



ANNUAL REPORT

1st APRIL 2023 -
31st MARCH 2024



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<https://www.olscb.org/about/publications/>

Approved by Oldham Safeguarding Children Partners on

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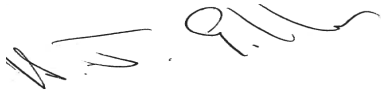
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Message from Independent Chair

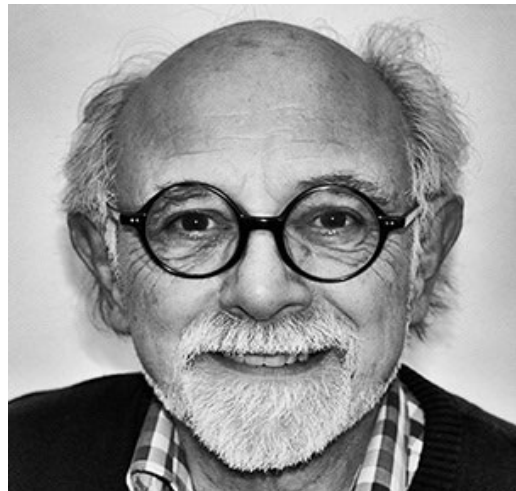
The 2023-24 annual report of the Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership demonstrates the continuing strength of effective local safeguarding activity in the period. The Partnership has consolidated a number of earlier gains in this period and now presents as a robust set of arrangements to safeguard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

- The structures of the Partnership have been streamlined and the representation of agencies and interests within them strengthened.
- Priority actions have been identified and progressed and key outcomes evidenced and promoted.
- The Partnership has engaged with stakeholders, particularly those vulnerable or at risk of compromised safeguarding and listened to their needs and concerns.
- The Partners have been challenged and held to account where necessary to ensure improved performance where required.

The gains of the past 12 months will now be taken into the work programme for 2024-25 and built into the revised structures of the Partnership as laid out in Working Together 2023.



**Dr Henri Giller, Independent Chair of the Oldham Safeguarding
Children Partnership**



Purpose of the Report

Working Together 2023, requires the Safeguarding Children Partnership to publish a report on an annual basis. The purpose of this report is to set out what activities' partners have undertaken jointly between April 2023 and March 2024. The focus of this report focuses on multi- agency priorities, learning, impact, evidence, and improvements.

The report contains the following:

- Evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children, adults, and their families from early help to children in care and care leavers.
- How, effective arrangements in Oldham which exist to enable safeguarding partners to effectively work together to keep children safe.
- What partnerships have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews.

Our report this year is written against the five priorities:

1. Neglect
2. Complex and contextual safeguarding
3. Transitions
4. Domestic abuse
5. Child mental health and the impact of trauma

OSCP Vision

“For everyone to work together to ensure that all children and young people feel safe within their homes, schools and communities”.

The vision of Oldham Safeguard and aims of the Oldham Safeguarding Partnership are the six stated in the Oldham Strategic Safeguarding Plan 2024 – 2027.

Vision:

1. Excellent practice is the norm across all practitioners in Oldham.
2. Partner agencies hold one another to account effectively.
3. There is early identification of new safeguarding issues.
4. Learning is promoted and embedded.
5. Information is shared effectively.
6. The public feel confident that children are protected.

Partnership working

Oldham Safeguarding Children Partners work together to promote a child-centred approach to safeguarding, listening to children, empowering families and, where needed, providing services that are professional, evidenced-based, and effective. The partners continuously strive to improve and challenge each other to learn the lessons from daily practice.

Working Together 23, highlights that strong, joined up leadership and clear accountability is critical to effective multi agency safeguarding, bringing together the various organisations and agencies.

Oldham safeguarding children partnership have named Lead Safeguarding Partners.

The Lead Statutory Partners (LSP) responsible for the safeguarding arrangements under the Oldham Safeguarding Partnership are:

- Oldham Council
- Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (Oldham)
- Greater Manchester Police

The Lead Safeguarding Partners for Oldham's Safeguarding Arrangements are the Chief Executive of Oldham Council, who is also the Accountable Officer for Oldham operation of Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership, and the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police.

Each Lead safeguarding Partner have appointed a delegated safeguarding partner.

The lead safeguarding partners have opted to delegate their functions to the following Senior Officers:

- Director of Children's Services (DCS) – Oldham Council
- Assistant Director Quality, Safety & Safeguarding – Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (Oldham)
- Oldham Divisional Commander – Greater Manchester Police

Whilst the Lead Safeguarding Partners delegate their functions, they remain accountable for any actions or decisions taken on behalf of their agency. They are accountable for meeting the statutory and legislative duties of their agency.

During the past year, all relevant safeguarding agencies have continued to demonstrate a clear and tangible investment in wanting to improve our responses to children and young people in Oldham.

Safeguarding is everyone's business, and the Oldham Safeguarding Partnership will provide lead responsibility in demonstrating what this means for all people and professionals living and working in the local community.

Oldham Partnership Model

Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership:

The Strategic Partnership in Oldham are responsible for setting the strategic aims and priorities of the Oldham safeguarding children partnership, agreeing, and monitoring the partnership budget to deliver on those aims and priorities, monitoring the performance of the partnership, holding partners to account, providing scrutiny and challenge.

The Safeguarding Children Strategic Partnership meets bi-monthly. It has the following partnership representation:

- Director of Children's Services – Oldham Council,
- Director of Social Care and Early Help - Oldham Council
- Assistant Director Quality, Safety & Safeguarding – Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (Oldham)
- Designated Doctor – Clinical Director, Community Paediatrics (Oldham)
- Designated Nurse – Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (Oldham)
- Chief Superintendent – Oldham District Commander, GMP
- Cabinet Member Children and Young People
- Director of Education - Oldham Council
- Director of Public Health - Oldham Council
- Secondary Head teacher,
- Primary Head teacher,
- Special school representative
- Further Education representative
- Voluntary Sector representation
- Head of Community Safety Services

Statutory Partners Meeting

The partners:

- Agreed the agenda for the Partnership.
- Received exception reports from subgroup chairs.
- Prepared for Safeguarding Accountability meeting.
- Identified cross cutting themes with the Adult Safeguarding Board.

Safeguarding Review and Learning Hub Subgroup

The learning hub:

- Defined what good looks like.
- Facilitate the effective management of Child Safeguarding Reviews.
- Act as a conduit at a local level for the delivery of any national reviews.
- To develop and drive the partnership training plan, influenced by strategic priorities and learning from reviews.
- To develop a culture of continuous learning and improvement across the Partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and promote good practice.
- Lead on the learning and improvement activity of the Partnership. This will include undertaking multi-agency case evaluations, monitoring partner agency compliance with Section 11 responsibilities, collating and providing analysis of partnership performance data.
- Be responsible for the consideration of serious incidents and/or child deaths which have

occurred as a result of abuse or neglect, as per Working Together 2023 guidance.

- Undertake rapid reviews within 15 working days and will lead on the completion of any local safeguarding practice reviews. This group will also act as the co-ordination group for any national safeguarding practice reviews. Oldham's rapid review process is part of a Greater Manchester initiative (led by Salford as an early adopter) to ensure a consistency of approach across the GM safeguarding partnerships.

Rapid Review Panel

This is an agreed subset of the safeguarding and Learning review group which will meet as and when required to respond to rapid review referrals. The panel follow the Practice Review Guidance 24.

Performance Subgroup

The Performance subgroup:

Deliver a QA performance framework (inc overseeing Audits) and scorecard that is focused on improving outcomes for children.

- Develop and implement appropriate thresholds, policies and procedures that are focused on improving outcomes for children and families.
- Work alongside the Safeguarding and Review Group to provide quality assurance and analysis.
- Lead on continuous improvement for the Partnership, seeking data, intelligence, and audit findings to evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding services for children and young people in Oldham.
- Be responsible for analysing multi-agency safeguarding performance data and the findings from case reviews to inform the Partnership of relevant trends in safeguarding performance, risks to the attainment of the Partners' business priorities and emergent safeguarding needs that require a response from the Partnership.
- Conduct audits informed by the Partnership priorities, data intelligence and the findings from case reviews (local and national)
- Undertake audits on both a single and multi-agency basis and include annually at least one 'deep dive' in addition to 'dip dives.'
- Receive single agency audit reports and performance reviews and challenge their conclusions where merited, and identify any significant issues that need to be monitored and/or raised to the Strategic Partnership or Statutory Partners Meeting
- Develop and monitor action plans resulting from performance data analysis and audit and ensure that such action plans are completed in a timely manner.
- Identify whether practice has changed as a result of completed action plans, using performance data or re-auditing where required.

Task and Finish groups

The purpose is to lead on time limited, task specific pieces of work as directed by subgroups and/or Strategic Partnership

Safeguarding Accountability Meetings

These quarterly meetings are to provide safeguarding assurance to the Chief Executive of LA, Accountable officer for CCG and Chief Superintendent for GMP.

School Network Designated Safeguarding Leads

Hold termly with DSL's to ensure communication and discussion with schools/colleges.

Policy subgroup

Oldham Safeguarding Partnership continue to adopt Greater Manchester policies and procedures. This

group is now a virtual group. The role of the local policy and procedures group will be to support the maintenance and review of Greater Manchester safeguarding policy and procedures; to review the effectiveness of policies and procedure as directed by Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and learning and improvement activity and make recommendations for modifications as required. The policy sub-group will lead on guidance on information sharing, but all sub-groups will need to be mindful of the implications of information sharing, current practice, and standards and how improvement can be attained.

All subgroups have worked towards achieving the priorities detailed within the 2023/2024 OSCP Business Plan.

Subgroups exist under the current arrangements which drive forward the work of the OSCP. Safeguarding partners take a shared responsibility in chairing the subgroup meetings which maximise the opportunities for joint working on shared priorities.

This arrangement has remained consistent and stable during 2023/2024.

Reflections from our Statutory Partners

Oldham district of Greater Manchester Police has gone through a period of change in the last 12 months with a number of moves within the Senior Leadership Team. I was posted here permanently as the district commander in February of 2024 and I would expect that Oldham should start to see some stability from police leadership. On arrival I set three priorities for Oldham District Policing, the number one priority is child protection.

As a district we have our own internal child protection plan to ensure that we get our policing response right - That we respond to incidents quickly, that we arrest perpetrators and that investigations are allocated to the right resource and progressed as quickly as possible with successful outcomes. We have started to see improvements but now is not the time for complacency and I will continue to drive the policing response in this area.

Force wide, Greater Manchester Police continue to strive to improve in all areas and recognise child protection is a priority. Work is ongoing force wide to identify best practice and achieve consistency of response to child protection across the force, to ensure that no child GM wide is left with a substandard service.

The support and joint agency working within the Oldham Safeguarding Partnership is strong and this, along GMP's commitment to continual improvement, will make Oldham a safer place to live, work and visit.

The leadership within Oldham District remains focused on continuing to build and develop the excellent partnership we have already established. We are working hard, together, to embed the changes outlined in working together but also to embed learning from case reviews throughout our organisations. We recognise that we need to make the learning relevant to the target audience and ensure that it lands with our front line to embed the learning and result in real change.

We have made clear our commitment to provide well defined objectives and ensure that we put the right measures in place across the partnership to be able to demonstrate real change and tangible outcomes.

We continue to investigate a number of serious and complex crimes within the district and through the partnership. We are determined to seek justice and safeguard all victims of crime.

As a police force we cannot achieve the outcomes that we need without partnership working, hence it will remain a priority for me to build on these relationships and ensure that we are working as a true partnership. The introduction of 'Right Care, Right Person' in September 2024, will result in some changes but is something we have been planning for some time and Oldham will be ready to deliver.

We are looking forward to a new era for the OSCP with the new working together arrangements which should bring greater scrutiny, challenge, and performance".

Estelle Mathieson, Chief Superintendent, District Commander, Oldham



The Oldham Safeguarding Children's Partnership is the cornerstone of our mature and effective multi-agency response to safeguarding children and young people and supporting families in Oldham. It has been a challenging year in which all agencies have sustained high levels of demand impacted by the social deprivation faced in our communities. We have maintained a relentless focus on improving our response to complex and contextual safeguarding, domestic abuse, children's mental health, neglect, and transitions for children and young people at all key points in their lives.

OSCP has worked at pace to implement action plans from the learning from local reviews into practice improvement through the Learning Hub sub-group and strengthened performance management through the Performance sub-group. We continue to deliver a comprehensive training offer to schools and colleges aligned with our key priorities and have implemented new partnership arrangements in line with the Working Together 2023 guidance. We have recognised the need as a partnership to expand the scope and impact of early help to prevent harm to children and young people and family breakdown and will focus on revising and implementing the Oldham Partnership Continuum of Need in 2024/25 to continue to provide better place based early help services centred around Family Hubs as part of a comprehensive integrated family help offer to support families where they live.

Gerard Jones - Managing Director of Children & Young People (DCS)



NHS GM has maintained the CCG statutory duties across the GM Safeguarding Children Partnerships as one of the equal and joint statutory partners (Local Authority, ICBs and Chief Officer of police). Full representation has been maintained at Safeguarding Children's Partnerships, and associated subgroup meetings, to fulfil and discharge both commissioning and statutory safeguarding responsibilities. This has enabled the ICB to work with its partners to ensure learning from local and national child death and safeguarding reviews has influenced and strengthened practice.

NHS GM has continued to discharge our statutory safeguarding duties throughout 2023-24 in relation to safeguarding babies, children, and young people.

The NHS GM Chief Nurse holds the statutory accountability for safeguarding and is supported by the Deputy Chief Nurse and Associate Director of Safeguarding. Statutory safeguarding responsibilities are delegated to the Associate Director of Quality and Safety in each of the GM localities and delivery of the statutory functions are undertaken by the locality Designated Teams

Andrea Edmondson
Associate Director Quality & Safety (Oldham)
NHS Greater Manchester



Strategic Aims and Principles

Our strategic aims include:

- Excellent practice is the norm across all practitioners in Oldham.
- Partner agencies hold one another to account effectively.
- There is early identification of new safeguarding issues.
- Learning is promoted and embedded.
- Information is shared effectively.
- The public feel confident that children are protected.

Principles underpinning our work:

- We will ensure that children and their families are fully engaged and listened to so that their voices and lived experiences are integral to the development and delivery of services.
- We are committed to working together with all partner agencies, organisations, and communities who have a role to play in safeguarding, to ensure that children are safe, well and able to reach their full potential.
- We will continually measure the impact of work undertaken through OSCP to ensure that there is accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice with a focus on continual learning and improved outcomes for children.

The Local Context.

Oldham forms one of the ten local authority areas that comprise the Greater Manchester conurbation. Oldham will continue to work closely and collaboratively with its counterparts on both a regional and sub- regional basis. Oldham will actively participate in the initiatives of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, particularly with respect to the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership.

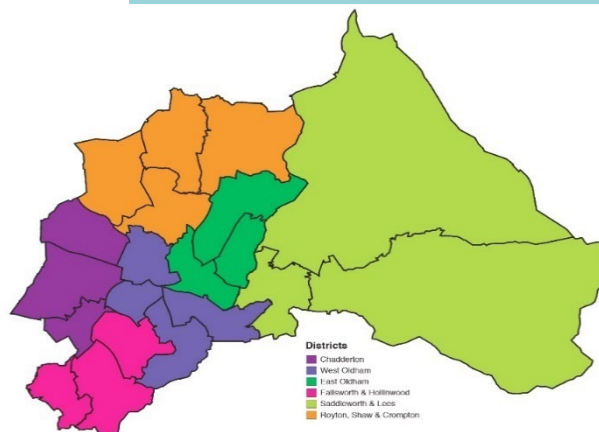
Understanding the context of life in Oldham for children, young people and their families is a fundamental point for the safeguarding partners.

82,393 Children and Young People

Aged 0-25 live in Oldham.

There are 61,000 children and young people aged 0-17 (25% of Oldham's population). Numbers of children and young people are projected to fall by 5% over the next decade.

Oldham has a population of 246,130 people making it the 6th largest borough in Greater Manchester.



Almost two-fifths (38%) of children under 16 in Oldham live in poverty.

Oldham has a diverse population with 32% of residents from Black, Asian and Minority ethnic groups (BAME).

In 2023/24 there were:

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

Profile of Safeguarding in Oldham

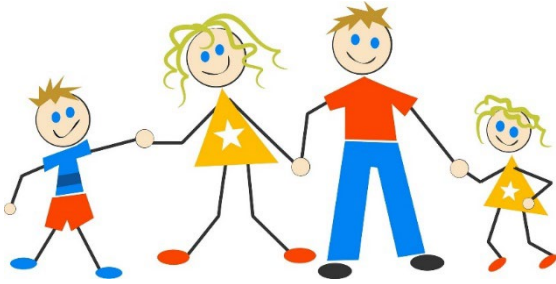
Contacts to MASH

26,000



Contacts converted to Referrals

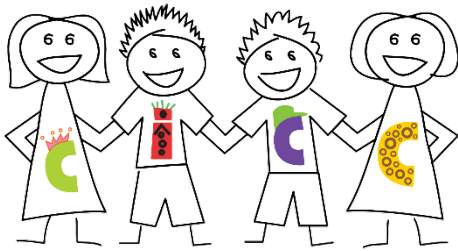
5430



3,644 referrals made to Targeted Early Help



2058 S47 enquiries initiated



510 children looked after as of March 2024



507 children on child protection plans as of March 2024



273 children electively home educated

Introducing Working Together 2023. Driving improvements

Following the Oldham Safeguarding Childrens Partnership (OSCP) Development Day in January, an agreement was made that a Strategic Assessment would be undertaken on the Multi Agency Partnership Arrangements. This provides an opportunity for OSCP to have a comprehensive understanding of the areas for improvement. It focused on the following:

- To assess the current effectiveness and governance of the OSCP.
- To support the partnership to drive improvement to the broader practice system, and to support reform to align with the requirements of Working Together 2023, and the new National Framework for Children's Social Care.
- To develop and implement a QA & Performance Framework to enhance safeguarding effectiveness.

Methodology undertaken:

- Interviews with most stake holders
- Reviewed Partnership documents on website
- ToR of the Board and subgroups
- Work plans and minutes from selected meetings.
- Observation of selected meetings
- 'Desktop' review of other LSP arrangements, GM and nationally.
- What Works for Childrens Social Care Safeguarding Partners Annual Report Analysis 2021/22, published Dec 2022
- Six Steps for Independent Scrutiny -Safeguarding Childrens Partnership Arrangements University of Bedfordshire
- Child Practice Review Panel Annual Report January 2024
- Working Together 2023 – Task and Finish Group, to progress the project plan and strategic assessment.



Activity and Impact – Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse.

Domestic abuse, and the effect it has on children and families in Oldham is sadly a repeating issue over many years of Annual Reports and plans. Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership remains committed to preventing Domestic Abuse and making sure that the correct support is available for any child affected by it.

There is an ongoing ambition for health within Oldham to target low level domestic abuse and work with victims and their families to provide early intervention and support. The aim is to deliver this via Primary Care.

2023- 2024 key priorities:

1. Strengthen the support offer to at standard and medium levels of risk.
2. Improved communication of the support offer, including increasing the availability of online self-help resources
3. Completion of a multi-agency training audit to identify gaps and build capacity of services to support victims of abuse and their children.
4. Specific capacity building initiatives – CHIDVA, IRIS with GPs and Senior IDVA supporting Children's Services, seek additional funding for hospital IDVA.
5. Extend the commissioned intervention with perpetrators of Domestic Abuse to March 2025
6. Disruption work with the identified high harm cohort.
7. Further improving operation of Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
8. Revisiting Operation Encompass to ensure that the process provides the most appropriate, timely information to schools so children affected by Domestic Abuse can be supported.
9. There are impending changes in May 2023 to how referrals to services are processed at the 'front door' (MASH) and this presents additional opportunities for early intervention.

Activity

In 2023 – 2024 we:

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

Areas for Reflection and priorities in 2024-2025..

We will:

- Ensure there is a robust local offer to children and families which offers early help, protects them, and reduces the impact of their experiences.
- Have a range of interventions and measures available to reduce the risk presented by perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- Have a preventative approach to those at risk of becoming perpetrators.
- Ensure support is coordinated and will be a whole family with an approach to upscale communication and awareness raising to meet scale of challenge
- Ensure our communities will be able to spot signs of abuse and will challenge where necessary
- Refresh strategy and safe accommodation needs assessment.
- Prevent abuse and intervene at the earliest point by investment in workforce development with up-to-date knowledge and skill set for all those working with children and families.
- Provide support for those who experience abuse, strengthen offer around recovery programmes and peer support.

Activity and Impact – Complex and Contextual Safeguarding

Complex and contextual safeguarding

Complex Safeguarding is criminal activity (often organised), or behaviour associated with criminality, involving children and young adults (often vulnerable) where there is exploitation and/or a clear or implied safeguarding concern.

Over 2023-24 the partnership continued the work from the previous year regarding the Peer Review of services in the borough, and started to progress the learning from [The review into historic safeguarding practices in the borough of Oldham](#)

2023- 2024 key priorities:

- Continue to take robust and early action to share intelligence and challenge the operations of perpetrators of exploitation ensuring we maximise the use of all agencies and the legal powers available to us to disrupt the behaviours.
- To support the development of more in-depth analysis of local trends and themes to continue to inform and drive targeted service delivery.
- Strengthen the transitional safeguarding offer.
- Implementation of a contextual safeguarding approach – this will include an audit of processes, procedures, and forms to ensure that context is robustly considered and rooted in our practice; as well as practically implementing the approach.
- Strengthen the prevention offer for CSE, CCE and youth violence.
- Complex and contextual safeguarding to continue to be offered within the OSCB training offer, alongside training continuing to be offered within schools, colleges, faith sector, residential homes, and wider partners.
- Multi agency audits to take place.

Activity

In 2023 – 2024 we:

- Children and young people at risk of or experiencing all forms of exploitation will receive the right support at the right time in order to keep them safe.
- Built capacity in areas of the statutory partnership and community partners to be able to recognise and respond to all forms of complex and contextual safeguarding that affect the lives of children and families.
- Had a continued focus on the mapping and development of the community level support offer.
- Developed a robust multi-agency response to criminal exploitation and gangs and the embedding of our contextual approach to complex safeguarding.
- Raised awareness, confidence, and skills to ensure the earliest identification of complex safeguarding, by professionals, carers, and the wider community.
- Delivered sessions to up to 5000 students covering sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, county lines, substance misuse, knife crime, healthy relationships,
- Delivered training to approximately 800 professionals, including school staff, residential staff, and partner agencies.
- Developed a robust prevention, offer that is led by the firsthand experiences of survivor/victims of exploitation and ensuring that community partners plan a vital role shaping and supporting Oldham's response.
- Hold perpetrators to account through improved disruption and prosecution and build our knowledge by understanding from perpetrators how they exploit children and adults at risk.

- To embed a Contextual Safeguarding Approach across the Partnership and ensure a consistent understanding of how to respond to emerging and changing trends.

Impact

- The partnership will know when there is a difference in children and young people's lives when less children will be subject to exploitation and where it is effective support and services including perpetrators prosecuted.
- From April 2023 to March 2024 the Complex Safeguarding Hub received 155 referrals into the service, of these 63% were accepted into the team with the remaining 37% being signposted to support from either Catch 22 or KOGs.
- 57 young people received support from the complex safeguarding team, 23 of these young people received support in relation to Sexual Exploitation and 34 young people received support in relation to Criminal Exploitation.
- Professionals are able to identify, support and refer children and young people at risk of or experiencing all forms of exploitation.
- There have been 35 arrests undertaken by the Complex Safeguarding Police Team in relation to exploitation. There has also been an arrest and charge made in relation to modern day slavery.
- There have been 21 Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWNs) issued over the last 12 months as part of ongoing disruption into Child Exploitation in the borough.
- An example of positive work is successfully supporting a young person into employment, which has in turn decreased missing episodes and further reduced the risk of criminal exploitation.
- Missing and Child Exploitation meetings were held monthly, attended by representatives from the wider partnership. The MACE meetings include the top 10 missing children and young people to ensure the right support is in place to disrupt/reduce missing. This meeting also explores emerging trends and hotspots.
- The Complex Safeguarding Hub continued to work with partners to improve our contextual safeguarding approach and offer within the Oldham Borough.
- The Complex Safeguarding hub work closely with KOGs (Keeping Our Girls Safe), Catch 22 and Positive steps in relation to prevention and diversion.
- The Complex Safeguarding Hub work closely with the Youth Service and KOGs to learn from young people and survivors lived experiences, to shape and influence the offer implemented within the borough.

Areas for reflection and priorities 24-25

We will:

- Continue to take robust and early action to share intelligence and challenge the operations of perpetrators of exploitation ensuring we maximise the use of all agencies and the legal powers available to use of all agencies and the legal powers available to disrupt behaviours.
- Support the development of more in depth analysis of local trends and themes to continue to inform and drive targeted service delivery.
- Support the implementation of the adolescent safeguarding framework.
- Implementation of a contextual safeguarding approach. This will include an audit of processes, procedures, and forms to ensure that context is robustly considered and rooted in our practice; as well as practically implementing the approach.
- Strengthen the prevention offer for CSE, CCE and serious youth violence across the partnership.
- Complex and contextual safeguarding to continue to be offered within the OSCP training offer, alongside training continuing to be offered within schools, colleges, faith sector, residential homes, and wider partners.

Activity and Impact – Neglect

Neglect

The causes of neglect are manifold, and it has the potential to impact on many aspects of a child's development – physical, emotional, behavioural, educational. The Oldham Neglect Strategy recognises the multi-faceted origins of neglect and alerts all partner agencies to ensure that they are engaged in the recognition and response to its occurrence and impact.

We want Oldham to be a borough where the conditions are right for children to be able to thrive. Neglect is an important issue and experiencing neglect can significantly compromise a child's development. Therefore, early identification and timely intervention are extremely important to ensure the safety, wellbeing and development of children and young people. Oldham is committed to effectively tackling the issue of neglect and this strategy will inform the actions needed to do so.

2023- 2024 key priorities:

- Work in partnership with families and communities to overcome factors which prevent parents/carers from meeting the needs of their children.
- Improve the awareness, understanding and the early identification of neglect through workforce development and communications.
- Improve the quality of the multi-agency response to children and families living with neglect captured through case reviews, audit and voice of children and families.
- Identify opportunities for children, young people, and families to share their experiences in order to shape and develop our multi-agency response to neglect.
- Continue to rollout GCP2 training to wider partners.
- Prevention of the causes that lead to child neglect rather than only responding to the symptoms by understanding the scale of neglect in Oldham and how it's affecting our families.
- Ensure there is a strong partnership response with a common understanding of the spectrum of neglect and a recognition of the need to work with families at the earliest opportunity to prevent harm.
- Have a provision of strengths-based support for families from voluntary and statutory organisations in Oldham.
- Provide opportunities for children, young people, and families to share their experiences in order to shape and develop our multi - agency response to neglect.

Activity

- In September 2023, the training rolls out of the GCP2 tool across Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership agencies began. The training of GCP2 was rolled out across Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership agencies so that the new approach would be embedded.
- A new foundation training course (Neglect Matters) has been developed and delivered to practitioners.
- Support surgeries for GCP2 trainers available to practitioners who have accessed training and are working with neglect tools.
- Neglect subgroup developed to include Statutory Partners and relevant partners.
- Developed a draft data set surrounding neglect to identify key themes and trends with health and other relevant partners.
- Lessons learnt from Serious Case Reviews in relation to neglect are part of the Neglect Subgroup. Both Local and National reviews are considered.
- Development of a parenting offer.
- Action together completed engagement work with children and young people to understand their views.

Challenges

- Confidence of practitioners who have completed training to undertake GCP2 assessment.
- Concern practitioners across the partnership are desensitised to neglect impacting on early identification and intervention.
- Lack of consistent approach to neglect across the partnership.

Impact

- 104 staff have been trained in the GCP2. The Neglect Subgroup monitors activity in relation to GCP2 completions and impact.
- Practitioners have reported that they are implementing the GCP2. Neglect concerns have been identified. Practitioners have advised families of what universal services are available to them.
- The voice of children and young people have started to be collated. Action Together have established a steering group. The group will meet on a regular basis to support the collation of themes from participatory activity.
- Those who have accessed the GCP2 training evaluated that they are able to identify the prevention of the causes that lead to child neglect rather than only responding to the symptoms. They have more understanding of the scale of neglect in Oldham and how it's affecting our families.
- Increase in the number of GCP2 completed with Targeted Early Help Team. 9 were open. 7 offered Targeted Early Help 2 escalated. 1 family had involvement from CSC and one family received support from both Target Early Help and Children Social Care.
- 3 Early Help cases evidenced some impact. For example, home conditions were up and down, or showing slight improvements. Major repairs were still required. Other aspects of the plan progressed slowly.
- 1 GCP2 case required further investment from Targeted Early Help and a referral to specialist service "Tidy Home Tidy Mind due to hoarding/MH took place.
- Early Help had 4 cases that evidenced clear improvement because of GCP2 i.e. improved home conditions, robust safety plans, a "decluttering" task sheet and Housing being held to account for repairs.

Areas for reflection and priorities 24-25

We will:

- Continue to have a clear and robust offer of support at the earliest opportunities.
- Work towards narrowing the gap to reduce the numbers of children living in poverty.
- Have a commitment to elevate child and adolescent neglect.
- Have a confident and competent workforce that recognises and responds to neglect at the earliest opportunity.
- Work in Partnership with families and communities to overcome factors which prevent parents/carers from meeting the needs of their children.
- Improve the quality of the multi-agency response to children and families living with neglect captured through case reviews, audit and voice of children and families.
- Identify opportunities for children, young people, and families to share their experiences in order to shape and develop our multi-agency response to neglect.
- Build community and voluntary sector links to spot, support and respond to issues of neglect. Particular activity to be targeted at being inclusive of Oldham's diverse community.

Activity and Impact – Transitions

OSCP are committed to planning at the earliest possible stage for the transition of children and young people who will require services in young adulthood, ensuring robust outcomes.

A transitions strategy which is founded on a principle of preventative and strengths-based practice will facilitate an offer of services that from the perspective of the young person and their family is positive and seamless, aligning with their aspirations.

The focus for the Safeguarding Partnership is on widening the strategy to include key partner agencies who have a role within transitions and to those areas of safeguarding that have been identified as priorities such as complex safeguarding and mental health.

The partnership knows there is a difference in children and young people's lives when young adults tell us they are receiving the right support at the right time.

Key Priorities 23-24

- Project Governance & Planning
- Strategic Transitions Board was established in late 2023, to provide strategic direction and oversight to the development and implementation of the transitions work programme, ensuring that the project objectives are met. The Board is co-chaired by the DASS & DCS.
- Governance structure includes a multi-agency Transitions sub-group, which reports into the Strategic Board on a monthly basis, along with a joint commissioning sub-group.
- Project plan & highlight reporting covers the following workstreams:
- Processes & Procedures,
- Professional Practice & Service Model,
- Data & information,
- Housing & Commissioning Support.

Activity

Embedment of the first phase of the Transitions project included:

- Development and launch of a multi-agency 'Preparing for Adulthood: Oldham's Transitions Policy.'
- Establishment of a Transitions Hub, with supporting processes.
- Development of Mosaic forms and workflow to support the transitions processes and to improve data recording.
- Practice resources and training were put in place to increase understanding amongst ASC & CSC workforce.
- A consolidated dataset has been developed and initial tracking mechanism put in place, based on referral data in Mosaic.
- Joint commissioning sub-group established, with representation from CSC, ASC, Education, Health & MioCare.
- Preparatory work undertaken to develop a joint commissioning strategy for Transitions.

Areas for reflection and priorities for 24-25

We will:

- Be committed to planning at the earliest stage for the transition of children and young people who require services in young adulthood.
- Have a transition strategy that is founded on a principle of preventative and strengths-based practice.
- Offer services that are positive and seamless, aligning with young people's aspirations.
- Include key partners who have a role within transitions and to those areas of safeguarding that have been identified as a priority (complex safeguarding and mental health)

- Data cleansing to be undertaken to ensure accuracy and completeness of information.
- Further work is ongoing to develop a Transitions dashboard and to improve demand forecasting.
- Housing and commission support
- Work is in progress to develop a commissioning handover process between CSC & ASC.
- Modelling of potential MioCare service offer to be scoped.

Activity and Impact – Childrens Mental Health and the impact of trauma

We will support healthy emotional development and help children and young people to become thriving adults. Our commitment is to support the right children and young people living with mental ill health and/or the impact of trauma to be able to access the right level of support at the right time. This includes caring for the most vulnerable with appropriate mental health support through services working together.

This is reflected in the Mental Health Strategy. Accountability and governance for this workstream is a key priority for Partners and once embedded it will oversee a robust partnership response to supporting the mental health and emotional wellbeing of our children and young people up to the age of 25 years.

Partnership agencies will continue to invest in the creation of a workforce which understands how to use early intervention to prevent lifelong trauma, and how to help children and families recover from the impact previous trauma has on their lives.

The partnership knows there is a difference in children and young people's lives when we have reduction in the number of children and young people experiencing mental health/emotional wellbeing issues and where this is the case, they receive timely and appropriate support to address their needs.

Key Priorities 23-24

- Children and young people living with mental ill health and/or the impact of trauma are able to access the right level of support at the right time.
- Partnership agencies will continue to invest in the creation of a workforce which understands how to use early intervention to prevent lifelong trauma, and how to help children and families recover from the impact previous trauma has on their lives.
- Develop an Emotional Wellbeing Mental Health Strategy for Oldham as part of the Greater Manchester ICB (GM) commissioning strategy and Oldham Local Authority commissioning strategy.
- To set priorities and agree action plans which will be delivered by members of the Partnership Group.
- To oversee the CYP MH actions in the SEND improvement plan.
- Development of whole system approach linked to adult all age mental health services, including transitional arrangements to adult services.
- Improve access to "Getting Advice," "Getting Help," "Getting More Help" and "Getting Risk Support" as part of a graduated needs-based approach.
- Ensure the voice of local families and lived experience are at the heart of everything we do.
- Regularly report on progress to the 'all age locality mental health board' and SEND Lip Exec Board.
- Enable equity of participation and promote collaboration between local contributors to improving Oldham child mental health outcomes.

Activity

- Improving population health outcomes, clinical outcomes, and family experience.
- Developing priorities for agreement through system and partner governance.
- Ensuring that people with lived/living experience are shaping the plans.
- Ensuring the plans are based on an Oldham whole system needs assessment and evidence base. Partners will contribute to the health needs assessment with anonymised data and intelligence.
- Developing a delivery plan and monitoring progress against the plan.

- Providing a forum to harness the expertise from providers across the full spectrum of delivery and work together to improve pathways and address gaps.
- Providing visible leadership and commitment to the development of mental health services across Oldham.
- Providing a forum for partners to work together to develop services, address inequalities and resolve issues.
- Developing and managing a risk and issues log.
- Escalating issues through system governance as required.
- Ensuring alignment of the Oldham delivery plan with national, GM and partner strategies and plans.
- iTHRIVE model developing and directory completed.
- Children and Young People Mental Health Partnership developed. TOR agreed and initial partnership meeting held 13th June 24
- Progress of commissioned CAMHS practitioner post to support youth justice team ongoing

Impact

- Reduction in waiting times for children and young people accessing CAMHS, has meant that there are improvements for these individuals in being able to access the right support at the right time. Scrutiny will continue to try and further reduce access and wait times.
- Development and cascading of the iTHRIVE directory to partners supports access, for children and young people, to receive the right support, at the right time, by the right service.

Areas for reflection and priorities for 24-25

We will:

- Support healthy emotional development and help children and young people to become thriving adults.
- Support the right children and young people living with mental ill health and or the impact of trauma to be able to access the right level of support at the right time.
- Ensure accountability and governance is a key priority. Oversee a robust partnership response to supporting the mental health and wellbeing up to the age of 25.
- Continue to invest in workforce development.
- Work towards a reduction in the number of children and young people experiencing mental health and emotional wellbeing issues.
- Identify a clear pathway of response for children and young people requiring mental health support.
- Safeguarding input into the definition of a new CYP MH partnership group which will incorporate safeguarding and trauma informed approaches within an Oldham-wide programme of work to improve CYP MH outcomes.
- Work in partnership with ICB commissioning to establish and embed a new CAMHS practitioner post to support the youth justice team.
- Increase the awareness / competencies related to systemic practice through workforce development programme.
- Increase the number of awareness sessions, level 1 training, level 2, systemic champions, train the trainer etc.
- Support the establishment of the Mockingbird specialist fostering model in Oldham, through awareness raising and expansion of the model.

Voice of children, young people, and families

Action Together are working with the children and young peoples' VCFSE sector, the Safeguarding Children's Partnership and Children's Services to engage with young people to capture their voice around what is important to them about safeguarding.

Building on what we already know as a Partnership from the Make your Mark survey results and insight gathered by the Oldham Youth Council, Children in Care Council and Barrier Brakers, we will be engaging young people in their communities around the following things:

- What does safe and unsafe look like for young people, at home, at school and college and in their communities?
- What kinds of risks do young people encounter and how do they currently manage those risks?
- Who are the trusted adult in young peoples' lives and how do they access them?
- If young people oversaw keeping young people safe, what would be the most important things that they would be doing something about – and what might those things be?

Through this engagement we'll be testing if what we (as the partnership) think are the priorities for safeguarding children and young people reflect what young people think are the priorities, and we'll be using this insight to shape those priorities and the work plans that sit underneath.

We're aligning this engagement work alongside the planned Youth Offer Needs Assessment engagement work that is going to be delivered through the autumn/winter led by the Youth Service.

What we did during 23-23 with Action Together.

- Series of collaboration workshops have taken place.
- Framework and approach have been tested with residents and VCFSE groups.
- Established Engagement and Insight Leads Group leading the work (meeting monthly for 12 months)
- Established Engagement and Insight Network (meeting quarterly for last 6 months)
- Council have invested in Engagement HQ digital platform.
- Children and Young People's Participation Framework developed.

Children and Young Peoples Participation Framework 2023 – 2030

OSCP will provide a collective vision and approach to participation and for how we can continue to build on the meaningful participation of our children and young people to ensure they are actively engaged in decision making processes and upholding their rights.

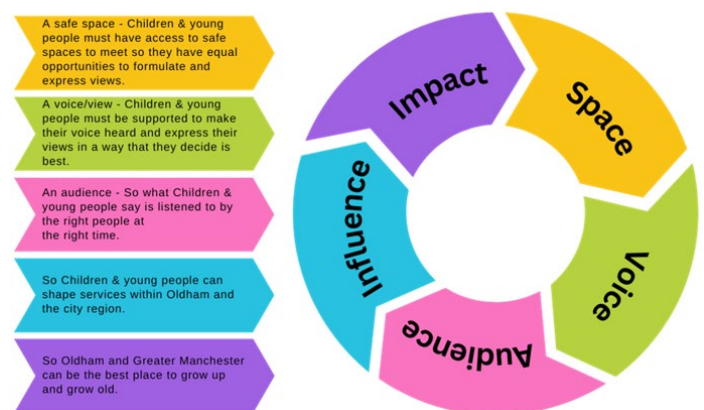
Action together will be commissioned to support the development of a culture of participation across all services working with and on behalf of young people. This will guarantee the place of children and young people's participation as a long-term priority with its principles reflected and embraced in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

The framework will be for:

- Everyone working with and on behalf of children and young people up to the age of 19 and including those young people with additional needs and care experience up to the age of 25.
- It is also relevant to other partners, both statutory and non-statutory who have a central role in supporting Oldham to achieve positive outcomes for our children, young people, and families.
- Most importantly this framework is for the children and young people of Oldham.

The Lundy Model of Participation will support professionals from across the Borough in their direct support of children and young people's participation. It provides clear parameters and conditions for successful participation to ensure that the voices of our children and young people can be heard.

The Lundy Model



Children's engagement - White Ribbon Conference for young people 29 November 2023

Oldham is now White Ribbon Accredited. As part of our White Ribbon two weeks of action, Oldham Council, Youth Council and Safeguarding Children Partnership invited local schools to attend our, Me, Myself, and I Conference. This work forms parts of the council's efforts to raise awareness of the White Ribbon campaign and aims to prevent violence against women and girls.

67 year 9 pupils from 11 schools attended.

This Conference provided young people with the opportunity to watch a performance piece which focused on the self and how our values, attitudes and behaviours are influenced. It explored both positive and negative narratives, and behaviours which may lead to things such as domestic abuse, harmful attitudes and social norms that contribute to gender inequality.

<https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/children-and-youth>

<https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/news/2023/12/14/oldham-council-holds-me-myself-and-i-conference-with-local-schools-to-change-the-story>



Members of Oldham Youth Council have expressed a wish to become white ribbon ambassadors and champions. One of the training programmes is available from White Ribbon a cohort of young people will be trained and actively engaged in will be actively involved in the combating gender-based violence.

After attending the conference pupils from a secondary school in Oldham have developed a training resource on gender-based violence. The OSCP training

consultation is supporting them to further develop this piece of work. The aim being this being a standardised learning resource that can be used by other secondary schools and colleges.



The Youth Service together with members of the partnerships Complex Contextual Safeguarding sub group, worked with Young People to learn from their lived experiences around Child Sexual Exploitation and this video was produced to capture the young people's voice and lived experiences.

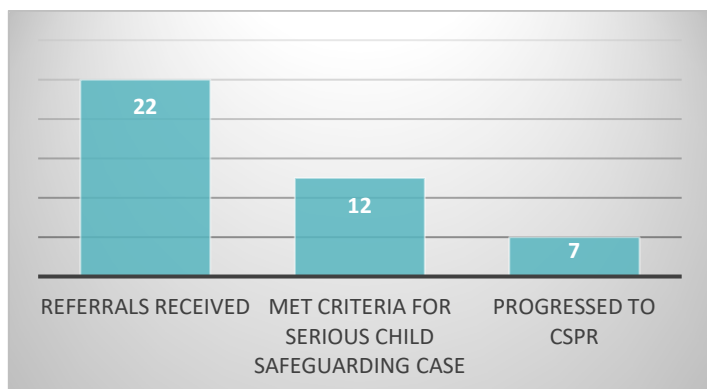
[Young Peoples experiences around CSE Video](#)

Learning & Quality Assurance Activity

Case Reviews

The Safeguarding Partnership has a statutory duty to review serious child safeguarding cases with the aim of identifying learning, improvements in practice and protecting children from harm.

A serious child safeguarding case is one in which, “abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected, **and** the child has died or been seriously harmed.” (WT 2023)



During the 2022-2023 period the partnership received 22 referrals for consideration of whether they met the criteria to notify to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and therefore progress to a Rapid Review process. Comparative analysis of Case review data across all 10 GM boroughs, showed that Oldham received the most referrals.

In the five cases that did not progress to a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review. One related to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards on a young person going through transition between children’s and adult services. Two concluded that no further review process required to bring about improvements, and action plan’s were implemented and completed. One case is to be included in thematic learning on youth violence. One case, much of the majority of the improvements to be made were single agency for Children’s Social Care therefore a single agency review is underway.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Two Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews were concluded within 2023-24; one which originated in 2022, and another which started in early 2023 and completed just before the period of this annual report.

Local Learning Example: Child T

Child T is a 7-month-old baby. A Rapid Review was completed, and the case did meet the criteria for a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review.

Child T arrived at nursery with her mother at the start of the day. Some six and a half hours later, an ambulance was called to attend to her. Child T was in respiratory arrest and was taken to hospital. Child T was identified to be suffering none accidental injuries.

At the conclusion of this review, the areas of learning identified were:

- Adherence to Safe Recruitment Processes
- Oversight and Scrutiny of Nursery Provision

Following rapid review processes and consultation with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, it was agreed that lessons could be learnt both locally and nationally.

Response from Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership:

- Bespoke training around early years recruitment was offered during 23/24. The impact was the increased knowledge base in EYFS sector around best practice.
- Guidance / briefing to rolled out across EYFS Management and Leadership across Oldham to draw attention to the necessity for policy compliance oversight and effective implementation.
- Attendance at Safer Recruitment & LADO training was monitored and action taken.
- The review of existing EYFS safeguarding toolkit.

Good Practice:

Some key good practice themes were drawn out of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews 2023 – 2024:

- Some strong examples of where professionals spending time building trusted relationships with young people has allowed the young person to talk openly about their experiences in a way they will not with other professionals.
- School had a greater insight into the children's lived experiences than any other service.
- Police recognised the risk to children and used their Police Powers of Protection appropriately.

Some Learning and Themes from case reviews 2023 – 2024

- Sexual Abuse and Disclosure
- Voice of the Child
- Neglect and Cumulative Harm. Broad understanding of neglect and impact was not evident.
- Serious Youth Violence
- Information sharing is a repeat theme, this is more in terms of decisions being made without full scoping of information which may be available than any resistance to share.

Quality Assurance

MACE – Transitions

Over 2023 – 2024 Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership further embedded the MACE (Multi-Agency Case Audit) model where all partner agencies come together to jointly audit a cohort of cases around a particular theme. This is a significant commitment from all partners.

In November 2023 the Partnership focussed on the theme of Transitions

The cases for the cohort were randomly selected from a cohort of Children's Social Care cases to cover three types of cases.

- Open to Children's Social Care and actively transitioned through to Adult Social Care.
- Opened to Adult Social Care within 12 months of 18th birthday but had a history of involvement with Children's Social Care prior to being 18.
- Children with SEND who transitioned across from Children's Social Care to Adults

Some of the key findings from this, which will be taken forward were:

- Systemic issues, capacity, and consistency
- Transitions Hub – early in its implementation
- Timeliness - These include misunderstanding of the most appropriate points to undertake Capacity assessments.
- Cumulative assessment, recognition of problems with engagement and use of information across transition.
- Sufficiency and availability of resources for young people in this cohort

School Safeguarding Audit 2023

The School Safeguarding Audit (s175) was sent to all maintained, academies and independent primary school, secondary, special schools, and colleges in Oldham on 1 April 2023.

The audit tool is a bespoke tool for schools and based around the expectations on education establishments of DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022, plus some local contextual questions regarding safeguarding practice.

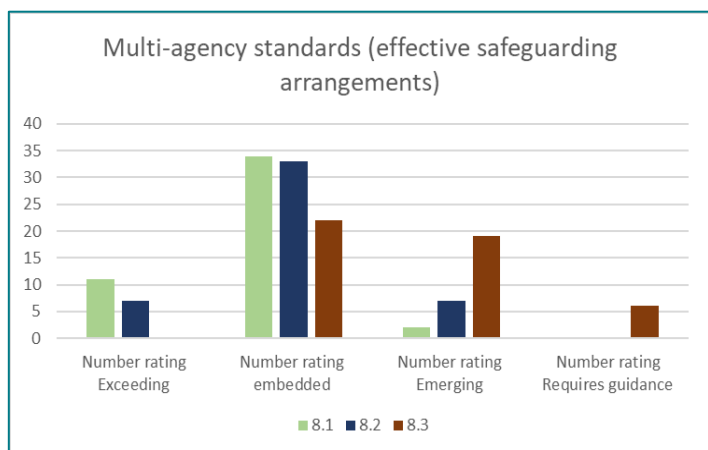
Schools and colleges were requested to grade themselves in eight areas of safeguarding (requires guidance/emerging/embedded/ exceeding) to evidence compliance with the standard question.

Summary of Progress

- A total of 115 audits were requested. Schools and colleges were given an initial deadline of 16 June 2023. As of this date, 49 settings had returned (55%) the audit to the OSCP.

Some academies trusts have commissioned their own safeguarding audits as evidence of compliance and individual conversations are being held to discuss these and information required as part of the OSCP audit process.

Ultimately the duties and the responsibilities lie with the education settings, the role of the partnership is to support rather than to model school and colleges policies. Where settings are emerging or there are gaps. That then will then feed into the safeguarding partnership training programme for the coming year and the termly education network meetings.



There are areas of very high % compliance with standards, notably the first three sections: professional curiosity, governors, and DSL. The partnership recognise the great amount of safeguarding work that takes place in schools.

What are we doing?

Safeguarding children effectively requires a knowledgeable and skilled workforce. By delivering multi agency training Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership aims to provide staff with good quality training that enhances inter agency communication, cooperation and provides a place to reflect on practice.

The training programme continues to be closely linked to the priority safeguarding concerns identified in the partnership annual business plan.

Who is doing this?

The training pool continues to be the core delivery system for training which enables us to be Oldham centric in our work, all evaluation forms tend to reference the benefit of receiving local knowledge from local staff/services. We have devised a comprehensive person specification for training pool members and offer a train the trainer course to all our pool members. We are in the process of reviewing training courses and recruiting to the training pool.

Attendance so far - Over 2023-2024 there were 50 training opportunities with 1,025 attendees from across the partnership accessing a variety of blended learning approaches including face to face classroom-based, online based, briefings and webinars.

Training Safeguarding Spotlight - We have retained the quarterly training offer (safeguarding spotlight) in place of an annual plan as this enables us to be flexible to any emerging needs or trends as identified via Safeguarding Reviews and the Strategic Learning Hub.

Learning through the website.

Our website had been redesigned a new safeguarding topics facility will enable us to house a variety of information including videos from professionals that will enhance learning, this includes.

ABCs of Trauma – facilitated by our local CAMHS team.

A- ACES / Attachment

B- How trauma can affect behaviour

C- Communicating with distress children (PACE model)

The ABCs will be a good precursor to accessing the free Aces and Trauma Home office e-learning module house on our website.

The Role of the HBV IDVA facilitated by our local HBVA Specialist complements the Home Office HBV e-learning module and provides a link into local specialism.

The GCP2 facilitated by the Training Consultant Provides an overview of the tool and is mandatory watching for those attending our Neglect Matters Training (neglect foundation).

Our local e learning module has been reviewed; updates will be made via Oldham College who have facilitated the platform for us.

The Cut It Out campaign

Cut it out is a training initiative directed at hairdressers and the beauty economy that aims to raise awareness of domestic abuse. A bespoke training session for 23 students and apprentices was devised and rolled out at Oldham College this training year. Further sessions will take place in 24-25.

Safeguarding in Education

Over 2023 – 2024 Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership facilitated four training sessions to designated safeguarding leads and deputies as part of the statutory requirement to update training to support their safeguarding role in school and college.

Whole school foundation safeguarding training sessions were provided to 14 primary schools and academies and 4 secondary schools.

Having assurance around safeguarding is a core responsibility for any school governing body, and six training sessions were delivered to school governors over the year equipping them with the safeguarding knowledge to underpin their role.

Termly network meetings for Designated Safeguarding Leads have been coordinated and chaired by the Safeguarding Education Advisor. In the year 2023/24 attendees have continue to

receive updates on DfE statutory safeguarding guidance such as Keeping Children Safe in Education, and changes to local procedures and practice. Guest speakers are invited to these network meetings. DSL's are involved in learning sessions from Rapid Reviews. All relevant recommendations and actions are shared with all DSL's.

Links with Early Years providers have developed during this year. Providers are invited to information sharing and training sessions four times per year. These sessions were delivered by the Oldham LADO. Attendance has been successful with over 50 attendees per session. The Safeguarding Education Advisor will be attending the Oldham Safeguarding EY Strategic Partnership meetings to develop and strengthen the partnership.

Regular meetings took place with Residential Homes and After School clubs. This will be developed further in 2024 – 2025.

Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2)

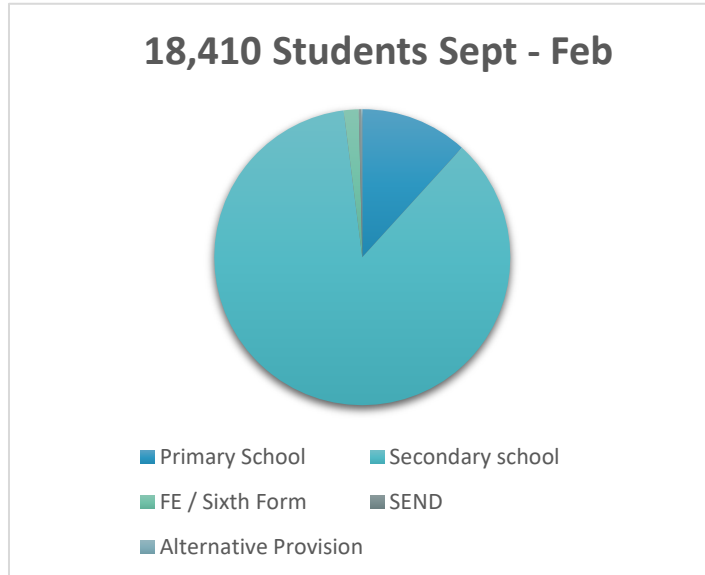
In 2022 – 2023 the partnership began to plan for the implementation of the Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2). GCP2 is an assessment tool that helps practitioners take a strengths-based approach to measuring the quality of care a child is receiving and supports them to identify neglect.

In September 2023 the training roll out of the tool across Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership agencies began. 104 staff have been trained in the GCP2. The Neglect Subgroup monitors activity in relation to GCP2 completions and impact.

A new foundation training course (neglect matters) has been developed and delivered a Neglect Advanced course is in the process of being written.

Training in schools and colleges:

Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership provide three core services to schools: Training, professional advice / support, and direct delivery of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and health education in schools.



During 2023/24 the Training Officer for Children and Young People delivered sessions to a total of 18410 students across the borough:

Alongside the work with children and young people, this offer from the Partnership also impacts education professionals, is offered to professionals from other agencies and to parents and carers. In this same period of September to February sessions were delivered to:

- 365 Education Staff
- 85 Professionals from non-education agencies
- 280 Parents and Carers

The contribution that this makes to supporting children to recognise that they or a friend is experiencing harm or abuse, and in developing their knowledge for the future is an area of strength for Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership, Community Safety Partnership, Health, and wellbeing strategy and more.

Priority for 24/25 is to develop summary of impact.

SCRUTINISING THE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP IN OLDHAM (APRIL 2023 TO MARCH 2024) Dr Henri Giller, Independent Chair of the Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership

This section of the annual report provides the independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the local arrangements by the Independent Chair of the Partnership as required by current legislation and regulation. The period covered by this report represents the fourth year of the current partnership arrangements. (These arrangements will be the subject of review later in 2024 and change during 2025.) The criteria used for this independent scrutiny are those developed nationally in the report “Six Steps for Independent Scrutiny” (2022).

Local Safeguarding Children Partner Leadership

LSCP statutory partner leads (Local Authority, Police, NHS (ICB)) are fully committed and engaged in the local safeguarding arrangements in Oldham. In addition to their participation in the regular (bi-monthly) Partnership meetings, the partnership leads meet on a monthly basis to consider key strategic and operational innovations and challenges and identify the actions that need to be progressed either by sub-groups of the Partnership or by the agendas of allied Partnerships (eg Health and Well-Being, Domestic Abuse Partnership etc). The statutory partners continue to actively participate in relevant sub-groups and working groups of the Partnership and attend the quarterly accountability meeting convened by the Chief Executive of the Local Authority along with lead elected members of the Council.

Engagement of Relevant Agencies

All relevant agencies to child safeguarding are engaged with the safeguarding partnership or are in communication with it. The monthly newsletter of the partnership is widely circulated and publicises the latest findings on safeguarding and training opportunities provided by the Partners. Formal engagement of members of relevant agencies is continuously under review. Particular emphasis of late has been given to representatives of faith organisations and community groups from minority communities.

Outcomes for Children and Young People

Engagement of children and young people in the activities and work of the Partnership has been a key objective for some time, and for the period under review positive outcomes in this area has taken place. This has been particularly the case with respect to children and young people susceptible to exploitation (criminal, sexual or otherwise) and notable liaisons and linkages have been made with some high-profile local agencies involved with young people, such as KOGS (Keep Our Girls Safe). Representing and promoting the voice of the child in the Oldham safeguarding arrangements has been the hallmark of the local approach. This, in turn, has led to revisions of policy and practice in action.

Quality Assurance and Information Sharing

Information gathering across the contributing partners and the sharing of this continues to be a major commitment and strength of the Oldham Partnership and one which drives the partners to better and more effective working. The strategy of seeking connectivity between quantitative data gathering and analysis and the qualitative evaluation of stakeholders’ perspectives on safeguarding need and practice is a key feature of the local arrangements.

Learning from Experience

Local reviews of critical safeguarding incidents continues to be undertaken both on an individual case basis and thematically. Key messages have emerged from such reviews of late around neglect, serious youth violence and the need to improve the experiences of those that require continuing support in their transition from childhood to adulthood. The National Panel overseeing the quality of reviews into serious safeguarding incidents involving children have commented positively on Oldham's approaches to these issues.

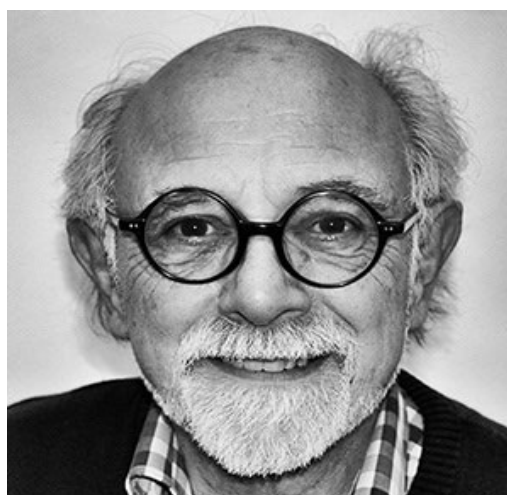
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training and Workforce Development

The Oldham Partnership continues to provide and co-ordinate a substantial programme of training and workforce development initiatives. Significant numbers of staff from the partnership have been engaged in these training initiatives in the period, not only receiving "core" safeguarding training and information but specialist programmes on new or evolving safeguarding issues.

In addition to partner staff training, the training, familiarisation, and information giving to children and young people in Oldham is a significant feature of the local arrangements. The key training input to schools, for example, is able to reach several thousand pupils in a given 12-month period.

The messages from this independent scrutiny are clear. The Oldham safeguarding partnership is strong and seeks to consolidate its strengths across all stakeholders in the Borough.

Dr Henri Giller – Independent Chair



Our plan for 2024-2025

Domestic Abuse <i>Lead: Bruce Penhale</i>	Complex & Contextual Safeguarding <i>Lead: Leanne Cooper</i>	Transitions <i>Lead: Nick Whitbread/Charlotte Walte</i>	Childrens Mental Health and the impact of trauma <i>Lead: Lynsey Yeomans, Jen Robertson</i>	Neglect <i>Lead: Tony Decrop</i>
<p>A local offer to children and families who are at risk of, or experiencing, domestic abuse which protects them and reduces the impact of their experiences.</p> <p>To have a range of interventions and measures available and being used to reduce the risk presented by perpetrators of domestic abuse, and an aligned preventative approach for those who are at risk of becoming perpetrators.</p> <p>To have a Partnership workforce with up to date, applicable knowledge in relation to Domestic Abuse.</p>	<p>Children and young people at risk of or experiencing all forms of exploitation will receive the right support at the right time in order to keep them safe.</p> <p>To build capacity in all areas of the statutory partnership and community partners to be able to recognise and respond to all forms of complex and contextual safeguarding that affect the lives of children and families.</p>	<p>Planning will start at the earliest possible stage for the transition of children and young people who will require services in young adulthood.</p> <p>A transitions strategy which is founded on a principle of preventative and strengths-based practice will facilitate an offer of services that from the perspective of the child and family is positive and seamless.</p>	<p>Children and young people living with mental ill health and/or the impact of trauma are able to access the right level of support at the right time.</p> <p>Partnership agencies will continue to invest in the creation of a workforce which understands how to use early intervention to prevent life long trauma, and how to help children and families recover from the impact previous trauma has on their lives.</p>	<p>Neglect in childhood can affect lifelong outcomes. There will continue to be a clear and robust offer of support at the earliest opportunity, balanced with child centered intervention and protection if required.</p> <p>A confident and competent workforce who are able to recognise, respond to neglect at the earliest opportunity.</p>
Objective areas which will achieve this over 2024 - 2025				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and evaluate the effectiveness of Encompass processes locally. Embed Talk Listen Change work focusing on domestic abuse in adolescent relationships. Evaluation of the PHSE input of Children and Young People's Safeguarding Trainer in schools on the DA agenda. Reduce Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage through increasing workforce knowledge of these areas, and a process of evaluation of the responses and interventions offered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop cross board (Community Safety Partnership, Oldham Children Safeguarding Partnership and YOS Management Board) joint understanding and response to the GM VRU Violence Strategy. Evaluate impact of Missing from Home and Care strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular updates on improvements made to transition through the Strategic Transitions group. Processes will be developed to listen and respond to the experiences of adolescents and young adults who in the process of or have experienced transitional planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a clear pathway of response for children and young people in crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidate GCP 2 implementation across the partnership workforce further to the training in 2023-2024 Understanding the preventative offer at the earliest level. Develop workforce that has the awareness and confidence to respond to the earliest possible signs of neglect. The partnership to build community and voluntary sector links to spot, support and respond to issues of neglect. Particular activity to be targeted at being inclusive of Oldham's diverse community.
Cross priority principles of: Improved data quality, analysis, and insight to evidence effectiveness. Recognition of effect of increased demand on partner agencies. Trauma Informed approaches.				

Funding

Partner contributions remain in place.

A priority for 24-25 will be to break down of costs in delivering the arrangements and will include an assessment of the impact and value for money.

GMCA	-12,900
DSG	-110,000
Health	-71,999
Schools Income (SLA's)	-63,086
Council	-125,516
Total	-383,501

Appendix 1 - Statements from Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership agencies.

In addition to the Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership's Annual Report setting out information on safeguarding trends locally, the actions of the Partnership over the last year, and priorities for the coming year, agencies are invited to provide highlights of their own safeguarding work for publication as Single-Agency Statements.



Single Agency
Report 23-24.docx

I would like to thank you and the rest of your team for the amazing help and support you have given xxxxxx since beginning your work with him. You and your team managed to bring his confidence back through praise and positive reinforcement and he is now on the correct path and making good choices.

I felt nervous coming into the meeting but you eased that by explaining what was going to happen and when we would get a chance to speak

"I really wanna go into construction ya know...the exams have been alright...I'm glad I'm doing my exams now I can think about a job now I can focus

Thank you *** for being there for me these past few months. You've not only helped with my home life, I feel better about myself.

I feel that we had the chance to speak and feel heard

I have changed as a person, being able to open and understanding where I went wrong has been a positive and this is due to not taking drugs and consuming alcohol, I feel that I have been more open

I feel that I have good support, we all have a good relationship with our worker, I can speak to her if there are any problems.

Thank you *** for helping out K, I was worried he was going to go down the wrong path like I did. It's good to know to theirs people out there like you who help support the kids, wish we had people like you when I was a kid

I'm not good with words but I don't think words could explain how much I appreciate your effort. Thank you so much!

Keep in touch

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