

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

Date Tuesday 30 September 2025

Time 6.00 pm

Venue JR Clynes building Second Floor Room 1

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

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

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - Any Member of the public wishing to ask a question at the above meeting can do so only if a written copy of the question is submitted to the contact officer by 12 noon on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY BOARD

Councillors Z Ali, Ball, Bishop, Byrne, Hobin (Chair), Hughes, Iqbal, Malik, McLaren (Vice-Chair), Rustidge 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 Minutes of Previous Children and Young People Scrutiny Board Meeting (Pages 3 - 6)  
The Minutes of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 are attached for approval.
- 6 SEND update (Pages 7 - 16)  
To consider and comment on the report.
- 7 Oldham Children and Young People Plan 2025-26 (Pages 17 - 28)  
To note the plan and make recommendations to full council.
- 8 Work Programme (Pages 29 - 34)  
To note and approve the 2025/26 Scrutiny board draft work programme.
- 9 Key Decision Document (Pages 35 - 44)
- 10 Rule 13 and 14  
To consider any rule 13 or 14 decisions taken since the previous meeting.

**Present:** Councillor Hobin (Chair)  
Councillors Bishop, Byrne, Hughes, Iqbal, McLaren (Vice-Chair)  
and Shuttleworth

Also in Attendance:

Paul Axon	Positive Steps
Matthew Bulmer	Director Education Early Years and Skills
Jack Grennan	Constitutional Services
Clare Griffiths	Positive Steps
Chris Lewis	Youth Council
Shaid Mushtaq	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Umar Nasheen	Deputy Cabinet Member for Skills
Leah	Chair of the Youth Council

1        **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Z. Ali, Councillor Ball, Councillor Malik (Councillor Cosgrove substituting) and Councillor Rustidge.

2        **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3        **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4        **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5        **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY BOARD MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025 be approved as a correct record.

6        **YOUTH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT**

Leah, the Chair of the Youth Council, presented the item. The Council was thanked for its support for the Youth Council and for making the work possible through funding.

It was noted that there had been 40 new Youth Councillors in the last 12 months. The work of the Youth Council was highlighted, particularly campaigns regarding vapes and the 'Credible Witness' campaign, motions brought to Oldham Council meetings and the Make Your Mark consultation. It was also noted that representatives from the Youth Council attend meetings of other organisations, such as the Oldham Town Centre Board, the GMP Youth Scrutiny panel and the GMP Independent Advisory Group.

The work of the Youth Council regionally, nationally and internationally was highlighted, including work with the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority and the Youth

Parliament, as well as international trips to Poland as part of the Listen to the Earth Program. The findings of the Youth Council's Annual Review were shared with the Board, including positive feedback from members of the Youth Council.

The plans for the Youth Council's work for the rest of 2025 were highlighted including the 'Votes at 16' campaign, Mental Health and the 2025 Make Your Mark campaign. It was noted that the Government had recently announced a change in legislation regarding Votes at 16, and it was highlighted that Oldham Youth Council had been calling for this since 2012.

Members noted the success of the HAF activity and the Youth Council motion to Full Council but highlighted that there is some stigma and barriers around accessing this, particularly in regard to universal access and the number of places. It was noted that the original Youth Council motion did call for this. Members also questioned why some schools didn't take part in the Youth Council, and it was noted that some schools have low numbers of pupils and that there were difficulties encouraging young people to take part in some schools.

Members asked for an update on the Vapes campaign, particularly around why the posters had proven to be an issue, and it was noted that the posters covering physical and mental health had gone against NHS advice by highlighting the risks of vaping, and that the posters were being relooked at to contain the tagline 'Healthier doesn't mean healthy'. It was also raised as to whether there is feedback as to why Youth Councillors may be answering no to questions in the annual report, particularly around clear accountability and relationships with senior decision makers. Members were informed that feedback is taken in those cases and that in some cases this was due to things being asked for that were out of the remit of the Youth Council, i.e. NHS questionnaires being set at a national level. It was also noted that, in regard to clear accountability, that young people were, in some cases, going to the wrong places for help or lacked awareness of what the Youth Council actually did. The Youth Council are working on a campaign for suggestion boxes so that young people can offer suggestions and feedback to the Youth Council.

Members queried what had been done regarding the Youth Council motion that should have been brought to the December 2024 meeting of the Full Council, and it was noted that the motion was brought to the March 2025 meeting instead. It was also noted that the Youth Council's stationary campaign had now ended with the stationary having been distributed.

The Youth Council were encouraged by members to liaise with the Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board to suggest items for the Board to consider.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

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## **YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2025/26**

Clare Griffiths presented the report. It was noted that the Oldham Youth Justice Service Strategy Plan had already been signed off and submitted to the national Youth Justice Board. It was highlighted that Oldham is one of the only areas in England and Wales where the Youth Justice Service is commissioned by the local authority and delivered by a charitable trust, Positive



Steps. It was noted that this allows the service to provide a holistic and non-stigmatising approach to Youth Justice, as well as enabling access to funding streams that the local authority would not be able to access.

Updates from the previous year were noted, including progress on actions agreed in the 2024-25 Youth Justice Plan. This included another 12 months of funding from the Community Safety Partnership to continue the TOG Mind Partnership, and Serious Youth Violence now being a priority for the Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

It was highlighted that the data was more positive for Oldham than for other measured areas, with figures such as 'First Time Entrants into the criminal justice system' and 're-offending by children subject to statutory Court Orders or Out of Disposals' having fallen. It was noted that there are still risks and issues, particularly around disproportionality and placement sufficiency issues.

Members queried referrals of young people to the Youth Justice Service and whether this is done pre-emptively to ensure early help. It was noted that early help is voluntary for Young People and consent based. It was also noted that early help was part of Operation Vulcan and that contact cards would be rolled out across the entirety of the borough.

Members also noted the thematic review and questioned what insights and takeaways had been gained from it. Members were advised that the main themes to have come from the review were around exclusions from schools, of which there had been a significant reduction, and effective multiagency working.

Members highlighted the start of the summer holidays and questioned whether work continued. It was noted that work continues over school holidays and plans are in place to provide a range of commissioned services to Young People. Members also highlighted the need to minimise disruption to education and it was noted that education is part of the Youth Justice plans and is measured as one of the KPIs.

Members highlighted the impact that parents can have, and it was explained that although the service doesn't assess the parents, they do form part of the review in relation to the needs of the parent, and this includes working with the parents.

Members asked about whether plans to appoint a nurse in Youth Justice were still happening and it was noted that the funding was now available and going through the process, but recruitment had not yet started.

Members queried whether there had been an increase in particular crimes, and it was noted that cohorts were getting younger and that the service was seeing a higher rate of violent crime among young people, hence making that one of the Service priorities.

Members asked what percentage of those accessing the service had EHCPs. It was noted that this information would be provided to members, and that there was a general trend of late diagnoses in the Justice system.

Members also noted the difficulties regarding provision in Saddleworth.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

8                   **WORK PROGRAMME**

It was noted that there would be a review of work programmes taking place across all overview and scrutiny boards over the recess period.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted by the Board.

9                   **KEY DECISION DOCUMENT**

The Scrutiny Board considered the Key Decision Document which records key decisions that the authority is due to take.

RESOLVED: That the Key Decision Document be noted.

10                  **RULE 13 AND 14**

There were no Rule 13 and 14 decisions to be considered.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.20 pm

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## 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:** Councillor Shaid Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Mohon Ali, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

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

**Report Author:** Katie Charlton, Assistant Director SEND and Inclusion

**September 2025**

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#### Purpose of the report

This report provides an update to the previous submission to the board in January 2025.

It outlines the progress and impact of actions taken since January 2025 in response to the Ofsted/CQC area SEND inspection, June 2023. The report consolidates and reflects the delivery of the local area partnership's Priority Action and Improvement Plan to date and the progress and impact that this work is making to children, young people, and their families in Oldham.

#### Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the information in this report and the accompanying appendix.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Board

9th September 25

#### 1 Background

- 1.1 This report to the board considers the progress made since January 2025.
- 1.2 A joint Ofsted/CQC area SEND inspection of the Oldham partnership took place between Monday 26 June 2023 to Friday 30 June 2023. The inspection report, determined.  
***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.***
- 1.3 Post inspection in June 2023, Ofsted required the local area partnership to prepare and submit a Priority Action Plan (PAP) to address the two identified areas for priority action.

- 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.
- 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.

1.4 In addition to the priority areas of action, the report stated three areas for improvement:

- Leaders across the partnership should improve transitions between children's and adult services in health, education, and social care, and improve them. strategy in relation to preparing children and young people with SEND for adulthood from the earliest years.
- 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.
- Leaders across the partnership should improve annual review processes so that the finalised review documentation is completed and returned in a timely manner.

## 2 Current position in Oldham

2.1 The local authority reports annually on how we are implementing the special educational needs and/or disability (SEND) system in Oldham and how we are working with families and partner agencies to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

2.2 We are awaiting the publication of the national SEND White Paper which is expected to set out a refreshed vision for SEND. A monitoring visit is anticipated this autumn, following the June 2023 Area SEND inspection. In preparation, we have reviewed the updated Ofsted and CQC Area SEND framework. From November 2025, the new Education Inspection Framework will introduce report cards in place of single-word judgements, offering a clearer picture of school performance, particularly for vulnerable learners.

## 2.3 Children and Young people in Oldham with SEND

### SEND Overview in Oldham (2025)

Category	Details
Total SEND Population	8,916 children and young people
% of School-Age Population	19% of 46,177 pupils
EHCP Growth (2019–2024)	87% increase
EHCP Regional Comparison	Northwest: 73% increase England: 63% increase
Current EHCPs Oldham (July 2025)	3,871 children and young people
Change Since Jan 2025	+179 EHCPs
EHCP Primary Need	The most common type of need for children and young people with an

	EHCP is autism, although SLCN remains a significant area of need.
SEN Support in Oldham Schools	12.4% of pupils
EHCPs in Oldham Schools	6.7% of pupils National comparison: SEN Support: 13.9%, EHCPs: 4.7%

### 3. Key aspects of progress related to the Priority Actions

#### 3.1 Governance and accountability

- 3.2 Oldham's local area partnership (PAP) was approved by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in October 2023 and has been in place for nearly 2 years.
- 3.3 Governance in Oldham continues to strengthen through the Local Inclusion Partnership and the Executive Board (LIPEB), which provides clear accountability, strategic oversight, and coordination of the Priority Action Plan and SEND Improvement Plan. Over the past six months, governance has matured with clearer roles, stronger cross-sector collaboration, and a shared commitment to sustained impact. Risk is regularly and systematically discussed at all levels.
- 3.4 Chair of the LIPEB since January 2025 is Dame Christine Lenehan, previously Director of the Council for Disabled Children and now the government advisor for SEND and inclusion. Dame Christine has provided external support and challenge to the partnership.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 There is a risk register which is actively managed and maintained. Emerging risks are identified at SEND & Inclusion Programme Board, which are then escalated to LIP Executive Board, in alignment with the current governance structure. Where necessary, risks are escalated independently to the SEND Escalation Meeting for timely resolution.
- 3.7 The governance role of the Oldham Integrated Care Partnership Committee has been strengthened, with clarified arrangements between local and Greater Manchester levels. Greater Manchester provides system-wide oversight and enables collaboration and quality assurance, while full accountability and decision-making responsibility rest with local areas. A Greater Manchester SEND Quality Assurance Framework supports this approach.
- 3.8 Since January 2025, the embedded partnership governance arrangements and programme structure continues to provide a strong foundation for effective joint working.
- 3.9 Of a total of 40 PAP actions: 37 actions (92.5%) have been marked as complete. within timescale, with intended outcomes and impact evident. 3 remain on track for completion:
  - **2.17** Develop proposal for sleep pathway.
  - **2.25** Review transition between children's and adults' neurodevelopmental services and, where gaps are identified report to LIP Executive Board

- **2.4:** Evaluate effectiveness of the DBV programme and report recommendations for future sustainability to the LIP Executive
- 3.10 The SEND data dashboard has evolved significantly, becoming a central tool for strategic oversight and performance monitoring. As of May 2025, it now includes a broader range of indicators such as EHCPs and performance commentary, annual reviews and amendments, EHCP completion statistics, tribunal volumes and outcomes, and data on attendance, suspensions, exclusions, and SEND-specific participation. Additional components include a CAMHS comparator grid, S&LT trajectory, and insights from POINT mediations and SENDIASS. The dashboard is a standing agenda item at the Local Inclusion Partnership Executive Board (LIPEB), supporting informed decision-making and continuous improvement across the system.
- 3.11 The development of Oldham's SEND dashboard has had a significant impact across the system. It enables earlier identification of issues, supports proactive responses, and improves the timeliness of advice and decision-making. The integration of trajectory modelling and improved data presentation has enhanced data quality and provided deeper strategic insight into local management information systems and core SEND challenges. Additionally, the dashboard has fostered a whole-system approach to improvement, increasing Oldham's influence and visibility at regional and national levels through representation on key working groups.
- 3.12 The Local Inclusion Partnership Executive Board (LIPEB) has played a key role in driving accountability, enabling challenge, and coordinating delivery across the partnership, with colleagues and representatives working collaboratively to progress actions at pace.

At the core of the structure are two key boards:

- **Local Inclusion Partnership Executive Board (LIPEB)**  
Provides strategic leadership, oversight, and challenge across the SEND system. It ensures alignment with national reforms and holds partners accountable for progress against the Priority Action Plan and SEND Improvement Plan.
  - **SEND & Inclusion Programme Board**  
Oversees the operational delivery of SEND improvement programmes, ensuring that workstreams are progressing effectively and that resources are aligned to priorities. From September 2025, Matt Bulmer will begin shadowing the chair to support continuity and leadership development.
- 3.13. Beneath the SEND & Inclusion Programme Board are key workstream focus groups, each driving specific areas of the SEND improvement:

<b>Early Identification &amp; Intervention</b> Strengthens early help pathways and ensures timely identification and support for children and young people with emerging needs.	<b>Communication &amp; Interaction</b> Leads improvements in provision and outcomes for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs, and autism.	<b>Children &amp; Young People's Engagement</b> Ensures that the voices of children and young people inform service design, delivery, and evaluation.
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<b>Preparation for Adulthood</b> Improves transition planning and outcomes for young people moving into adulthood, including education, employment, and independent living.	<b>Quality Assurance &amp; Performance</b> Oversees monitoring of impact, performance metrics, and continuous improvement across the SEND system.	<b>Data Maturity</b> Drives improvements in data quality, integration, and intelligence to support strategic decision-making and service planning.
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#### 4 CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)

- 4.1 In Oldham, our treatment timeliness is 62.7% of children and young people in Oldham receiving treatment within 18 weeks of referral, ranking **2nd** across Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust (PCFT).
- 4.2 We have reduced waiting times. The average wait time in Oldham is **12.2 weeks**, ranking **2nd** overall for this metric.
- 4.3 Oldham's commitment to improving mental health support for children and young people is reflected in the development of services like *Take 5*, a Mental Health & Wellbeing Hub delivered by TGC Mind through the Youth in Mind programme. Aimed at 11–18-year-olds and their families, *Take 5* offers accessible support through drop-in sessions, counselling, peer support groups, and workshops.
- 4.4 The CAMHS Autism Acceptance Group promotes neurodiversity and provides a safe space for autistic young people to share experiences and navigate social challenges. These initiatives demonstrate a strong focus on early intervention, inclusion, and lived experience in shaping support services.
- 4.5 There is now a more appropriate and streamlined referral pathway for neurodevelopmental assessments for children under the age of 8. This has been achieved through improved coordination between CAMHS and Community Paediatrics, reducing duplication and service hand-offs. As a result, families experience a more coherent and timely journey through the assessment process, with fewer delays and a clearer understanding of next steps.
- 4.6 More people are now aware of emotional wellbeing and mental health services in Oldham, thanks to the co-production and sharing of the iTHRIVE directory. This is expected to lead to better referrals and quicker access to support, helping services work more efficiently and reach the right children and families sooner.
- 4.7 Fewer complex care packages have been funded by the Integrated Care Partnership. This is because more children are now being supported through existing mainstream services, which are better understood and more effectively used.
- 4.8 The Oldham Local Inclusion Partnership Executive Board has sought clarification regarding potential changes to the CAMHS service pathway for children with neurodevelopmental needs. The Board has asked for further information on whether such changes are being considered, what oversight has informed them, and what alternative support might be available. While recognising the pressures on mental health services, the Board emphasises the importance of inclusive access and ensuring that any service developments are clearly communicated and aligned with local and regional improvement priorities.

#### 5 Speech, Language and Communication

- 5.1 Despite significant progress in reducing the Speech and Language Therapy waiting list in Oldham, wait times remain too long for many children and families. The total number



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of children on the waiting list has decreased from **1,766 in July 2023** to **547 by July 2025**, with a projected reduction to around **300 by January 2026**. This 68% reduction downward trend reflects the impact of revised referral pathways, updated training, and place-based delivery models. However, the current volume still represents a substantial number of children waiting for support, highlighting the need for continued investment and system-wide focus on reducing delays and improving access

- 5.2 The number of children waiting for over 18 weeks is now 362 children. The service continues to prioritise the longest waits while managing the increasing complexity of cases, many of which require multiple assessment appointments. Organisational policies are in place to support workforce resilience and maintain service delivery.
- 5.3 Since January 2025, Oldham has continued to deliver the Early Language Support for Every Child (ELSEC) programme, a nationally funded initiative aimed at improving speech, language, and communication outcomes for children in early years and primary education. The programme is designed to strengthen universal and targeted provision by embedding specialist support within local services.
- 5.4 As part of the Greater Manchester Balanced System work, Oldham has identified gaps in universal and targeted Speech and Language Therapy (S&LT) provision. To address this, an Invest to Save model has been proposed, centred on the creation of a new school-facing Speech and Language team. This team will sit alongside SEND and Inclusion services and work in close collaboration with the core SALT team. Its purpose is to deliver a graduated response to need, providing timely universal and targeted support within schools, so that children and young people receive the right help, in the right place, at the right time.
- 5.5 The new model builds on what is already working well in Oldham, including the Better Communication Team and the Early Language for Every Child (ELSEC) pilot, funded by the DFE and NHS England. By embedding support within education settings and reducing reliance on specialist referrals, this approach aims to improve outcomes, build workforce confidence, and create a more sustainable system of support for speech, language and communication needs.

## **6 Community Paediatrics**

- 6.1 Referral data from Community Paediatrics shows increasing engagement across services, with a rise in referrals reflecting growing awareness of neurodevelopmental needs. While not all referrals meet criteria, strengthened partnership working, particularly with Health Visitors, SENCOs, and GPs, is already improving referral quality. Ongoing collaboration with ICB colleagues and targeted support for referrers are helping to embed shared understanding of service pathways, demonstrating Oldham's commitment to a more joined-up and responsive system for children and families.
- 6.2 Community Paediatrics in Oldham has made significant progress in reducing wait times for new referrals, with the longest waits decreasing from 26 weeks in May 2024 to 14 weeks by November 2024. This improvement reflects enhanced coordination and system responsiveness. The service continues to prioritise EHC medicals for children on the CPS wait list, streamlining processes and avoiding duplication.
- 6.3 Community Paediatric advice is consistently returned to the Local Authority within six weeks of EHCP requests, with compliance rates exceeding 95%, demonstrating strong partnership working and a shared commitment to timely, high-quality support for children and families.

## **7 Strategic Investment in Local SEND and Inclusion Improvement**

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- 7.1 Since the last report in January 2025, Oldham has continued to benefit from a number of targeted grant-funded programmes designed to accelerate local improvement across SEND and alternative provision. These include Delivering Better Value (DBV), Change Partnership Programme (CPP), Early Language Support for Every Child (ELSEC), the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA), and their core purpose is to strengthen local systems and drive sustainable change.
- 7.2 Each programme is underpinned by principles of joint commissioning and collaborative working, enabling Oldham to enhance frontline delivery, test statutory reforms, and improve outcomes for children and young people. These grants represent strategic investment in the borough's capacity to deliver inclusive services that reflect both national priorities and local needs.
- 7.3 **Delivering Better Value (DBV):** Since January 2025, Oldham has continued to use the DBV grant to strengthen multi-agency working and improve targeted support for children with SEND. Funding has supported successful models like the Pupil Intervention Project and enhanced capacity within specialist services, contributing to more consistent, needs-led provision across education, health, and care.
- 7.4 **Change Partnership Programme (CPP)** The CPP funding has supported the creation of several fixed-term posts, fully integrated into existing services, with a focus on improving processes around early identification, statutory assessments, annual reviews, and transition planning. These roles will be instrumental in embedding consistent practice across the local SEND system and ensuring that professionals are equipped to co-produce meaningful plans with children, young people, and their families. Following confirmation of an extension to the CPP grant beyond March 2025, Oldham has been able to sustain and expand this work. The extended funding has allowed for continued investment in frontline delivery, further development of Local Area Inclusion Plans, and deeper engagement with families and professionals to shape reforms that are both sustainable and responsive to local needs. Impact measures are being developed to evaluate the effectiveness of these roles and the wider system changes over the fixed-term period. This will ensure that learning from Oldham contributes to national policy development while delivering tangible improvements for children and young people with SEND.
- 7.5 **Early Language Support for Every Child (ELSEC)** Since January 2025, Oldham has continued to deliver the Early Language Support for Every Child (ELSEC) programme, a nationally funded initiative aimed at improving speech, language, and communication outcomes for children in early years and primary education. The programme is designed to strengthen universal and targeted provision by embedding specialist support within local services.
- 7.6 **High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA)** Since January 2025, Oldham has made substantial progress in delivering the strategic priorities set out under the High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA). Building on the initial investment of over £6 million, the local area has successfully developed additional specialist capacity within mainstream schools and settings, resulting in the creation of more than 100 new places for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This expansion has already begun to positively impact inclusion, reducing the need for out-of-borough placements and enabling more children to access high-quality support closer to home. The capital investment has supported the development of bespoke learning environments, enhanced accessibility, and improved facilities tailored to the needs of pupils with complex SEND. In response to ongoing demand and strategic priorities, a further £5 million has been allocated for the next phase of projects. Earlier this summer, Oldham invited schools, academies, and trusts to submit bids to develop new resource provision or enhance existing spaces. Priority areas include Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN), Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH),

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and Hearing Impairment (HI). Emphasis has been placed on increasing secondary provision and addressing the current gap in local HI support, which has historically led to out-of-borough placements.

This next phase of investment will continue to focus on increasing the number of places available, while also improving the quality of learning environments for existing pupils. All proposals are being assessed in line with strategic priorities and the potential to deliver sustainable, inclusive education across the borough.

## **8. EHCP Annual Reviews, transitions, and timelines**

- 8.1 76% of EHC needs assessments are completed within 20 weeks, well above the national average.
- 8.2 Annual Reviews for EHCPs continue to be prioritised at key transition points, with around 800 plans updated on time. While system pressures can affect some timelines, ongoing collaboration with settings is helping to improve scheduling. Outstanding amendments are being tracked using a RAG rating system to ensure timely and meaningful updates, especially ahead of transitions.
- 8.3 To support this process, the IDOX case management system has been introduced, streamlining the way annual reviews are managed. Since June 2024, 221 EHCPs have been quality assured, with over 70% rated as good or outstanding, reflecting a strong focus on improving the quality of plans.
- 8.4 SEND Officers play a key role in maintaining consistency and quality. A nominated officer attends every co-production meeting for children and young people undergoing an EHC needs assessment, as well as annual reviews where significant changes to provision or placement are being considered.
- 8.5 An audit of outstanding EHCP amendments has helped the team prioritise updates, particularly for children and young people approaching key transitions. Work is ongoing to complete these updates in a timely and meaningful way, with a clear plan in place to manage remaining amendments. The previous year's backlog has been cleared, and additional capacity is being used to support progress and maintain oversight of quality and timeliness.

## **9 Point Parent Carer Forum**

- 9.1 In 2025, POINT, Oldham's Parent Carer Forum, has continued to play a vital role in supporting families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Through co-production and partnership working, POINT has helped shape local services and ensure that the voices of parents and carers are central to decision-making. The forum has worked closely with the local authority and health partners to improve access to information, advice, and support.
- 9.2 To support ongoing quality assurance and continuous improvement, a dedicated Local Offer Coordinator is now in post. As a result of this strengthened oversight and the introduction of new feedback channels, the SEND Local Offer is now a dynamic and responsive resource that reflects the evolving needs of children, young people, and families in Oldham.
- 9.3 POINT has delivered a wide range of inclusive activities through the Short Breaks Play and Leisure programme. These have included creative, sensory, and physical sessions designed to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND. A new early

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|     | year's music initiative was also launched in partnership with Oldham Music Centre, offering free sessions for families with children aged 0 to 4.  |
| 9.4 | In addition to direct support, POINT has hosted regular workshops, listening events and drop-in sessions. These have provided opportunities for families to connect with professionals, share experiences and access guidance on SEND processes. This work has strengthened relationships between families and services and continues to contribute to a more inclusive and responsive local SEND system.                            |
| 9.5 | POINT has worked with the Speech and Language Therapy Service to co-produce the Support While Waiting project. A joint survey gathered feedback from families about their experiences while waiting for support, highlighting the need for clearer, more visual information and age-appropriate advice. In response, updated Support While Waiting documents have been developed and has been shared ahead of the new academic year. |
| 9.6 | Mediation and Dispute Resolution Service. Oldham LA commissions POINT to manage mediation and tribunal arrangements, ensuring that families have access to independent support when resolving disagreements. This strengthens the local offer and promotes a more inclusive and responsive SEND system.  |

## Conclusion

Since the Area SEND and Inclusion inspection in June 2023, Oldham has made strong progress. The Post-Inspection Accelerated Progress Plan (PAP), has now been in place for nearly 2 years. It has driven focused activity, with the Local Inclusion Partnership Executive Board providing clear oversight and accountability. As a result, the majority of PAP actions have been completed. Following external stocktake visits by the DFE and NHS England, the Board has transitioned from monitoring the PAP to owning a broader action plan. This new plan incorporates remaining PAP actions and is embedded within the wider SEND and Inclusion Improvement Programme, which continues to deliver meaningful change. Evidence from the past six months shows clear improvements in quality, timeliness, and partnership working. Strengthened systems and co-produced resources are supporting better outcomes for children and young people. While some areas still require further development, our commitment remains clear: we want the very best for children and young people in Oldham. We will continue to review and improve our local SEND systems to ensure they are inclusive, responsive, and effective.

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

### **Oldham Children and Young People Plan 2025-26**

**Portfolio Holder: Cllr Shaid Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

**Officer Contact: Julie Daniels, Executive Director Children and Young People**

**Report Author: Sheila Garara, Assistant Director Children's Services Integration**

**Date 30/09/2025**

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#### **Purpose of the Report**

The Oldham Children and Young People Plan 2025-26 has been presented to and considered by Julie Daniels, Executive Director Children and Young People, the Children's Achieving Excellence Board and the Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership. The plan requires full council approval.

#### **Recommendations**

For the board to note the 2025/26 plan and make recommendations to full council.

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 Under Part 2: Article 4 of the Article of the Constitution, council is required to approve the Children and Young People Strategic Plan.
- 1.2 The Oldham Children, Young People and Families Plan 2025-26 sets out the strategic direction for the children and young people directorate, taking a partnership approach to achieving our ambition and outcomes so that Oldham is a community where children, young people and families thrive and lead healthier, happier lives.
- 1.3 This plan has been developed based on local management information and performance and quality assurance data and intelligence and is in line with the needs of children, young people and families in Oldham.

## **2 Current position**

- 2.1 This plan has been considered by Julie Daniels, Executive Director Children and Young People and the independently chaired Achieving Excellence Board and the Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- 2.2 The plan outlines across Children's Social Care and Early Help and Education, Early Years, Skills and SEND the key strategic priorities (4 P's), change and improvement programmes, Key Performance Indicators (as reported in the quarterly Corporate Performance Report), and the Risks that could impact the delivery of the plan, with clear mitigating actions to prevent risks being realised.
- 2.3 Progress of the plan will be monitored by the Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board.

## **3 Options/ Alternatives**

- 3.1 As it is outlined in the Article of the Constitution Policy Framework, it is not possible to provide an alternative option to this plan.

## **4 Consultation**

- 4.1 The directorate workforce and children, young people and families, through activity within existing quality assurance and participation arrangements, have been consulted in the formulation of this plan.

## **5 Conclusion**

- 5.1 Service leaders and the workforce continue to have a relentless focus on providing timely, high quality support and intervention work with children, young people, and families, and are driving ambitious and innovative transformation within a culture of continuous learning and improvement.
- 5.2 Council-wide strategies with an increased focus on early intervention and prevention in local communities seeks to address the high levels of demand for statutory services. Additionally, through the continued delivery of this plan, Children and Young People



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Services in Oldham are keeping children and young people safe, improving outcomes and are in a strong position to further improve the delivery of timely and effective services to children, young people and their families.

## **Appendix 1 – Oldham Children, Young People and Families Plan 2025-26**



CYP Strategic Plan  
25-26.pdf

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# Children, Young People and Families Plan 2025 -26

Page 21



## Our Vision



### Oldham: A community where children, young people, and families thrive

We want all children and young people to have a safe, happy, and healthy life and access to a great education giving them the best possible start in life. We want to be the best borough for children and young people and the staff and services that work with them.

Children's Services make the commitment to:

- Putting children and young people first
- Supporting families and protecting vulnerable children and young people
- Working together as one team close to our community
- Providing great public value and confidence
- Listening and engaging
- Creating an inclusive and empowering environment

## Strategies and Plans

The following strategies and plans describe the priorities across the children and young people directorate and wider partnership.

Page 22

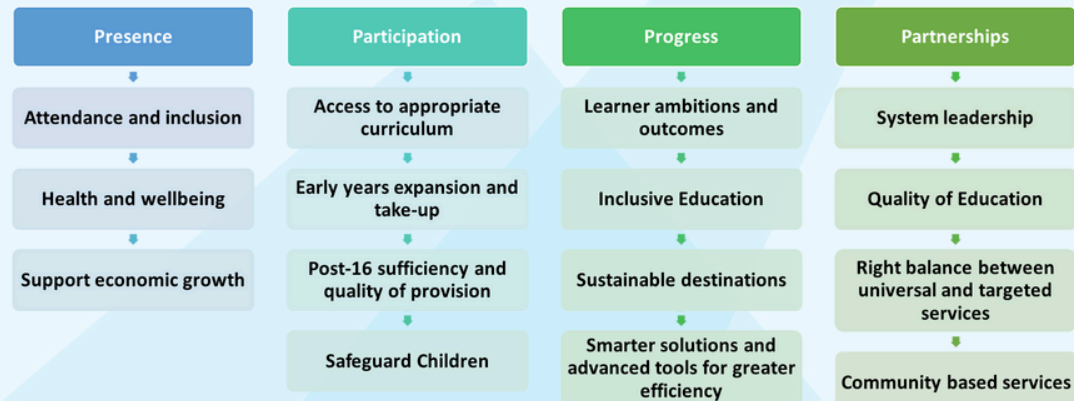
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Oldham plan               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporate plan              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Achieving Excellence strategy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education strategy          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporate parenting strategy  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SEND and Inclusion strategy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Help strategy           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participation strategy      |

## Business Priorities

### Children's Social Care and Early Help



### Education, Early Years, Skills and SEND



## Partnership Principles

- Reduce poverty and drive equality.
- Co-production and co-design of services with children, young people, and families.
- Invest in earlier help to meet families' needs.
- Encourage family self-help and resilience.
- Digital delivery, advice, and guidance.
- Relational, strength-based practice, asset based, whole family support.

## Governance

We operate in a complex multi-agency environment where many partners have their own governance and oversight arrangements. To navigate this, the Children and Young People Alliance will oversee the breadth of services contributing to outcomes for children and young people.



## Key Risks

- Adequate resources in the Education and Social Care system to manage and reduce demand and maintain/improve statutory quality and performance.
- Partner responsibility at the appropriate level across the partnership.
- Significant budget overspends continue to rise due to levels of demand.

## Outcomes Framework

Children and Young People:

- Are safe and supported.
- Have opportunities to achieve their potential.
- Are happy and healthy.
- Are proud and ready for life.
- Have a voice as part of the community.



# Children and Young People Change Portfolio

The following are the transformation and change programmes that we are delivering with partners. The Children's Transformation Board, SEND Local Improvement Partnership Executive Board and Oldham Learning Partnership oversee the delivery of the change portfolio, as well as a number of service improvements programmes which are focused on delivering good services, financial savings of £3,512m in 2025/26 and implementation of national reforms, through strong co-production, to improve outcomes for Oldham's children and young people and their families.

## Quality support at the earliest opportunity.

### Change Activity:

#### Integrated Family Help:

- Early Help & Start for Life
- Family Hubs
- Supporting Families
- Team around the school/setting
- Integrated Children and Families Service (Health)
- Integration of targeted Early Help and Child in Need Services
- Universal partners
- Community resilience

### Impact:

- The right support at the right time for vulnerable families in the heart of our communities – universal services, and online advice and guidance.
- Community support for families without the need for social care, targeted early help and SEND services.
- More accessible multi-agency support for families.
- Multi-agency management of services to be more responsive to needs.

## Children's Social Care and Early Help

### Change Activity:

- Targeted Edge of Care
- Specialist Foster Care
- Semi-independent and independent living
- More council run Children's homes
- More foster carers and kinship carers.
- Strengthening Family Networks supported by Family Group Conferencing
- Commissioning and market management
- Workforce stability
- Multi-agency child protection teams

### Impact

- A safe, stable, happy home for every child and young person in care.
- More Oldham children and young people live in Oldham.
- Fewer children coming into care for less time.
- Reduced placement costs.
- Oldham as an employer of choice for social work.
- Stable workforce and managers drive practice improvement that improves outcomes for vulnerable children, young people, and families. Reduced number of agency workers.

## SEND

### Change Activity:

- Early identification and SEN support
- Health and wellbeing
- Community and social inclusion
- Joint commissioning for sufficiency of specialist support and provision
- Preparing for adulthood - transition readiness
- Communication - speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN) and autism
- Implementation of Home to School Transport policy change

### Impact

- Children and young people with SEND are safe, healthy, happy, and supported to have opportunities to achieve their potential and be confident communicators having an active voice in their community.
- Waiting times for specialist health services reduced.
- High quality Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs).

## Education, Early Years and Skills

### Change Activity:

- School and setting attendance and inclusion
- Early Years participation and outcomes
- Mental and physical health and wellbeing
- Quality of Education across all phases
- Post-16 opportunities

### Impact

- Solid foundations for health and development and school readiness.
- Children and young people reach their full potential, are supported with their future aspirations, and prepared for adulthood.
- All schools and settings in Oldham to be good or outstanding.
- Every learning setting is inclusive.
- Close the gaps in attainment across the borough and to national comparators.
- Reduction in behavioural difficulties and mental health needs.
- More job opportunities and lower NEET.

# Children and Young People Key Performance Indicators

## Children's Social Care and Early Help:

Targets

### Help and Protection

### Corporate Parenting

- 75% • Percentage of children in families closed with all issues addressed (excludes worklessness)
- No Target Set • Rate of referrals into CSC
- 21% • Percentage of repeat referrals
- Target Set • Rate of CPP
- 26% • Percentage of repeat CPP

#### No Target Set

- Rate of CLA
- 55% • Percentage of CLA in internal provision
- 85% • Percentage of CLA with a permanence plan
- 10% • Percentage of CLA with three or more placement moves
- 67% • Percentage of CLA in long term stable placements
- 80% • Percentage of CLA with an up to date annual health assessment
- 63% (17-18) • Percentage of Care Leavers aged 17-18 and 19-21 in EET
- 48% (19-21) • Percentage of Care Leavers aged 17-18 and 19-21 in suitable accommodation
- 8% (17-18)
- 6% (19-21)

### Workforce

### Complaints

- 25% • Percentage of agency social workers
- 17 • Average caseload per social worker
- No Target Set • Rate of registered social worker turnover

- 75% • Complaints responded within timescales

# Children and Young People Key Performance Indicators

## Education, Early Years and Skills:

Targets

### Education & Inclusion

No Target Set

- Attendance rate in primary and secondary schools

No Target Set

- Attainment 8 score at end of KS4

No Target Set

- Fixed term suspensions in primary and secondary schools

No Target Set

- Permanent exclusions in primary and secondary schools

97% (reception)  
93% (yr 7)

- Percentage of children receiving 1-3 school place preference in reception and year 7

No Target Set

- KS2, KS4 and KS5 outcomes – all pupils, CLA and SEND

### Early Years

No Target Set

- EYS Foundation stage: Percent reaching a good level of development

75%

- Percentage take-up of two year old early education entitlement

90%

- Percentage take-up of three and four year old early education entitlement

No Target Set

- Percentage of early years providers rated good or outstanding

No Target Set

- Percentage of early years childminders inspected rated good or outstanding

### SEND

No Target Set

- Percentage of fixed term suspensions which are of pupils with SEND (Primary & Secondary)

75%

- Percentage of annual EHCP statutory reviews within timescale

80%

- Percentage of EHCP completed within 20 weeks

### Skills

2%

- Percent of 16 to 17 year olds destination lapsed/unknown

3.5%

- Percent of 16 to 17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training

95%

- Pass rate of learners completing Lifelong Learning courses

2701

- Number of overall engagements across GOW contracts and/or online registrations

718

- Number of residents into employment

### Complaints

75%

- Complaints responded within timescales



# Children and Young People Risk Register

Service	Description of Risk	Implications	INHERENT Likelihood BEFORE mitigation	INHERENT Impact BEFORE mitigation	Score	Mitigating Actions	REVISED Likelihood AFTER mitigation	REVISED Impact AFTER mitigation	Revised Score
Children's Social Care and Early Help	Insufficient placements available to meet demand within Oldham which will increase the use of out of borough placements resulting in a budget overspend	The placement budget will overspend. Children and young people will live in placements away from their local networks and communities.	4	3	12	Via the access to resources panel and complex cases funding panel for out of borough placements; reduce individual costs for some placements and rehab some children and young people to Oldham as appropriate based on their needs. Delivery of the transformation programme plans including effective Early Help and Edge of Care offer to prevent children and young people coming into care. Strong foster carer support packages to reduce the need for using residential provision.	3	2	6
	Partnership understanding and application of threshold and framework of response for earlier help leading to sustained high demand for targeted early help and statutory social work services	The service continues to experience significant demand through the front door which will impact on service pressures. Further pressure on social workers that leads to unmanageable caseloads and an increase in sickness absence or staff turnover and reliance on additional agency workers.	3	3	9	Senior leaders are committed to ensuring adequate resources are in place to manage the level of demand through to Children Services and prioritise resources where needed. Place based integrated family help offer to provide families with earlier support to reduce a need for a social care or targeted early help referral.	2	2	4
	Partnership capacity to manage demand and attend statutory case work meetings	Information is not shared in a timely and effective manner which impacts on multi-agency decision making	3	3	9	Delivery of the OSCP strategic plan priorities. Challenge and support at the Safeguarding Partnership and Accountabilities meeting.	2	2	4
	Workforce instability impacts on the quality and consistency of social work practice to improve outcomes for children, young people and families	The quality of the service to vulnerable children, young people and families is inconsistent and does not improve their outcomes.	3	3	9	Permanent recruitment into vacancies with a focus and commitment to implementing our recruitment and retention strategy.	2	2	4
	Unable to achieve the agreed 25/26 budget reduction savings targets	Non-delivery will create increased service budget pressures	4	3	12	Transformation delivery plans and tracking of progress through the transformation programme governance arrangements.	3	2	6

# Children and Young People Risk Register

Service	Description of Risk	Implications	INHERENT Likelihood BEFORE mitigation	INHERENT Impact BEFORE mitigation	Score	Mitigating Actions	REVISED Likelihood AFTER mitigation	REVISED Impact AFTER mitigation	Revised Score
Education, Early Years, Skills and SEND	Balance of demand and resources: Rising demand for education, health and care needs assessments and subsequent plans (EHCP), combined with associated costs.	Rising number of EHCPs leads to additional cost out of the high needs block. There is a need to grow statutory and support services to meet the demand. There is no matched provision from health and social care to meet the growing demand. This poses a risk of failure to deliver statutory services and this negatively effects children, young people, and families.	4	3	12	Implement programmes, specifically targeted at reducing risk in this area. Programmes include; Delivering Better Value (DBV), Change Partnership Programme (CPP) and Early Language Support for Every Child (ELSEC)	3	2	6
	Effective joint commissioning to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND: Service level agreements and contracts do not provide enough specificity to demonstrate that they meet the current demands related to SEND in the local area.	Need to work in partnership with ICP to ensure commissioning and monitoring processes are in place. Timeliness of decisions and governance arrangements to ensure no gaps in statutory services. Funding commitments from ICP	4	2	8	Review service level agreements and contracts through Children's Joint Commissioning Group to ensure they are fit for purpose and reflect current needs. Where necessary, amend agreements. Put in place formal monitoring procedures, where these do not currently exist. Joint Commissioning Group in place with LA, ICB, PH, PCF and key partners, ToF R in place, meetings	2	1	2
	There is a risk that schools in Oldham become less inclusive due to the competing pressures of increased need (SEND, safeguarding and pastoral) and a regulatory system that prioritises academic outcomes across a narrowing curriculum.	Increases in persistent and severe absence. Continued increases in CME and EHE. Difficult in placing children through fair access protocols. Increasing suspension and exclusion (placing pressure in the PRU).	4	3	12	Review In Year Fair Access protocols. Additional resource into inclusion team through PEIA. Development of appropriate Alternative Provision throughout Oldham (led by PRU).	3	2	6
	LA is at risk of not providing appropriate education provision for 16 - 19-year-olds to fulfil the Raising the Participation Age (RPA) duty.	LA not meeting its statutory functions and will not have the number of places due to growth in numbers of young people and a reduction in provider diversity that young people will want or are able to access.	3	3	9	Working with local, regional and national partners across all agencies to raise the risk of sufficiency and drive a strategic response from the DfE to create a wider educational offer of provision across GM, NW and nationally. Contact DfE to discuss gaps in provision and how to resolve.	3	2	6

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# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY BOARD

## WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26

Agenda item	Purpose	Portfolio lead & officer lead	Method of scrutiny	Additional information
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025</b>				
Corporate Performance Report – 2024/25 Q4	To receive and consider the quarter 4 performance report	Portfolio – Children and Young People and Education and Skills  Attendees: - Julie Daniels - Tony Decrop - Matt Bulmer	Report	
Family Hubs Programme	To receive an annual update report on the Family Hubs Programme	Portfolio – Children and Young People.  Attendees: - Tony Decrop - Bruce Penhale	Report	
Children's Services - update on financial performance, Action 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 Action Plan and Transformation and Sustainability programme.	Portfolio – Children and Young People.  Attendees: - Tony Decrop - Sheila Garara - Andy Cooper	Report	Agreed in 2024/25 to move from March to June reporting to cover previous year outturn position
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025</b>				

Youth Council annual report	Annual Report on events and activities commissioned by the Youth Council	Portfolio – Children and Young People.  Attendees: - Jodie Barber - Member of the youth council	Report	Moved from March meeting as annual report isn't available until May
Youth Justice Plan 2025/26	To scrutinise the Youth Justice Plan for 2025/26	Portfolio - Children and Young People.  Attendees: - Julie Daniels. - Paul Axon, Chief Executive Positive Steps. - Claire Griffiths, Head of Youth Justice, Positive Steps	Plan	
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b>				
SEND update	To receive and consider the SEND priority action plan and improvement programme update report	Portfolio – Education and Skills.  Attendees: - Matt Bulmer - Katie Charlton	Report	
Children, Young People and Families Plan 2025/26	To scrutinise the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2025/26	Portfolio – Children and Young People.  Attendees: - Julie Daniels - Sheila Garara	Plan	
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b>				

Performance Assurance Report – 2025/26 Q1 and Q2	To receive and consider the quarter 1 and 2 performance report	Portfolio – Children and Young People and Education and Skills  Attendees: - Julie Daniels - Tony Decrop - Matt Bulmer	Report	
CSE Steering Group Annual Report	To receive and consider the annual report	Portfolio – Children and Young People.  Attendees: - Tony Decrop - Michelle Bernasconi - Natassja Gollcher	Report	
Children's Services - update on financial performance, Action 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 Action Plan and Transformation and Sustainability programme.	Portfolio – Children and Young People.  Attendees: - Tony Decrop - Sheila Garara Andy Cooper	Report	Agreed in 2024/25 to move from March to June reporting to cover previous year outturn position. This will be the 6 month update from then.
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>				
Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report	To receive and consider the Board's Annual Report	Portfolio – Children and Young People.  Attendees: - Tony Decrop, - Jayne Haigh	Report	
Primary and Secondary School Outcomes	To receive and consider the annual update report	Portfolio – Education and Skills	Report	

		Attendees: - Matt Bulmer - Tony Shepherd		
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.	Portfolio – Education and Skills.  Attendees: - Matt Bulmer - Amanda Youlden	Report	
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>				
Performance Assurance Report – 2025/26 Q3	To receive and consider the quarter 3 performance report	Portfolio – Children and Young People and Education and Skills  Attendees: - Julie Daniels - Tony Decrop - Matt Bulmer	Report	
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report Oldham 2025/26.	To receive and consider the annual report	Portfolio – Education and Skills  Attendees: - Matt Bulmer - Tony Shepherd	Report	
Mental Health Services Wait Times Task and Finish Group report	To consider the report of the task and finish group	Portfolio – Children and Young People and Adults, Health and Wellbeing	Report of the task and finish group	



Task and finish group deep dives:

Deep dive area:	Expanded proposal:
Issues impacting children and young people	Workshop to include lived experience from children and young people.
Corporate parenting responsibilities	Workshop with the Corporate Parenting Board to understand corporate parenting responsibilities and to seek assurance that the role is effectively being carried out, to include feedback from children and young people.
Mental Health Service Wait Times	Task and Finish Group to look at issues related to waiting times and the action being undertaken to reduce these.

**Note: papers to be submitted to constitutional services no later than 8 days before the meeting to be published on the council website.**

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

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
FCR-01-25	Transformation Partnership	Executive Director - Resources	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: To report on the Council's transformation partnership work.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Transformation Partnership</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public/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 or a third party.</p>				
EE-02-25	Oldham Community Leisure (OCL) Utilities	Director of Public Health	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: To report on the provision of utilities at sites across Oldham Community Leisure's (OCL) footprint.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Oldham Community Leisure (OCL) Utilities</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public/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 or a third party.</p>				
EE-03-25 <b>New!</b>	Oldham Active (OCL) - Agency Model	Director of Public Health	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Cabinet

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

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
<p>Description: To report on the provision of an agency model for Oldham Active scheme, at leisure sites across Oldham Community Leisure's footprint.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Oldham Active (OCL) - Agency Model</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public/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 or a third party.</p>				
EDS-07-25	Speech, Language and Communication Needs Business Case	Director of Education, Skills & Early Years	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: To develop a borough-wide speech, language and communication needs business case</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Speech, Language and Communication Needs Business Case</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various appendices attached to the report</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Public</p>				
EDS-11-25	Change Partnership Programme (CPP) delivery (inc. ELSEC/APST): grant requirements	Director of Education, Skills & Early Years	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Cabinet

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

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
<p>Description: To highlight funding opportunities to the Council available from the Change Partnership Programme.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Change Partnership Programme (CPP) delivery (inc. ELSEC/APST): grant requirements</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various appendices attached to the report</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Public</p>				
RBO-09-25	Sites of Biological Importance Update	Deputy Chief Executive - Place	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: The reason for this decision is to designate a new Site of Biological Importance (SBI) and adopt changes which have occurred to other SBI boundaries within the borough.</p> <p>Appendix 1 provides a map of the new SBI (Ladcastle Heath) and maps of the other SBI boundary changes (Medlock Headwater &amp; Strinesdale, Moorgate Quarry and Armit Road Lodge). These changes are outlined in Appendix 2 and 3 alongside details of the other SBIs reviewed.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Sites of Biological Importance Update</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various appendices attached to the report</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Public</p>				

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

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
HLO-04-25	Temporary Accommodation Procurement Exercises – Nightly-Paid and Emergency Accommodation	Director of Communities	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: The report provides an update on proposals regarding Temporary Accommodation Procurement Exercises – Nightly-Paid and Emergency Accommodation.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Temporary Accommodation Procurement Exercises – Nightly-Paid and Emergency Accommodation</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				
HLO-05-25	Extend the contract term for delivery of Accommodation Based Services for 12 months until 31st March 2027	Director of Communities	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: The report provides an update on the proposal to Extend the contract term for delivery of Accommodation Based Services for 12 months until 31st March 2027.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Extend the contract term for delivery of Accommodation Based Services for 12 months until 31st March 2027</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				
FCR-08-25 <b>New!</b>	Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2025/26 Month 5	Director of Finance	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Cabinet

## KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 OCTOBER 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 2025/26 forecast revenue budget position and the financial position of the capital programme as at the period ending 31 August 2025 (Month 5). Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title:  Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2025/26 Month 5  Background Documents: Appendices – Various  Report to be considered in Public</p>				
HL-07-25 <b>New!</b>	Approval of Grant Funding Agreement with Greater Manchester Combined Authority for the provision of Community Accommodation Service Tier 3 Phase Three 2025/27	Director of Communities	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: The report seeks approval of Grant Funding Agreement with Greater Manchester Combined Authority for the provision of Community Accommodation Service Tier 3 Phase Three 2025/27  Proposed Report Title: Approval of Grant Funding Agreement with Greater Manchester Combined Authority for the provision of Community Accommodation Service Tier 3 Phase Three 2025/27  Background Documents: Appendices – Various  Report to be considered in Public</p>				



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

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
RBO-04-25	Approval to a) publish the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan for public consultation; and b) submit the Plan for independent examination	Deputy Chief Executive - Place	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: Approval to a) publish the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan for public consultation; and b) submit the Plan for independent examination</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Public</p>				
EDS-12-25 <b>New!</b>	Approval to exercise the option to extend Short Breaks Play and Leisure Contract	Director of Education, Skills & Early Years	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: Cabinet is asked to approve an option to extend the existing short breaks, play and leisure contract.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Approval to exercise the option to extend Short Breaks Play and Leisure Contract</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: public</p>				
HSC-14-25 <b>New!</b>	Section 75 Partnership Agreement with the NHS Northern Care Alliance	Director of Public Health	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Cabinet

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

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
<p>Description: to seek approval for a Section 75 Partnership Agreement with the NHS Northern Care Alliance</p> <p>Proposed report Title: Section 75 Partnership Agreement with the NHS Northern Care Alliance</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: public</p>				
NEI-09-25 <b>New!</b>	United Utilities Plc Partnership Agreement	Director of Environment	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description approval for the Council to enter into a partnership agreement with United Utilities PLC.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: United Utilities Plc Partnership Agreement</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: public</p>				

### Key:

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

Notes:

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

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
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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 as follows: Councillors Arooj Shah (Chair of Cabinet), Elaine Taylor, Abdul Jabbar MBE, Shaid Mushtaq, Mohon Ali, Barbara Brownridge, Chris Goodwin and Peter Dean.
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> October 2025

**Decision to be taken (Agenda Item) Decisions proposed to be taken in private at Cabinet on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025:**

#### a. Transformation Partnership

##### 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. Oldham Community Leisure (OCL) Utilities Reason:

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

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
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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.

### **Oldham Active (OCL) - Agency 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.

#### **Representations:**

If you wish to make representations against the intention to hold a private meeting, please send these to Constitutional Services, JR Clynes Building, Cultural Quarter, Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1AT or email: [constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk)

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