

Portfolio Report

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



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

Public Health:

Hepatitis C Update

The Oldham Drug and Alcohol Service (ROAR), funded by Oldham Council, have achieved micro-elimination of Hepatitis C. The Oldham service achieved this by meeting four targets set out by the NHS, which are 100 per cent of people using the service have been offered a hepatitis C test; 98 per cent of those with a history of injecting have been tested, 91.5 per cent of these people have then been tested in the last 12 months and 95.1 per cent of people who were diagnosed with hepatitis C have started treatment, completed treatment, or cleared the virus naturally. This is an excellent achievement and shows how supporting people to access our services can have a massive impact on their health and wellbeing.

Oral Health

Tooth decay is entirely preventable, but tooth extraction - largely due to tooth decay- is the leading cause of hospitalisation among 5-9 year-old children. Brushing teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste is effective in preventing tooth decay and maintaining good oral health. Oldham Council has recently received **15,000 toothbrushes** and **8000 tubes of fluoride toothpaste** from Colgate Palmolive. These resources will be distributed to 3-4 year-old children in Oldham through Early Years settings, oral health initiatives and other channels to ensure as many children as possible can benefit.

Adult Social Care:

CQC preparedness

At the last Full Council, I reported that Adult Social Care had received its notification from CQC on the Information Return, which was submitted by the deadline of the 27th June. The information return is a key part of the assessment process of how a local authority is carrying out its adult social care functions as per part 1 of the Care Act 2014. On the 27th June, over 150 documents were submitted on the CQC portal. On the 18th August, CQC notified us of the date they will be assessing on site of the week commencing 27th October 2025.

CQC are interested in meeting with key partners of Adult Social Care, including the Chairs of key groups and boards such as Overview and Scrutiny and the Health and Wellbeing Board. Briefings are being held with key stakeholders to support the preparation of the assessment.

Commissioning

We are due to recommission the Care at Home and Extra Care Housing commissioning frameworks. The current Care at Home and Extra Care Housing framework, which was originally commissioned in April 2019 for a five-year term with a two-year extension option, is due to expire on 31 March 2026.

It has been assessed that the current commissioning approach – of allocating two prime providers to each of the five clusters with a number of ‘backup’ providers contracted – has been successful, predominantly as Oldham, unlike many other authorities across the country, does not have a waiting list for people being supported in their home. Market engagement sessions have taken place, which has provided the opportunity for us to outline the focus, which is to continue with the Living Well at Home agenda and the operating model of *supporting people to live independently, healthy, safe and well*. An additional focus is being given to aligning with our social value framework and being assured of the outcomes for Oldham residents. The tender is due to go live in the autumn, with new contracts to be in place by 1st April 2026.

Operations consultation outcomes and recruitment opportunities

Following several staff consultations across Adult Social Care, the service is now progressing recruitment of essential posts to ensure statutory responsibilities can be met. Significant work is taking place across all service areas in particular mental health services where Adult Social Care are in the process of developing with staff new protocols and pathways to move from an integrated arrangement to a partnership agreement with Pennine Care Foundation Trust (PCFT).

Integrated health care and NHS service:

Saddleworth Health Centre Progress

ICB colleagues working with Council Officers have recently appointed MP Architects who are now progressing the feasibility/design work based on the existing leisure centre site, but following a variety of discussions with local community reps and ward member colleagues, they will also explore an alternative location at old Saddleworth School site along with the impact of potentially relocating the leisure centre. In due course they will present back to Officers a full longlist options appraisal will be conducted, including land use, housing, co-location potential, and deliverability. The NHS team is currently leading this work,

Chadderton Health Centre

After several months of work, the NHS Place Team has managed to agree a reclassification of Chadderton health centre building, which means it has now been formally reclassified as Tail Estate. Therefore, NHS Property Services have consequently attended the site to progress updated condition surveys. These will help strengthen any future case for investment or change. In addition, NHS GM is currently developing its infrastructure strategy and priority pipeline, and the local Place team has ensured that Woodlands Medical Practice is clearly represented within this. The next steps of work needed which the Place Team are committed to get support to commission NHS Property Services to develop a business case as now it is classified as Tail Estate it will be an Oldham priority.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.