents to a Parent Carer Forum survey on the support provided whilst on a waiting list reported a positive view. Work is now underway to make improvements to the advice and guidance whilst on the waiting list, and the NCA will co-produce with the PCF updated versions of 'Support Whilst you Wait' packs.
- 3.11. Six new therapists have been recruited to the S&LT service, against a backdrop of national shortages. The new recovery posts 3.0 WTE S&LTs and 3.0 WTE Assistant Practitioners are focusing on recovery of the waiting list backlog by working with the longest waiters and within a cluster model, which has been a test of change within the mainstream school service from April to July 2024.
- 3.12. The test of change programme within the core S&LT service has focused on cluster/place-based working within 15 mainstream primary schools in Oldham from April to July 2024. The schools were selected because of the highest number of children on the service waiting list within each school and the referral rate. Feedback has been sought from school SENCOs with seven SENCOs responding so far. The feedback has been positive, including the impact on the school and on children.
- 3.13. In the Community Paediatric Service, there is reported positive service user experience: 90.1% of friends and families reported a positive experience, only 1.98% provided negative comments (Aug 2024; Pennine Oldham CAMHS Friends and Families report).
- 3.14. There is an improved and appropriate referral rate (for under 8s): neurodevelopment assessment (through streamlined process between CAMHS and Community Paediatrics). Less bouncing between services leading to better family experience of services and faster overall assessment.
- 3.15. Faster access for Neurodevelopmental assessment (16-18 age range): Optimise assessments have a waiting time of four months or less.
- 3.16. Reduced risk of CAMHS inpatient admission: increased safety and quality for the most complex neurodiverse children (reduced risk of children and young people on the Oldham DSR for those rated as red (moving to amber (50%)) and amber (moving to green (50%))).
- 3.17. Increased awareness of emotional wellbeing mental health services (iTHRIVE directory co-production and dissemination): anticipated to lead to an improvement in appropriate referral rates and enhanced utilisation of service capacity/faster access.
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- 3.18. Reduction in number of Integrated Care Partnership funded complex care packages by five from 2023/24 to 2024/25 year to date agreed with enhanced or better understood mainstream contracted services accessed and included instead, e.g. LTVT provision increased for a package from the contracted service rather than new monies provided.
  - 3.19. The SENDIAS service is jointly funded and is a high performing contract and delivery programme (large number of positive case studies and service user feedback).
  - 3.20. Five Family Hubs launched in Oldham, with delivery from Education, Health, and Social Care. (large number of positive case studies and service user feedback).
  - 3.21. Short Breaks contract in place, supporting over 150 children and young people to access the service.
  - 3.22. CAMHS pathways updated for 0-8 and 8-16 years and CAMHS provision extended to 18 years by use of interim contract arrangement and then embedded into core offer from September 2024.
  - 3.23. Waiting times for new patient CAMHS appointments has reduced from 46 weeks to 20 weeks (as of 29/8/24).
  - 3.24. Improved triage process: recent triage audit demonstrates consistency in accepting referrals with graduated response evidenced, aim to ensure neurodevelopmental assessments are being provided to the most appropriate children and in a timely manner.
  - 3.25. QI Project: test of change for nurse led clinics successful and supports new patient appointment capacity.
  - 3.26. SENCos report services are easier to navigate following changes to CPS and CAMHS age criteria.
  - 3.27. Patient experience results January 2024 – July 2024 ranges from 98% -100% positive.
  - 3.28. Compliance for advice to contribute to EHC needs assessments is high and achieving the KPI target for the service >95%.

#### 4. Performance

- 4.1. **Education, health, and care plans (EHCP):** Timeliness of EHC needs assessments remains high and we are against significant increase in demand. Oldham is currently responsible for 3674 EHCP's (December 2024), an increase of 100% since 2017 and forecasted to rise by 15% year on year up to 2030 at least. Despite demand, statutory performance remains significantly higher than national average (42%). Oldham are in the top twelve of the highest performing local areas as:
  - Cumulative timeliness in 2023 was 83%.
  - Cumulative timeliness in 2024 is 83%.
- 4.2. **Speech & Language Therapy Service:** As of 30 November 2024, there were 743 children on the S&LT Service waiting list, down significantly since the inspection (1768 in June 2023). The longest waiting time is 163 weeks, which relates to a child in an out of area specialist residential placement. The longest wait time after this is 149 weeks and the service is prioritising these cases.
- 4.3. The average wait time continues to reduce and was at 40 weeks in November 2024, reduced from 47 in August 2024. However, demand is increasing, with the service receiving 79 new referrals in March 2024, compared to 48 in June 2023.
- 4.4. **Community Paediatric Service:** Waiting times continue to fall with the longest wait being 23 weeks (halved from 46 weeks in June 2023) and the average wait being 11 weeks in November 2024, down from 29 weeks in March 2024.

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- 4.5. **Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service:** Although referral numbers have remained generally stable, the number of children and young people open to the core CAMHS team continues to increase, indicating the need for longer periods of intervention/treatment, which then impacts on allocation for new referrals for assessment.
- 4.6. There is a rise in the percentage of those waiting more than 12 weeks for their first routine appointment, which is now at 59%. Referrals continue to grow and there were 1354 open referrals as of November 2024, increased from 1112 in June 2023.
- 4.7. The number of patients waiting more than 12 weeks for first routine appointment is now 22 in December 2024, down from 43 in June 2023.

## **5. Feedback from Ofsted/Care Quality Commission**

- 5.1. Inspection of Oldham local authority children's services from 13 to 24 May 2024 reported that the local authority is graded as good across all areas. Although the inspection focuses on children's social care, associated services and the wider children's system is also in scope, including education and health.
- 5.2. Key aspects of the inspection report, related to children and young people with SEND and/or who were vulnerable, highlighted that:
- Since the last inspection in March 2019, when services for children and families were judged to be requires improvement to be good, there has been a relentless focus on improvement, driven by the director of children's services and his strong and stable leadership team. The pace of change has been purposeful and has ensured that children now benefit from good-quality help and support.
  - Children who go missing or are at risk of exploitation are recognised and responded to well. For these children, the multidisciplinary child exploitation team is a valuable resource. Creative and persistent work is undertaken by committed staff to engage highly vulnerable children.
  - Disabled children benefit from consistent relationships with skilled social workers, who know them well and advocate strongly on their behalf. Children have effective support and safety plans, informed by a multidisciplinary team and timely review. Children are visited in line with their assessed needs. Social workers have a focus on supporting children to remain in the care of their families. Services for disabled children have significantly improved since the last inspection.
  - There are robust systems in place to locate and monitor children who are missing education or who are electively home educated. Staff are tenacious in identifying suitable placements for those children who are missing education. Through their annual visits to children, appropriate support is secured for children whose parents choose to educate them at home.
  - There has largely been progress in the areas identified as requiring improvement at the previous inspection and visits. The quality of assessments, risk analysis and plans for children have improved. Disabled children now have effective assessments of their needs that lead to well-coordinated planning.

## **6. Summary**

- 6.1. The post inspection PAP has been in place for over a year, signed off by Ofsted in October 2023, resulting in over 12 months' worth of activity. The purpose of the Local Inclusion Partnership Executive Board has been singularly focused on accountability actions related to the PAP and this has ensured that a large percentage of actions are complete. Those PAP actions that are completed but, nonetheless, the board needs to continuously monitor, will be added to the board's forward plan and performance framework.

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- 6.2. The Local Inclusion Partnership Executive Board agreed the status of the PAP as described above and was approved by the board following stock take visits from the DfE and NHSE, who monitor progress externally. This means that the board will no longer monitor the PAP but, instead, it will own an action plan that contains, but is not limited to, the outstanding PAP actions. This is incorporated into the SEND & Inclusion Improvement Programme, which continues to make significant changes and improvements.

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# 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: 2024**

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**Availability and accessibility:** if you would like to receive this report in any other format, please contact  
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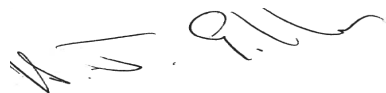
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## Message from Independent Chair

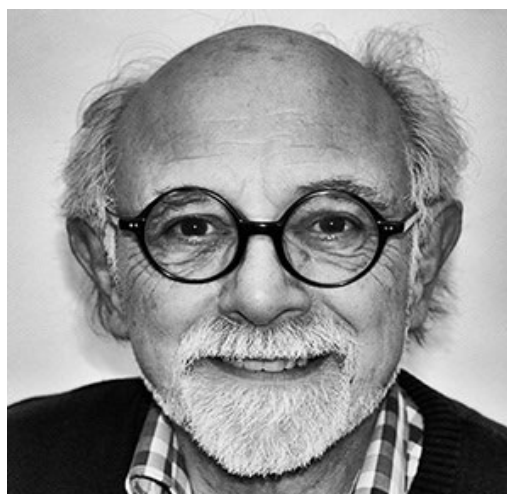
The 2023-24 annual report of the Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership demonstrates the continuing strength of effective local safeguarding activity in the period. The Partnership has consolidated a number of earlier gains in this period and now presents as a robust set of arrangements to safeguard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

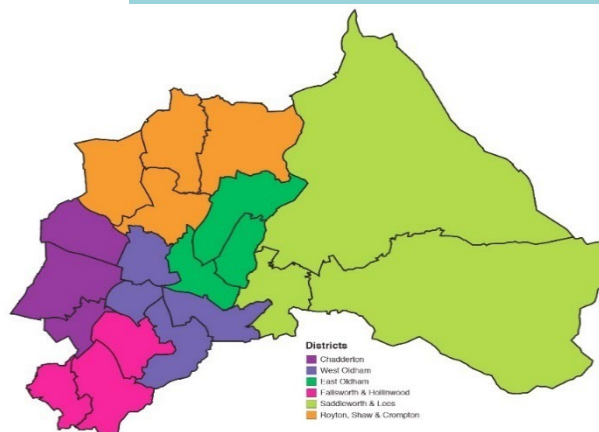
Understanding the context of life in Oldham for children, young people and their families is a fundamental point for the safeguarding partners.

**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).**

**In 2023/24 there were:**

- **5,430 referrals to children's services**
- **533 child protection conferences initiated**
- **There are over 550 Children Looked after in Oldham**

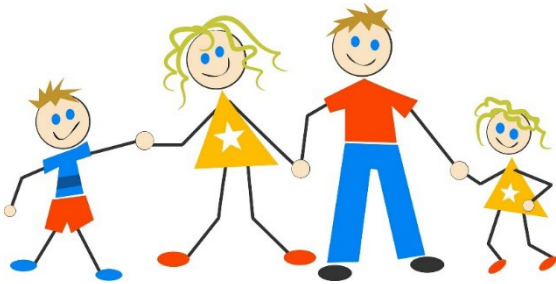
# Profile of Safeguarding in Oldham

Contacts to MASH

26,000

Contacts converted  
to Referrals

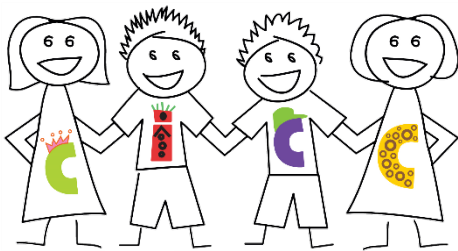
5430



3,644 referrals made to Targeted Early Help



2058 S47 enquiries initiated



510 children looked after as  
of March 2024



507 children on child protection  
plans as of March 2024



273 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.

## 2023- 2024 key priorities:

1. Strengthen the support offer to at standard and medium levels 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:

- There is an agreed Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Strategy informed by Safe Lives review of domestic abuse in Oldham.
- There is now an agreed Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Policy.
- A Domestic Abuse Directory for professionals has been produced and distributed.
- Through investment, there was an increase in capacity in Domestic Abuse Team over the year.
- Implemented commissioned perpetrator offer with TLC – both for adults and children who have been abusive in their family relationships.
- Expanded provision of safe accommodation for victims of abuse and their children, through recommissioning refuge, expanded use of dispersed accommodation and buy in to men's refuge in Trafford.
- Investment in VCFSE Women's Network.
- White Ribbon status achieved for Oldham Council.
- A dedicated Senior Honour Based Violence specialist in the Domestic Abuse team.

## 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.

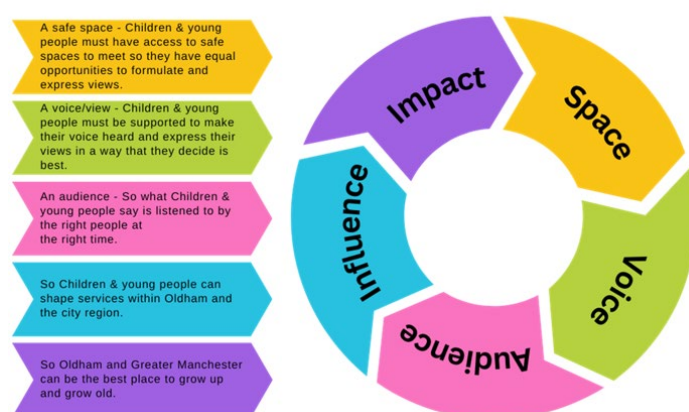
Action together will be commissioned to support the development of a culture of participation across all services working with and on behalf of young people. This will guarantee the place of children and young people's participation as a long-term priority with its principles reflected and embraced in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

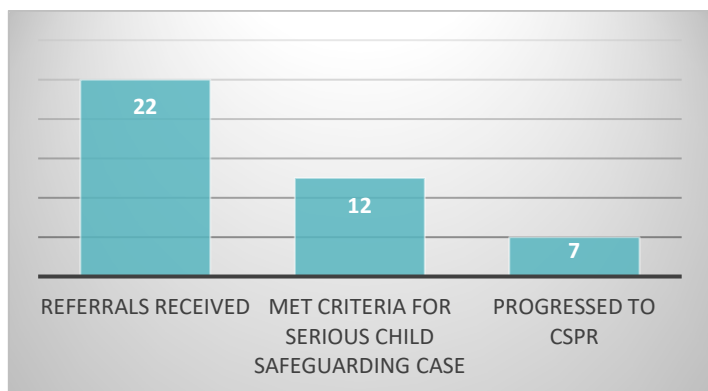
### Young Peoples experiences around CSE Video

# 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.

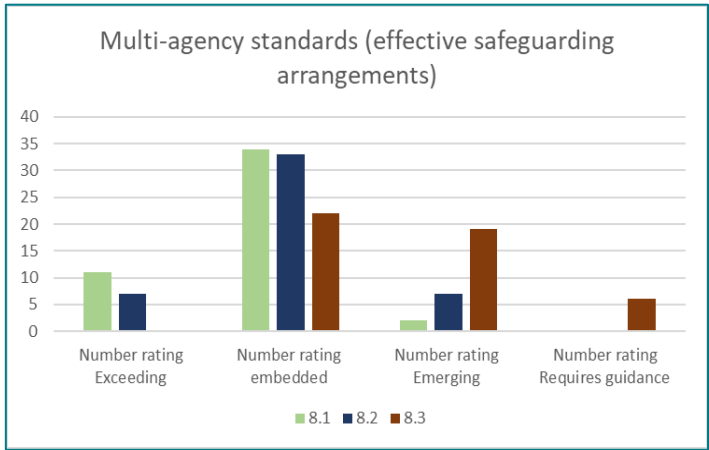
Schools and colleges were requested to grade themselves in eight areas of safeguarding (requires guidance/emerging/embedded/ exceeding) to evidence compliance with the standard question.

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 up 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)**

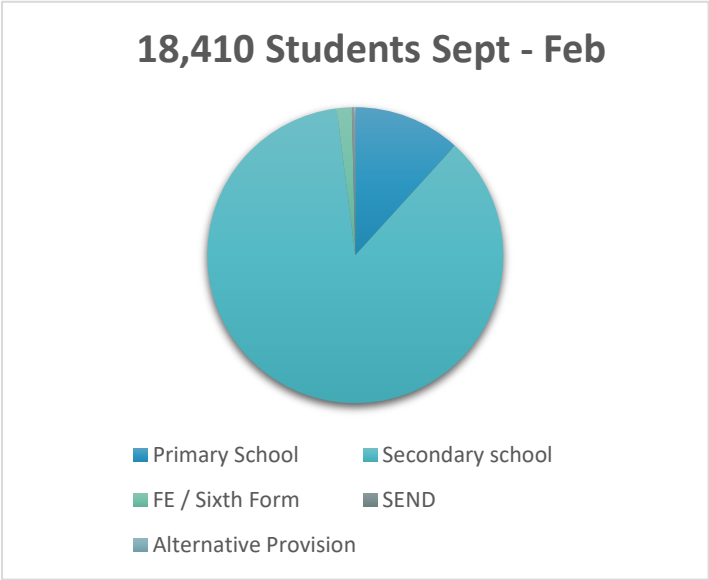
In 2022 – 2023 the partnership began to plan for the implementation of the Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2). GCP2 is an assessment tool that helps practitioners take a strengths-based approach to measuring the quality of care a child is receiving and supports them to identify neglect.

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

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.

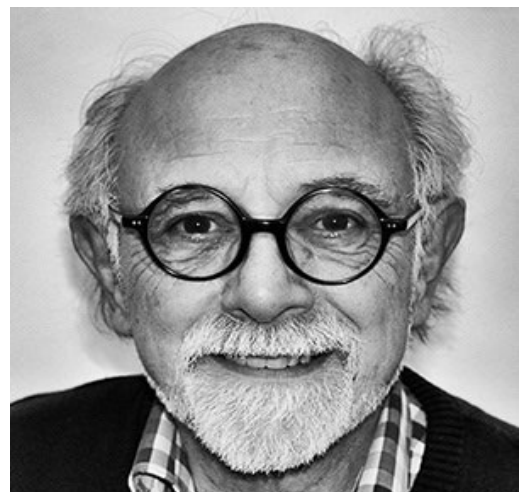
## Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training and Workforce Development

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***



## Our plan for 2024-2025

<b>Domestic Abuse</b> <i>Lead: Bruce Penhale</i>	<b>Complex &amp; Contextual Safeguarding</b> <i>Lead: Leanne Cooper</i>	<b>Transitions</b> <i>Lead: Nick Whitbread/Charlotte Walte</i>	<b>Childrens Mental Health and the impact of trauma</b> <i>Lead: Lynsey Yeomans, Jen Robertson</i>	<b>Neglect</b> <i>Lead: Tony Decrap</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 all forms of exploitation will receive the right support at the right time in order to keep them safe.</p> <p>To build capacity in all 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.</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> <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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop cross board (Community Safety Partnership, Oldham Children Safeguarding Partnership and YOS Management Board) joint understanding and response to the GM VRU Violence Strategy.</li> <li>Evaluate impact of Missing from Home and Care strategy</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 young adults who in the process of or have experienced transitional planning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify a clear pathway of response for children and young people in crisis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consolidate GCP 2 implementation across the partnership workforce further to the training in 2023-2024</li> <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> </ul>
Cross priority principles of: <i>Improved data quality, analysis, and insight to evidence effectiveness. Recognition of effect of increased demand on partner agencies. Trauma Informed approaches.</i>				

## 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  
Report 23-24.docx

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 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 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

Sign up to our newsletter [here](#)

Follow us on X.

(Formerly Twitter)

[@SafeguardOldham](#)



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



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## Report to Children and Young People's Scrutiny Board

# Oldham Key Stage Outcomes 2024

### Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Ali, Cabinet Member Education & Skills

### Officer Contact:

Mathew Bulmer, Director of Education, Skills & Early Years

### Report Authors:

Tony Shepherd, Assistant Director, Education & Early Years

John Sikora, Senior Intelligence and Data Analyst

**8<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

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## Executive Summary

The appended report on *Oldham Key Stage Outcomes 2024* reflects an improving Quality of Education for Children and Young people who are residents in our borough.

No matter what choices a child makes about their future, there is a great offer for them, with a wide range of educational options dependent on what they want and need.

Settings, schools and Council provide this offer in partnership, and although we are pleased by recent successes, we know there is more to do, and are committed to improving.

## Recommendations

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Board commend our partners in settings and schools on these improved outcomes and approve the report.

# Oldham Key Stage Outcomes 2024

## 1 Background

### 1.1 Key positives from the report include:

- Outcomes for our youngest children continue to improve. At Early Years Foundation Stage 63.6% of children reached a 'good level of development.' This is below average, but since the pandemic we are closing the gap to regional and national.
- Year 1 Phonics improved to 77.0% with performance 3.2% below national average but continuing to show steady progress.
- GCSE outcomes at KS4 are better than 2019 showing improved Attainment 8 locally and narrowing gaps to NW and national positions. There are also substantial improvements in pupil progress in the same period, and in pupils achieving grades 9-5 including English and Maths.
- School level analysis shows improving trends in outcomes at ten of thirteen secondary schools since the 2019.
- Gaps between our Disadvantaged and non-Disadvantaged pupils are smaller than National, and in some cases their outcomes exceed National averages.

### 1.2 Key areas for improvement from the report include:

- Retaining the aspiration to exceed National averages in all measures.
- Focus on outcomes for boys, non-disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND.
- KS2 recovery through Writing and attendance programmes.

### 1.3 Oldham Key Stage Outcomes are built on a robust system partnership which demonstrated success in 2024 through a series of significant achievements.

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We now have more schools than ever that are rated Good and Outstanding by Ofsted, with the rate for Primaries increasing from 81% to 93% over five years and for Secondary increasing from 46% to 69% in the last two years.

We have inclusive schools, with some of the best secondary attendance rates in the region and amongst the lowest primary exclusion rates in the country.

Our Children's services were rated Good, and we are intent on making them better.

## 13      **Appendices**

### 13.1      Key Stage Outcomes Report 2023-24 (v1.0 7/1/24f) by Education Intelligence team

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# Key Stage Outcomes Report 2023-24

**Education Intelligence team**  
v1.0 7/1/24



## Key Stage Outcomes Report 2023-24 - Context and Key Findings

This report examines key outcomes from Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) through to Key stage 4 (GCSE).

**Covid Impacts.** While there will always be interest in year-on-year progress, it is important to note that due to Covid impacts, and changes to assessment practice in intermediate years, the best comparison is to 2019 figures, the last pre-Covid year. This is particularly true in Oldham, as Covid impacts are larger on cohorts with more deprivation.

In **Foundation Stage**, a higher percentage of disadvantaged children reach a Good Level of Development (GLD) in Oldham compared to national (+0.8%). However, there is a wide gap between Oldham's performance and national figures for non-disadvantaged children.

**Year 1 Phonics** shows consistent improvement reaching 77.0%: performance remains 3.2% below national averages but continues to show steady progress. The gaps between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils across both years are notably narrower than national averages. This pattern is particularly evident in Year 1 Phonics where Oldham's disadvantage gap (8.5% in Year 1) is significantly smaller than the national gap (15.7%). However, this narrower gap is partly due to the relative underperformance of non-disadvantaged children compared to their national peers.

**Key Stage 1** attainment data is truncated this year (and in future years) due to the transition to non-statutory assessments in England. As a result, while we have included headline figures, these represent only a subset of schools and are of limited value.

**Key Stage 2 (KS2)** performance stands at 54.4% for RWM combined, showing slight decline from 2023 (55.0%) and significant decline from 2019 (61.5%), although the gap to national has slightly decreased. Mathematics shows the strongest subject performance relative to national averages, while writing consistently shows the largest gaps.

The disadvantage gap at KS2 (17.4%) remains smaller than both national and regional figures, though this is again partly due to lower non-disadvantaged performance. KS2 SEN & EHCP performance shows more challenges, with a decline in 2024 following improvement in 2023, though still maintaining improvement from 2022 levels.

**Key Stage 4 (KS4)** outcomes were particularly impacted by grading changes due to Covid. While figures appear to be falling, comparison with 2019 shows a positive position, with improved Attainment 8 locally and narrowing gaps to NW and national positions. There are also substantial improvements in pupil progress in the same timeframe, and substantial improvement in pupils achieving 5 grades 9-5 including English and Maths.

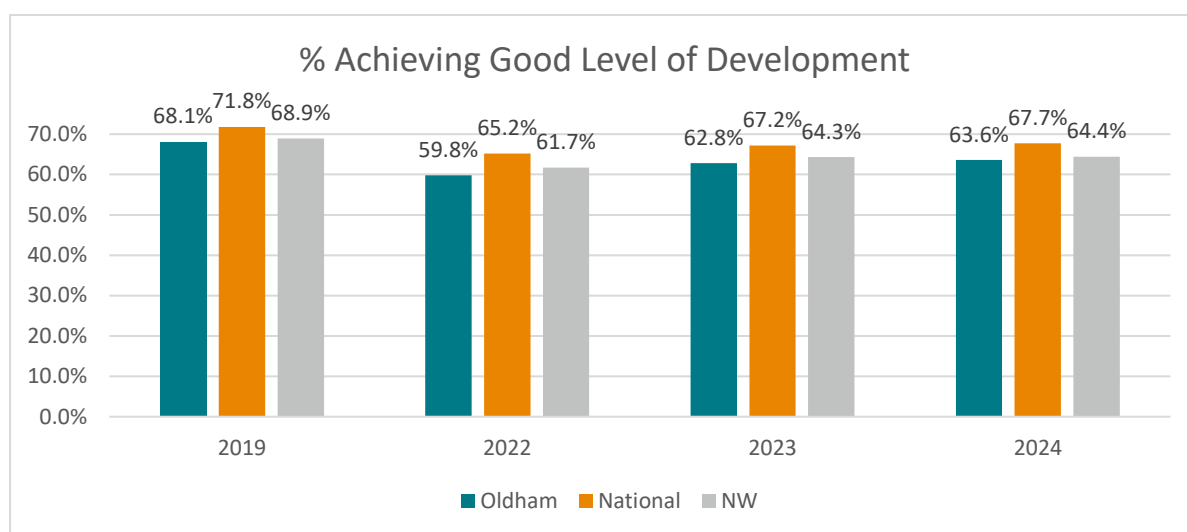
Disadvantaged and SEND pupils show a slightly less positive picture, which might again be related to greater Covid impacts. Declines in Attainment 8 since 2019 are balanced by improvements in 5 grades 9-5 including English and Maths, with little change in Progress 8.

# 1 Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

## 1.1 Early Years Foundation Stage Against National and North-West

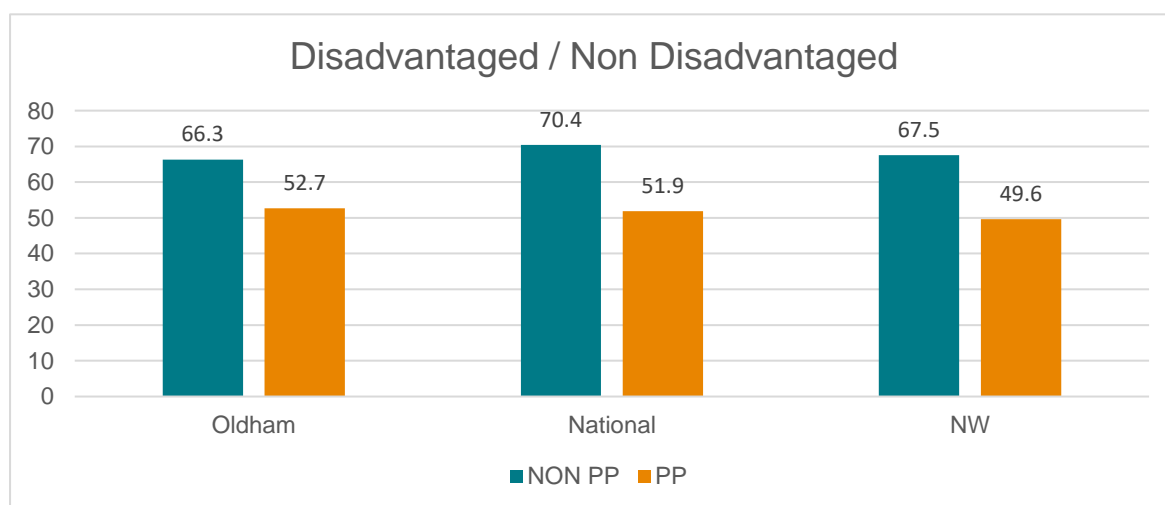
The percentage of children achieving a good level of development in Oldham was 63.6%, an increase of 0.8% compared with the previous school year. This, however, is still 4.5% below pre-pandemic levels.

When compared to national figures Oldham is 4.1% lower and 0.8% below the North-West figures. This represents a continuing improvement against both national and NW figures from the previous years though the levels are still below Pre-pandemic levels.



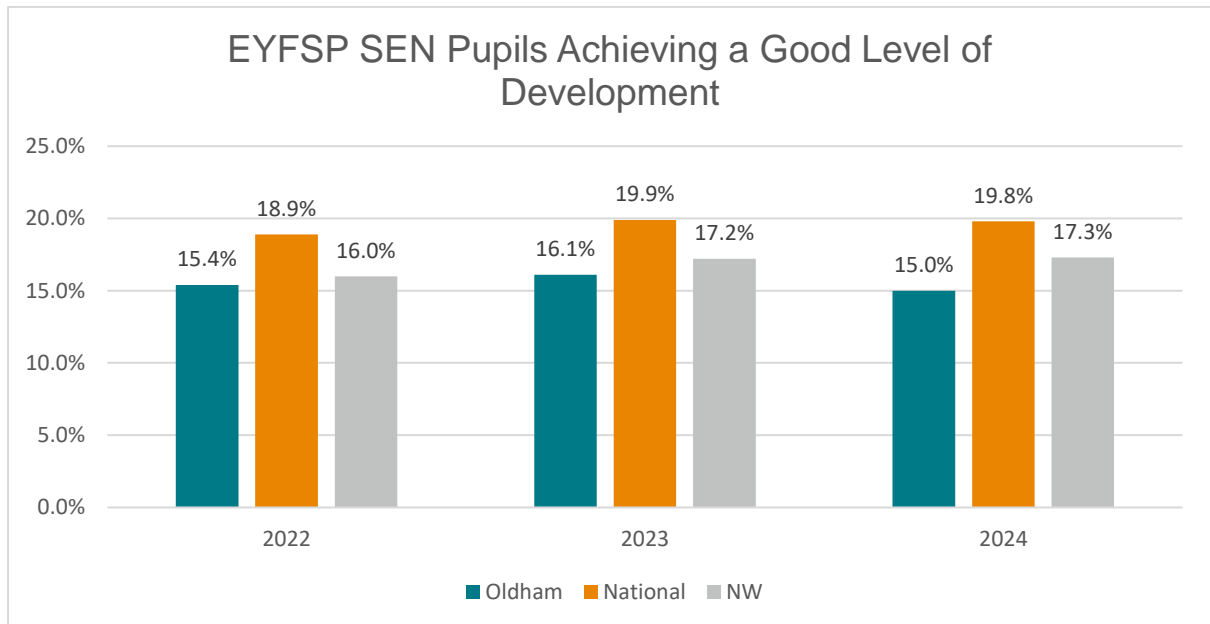
## 1.2 Early Years Foundation Stage Pupil Groups

52.7% of Disadvantaged pupils achieved a good level of development in Oldham 0.8% above national of 51.9% and 3.1% above the NW average 49.6%. 66.3% of non-Disadvantaged children achieved a good level of development compared to 70.4% nationally and 67.5% in the North-West.



**The gap between non-disadvantaged and disadvantaged children in Oldham (13.6%) is narrower than the current national (18.5%) and NW figure (17.9%).**

The percentage of SEN pupils (SEN support and EHCP combined) achieving a good level of development was 15.0%. 4.8% below national (19.8%) and 2.3% below NW region (17.3%)

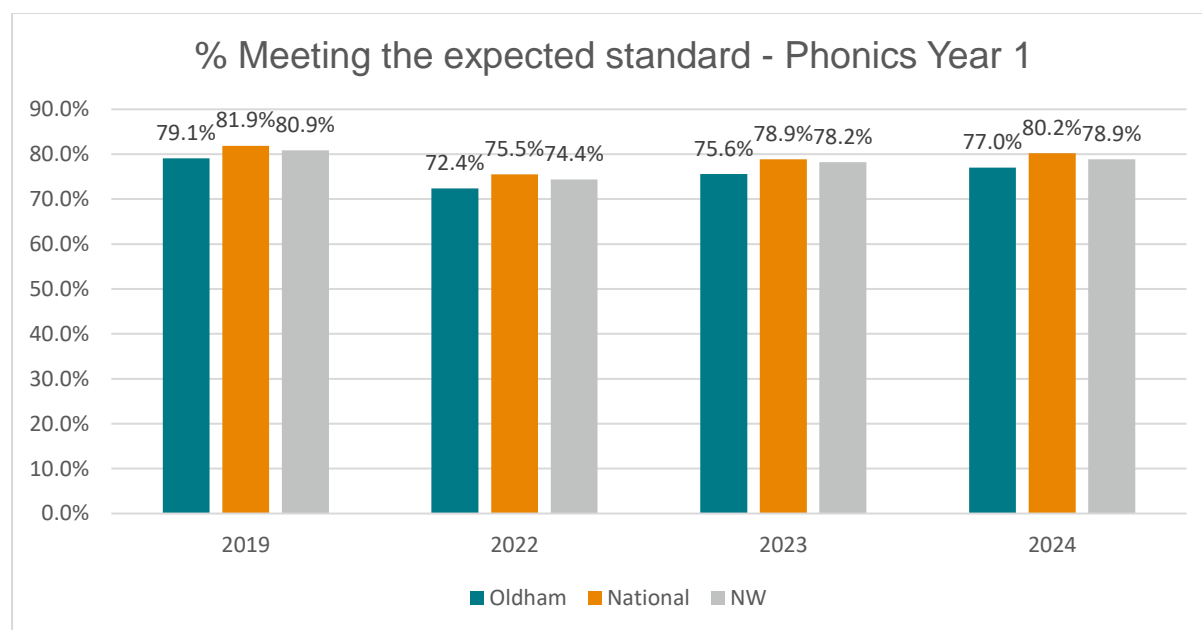


## 2 - Year 1 Phonics

### 2.1 Year 1 Phonics - Meeting the Expected Standard

Overall, 77% of Year 1 children met the expected standard an improvement of 1.4% when compared to the previous school year. Oldham is 3.2% below national (80.2%) and 1.9% below NW region (78.9%).

There is still a fall in the percentage when compared to pre-Covid figure. In 2019 the percentage was 79.1%, 2.1% higher than 2024. However, the trend is positive with a strong improvement path towards the 2019 position.



Year 1 Phonics Expected Standard	2019	2022	2023	2024	Change (2019-24)	Change (2023-24)
Oldham	79.1%	72.4%	75.6%	77.0%	-2.1%	+1.4%
Gap to NW Region	-1.8%	-2.0%	-2.6%	-1.9%	-0.1%	+0.7%
Gap to National	-2.8%	-3.1%	-3.3%	-3.2%	-0.4%	+0.1%

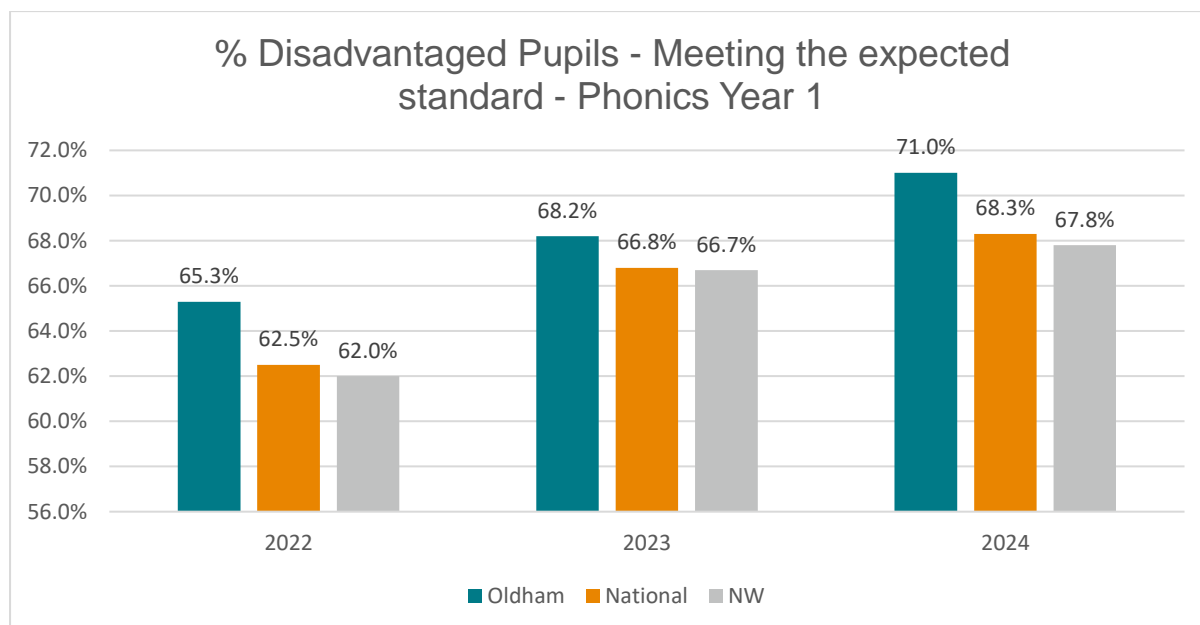
Year 1 Phonics shows steady improvement over both years, reaching 77.0% in 2024, with consistent but gradually reducing gaps to national and regional averages. Although the improvement rate has slowed this year (+1.4%) compared to last year (+3.2%), the overall trend is positive.

#### Key Points: Year 1 Phonics:

- Consistent improvement over two years
- Gaps to national/regional gradually reducing
- Steady upward trajectory maintained

## 2.2 Year 1 Phonics Pupil Groups

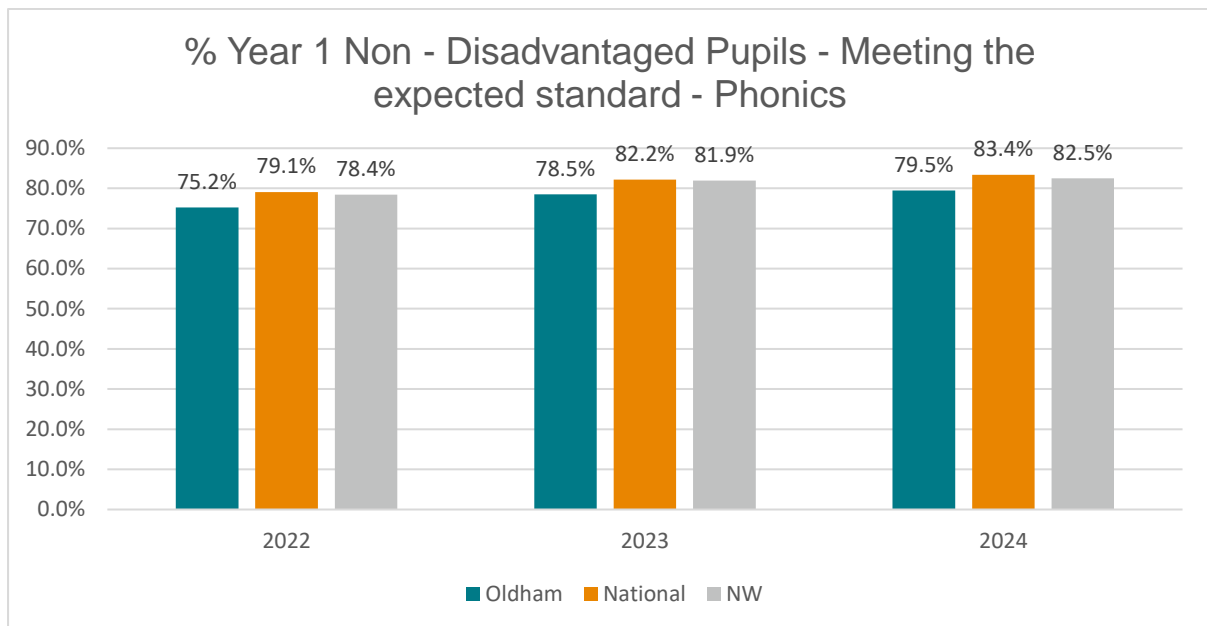
71% of Disadvantaged children met the expected standard for phonics in 2024. This is 2.7% **above** the national average (68.3%) and 3.2% **above** NW Average (67.8%).



Year 1 Phonics - Oldham	2019	2022	2023	2024	Change (2019-24)	Change (2023-24)
Disadvantaged	71.9%	65.3%	68.2%	71.0%	-0.9%	+2.8%
Non-Disadvantaged	81.5%	75.2%	78.5%	79.5%	-2.0%	+1.0%
Oldham Gap	-9.6%	-9.9%	-10.3%	-8.5%	+1.1%	+1.8%
National Gap	-1.1%	-16.6%	-15.4%	-15.7%	+1.2%	-0.3%
NW Region Gap	-1.5%	-16.4%	-15.2%	-15.4%	+1.2%	-0.2%

Year 1 shows steady improvement for both groups, with disadvantaged pupils making slightly stronger progress in the most recent year (+2.8% vs +1.0%). The gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils (8.5%) remains significantly smaller than both national (15.7%) and regional (15.4%) gaps.

79.5% of non-disadvantaged children met the expected standard for phonics in 2024. This is below national figures of 83.4% and NW 82.5%



#### Phonics Year 1 Key Points:

- Both groups showing improvement in Year 1
- Year 1 gap significantly smaller than national/regional
- Oldham maintaining smaller disadvantage gaps than comparators

### 3 Key Stage 1

**Key Stage 1 (KS1) attainment data is truncated this year due to the transition to non-statutory assessments in England.** Schools are no longer required to administer KS1 tests, as the focus has shifted to the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) as the primary measure of pupil progress. This change was implemented to reduce the assessment burden on younger pupils. Consequently, national data for KS1 assessments was not collected or published, leading to gaps and inconsistencies in the available data. While some schools have opted to use the optional KS1 tests internally, participation varies, further limiting the reliability and completeness of the data. Therefore only headline figures are included, with no commentary.

#### 3.1 Key Stage 1 Attainment RWM (Reading, Writing and Maths)

RWM Expected Standard KS1	2022	2023	2024	Change (2022-24)	Change (2023-24)
Oldham	44.5%	51.6%	51.0%	+6.5%	-0.6%

#### 3.2 Key Stage 1 Attainment (Reading, Writing and Maths - Separate Subjects)

Separate Subjects	2022	2023	2024	Change (2022-23)	Change (2023-24)
Reading - Oldham	60.3%	63.4%	66.3%	+3.1%	+2.9%
Writing - Oldham	47.9%	54.8%	56.6%	+6.9%	+1.8%
Maths - Oldham	60.4%	65.6%	65.7%	+5.2%	+0.1%

#### 3.3 Key Stage 1 Attainment by Pupil Groups (disadvantaged pupils in Reading, Writing and Mathematics)

Expected Standard - Disadvantaged	2019	2022	2023	2024	Change (2022-23)	Change (2023-24)
Oldham RWM - Disadvantaged		36.4%	41.8%	39.9%	+5.4%	-1.9%
Oldham Reading - Disadvantaged		51.1%	54.1%	59.1%	+3.0%	+5.0%
Oldham Writing - Disadvantaged		39.6%	45.8%	43.8%	+6.2%	-2.0%
Oldham Maths - Disadvantaged		52.4%	56.0%	57.4%	+3.6%	+1.4%

## 4 - Key Stage 2

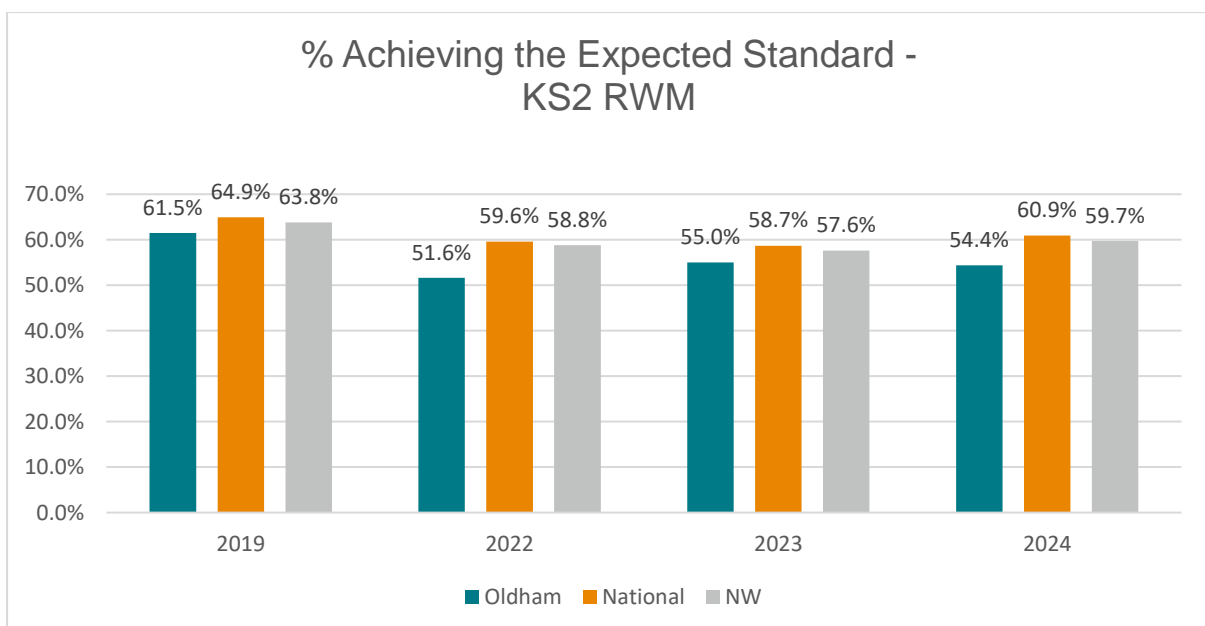
### 4.1 Key Stage 2 Attainment Against National and North-West

KS2 RWM Expected Standard - All Pupils	2019	2022	2023	2024	Change (2019-24)	Change (2023-24)
<b>Oldham</b>	61.5%	51.6%	55.0%	54.4%	-7.1%	-0.6%
<b>Gap to NW Region</b>	-2.3%	-5.3%	-3.8%	-5.3%	-3.0%	-1.5%
<b>Gap to National</b>	-3.4%	-7.1%	-4.6%	-6.5%	-3.1%	-1.9%

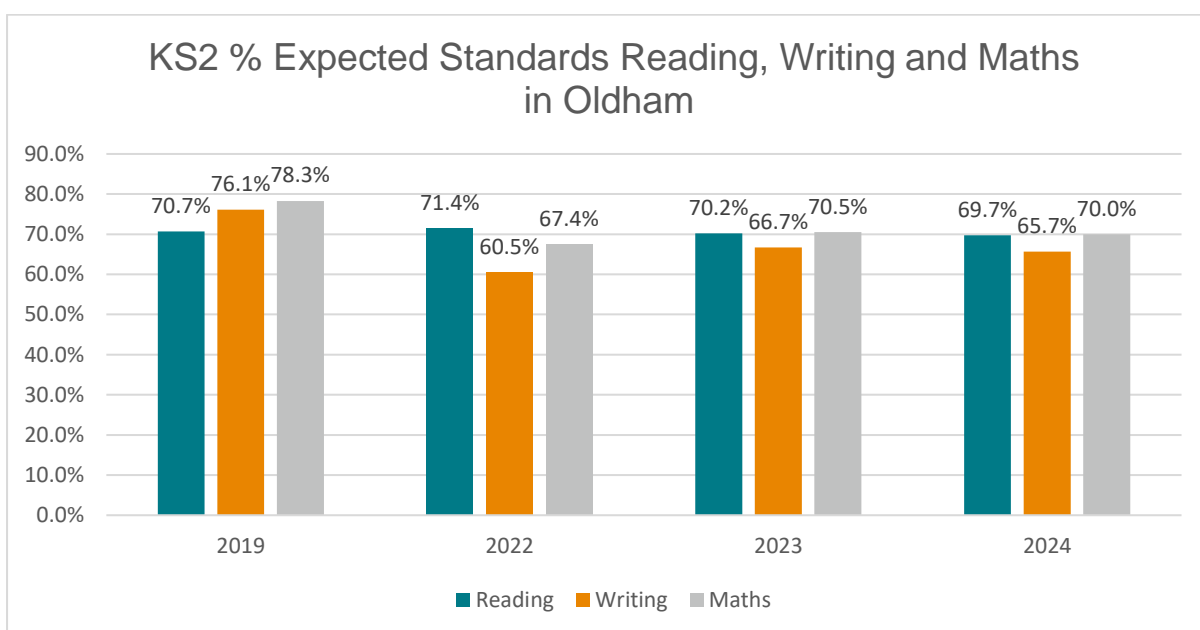
At KS2, 54.4% of Oldham pupils achieved the expected standard in RWM combined. After strong improvement in 2023 (+3.4%), there has been a slight decline in 2024 (-0.6%). Gaps to both regional and national averages have widened in the past year, returning to similar levels seen in 2022. Comparing to pre-pandemic figures, performance is much lower, and gaps to comparators have widened substantially.

#### Key Points:

- Current KS2 performance at 54.4%
- Gap to national stands at 6.5%
- Gap to NW Region at 5.3%
- Recent decline following strong improvement from last year
- Gaps have widened this year



KS2 Individual Subjects - All Pupils	2019	2022	2023	2024	Change (2019-24)	Change (2023-24)
<b>Reading</b>	70.7%	71.4%	70.2%	69.7%	-1.0%	-0.5%
<b>Writing</b>	76.1%	60.5%	66.7%	65.7%	-10.4%	-1.0%
<b>Maths</b>	78.3%	67.4%	70.5%	70.0%	-8.3%	-0.5%
<b>Gap to National Reading</b>	-2.3%	-3.2%	-2.6%	-5.0%	-2.7%	-2.4%
<b>Gap to National Writing</b>	-2.9%	-8.9%	-4.8%	-6.4%	-3.5%	-1.6%
<b>Gap to National Maths</b>	-0.7%	-4.1%	-2.5%	-3.4%	-2.7%	-0.9%



While local performance is relative stable year on year, gaps to national have increased this year. Mathematics shows the strongest subject performance relative to National Averages with a 3.4% gap. Writing shows the largest gap to both National and Regional figures (6.4% to National) Reading performance sits between these with gaps of around 5%. Writing has also shown particularly significant decline since 2019, whereas Reading has been relatively unaffected.

## 4.2 Key Stage 2 SEN & EHCP

KS2 SEN Support & EHCP RWM	2019	2022	2023	2024	Change (2019-24)	Change (2023-24)
<b>Oldham SEN</b>	22.7%	14.4%	17.7%	15.2%	-7.5%	-2.5%
<b>Gap to NW Region</b>	+0.6	-2.8%	-2.0%	-6.2%	-7.8%	-4.2%
<b>Gap to National</b>	+1.7	-3.7%	-2.4%	-6.4%	-8.1%	-4.0%

Pre Covid, Oldham attainment was above regional and national figures, but there has been significant widening of the gap this year, and overall performance this year is substantially less than pre-pandemic.

Below, a similar picture is seen by subject as in the wider population, with declines in writing and maths performance since 2019 in particular. However, gaps to national are particularly significant in Reading.

<b>KS2 SEN &amp; EHCP</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Change (2019-24)</b>	<b>Change (2023-24)</b>
<b>Reading</b>						
<b>Oldham</b>	33.9%	35.7%	38.0%	33.5%	-0.4%	-4.5%
<b>Gap to NW Region</b>	-1.6%	-1.6%	-1.8%	-7.4%	-5.8%	-5.6%
<b>Gap to National</b>	-2.3%	-1.9%	-0.7%	-7.4%	-5.1%	-6.7%
<b>Writing</b>						
<b>Oldham</b>	32.3%	18.9%	24.6%	23.4%	-8.9%	-1.2%
<b>Gap to NW Region</b>	-0.4%	-5.7%	-3.2%	-6.3%	-5.9%	-3.1%
<b>Gap to National</b>	-1.6%	-7.1%	-4.3%	-7.0%	-5.4%	-2.7%
<b>Maths</b>						
<b>Oldham</b>	40.7%	30.3%	35.6%	33.2%	-7.5%	-2.4%
<b>Gap to NW Region</b>	0.6%	-3.2%	-0.7%	-4.9%	-5.5%	-4.2%
<b>Gap to National</b>	0.1%	-4.0%	-0.7%	-4.3%	-4.4%	-3.6%

### 4.3 Key Stage 2 Attainment of Disadvantaged Against Non-Disadvantaged

<b>KS2 Disadvantaged RWM</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Change (19-24)</b>	<b>Change (23-24)</b>
<b>Disadvantaged</b>	53.7%	39.8%	43.6%	44.1%	-9.6%	+0.5%
<b>Non-Disadvantaged</b>	71.3%	58.8%	62.7%	61.5%	-9.8%	-1.2%
<b>Oldham Gap</b>	-17.6%	-19.0%	-19.1%	-17.4%	-0.2%	+1.7%
<b>Gap to NW Region</b>	+2.7%	+4.5%	+4.0%	+4.5%	+1.8%	+0.5%
<b>Gap to National</b>	+2.4%	+3.9%	+3.2%	+4.5%	+2.1%	+1.3%

At KS2, the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils has narrowed to 17.4% in 2024. While disadvantaged pupils continue to show improvement (+0.5%), non-disadvantaged pupils have seen a decline (-1.2%). The gap since before the pandemic is unchanged, but gaps to NW and national have risen.

## 5 - Key Stage 4 Attainment

### 5.1 - Key Stage 4 Attainment Overall

Due to the impact of COVID-19, comparing year-on-year attainment data can be challenging, as some tests were cancelled, and students faced significant upheaval. Therefore, any changes in headline attainment statistics across these years are likely a result of variations in grading approaches and changes in the methodology used to calculate the measures, rather than reflecting actual shifts in standards. While direct comparisons of pupil performance over time may not be possible, the data can still highlight whether attainment gaps for pupils with specific characteristics have shifted between years.

Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 (All Pupils)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change (19-24)
<b>Oldham</b>	42.1%	44.8%	46.2%	44.6%	43.0%	42.4%	+0.3%
<b>Gap to NW Region</b>	-3.4%	-4.2%	-3.4%	-2.6%	-1.6%	-1.9%	+1.5%
<b>Gap to National</b>	-4.7%	-5.4%	-4.7%	-4.3%	-3.4%	-3.7%	+1.0%

Oldham's overall Attainment 8 score stands at 42.4%, higher than the pre-pandemic position, and with substantially narrowed gaps to NW and national averages.

KS4 Progress 8 (All Pupils)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Oldham</b>	-0.39	N/A	N/A	-0.19	-0.18	-0.20
<b>Gap to NW Region</b>	-0.21	N/A	N/A	-0.03	+0.02	-0.03
<b>Gap to National</b>	-0.36	N/A	N/A	-0.16	-0.15	-0.17

Progress 8 is a relative, in-year measure and cannot be compared directly year on year. For example, knowing a school had a Progress 8 score of -0.2 in 2023 and a score of -0.3 in 2024 tells you how the school did compared to the national average in those years but not whether their performance improved across years, so no comparison has been made. The data for 2020 and 2021 is not available due to the cancellation of Key Stage 2 tests (the baseline measure for P8) during the pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

KS4 English Mathematics 9-5	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change (19-24)
<b>Oldham</b>	35.3%	38.8%	42.9%	43.4%	38.2%	40.0%	+4.7%
<b>Gap to NW Region</b>	-5.8%	-8.6%	-6.7%	-3.4%	-3.5%	-2.5%	+3.3%
<b>Gap to National</b>	-8.1%	-11.1%	-9.0%	-6.6%	-7.3%	-6.2%	+1.9%

Comparing 2019 (pre-Covid) data to 2024 shows Oldham's combined English and Mathematics 9-5 has improved by 4.7%, rising from 35.3% to 40.0%, with again substantial narrowing of gaps to national.. There is also improvement since 2023.

Gap to NW Region narrowed from -5.8% to -2.5% and National reduced from -8.1% to -6.2% over the five years since 2019, and by 1.1% to National and 1% regional these last 12 months.

## 5.2 Key Stage 4 Disadvantaged pupils

Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 - Disadvantaged	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change (19-24)
<b>Oldham</b>	36.1%	35.8%	35.4%	34.8%	34.5%	34.2%	-1.9%
<b>Gap to NW Region</b>	+0.9%	+0.7%	+0.4%	+0.2%	+0.1%	+1.0%	+0.1%
<b>Gap to National</b>	-0.7%	-1.0%	-1.2%	-1.0%	-0.8%	-0.5%	+0.2%

Disadvantaged pupils in Oldham have seen significant falls from 2019, probably reflecting larger deprivation impacts of Covid. The gap to non-disadvantaged pupils has widened to 12.7%, and while the gap to the national disadvantaged average has narrowed, Oldham remains 0.5% below this benchmark.

Progress 8 Disadvantaged	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Oldham</b>	-0.60	N/A	N/A	-0.68	-0.66	-0.64
<b>Gap to NW Region</b>	+0.03	N/A	N/A	-0.02	+0.01	+0.07
<b>Gap to National</b>	-0.15	N/A	N/A	-0.12	-0.10	-0.07

Key Stage 4 English & Mathematics 9- 5 - Disadvantaged	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change (2019- 24)	Change (2023- 24)
<b>Oldham</b>	23.4%	23.6%	23.8%	24.0%	24.1%	24.3%	+0.9%	+0.2%
<b>Gap to NW Region</b>	+1.2%	+1.1%	+1.0%	+1.1%	+1.2%	+1.5%	+0.3%	+0.3%
<b>Gap to National</b>	-1.4%	-1.5%	-1.6%	-1.7%	-1.8%	-1.7%	-0.3%	+0.1%

Contrary to the attainment 8 position, disadvantaged pupils have improved on this measure since 2019. Performance continues to be better than regional norms, but gaps to national are perhaps on a slight rising trend.

### 5.3 Key Stage 4 SEN & EHCP pupils

Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 Scores - SEN & EHCP	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change (2019-24)	Change (2023-24)
<b>Oldham</b>	31.2%	31.5%	31.0%	30.8%	30.5%	30.1%	-1.1%	-0.4%
<b>Gap to NW Region</b>	-2.8%	-2.6%	-2.7%	-2.9%	-3.0%	-3.2%	-0.4%	-0.2%
<b>Gap to National</b>	-3.5%	-3.4%	-3.6%	-3.8%	-3.9%	-4.1%	-0.6%	-0.2%

Key Stage 4 Progress 8 SEN & EHCP	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Oldham</b>	-0.82	N/A	N/A	-0.85	-0.87	-0.89
<b>Gap to NW Region</b>	-0.12	N/A	N/A	-0.13	-0.14	-0.15
<b>Gap to National</b>	-0.19	N/A	N/A	-0.21	-0.22	-0.24

Key Stage 4 English & Mathematics 5+ - SEN & EHCP	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change (19-24)	Change (23-24)
<b>Oldham</b>	15.2%	15.4%	15.6%	15.8%	16.0%	16.2%	+1.0%	+0.2%
<b>Gap to NW Region</b>	-4.3%	-4.2%	-4.1%	-4.0%	-3.9%	-3.8%	+0.5%	+0.1%
<b>Gap to National</b>	-5.8%	-5.7%	-5.6%	-5.5%	-5.4%	-5.3%	+0.5%	+0.1%

The position here is very similar to that of disadvantaged pupils, perhaps reflecting again the disproportionate Covid impacts felt by SEND pupils. A worsening of Attainment 8 is coupled to improvement in grades 9-5 performance, with little change in progress measures.

## 5.4 Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 - Progress 8 by School

Establishment	2019 Att8 %	2019 Prog8	2024 Att8 %	2024 Prog8	Att8 +/- %	Progress8 +/-
Co-Op Academy Failsworth	40.4	-0.62	42.3	-0.30	+1.9	+0.32
New Bridge School *	0.8	-1.87	0.00	-1.66		
North Chadderton School	47.3	-0.22	44.2	-0.28	-3.1	-0.06
Oasis Academy Leesbrook **			42.0	0.15		
Oasis Academy Oldham	36.7	-0.71	38.6	-0.39	+1.9	+0.32
Royton And Crompton School	33.1	-1.18	37.2	-0.53	+4.1	+0.65
Saddleworth School	45.8	-0.54	49.3	-0.01	+3.5	+0.53
The Blessed John Henry Newman Catholic College	43.6	-0.22	46.2	-0.14	+2.6	+0.08
The Blue Coat CofE School	54	0.35	56.1	0.50	+2.1	+0.15
The Crompton House CofE Academy	48.6	-0.28	48.6	-0.02	0	+0.26
The Hathershaw College	43.9	-0.01	41.0	-0.23	-2.9	-0.22
The Hollinwood Academy *	11.2	-2.83	14.6	-1.50	+3.4	+1.33
The Oldham Academy North	42.1	0.15	46.7	0.37	+4.6	+0.22
The Radclyffe School	43.4	-0.31	44.2	-0.06	+0.8	+0.25
Waterhead Academy	38.2	-0.5	33.9	-0.72	-4.3	-0.22
*Special School						
** New school, no 2019 Data						

## 5.5 Key Stage 4 English & Maths Grade 9-5 by School

Establishment Name	2019 E&M 9-5	2024 E&M 9-5	2019- 24 +/- %
Local Authority - Oldham	35.3%	40.0%	4.7%
Co-Op Academy Failsworth	27.3%	33.8%	6.5%
New Bridge School *			
North Chadderton School	47.6%	44.1%	-3.5%
Oasis Academy Leesbrook **		37.9%	
Oasis Academy Oldham	24.9%	27.9%	3.0%
Royton And Crompton School	21.6%	24.9%	3.3%
Saddleworth School	44.9%	53.6%	8.7%
The Blessed John Henry Newman Catholic College	37.3%	44.4%	7.1%
The Blue Coat CofE School	62.5%	63.7%	1.2%
The Crompton House CofE Academy	44.9%	53.2%	8.3%
The Hathershaw College	34.6%	37.6%	3.0%
The Hollinwood Academy *	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
The Oldham Academy North	29.4%	47.8%	18.4%
The Radclyffe School	31.9%	43.3%	11.4%
Waterhead Academy	27.7%	22.6%	-5.1%
* Special School			
** New school, no 2019 Data			

### Data Information:

Data collated from [Nexus](#) – The National Consortium for Examination Results –December 2024

Data Description	Source	Data - Date
KS4	DfE (Provisional)	Dec-24
KS2	DfE Provisional (Revised)	Dec-24
KS1	Nexus	Nov-24
EYFS	Nexus	Nov-24
Phonics	Nexus	Nov-24

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY BOARD

## WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

Agenda item	Purpose	Portfolio lead & officer lead	Method of scrutiny	Additional information
<b>Tuesday 18th June 2024</b>				
Family Hubs Programme	To receive an annual update report on the Family Hubs Programme	Portfolio – Children and Young People. Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gerard Jones, Managing Director Children and Young People</li> <li>- Matt Bulmer, Director of Education, Skills and Early Years</li> </ul>	Report	
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024</b>				
Youth Justice Plan 2024/25	To scrutinise the Youth Justice Plan for 2024/25	Portfolio - Children and Young People.  Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Managing Director Children and Young People.</li> <li>- Paul Axon, Chief Executive Positive Steps.</li> <li>- Louise Paterson, Head of Youth Justice, Positive Steps</li> </ul>	Plan	
<b>Wednesday, 2nd October 2024</b>				

Additional School Places and Admissions	Annual update report	Portfolio – Education and Skills  Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Matt Bulmer, Director of Education, Skills and Early Years</li> <li>- Andy Collinge, Head of School Support Services</li> </ul>	Report	
Children’s Services - update on financial performance, Improvement Plan and Childrens Transformation and Sustainability Programme	To receive a periodic 6 month update report and to scrutinise the performance in respect of financial performance in Children’s Services and delivery of the Achieving Excellence Improvement Plan and Transformation and Sustainability programme.	Portfolio – Children and Young People.  Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Julie Daniels, Strategic Director of Children’s Services</li> <li>- Sheila Garara, Assistant Director, Children’s Services Integration</li> <li>- Andy Cooper, Senior Finance Manager</li> </ul>	Report	
Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	To receive an update report on participation and NEET rates and on activities looking to ensure appropriate opportunities for 16-18 year olds. Part of the Employment, Work and Training – ‘themed’/significant issue consideration.	Portfolio – Education and Skills.  Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Matt Bulmer, Director of Education, Skills and Early Years</li> </ul>	Report	

		- Amanda Youlden, Post-16 Lead.		
Children and Young People Corporate Performance Report	To receive and consider the quarter 1 performance report	<p>Portfolio – Children and Young People and Education and Skills</p> <p>Attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Julie Daniels, Strategic Director of Children's Services</li> <li>- Matt Bulmer Director of Education and Skills</li> <li>- Sheila Garara, Assistant Director, Children's Services Integration</li> </ul>	Report	
<b>Wednesday 20th November 2024</b>				
LADO annual report	To receive and consider the annual report	<p>Portfolio – Children and Young People.</p> <p>Attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Julie Daniels, Strategic Director of Children's Services</li> <li>- Colette Morris, LADO</li> </ul>	Report	
CSE steering group annual report	To receive and consider the annual report	<p>Portfolio – Children and Young People.</p> <p>Attendees:</p>	Report	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Julie Daniels, Strategic Director of Children's Services</li> <li>- Leanne Cooper Assistant Director Social Work Services</li> </ul>		
Children and Young People Corporate Performance Report	To receive and consider the quarter 2 performance report	<p>Portfolio – Children and Young People and Education and Skills</p> <p>Attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Julie Daniels, Strategic Director of Children's Services</li> <li>- Matt Bulmer Director of Education and Skills</li> <li>- Sheila Garara, Assistant Director, Children's Services Integration</li> </ul>	Report	
<b>Thursday 23rd January 2025</b>				
Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report	To receive and consider the Board's Annual Report	<p>Portfolio – Children and Young People.</p> <p>Attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Julie Daniels, Strategic Director of Children's Services</li> </ul>	Report	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr Henri Giller, Chair of the Board.</li> <li>- Jayne Haigh, OSCP Business Manager</li> </ul>		
SEND update	To receive and consider the SEND priority action plan and improvement programme update report	<p>Portfolio – Education and Skills.</p> <p>Attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Matt Bulmer, Director of Education, Skills and Early Years</li> <li>- Amber Burton, Assistant Director SEND and Inclusion</li> </ul>		
Primary and Secondary School Outcomes	To receive and consider the annual update report	<p>Portfolio – Education and Skills</p> <p>Attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Matt Bulmer, Director of Education, Skills and Early Years</li> <li>- Tony Shepherd, Assistant Director Education and Early Years</li> </ul>	Report	
Operation Sherwood	Update report on behalf of the Mayor of Greater Manchester.	<p>Portfolio – Children and Young People.</p> <p>Attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GMP/GMCA representatives</li> </ul>	Report	Deferred to March
<b>Thursday, 20th March 2025</b>				

Children's Services - update on financial performance and Improvement Plan, Childrens Transformation and Sustainability Programme	To receive a periodic 6 month update report and to scrutinise the performance in respect of financial performance in Children's Services and delivery of the Achieving Excellence Improvement Plan and Transformation and Sustainability programme.	Portfolio – Children and Young People. Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Julie Daniels, Strategic Director of Children's Services</li> <li>- Sheila Garara, Assistant Director, Children's Services Integration</li> <li>- Andy Cooper, Senior Finance Manager</li> </ul>	Report	
Repeat Referrals in Children's Social Care	Periodic annual performance update report to ensure close management of this key performance indicator.	Portfolio – Children and Young People. Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Julie Daniels, Strategic Director of Children's Services</li> <li>- Leanne Cooper, Assistant Director Social Work Services.</li> </ul>	Report	
Youth Council annual report	Annual Report on events and activities commissioned by the Youth Council	Portfolio – Children and Young People. Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Neil Consterdine, Assistant Director Youth, Leisure and Communities</li> </ul>	Report	

		<div>- Jodie Barber Head of Youth Service</div>		
Children and Young People Corporate Performance Report	To receive and consider the quarter 3 performance report	<div>Portfolio – Children and Young People and Education and Skills</div> <div>Attendees:</div> <div><div>- Julie Daniels, Strategic Director of Children’s Services</div><div>- Matt Bulmer Director of Education and Skills</div><div>- Sheila Garara, Assistant Director, Children’s Services Integration</div></div>	Report	

Task and finish group deep dives:

Deep dive area:	Expanded proposal:
Issues impacting children and young people	
Corporate parenting responsibilities	

**BUSINESS TO BE PROGRAMMED**

1. Update on Operation Sherwood (is this an annual submission?)
2. Oral health services for children
3. Report from the Children in Care Council – presented at corporate parenting panel, may schedule an informal session
4. Strategic Framework for Oldham’s Children and Young People (potential study group topic)

Items that are scrutinised at corporate parenting panel are not required to come to Children and Young People Scrutiny Board

## KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 JANUARY 2025

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
ESR-29-24 <b>New!</b>	Northern Roots - Contract award and next steps for phased delivery	Director of Economy	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: To consider a contract award and associated next steps for a phased project delivery at Northern Roots, Oldham.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Private.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Northern Roots - Contract award and next steps for phased delivery</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and it is not in the public interest to disclose the information because it relates to the financial or business affairs of the Council and a third party.</p>				
ESR-19-24 <b>New!</b>	Oldham's Monitoring Report 2023-24	Director of Economy	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Cabinet

## KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 JANUARY 2025

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
<p>Description: The Monitoring Report provides details on whether the council is meeting the milestones set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) for preparing the various Local Plan documents. The report also monitors a range of planning indicators, such as housing, employment and biodiversity, which seek to assess the effectiveness of the council's land-use planning policies, and whether they are achieving their objectives and delivering sustainable development. It covers the previous financial year that is 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. In terms of housing land supply, the Monitoring Report presents the position as at 1 April 2024.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: public.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Oldham's Monitoring Report 2023-24</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				
EE-05-24 <b>New!</b>	Voluntary, Community, Faith & Social Enterprise Infrastructure Grant	Director of Public Health	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: To consider the allocation of the Voluntary, Community, Faith &amp; Social Enterprise Infrastructure Grant.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: public.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Voluntary, Community, Faith &amp; Social Enterprise Infrastructure Grant</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				

## KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 JANUARY 2025

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
EDS-08-24 <b>New!</b>	Acceptance of Funding Allocations 2024-2025 for Oldham Lifelong Learning Service	Director of Neighbourhoods	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: To consider the acceptance of Funding Allocations 2024/2025 for the Oldham Lifelong Learning Service</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Private.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Acceptance of Funding Allocations 2024-2025 for Oldham Lifelong Learning Service</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and it is not in the public interest to disclose the information because it relates to the financial or business affairs of the Council and a third party</p>				
ESR-26-24	Selection of Preferred Developer	Director of Economy	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: Selection of preferred developer for former South Chadderton School Site.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered by the Cabinet from the Deputy Chief Executive in public and private. (NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and it is not in the public interest to disclose the information because it relates to the financial or business affairs of the Council and a third party)</p> <p>Report title: Selection of Preferred Developer</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p>				
ESR-25-24	Demolition of Office Block 1, Southlink	Director of Economy	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Cabinet

## KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 JANUARY 2025

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
<p>Description: Approval of funds to demolish vacant office block at Southlink.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered by the Cabinet from the Deputy Chief Executive in public and private. (NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and it is not in the public interest to disclose the information because it relates to the financial or business affairs of the Council and a third party)</p> <p>Report title: Demolition of Office Block 1, Southlink, Oldham</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p>				
NEI-11-24	Parking Service Review and Contract	Director of Environment	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: To ask Cabinet to consider the implementation of a Parking Service Review and Contract.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered by the Cabinet from the Deputy Chief Executive in public and private. (NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and it is not in the public interest to disclose the information because it relates to the financial or business affairs of the Council and a third party)</p> <p>Report title: Parking Service Review and Contract</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p>				
EE-04-24	Oldham Community Leisure (OCL) Future Model	Director of Neighbourhoods	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Cabinet

## KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 JANUARY 2025

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
<p>Description: To ask Cabinet to consider the implementation of Oldham Community Leisure (OCL) Future Model</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered by the Cabinet from the Deputy Chief Executive in public and private. (NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and it is not in the public interest to disclose the information because it relates to the financial or business affairs of the Council and a third party)</p> <p>Report title: Oldham Community Leisure (OCL) Future Model</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p>				
FCR-26-24	Housing Revenue Account Estimates for 2025/26 to 2029/30 and Projected Outturn for 2024/25.	Director of Finance, Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn Estimates for 2024/25, the detailed budget for 2025/26 and the Strategic HRA Estimates for the four years 2026/27 to 2029/30.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: public.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Housing Revenue Account Estimates for 2025/26 to 2029/30 and Projected Outturn for 2024/25.</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				

## KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 JANUARY 2025

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
FCR-23-24	Revenue Budget 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2029/30	Director of Finance	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: To consider the Administration's detailed revenue budget for 2025/26 and budget reduction proposals, together with the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2025/26 to 2029/30, incorporating the current policy landscape and Local Government Finance Settlement. Document(s) to be considered in public or private:</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Revenue Budget 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2029/30</p> <p>Background Documents: appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				
HSC-05-24	Financial Update and working capital requirements for 2024/25 – Oldham Total Care	Director of Adult Care (DASS)	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Cabinet

## KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 JANUARY 2025

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
<p>Description: To consider a financial Update and working capital requirements for 2024/25, in respect of Oldham Total Care</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: public.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Financial Update and working capital requirements for 2024/25 – Oldham Total Care</p> <p>Background Documents: Various appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				
FCR-21-24	Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 Quarter 3	Director of Finance	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: The report provides an update on the Council's 2024/25 forecast revenue budget position and the financial position of the capital programme as at the period ending 31 December 2024 (Quarter 3)</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title:</p> <p>Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 Quarter 3</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				
FCR-20-24	Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2025/26	Director of Finance	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Cabinet

## KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 JANUARY 2025

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
<p>Description: To consider the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26 - including Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy and Prudential Indicators.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2025/26</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				
FCR-19-24	Capital Programme & Capital Strategy for 2025/26 to 2029/30	Director of Finance	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: To consider the Council's Capital programme and capital strategy.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: public.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Capital Programme &amp; Capital Strategy for 2025/26 to 2029/30</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				
FCR-22-24	Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 Month 10	Director of Finance	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2025	Cabinet

## KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 JANUARY 2025

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
<p>Description: The report provides an update on the Council's 2024/25 forecast revenue budget position and the financial position of the capital programme as at the period ending 31 January 2025 (Month 10)</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: public.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 Month 10</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				
FCR-27-24 <b>New!</b>	Armed Forces Covenant	Chief Executive	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: Seeking authority to creating an Armed Forces Covenant for service men and women and for veterans.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: public.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Armed Forces Covenant</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public.</p>				

## KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 JANUARY 2025

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
ESR-30-24 <b>New!</b>	Planned and Preventative Maintenance Contracts – Direct Award for Interim Solutions and Planned Procurement of Long-Term Solutions	Director of Economy	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: Seeking authority for the delivery of planned and Preventative Maintenance Contracts (Direct Award for Interim Solutions and Planned Procurement of Long-Term Solutions)</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: public.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Planned and Preventative Maintenance Contracts</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public.</p>				

### Key:

**New!** - indicates an item that has been added this month

### Notes:

1. The procedure for requesting details of documents listed to be submitted to decision takers for consideration is to contact the Contact Officer contained within the Key Decision Sheet for that item. The contact address for documents is Oldham Council, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UH. Other documents relevant to those matters may be submitted to the decision maker.
2. Where on a Key Decision Sheet the Decision Taker is Cabinet, the list of its members are detailed on the Council's website

## KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 JANUARY 2025

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
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3. Full Key Decision details (including documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration, specific contact officer details and notification on if a report is likely to be considered in private) can be found via the online published plan at:

<http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=144&RD=0>

### Notice of Private Reports

(In accordance with Part 2 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012)

Oldham Borough Council intends to hold a private meeting (or part thereof) of the Cabinet on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### Decision to be taken (Agenda Item) Decisions proposed to be taken in private at Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025:

#### a. Northern Roots - Contract award and next steps for phased delivery

##### Reason:

The meeting (or part thereof) will be held in exempt session on the grounds that the reports and background papers will contain the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) – information relating to the financial or business affairs of the Council and a third party.

#### b. Acceptance of Funding Allocations 2024-2025 for Oldham Lifelong Learning Service

##### Reason:

The meeting (or part thereof) will be held in exempt session on the grounds that the reports and background papers will contain the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) – information relating to the financial or business affairs of the Council and a third party.

## KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 JANUARY 2025

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
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### c. Parking Service Review and Contract

#### Reason:

The meeting (or part thereof) will be held in exempt session on the grounds that the reports and background papers will contain the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) – information relating to the financial or business affairs of the Council and a third party.

### d. Oldham Community Leisure (OCL) Future Model

#### Reason:

The meeting (or part thereof) will be held in exempt session on the grounds that the reports and background papers will contain the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) – information relating to the financial or business affairs of the Council and a third party.

### e. Selection of Preferred Developer

#### Reason:

The meeting (or part thereof) will be held in exempt session on the grounds that the reports and background papers will contain the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) – information relating to the financial or business affairs of the Council and a third party.

### f. Demolition of Office Block 1, Southlink

#### Reason:

The meeting (or part thereof) will be held in exempt session on the grounds that the reports and background papers will contain the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) – information relating to the financial or business affairs of the Council and a third party.

### Representations:

## KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 JANUARY 2025

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
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If you wish to make representations against the intention to hold a private meeting, please send these to Constitutional Services, Level 3, Civic Centre, Oldham, OL1 1UL or email: [constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk)

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