



Oldham
Council

Report to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

HERITAGE, LIBRARIES & ARTS' OFFER TO SCHOOLS.

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Sean Fielding, Economy & Enterprise

Officer Contact: Rebecca Sutcliffe, Head of Strategic Reform and Public Health

Report Author: Sheena Macfarlane, Head of Heritage, Libraries and Arts

Ext. 4664

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Purpose of the Report

To provide an overview of the services provided to schools by the Heritage, Libraries & Arts Service, with particular reference to collaborative approaches and new initiatives.

Recommendations

To note the report.

Heritage, Libraries & Arts' Schools Offer.

1 Background

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the services provided to schools by the Heritage, Libraries & Arts Service (HLA) with particular reference to collaborative approaches and new initiatives. The report also highlights some of the future trends and challenges faced by the service and what approaches are being taken in response to these. The Heritage, Libraries & Arts Service includes the following teams:-

Oldham Libraries
Gallery Oldham
Oldham Theatre Workshop
Oldham Arts Development
Oldham Local Studies & Archives
Oldham Music Service.

2. Current Position

2.1 Overview of Services

- 2.1.1 Oldham Library Service offers class visits, self-directed class visits, and activity by library staff in local schools as well as homework and study space, books, publications and digital materials. In 2018/19 243 school class visits were made to Oldham Libraries with 6982 pupils and teachers attending. The standard class visit introduces children to their local library, and promotes books, reading and story-telling through a range of activities. A range of workshops focusing on key topics in the curriculum are also offered as well as special events which respond to local and national celebrations eg World Book Day author events, and intergenerational activities for Empathy Day.

Our successful Carnegie Library Lab 'Count and Code' programme encourages children between 3-6 to explore, investigate and learn through counting and coding and supports school readiness. To date 16 sessions have been held with 10 children attending each week. Days and times change every 6 weeks to ensure widest possible access by children and parents.

- 2.1.2 **Gallery Oldham** has a well-established and extensive schools offer which includes self-guided visits for all ages with resources provided by the gallery and cross-curricular facilitated sessions for KS 1, 2 and 3. These sessions are led by experienced educators and include time in the galleries, practical activities and post-visit resources. In 2018-19, 3543 pupils were engaged on-site as part of a class visit with an additional 1800 pupils and teachers engaged through outreach activity in schools. Teachers' CPD sessions are also part of the core offer and free trial sessions are available for enthusiastic teachers who are willing to help shape the offer. Pre-and post-visit resources and online enquiries are available via the Gallery Oldham website (www.galleryoldham.org.uk/learning).

The gallery has also been developing and delivering a programme of activities to home educated young people. Projects range from one-off workshops accessible solely to home educated young people to longer six month projects encouraging group work, leadership skills development, strategy and problem solving etc. This has led to excellent relationships with home educating parents who are now advocates for the programme and for Gallery Oldham and we are continuing to shape the programme with their input. This year seven

home educated young people have completed their Silver Arts Award at the gallery, the equivalent of a GCSE A* - C or 9 – 4. This may be the first professional qualification some of these young people have achieved.

Gallery Oldham's popular GoBaby and GoExplorer's sessions also support family learning and school readiness through creative, self-directed play.

- 2.1.3 **Oldham Theatre Workshop** (OTW) has a longstanding partnership with Newbridge School and delivers part of the curriculum in OTW studio space through the Lumens programme. For a number of years OTW, in partnership with London Bubble Theatre, have been delivering a very successful early years speech and language development programme supporting school readiness. OTW were also one of the first young people's theatre and performance resources in the country to develop an Applied Theatre resource which develops issue-based work on a commission basis to take to schools, many of the projects have a health & wellbeing focus.
- 2.1.4 **Oldham Arts Development** works with schools on a project by project basis with work linked to celebratory arts and encouraging family participation in festivals and community celebrations plus community cohesion work in areas such as Limehurst.
- 2.1.5 **Local Studies & Archives** (LSA) is currently constrained in their offer on account of lack of space. This will be addressed within OMA; the new heritage & arts centre due to open in 2021. LSA works closely with Gallery Oldham and OTW to provide local history material for school sessions and bring history to life through town centre trails and 'living history'.(see para 2.2.2).
- 2.1.6 **Oldham Music Service** (OMS) provides whole class and individual music tuition in nurseries, primary and secondary schools. 6304 pupils received weekly tuition in schools, either through the Whole Class Instrumental Tuition, Ongoing Opportunities programmes or as part of the small group tuition scheme. Currently some 4162 instruments are on loan to schools and individuals for use in this tuition with a total value of £1.7M. A further 769 school-aged musicians attended the Music Centre each week to participate in bands, choirs, orchestras, etc. The whole class model is particularly useful to provide pupils at KS2 with a thorough grounding in the basics of learning a musical instrument and is an ideal start on a pathway of progression. Instrumental and vocal tuition is also provided in small groups for KS 2,3,4 and 5. Tuition is available in all orchestral and band instruments as well as steel band, guitar, bass guitar, keyboard, ukulele, and all voice types and musical theatre. Regular performance opportunities include Oldham Schools' Music Festival, Oldham's Biggest Band Day, and Come & Play with the Halle. CPD is also provided for specialist and non-specialist music teachers.

The Service is highly rated by users and peers and has won many awards including, in the last 12 months: the highest 'Platinum' Award in the National Concert Band Finals for the Oldham Youth Wind Band; an invitation to participate in the National Festival of Music for Youth in Birmingham's Symphony Hall; Oldham Youth Orchestra won a Music for Youth Connects Award; and, the Youth Brass Band won awards at the Whit Friday Band Contests.

- 2.1.7 All HLA services also provide opportunities and resources to support young people's learning out-of-school. The Summer Reading Challenge is a long-standing national initiative engaging young people each year in a theme based reading programme. In 2018 nearly 2500 children were engaged in the activities and 1475 completed all six books. Oldham Libraries also offer Family Story Walks and digital activities such as 'Make, Play,

Code' sessions and 3d-printing. Gallery Oldham provides an extensive and popular family holiday activities programme and the Gallery Collective engages older young people in creative and learning activities including opportunities to undertake Arts Awards. 1723 young people, including home educated, were involved in informal learning activities at the gallery. OTW offers a core programme of evening workshops during term time which engage young people a range of performing arts opportunities including drama, singing and dance and stage-management whilst OMS offer a wide range of one-to-one tuition and group musical opportunities for young people at the Music Centre.

2.2 Collaborations

2.2.1 In recent years the various teams within the Heritage, Libraries & Arts Service, as well as developing their service-specific schools' offer, have been collaborating to provide a new and wider provision for schools. This collaborative approach aims to create a cohesive offer, minimize overlap and maximize take-up levels. This is shaped by feedback from participating and non-participating schools, evaluation of project work as well as consultation, piloting and testing with schools. Teachers tell us they want cross-curricular activities and a full-day offer which makes the most of their investment in coach hire and pre-visit preparation time.

2.2.2 A few examples of cross-service collaborations for an enhanced schools offer include

Gallery Oldham joint workshops developed with the Music Service

- Music in the Mills (KS2) – using the Oldham Stories and Oldham Panorama exhibit pupils discover what life was like in the mills then sing, create rhythms and compose and record music about mill life.
- Volcano! (KS2) – using the museum's volcanic rock collections pupil's learn about volcanoes and carry out a volcano experiment then create their own music about an eruption with vocal, drums and rhythms.

Gallery Oldham joint workshops developed with Oldham Theatre Workshop and Local Studies & Archives.

- Oldham During the First World War (KS2) – an outdoor living history performance and walk takes pupils back in time to Oldham during the First World War.

Oldham Library & Gallery Oldham

- Developing a complementary schools programme to enable large school groups to visit GO and Oldham Library in one day
- Researching and shadowing each other's offer
- Joint marketing

2.2.3 The service is involved in the development of the Oldham Local Cultural Education Partnership and plays an active part in sector specific networks such as GM Music Hub, Association of Children's and Educational Librarians(ASCEL), Arts Council Museums & Schools Steering Group and GM Museum Educators' Group.

2.2.4 Other local collaborations include

Linking Schools

- Coordinated approach connecting Gallery Oldham, the Music Service and Oldham Coliseum to create one offer which Oldham Linking Schools can purchase for a day visit.

Themes have included 'Oldham Cotton Town', 'Who Am I, Who Are We, How Do We Live Together' which will culminate in a Linking Schools Exhibition in gallery's community exhibition space in summer 2020

- In 2019/20 we will also be involving the children's library space and/or the performance space for a three way Linking Schools visit.

Oldham Pledge Schools

- Gallery Oldham are actively promoting Oldham Pledge by offering a free visit to schools who have not visited in the previous academic year
- And the gallery and library was a venue for 460 children visiting Oldham for Culture Trail 5 July 2019

Other

- 'Brought to Book' used the murder of a Yorkshire Street Bookseller by two teenagers in 1913 as the focus for a collaborative Heritage Lottery funded schools' project and involved Oldham Libraries (in partnership with Oldham Local Studies and Archives, Oldham Coliseum Theatre, Leeds University and Holy Cross Primary School). This collaboration was nominated for the Best Heritage, Museum, Library and Education Partnership Award in 2018.

2.3 New initiatives and pilots

2.3.1 The Library Service is rolling out its successful family **Story Walks** initiative with schools. 90 children attended a recent pilot story walk with Longsight School and gave positive feedback.

2.3.2 The library Service is also involved in the **Poverty Proofing** schools project, with a view to closer working with schools, greater inter-departmental collaboration and applying poverty proofing principles to the library setting.

2.3.3 A new Home Educated readers group started in October 2018 at Oldham Library. Monthly sessions are held for children between the ages 7-11 and each has an educational activity linked with the particular book that has been chosen for that month. The group is also linked with the Libraries' cultural events offer, e.g. international women's day and Shakespeare week as well as events and activities delivered in partnership with different services eg Oldham Coliseum ran a drama workshop for Shakespeare Week and the group have also enjoyed Therapy Dog reading sessions (See Appendix 1). Session attendance figures fluctuate between 5-12 children and their guardians.

2.3.4 **Heritage Schools Programme**, developed in response to the government report on cultural education in England, the programme is funded by Historic England and aims to help school children develop an understanding of their local heritage and its significance and access local studies & archives materials. There are free teachers' CPD sessions and free trial workshops and the gallery's Education Development Officer is now an Assessor for the programme. Click on the link for a short video of Old Town Hall project activity <https://vimeo.com/281012033>

2.3.5 New workshops for 2019/20

- 'White Mountain', a creative writing workshop based on a painting by the artist William Stott of Oldham artist, comes with a large box of sensory resources to borrow and use within schools and is funded by the TATE

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- Classification in Science (being trialed October 2019)
 - Helen Bradley Artist Day (Being trialed with a school from her birth place of Lees on 20 November – Helen’s birthday!)
 - Secondary school bespoke workshops being developed on all subjects including business and tourism

2.3.6 **New Resources or 2019/20**

- Self-guided science worksheets being launched October 2019
- Loans boxes on Stone Age, Egyptians, Romans, Anglo Saxons
- Careers talks and presentations in schools with visits to Gallery Oldham

2.4 Challenges

2.4.1 **Financial.** In response to budget pressures and following consultations with schools, Gallery Oldham introduced a charge of £100 for a 2 hour facilitated schools’ sessions and to date take-up levels for the sessions has not been affected.

OMS has been subject to budget reduction whilst facing lower levels of buy-in from schools due to schools’ budget pressures. In response, the service started using teaching staff working on flexible contracts thus reducing overheads as well as reducing spending on instruments and increasing marketing to schools.

2.4.2 **Transport** - Schools tell us they are increasingly concerned about the cost of coach hire. In response we are developing a full day Gallery and Library offer and an enhanced schools’ offer will be a key feature of OMA, the new heritage & arts centre. As well as highlighting the ‘Kids for a Quid’ tram offer to Oldham schools we try to encourage schools to get their The Daily Mile – Oldham by walking to us if they are near enough. New resources for use in schools and school outreach visits are also being developed.

2.4.3 **Communication** with schools has always been challenging. Staff attend opportunities such as teachers’ and governors’ meetings and events as appropriate to both market and shape the offer to schools. As well as liaising with individual education officers (such as the Challenge and Support Officer for Education & Early Years), Gallery Oldham’s Education Development Officer, regularly posts updates on First Class and emails the heads of clusters and alliances

3 **Key Issues for Overview and Scrutiny to Discuss**

3.1 In para 2.4.2 above reference was made to the service’s approach to mitigating the impact of the cost of coach hire for schools. The service would welcome the board’s thoughts on how access and transport for visiting schools could be improved within existing resources.

4 **Key Questions for Overview and Scrutiny to Consider**

4.1 See 3.1 above.

5. **Links to Corporate Outcomes**

5.1 The Heritage, Libraries and Arts schools offer aim to use cultural activities and resources to provide relevant, quality, accessible learning experiences for teachers and pupils in and out of the school environment. As well as contributing to the Oldham Plan by supporting residents’ employability, resilience and confidence, their ability to make good life-choices

and their sense of place, the service's learning offer supports wider targeted work focusing on school readiness, language development, numeracy, and STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and maths).

6 **Additional Supporting Information**

6.1 n/a

7 **Consultation**

7.1 n/a

8 **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Examples of feedback from recent activity

Appendix 2 Hertiage, Libraries & Arts Engagement Figures



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APPENDIX 1 – recent feedback

Feedback from Music Service's Summer Music Festival July 2019

For so many young people the Oldham music centre is the start of a wonderful musical journey wherever it takes them. So proud that Oldham can offer this in such austere times.'

'Both Tom and Freya had a fantastic time making music at Oldham Music Centre. The staff are brilliant. It's the jewel in Oldham's crown.'

'Oldham wouldn't have a crown without the Music Service! Stop the worry of cutbacks in education. Keep music in all our schools.'

'The Oldham Music Service is second to none. The staff are so dedicated and so many children develop their wonderful talents.'

'Is Oldham musical because the music service is so good or is the music service good because Oldham is musical? I know what I think, answers on a postcard please!'



Young musicians performing in Parliament Square.

Feedback from creative writing workshop at Gallery Oldham based on the exhibition with Tate *William Stott of Oldham: Great Painters are Rare*

“The children were motivated by being in a stimulating environment and by working with first-hand information – the painting. The content was pitched accurately and there was good support for the children.” Lead teacher for Year 4/5/6 Gifted & Talented Writers group, St Hilda’s Primary School

“Writing a poem while viewing the painting is very powerful.” Year 5 teacher, Delph Primary School

“The resources are brilliant and the children found the lesson very interesting. The class particularly liked the fact Stott was from “down the road” in Oldham.” Year 6 teacher, Whittaker Moss Primary School



Feedback from Class Visit Feedback Form completed by teachers bringing their classes to various Oldham libraries

- *Very friendly staff and just enjoyed seeing the children explore the library.*
- *Fabulous experience for children who've not been to the library before*
- *Very enthusiastic delivery-great manner with the children*
- *The class visits are a great way for children to find out about & experience the library in order to encourage them to come back with their family*
- *Developing a love of reading for children*
- *Really liked the tour of the library & finding the different books*
- *Children really enjoyed the experience*
- *A lovely introduction to the library for young children*



Library staff member delivering The Twits storytelling element of Yr 3 & 4 class visit.



Library based dog therapy reading session for Home Educated young people

APPENDIX 2 Heritage, Libraries & Arts Engagement Figures 2018-19

3543

Pupils visit
Gallery Oldham

6304

Pupils engaged in
school music

5470

Young people engaged with
Oldham Theatre Workshop
as part of the school day

1800

Pupils interact with
Gallery Oldham in other settings

80

Teachers benefiting from CPD activities
across the service

6982

Pupils visit
Oldham Libraries

11,269

Young people benefiting from
Oldham Theatre Workshop's activities
out-of-school

243

Class visits to Oldham Libraries

160

Class visits to Gallery Oldham

769

Young people enjoying
Music tuition at the Music Centre

22, 299

Young people benefiting
as part of the school day

16,271

Young people benefiting
out-of-school

