

## Report to COUNCIL – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025

# 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 portfolio responsibilities.

### **Public Health:**

NHS Health Checks (NHS HC) is a nationally mandated service. Residents aged 40-74 who haven't already been diagnosed with certain conditions are eligible for a health check every five years. In Oldham, NHS HCs are delivered in primary care. These health checks are an important way for us to identify the risk of cardiovascular diseases and provide advice, and early treatment.

In 2024, we identified that not all residents who attended received a quality health check. So in the last year we have focused on improving quality. In order to do this, a change in the service specification was implemented for 2024/2025, which requires a minimum of 8 out of the 10 NHS HC elements to be completed to achieve payment. This must include a QRisk score, which estimates the 10-year risk of developing cardiovascular disease, such as a heart attack or stroke.

Since this change, we have seen a sharp increase in both the number of NHS HCs carried out and their quality. Our rates are now significantly above the England average and neighbouring Local Authorities. Over 10,000 NHS HCs were carried out in 2024/2025. Based on the current eligible population of Oldham, we will exceed the national target of 75% of eligible residents receiving their check every five years.

From January to March of 2025, 3,664 Oldham residents received an NHS HC of which 74% were of a good quality. This is nearly 2,000 more health checks than in the same period in the year before. Those 3,664 health checks resulted in 878 diagnoses made, 947 referrals to services, and advice issued 3,835 times.

We are diagnosing many more health conditions than ever before during NHS HCs health in Oldham, including diabetes, chronic kidney disease, hypertension, and heart failure. Number of diagnoses has increased each quarter throughout 2024/2025, as has advice given and referrals made, with a significant increase in weight management referrals.

We will continue to monitor our progress and work closely with primary care colleagues to build on the significant improvements we have seen in the quality and reach of NHS HCs in Oldham.

### **Adult Social Care:**

Adult Social Care (ASC) is in the process of a Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessment. The inspection process began on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and is due to be completed at the end of October 2025. ASC have shared a self-assessment with CQC highlighting many areas they are proud of which include; our workforce and culture with low vacancy rates (4.8%) and turnover rates (22.5%) below national averages across all sectors.

A robust Adult Referral Contact Centre (ARCC) front door service that operates to meet the needs of people as soon as possible. 77% of people who have contacted ARCC have been provided with advice or signposted to appropriate services, reducing the need for statutory support services. ASC's preventative strength-based approach to supporting people with 82% of audited cases recognizing either a good or outstanding strength-based approach. ASC's positive approach to market oversight and relationships with providers has resulted in no waiting lists for Care at Home services and no providers handing back contracts in the last 2 years. Safeguarding Adults is at the heart of ASC practice and is supported by a strategic Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB). This is a mature board with strong partnerships and a learning culture ethos. The OSAB:

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- Has a strong business plan
  - Shares and embeds learnings from Serious Adult Reviews (SAR)
  - Continues to meet deadlines for implementation of SAR recommendations
  - Has launched the OSAB podcasts on many popular podcast platforms which highlight good safeguarding practice.
  - Has produced eighteen grab guides and 7-minute briefings in 2024-25. Oldham's approach has been considered an area of good practice nationally and is now utilized by other Safeguarding Adults Boards across England.

Other areas the service is proud of relate to ASC's approach to hospital discharge where safe, effective, and timely discharges take place with 93.7% of residents discharged from hospital on their expected date. As well as strong communication and engagement with residents, workforce, and partners.

An area ASC is developing is further work in relation to co-production. At its heart, **co-production** means **working together as equals**, including residents, staff and partners sharing ideas, decisions, and responsibility to design better services side by side. It is a genuine partnership built on trust, respect, and lived experience. ASC has recently held a successful Resident Co-Production Group meeting. Where residents have elected their own Chair, giving the group structure, purpose, and independence. ASC will be publishing a short **"You Said / We Did"** summary to show how resident feedback is already shaping action. The resident group will link directly with our **Workplace Co-Production Steering Group**, ensuring that both residents and the ASC workforce are influencing change. This group will continue to meet monthly.

### **NHS Reform in Greater Manchester**

The new NHS Greater Manchester operating model is now out for engagement with political leaders and key partners. It sets out the proposed operating model for NHS Greater Manchester, following the announcement made by the secretary of State for Health and Social Care in March this year to change the purpose of Integrated Care Boards. The proposed model outlines how integrated working between 'Place Partnerships' (in our case our Oldham Integrated Care Partnership) and GM-wide teams will deliver our vision for longer, healthier lives and reduced health inequalities. It details the guiding principles, governance, and portfolio structures that will underpin strategic commissioning, emphasising a shift towards prevention, equitable access, and community co-design. By aligning resources, accountability, and collaborative leadership across health, care, and community sectors, the model aims to improve outcomes, address the wider determinants of health, and ensure that every resident benefits from a more effective, inclusive, and sustainable health and care system.

### **Enhancing Adult Mental Health Crisis Services in 2025/26**

Much work has taken place in recent months to improve access to mental health professional crisis response within our urgent and emergency care system. The aim is to reduce mental health attendance at A&E, avoid admissions, and support people to stay safe in the community. This has involved the establishing a 111 and 999 Greater Manchester 24/7 First Response Service (24/7 crisis helpline and MH Urgent Triage), delivery of a new Section 136 improvement plan and expanding and improving community crisis mental health models of care including Crisis Resolution, Home Based Treatment, and VCSE-led crisis alternatives, based on the national self-assessment (Men-SAT) recommendations. This is being achieved through new investment in crisis mental health services by reducing out of area placements, a new recruitment drive to boost capacity, work with the VCFSE sector to bring about greater integrated working to improve access to services which are more joined up, introducing digital solutions and enhancing how we use data in the management of care.

**Recommendations:** Council is requested to note the report.