



Oldham
Council

Report to Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board

Oldham Council Youth Service Update

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Shaid Mushtaq, Children and Young People

Officer Contact: Neil Consterdine, Director of Communities

Report Author: Jodie Barber, Head of Youth Services

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Purpose of the Report

To provide an update on Oldham Council Youth Service Performance, highlighting Key work streams.

Recommendations

To note the report.

Overview and Scrutiny Board

[24th July 2024]

Oldham Council Youth Service Update

1. Background

The youth service is an informal education service, working with young people (aged 11 – 25 yrs.), to enable young people to develop holistically, working in partnership with young people to support and facilitate their personal, social, political and educational development, the service provides opportunities for young people to develop their voice, influence and place with society and supports them to make positive choices and reach their full potential as individuals, members of their community and members of society.

The service provides a comprehensive range of youth work programmes, projects and opportunities and is made up of three distinct teams.

- The detached youth work team,
- The district youth work team
- The Boroughwide team.

The Service works to the national youth work curriculum which provides 10 thematic curriculum areas that sets out the educational process that underpins the quality youth work we deliver. It's not a prescribed syllabus but rather a framework to support and develop our practice as a catalyst for learning. The National Youth Work Curriculum is a flexible framework which allows youth workers to identify how their interventions and activities can be used to support the personal, social and political development of young people. Above all, the Curriculum responds to the diversity of young people's needs, interests and concerns of young people.

In 2021 the service received a core investment of £80,000 to support the establishment of a core youth work offer across all 5 districts of Oldham. The service underwent a restructure to secure alignment with the Places based model of working within Oldham and to deliver a consistent youth work offer across Oldham,

2. Current Position

2.1 Key Objectives

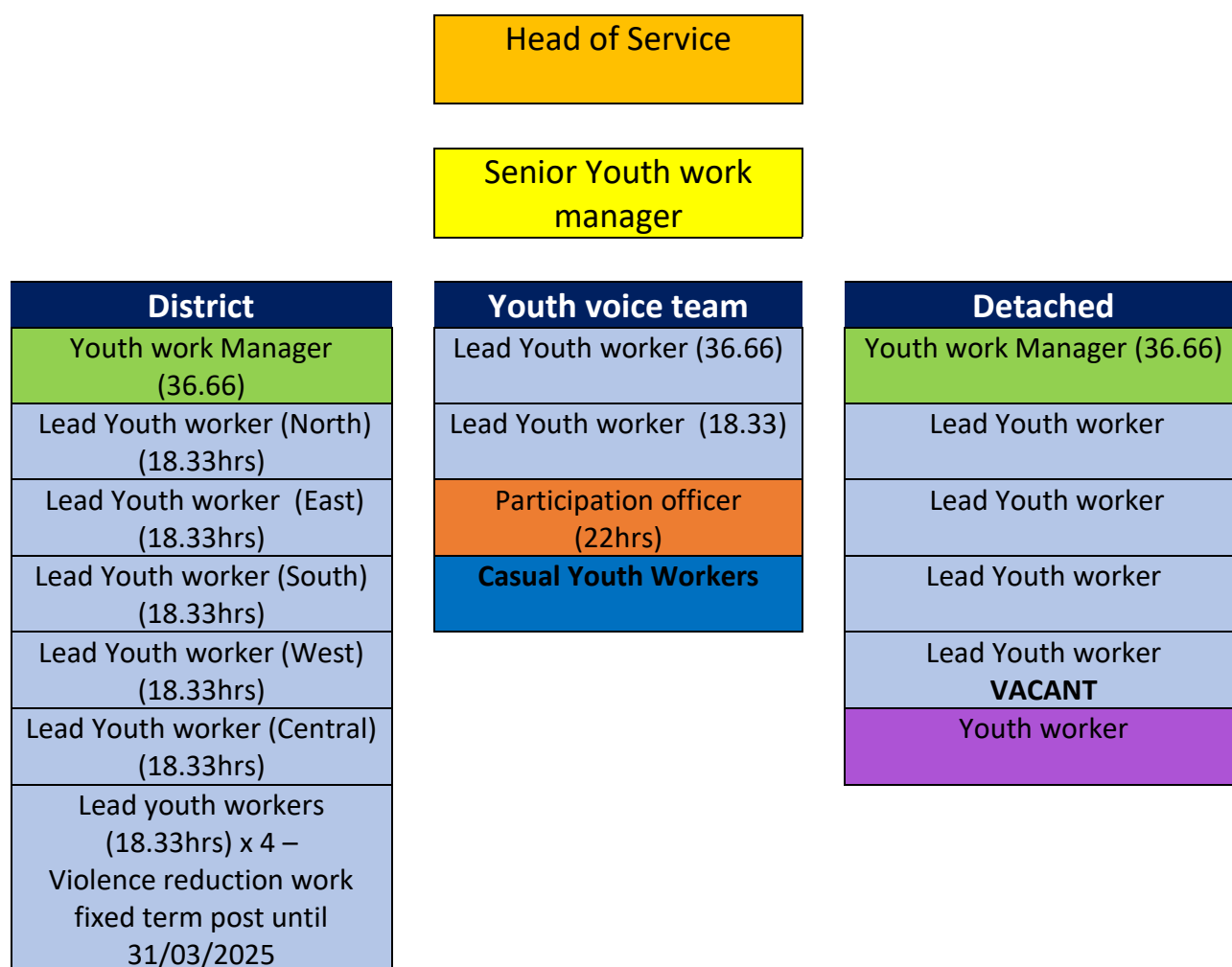
- To meet the identified needs of young people in Oldham via a range of high-quality youth work programmes and interventions, with delivery aligned to placed based working approaches.
- To raise aspirations and attainment of young people through informal and non-formal education and community-based learning opportunities
- To support young people to have a voice and influence in all matters that affect their lives.
- To support the wider youth sector to contribute to the wider youth offer, have a shared voice, and promote collaborative and effective partnership working.
- The service is gradually getting back to pre-pandemic levels which is in line with regional and national trends. Oldham, after Manchester, has highest visitor footfall in GM.

2.2 Structure and Finance

Finance overview – 2024/25

Expenditure	
Staffing related	£420,560.00
Service delivery (revenue)	£56,430.00
CSS recharge expenditure	£116,630.00
Income	
Public Health Contribution (Absorbed into established budget)	£109,560
Total Budget for Youth Service	£480, 410
Additional external income – Project specific	
Community Safety Grant (Delivery of targeted work programme)	£100,000

Staffing structure



2.3 OYS Performance 2023/2024

The service holds Corporate Performance objectives, by year end 23/24 the performance data was as follows:

	No of youth work sessions delivered	No of individual YP engaged with the service
Target 23/24	1200	2000
Actual 23/24	1841	3281
Target 24/25	1800	3000

These figures exceeded the targets and have been amended for 2024/2025
As well as corporate objectives the service also collects performance data as follows:

- No of accredited outcomes achieved by young people.
- No of young people engaged in youth voice activity.
- Number of youth voice sessions delivered.
- Number of young people engaged in Mark your Mark ballot.
- Range of youth work curriculum activity delivered.

Peer review District youth work offer

In April 2024 the participated in a peer-to-peer programme coordinated by Youth Focus Northwest. The focus of this Peer review was the district youth work offer in Oldham.

Key findings included:

- The Youth service is well positioned to support the placed based approach to delivering youth work.
- The district youth work team as established strong partnership links.
- There is a high level of elected member and senior officer support to the youth service.
- Partners articulate the specialist skills that youth workers display.
- Youth workers provide support and signpost young people to positive activities and a wider district offer.
- Distribution of resources is well planned and best use of resource3s are made with the limited resources allocated.
- Review team impressed with the responsiveness, enthusiasm and local knowledge of youth workers who have clearly established good relationships with young people.
- Clear commitment to regular planning.
- AQA accreditation is well established.
- The Oldham Youth Service team is vibrant and energetic. Workers clearly understand the communities and local families with whom they engage.
- There is clear commitment to professional development.
- There is an obvious commitment by managers to support workers to develop skills in quality assurance, known locally as PME (planning, monitoring, and evaluation).
- Oldham Youth Service managers know their service well and have overseen a welcome growth in district youth work.

The review outlined 5 considerations that we already working on as part of a post review action plan. These were:

- Consider seeking external expertise to develop further impact study and draw on concrete measures of impact for district youth work.
- Explore provision of Family Hubs and how these could accommodate youth work offer.
- Review the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation framework to explore how best to draw on the youth work curriculum.
- Explore other routes to accreditation beyond the AQA unit award route.
- Continue to work in partnership to supplement the delivery of youth work sessions across the borough.

2.4 Statutory Guidance for Youth Services

A key responsibility of youth services in ensuring we are compliant with the Statutory guidance for youth services.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide a local youth offer for young people and, in line with the strengthened guidance published on 28 September 2023, are required to ensure that their local youth offer is responsive to the needs of young people.

The Statutory Guidance was issued by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under Section 507B of the Education Act 1996. It relates to local authorities' duty to secure services and activities for young people aged 13 to 19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24, to improve their well-being, as defined in Subsection 13.

It requires local authorities to, so far as reasonably practicable, secure access for all qualifying young people to a sufficient quantity of 'youth services, namely:

- a sufficient quantity of educational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being and sufficient facilities for such activities and
- a sufficient quantity of recreational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities.

The two forms of activity are not mutually exclusive but local authorities must, so far as reasonably practicable, secure access for young people to sufficient forms of, and facilities for, both types of activities. They include, but are not limited to:

- sports and informal physical activities
- cultural activities
- outdoor residential, weekend or holiday-time activities
- special interest clubs
- volunteering activities

Both types of activities, and related facilities, must be for the improvement of young people's well-being. Well-being, as defined in the act, relates to:

- physical and mental health and emotional well-being
- protection from harm and neglect
- education, training, and recreation
- the contribution made by young people to society.
- social and economic well-being

Alongside the Director for Communities the Youth Service has responsibility for compliance with the duty and coordinates engagement with young people, youth providers and other partners in developing our strategy processes and partnerships to enable us to meet the duty:

we have a designated officer within the service who leads on the operational coordination with Partners.

Key activities within this work include:

- Development of a comprehensive needs assessment
- Mapping existing provision
- Engagement with young people and other key stakeholders
- Developing a need led, prioritised Youth offer plan, with Alignment to the youth work curriculum.
- Workforce planning
- Ensuring the Youth work offer is safe and fit for purpose.
- Ensuring the youth offer is published and promoted.
- Reviewing (annually) the Local Youth Offer plan via monitoring, evaluation, and Impact assessment

We have an established cross sector partnership in place to support the development and the Local Youth Offer and ensure there is collaboration and cooperation from across the youth sector in Oldham.

2.5 - Delivery of key work streams – headlines

Core youth work offer

The youth service delivers an average of 40 youth work sessions per week across the borough.

The district youth work team.

This team deliver a range of youth work interventions in each district of Oldham including – open access youth clubs, Outreach work, one to one support, targeted youth work programmes, Schools based youth work as well as targeted youth work aimed at reducing youth violence – funded by Community Safety Partnership grants (until End March 2025)

Detached youth work team

Deliver street-based youth work interventions in each district of Oldham. Including responsive youth work interventions to key Hot spot areas, Supporting Oldham based large events, Project based work and one to one support.

Children and young people's participation framework

Boroughwide team

Deliver the Youth Voice Family programs including the Youth Council, Children in Care Council and Barrier Breakers as well as a range of youth work interventions based on identified needs such as LGBTQ programmes, leadership programmes and cohesion programmes.

Working in partnership to support positive outcomes for young people.

As well as directly delivering youth work programmes the youth service work with a range of partners to support positive outcomes for young people. This includes co delivery of youth work interventions, attendance at a range of partnership meetings, providing information and guidance re: young people and youth work to a range of professionals, delivery of training and CPD opportunities. Below is a sample of services/organisations the youth service work and support in partnership

Childrens Social Care, POINT, Local Safeguarding Childrens Partnership, Early Help, Youth Justice Service, Public Health, Post 16 education and participation, Holiday Activity and Food Programme, Outdoor and environmental education services, Schools and colleges, Greater Manchester Police, District teams, Early Break, Oldham Theatre Workshop, Town Centre Board, Missing and Child exploitation Partnership, Community Safety, Libraries, Family Hubs and many more.

Providing Strategic Leadership around Youth

The Service also provides the role of Strategic Lead for young people. This includes supporting collaborative working across the youth sector and facilitating the Strategic Youth Partnership in Oldham as well as representation at GM, Northwest and National Youth Work meetings and partnership.

As part of our strategic leadership, we have developed a children and young peoples participation Framework for Oldham to enable us to build on a culture of positive participation. We have developed the Children and Young People's Participation framework to support a collective and consistent approach to the participation of our children and young people.

The framework is aimed at supporting the development of a culture of participation across all services working with and on behalf of children and young people. This will guarantee the place of children and young people participation as a long-term priority with its principles reflected and embedded in all future strategies and in turn practice.

The Framework includes:

- Provision of shared definitions and language.
- The multiple benefits of participation with children and young people.
- Legal and legislative drivers around the rights and requirements of participation work with children and young people.
- Clear principles that should be underpinning all participation work.
- A charter, devised by young people around putting principles into practice.
- A series of shared objectives around participation.
- Information around our existing participation work both collective and individual.
- A preferred model for participation – as adopted across Greater Manchester.
- Application of the model to our current whole system approach to participation.
- Useful tools and links to further support participation work with children and young people.

The Framework is underpinned with a preferred participation Model – the LUNDY model, as this has been adopted within GM as the preferred model for children and young people's participation and ensures our participation work in Oldham is aligned and compliments wider work across the GM system.

The Framework has been developed with engagement from a range of key stakeholders, Including:

- Young people supporting the development of the framework via workshops with our youth voice family.
- A range of stakeholders including Childrens Social Care, Childrens Commissioning, Education, Youth Services and Strategic Youth Partnership,

The framework also aligns with the emerging engagement framework currently in development with a range of partners including Oldham Council Research and engagement team, Oldham Council Thriving Communities manager, Action Together, and the Engagement manager for Oldham Integrated Care Partnership

3 Key Issues for Overview and Scrutiny to Discuss

- 3.1 To consider Youth Service activity mentioned above and the initiatives and partnerships aimed to ensure widest possible access within resource parameters.

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

- 4.1 Overview and Scrutiny to consider the opportunities to develop a stronger youth offer; that secures sufficient access to quality youth work for young people in Oldham that meet local needs and the challenge of balancing that with funding and resource capacity.

5. **Links to Corporate Outcomes**

- 5.1 As a uniquely trusted and accessible public service in the heart of our communities, the youth service is in a good position to support Oldham's co-operative ambition. By working with a resident focus to provide services which empowers residents to make positive choices in their lives and make real and beneficial changes for themselves and their community.

5.2 **Oldham Council youth service delivering against Corporate Priorities**

6 **Additional Supporting Information**

- 6.1 n/a

7 **Consultation**

- 7.1 n/a

8 **Appendices**

- 8.1