

Portfolio Report

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Barbara Brownridge
Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing

This report provides an update on the main activity since the last Council meeting relating to portfolio responsibilities.

Public Health

Sexual and Reproductive Health

We have been working hard to improve access to long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) in our communities. This type of contraception is the most effective and so increasing their uptake will reduce unwanted pregnancies. HCRG (our Integrated Sexual Health Service provider) is working with our GPs to increase provision in primary care. Nine practices are now fitting LARCs across Oldham, and we are working to increase this. From April – June 2024, 146 LARCs were fitted in primary care in Oldham. This compares to 101 fitted in the full year of 2022.

Adult Social Care (ASC)

Acorn Lodge update

I previously reported Acorn Lodge Care Home had been sold and all residents needed onward placements. Despite the challenges of managing a large care home closure the Oldham health and social care system has come together across all service areas exceptionally well, working in partnership to ensure the safe transfer of all care home residents to alternative accommodation. The employees from Acorn Lodge have also been supported through close working with the Get Oldham Working team and links across our commissioned providers have been able to find onward employment. The home officially closed on Friday 9th August.

Age UK Oldham

Following the Cabinet decision in 2022 to cease the Council's contribution of funding towards luncheon clubs, ASC has continued to work closely with Age UK Oldham to provide a sustainable service and source alternative funding. Unfortunately, bids have been made for grant funding, but they have not been successful, resulting in the likelihood of closure of the Luncheon Clubs. ASC and Age UK Oldham issued a joint press release and will continue to work in partnership to ensure that people who are assessed to need additional support receive it.

ASC Mental Health Restructure

ASC has worked with Pennine Care Foundation Trust (PCFT) to plan a restructure of a new Community Mental Health Team and AMHP service. Oldham Council previously delegated Mental Health Care Act Duties and AMHP duties under the Mental Health Act to PCFT, including all governance arrangements. However, for assurance purposes the council has decided to ensure the Council are able to continue to meet Care Act duties a restructuring would be progressed. The proposed structure will bring the governance of the workforce and statutory duties back to Oldham Council. Consultation and planning have commenced, the following proposals being agreed on the 19th of August at Cabinet.

Strength Based Ways of Working

Adult Social Care has been progressing a transformation project to deliver Strength based ways of working. This has included engagement with the workforce and stakeholders, Mosaic redesign, full-

service training, and cultural change, aligned to the TOM. Adult Social Care & ICB have engaged with Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE) to develop a 'practice with impact' review over 16 weeks.

The review is expected to outline and maximize cultural, and system change across the whole system to develop and embed Strength Based ways of working.

CQC Assurance Readiness

ASC continues to prepare for the CQC assurance process, with a newly established Assurance Board, 'Towards Outstanding', having been established. Evidence gathering, planning for the initial response once the notification letter is received, and allocated officer roles continue at pace. To date, no Greater Manchester Localities have been contacted, however, Northwest Localities are starting to be visited. The ASC team in Oldham are working with colleagues across the country to learn from their experiences and planning, sharing knowledge and information ongoing.

Oldham Total Care

Twelve months since the acquisition of Oldham Total Care (OTC) I am pleased to confirm the home is seeing a much-improved position and is at 92% occupancy. The team continues to work with systems partners to support residents and staff to maintain safe and caring support whilst working towards full occupancy. A registered manager has been appointed, pending the start date, which will be key to the continued successful development of the home as a centre of excellence for the people of Oldham.

Oldham Integrated Care Partnership (ICP)

One Oldham Fund Community Grants Programme

The Partnership has agreed to support and fund a new Community Grants Programme under the One Oldham Fund for local charities and voluntary organisations to bid to undertake health and wellbeing projects in their communities. The Fund will be run and managed by Action Together and is expected to launch in the autumn, and the aim is to *"strengthen early intervention and prevention through community-led health approaches to improve health and wellbeing outcomes and tackle health inequalities for Oldham residents."* The award levels will be up to £1,000 as micro grants, and between £1,000 and £10,000 as small grants. Informal social action groups will be able to apply for micro grants, whilst formally constituted organisations will be able to apply for either award level.

Fit for the Future

A three-phase programme of public engagement is due to take place between September 2024 and January 2025 across Greater Manchester about health and care services. The phasing will look at *"happy, healthy lives"*, *"great services"*, and *"financial balance"*. Work is underway on behalf of the Partnership between local communications and engagement leads with Action Together to plan a roll out of this engagement activity in Oldham, utilising the GM-led engagement content in a way that makes it meaningful for people in our borough.

Strategy and planning

The Partnership has an agreed strategy and 2024/25 delivery plan in place, which was ratified by Oldham ICP Committee (formerly named the ICP Locality Board) and was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board. A wide range of planning is now taking place for the 2025/26 year in relation to priorities, quality, and cost improvements. This is happening both on an Oldham borough level and as part of the 'Four Localities Partnership', which encompasses the NHS Northern Care Alliance Foundation Trust footprint of Oldham, Rochdale, Bury and Salford.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.