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**Foreword**

This document brings together quantitative and qualitative information about children and young people in Oldham in order to provide an assessment of their well-being. It goes some way to describing what it is like to be growing up in Oldham today.

The purpose of compiling this information in this way is primarily to inform the selection of priorities for Oldham Children’s Trust in the forthcoming year. Oldham Children’s Trust is charged with improving outcomes for children and young people and the evidence contained within this document will be used to determine where collective effort can most effectively and appropriately be focused over the next year.

In addition, it is hoped that others will find the needs analysis of interest and use. For commissioners, it provides an overview of the population and its needs, which provides a context for more detailed service level planning and commissioning. For anyone working with children and young people or interested in their well-being, it provides commentary on current outcomes experienced by children and young people. As such, it can be used to not only benchmark progress in future years, but crucially stimulate creative and innovative action and the targeting of resources at a local neighbourhood level.

Sources used in compiling the needs assessment are listed throughout the document, and we are grateful to the many people and organisations who took time to produce this report. This joint strategic needs assessment of children and young people is very much a result of collaborative working, and we would like to formally thank all partner organisations for their support and collaboration. A revised and updated analysis of need is planned for late 2011.

Councillor Jack Hulme,  
Cabinet Member - Children and Young People

Michael Jameson  
Assistant Executive Director – Children and Young People  
(Director of Children’s Services)
Introduction

This needs analysis has been completed as part of an annual needs assessment cycle for Oldham Children’s Trust. It will be an underpinning document of Oldham’s next ‘new-model’ Children, Young People & Families Plan.

The needs assessment is broken down into five chapters. Each chapter has a number of sub-sections which relate to key outcomes Oldham Children’s Trust aspires to for all children and young people in Oldham to achieve. There is also an introductory section which provides the demographic and social context in which children and young people in Oldham grow up.

The needs assessment draws on a variety of sources of information but notably each chapter aims to draw together:

- Local intelligence and performance measures analysed (where possible) by ward, disaggregated by specific groups and compared to national, regional and statistical neighbours averages, as well as trends over time;
- Findings from national and local research and surveys;
- Feedback from children, young people and families;
- External inspection findings and recommendations (where appropriate).

Each chapter begins with a summary of the evidence and key messages, and concludes with ‘District Data Profiles’ for children and young people to particularly draw attention to the variation in outcomes between different local areas in order to shape local service delivery and commissioning decisions.

It is recognised that there are information gaps in this year’s assessment around the needs and experiences of some groups of children and young people and these will need to be addressed in advance of any future needs assessment. This includes for example, information on the level of mental health problems in children and young people, ascertaining the number of children and young people who have complex needs and disabilities and better understanding the needs of refugees and asylum seekers, migrants and young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and transgender people in Oldham.

The "Growing up in Oldham" needs assessment, when read alongside Oldham’s JSNA Refresh 2010 and Oldham’s Local Economic Assessment (LEA) 2010, serves as Oldham’s interim response to the new child poverty needs assessment duties which came into force for all local areas in 2010. Taken together these documents clearly illustrate the extent of child poverty in Oldham as well as the key child poverty drivers and associated risk factors within Oldham.
Whilst this needs assessment identifies key findings and priorities for action to inform the joint commissioning process and wider policy and strategy development related to children and young people in 2011/12, in the coming months it will be important to consider the form, the content and presentation of a future needs assessment in a way that is most supportive to effective commissioning in Oldham. Notably within the context of a new approach currently being scoped for Oldham’s ‘next generation’ statutory Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Health & Well Being. This new model JSNA will aim to ensure that the needs of Oldham's children and young people are fully considered as an integral part of our JSNA, and will also serve, amongst other things, as Oldham's revised and more comprehensive response to national child poverty needs assessment duties.
Key messages for the Districts

The “Growing up in Oldham” needs assessment 2010 seeks to paint a picture of the outcomes achieved by local children and young people that is as current as possible. By gathering evidence from a wide range of sources, it has revealed where our aspirations are, and are not, being matched by current reality.

The “Growing up in Oldham” needs assessment 2010 has found that, overall, outcomes for children and young people in Oldham are mixed with some being generally good and some with considerable scope for improvement. Most outcomes vary considerably by ward and many vary between particular groups of children.

Key challenges for each district have been summarised below. It is important to note that these have been compiled primarily from the information contained within the ‘district data profiles’ contained at the end of each thematic chapter.

Challenges clearly disproportionately affect children who live in the more deprived wards of Oldham, with the same group of wards tending to come to the fore as having the poorest outcomes as reflected in a number of indicators. These wards are Alexandra, Coldhurst, Werneth, Hollinwood, Failsworth West, St Mary’s, St James’ and Medlock Vale. Some of these areas also tend to be the ones with the highest proportions of people from black and minority ethnic groups as well as being the wards with the greatest levels of deprivation.

<table>
<thead>
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<td>• District with the second highest number of Looked After Children</td>
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<td>• The highest number of bullying incidents of schools is in the East Oldham district. This may not show the full picture though as there are two secondary schools in the East Oldham district and it also depends on if all schools are correctly reporting this information</td>
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<td>• Significantly higher than average number of teenage conceptions in the Waterhead ward of East Oldham</td>
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<th>Oldham West</th>
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</tr>
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<td>• There are a significantly high number of Children in Need in the West Oldham district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The district with the highest number of children subject to a CAF</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The district with the joint highest number of children killed or have serious injuries in road traffic accidents</td>
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<td>• West Oldham has the highest emergency hospital admission rates per 100,000 for Asthma in children under 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The district with the highest drug related hospital admission rates per 100,000 in children under 19 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Alexandra ward has a significantly higher rate of</td>
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• East Oldham has the second lowest achievement at in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4
• The second highest percent of children with Special Educational Needs statements
• The highest persistent absence rate for both primary and secondary schools
• The second highest percentage of Year 11 school leavers not in Education, Employment or Training
• The highest percent of Youth unemployment for September 2010
• The highest rate of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System
• The district with the highest number of persistent Young Offenders
• The highest number of Young Offenders receiving custodial sentences
• Is the district with the highest percentage of population aged 0-15
• Has the highest number of lone parent households in Oldham
• Has the highest percentage of households with three or more dependent children

under 18 conception rates than other wards
• The lowest rate of achievement in the early year’s foundation stage
• The lowest rate of achievement in English and Maths at both key stage 2 and key stage 4
• The highest rate of persistent absence in primary schools and the second highest rate in secondary schools
• The highest percent of children in poverty
• The highest percent of households with children under 16 in receipt of council tax benefit & / or housing benefit
• The highest percentage of Year 11 school leavers not in Education, Employment or Training
• The district with the significantly highest percent of children living in income deprived households
• The district with the highest number of households in receipt of child benefit that are also in receipt of working tax credits and child tax credits
• The district with the second highest number of persistent Young Offenders
• District with the significantly higher percentage of ward populations aged 0-15 years
• Significantly higher percentage of families with four or more children in the West Oldham district
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<td>• Has a significantly higher number of children who are killed or have serious injuries in road traffic accidents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Has the highest district Infant Mortality rate per live births</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Is the district with the second highest Drug related hospital admission rates per 100,000 in children under 19 years</td>
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<td>• District with the second highest rate per 1000 for emergency hospital admissions for accidents in children under 15</td>
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<td>• District with the second highest emergency hospital admissions for mental health conditions</td>
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<td>• Significantly higher teenage conceptions in the Hollinwood ward of Failsworth and Hollinwood district</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The highest percent of children with Special Educational Needs statements</td>
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<td>• The district with the highest percent of loan parent households as a proportion of households in receipt of housing benefit</td>
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<th><strong>Royton and Shaw</strong></th>
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<td>• The district with the second highest number of children subject to a child protection plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Significantly higher than other districts for alcohol specific hospital admission rates per 100,000 in children under 19</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Saddleworth &amp; Lees</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The district with the joint second highest number of children who are killed or have serious injuries in road traffic accidents</td>
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1. Setting the scene: the Oldham context

What does our local demographic evidence tell us about children and young people?

**Key context**

- Compared with the North West and Great Britain, a relatively high proportion of Oldham’s population are children and young people. This is largely due to the more youthful age composition of Oldham’s Bangladeshi and Pakistani communities.
- The ethnic composition of Oldham’s population aged 0-15 is more diverse than Oldham’s total population. More than one in four (25.7%) of Oldham’s population aged 0-15 are estimated to be from non-white BME backgrounds, compared with 16.7% of Oldham’s total population.
- Higher proportions of Oldham’s Bangladeshi (38.7%) and Pakistani populations (35.3%) are aged 0-15 than among Oldham’s white population (19.7%) or Black population (16.7%). Over half (51.6%) of those with mixed heritage are aged 0-15 years.
- Oldham’s population of children aged 5-9 and 10-14 are projected to increase by around 2,000 and 1,700 respectively between 2008 and 2022, whilst its populations of young people aged 15-19 and 20-24 are projected to decrease by 1,000 and 2,000 respectively.
- Lone parent families currently make up about 11% of all Oldham households and a third (33%) of households with dependent children. Rates vary by ward, with around half of Hollinwood families with dependent children being lone parent families.
- Around one in five (20%) households with dependent children have three or more dependent children. This proportion is higher in Coldhurst (40%), St. Mary’s (36%) and Werneth (35%). Around 7% of Oldham households have four or more dependent children.
- The composition of Oldham’s population is such that key population groups who are disproportionately likely to be living in poverty are over-represented in Oldham as a whole, and in particular areas of Oldham. Nationally around one fifth (22%) of all children live in relative poverty (Households below Average Income Statistics 2008/09). However, the proportion is much higher for some groups of children. The proportion of children living in relative poverty rises to nearly 6 out of ten (58%) of children living in a household where the ‘head of household’ is of Pakistani or Bangladeshi ethnic origin, over one third (34%) of children living in lone parent families and around three in ten (31%) children living in households containing 3 or more children.
- There is a need for information and research about the needs and experiences of some groups of children and young people, in particular refugees and asylum seekers, migrants and young LGBT people in Oldham and for better population estimates for the characteristics of these groups (for example, age and ethnic group).
1.1 Oldham’s Children and Young People by Age and Sex

Oldham has a total estimated population of 218,800, of whom 48,500 (or 22.2% of Oldham’s population) are aged 0-15 years (Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Mid Year Population Estimates, 2009. (June 2010)).

- Around 3,200 children (1.5% of Oldham’s population) are aged under 12 months.
- Around 16,200 children (7.4% of Oldham’s population) are aged 0-4 years.
- Around 32,300 children (14.8% of Oldham’s population) are aged between 5 and 15 years.
- Around 12,100 young people (5.5% of Oldham’s population) are aged between 16 and 19.

Within Oldham’s younger age bands, there are slightly fewer girls than boys:

- Among 10-14 year olds an estimated 51.4% are boys and 48.6% are girls.
- Among 15-19 year olds, an estimated 51.7% are boys and 48.3% are girls.
National figures for England and Wales also show slightly fewer girls than boys in these age categories. Source: ONS Mid Year Population Estimates 2009.

The ONS 2009 Mid Year Population Estimate (MYE) for Oldham residents aged 0-15 is 48,500.

This is made up of 16,200 residents aged 0-4, 14,600 aged 5-9 and 14,700 aged 10-14 year olds.

It should be noted that as at 31 August 2009, HMRC Child Benefit data shows that around 49,505 children aged 0-15 living in Oldham were in receipt of Child Benefit – around 1,000 more children than the 2009 MYE suggests. The discrepancies between these figures need to be explored further.
The number of children aged 0-4 changes increases slightly.
The number of children aged 5-9 is projected to increase by 13.7% between 2008 and 2022; the proportion of children aged 10-14 also increases by 11.5% in this period.
The number of people aged 15-19 is projected to drop by 12.4% between 2008 and 2018.
Oldham’s population aged 20-24 is projected to decrease steadily between 2008 and 2022, falling by 14.1%.

How numbers will change
The number of children aged 0-4 is projected to increase from 16,100 in 2008 to 16,700 in 2014, remaining at this level until 2022.
- The number of children aged 5-9 is projected to increase sharply from 14,600 in 2008 to 16,800 in 2017, before dropping slightly to 16,600 in 2022.
- The number of young people aged 10-14 is projected to decrease slightly between 2008 (14,800) and 2014 (14,300), before increasing sharply to 16,500 in 2022.
- The number of young people aged 15-19 is projected to decrease steadily between 2008 (15,300) and 2018 (13,400), before increasing slightly to 14,300 in 2022.
- The number of young people aged 20-24 is projected to decrease steadily between 2008 (14,200) and 2022 (12,200).
In total, more than one in four (25.7%) of Oldham’s population aged 0-15 are estimated to be from non-white BME backgrounds, compared with 16.7% of Oldham’s all-age population.

Source: ONS: Experimental population estimates by ethnic group (2007).

As may be expected, the proportion of Oldham’s population aged 0-15 years varies considerably by ethnic group:
- Within Oldham’s white population, around one in five (19.7%) people are aged 0-15 years.
- Over half (51.6%) of those with a mixed heritage are aged 0-15 years.
- More than one in three (35.3%) Pakistani residents are aged 0-15 years.
- Almost four in ten (38.7%) Bangladeshi residents are aged 0-15 years.
- Relatively few (15.0%) Black or Black British residents or people from other BME backgrounds (16.7%) are aged 0-15 years.
Age Composition by Ethnic Group in Oldham

- **White**:
  - 0-15 years: 19.7%
  - Working Age: 60.5%
  - Pensionable Age: 19.8%

- **Mixed**:
  - 0-15 years: 51.6%
  - Working Age: 48.4%

- **Pakistani**:
  - 0-15 years: 35.3%
  - Working Age: 60.1%
  - Pensionable Age: 4.6%

- **Bangladeshi**:
  - 0-15 years: 38.7%
  - Working Age: 56.8%
  - Pensionable Age: 4.5%

- **Other Asian background**:
  - 0-15 years: 21.9%
  - Working Age: 71.9%
  - Pensionable Age: 6.3%

- **Black or Black British**:
  - 0-15 years: 15.0%
  - Working Age: 75.0%
  - Pensionable Age: 10.0%

- **Other BME**:
  - 0-15 years: 16.7%
  - Working Age: 83.3%

Legend:
- 0-15 years
- Working Age
- Pensionable Age
How numbers will change

Oldham’s population aged 0-15 is projected to become more ethnically diverse by 2022, due to growth in the Bangladeshi, Pakistani and other BME populations.

Oldham’s population aged 0-4 is also projected to become more ethnically diverse, but the rate of change will be slower than that for those aged 0-15.
1.3 Where do children and young people live?

Some Oldham wards have a much higher numbers of children (0-15 years) than others.

There are nearly 4,000 children aged 0-15 make in Coldhurst and Werneth and around 3,800 in St. Mary’s.

There are around 3,000 children aged 0-15 in Alexandra and Medlock Vale.

There are fewer than 2,000 children aged 0-15 in 10 of Oldham’s 20 wards with Saddleworth North having the lowest number (1,542).
Some Oldham wards have a much higher proportion of children (0-15 years) than others.

Children aged 0-15 make up around 30% of the population in Coldhurst, Werneth and St. Mary’s.

Children aged 0-15 make up less than 20% of the population in eleven of Oldham’s 20 wards, with Saddleworth North having the lowest proportion (16.6%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Rank</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexandra</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chadderton Central</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chadderton North</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chadderton South</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coldhurst</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crompton</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failsworth East</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failsworth West</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollinwood</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medlock Vale</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royton North</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royton South</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saddleworth North</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saddleworth South</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saddleworth West</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St James’</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaw</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waterhead</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Werneth</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
<td>1</td>
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1.4 Other aspects of Oldham’s population of children and young people

International Migration

Children migrate for a wide range of reasons. Their parent or parents/carers may have moved here for work and children may also move to the U.K. as part of family formation/reunification. In addition, children (whether alone or as part of a family group) may come to the U.K. seeking sanctuary from persecution. Comprehensive data about these populations is not available for a range of reasons:

- **UK Borders Agency (UKBA) statistics about asylum seekers publish little information about the demographic characteristics of those who are not ‘primary claimants’** (for example, within a family, one person may make a claim for asylum, with the rest of the family’s status being dependent on that claim). Children are more likely to be included as dependents of a relative’s ‘primary claim’ than to claim asylum in their own right. Children in this situation are currently invisible within the statistics provided by UKBA as they only record ‘group size’ but not the ages of the people within each group.

- **The children of asylum seekers are largely invisible in the statistics produced by the Borders and Immigration Authority (formerly NASS) and in the wider evidence base. Due to their status as asylum seekers, and their past experiences, these children can be extremely vulnerable, with complex support needs. Children in households in receipt of Section 95 or Section 4 will experience income deprivation, as the financial entitlements associated with these are very low (and in the case of Section 4 do not include any cash).** We do not know how many children in Oldham live in asylum-seeking households, as the BIA data provides age information for primary claimants only. Child refugees living in Oldham are also largely invisible in the existing evidence base. Again, these children are more likely to have a range of needs arising from experiences both in their country of origin and in the U.K.

- **Migrants moving to Oldham for work register for a National Insurance Number (NiNo) on receiving an offer of employment: this does not include information about household composition.** Survey-based research undertaken in 2008 with migrant workers from A10 countries living in Rochdale and Oldham found that about one-third (34%) had children aged under 16: of these three-quarters (77%) had one child and around a quarter (23%) had two children. Among those who gave information about where their children were currently living, around two-thirds lived in Oldham or Rochdale, whilst the remaining third lived in their country of origin. Source: Lisa Hunt et al., “Migrant Workers in Rochdale and Oldham”, University of Salford (2008). Results from this survey, however, must be treated as indicative rather than representative. In addition, trends in migration have changed since 2008.

- **Comprehensive data on child migrants is not available:** NiNo registration data does not include information about the registrant’s dependents, and not all adults migrating to the U.K. are registered. For school-aged children, the School Census collects information about the pupils’ first/main language, but whilst useful, this gives no direct indication of nationality.
Sexuality

- The term 'LGBT' describes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender and, intersex individuals and communities. While local estimates of the number of lesbian and gay people living in Oldham are not available, the Government Actuary’s Department estimates that around 6% of the population are lesbian or gay while other estimates suggest 8%. Anecdotal evidence suggests there is a relatively large transgender population living in Oldham.

- Applying this to Oldham indicates that there may be between 900 and 1,200 11- to 15-year-old young lesbian and gay people. There is likely to be a similar proportion of younger children who may be lesbian or gay. Official estimates of the bisexual population in the U.K. do not exist, but the Lesbian and Gay Foundation estimates that about 3% of the U.K. population are bisexual. This suggests that there may be about 450 young bisexual people aged 11 to 15, and again, there is likely to be a similar proportion of younger children who may be bisexual.

- There is a need for information about the needs and experiences of young LGBT people in Oldham and for better population estimates for the characteristics of Oldham’s young LGBT population (for example, age and ethnic group).

1.5 Household Composition and Family size

Estimates of numbers of lone parent families show that:

- Around one in three (33%) Oldham households with dependent children are lone parent families and around one in ten (11%) of all Oldham households are lone parent families with dependent children.

- The proportion of lone parent families is highest in Hollinwood. Half (50%) of all families with dependent children are lone parent families, and lone parent families make up around one in five (18%) households in the ward. Lone parent families make up more than four in ten of all households with dependent children in a further three wards:
  - Alexandra (43% of households with dependent children in receipt of child benefit and 16% of all households in Alexandra).
  - Failsworth West (41% of households with dependent children in receipt of child benefit and 13% of all households).
  - St. James’ (42% of households with dependent children in receipt of child benefit and 17% of all households).

- The proportion of lone parent families is lowest in:
  - Saddleworth South (18% of households with dependent children in receipt of child benefit and 5% of all households).
  - Saddleworth North (16% of households with dependent children and 4% of all households).
Lone parent households in Oldham as a proportion of households in receipt of child benefit. Source: HMRC August 31 2008 snapshot

- Alexandra: 43%
- Chadderton Central: 32%
- Chadderton North: 26%
- Chadderton South: 39%
- Coldhurst: 26%
- Crompton: 29%
- Failsworth East: 35%
- Failsworth West: 41%
- Hollinwood: 50%
- Medlock Vale: 36%
- Royton North: 27%
- Royton South: 28%
- Saddleworth North: 18%
- Saddleworth South: 16%
- Saddleworth West and Lees: 30%
- Shaw: 31%
- St James': 42%
- St Mary's: 32%
- Waterhead: 38%
- Werneth: 24%
- Oldham: 33%

Lone parent households in Oldham as a proportion of all households. Source: HMRC August 31 2008 snapshot

- Alexandra: 16%
- Chadderton Central: 9%
- Chadderton North: 9%
- Chadderton South: 12%
- Coldhurst: 12%
- Crompton: 8%
- Failsworth East: 11%
- Failsworth West: 13%
- Hollinwood: 18%
- Medlock Vale: 14%
- Royton North: 8%
- Royton South: 8%
- Saddleworth North: 5%
- Saddleworth South: 4%
- Saddleworth West and Lees: 9%
- Shaw: 10%
- St James': 17%
- St Mary's: 16%
- Waterhead: 13%
- Werneth: 12%
- Oldham: 11%
Overall, around one in five (20%) Oldham households with dependent children have three or more children in receipt of child benefit.

The proportion of households with three or more children is highest in Coldhurst (40%), St. Mary’s (36%) and Werneth (35%).

The proportion of households with three or more children is lowest in Shaw (9%), and Royton South (10%).
Around 7.2% of Oldham households with dependent children have four or more children aged under 16.

Families with four or more children make up a larger proportion of families with children in Coldhurst (21.7%), St. Mary’s (17.7%) and Werneth (17.5%).

Families with four or more children aged under 16 make up a smaller proportion of families with children in Failsworth West (1.5%) and Royton North (1.6%).
Poverty implications of Oldham’s population and household composition
The composition of Oldham’s population is such that key population groups who are disproportionately likely to be living in poverty are over-represented in Oldham as a whole, and in particular areas of Oldham.

Nationally around one fifth (22%) of all children live in relative poverty (Households Below Average Income Statistics 2008/09). However, the proportion is much higher for some groups of children. In particular, the proportion of children living in relative poverty rises to:

- Nearly six out of ten (58%) of children living in a household where the ‘head of household’ is of Pakistani or Bangladeshi ethnic origin.
- Over one third (34%) of children living in lone parent families.
- Around three in ten (31%) children living in households containing three or more children.
## 1.6 Demographic district profile for children and young people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Number of Ward Population aged 0-15 years ONS 2009</th>
<th>Percentage of Ward Population aged 0-15 years ONS 2007</th>
<th>Lone parent households in Oldham as a proportion of households in receipt of Child Benefit HMRC 2008</th>
<th>Lone parent households in Oldham as a proportion of all households HMRC 2008/CTax 2008</th>
<th>Family size: percentage of households with two dependent children as a percentage of all families with children HMRC 2008</th>
<th>Family size: % of households with three or more dependent children percentage of all families with children HMRC 2008</th>
<th>Families with four or more children as a percentage of all families with children HMRC 2007</th>
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<td>20%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. **Growing up to be healthy**

This means children and young people enjoy good physical, emotional and mental health and live a healthy lifestyle.

### Achievements

- Great strides have been made in the reduction of teenage conceptions, which is now lower than the regional average and level with the national average.
- Obesity prevalence in reception year children is lower than both the regional and national average.
- Oldham continues to have very high MMR immunisation rates that are consistently higher than both the regional and national averages.
- Children with mental health conditions have access to a wide range of services that are appropriate to their needs.

### Areas of Improvement/ Development

- Higher percentage of low birth weight babies compared to both the regional and national average.
- Above average rate of mothers smoking during pregnancy.
- Significantly lower breast feeding rates than the national average.
- Consistently higher infant mortality rates than both the regional and national averages. (In 2009/10, nearly a third of child deaths were due to chromosomal, genetic and congenital abnormalities).
- High rates of emergency hospital admission rates for asthma in children under 15yrs.
- Rising prevalence of obesity prevalence in Year 6 children, with Oldham now having higher rates than both the regional and national average.
- Accidents are the leading cause of injury to children in Oldham and disproportionately affect children from lower socio-economic groups.
- Widely variable hospital admission rates for children with long term conditions and disability across the borough.
- Difficulties in ascertaining the number of children and young people who have complex needs and disability.
- Difficulties in ascertaining the level of mental health problems in children and young people.
- Evidence of geographical inequalities in respect of Teenage Conceptions.
- Low overall coverage for Chlamydia screening.
- Self harm, followed by alcohol and drug induced mental...
health problems, are the main contributing factors of mental health hospital admissions amongst young people

- Higher proportion of young people classified as regular binge drinkers than the North West average
- Significant increase in young people claiming to smoke compared to previous years
- High rates of young people being admitted to hospital for drug and alcohol related conditions
2.1 A healthy start in life

Children have a right to enjoy the best possible health, but there are significant differences in their experiences. Children under five years living in deprived areas are 8 per cent more likely to be obese; 9 per cent more likely to be of a low birth weight; and 12 per cent more likely to have an accident than those living in the rest of England. Oldham has a higher percentage of low birth weight babies compared to both the regional and national average (<1500g-1.5%, <2500g-7%, 2009)

Poverty effects children’s health before they are even born, and the complex results of poverty at different ages influences development throughout the lives of those who grow up poor. Reducing and eventually eliminating child poverty would break the cycle with profound benefits for the health of the population.
Smoking during pregnancy

Oldham also has an above average rate of mothers smoking during pregnancy, with 18% smoking in Oldham compared to 15% nationally. (2008/09) Smoking in pregnancy can increase the risk of infant mortality by 40%. Smoking in pregnancy can cause increased risk of miscarriage, stillbirth and low birth weight. Second-hand smoking is also known to increase the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and contribute to childhood respiratory disease.

Breastfeeding

The world Health Organisation (WHO) revised its guidance on breastfeeding in 2001, to recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of an infants' life. The Department of Health recommendations on feeding infants is that, breast milk is the best form of nutrition for infants, exclusive breastfeeding is recommended for the first six months of an infant’s life, breast feeding (and/or breast milk substitutes if used) should continue beyond the first six months, along with appropriate types and amounts of solid foods.

There is extensive scientific evidence to support the consensus that breastfeeding is the best way to feed an infant. Breast milk provides all the nutrients a baby needs for healthy growth and development for the first six months of life. Breast fed babies are less likely to develop gastritis, respiratory and urinary tract infections, obesity in later childhood, juvenile onset insulin-dependent diabetes and atopic disease such as asthma and eczema.

Promoting and supporting sustainable breastfeeding is an essential part of an integrated programme of child health promotion and parenting support. A healthy pregnancy, a healthy birth and a strong bond between a baby and its parents are a vital start in life.

Every five years an infant feeding survey is conducted nationally. According to the 2005 survey results, initiation rates of breastfeeding were 78% in England. However by six weeks a third of new mothers had stopped breast feeding and by six months only 26% of mothers still breast fed. Given the significant long term health gain of breast feeding, the government would like to see the level of breast feeding at 6 to 8 weeks as high as possible. Therefore, the prevalence of breast feeding at six to eight weeks is one of the indicators of child health and well-being within Public Service Agreement (PSA).
This chart illustrates that Oldham has a lower 6 to 8 week breast feeding prevalence than England. Proxy measure data for 2009/10 also shows that there was an increase in breast feeding prevalence from 2008/09, giving Oldham a higher prevalence rate than the North West average but still significantly less than the England average.

Source: Information Centre 2010 http://www.ic.nhs.uk
2.2 Infant mortality

In Oldham there has been some concern regarding the number of infant deaths. Looking at the chart below it is clear that trends in infant mortality rates in Oldham have been decreasing but at an inconsistent rate compared to national and North West rates. Between 1995 and 2009, infant mortality rates have fluctuated but have generally hovered around 6.9 deaths per 1000 live births. Furthermore, between 2006 and 2008, there was a significant reduction in infant deaths resulting in the lowest rate for over a decade. However, revealed that there was a 10% increase in infant deaths and although we have still exceeded the infant mortality target Oldham still has a higher infant mortality rate than the North West and England averages.

The most recent ward data on infant mortality in Oldham (2007/09) ranges from 0 to 13.7 infant deaths per 1000 live births across the borough. In 2007/09 infant mortality rates were highest in the wards of Crompton, Chadderton Central, St Mary’s and Werneth with rates ranging from 13.7 to 11.51 deaths per 1000 live births.

Source: IROS (Office of National Statistics) and National Clinical Health Outcomes Database 2010 http://www.nchod.nhs.uk/

Consanguinity

Consanguinity simply means descent from a common ancestor, although it is more commonly understood as being related as cousins. Attitudes to cousin marriage differ greatly across societies, with some discouraging them through concern about inheriting certain conditions, while others consider cousin marriage a positive way to strengthen family links.

In 2009/10 the Oldham Child Death Overview Panel (NHS Oldham, Bury & Rochdale) reported that 30% of child deaths were due to chromosomal, genetic and congenital abnormalities.
Risks associated with consanguinity
In the general population, the risk of having a child with a severe medical condition is about 1 in 50, but the risk can double where parents are first cousins. This risk is increased where there is a family history of an autosomal recessive condition as related individuals are more likely to have inherited the same rare gene from a common ancestor. Autosomal recessive is one of several ways that a trait, disorder, or disease can be passed down through families. Children born to parents who both carry an autosomal recessive change have a 1 in 4 chance of getting the gene from both parents and developing the disease, and a 1 in 2 chance of inheriting one gene and becoming a carrier.

Risk and Ethnicity
Although we have little Oldham data, we can model our risk on studies done elsewhere. There is evidence that autosomal recessive disorders are 10 more prevalent in Bradford’s Pakistani children, with nearly 150 disorders identified. Blackburn with Darwen has also noticed an increased prevalence and undertaken a study to identify conditions linked to consanguinity. Source: Dr. Aamra Darr, Senior Research Fellow, University of Bradford (unpublished)

A modelling exercise using 2001 census ethnicity data estimated consanguinity-related issues. Oldham ranked 8th out of the top 20 primary care trusts for proportion of parents related. Around 30.4% (n=909) of total births were classed as ethnic minority background. During Quarters 1-3 in 2009/2010, over 38% of referrals to Oldham services for children with complex needs were from an ethnic minority background (n = 46). Of the 43 children registered on the PCHI (permanent childhood hearing impairment) register, 26 have Asian names. However, referrals to these services include conditions other than autosomal recessive disorders and may also reflect the high levels of deprivation among this population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Oldham</th>
<th>North West</th>
<th>England</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total births</td>
<td>2994</td>
<td>80696</td>
<td>605,891</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of ethnic minority births</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>12.4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated % of parents related</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated annual births to related parents</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>2941</td>
<td>19,388</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum estimated annual births with consanguinity-related disorder</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>115</td>
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2.3 Childhood Immunisation

Overall annual achievement in Oldham across all childhood immunisations has continued to improve consistently over the past 3 years. The annual primaries at 12 months and MMR1 at 24 months show a particular improvement, ensuring that the youngest and most vulnerable children are protected against vaccine preventable diseases. However the pre-school booster and MMR2 at 5 years has not quite reached the 95% target, but there has been a steady rise each year to 92.2% and 91.3% respectively for 2009/10 which are the highest figures achieved to date.

![Graph showing the percentage of children immunised against MMR by their 2nd birthday in Oldham, North West England, England, and the national target.](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/)

The rate of MMR immunisation in Oldham has been increasing steadily over the last few years and is higher than both the national and regional average.


It is important that NHS Oldham continue to maintain the high uptake of immunisation rates and continue to improve the pre-school booster and MMR2 to ensure children are protected. Measles is still circulating Greater Manchester; however there have been no confirmed cases in Oldham to date. Most measles cases are in those children who have not been vaccinated or only received one dose, so it is imperative that we continue to ensure that children receive two doses of MMR.
2.4 Hospital Admissions

Asthma

“The Asthma Divide, inequalities in emergency care for asthma” (Asthma UK, 2007), revealed a six fold divide between the Primary Care Trusts (PCT’s) with the lowest and highest emergency admission rates. The region with the highest admission rates was the North West of England, where rates for asthma admissions were 65% higher than in the East of England, which had the lowest rates. Oldham PCT had the 2nd highest hospital admission rate for asthma in England, with admissions 96% above the national average.

In Oldham there are considerable demographic contrasts between wards relating to emergency hospital admission rates for asthma in children under 15 years, with the highest rates being in the wards of Coldhurst, St Mary’s and Werneth.

A study recently conducted in Oldham around emergency hospital admission rates for asthma illustrated that there was a strong association with fuel poverty, income deprivation and ethnicity. Over all, emergency hospital admission rates for asthma were higher in the more deprived wards that have a higher percentage BME population and that more children with asthma are admitted to hospital than adults with asthma.
Injuries to Children in Children under 15 years
The biggest cause of accidental injury resulting in an emergency hospital admission in Oldham in 2009/10 was from falls and accidents relating to common injuries to the head, torso and limbs. The next major cause of emergency hospital admissions was due to accidental poisoning followed by burns and scalds. Although very few admissions were related to road traffic accidents, these caused the most serious injuries.

Accidents are the leading cause of injury to children and disproportionately affect children from lower socio-economic groups. From the chart opposite it is clear that the ward of St Mary’s has significantly higher admission rates for accidents. Many of the accidents that happen are in and around the home. These can therefore potentially be avoided by identifying and understanding potential accident risks in the home. *(NHS Choices, UK 2009)*

Source: Secondary User Statistics (SUS) 2007/09
2.5 Oral Health

Oral health has close associations with poverty and deprivation and can also be linked to educational attainment. Although there has been a significant improvement in oral health over the last 30 years, many children still suffer unnecessarily from the pain and discomfort because of oral decay, which remains a major public health problem in Oldham.

Local epidemiology shows that tooth decay starts at a very young age and those children who do present with the disease are severely affected. A key finding, when trends are examined nationally, is that the level of tooth decay in 5 year old children has remained largely unchanged for 20 years. However, local data shows that between 1991 and 2008 there has been a 20% decrease in tooth decay among 5 year olds across Oldham. Local data also reveals that across Oldham 2009/10 17 children were admitted to hospital for dental extraction. For children who are looked after over the period 2009/10, 78.4% of children had been for a dental check up.

This chart presents the results of standardised dental examinations of five year old children from across England during the 2007/08 school year.

Of the 354 LAs across England, 335 LAs participated in the dental survey. From the survey results, Oldham was the 5th worst local authority for the percentage of 5 year old children who experience tooth decay.

NB. A 2011/12 survey of five year old children is planned as an update to the 2007/08 survey.

Source: The Dental Observatory 2010 [http://www.nwph.net/dentalhealth/]

There is also survey data available relating to 12 year old children 2008/09 - [http://www.nwph.net/dentalhealth/survey-results-12.aspx]
2.6 Obesity

Overweight and obesity in childhood are known to have significant impact on both physical and psychological health. The health problems that stem from being overweight go way beyond the ones we usually hear about, like diabetes and heart disease. Being overweight can also affect a young person's joints, breathing, sleep, mood, and energy levels. So being overweight can impact a person's entire quality of life.

The epidemic in childhood obesity has led to at least 8000 children in Oldham under 16 years old being obese and more than a quarter of all children being overweight or obese. There are now nearly 1 in 5 children aged 10-11 years in Oldham who are obese and if the current trend continues then two thirds of children will be obese by 2050. There are more than 3 times the proportion of children in Year 6 who are obese compared to 1990 and the proportion that are clinically obese has increased fivefold in the same time period.

Evidence shows that obese children also tend to become obese adults. Children are six times more likely to be overweight or obese if both of their parents are. Half of women in Oldham were in fact overweight or obese when they first went to antenatal clinic in 2008.

**National Child Measurement Programme**

The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) is an important element of the Government's work programme on childhood obesity, and is operated jointly by the Department of Health (DH) and the Department for Education (DfE). The NCMP was established in 2005. Every year, as part of the NCMP, children in Reception and Year 6 are weighed and measured during the school year to inform local planning and delivery of services for children; and gather population-level surveillance data to allow analysis of trends in growth patterns and obesity.

The NCMP also helps to increase public and professional understanding of weight issues in children and is a useful vehicle for engaging with children and families about healthy lifestyles and weight issues. To encourage engagement, parents can request their child’s results from their Primary Care Trusts (PCTs).

The charts below bring together the measurements of Year 6 and Reception children from 2005 to 2008.
The rising prevalence of obesity in Year 6 children in Oldham is of particular concern as it reached 19.2% in 08/09 rising above the national average, as can be seen by the chart below. This is more than 3% higher than the target level. This highlights the need for coordinated preventative action in pre-schools, primary schools and extended services across Oldham. Primary school age is when children’s food preferences are established and therefore makes this a crucial period.

Although the prevalence of obesity amongst year six aged children was slightly lower for years 2006/07 and 2007/08, Oldham now has a higher rate than both the England and North West average.

Source: The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)
Deprivation
National figures show there is a strong relationship between deprivation and childhood obesity. Analysis of data from the NCMP shows that obesity prevalence among children in both Reception and Year 6 increases with increased socioeconomic deprivation (measured, for example, by the 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) score).

Ethnicity
The NCMP also reveals substantial variation in childhood obesity prevalence between ethnic groups. Children from most minority ethnic groups have a higher prevalence than White British children, although the patterns are different for boys and girls and for different age groups. Among Reception age children, Black African boys and girls have the highest prevalence of obesity. In Year 6, Bangladeshi boys have the highest prevalence, whereas among girls, those from African and Other Black groups have the highest prevalence. These findings reinforce the importance of addressing the specific needs of Asian children and their families in Oldham.

What are children, young people and families telling us?

Local Democracy Week 2009
• Young people felt healthy lifestyle options need to be promoted and communicated to young people in a more effective way – the message is not getting across
• Young people were concerned that healthy foods and drink were too expensive and not the cheapest option
• Young People felt that healthy food options were not appealing and that to eat healthy food young people need access to options that are more appealing

St Anne’s RC Primary Children’s Council Reps, July 2010
• Children think it is important that they know about healthy diets
2.7 Sexual Health

Under 18 Conceptions
Teenage pregnancy remains a significant public health issue in Oldham. Teenage parents experience poor antenatal health, have lower birth weight babies and higher infant mortality rates. They are less likely to finish their education and therefore less likely to find a good job and are more likely to be single parents living in poverty. The children themselves have a greater risk of living in poverty, having poorer health and a high chance of becoming a teenage parent themselves. However, on a positive note; research also shows that teenage mothers who had poor attendance at school prior to conception, show improved attendance and performance in education after pregnancy.

Overall though; tackling teenage pregnancy is central work in the prevention of health inequalities, child poverty and social exclusion. Girls from deprived backgrounds are ten time more likely to become teenage mothers than girls from affluent backgrounds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Oldham MCD</th>
<th>North West</th>
<th>England</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

% change in rate: 0% -14% -20% -10% -16% -17% -8.7% -27.1% -31.8% -29% -38% -47% -55%

Source: Teenage Pregnancy Unit, Feb 2010. (Data for 2008 are provisional)

In Oldham great strides have been made in the reduction of teenage conceptions and the rates are now currently lower than the North West average and similar to the England average.

The most recent data for 2008 shows that the rate for Oldham continues to fall, however to reach the 2010 target the decrease in teenage conceptions needs to continue.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Oldham MCD</th>
<th>North West</th>
<th>England</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>136</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% leading to abortion: 37 36 39 39 32 39 39 42 42 44 44 42

Based on 2006 population estimate

If Oldham is to reach the 2010 target teenage conception rates, targeted action to reduce the inequalities gap between the wards with the lowest rates and the wards with the highest rates is also needed. Evidence shows that the wards of Alexandra, Hollinwood and Waterhead have significantly higher teenage conception rates than the Oldham, regional and England average.

**Chlamydia Screening**

In the UK, the incidence of STI has been rising since the 1990s. Numbers of diagnosed cases of STIs are still going up and the greatest affected age group continues to be 16-24 year olds. Even though they account for just 12% of the population, young people account for more than half of all STIs diagnosed in the UK. This includes 65% of new Chlamydia cases and 55% of new genital warts cases.

Chlamydia is the most common bacterial sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the UK, affecting both men and women. Most people with Chlamydia have no symptoms, but if left untreated, Chlamydia can lead to infertility, ectopic pregnancy and chronic pelvic pain in women. In men it may lead to urethritis and epidydimitis. In both sexes it can cause arthritis.

The national Chlamydia screening programme (NCSP) is a control and prevention programme targeted at the highest risk groups in England; young people under 25 years of age who are sexually active.

The chart below illustrates that Oldham had the joint 3rd lowest overall coverage for Chlamydia screening across Greater Manchester. The data also reveals that a significant proportion of those screened were female. It is therefore important that more young men are engaged in the Chlamydia screening programme. The biggest provider of Chlamydia screening for Oldham in 2009/10 was through Brook Advisory Centre (49.5%) followed by Contraception and Sexual Health service (28%). GP practices provide only 11.4% of Chlamydia screening coverage across Oldham.
Data collected from 2009/10 Chlamydia screening programme shows that Oldham screened 20.4% of the target population.

The national target was 25% and therefore NHS Oldham is currently reviewing its local implementation plan to help identify barriers to attaining the target and what actions are required to ensure that Oldham achieves the challenge of a 35% target in 2010/11.

The Chlamydia prevalence for Oldham in 2008/09 was 9.3%.

What are children, young people and families telling us?

*Local democracy week report 2009*
- Young people feel sex and relationship education needs improving and there should be better access to services for all young people

*Key to the Door consultations with young parents*
- Some young parents find Children’s Centre’s do not meet their needs and they sometimes feel intimidated by the centres
- Young Parents find it hard to go back into work or training when their children are small as they often don’t have the support systems within their wider families
- Young Parents would like more places to go where they can be together with their peers
2.8 Mental and Emotional Health of Children and Young People

In the UK, it is estimated that 1 in 10 children and young people will have experienced a mental health problem by the time they are 16 years old. (ONS, 2005) The majority of mental health conditions in children and young people are related to either emotional disorders (depression or anxiety) or conduct disorders.

Mental Health problems effects educational achievement, such as low educational performance and absenteeism and can increase the chance of risk behaviours such as smoking, substance misuse and risky sexual behaviour. Mental health problems can also lead to offending and anti-social behaviour. (Department of Health, 2004)

Information on the level of mental health problems in children and young people is difficult to ascertain. Hospital admissions can give an indication of morbidity across the borough. However, caution must be observed, as hospital admissions for mental health conditions do not reflect the true pattern of morbidity across the borough.

From a performance point of view, for indicator NI51 (effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) Oldham scored 13 out of a possible 16 in this category. This is a fairly high score that reflects the range of services, appropriate access for 16 to 17 year olds, 24 hour emergency service provision and universal and targeted services that reflect need.

Over the year 2009/10 there was a 20% increase in referrals to CAHMS services in Oldham. However a recent referral audit showed that at the referral screening phase, 20% of the total numbers of referrals were deemed inappropriate. It is therefore important that there is continuity in referral protocol as inappropriate referrals can delay the referral of a young person in need of urgent care.

Overall there were 773 mental health related hospital admissions between 2007 and 2009 for children and young people under 20 years of age. The highest proportion of admissions between 2007 and 2009 were in the wards of St James’, Hollinwood, Royton North and Alexandra which between them had nearly twice as many admissions as the rest of Oldham.
In Oldham the largest contributing mental health condition to hospital admissions was Self Harm (41%), followed by alcohol (26.5%) and drug (10%) induced mental health conditions.

Source: Secondary User Statistics (SUS) 2007/09
What are children, young people and families telling us?

Local democracy week report 2009

• Young people were concerned about stress and pressure that they experience and feel they need better support to reduce and avoid stress
• Young people were concerned about mental health issues and felt they needed better awareness of mental health issues and how to access services
• Young people would like access to health and well being professional advisors that are specifically for young people

Feedback from Children In Care Council meetings, the Peer Mentoring project, Regulation 33 inspections, consultation sessions

• Looked After Children feel there are not enough counselling services available and services are difficult for young people to access

Feedback from consultation and continuous communication with foster carers and Residential Child Carers Workers

• Looked After Children need more specialist services for therapeutic advice and clear strategies to manage complex issues

Child- St Anne’s RC Primary Children’s Council, July 2010

• “If someone close to you passes away or moves away and you never see them, people don’t realise how much that upsets children. It’s really depressing and children need more help. Sometimes a counsellor only comes once and they say they’ll come back and they don’t, I don’t know why”

Oldham’s Parenting Strategy Group

• Parents need support to parent when they have mental health issues
2.9 Alcohol and substance misuse

For a growing number of people in England, alcohol consumption is a major cause of ill health and it is estimated that 31% of men and 20% of women amongst the adult population are now drinking regularly above the recommended guidelines. In 2008, the Department of Health estimated that alcohol misuse cost the NHS around £2.7 billion per year. Such misuse also contributes to the wider costs on society, such as crime and disorder, social and family breakdown and sickness absence.

In respect of children and young people, Department of Health research 2007 showed that around 20% of 11-15 year olds had drunk alcohol in the last week. According to the latest information produced by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO), Oldham ranked 278 out of 326 for alcohol specific hospital admissions in people under 18 years.

Recent information from the ‘So You Think You Know Everything about Drugs and Alcohol’ survey of sixth form students in Oldham 2010 showed there was evidence to suggest that risk taking behaviour takes place whilst under the influence of alcohol. There was also evidence that there is a culture of excessive drinking which includes numerous weekly episodes of binge drinking amongst this age group.

The highest proportion of alcohol specific hospital admissions for young people aged 19 years and under between 2007 and 2010 were in the wards of Crompton, Royton North and St James’, with Crompton having a significantly higher proportion than the other wards of Oldham.

The majority of alcohol admissions to hospital were due to mental and behavioural disorders and the toxic effects of alcohol.
Trading Standards North West commission a regional study to monitor and evaluate behaviour and attitudes of 14 to 17 year olds towards alcohol. The first study was conducted in 2005, again in 2007 and in 2009. The 2009 study showed that 696 young people from Oldham took part from across the borough. The study contains a lot of statistics therefore the following information is just a small proportion of the study results. The full report can be obtained from Oldham Info at http://www.oldhaminfo.org/QuickLink.aspx?id=150 Results indicate that 29% of 14-17 year olds are classified as regular binge drinkers, which is slightly above the NW average. Although a slightly higher proportion of females admit to binge drinking, regular binge drinking is more prevalent in males.

% of drinking outside/in pubs or clubs – Analysis by LA 2009.

The proportion of respondents who stated that they either drink in pubs or clubs or outside is significantly higher in Oldham than across the rest of the North West.

Do you tend to Drink alone or in groups? (% who drink alone).

As in 2007, the vast majority of respondents tend to drink as part of a group. The results suggest that young males are more likely to drink on their own than females.

Source: Trading Standards Tobacco and Alcohol Study 2009
Drug use, smoking and drinking among young people in England survey 2007 (Information Centre) showed that a quarter of all 11 to 15 year olds had ever taken drugs and that the drug they were more likely to have taken was cannabis. The survey also revealed that factors linked to the probability of drug use include, being an older male pupil, a regular smoker, having recently drunk alcohol and having being taunted or excluded from school.

Alcohol and drug use has a big impact on how healthy people are. The number of young people being admitted to hospital for drug and alcohol related conditions in Oldham is too high. A crackdown on drug dealing means however there is less dealing on the streets in Oldham and people entering drug treatment services are staying on the programme, meaning longer term prospects are better for them.

As the chart above illustrates, the most common reason for a young person being admitted to hospital between 2007 and 2010 was poisoning due to by-narcotic and hallucinogenic (morphine and ecstasy) drug use. There is also considerable evidence from monitoring undertaken by Oldham drug services that many clients are poly substance users, for instance heroin using and heavy drinking, young cocaine users and alcohol use. Hospital admission rates for both alcohol and drug use concur this as there is evidence that some young people are being admitted for both alcohol and drug related conditions.

Besides children and young people being directly involved with drug and alcohol use, many children are affected by parental drug and alcohol use. In Oldham it is estimated that over 1400 children and young people are adversely affected by parental drug misuse and over 4,890 affected by parental alcohol misuse. *(Oldham Adult Drugs Needs Assessment 2009)* There is an increased risk of violence in families where parents abuse substances. Children can also suffer from lack of boundaries and discipline, and live chaotic lives.
This can seriously affect their psychological and emotional development, and may cause problems with their relationships later on in life. (NSPCC, 2010). Further analysis in respect of this particular issue can be found in the ‘growing up to be safe’ section on page 79 – 80.

The data and information below is derived from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) in accordance with guidelines set by the National Treatment Agency (NTA). The records collected by NDTMS from agencies is used to describe the profile of Young People (under 18) engaged in Specialist/Structured Tier 3 treatment interventions thus providing a standardised measurement of performance in this regard.

**Young People (under 18) entering Tier 3 treatment in Oldham 2008/09 & 2009/10**

- The proportion of young people hailing from ‘Asian/Asian British’ ethnicities increased from 8.9% [n=16] in to 11.0% [n=9] whilst White/White British ethnicities fell slightly from 84.0% to 82.0%.
- Young people entering treatment were older in 2009/10 – in 2008/09 21.9% [n=40] of new presentees were aged 14 years compared to 13.8% [n=12] this year whilst the proportion of 17 year olds increased from 18.6% [n=34] to 29.9% [n=26].
- The proportion of ‘current’ injectors decreased from 3.3% [n=6] in to 1.2% [n=1].

In 2009/10 the presenting substance(s) were predominantly Cannabis and/or Alcohol with 88.5% of young people indicating the use of one or both of these substances – compared to 96.7% in the previous year.
Profiles of young people in Tier 3 treatment in Oldham during 2008/09 and 2009/10


Gender distribution over the two reporting periods remained constant.

The proportion of young people hailing from ‘Asian/Asian British’ ethnicities increased from 9.4% [n=22] in to 11.2% [n=13] whilst White/White British ethnicities fell slightly from 85.0% to 83.6%.

Young people in treatment are older in 2009/10 – in 2008/09 21.0% [n=50] of those young people in treatment were aged 14 years old compared to 13.1% [n=16] in 2009/10 whilst the proportion of 17 year olds increased by 1½ times from 21.8% [n=52] to 32.0% [n=39].

The proportion of ‘current’ injectors decreased from 2.5% [n=6] in to 0.8% [n=1].

In 2009/10 indications for substance(s) were dominated by Cannabis and/or Alcohol with 81.9% of young people indicating the use of one or both of these substances – compared to 95.2% in the previous year.
2.10 Smoking

Children become aware of cigarettes at an early age. Three out of four children are aware of cigarettes before they reach the age of five whether or not their parents smoke. (Teenage Smoking attitudes in 1996. Office for National Statistics, 1997) Experimentation is an important predictor of future use: two out of three regular smokers say they started smoking before the age of 19. (Smoking and drinking among adult. Office for National Statistics, 2008.) It is estimated that, every year, around 200,000 children and young people start smoking in England. However in 2009, 71% of pupils aged 11-15 said they had never tried smoking. This is higher than at any time since the young people’s smoking survey began in 1982.

Smoking statistics for children and young people in Oldham are unavailable with most data collected through national surveys. However model based estimates of smoking prevalence in adults shows that approximately 28% of the Oldham population over the age of 16 smoke.

Of all the adults over 16 whom smoke, a high percentage will live or have contact with children and young people. Environmental and sociodemographic factors are all associated with the uptake of smoking. Having a parent or sibling who smokes is particularly strongly associated with uptake (Goddard 1992; Stead et al. 1996).

Also, smoking around children and young people in enclosed spaces exposes their developing lungs to toxins and can trigger asthma attacks, bronchitis, ear infections and hearing impairment, as well as cot death.

Children who smoke become addicted to nicotine very quickly and will tend to continue to smoke through to adulthood. Children and young people who smoke are two to six times more susceptible to coughs, increased phlegm and wheezing than their non-smoking peers.
NICE (National Institute for Clinical Excellence) recommends that to prevent the take up of smoking by children and young people it is important that a national, regional or local, mass-media campaign be developed to prevent the uptake of smoking among young people under 18, that the conveying of messages based on strategic research and qualitative pre- and post-testing with the target audiences happens. That there is support for better enforcement of existing legislation and assurance that retailers are aware of legislation prohibiting under-age tobacco sales, and that it is made as difficult as possible for young people under 18 to get cigarettes and other tobacco products and to exercise a statutory duty under the Children and Young Persons (protection from tobacco) Act 1991 to prevent under-age sales.

Trading Standards North West commission a regional study to monitor and evaluate behaviour and attitudes of 14 to 17 year olds towards smoking. The first study was conducted in 2005, again in 2007 and in 2009. The 2009 study showed that 696 young people from Oldham took part from across the borough. The study contains a lot of statistics therefore the following information is just a small proportion of the study results. The full report can be obtained from Oldham Info at http://www.oldhaminfo.org/QuickLink.aspx?id=151

According to the results of the smoking survey in England 27% of 14 to 17 year olds claimed to smoke in 2009 with Oldham showing the most significant increase (10%) since the 2007 survey. The highest proportion of smokers were aged 17 years and female.
In the main, respondents purchase their own cigarettes from off licences/newsagents; however the % doing so has fallen significantly since 2007. This suggests that retailers are being more disciplined.
2.11 Health Needs of Children and Young People with Complex Needs and Disability

The definition of children and young people with complex needs and disability are ‘children and young people who have a physical, sensory or learning disability or prolonged illness or condition which impacts on daily living in such a way that, without the provision of adequate support, services, they would not achieve their optimal potential for personal development and social inclusion’.

The impacts of disabilities can be multiple and complex and may affect such normal day-to-day activities as, mobility, ability to perceive, think, concentrate, remember or learn, ability to communicate through oral or written language and manual dexterity such as the ability to co-ordinate movement, continence and the perception of risk.

It is very difficult to ascertain the number of children and young people who have complex needs and disabilities, however according to the information collected through the School Census January 2010 there are 8248 pupils across Oldham schools with Special Educational Needs (SEN), including both primary and secondary needs; with 979 children and young people having a statement in place. Of the children with special educational needs 59% are in primary school, 35% are in secondary school, 5% are in special schools and 1% in Pupil Referral Units. As at January 2010, in total 3,365 school age children attending Oldham schools had a registered SEN primary need:

- 1338 had some form of Cognitive and Learning need
- 914 had Communication and Interaction Needs
- 663 had behaviour, emotional or social development needs
- 204 had a sensory impairment
- 154 had a physical disability.
This information should be used with caution, however, as the Council’s Data Intelligence Team that collate the census have noted that comparisons between the School Census SEN primary need and SEN need on Tribal are showing discrepancies.

Children and young people with complex needs and disability can very often lead to them being admitted to hospital more frequently and for longer periods than their peers.

### Limiting Long-Term Illness and Disability Population Projections

The University of Manchester has produced Disability Population Projections based on census data from 1991 and 2001. They produced three separate projections. Below is a chart illustrating a medium variant projection, which assumes that the percentage of people reporting an LLTI or disability will continue to change at half the rate of change observed between the 1991 and 2001 censuses for those aged 20+ and at a quarter of this rate for those aged under 20.

These population projections are based on the census only and are not constrained by subsequent Mid-Year Population Estimates: they should therefore be used with caution.
Children with special needs may have a predictable pattern of conditions that require hospital care. However, there are many children that do not need long stays in hospital and therefore could be cared for within community settings with support from community health and social care professionals. It is therefore important that integrated care pathways are in place for children with special needs to help minimise the need for secondary hospital care.

From a performance point of view, parents experience of services for disabled children and the ‘core offer’ (NI054) in 2009/10 was 59%, lower than the England average of 61%.
What are children, young people and families telling us?

**Local democracy week report 2009**
- Young People feel positive access for people with disabilities is not adequate in the town centre

**Special schools Strategy Group and DCATCH parents consultation**
- Parents felt that coordination of what can be a large number of appointments for children with special educational needs and disability means there is greater risk of information not being shared and children falling through gaps in services
- Coordination of services has an additional burden on parents of disabled children who have to join up advice and support across the council, schools and health. Parents have requested all information be available in one place
- Attitudes of some providers can be a barrier. Training is needed for providers to better understand and support children with disabilities
- Inclusive settings are not always inclusive for some children. Some parents with children who have behavioural problems find it hard to take their children to activities such as the cinema or parks as others who don’t understand their needs (hidden disability) will often stare or pass comment

**Consultation with foster carers and Regulation 33 inspections**
- Special Educational Needs and Disability amongst Looked After Children are not always identified
### 2.12  ‘Growing up to be healthy’ district profile for children and young people in Oldham

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Infant Mortality rates per 1000 live births</th>
<th>Emergency Hospital Admission rates per 100,000 for Asthma in children under 15 years</th>
<th>Emergency Hospital Admission rates per 1000 for accidents in children under 15 years</th>
<th>Emergency hospital admission rates per 100,000 for mental health conditions in children under 20 years</th>
<th>Alcohol specific hospital admission rates per 100,000 in children under 19 years</th>
<th>Drug related hospital admission rates per 100,000 in children under 19 years</th>
<th>Under 18 Conceptions (NB. significance is used due to disclosure and patient confidentiality)</th>
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<td>Chadderton South</td>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>210.48</td>
<td>10.29</td>
<td>326.45</td>
<td>41.31</td>
<td>30.99</td>
<td>Not significantly different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Chadderton District</strong></td>
<td><strong>8.72</strong></td>
<td><strong>177.95</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.50</strong></td>
<td><strong>332.21</strong></td>
<td><strong>42.57</strong></td>
<td><strong>60.09</strong></td>
<td><strong>Not significantly different</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Oldham</td>
<td>St James</td>
<td>3.85</td>
<td>204.27</td>
<td>13.47</td>
<td>760.53</td>
<td>101.99</td>
<td>37.95</td>
<td>Not significantly different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St Marys</td>
<td>11.52</td>
<td>380.06</td>
<td>37.34</td>
<td>375.42</td>
<td>28.94</td>
<td>36.24</td>
<td>Not significantly different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waterhead</td>
<td>5.12</td>
<td>257.07</td>
<td>16.46</td>
<td>427.89</td>
<td>74.80</td>
<td>86.93</td>
<td>Significantly higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>East Oldham District</strong></td>
<td><strong>6.83</strong></td>
<td><strong>280.46</strong></td>
<td><strong>22.42</strong></td>
<td><strong>521.28</strong></td>
<td><strong>68.57</strong></td>
<td><strong>53.70</strong></td>
<td><strong>Significantly higher</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failsworth &amp; Hollinwood</td>
<td>Failsworth East</td>
<td>8.50</td>
<td>158.23</td>
<td>11.26</td>
<td>289.51</td>
<td>55.29</td>
<td>42.29</td>
<td>Not significantly different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Failsworth West</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>176.30</td>
<td>12.13</td>
<td>427.16</td>
<td>12.96</td>
<td>52.16</td>
<td>Not significantly different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hollinwood</td>
<td>8.11</td>
<td>213.82</td>
<td>20.13</td>
<td>566.86</td>
<td>48.01</td>
<td>48.94</td>
<td>Significantly higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Failsworth &amp; Hollinwood District</strong></td>
<td><strong>6.49</strong></td>
<td><strong>182.78</strong></td>
<td><strong>14.05</strong></td>
<td><strong>427.84</strong></td>
<td><strong>38.75</strong></td>
<td><strong>47.79</strong></td>
<td><strong>Significantly higher</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royton &amp; Shaw</td>
<td>Royton North</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>170.39</td>
<td>14.07</td>
<td>555.62</td>
<td>118.26</td>
<td>70.74</td>
<td>Significantly lower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Royton South</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>156.66</td>
<td>10.61</td>
<td>307.36</td>
<td>52.54</td>
<td>12.94</td>
<td>Not significantly different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shaw</td>
<td>5.25</td>
<td>75.25</td>
<td>6.98</td>
<td>487.33</td>
<td>84.76</td>
<td>68.74</td>
<td>Not significantly different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crompton</td>
<td>13.07</td>
<td>116.24</td>
<td>11.11</td>
<td>426.38</td>
<td>209.64</td>
<td>49.49</td>
<td>Not significantly different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Royton &amp; Shaw District</strong></td>
<td><strong>4.58</strong></td>
<td><strong>129.63</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.69</strong></td>
<td><strong>444.17</strong></td>
<td><strong>116.3</strong></td>
<td><strong>50.47</strong></td>
<td><strong>Not significantly different</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saddleworth &amp; Lees</td>
<td>Saddleworth North</td>
<td>4.08</td>
<td>89.52</td>
<td>8.54</td>
<td>257.70</td>
<td>81.11</td>
<td>13.50</td>
<td>Not significantly different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saddleworth South</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>236.95</td>
<td>8.90</td>
<td>161.45</td>
<td>29.13</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Significantly lower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saddleworth West &amp; Lees</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>191.48</td>
<td>7.95</td>
<td>331.33</td>
<td>51.14</td>
<td>36.74</td>
<td>Not significantly different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Saddleworth &amp; Lees District</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.36</strong></td>
<td><strong>172.65</strong></td>
<td><strong>8.46</strong></td>
<td><strong>250.16</strong></td>
<td><strong>53.79</strong></td>
<td><strong>16.74</strong></td>
<td><strong>Not significantly different</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Oldham</td>
<td>Alexandra</td>
<td>7.92</td>
<td>350.84</td>
<td>15.46</td>
<td>528.29</td>
<td>18.76</td>
<td>89.88</td>
<td>Significantly higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coldhurst</td>
<td>2.04</td>
<td>332.86</td>
<td>9.97</td>
<td>362.71</td>
<td>28.37</td>
<td>81.36</td>
<td>Not significantly different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medlock Vale</td>
<td>5.58</td>
<td>224.15</td>
<td>13.74</td>
<td>430.02</td>
<td>36.25</td>
<td>26.46</td>
<td>Not significantly different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Werneth</td>
<td>11.51</td>
<td>359.92</td>
<td>10.43</td>
<td>333.71</td>
<td>8.45</td>
<td>71.52</td>
<td>Not significantly different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>West Oldham District</strong></td>
<td><strong>6.76</strong></td>
<td><strong>316.94</strong></td>
<td><strong>12.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>413.68</strong></td>
<td><strong>22.95</strong></td>
<td><strong>67.30</strong></td>
<td><strong>Not significantly different</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borough Average</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>6.39</strong></td>
<td><strong>218.54</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.26</strong></td>
<td><strong>408.19</strong></td>
<td><strong>56.15</strong></td>
<td><strong>52.34</strong></td>
<td><strong>40.9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Growing up to stay safe

This means children and young people are protected from harm and neglect, have stability and are cared for, and feel safe in the communities where they live, go to school, play and work.

**Strengths**

- The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is becoming embedded and is effectively identifying need at earlier points and providing a coordinated function to meeting those needs. Over the past 12 months CAF assessments have increased by over 250%.
- Over 95% of Initial Assessments (i.e. a brief assessment of any child who has been referred to Social Care with a request that services be provided) and Core Assessments (i.e. an assessment to identify problems and plan higher levels of support) have been completed in timescales - exceeding Oldham’s targets & national and statistical neighbours performance.
- Ofsted’s unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements in May 2010 found no areas for priority action and many areas of strength.
- Oldham’s Looked After Children population is presently lower than statistical neighbours, illustrating good preventative strategies are in place. Good planning and review processes are also in place with a dedicated project for discharge when this is in the child’s best interest.
- Oldham continues to have better performance than the national average in respect of the placement stability of Looked After Children.
- In August 2010 Oldham’s fostering service was.

**Areas of Improvement/ Development**

- Nearly half of all CAF assessments identify child behaviour as the main issue; 69% indicate issues associated with poor parenting skills; and 14% identify parent specific issues as being the primary factor that hinders good parenting, including family violence, mental health and drug and alcohol misuse.
- In nearly a quarter of all cases supported by Oldham’s Parent Support Team, parents experienced domestic violence, mental health problems, substance misuse or some combination of all three.
- 743 children had parents attending substance misuse services in Oldham during 2009/10 - an average of 1.53 children per client.
- 65% of all referrals into the Family Group Conference service from social care are for parents experiencing substance misuse.
- Children affected by domestic violence remains a significant problem in Oldham.
- Children affected by sexual exploitation.
- Neglect and family dysfunction were the biggest contributing factors identified across all child protection plans during 2009/10.
- Increased numbers children from Pakistani, White/Asian, White/Black Caribbean origin subject to a child protection plan.
- Increased numbers of child protection plans lasting 2 yrs.
judged ‘outstanding’ in all areas

• High numbers of looked after children who are older and deemed ‘harder to place’ are taking longer to be placed for adoption (though more appropriate placements are ultimately sought)
• Road traffic accidents, cause the most serious injuries for children and young people. Chadderton Central, Chadderton South and Shaw accounted for around a quarter of all road traffic accidents involving children between 2007 and 2009
• There has been a 54% increase in the number of race/ hate incidents reported by Oldham Schools over a three year period
• Verbal and racist bullying are the most common forms of bullying in secondary and primary schools in Oldham, with physical bullying and cyber bullying also being relatively high in Oldham’s Secondary schools.

The following section shows those children and young people we need to ensure stay safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation, by assessing their needs through the common assessment framework, initial and core assessments and putting into place the appropriate interventions such as a child in need plan, child protection plan, take the child into the care of the local authority or place the child for adoption. The information shows children that are affected by parental substance misuse, domestic abuse, sexual exploitation and the numbers relating to accidental injury and death, all these children may need support and intervention to stay safe. Bullying and discrimination, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, cause children and young people to feel a lack of security, stability and feeling that they are cared for.
3.1 Assessment, protection and prevention

Common Assessment Framework (CAF)
The CAF is a national process for early assessment and developments in Oldham have established a consistent process which is effectively identifying need at earlier points and provides a function to coordinate and meet those needs; in the region of 2000 professionals from both statutory and non statutory agencies have received CAF training.

Over the past 12 months CAF assessments have increased by over 250%; a model of multi agency engagement to meet identified need is becoming embedded in practice and CAF assessments are currently running at an average monthly rate of 60. Additional resources have been made available to appoint 6 locally based CAF coordinators who work in designated neighbourhoods, closely linked to schools, children centres and health teams. The implementation of CAF and establishment of common processes ensure links to child protection and is responsive to a continuum of need.

The CAF process has some way to go before it is fully embedded as the universal assessment tool; however it has enabled a clearer picture of need to be mapped, which in turn can be used to begin to better manage and target scarce resources to the points where activities will have the most effective impact. Early information from CAF assessments indicates:

- Nearly half of all CAF assessments identify child behaviour as the main issue.
- 69% indicate issues associated with poor parenting skills and the inability to cope.
- 14% identify parent specific issues as being the primary factor that hinders good parenting, including family violence, mental health and drug and alcohol misuse.

![Caf's by Age](image_url)

Over the past 12 months CAF’s have increased by over 250%.
Due to the appointment of 6 locally based CAF coordinators this trend is set to continue.
The percentage of CAF’s by age complete during 2007-2010 show 3 & 4 year olds as the highest group, in 2009/10 the under 5’s age group rose considerably in comparison to other age groups following the appointment of additional coordinators.

The percentage of CAF’s by Ward completed during 2007-2010 showing St Mary’s, Hollinwood and Coldhurst significantly higher than other areas in Oldham.
Parent Support Advisors work with parents of primary age children to primarily support their attendance and attainment. In 2010-11 the service worked directly with 455 cases and delivered workshops and evidence based parenting courses to many more parents across the local area.

In respect of the referral route for Parent Support Advisor case work:
- 44% came through schools;
- 5% came through social care;
- 7% from CAMHS (this is often when a child has been referred to CAMHS experiencing poor mental health as either a direct or indirect result of their parents parenting ability);
- 32% self referred; and
- Other referrers includes school nurses, school attendance, Special Educational Needs Service, Parent Partnership, GP’s, Adult Mental Health, Barnardos, Community Outreach and the CAF team.

The chart below illustrates the referral by type based on cases supported:

In addition, in terms of the issues experienced by parents having an impact on the child:
- In 24% of all referrals there were domestic violence, substance misuse, mental health or a combination of all three problems.
- 10% of all cases parent’s had some degree of mental health problem although not within the threshold required for adult services.
- 8% of all cases involved domestic violence – this was not usually the presenting issue on referral and was often only identified when the PSA had been working with the parent for some time and had developed a trusting relationship.
Initial and Core Assessments

Early preventative services ensure effective safeguarding of children and appropriately keep them from coming into local authority care, it is important that referrals are risk assessed and prioritised and that this is completed in a timely and appropriate manner. Since 2006 the number of referrals going to initial assessments (a brief assessment of any child who has been referred to Social Care with a request that services be provided) in Oldham has risen from 51% to 94% and is above the national average. Oldham Council recognises that the safeguarding of children remains a priority for all agencies. Following a review of practice most referrals taken are now progressed to initial assessments. The figure of 71.1% in the first quarter 2010/11 is expected to increase over time to reflect current practice.

Initial assessments should be carried out within 7 days; in 2009 Oldham completed 91% of initial assessments and 95% of Core Assessments (assessment to identify problems and plan higher levels of support) in timescales, giving a clear indication of how well teams are working to ensure cases are allocated promptly.
Child Protection Plans

Initial Assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral

- % Core assessments completed within 35 working days of initial referral and assessment arrangements which took place in May 2010 found no areas for priority action and many areas of strength.

A rapid rise in the number of assessments completed within 7 days since 2005 has seen Oldham ranked 4th nationally.

95% of Core Assessments completed within timescales in 2009 shows that senior managers are taking appropriate action to ensure referral and assessment processes are effective. The unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements which took place in May 2010 found no areas for priority action and many areas of strength.
The purpose of the child protection plan is to devise and implement a plan which leads to lasting improvements in the child’s safety and overall well being. Organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. If a child is at risk of significant harm/abuse, they will become subject to a child protection plan.

Within the last year, the number of child protection plans has steadily increased. This could be viewed as positive if it is due to increased vigilance by professionals and this could possibly be due to the Social Care Review of Baby P and the publicity of the issues surrounding this case. However it is preferable to have less children and young people with child protection plans due to earlier preventative interventions by multi-agencies. The majority of our statistical neighbours have also reported an increase in the number of looked after children and child protection plans, especially over the last few months.

- The number of Child protection plan’s increased by 30% in the year 2008/09 compared to the previous year. However, this rate of growth reduced to under 10% in the next year (2009/10).
- The male/female split has remained consistent over the last three years with a three year average of 54.4% male and 45.6 female.
- Nearly ¾ of all cases in the last three years have come from a white uk background.
- There have been particular increases in the numbers of children from Pakistani, White/Asian, White/Black Caribbean children.

![Chart showing child protection plans lasting 2 years or more]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Oldham</th>
<th>Statistical Neighbours</th>
<th>England</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However it is recognised that some children will need child protection plans for longer than 2 years and are not necessarily expecting a zero percentage return.
During 2009/10, 303 children and young people with child protection plans were identified with the following primary needs as the biggest contributing factor for child protection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age as at 31/03/2010 / Primary Need</th>
<th>Unborn</th>
<th>0-4</th>
<th>5-10</th>
<th>11-15</th>
<th>16-17</th>
<th>18+</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>Total Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N1 - Abuse or Neglect</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N2 - Child's Disability/Illness</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N3 - Parental Disability/Illness</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N4 - Family in Acute Stress</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N5 - Family Dysfunction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N6 - Socially Unacceptable Behaviour</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N7 - Low Income</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N8 - Absent Parenting</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During 2009/10 the following categories of abuse were identified for those children and young people with a child protection plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age as at 31/03/2010 /CPP Latest Category of Abuse</th>
<th>Unborn</th>
<th>0-4</th>
<th>5-10</th>
<th>11-15</th>
<th>16-17</th>
<th>18+</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>Total Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEG - Neglect</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY - Physical Abuse</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAB - Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMO - Emotional Abuse</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUL - Multiple</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For some children or young people it is essential in responding to adverse changes in circumstance for a second child protection plan to be put into place, but high levels of re-registration may suggest ineffective interventions.
During 2006 and 2007 Oldham had 18% and 21% of child protection plans that were second plans. This was way above our statistical neighbours and the national average. This trend was however reversed in 2008 and 2009 where the number dropped to around 10%.
Child Protection Plan Reviews

Reviews are a key element in delivering child protection plans and effective reviews should ensure the provision of good quality interventions. Currently a new system for reviewing child protection plans is being implemented which will assist staff to focus on the plan to ensure that work is completed with a view to reducing the risk to children so that a plan is no longer needed. This has already resulted in a reduction in plans and it is hoped that this will be maintained over the coming months.

Compared to statistical neighbours and nationally, numbers of Child Protection Plans reviewed in timescales dipped significantly in 2007 and 2008. By 2009 plans reviewed in timescales had risen to 100%.
3.2 Looked After Children (LAC)

The LAC population continues to be fluid in that activity of both children entering the care system and leaving is buoyant. However the decrease in population shown on the graph below is due to court care proceedings for some children awarding Special Guardianship Orders. The Court agreed with the assessment for them to be able to live with extended family under a Special Guardianship Order. This has been a successful outcome for these children.

- The number of females being looked after increased over the three years. Conversely, the number of males decreased.
- Over the three years, females made up an average of 53% of all children being looked after.
- Children from white UK background made up 65% of all looked after children cases in the last three years, compared with 89% from white UK background in the total population. This represents a high BME group in our Looked After children population.

The timeline below shows the correlation between numbers of looked after children and child protection plans.

At 63.9 we are 6.7 below the average of our statistical neighbours for looked after children per 10,000 population which is 70.6.

We have 55.5 of children subject to a child protection plan per 10,000 population, which is 14.5 above the statistical neighbour average of 41.0.
An important indicator for children and young people looked after is the stability of placements; evidence suggests that on the whole stability is associated with better outcomes. Oldham continues to be committed to improving the stability of care a child experiences.

Adoptions
Children who cannot live with their birth families may enter the care system as a looked after child however where appropriate adoption and special guardianship can provide supportive new families. Once a decision has been made to place a child for adoption it is important to measure how often this actually takes place. The following chart shows how often children in Oldham are adopted against national and statistical neighbours.

A downward trend from 2007 - 2009 shows the number of children that have three or more placements in the year dropped to over half that recorded for England and Statistical neighbours.

A slight increase in 2010 still shows Oldham with better performance than the national average.

The graph to the left shows Oldham in comparison to both its statistical neighbours and England. Overall, the trend in Oldham reflected that of both its comparators. A high figure is good performance and this chart shows a downward trend since 2008. However local information may show high numbers of older children or harder to place children are taking longer to place but more appropriate placements are sought. Further investigation and analysis is being undertaken.
One huge challenge for most local authorities is to find suitable adopters who can meet the specific needs of children and young people who would benefit from a permanent family.

The table below shows the numbers of adopters approved in Oldham each year from 2006 -7 until the end of 2009 -10.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Adopters Approved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What are children, young people and families telling us?**

*Virtual School for looked after children, Life Chances Team, Children in Care Council meetings, Peer mentoring project and Regulation 33 inspections:*
- Looked after children are bullied due to them being in care. Some try to hide it but teachers and carers disclose this information, sometimes too freely and do not think about confidentiality.*
3.3 Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse

Every drug user has a family member or friend that is affected by their addiction. In the delivery of substance misuse services there is a need to engage the whole family, or relevant social group, in order to ensure a support network is in place to improve treatment outcomes. These services need to recognise that the family can be part of the solution.

To ascertain how many children are affected by parental substance misuse in Oldham, data is collected from all those attending substance misuse services about their children.

Table 1: Parental status amongst adults resident in Oldham attending substance misuse services in Oldham (2009/10) [N=1,591]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parental Status</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Number of Children</th>
<th>Mean Number of Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Living with children</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>1.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent with children living with partner family</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>374</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child(ren) in care</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client pregnant</td>
<td>&lt; 5</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Parents</strong></td>
<td>598</td>
<td>37.6</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>1.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not a parent</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>37.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred not to comment</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not recorded</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source Oldham DAAT

Table 1 also shows that in total 598 parents amongst this in-treatment population for 2009/10 486 (with complete data) indicated having 743 children – an average of 1.53 children per client.

Unfortunately, the current data available regarding the number of children living with substance misusing parents is difficult to compare with previous years due to the level of missing data prior to early 2009. Thus noted upward trends are likely to be as a result of improved levels of recording by case-holding practitioners across Oldham’s provider agencies.
The number of 743 children actually represents the *minimum number of children known* to have substance misusing parents. It would, therefore, be reasonable to suggest that by applying similar proportionalities over those with missing data (i.e. no parental status recorded, parents not indicating the number of children they have and not having a full picture of parental status amongst those attending the Alcohol Service in Oldham) the number of children would reach approximately 1,300 to 1,400.

**Parental Status amongst Individuals Starting New Treatment Journeys in Oldham**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Number of Individuals Starting a New Treatment Episode</th>
<th>Number of Individuals with Children (new treatment journey)</th>
<th>Percentage of Individuals with Children (new treatment journey)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>Q 1</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>40.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Q 2</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>53.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Q 3</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>36.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Q 4</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>45.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>Q 1</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>36.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS)*

Family Group Meetings have also reported that 65% of all referrals into the service from social care are for parents experiencing substance misuse.
### What are children, young people and families telling us?

- Parents’ consultations with Parent Support Advisors identified they would like advice about drugs, how to identify if their children may be using drugs and how they can best support their children and information about the effects of drugs.

### Local democracy week report 2009

- Young people are concerned around the drinking culture, not just in young people but also with adults. Young people are equally concerned about drug related crime and drug dealing.

### Virtual School for looked after children, Life Chances Team, Children in Care Council meetings, Peer mentoring project and Regulation 33 inspections:

- Looked after children use drugs to block out issues. Cannabis use is high for a significant number of looked after children who are teenagers. Don’t like accessing service at Connexions as it sometimes doesn’t feel like a safe place to be and other young people know your business.
3.4 Children Affected by Domestic Abuse

To assess the extent that children may be affected by abuse the Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors (IDAA) show in the graphs below the numbers of victims referred to them (223) and the number of children who are living with them (284) during April to December 2010.

In the same period the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) for domestic abuse dealt with 97 of the above figures as high risk victim referrals where 155 children were directly related.

Barnardos are currently commissioned to deliver a specialist service for children and young people affected by abuse. The graph below shows the numbers they have worked with from April to December 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual work</th>
<th>Intensive group work</th>
<th>Refuge group work</th>
<th>Structured parenting support</th>
<th>Children offered a service who did not take it up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total worked with for each category</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of 85 children have been worked with (no double counting) from 1 April – 13 December 2010 and 10 parents were given structured parenting support from 1 April – 13 December 2010.
### 3.5 Children Affected by Sexual Exploitation

Excellent partnership working exists between Oldham Council, Greater Manchester Police (GMP) the PCT and Barnardos in the North West to support young people at risk of sexual exploitation. The Messenger Partnership has received national recognition and the Chief Constable award for Partnership work in 2008. Procedures and policies are robust and outcomes for children can be evidenced by the numbers of children receiving support and the number of convictions against perpetrators. The Messenger Partnership is currently integrating itself more with the Community Safety Partnership, and in particular is looking at how the use of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC’s) and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) can be implemented to help give some control and direction to the at-risk young people whilst helping to support them as victims of sex crime.

Missing from home/care is seen as one of the key indicators for sexual exploitation and our concerns about a young person are raised when we know they are regularly missing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Incidents of Reported Missing From Home</th>
<th>Quarter 1</th>
<th>Quarter 2</th>
<th>Quarter 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>165</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Males</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Females</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Males aged 0 to 4 incl.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Males aged 5 to 9 incl.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Males aged 10 to 14 incl.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Males aged 15 and over</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Females aged 0 to 4 incl.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Females aged 5 to 9 incl.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Females aged 10 to 14 incl.</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Females aged 15 and over</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Classified as HIGH risk</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Classified as MEDIUM risk</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Classified as LOW risk</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Classified as NO risk</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Home address type: Home</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Home address type: Children’s Home</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Home address type: Foster Care</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Home address type: School</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Home address type: Hospital</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Home address type: Other (catch all)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.6 Road Safety

Since the mid 1990s baseline the number of accidents and casualties on Oldham’s roads has reduced by half. Within Oldham there have been a range of programmes, initiatives and activities implemented by the casualty reduction unit, and the borough has been successful in bidding for a range of funding. This included £330,000 for the “3 ‘til 7” project, and £480,000 for “Take Care, Get There”.

Although very few admissions to hospital were related to road traffic accidents, these caused the most serious injuries amongst children and young people in Oldham in 2009/10.

Between April 2007 and 2009 there were 49 children aged 0 to 15 years killed or seriously injured on the roads across Oldham. The wards with the highest rate of road accidents involving children were Chadderton Central, Chadderton South and Shaw, these three wards account for around a quarter of all road traffic accidents involving children between 2007 and 2009.

Source: OldhamInfo 2010
What are children, young people and families telling us?

Local Democracy Week 2010
- Young people feel roads are not safe and there is a need to:
  - Need to reduce the number of cars parking around schools
  - More crossings around schools and youth centres
  - Better education projects on road safety
  - More speed cameras on the most dangerous roads
  - Better road maintenance
  - More Lollypop patrols
  - More road barriers to stop people walking into the roads
  - Target drivers who speed or drive dangerously

Local Democracy Week 2009
- Young people were concerned about road safety

St Anne’s RC Primary children’s council reps, July 2010
- “Couldn’t there be something to stop children seeing the accident when its happened? To cover it up dead quick!”
- “Need much more traffic lights and zebra crossings, there’s never anywhere to cross and it’s so dangerous”

Saddleworth North Children’s Community Champions, Autumn 2009
- “At busy times we could be a bit more careful”
3.7 Bullying and discrimination

Bullying can happen to anyone and at any time and can have a profound impact on the well being of children and young people. Robust data on the extent and nature of bullying either nationally or locally remains difficult to collate and analyse. But it is clear that the long lasting effect children and young people who have experienced bullying is significant.

Oldham has a good national reputation for its systems, partnership working and support and monitoring for race/hate incidents. Monitoring systems (formerly called NORMI, now called NOHIB) have now been widened (2009/10) to include incidents of bullying.

However, there are concerns about usage of the electronic NOHIB system which is being used by only 41 (38%) of schools. This means that some schools need to be reminded to use the system or that bullying is not taking place in those schools. This is unlikely and more action is needed to ensure reporting is comprehensive.

The Tell Us 4 survey suggests that bullying may have decreased and that children and young people are more satisfied that bullying is being addressed. The low level of participation in the survey means that the data is not robust. There is a risk of an increase in reporting in future surveys. Compared to the other nine Greater Manchester authorities Oldham moved from being the worst performing council in 2008-09 to the fifth highest performing in 2009-10. The Tell Us 4 survey also shows that pupils in Oldham feel safer than pupils nationally around the local area and on public transport. No significant difference was found between Oldham pupils and those nationally on levels of bullying, both at school and on the way to and from school. However, Oldham pupils were less likely to say that their schools dealt with bullying badly, and they were more likely to say that bullying is not a problem at their school than pupils nationally.

The chart below illustrates the number of race/hate incidents reported by Oldham schools over a three year period.

There has been a 54% increase in the number of incidents reported over the three years.

* includes 10 PSU incidents
** includes 32 PSU incidents
*** includes 32 PSU cases and 26 SEN/D incidents
On average, 57% of incidents recorded are from Secondary schools and 35% from primary. The rest coming from SEN/D, and the pupil support centre.

There has been an increase of 31% in primary school incidents.

An increase of 56% increase in the number of incidents reported at Secondary School.

Since the wider incident reporting started in September 2009 there has been a 40% increase in the number of incidents recorded. This will be in part due to the use of expanded electronic recording of racially motivated incidents, which now includes all hate incidents and bullying.

The most common form of bullying in secondary schools is verbal, racist bullying.

At primary schools nearly all the reported bullying is verbal racist bullying.

Physical bullying is also taking place and cyber bullying has been noted as well.

There are relatively low levels of reported bullying for disability, sexuality/sexual orientation, appearance or home circumstances.

During the 3rd Quarter of 2009/10, the figures for complaints to Oldham schools in respect of bullying were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Incidents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 2009</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2009</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2009</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Complaints to the Council need continued monitoring so that trends of parent dissatisfaction can be noted and responded to. Ability to meet service delivery needs consideration.

In this same period, fixed term exclusions from Oldham schools as a result of bullying were:

Two Secondary schools - 3 boys (Y 9 & 10)
One special school - 2 boys (Y13)

The level of fixed term exclusions for bullying would suggest that schools are developing other ways for dealing with bullying - Restorative Justice is one strategy that many schools now use.

It is also worth noting that whilst the numbers of pupils leaving a school with the main cause cited as being bullying are extremely low with just six reported in the last three years, it is thought this could be significantly under-reported. To ascertain a better picture staff would have to review caseload and ensure any bullying case has its referral reason more clearly specified.

### What are children, young people and families telling us?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Democracy Week 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Young people felt there was need to raise awareness of bullying in and out of schools and to provide more sessions in schools on how to deal with bullying</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Democracy Week 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Young people were very concerned about being cyber safe and cyber bullying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “We should get someone to show people the consequences – someone who has bullied people but has learnt their lesson” [St Anne’s RC Primary children’s council reps, July 2010]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “Sometimes bullied people become bullies so we should look after shy people so they don’t get mad and hit out” [St Anne’s RC Primary children’s council reps, July 2010]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Looked after children are bullied due to them being in care. Some try to hide it but teachers and carers disclose this information, sometimes too freely and do not think about confidentiality. Children and young people are bullied due to different religions and culture, at home and at school. If looked after children from minority ethnic communities are placed in predominantly white areas, young people report this is an issue. *(Sources - Virtual School for looked after children, Life Chances Team, Children in Care Council meetings, Peer mentoring project and Regulation 33 inspections)*

Bullying via mobile phones and internet is significant and it is apparent that they have the knowledge and skills to work around fire walls in schools and other arenas *(Sources - Virtual School for looked after children, Life Chances Team, Children in Care Council meetings, Peer mentoring project and Regulation 33 inspections)*
In May 2010, Oldham Council, People Communities and Society Directorate conducted a pilot questionnaire with parents whose children attended schools in Oldham. As part of the questionnaire, respondents were asked for their opinions on Bullying. It must be remembered that the number of respondents was low and cannot be seen as representative of the whole population.

**Primary**
- 19% of those responding stated that their child was being bullied, and 28% stated that they knew of other children who were being bullied.
- Nearly 40% of respondents felt that teachers were the people to best stop the incidents occurring, although over a quarter stated that their child's friends were in a position to help.

**Secondary**
- Only 9% stated that their child was being bullied, whilst 31% stated that they knew of somebody else who was being bullied.
3.8 Missing children/runaways

Data for Missing children/runaways is recorded by the police, however due to limited resources data reports may not always show the most current situation. The following data show levels of missing children and runaways during Jan to Mar 2010.

The police responded to 174 incidents of children missing from home, 151 of these incidents were for children who were rated a medium risk, 49 incidents were involving children where are part of the Messenger Project which provides support to those young people at risk of sexual exploitation. 44 incidents were from Children’s Homes and 122 have been missing from home more than once. The ethnic breakdown shows 86.5% white, 11.5% Asian, 0.5% Black, 1.25% Afro Caribbean, 1.25% unknown.

The chart below also represents the self evaluation of local authorities in relation to how they monitor and respond to cases of Children Missing from Home or Care. In a range from 0 to 3 (low - high), local authorities provide a self-evaluation score in each of the following areas:

- Local information about running away is gathered.
- Local Needs Analysis, based on gathered information, is in place
- Local procedures to meet the needs of runaways agreed.
- Protocols for responding to urgent/out of hours referrals from police or other agencies are in place.
- Local procedures include effective needs assessment protocols, to support effective prevention /intervention work.
What are children, young people and families telling us?

Looked after children who run away tell us:
- ‘Don’t want to be in Care’
- ‘Don’t want to be in a children’s home’
- ‘I don’t like my carers’
- ‘Unhappy with the decisions that people make about us’
- ‘Nobody Cares anyway’
- ‘Just want to be with my friends’
- ‘Want to see my mum and my brothers and sisters’
- ‘Don’t know how to cope with issues in my life’
- ‘Involved in sexual exploitation and therefore often missing from home’ – children in care council meetings

(Life Chances Team)
### ‘Growing up to stay safe’ district profile for children and young people in Oldham

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Number of Children Looked After (as at the end of November 2010)</th>
<th>Number of Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan (as at the end of November 2010)</th>
<th>Number of Children in Need (as at the end of November 2010)</th>
<th>Number of Children with a CAF</th>
<th>Number of child KSI casualties (Jan to Dec 2009)</th>
<th>Bullying from NOHIB data for academic year 2009/10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chadderton</td>
<td>Chadderton Central</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chadderton North</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chadderton South</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chadderton District</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Oldham</td>
<td>St James</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St Marys</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waterhead</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>East Oldham District</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failsworth &amp; Hollinwood</td>
<td>Failsworth East</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Failsworth West</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hollinwood</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Failsworth &amp; Hollinwood District</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royton &amp; Shaw</td>
<td>Royton North</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Royton South</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shaw</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crompton</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Royton &amp; Shaw District</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saddleworth &amp; Lees</td>
<td>Saddleworth North</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saddleworth South</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saddleworth West &amp; Lees</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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4. Growing up to achieve
This means children and young people enjoy high quality and personalised learning at all stages of their education, attend and participate in their learning, make good progress and achieve all that they can.

Achievements

- Key Stage 1 attainment in reading and writing in Oldham has increased and is more in line with comparators (national average and average of statistical neighbours)
- Progression by at least 2 levels in English and Maths between KS1 and KS2 is higher in Oldham than the national average and in line with statistical neighbours
- Key Stage 4 attainment has improved and is now in line with comparators. The attainment of looked after children is also now in line with comparators
- The attainment gap at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 between children with Special Educational Needs and their peers is lower than the national average and comparator authorities
- Family literacy, language and numeracy programmes in Oldham are helping to raise standards in both parents/carers and their children and extend the ways in which parents are able to support their children’s development and learning
- Lower secondary persistent absence rates in than other authorities in the North West and England overall for Autumn 2009/Spring 2010
- Significant reductions in secondary permanent exclusions (PEX) and secondary and primary fixed term exclusions (FTEX)

Areas of Improvement/ Development

- Lower number of children meeting national targets for the Early Years Foundation Stage than statistical neighbour averages and the national average
- Widened gap at Early Years Foundation Stage between the lowest achieving 20% and the rest (higher than statistical neighbour averages and the national average)
- Fewer children achieving a total of at least 78 points across the Foundation Stage Profile with at least 6 points in each of the personal, social and emotional development (PSED) and communication, language and literacy (CLL) scales, with significant declines in outcomes for Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage boys and Bangladeshi, Black and mixed/dual heritage girls
- Key Stage 1 attainment in Maths in Oldham remains slightly below comparators (national average and average of statistical neighbours)
- Key Stage 2 attainment in English and Maths for Looked after children is lower than the national average and statistical neighbours and remains considerably lower than the average attainment of all children
- Greater achievement gap at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers has widened
- Lower Key Stage 4 attainment for children from the main BME groups than for White British children than the
• Achievement gap at the end of Key Stage 4 between Oldham educated pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and their peers.
4.1 Early Years Learning

The early years are crucial to a child's chances of later success. Children who achieve well in their early years are much more likely to be successful in future education and in later life.

Sure Start Children's Centres provide integrated services for under fives and their families. These services include (depending on local need) integrated full day care and early learning, health and family support services, outreach to the most disadvantaged groups, links with Job Centre Plus, and links to child minder networks. Local authorities were given targets for the number of centres needed by 2010. Oldham has met these targets ensuring that resources are available for every community.

A half of childminders and a third of childcare providers in Oldham were however recently judged by Ofsted to be no better than satisfactory.

In 2009/10, the number of children meeting national targets for the Early Years Foundation Stage increased from 45.0% in 2008/09 to 47.1% but remained lower than average (compared with 52.0% nationally and 49.5% for statistical neighbours).

Focusing on narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving and the rest is the best way to ensure that all children regardless of background are able to reach their potential and that those at risk of poor outcomes are given as much help as possible. The gap at Early Years Foundation Stage between the lowest achieving 20% had widened from 36.6% in 2008/09 to 39.2% in 2009/10. It is higher than comparators (33.9% national average and 34% average of statistical neighbours).

Public Service Agreement 10 Threshold target
Percentage of children achieving a total of at least 78 points across the Foundation Stage Profile with at least 6 points in each of the personal, social and emotional development (PSED) and communication, language and literacy (CLL) scales.

- After a rising trend to 2009 there was a slight dip in the NI 22 indicator. Threshold results fell by 0.7% from 47.1% in 2009 to 46.4% in 2010. This was 3.6 percentage points below the 50 per cent target. Oldham’s 2010 results are 6% below National results for 2009 and 5% below NW average for 2009 (national and NW data for 2010 not available) Oldham now has to increase Threshold results by 3.7% to meet the 2011 target of 53.7%.
- This dip is related to the attainment of boys, particularly in writing and emotional development. Whilst the proportion of girls attaining the threshold rose slightly, results for emotional development dropped by 3%.
- There was a slight increase in the percentage of all children (in receipt of FSMs) achieving the threshold result. Results increased by 1.1%, from 31.5% in 2009 to 32.6% in 2010. Whilst results for girls increased by 3.7%, results for boys dropped 1.4%.
Table 1: National and NW Statistical Neighbour Comparison of Threshold results from 2007 to 2010

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Interim conclusions
1) The attainment of both boys and girls in the Emotional development EYFS scale has declined for the third year. Results in PSED have a significant bearing on the LAs overall performance in meeting the Threshold Target. Therefore, there is a need for more detailed analysis which will include:
   - a review of the standardisation and moderation around this area of learning; and
   - a review of the LAs strategy for supporting young children’s Personal, Social and Emotional development.

2) The attainment of boys will continue to be a priority. Whilst outcomes for boys improved in 9 out of the 13 areas of learning, the percentage of boys achieving the Threshold target fell by 2.6%.

3) Results for ethnic minority pupils remains mixed. Whilst there was progress in the attainment for some ethnic minority pupils (Black pupils and Dual/mixed heritage), there were significant declines in outcomes for Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage boys and Bangladeshi, Black and mixed/dual heritage girls.

4) Further detailed analysis will be undertaken in relation to percentage of children achieving each scale point, vulnerable groups, three year trends, benchmarking lowest performing schools in PSED and CLLD against deprivation etc.
4.2 Key Stage 1 (KS1) attainment

Levels of attainment in reading and writing in Oldham increased in 09/10 and are more inline with the national average and statistical neighbours.

Levels of attainment in maths have remained consistent for 09/10 and are lower than the national average and statistical neighbours.
4.3 **Key Stage 2 (KS2) attainment**

Nationally, it is widely accepted that good literacy and numeracy are key to employability and future study, and that improvements need to be made in these areas. The national target for 2011 is for 78% of pupils to achieve Level 4 or above in both English and Maths at KS2.

In 2009/10, there were 12 schools in Oldham in which fewer than 55% of pupils had achieved Level 4 or above in both English and Maths at KS2, which is higher than the average for statistical neighbours (8.4%).

Progression by at least 2 levels in English between KS1 and KS2 was higher in Oldham than the national average and statistical neighbours (85.0%, compared with 83.3% average for statistical neighbours and England average (82.0%).
Progression by at least 2 levels in Maths between KS1 and KS2 was higher in Oldham was higher than the national average and in line with statistical neighbours (83.0%, compared with 83.0% average for statistical neighbours and England average (81.0%).

KS2 Attainment in Maths for Looked after children: has declined in Oldham since 08/09 and is lower than the national average and statistical neighbours remains considerably lower than the average attainment of all children.
A Personal Education Plan (PEP) should be in place within 4 weeks of a child becoming looked after by the local authority. In 2009/10, 92.5% of looked after children of school age who have been looked after for 4 weeks or more had a PEP. This is slightly lower than in 2008/09 (92.9%). As this is a local measure and no comparison information is available.

Nationally, it is widely recognised that more needs to be done to narrow the attainment gap for children from minority ethnic groups at Key Stage 2. There is an achievement gap between pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds (eligible for free school meals) and their peers attaining level 4 or above in English and Maths at Key Stage 2. In Oldham, this achievement gap has widened since 2008/09. In 2009/10, there was a gap of 24.3% fewer pupils eligible for free school meals attained the expected level than their peers, compared to 21.8% in 2008/09. In 2009/10 the attainment gap of 24.3% in Oldham was slightly higher than the national average (22.3%) and the average of statistical neighbours (21.6%).
4.4 Key Stage 4 (KS4) attainment

Key Stage 4 achievement is a measure of pupil attainment at the end of statutory education. The national target for 2011 is for 53% to achieve 5 A*-C GCSE grades and equivalent (including Maths & English).

In 09/10, attainment of all children in Oldham had increased to 46.8% and is in line with the national average and the average of statistical neighbours. However, it falls short of the national target of 53% for 2011.

Attainment of looked after children increased in Oldham for 09/10 and is in line with the national average.

In 2008/09, there were 5 schools with fewer than 30% of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C GCSE grades and equivalent (including Maths and English). In 2009/10 this had improved to 3 schools.
Nationally, it is widely recognised that more needs to be done to narrow the attainment gap for children from minority ethnic groups at Key Stage 4.

KS4 Attainment in for children from the main BME groups is lower than for White British children, both locally and nationally.

The achievement gap has widened between pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds (eligible for free school meals) and their peers attaining the desired level at Key Stage 4, from 22.8% in 2008/09 to 27.8%. It was better than comparators but has now reduced to being in line with the national average (27.8%) and the average of statistical neighbours (28.2%).

What are children, young people and families telling us?

*Local Democracy Week Report, 2009*

Young people suggested:
- Curriculum delivery in schools could be developed to make learning fun and enjoyable
- More practical activities and lessons would help young people to benefit and engage with school better
- More educational trips should be offered
4.5 Special Educational Needs

In January 2010, the School Census found, there were over 900 pupils with moderate or profound learning difficulties attending local authority schools in Oldham:

- 831 have moderate learning difficulties (of which 468 were at primary school, 278 at secondary and 83 at special schools).
- 74 have profound and multiple learning difficulties (of which 12 are in primary schools and 62 in special schools).

Special Education Needs statements should be completed within 26 weeks. 96% were completed within 26 weeks in 2008/09, however this reduced to 73.0% in 2009/10.

In 2009/10, the gap at Key Stage 2 between children with SEN achieving the English and Maths threshold and their peers was 48.3%, lower than nationally (50.9%) and statistical neighbours (52.2%). Oldham was ranked 38th lowest attainment gap amongst local authorities.

Oldham was ranked 12 lowest for the attainment the gap at Key Stage 4 between children with SEN achieving 5 A*-C (English and Maths) and their peers (38.5% compared with 46.5 nationally 46.1 for statistical neighbours.
4.6 Behaviour and attendance

Effective teaching and learning are most likely to take place in orderly classes with well-behaved pupils. OFSTED inspect all schools regularly, usually at three year intervals. Inspectors make judgements about standards in school, including a specific judgement about behaviour. In 09/10, 60.0% of secondary schools were judged as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour, lower than similar councils (73.3%) and nationally (78.6).

Over the last 12 months, Oldham’s Behaviour and Attendance Partnership has however developed new ways of working and shared partnership good practice, with positive results now evident.

Attendance
The latest validated data is for Autumn 2009/Spring 2010 terms shows that Secondary Persistent Absence (4.2%) in Oldham was better than other authorities in the NW (4.6%,) and England overall (4.5%). Oldham has a target of 5% or less persistent absentees by the end of 2010/11 and is therefore a year ahead of trajectory. Secondary Attendance up to Easter 2010 was the highest secondary attendance figure recorded for Oldham.

Overall there is has been a decrease in the number of term-time holidays and this is partly due to a borough wide policy to reduce term-time holidays and an increase in the use of penalty notices as a sanction for parents (i.e. if they go on holiday without authorisation of the Head teacher).

Behaviour
Autumn term 2010 unvalidated data shows that secondary permanent exclusions (PEX) in Oldham are down by 62.5% and secondary fixed term exclusions (FTEX) down by 21.7%. In addition Primary fixed term exclusions have also decreased by 22.9%. These reduced rates of exclusions illustrate the positive impact of Oldham’s Behaviour and Attendance Partnership which includes representation from all schools in Oldham, including the Pupil Referral Unit, the Primary SEBD (social, emotional and behavioural difficulties) school, Spring Brook. A professionals meeting once a month also helps problem solve difficult cases where exclusion data is used proactively to identify pupils at risk of exclusion.
**What are children, young people and families telling us?**

**Looked after children sometimes misbehave / don’t attend school for the following reasons:**
- Feel they are not listened to
- Feel things are out of their control
- Struggle with learning and may have special needs that are not identified
- Have anger management issues due to their personal experiences
- Don’t like being transported to and from school in taxis and would prefer their carer to take them, like other children experience
- Are scared of attending school if they have missed lengthy periods of schooling
- Find school too formal and structured

**Virtual School for looked after children, Life Chances Team, Children in Care Council meetings, Peer mentoring project and Regulation 33 inspections**
- Looked After Children feel there is a lack of understanding of looked after children and sometimes feel singled out: “Can’t manage our behaviour so we are punished and excluded. Teachers/schools don’t understand how difficult it is sometimes. We could be changing placements or having issues with our parents that school don’t know about which affects our behaviour but is not our fault”

**Local democracy week report 2009**
- Young people felt there should be rewards for pupils who behave well and perform well in school and they have the perception that negative behaviour is often rewarded with access to additional activities

**Child on St Anne’s RC Primary Children’s Council, July 2010**
- “It doesn’t seem fair that somebody with behaviour problems who can’t help it can be treated the same as someone who does it on purpose”

**Parents with children who have non or poor attendance identified there is a need for**
- Practical and financial help for wider family issues
- Speed up response times when parents have requested help through services
- Set up peer parenting support groups
- Provide free transport to school
- Free counselling for whole family approach
- Provide confidential drop in sessions at school where parents can access support
- Start home visits to parents as soon as a problem with attendance surfaces
- Make parents more aware of what help there is on offer
- Present a more positive image of social services

(Source: Oldham Parenting Consultation March 2010)
4.7 Family learning

Family Learning is provided by Oldham Lifelong Learning Service. It includes family literacy, language and numeracy programmes to raise standards in both parents/carers and the children. In addition the programmes extend the ways in which parents can support their children’s development and learning.

During 2009/10, 1088 adults attended at least one family learning course. Of these:

- 79% had literacy, language or numeracy skills below level 1.
- 61% resided within the top 10 most deprived areas.
- 51% were from the BME communities with 26% of these from Pakistan and 18% from Bangladesh.
- 40% learners were working towards language qualification for speakers of other languages – mainly assessed at the lower entry levels.

During 2009/10 542 pre-school children, 820 primary and 253 secondary aged children either attended the family learning courses or were direct beneficiaries as a result of the parents attending.

What are children, young people and families telling us?

Royton cluster consultation

- Young People felt there should be more opportunities for family activities
## 4.8 ‘Growing up to achieve’ district profile for children and young people in Oldham

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
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<th>% of children assessed in the final year EYFS Profile (5yrs) as reaching a good level of overall achievement</th>
<th>Gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the EYFS Profile and the rest</th>
<th>Achievement of level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (11yrs)</th>
<th>Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent inc. English and Maths</th>
<th>Special Educational Needs statements (% issued within 26 weeks)</th>
<th>% of children with Special Educational Needs</th>
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<td>85.2</td>
<td>72.9</td>
<td>2.03</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>0.57</td>
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<td>Alexandra</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>30.9</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>29.59</td>
<td>2.23</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>58.6</td>
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<td>2.19</td>
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<td>2.39</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>64.9</td>
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<td>21.37</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>5.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>West Oldham District</td>
<td>36.1</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>2.35</td>
<td>24.11</td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>6.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldham Residents</td>
<td>Oldham Residents in Oldham Schools</td>
<td>47.3</td>
<td>30.9</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>29.59</td>
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<td>9.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Borough or National Indicator</td>
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<td>30.9</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>29.59</td>
<td>2.23</td>
<td>9.37</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
5. Growing up to enjoy life and make a positive contribution

This means children and young people enjoy a range of play, sports and cultural opportunities, participate positively in their communities and choose not to engage in crime and anti-social behaviour.

### Achievements

- Oldham continues to have very strong, established and effective participation mechanisms that ensure children and young people in Oldham have a voice and influence in everything that affects them
- 212 young people were brokered into volunteering opportunities in 2009/10 with a meaningful and positive impact on not only the young people but also local communities
- The Young Carer Project remains a developed and consistent initiative within Oldham via its links and relationships with social services, schools and other agencies both within the public and private sectors
- 94.5% of children and young people aged 5-16 participated in at least two hours a week of high quality PE and sport at school in Oldham during 2009/10, considerably higher than the national average and the average for statistical neighbours
- The percentage of young people that have participated in a group activity led by an adult outside school lessons (such as sports, arts or a youth group) has increased considerably in Oldham and is fifth highest nationally
- All Oldham schools are delivering the core offer of extended services in partnership with voluntary and statutory providers - 88,300 hours of positive activities have been accessed by 10,732 students of

### Areas of Improvement/ Development

- Oldham has a higher proportion of young carers than both the regional and national average. Young carers in Oldham appear to be very much concentrated geographically, particularly in more urban and more deprived areas of the borough
- Approximately 80% of young carers known to Oldham’s Young Carer Service support a significant other with mental health issues
- Children and young people in Oldham have expressed the view that there should be more facilities and activities for them in the community and the promotion of such activities needs to be improved
- The take up of the Extended Services Subsidy Grant was very high across Oldham in 2010-11, reflecting local need with 88,300 hours of positive activities being accessed by 10,732 vulnerable and disadvantaged students of school age
- Young people have also told us they want more opportunities to volunteer that are well publicised
- Children living in the most deprived areas of the borough are affected by the highest rates of crime.
- 39.5% of victims of violent crime in Oldham were under 24 years old during 2009/10
- Locally, children and young people have told us that they feel the police and young people need to build better relationships and work together to reduce crime
- Oldham currently has slightly higher numbers of 10 - 17yr olds who receive a reprimand, final warning with or without an intervention, or a court disposal than
school age across the borough

• There has been a significant increase in the volume and range of short breaks available to children with disabilities

• The Go! Oldham programme has been a valuable resource, delivering many key successes in reducing the impact of Anti-Social Behaviour across the borough

• The number of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) has reduced dramatically since the introduction of a new procedure for dealing with juvenile Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

• 21.8% reduction in the number of second-offences committed by the cohort of first-time entrants who entered the youth justice system in 2009/10

• Increased rate of young offenders in Oldham with access to suitable accommodation during 2009/10

• The Youth Justice Board recently recognised Prevention Services in Oldham as a beacon of good practice and structure, their Capability and Capacity assessment judged all aspects to be Excellent and performance against national comparators to be good

statistical neighbours and national figures

• Oldham’s rate of first time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10-17 remains a challenge, with white young people continuing to be over-represented compared to other ethnic groups. Comparatively Oldham has higher rates than both statistical neighbours and the national average. First time entrant rates are also noticeably higher across the more deprived wards of Oldham

• 47.2% of detected crime in Oldham was linked to an offender under 24 years old in the last financial year
5.1 Involvement in decision making

In Oldham we believe that children and young people should have a voice and influence in everything that affects them. That voice should be heard and responded to by decision makers across Oldham and influence policy making and the shaping of services. Children and young people represent a key section within our local communities, with their own needs and aspirations and, importantly, with the right to express their opinions and have their views respected.

We also recognise that children and young people are equal partners in our communities and as such have the right to be involved in decision making processes that have a direct influence upon their lives in accordance to Article 12 of the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) which states that “parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.”

In Oldham, we therefore have very strong, established and effective participation mechanisms. Examples include:

- A Youth Council that is regionally and nationally recognised as being a model of Good Practice. There are currently 62 active Youth councillors engaging with the Oldham Youth council, representing a very diverse range of young people. In 2008, 71 young people stood as candidates and 1085 young people voted. This compares to 40 candidates and 1434 votes in the 2010 elections.
- A strong Children in Care Council that links directly to the Corporate Parenting Board.
- Established student voice forums in all secondary and primary schools across the Borough with links into other formal children and young people’s involvement networks.
- A Connexions Advisory Board whose remit has been widened to cover the range of targeted services delivered by Positive Steps Oldham, including Youth Offending Service, Substance Misuse Services and Targeted Health Services. There are currently 19 young people engaged, influencing the services provided at the centre, as well as 102 young people currently engaged in the wider Connexions Schools Champions Programme.
- A formal forum (Barrier Breakers) to enable the active involvement of children and young people with additional needs. This forum has been in existence since June 2010 and currently has 13 regular members, aged 10 – 19. The group has both male and female members and includes young people who are deaf; have a visual impairment; have learning difficulties; are on the autistic spectrum; have behavioural difficulties; are wheelchair users; and young people with dyspraxia.
- 25 young people participating regularly in an established Young Peoples Development Group (YPDG) who throughout 2009-10 have been actively involved in the Oldham Youth Zone (myplace funded project). The YPDG are the representative group of young people that are leading on this project and are ensuring that the views of young people are directly influencing the planning for the ‘world-class youth facility’ at every stage in the process.
- New District Youth Forums that are enabling young people to shape and influence decision making at a locality level;
- The appointment of a Youth Mayor of Oldham.
- An established AIM (Active Involvement Matters) group that consists of a number of key professionals from across all sectors that meets monthly to develop a co-ordinated approach to the active involvement of young people across Borough.
Local Democracy Week
Each year during local democracy week, a package of events are delivered in Oldham that aims to seek and collate the views and opinions of young people on a wide range of issues. In 2010, the package of events included a Youth Voice Event, Oldham Youth Council Question time and a variety of corporate events including community consultation road shows. Key messages emerging from the last two years events are threaded throughout the report in the relevant sections.

The report following local democracy week 2009 has added to our understanding of how best to involve young people:
• The best way to contact and seek the views and opinions of young people would be using internet and social networking media:
• Young people would like more events like the Youth Voice Event for young people to share views and opinions.
• Adult decision makers and the Youth councils should come into schools to consult and involve young people in decision making especially in PSHE lessons.
• Young people felt that they are not always given feedback about their involvement and it is crucial that if they have been consulted that they are informed about the outcomes of their involvements – what has changed or didn’t change as a result.
• Young people are concerned that student voice is not always taken seriously or acted upon and would like to be given the opportunity to influence ‘real’ change.

Youth Opportunities Fund
Over the last 5 years, Oldham Youth Council has been responsible for processing and directly managing the Youth Opportunity Fund (Kerrching) and Youth Capital fund. Since the funds began in 2006 a total of £2,280,600 as been spent and approx 20,000 young people have directly benefitted from the activities and projects, such as arts and sports activities, healthy eating initiatives, residential trips, accredited training programmes, drama and performance projects and community based activities, in addition to the development of youth facilities buildings, minibus purchase, It facility upgrades etc

Based on feedback from Oldham Youth Council in 2010, young people’s experience of managing the Youth Opportunity/Youth Capital Funds has been rewarding and enriching. The young people felt valued and trusted, and felt it showed that Government realised the potential of young people and valued young people as key decision makers in their communities.

The following chart summarises what activity has taken place over the duration of the funds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young people involved in managing the grant</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Grants awarded</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young People benefiting from improved things to do and places to go</td>
<td>3,113</td>
<td>5,536</td>
<td>3,599</td>
<td>7,478</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Award</td>
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<td>£309,800</td>
<td>£393,800</td>
<td>£361,600</td>
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5.2 Volunteering

Evidence shows that for young people, volunteering their services to help others is not just hugely satisfying; it can also teach them skills that are invaluable to potential employers. Volunteering clearly also has a meaningful and positive impact on our local communities.

Oldham’s involved initiative, which is part of a national youth volunteering project aimed at young people aged 16-25, saw 164 new volunteers brokered into volunteering opportunities in 2009/10. The chart below illustrates the number of new volunteers (i.e. new to volunteering) as well as the ones that the project continues to support. The figures show that there are substantially more females than males and that more people aged 16-17 volunteer than people aged 18+.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>New volunteers</th>
<th>Existing volunteers</th>
<th>age 16-17</th>
<th>age 18-19</th>
<th>age 20-25</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 2009 - Mar 2010</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr.2009 - June 2010</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2010 - Sept 2010</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since the project began in April 2008 over 1,000 young people have registered and expressed an interest in volunteering. Since October 2009, over 30 group sessions have also been delivered at educational institutions, e2e providers, Princes Trust and other youth groups across Oldham. A project called 'Project See V' (skills, enjoyment and employment through volunteering) has also operated as a 6 month 'sister' project of involved but provided more support for young people who needed it.

To date, the most popular types of volunteering amongst young people have been in youth work, administration and childcare. Young people have also been willing to try other types of volunteering as well such as sports, fundraising, retail (i.e. charity shops), catering, events, and care work with elderly and conservation. One off/taster opportunities have proved particularly popular on the basis that young people have not need to commit long term to them and have tended to take place during the weekends.
The case studies below provide more insight into what a couple of young people in Oldham have felt they gained from volunteering.

**Case study - 2nd year student at Our Lady’s Sixth Form**

Anna decided to volunteer because she wanted to get to know the community, give something back and enjoy herself. She has volunteered with the Children’s Society at Shaw and Royton children’s centres. This has involved helping to organise events, fundraising, being a childcare assistant in crèches and doing face painting. She has also volunteered at events such as Hollinwood festival and Race for life. Anna volunteered at the Church Conservation Trust event which involved tasks such as lime washing and weeding. After this volunteering she was rewarded with free paint-balling which helped her to get to know the other volunteers.

Her favourite part of volunteering has been spending time with children, as she finds it easy to support them and it’s enjoyable. She thinks volunteering has helped her a lot; especially with her communication skills and how to interact with people. She knows more about her community and thinks it will help her UCAS application form when applying to be a mental health nurse.

Anna thinks she has helped the community by entertaining children, fundraising and improving the environment. Her brother has noticed how much fun she has had since volunteering and wants to get involved as well. Volunteering has enabled her to help her community and develop many new skills.

**Case study – Andrew is a 2nd year student at Our Lady’s Sixth Form**

Andrew has been a member of the Cadets for several years and enjoyed supporting younger children and selling poppies to the public. He decided to volunteer with vnvolved because he wanted to try something new and to see what it was like. He has volunteered at one off events, such as environmental clean up days at Daisy Nook Country Park and with the Waterways Trust. He has helped to form a youth committee with the Church Conservation Trust, which involves improving the interior and exterior of a derelict church in Diggle.

He has enjoyed all of the volunteering but his favourite part has been volunteering with the Church Conservation committee, because he has worked with people with the same interests. Volunteering has improved how he interacts with people and how he organises himself. Andrew is the chairman of the committee, which involves arranging meetings with the other members, visiting a Church Conservation Trust conference in London and applying for funding.

When Andrew met with the Youth Volunteering Adviser he wanted to join the Army but after volunteering with various organisations he has decided he would rather join the Police and help out in the community instead. He wants to become a Special Constable and volunteer with the Police. He knows that it is very competitive getting into the Police, so he hopes that the work experience from volunteering will improve his chances.

Andrew thinks that volunteering helps to bring the community together. When he sells poppies he has found that most people give nice comments and are very generous. At the conference, workers were surprised and impressed that young people were supporting their charity. When asked what would you say to other young people considering volunteering? Andrew said ‘Just give it a go but try a few different types of volunteering before you make your mind up’.
What are children, young people and families telling us?

**Local democracy week report 2009**
- Young people would like more opportunities to volunteer that are well publicised
- Young people felt that their volunteering should be rewarded and that incentives would increase young people's participation in volunteering full time

**St Anne’s RC Primary children’s council reps, July 2010**
- “Some people love to do jobs to help teachers and get awards for it. We are lucky we don’t have any bullies in our school or they might be called”

**Pupil – Children’s Cooperative Council, Waterhead, DVD, Sept 2009**
- “Children in Waterhead would be happy to help clean up areas as long as people don’t mess it up again!”

**Youth Volunteer Development Manager, V-involved Oldham**
- “Interestingly I find that young peoples motivations for volunteering depend on their own circumstances. For example, students often volunteer in order to have something positive to write on UCAS and job applications forms. Whereas young people that are disadvantaged and have received a service themselves are seemingly more altruistic and want to ‘give something back’”
5.3 Young Carers

According to the 2001 census, there were 642 young carers (aged 5-15) in Oldham, with 38 young carers providing 50 or more hours of care per week. Oldham has a higher proportion of young carers than both the regional and national average. Young carers in Oldham appear to be very much concentrated geographically, particularly in more urban and more deprived areas. (Source: http://www.oldhaminfo.org/QuickLink.aspx?id=154).
Oldham’s Young Carer Project remains a developed and consistent initiative within Oldham via its links and relationships with social services, schools and other agencies both within the public and private sectors. This proven strategy has seen the number of referrals and young carers taking advantage of the service greatly increase.

There is also a growing relationship between providers and much more inter-agency working. Apart from those relationships that are already established new relationships are being developed all the time. This is particularly relevant in a growing area of support within the service, in particular, that of mental health. Approximately 80% of young carers known to the service support a significant other with mental health issues. Colleagues within after-care, voluntary sector, and adult carers have also been prominent in the joint working of some of these issues.

Relationships have also been developed and cultivated with providers of services and activities that enhance the service that young carers receive including Oldham Coliseum who are funding activities and art/drama opportunities for young carers until March 2011. This has included the project successfully supporting a bid for over £7,000 to ensure this activity happens. This is for both older and younger groups.

Oldham’s Young Carers project is also covering sensitive areas with young carers through consultation with them. These include: peer pressure; bullying; mental health; alcohol and drugs; domestic violence; etc. The project is also key in organising a Think Family Day and two Transition Groups. One for 16+ young carers to bridge the gap between being a young carer and being an adult carer. This has provided an opportunity for both services to work closely together and to reach 47 young carers who have the potential to be adult carers within the next couple of years. The other has been to ensure that the transition from young carers being in the young group to going into the older group is made as smooth as possible. This has included key worker support and peer mentoring from the selected older young carers, which worker support.

Oldham’s Young Carers project not only provides activities for over 50 young carers each week, it also is now specialising in areas that have been identified as those mostly effecting young carers in Oldham.

If current regional figures and thinking are taken into consideration then there could be at least 700,000 young carers in the UK. If the demographics and deprivation of Oldham are taken into the equation, then the percentage for Oldham will be higher than the national average.
Activities are all funded by, through the projects continuing efforts, funders and supporters of the project. The project is greatly aware of the pressure on resources for all services. Over the last year the project has raised over £40,000 to ensure that it does have the resources to support the needs and enjoyment of young carers.

Many of these activities and planning for the project have been done in collaboration and consultation with the projects initiative Empowerment Team. A group of young carers who engage with workers and are the ‘voice’ of all young carers that engage with the project. The Empowerment Team meet on a regular basis and within their peer group to identify what matters to young carers the most.

In summary, although the project continues to provide a qualitative and quantifiable service, it knows and wants to do more. Young carers have spoke about what they want, professionals know what they need to do and it is only combining all of the above that Oldham will be in a position to provide a young carers service that makes a difference.
1 What are children, young people and families telling us?

Young carers in Oldham say they would like:
• More activities and opportunities to meet other young carers
• More support for their parent or relative
• More money for the family due to financial worries
• Having a centre or a space just for young carers in the town centre
• Help with transportation to access activities
• More leisure time
• Information on how to deal with emergencies and first aid
• More support for those young carers who care the most
5.4 Extra Curricular and Community Positive Activities

The activities that young people participate in out-of-school have a significant bearing on their later life outcomes. Positive activities are a good use of young people’s time because they provide opportunities to:

- Acquire, and practice specific social, physical and intellectual skills.
- Contribute to the community.
- Belong to a socially recognised group.
- Establish supporting social networks of peers and adults.
- Experience and deal with changes.
- Enjoy themselves.

In 2009/10, 94.5% of children and young people aged 5-16 had participated in at least two hours a week of high quality PE and sport at school. This is a slight increase from 2008/09 (93.5%) which was considerably higher than the national average (78.0%) and the average for statistical neighbours (74.6%).

In 2009/10, 78.7% of young people had also participated in a group activity led by an adult outside school lessons (such as sports, arts or a youth group), which is a considerable increase from 68.2% in 2008/09. It is now much the highest amongst statistical neighbours (average 67.1%) and 5 highest nationally (average 65.8%).

Over the last year, there has equally been a significant increase in the volume and range of short breaks available to children with disabilities accessing short breaks from around 228 to more than 454. These short breaks included additional activity schemes, increased places and days available in school holiday provision, trampoline sessions, family swim sessions, sports sessions and family trips. Children with disabilities and their parents now also have a real opportunity to be involved in service developments and decisions, including this year being involved in commissioning of new services decisions and in recruiting 2 new involvement officers.

According to the Tell Us Survey 4, Oldham performed very well in respect of young people’s participation in positive activities. Oldham came out as the best performing council among both statistical neighbours and Greater Manchester authorities, and the fifth highest among all local authorities in the UK (from 114th). Oldham’s rate of positive change is worth noting too – Oldham’s change has been 14.2 percentage points year on year, compared with a national average of -2.4 percent, an average among statistical neighbours of -2.9 percent, and the average change among Greater Manchester authorities of 2.4 percent”.

Year 6 pupils were the least likely to report having taken part in a non-school adult-led activity in the previous four weeks and also the least likely to report attending sports classes/clubs in their free time, while year 8 and year 10 pupils were equally likely to do both. Female pupils, Asian pupils and those on free school meals were also least likely to agree with these two statements.
Year 8 pupils were more likely than year 6 and year 10 pupils to report spending free time in youth centre or youth club for organised activities. White British pupils were also more likely to report spending their free time on these kinds of activities.

Year 10 pupils were the least likely to report spending their free time in non-school art, dance, craft, drama, film/video, and music lessons, while year 6 and 8 pupils were almost equally likely to report that they did. Female pupils were more likely than male pupils, and white British pupils were more likely than Asian pupils to report spending their free time on these kinds of activities.

In summary, younger pupils appear to be more likely to spend their free time on these kinds of positive activities, and in terms of ethnicity white. British pupils were more likely than Asian pupils. There were gender differences depending on the kinds of activities, with male pupils participating in sport-type activities more than female pupils, and female pupils participating in creative activities more.
Extended Services
All Oldham schools are delivering the core offer of extended services in partnership with voluntary and statutory providers. The core offer includes a varied menu of activities, support for parents, access to specialist services, childcare and community use of school buildings.

An Extended Services Subsidy Grant has been available to all schools in 2010-11 to provide activity for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of Children and Young People who would not otherwise be able to access things. Take up of the grant has been as follows:

88,300 hours of positive activities accessed by 10,732 students of school age across the borough.

In addition all schools provide a range of before and after school activities including breakfast clubs, homework support, booster sessions, sports and arts activity.

The cluster Activity Development Workers have also continued to deliver Extended Service sport, art and youth activity in and around schools.
Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) Programme
Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) was first introduced in Oldham as a pilot “Summer Activities for 16 Year Olds” in the summer of 2001. It was re-constituted in 2003 as PAYP, with the aim of diverting and developing those young people most at risk of social exclusion and committing crime, encouraging engagement in the community and through voluntary activity programmes, contributing to the promotion of strong and active communities. At the same time the programme was extended to cover all school holiday periods. Although the programme originally targeted 16 year olds, the age range was extended to include 13-19 year olds; however, in reality very few if any, 17-19 year olds have participated.

The charts below look at participant analysis and outcomes for young people who took part in the Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) programme in Oldham during 2008, 2009 and 2010. The first graph examines residency. It compares the number of participants from each ward over the three year period and expresses this as a percentage of the resident 13-16 in each ward.
Broadly speaking the wards with a higher percentage of participants are those with generally poorer PSA14 outcomes (teenage pregnancy; youth crime; substance misuse and NEET).

The second graph below shows the average rank score of Oldham’s wards based on NEET; anti-social behaviour; teenage pregnancy; first-entry to the criminal justice system; school attendance; and young people in substance misuse treatment.

In respect of the profile of PAYP participants, the number of males was 273 (59%) and females 191 (41%) of which 24.1% were from Asian/Asian British heritage, 2.2% Black/Black British, and 73.1% White. There has been an almost exact correlation between participants and the ethnic breakdown in the area.
Evidence also shows that 21 young people out of 464 PAYP participants (4.5%) have been subject to a pre or post-court disposal. It is difficult to determine however whether the disposal occurred before or after their engagement with PAYP, although anecdotally it is believed that around 65% occurred before they became engaged.

What are children, young people and families telling us?

Local Democracy Week 2010

Young people feel there should be:
- more facilities for children and young people
- better provisions for children and young people in parks
- better libraries in their communities, and libraries should run activities such as book clubs, IT facilities, Young peoples projects
- Better sports facilities and activities
- improved promotion of children's and young peoples activities
- youth clubs for children aged 8 – 11

Local Democracy Week 2009

- Young people felt access to gyms and sports centres is too expensive and young people would like free or subsided gym and swim passes
- Young people felt sports facilities in Oldham were lacking and would like more and improved sports facilities across Oldham and in schools
- Young people felt that most physical activity on offer was too sports focused and they would like more fun physical activities on offer – not just sports
- Young people felt that Oldham needed improved youth centres and activities that were available to them more frequently, and more youth clubs and activities that they can get involved in
- Young people felt there needs to be more organised places to go and things to do
- Young people felt opportunities for young people are not well publicised and young people need to be better informed about what’s on offer

Pupil - St. Anne's RC Primary children's council reps, July 2010

“We need more choice in parks for things for us to play on at our age (10-11), not equipment, everything is for babies, we just get tools and make dens. Lots of parks are boring and they just look nice for adults with grass and flowers. The pool at Alex Park is never open or clean and its too far to walk anyway. Sometimes parks are so busy its just annoying so there should be more different places that different ages can use"
Formal Playbuilder Consultation over the period September 09 – February 10
• Young People have requested play equipment that challenges their physical ability. They said they like to spend time in parks and open spaces however do not always feel safe when unaccompanied. They have requested safe space to play and socialise independently close to their homes

In surveys carried out through Extended Service clusters, parents said they:
• want more activities that they can take part in as a family;
• would like a broader range of choices, lots of activity happening through schools
• feel it is sometimes hard to find out what is on where
• help with behaviour, chance to run off steam after school before they come home
• want opportunity to socialise
• want to feel that children are safe
• would like more summer fun days – activities in parks
• would like discount cards as an incentive to attend more physical activity
5.5 Crime and anti-social behaviour

Children and young people as victims of crime and anti-social behaviour
The Tellus 4 survey shows that children in Oldham don’t worry about being a victim of crime any more or less than children elsewhere, although Tellus 3 did show a significantly higher level of fear of crime in Oldham. The graph below highlights areas with low crime issues, with some unexpected findings that would benefit from further analysis.

The map on the left shows the Child Well being index for crime. The index is made up of numerous indicators. It indicates clearly that the areas with the highest rates of crime affected children are in the most deprived areas of the borough. These are shown in red.
What are children, young people and families telling us?

**Local Democracy Week 2010**

Young People told us:
- Police should be quicker to respond to 'small incidents' and we should have more police in the communities
- Police and young people need to build better relationships and work together to reduce crime
- Need to improve security in parks. Security officers should be well trained, professional and appropriate in their relationships with young people
- Need to remove broken glass and stop vandalism
- Better street lighting in ally-ways and install more CCTV
- Schools should carry out exchange programmes to build relationships with different young people and improve cohesion

**Extended Services consultation with Yr 8 students at Radclyffe School, June 2010**
- “Sometimes you feel unsafe, the communities are not close-knit and they don’t cooperate, too many dogs not on leads, but lots of people seem to have friends in the area”

**Saddleworth North Children’s Community Champions, Autumn 2009**
- “A lot of burglaries and cars broken into”

**St Anne’s RC Primary children’s council reps, July 2010**
- “It’s unfair to have to explain what’s happened to them. Children are shaken up and it’s even scarier if taken to a police station, you think you will be arrested for telling”

**Extended Services consultation with Yr 8 students at Radclyffe School, June 2010**
- “Many feel there are lots of little things, some don’t feel safe from these, one group felt there were lots of ‘bad men, dodgy men and paedos”

Children and young people as perpetrators of crime and anti-social behaviour
Oldham Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2011-12, indicates that generally, the numbers of young people involved in violent crime has decreased year on year. Youth related crime for both main TKAP (Tackling Knives Action Programme) age bands (13 to 17, and 18 to 24 year olds) have shown downward trends since the beginning of the LAA. For the financial year to 31\textsuperscript{st} October 2010, there were reductions in the number offences linked to an offender between 13 and 24 of:

- 16.6\% from 2008 to 2009 (498 less offences); and
- 11.9\% from 2009 to 2010 (299 less offences).

Analysis for this document shows that the momentum in terms of the reductions in crimes linked to 13 – 24 year old offenders is slowing. There has been a slight upward trend recently in crimes detected to 18 – 24 year old offenders.

For the financial year to 31/10/2010, 47.2\% of detected crime in Oldham was linked to an offender under 24 years old. Across Greater Manchester the figure was 46.1\%. Over half (57.6\%) of all the offences committed by 13 – 24 year olds were ALSI (27\%); Supplies / Passes Drugs (11.3\%); Criminal Damage (10.9\%); or Shoplifting (8.4\%) offences.

The Assessment also highlighted that 39.5\% of victims of violent crime were under 24 years old. From the age of 20 people are at a much higher risk of being victims of a violent offence. 80\% of victims are in the 3 age brackets 20-24, 25-29 and over 30.

In December 2010, the Violent Gangs Working Group within the Community Safety Partnership commissioned the Manchester Metropolitan University to undertake research into “violent gangs” in Oldham's priority areas. This work was presented to the partnership. The emergent findings of the research has helped the partnership to have a clearer picture of the networks (or “near groups”) of young people and their issues around ASB, drugs and criminality. It also ties in to the intelligence analysis referred to above, and provides a rich picture of the potential motivations and mechanisms by which young people potentially become involved in more serious criminality. One
of the most important points highlighted by this research is that the generic label “gang” does not allow us to accurately describe the range of issues present in Oldham, and can lead to a misleading definition of the problem. The Community Safety Partnership is continuing to develop its understanding and terms of reference for the issue of groups of young people who engage in ASB and offending.

**Challenge and Support**
The Challenge and Support Team (a multi-agency team comprising of Police Officers, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Officers and Youth Support Workers) are tasked with identifying vulnerable young people who are on the fringes of the justice system subject to warning letters, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC’s) and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), and then using a range of generic (CAPIR) and specialist Oldham Alcohol and Substance Intervention Service (Oasis) assessment tools to identify appropriate support packages. They also deliver the Operation Stay safe programme in partnership with Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) and Oasis.

The number of ABCs has reduced dramatically since the introduction of a new procedure for dealing with juvenile ASB in the summer of 2009. The work of the Challenge and Support Team alongside the Neighbourhood Policing Teams using the new procedure means young people are dealt with very quickly and are offered diversion and intervention at the earliest possible stage with the ABC only becoming effective when behaviour is serious enough to justify an application for an ASBO immediately upon breach.

The majority of juveniles do not progress beyond the 1st and 2 warning letter stages. Progression to an ASBO would be because the behaviour has become criminal and victim focussed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)</th>
<th>Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/04/10 to date</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Youth Crime Prevention Programmes**
Youth Crime Prevention Programmes, previously referred to as Youth Inclusion Programmes, are a series of projects delivered by Positive Steps Oldham and Groundwork to work intensively with the top 20 – 40, 8 – 16 year olds identified as being at high risk of ASB, crime and other negative outcomes in one of 7 neighbourhoods to overcome their barriers to appropriate behaviour, and to develop their contribution to local society.

The Youth Crime Family Intervention Project (FIP) based within Targeted Services (Youth Offending Service) works with those young people identified as at risk of persistent or prolific offending and their families. This enables the project to take a whole family approach to issues around offending behaviour. The criteria for referral to the FIP includes parental criminality, substance and alcohol use, domestic violence, poor parenting capacity, education and anti social behaviour. Once referred the case manager undertakes a full family assessment; this looks at the needs and issues facing each individual family member and includes information obtained from the family.
as well as other partnership workers and professionals. The project currently has five full time qualified Level 4 key workers and a part
time NLP worker as well as a part time Health Worker seconded from the PCT.

Since the project began in 2009, there have been 32 referrals. At the end of 2010, there were a total of 27 families working with the
Family Intervention Project made up of a mixture of those in the aftercare phase, family assessment stage and current interventions.

Gun and knife crime
The data in the chart below lists the numbers of victims and offenders for gun and knife crime, by age group, for the period 01/06/10 -
30/09/10. Gun and knife crime is very low in Oldham. Knife crime is primarily committed by the higher age group 20yrs and above and
mostly offences are committed by drug users around the town centre. Gun crime figures are made up in the main by offences committed
using BB guns or paint ball guns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Knife Crime Offenders</th>
<th>Knife Crime Victims</th>
<th>Gun Crime Offenders</th>
<th>Gun Crime Victims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-25</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clearly, the ongoing effect of the economic situation and forthcoming efficiencies will need to be monitored to ensure worsening crime
and anti social activity is minimised if we are faced with significant growth in unemployment figures.

Go Oldham!
Go! Oldham is a structured partnership approach to ASB in Oldham that promotes positive activities, makes activities more accessible to
the public and targets diversionary activity to ASB hotspots. The latest Go! Oldham assessment document has shown strong reductions
in ASB across the borough.

What are children, young people and families telling us?

Local democracy week report 2010
• Young people feel there should be more visible police officers on the streets
• Young people would feel safer it there was more street lighting
• Young people feel the streets of Oldham are unsafe
• Young people have a fear of gangs
5.6 Youth offending and re-offending

First Time Entrants

The statistics below illustrate the number and rate of first-time entrants aged 10-17 to the criminal justice system in Oldham between 2000 - 2009 and are based on data recorded on the Police National Computer.

Data for 2009/0 shows that the rate of first time entrants to the youth justice system was 1,213 per 100,000 10-17 year olds compared with 1,399 in 2008/9. (Actual numbers for 2008/9 and 2009/0 were 343 and 298). Work to help achieve and support this reduction has included the PAYP school holiday programme, which engaged with 300 young people over the year 2009/10 - engaging them in diversionary activities aimed at reducing anti-social and offending behaviour.

The latest full-year results for First time entrants (FTE) into youth justice system aged 10 – 17 (2009/10) showed 1213 FTE (per 100,000 10-17 year olds) into the youth justice system (actual numbers for 2008/9 and 2009/0 were 343 and 298). This is a 31.5% reduction on the 2007/08 baseline and a 23.2% reduction on 2008/09. For quarters 1 and 2 of 2010 the downward trend has continued with 543 per
100,000 which is 29% below our targets. Work to help achieve and support this reduction has included the PAYP school holiday programme, which engaged with 300 young people over the year 2009/10 - engaging them in diversionary activities aimed at reducing anti-social and offending behaviour. This overall performance is very promising, however when compared with the ‘YOT family’ of areas with a similar make-up to Oldham, we can see that our rate remains higher than our statistical neighbours. By Quarter 4 we are expecting to be at the average for our most similar neighbours.

So why do other areas perform better in reducing First Time Entrants?
The vast majority of young people making up the group of First Time Entrants have received Police Reprimands, and this is where other areas have been able to access a new tool – Youth Restorative Disposal (YRD) which has not been available to the Police in Oldham. YRD is now being rolled out across GMP and should have immediate and significant impact upon the numbers of First Time Entrants. The Youth Crime Action Plan – Youth Offending Service Worker in the custody suite triage approach, once bedded in, should have a significant role in reducing these numbers further and measures will be put in place to instigate some form of post-reprimand support for those judged to be of some risk.

Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders
The number of second-offences committed by the cohort of first-time entrants who entered the youth justice system between January and March 2009 was 1.04, which was a 21.8% reduction on the results in the previous year (1.33). Oldham is exactly on target for quarter 1 of 2010. There is a lag in reporting so there are no results for quarter 2 yet. Performance in Quarter 1 2010-11 is better than similar neighbours whose average is 0.33.

To tackle the re-offending rate, the Youth Offending Service (YOS) has been located within Positive Steps Oldham, so it is now an integral part of Oldham’s Targeted Youth Support Service. This ensures that the YOS clients receive a prioritised service from a range of co-located agencies providing specialist support; Connexions (youth services), Oldham Alcohol and substance Intervention Service (Oasis) Community and Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Integrated Youth Crime Prevention Project (IYCPP), General Health services, Housing Advocacy and Homelessness Services.

Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody
The chart below illustrates young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody. The results for this indicator in 2009/10 were the same as for the 2007/08 baseline (7.6%). In the intervening year the rate had dropped to 5.4%. For quarter 1 and 2 of 2010 we have been lagging slightly behind target (5.3% with a performance of 6.1%). However, we are performing above average in comparison with our most similar neighbours (8.9%), and these results are based on an extremely small cohort.
Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System sentenced in Oldham

The ethnic composition of offenders on YJS disposals, which is measured as the difference between the ethnic composition of offenders and the ethnic composition of the whole 10 – 17 population, was good in Oldham. Each ethnic group (White; Asian or Asian British; Black or Black British; Mixed Race; and Chinese / Other) was represented similarly in the young offending group as to the general population.

Traditionally the white group has been over-represented in the youth justice system and this remains so, however the target of +4%, a reduction on last year has been significantly over achieved. Although the Mixed Race and Black groups’ targets have not quite been met, cohort sizes are very small and do cause high percentage swings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>2009/10</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>77.7%</td>
<td>+1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>+0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>+0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>-1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Young Offenders access to suitable accommodation

The rate of young offenders ending a YOS intervention episode in suitable accommodation was 96.9% in 2009/10, which was an increase compared to the previous two years (~93%). It was just below the “YOT Family” average of 97.3%. The results for the first 2
quarters of 2010/11 indicate a 96.2% achievement. This indicator was withdrawn in April 2010 and comparison with other areas is now, no longer, available.

Closer working relationships with the Youth Offending Service and local housing providers have enabled us to improve performance in this area. The co-location of a housing advocacy worker and drop in sessions from homelessness staff has also proved effective.

Young offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training.
The rate of young people engaged in suitable education, training or employment at the end of a Youth Offending Service (YOS) intervention episode during 2009/10 was 76.8%. This was lower than the previous year (83.5%) but higher than the baseline result from 2007/08 (70.9%) and better than the similar area average of 75.1%. For quarter 1 and 2 we have been performing at slightly above target, and have been outperforming our most similar neighbours.

This is an important indicator in measuring the impact of Youth Offending Service and partner interventions with young people reaching the end of their disposal. The employment, education and training ‘pathway’ is at the heart of the Youth Offending Service delivery. Specific work designed to strengthen links between Connexions and the Youth Offending Service has paid dividends, with closer co-working and sharing of data now in place.

However it should be noted that the continuing economic downturn is impacting on the overall, Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) figures in the area and this may be mirrored in the statistics over the next 12 months. In addition, the scrapping of the Education Maintenance Allowance is likely to impact negatively on this target as most young offenders who engage in training or education are currently eligible for that grant. There has however been a clear improvement to the Entry to Employment (ETE) figure as compared to the 2006/07 baseline of 65%. However performance against 2008/09 has dipped from 84.4%

External scrutiny
The Youth Offending Service was subject to a Core Case Inspection undertaken by HM Inspectorate of Probation in July 2009. The overall score ranked Oldham 8th from 21 YOTs in the North West.

The Youth Justice Board recently recognised Prevention Services in Oldham as a beacon of good practice and structure, their Capability and Capacity assessment judged all aspects to be Excellent and performance against national comparators to be good.
What are children, young people and families telling us?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children in Care Council meetings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some prolific offenders, taking into consideration their chaotic lifestyles, feel that prison in the only place where they are guaranteed their basic needs, food and somewhere to sleep. Offending is often a survival mechanism in terms of financial gain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looked after children have not had a positive role models and are familiar with a life of crime.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes young people get involved in criminal activity due to peer pressure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looked after children are sometimes criminalised by their carers for the behaviour instead of managing as it would be managed in a family home.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 5.7 ‘Growing up to enjoy life and make a positive contribution’ district profile for children and young people in Oldham

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>% of children and young people participating in at least 3hr hours a week of high quality PE and sport at school</th>
<th>% of participation in Positive Activities</th>
<th>First time entrants to Youth Justice System (per 100,000 of 10-17 population)</th>
<th>Persistent Young Offenders</th>
<th>Young Offenders receiving custodial sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chadderton</td>
<td>Chadderton Central</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>1308.4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chadderton North</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1630.4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chadderton South</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>1143.8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chadderton District</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>1360.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Oldham</td>
<td>St James</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>1463.1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St Marys</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>1256.5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waterhead</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1785.7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>East Oldham District</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>1501.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failsworth &amp; Hollinwood</td>
<td>Failsworth East</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>751.2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Failsworth West</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>829.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hollinwood</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>1368.9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Failsworth &amp; Hollinwood District</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royton &amp; Shaw</td>
<td>Royton North</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>698.6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Royton South</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1127.8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shaw</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>939.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Royton &amp; Shaw &amp; Crompton District</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>921.8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saddleworth &amp; Lees</td>
<td>Saddleworth North</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>966.7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saddleworth South</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>819.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saddleworth West &amp; Lees</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>775.9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saddleworth &amp; Lees District</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>854.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Oldham</td>
<td>Alexandra</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>2301.8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coldhurst</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>1472.3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medlock Vale</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>1530.3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Werneth Oldham District</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>1375.2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borough Average</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Growing up to achieve economic well being
This means children and young people have high aspirations, actively engage in further education, employment or training on leaving school, develop skills for employability and are not disadvantaged by poverty.

**Achievements**

- Participation in learning is generally high, with 93.5% of Year 11 School Leavers in 2010 continuing to participate in full time education, apprenticeships or employment with a training element.
- Take-up of tax credits appears to be relatively high, with 89.9% of Oldham households in receipt of child benefit also being in receipt of tax credits.

**Areas of Improvement/ Development**

- Whilst participation in learning is high overall for Year 11 school leavers, around 10% of Waterhead Year 11 school leavers and 9% of those from Coldhurst were not in employment, education or training.
- Youth unemployment (16-19) is above 10% in Alexandra, Hollinwood and St. James’.
- In Oldham 29.6% of under 16s and 29.3% of all dependent children are living in poverty, significantly higher than rates for England of 21.6% and 20.9% respectively. In Coldhurst around six out of ten (58.5%) dependent children are living in poverty.
- The number of children living in poverty has increased in recent years. Between August 2008 and August 2010 the proportion of households containing under 16s claiming Housing Benefit and/ or Council Tax Benefit increased from 7.3% to 9.3%.
- Lone parent households are more likely than Oldham residents overall to report being unable to afford to do a range of things that affect wellbeing.
- Children living in households seeking asylum are largely invisible in the evidence base.
- Almost one in four (23.6%) children aged 0-18 live in out-of-work households, well above the rate for England (16.7%).
- Half of all childminders and a third of childcare providers in Oldham have been judged as being no better than satisfactory.
- The quality of inclusive practice is an issue for some childcare settings in Oldham.
- Some wards in Oldham still have outstanding gaps in the
type of childcare available

- Limited local intelligence to be able to predict the number of families who rely on informal childcare in Oldham, and parent requirements for out of school care and holiday clubs.
- The time that childcare is required and the lower number of sessions required could present sustainability problems for childcare providers in the future.
6.1 Young people: engagement in further education, employment or training

In 2010, most (84.5%) Year 11 school leavers living in Oldham stayed on in full-time education in FE Colleges (36.7% of all Year 11 leavers living in Oldham), Sixth Form Colleges (33.7%) or School Sixth Forms (14.0%). Almost all (93.5%) continued to participate in learning, through further full-time education (84.5%) or Learning Skills Council (LSC) -funded work-based training (7.7%) and jobs with NVQ or other planned training (1.3%). Around one in twenty Year 11 school leavers living in Oldham (5.5%) were not in education, employment or training (NEET). Very few (0.4%) moved into employment without a training element. Destination data was obtained for almost all (99.8%) of the Year 11 cohort. (Source: Moving On 2010, Positive Steps Oldham).

Destinations for Year 11 School Leavers living in Oldham

- Participation in learning rate: 93.9% (93.5% staying on)
- Staying On rate: 85.3% (84.5% in FE, 36.7% in Sixth Form, 33.7% in School Sixth Form)
- Apprenticeship / Entry to Employment: 7.7%
- Job with training: 0.9%
- Job without training: 0.5%
- NEET: 4.8% (5.5% in Oldham)

‘Participation in learning’ rates remained the same and ‘Staying On’ rates decreased slightly between 2009 and 2010.

The proportion of Year 11 leavers going into employment (with or without training) decreased by more than a half between 2008 and 2009 (from 3.2% to 1.4%) but increased slightly to 1.6% in 2010.

The proportion of Oldham Year 11 School Leavers who are NEET has increased from 4.8% to 5.5%.

Destinations of Year 11 School Leavers living in Oldham vary considerably by ward, with those resident in Waterhead and Coldhurst being markedly less likely to continue participation in learning and more likely to be NEET.
Year 11 School Leavers who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) are divided into two groups:

- Those young people who are available and actively seeking a job, course or training programme, and therefore registered as unemployed with Connexions. In 2010, this group accounted for most (89%) of the 5.5% Year 11 School Leavers resident in Oldham who were NEET.

- Those who for a variety of reasons – illness or disability, custodial sentence, pregnancy or parenthood, cultural restrictions or caring for other family members are unavailable. In 2010, few (11%) of those who were NEET were unavailable. Source: Moving On 2010.
Alexandra’s youth unemployment rate (12.5%) is more than twice the Oldham rate (6.0%).

Rates are also well above the Oldham average in Hollinwood (9.3%) and St. James’ (8.8%).

What are children, young people and families telling us?

Local democracy week report 2009
- Young people feel work experience opportunities in school and college are often poor and/or infrequent and would like these to be extended and improved
- Young people felt concerned about employment opportunities available to them in the future but also currently opportunities available to their families
- Young people would like to see more apprenticeships available in Oldham across a range of career options
- Young people were concerned about the pressure they feel are under to achieve and succeed. Young people were concerned about the amount of advice and guidance they receive around careers, further education and their futures and would like more help and advice around their future options

Feedback from Children In Care Council meetings, Peer Mentoring project, Regulation 33 inspections, Consultation sessions and the Corporate Parenting Conference
- Looked After Children need more vocational, on the job training. The Council need to ensure that looked after children and care leavers are provided with opportunities for work experience, employment, training etc and there are opportunities for apprenticeships within the Council

Sholver Boys Intervention Club, April 2010
- Q&A with boy age 9 in Sholver
  Q: Where do you think you will be or what will you be doing in 2020?
  A: Heaven
  Q: Heaven? Really? Why?
  A: I don’t think I’ll make it to 19, lots of people don’t

- Q&A with boy age 7 in Sholver
  Q: Where do you think you will be or what will you be doing in 2020?
  A: I’d really like to go to college, I don’t care what I do there. It’d just be cool to be the first person (in my family) to go

Group Performance Manager, Positive Steps Oldham
- Parents want more information about Connexions services and want to be contacted by text or email at relevant times re. college closing dates, Careers exhibition etc
- Parents want Oldham’s annual ‘Your Choice’ event to be held on a Saturday
6.2 Housing and homelessness

The number of Homelessness Decisions for all ages has dropped in recent years: the figure for 2009-10 is just 12% of that for 2006/07. In 2009-10, just under half (46%) of Homelessness Decisions resulted in acceptance, similar to 2006-07 (48%). The number of Homelessness Preventions has increased by around a third (34%) between 2006/07 and 2009/10: though a substantial increase, this does not fully account for the drop in the number of homelessness decisions made.

Homelessness in Oldham

Between November 2005 and January 2008, 508 First Choice Homes Oldham (FCHO) tenancies were granted to 16 to 21 year olds, of which just over half (51%) subsequently broke down during this period. There is some evidence that break-down rates decrease with age (70% of tenancies granted to 16 year-olds broke down, falling to 41% among 21 year-olds), but FCHO tenancy break-down data for all ages was not available.
While the above graph shows zero 16-17 year-olds accepted as homeless, this should not be construed as zero need. There are a variety of services working with homeless or potentially homeless young people, providing a mix of preventative work and crisis support: nevertheless there are homeless young people in Oldham.

- Oldham Reconnect provide family mediation services which attempt to stop homelessness occurring (224 referrals, worked with 153 cases, of which 115 were aged 17 and under (April 2009-Sep 2010))
- Where mediation does not provide a solution, various sorts of accommodation are available:
  - Oldham Nightstop was launched April 2008 to provide emergency, overnight accommodation to homeless young people under 25 in the homes of approved volunteers. The aim of Nightstop is to provide a better alternative to B&B accommodation for vulnerable young people. Between 1 April 2008 & 31 Dec 2010, a total of 72 referrals for 16/17 year olds were received. Of these, 35 bed nights were provided in the homes of the volunteer hosts.
  - Swift Court provides accommodation for 16/17 year olds: 6 persons have been accommodated since March 2010. Numbers have reduced from 21 persons in 2008-2009, and there is some spare capacity.
  - Porter St. provides accommodation for 16-23 year olds, commissioned through Supporting People.
  - As at December 2010, five 16/17 year olds were accommodated in B&B under the Children's Act 1989. This figure can fluctuate.

More investigation is needed in the next Needs Assessment document to gain a deeper understanding of need in this area.

Children living in overcrowded housing are up to ten times more likely to contract meningitis and children in bad housing, have up to a 25% higher risk of severe ill-health and disability during childhood and early adulthood (Shelter 2006). In Oldham, rates of over-crowding are higher for family households and households of Asian and Black origin. Overcrowding rates are above average in the private rented sector, and in pre-1919 terraced housing. (2010 Private Sector House Condition Survey).

What are families telling us?

*From causes to solutions: poverty, income and work in Oldham (2010):*

- ‘So from the age of fourteen I moved in with my friends, but then we had arguments so I moved in with my cousin. I was just moving around to different people’s houses until I could get a flat’
- ‘If you’re crowded out, you can’t concentrate, you’re not happy, you’re miserable’
6.3 Children living in poverty

NI116 defines the percentage of Children in “Poverty” as the number of children living in families in receipt of Child Tax Credit (CTC) whose reported income is less than 60 per cent of the median income or in receipt of Income Support (IS) or (Income-Based) Jobseekers Allowance (JSA), divided by the total number of children in the area (determined by Child Benefit data).

In Oldham 29.6% of under 16s and 29.3% of all dependent children are living in poverty, significantly higher than rates for England of 21.6% and 20.9% respectively.

Within Oldham, rates of child poverty are highest in Coldhurst where around six out of ten (58.5%) dependent children are living in poverty.

In St Mary’s nearly half (47.6%) of dependent children are living in poverty. In Werneth, Alexandra and Hollinwood the figure is around 43%. In Medlock Vale over one third (35.1%) of dependent children are living in poverty.
6.4 Children living in low income households – Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit

Analysis of Council Tax and Housing Benefit data provides more timely information on low income households. It suggests that the number of children living in poverty in Oldham is likely to have increased since the latest NI116 data (2008). Between August 2008 and August 2010 the proportion of households containing under 16s claiming Housing Benefit and/ Council Tax Benefit (HB/CTB) increased from 7.3% to 9.3% of all households.

In Oldham households containing under 16s claiming Council Tax Benefit and/ or Housing Benefit (CTB/HB) made up 9.3% of all households.

In Coldhurst nearly one quarter (23%) of households were households containing under 16s and claiming CTB and/ or HB.

Around one fifth of households in St Mary’s (20.7%) and Werneth (20.1%) were households containing under 16s and claiming CTB and/ or HB.
6.5 Children living in households experiencing income deprivation

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index is a measure of child poverty. It is the percentage of children aged under 16 years who live in families in receipt of a range of low income benefits and Tax Credits.

Across England 22.4% of children live in income deprived households. This proportion is higher in Oldham, where more than three in ten children (31.2%) live in income deprived households.

More than 60% of children aged under 16 residing in Coldhurst and St. Mary’s, live in income-deprived households.

Close to half of children aged under 16 live in income-deprived households in Alexandra, Werneth and Hollinwood.

Closer level analysis shows that:
- Coldhurst and St. Mary’s are among the 1% most deprived wards in England with respect to income deprivation affecting children (i.e. the proportion of children living in income deprived households);
- A further three wards (Alexandra, Werneth and Hollinwood) are among the 5% most deprived wards in England with respect to income deprivation affecting children; and
- Medlock Vale is among the 10% most deprived wards in England with respect to income deprivation affecting children.

**Boundsaries**

Produced by the OMBC Corporate Research Team. Based on Ordnance Survey Mapping using data from ONS and BCLG. Crown Copyright. January 2004.
In 2010, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) produced experimental statistics on the number of children living in households in receipt of ‘out-of-work’ benefits in May 2008. Some children live in households in receipt of more than one type of ‘out-of-work’ benefit. This suggests that across England as at 2008, 16.7% of all children aged 0-18 lived in households in receipt of ‘out of work’ benefits. In Oldham the comparable rate is 23.6%.

Around 13,610 Oldham children aged 0-18 live in households in receipt of ‘out of work’ benefits. Income Support and Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Benefit were the benefit types most frequently received. Around 1380 children aged 0-18, including 490 children aged 0-4 lived in households in receipt of JSA.

Not surprisingly, relatively few children lived in households in receipt of Pension Credit.
The ‘All’ bar in the graph above records children once, irrespective of how many benefits the household is claiming (for example, a household member may be entitled to both Income Support and Incapacity Benefit). This means that the totals for individual benefit types will not add to the ‘All’ bar.

The 2010 You and Your Community Survey asked Oldham residents about whether or not they had enough money to afford a range of goods.

Results for all residents showed that the most frequent sources of current financial stress were.

- Having a holiday away from home (37% say they cannot afford this at the moment)
- Having enough money to make regular savings (37%)
- Having enough money to replace or repair major electrical goods when broken (38%)
- Having enough money to replace furniture (43%).

### Presence of current financial concerns
Do you (and you family/partner) have…?

- **…household contents insurance?** (2983)
  - I/we have this: 72%
  - I/we would like to have this, but cannot afford it at the moment: 16%
  - I/we do not want/need this at the moment: 8%
  - Does not apply: 5%

- **…two pairs of all weather shoes for each adult member of the family?** (3010)
  - I/we have this: 71%
  - I/we would like to have this, but cannot afford it at the moment: 16%
  - I/we do not want/need this at the moment: 6%
  - Does not apply: 7%

- **…enough money to keep your house in a decent state of repair?** (3006)
  - I/we have this: 57%
  - I/we would like to have this, but cannot afford it at the moment: 30%
  - I/we do not want/need this at the moment: 9%
  - Does not apply: 4%

- **…friends or family around for a drink or a meal at least once a month?** (2967)
  - I/we have this: 54%
  - I/we would like to have this, but cannot afford it at the moment: 18%
  - I/we do not want/need this at the moment: 14%
  - Does not apply: 14%

- **…enough money to make regular savings of £10 a month or more for rainy days or retirement?** (3006)
  - I/we have this: 51%
  - I/we would like to have this, but cannot afford it at the moment: 37%
  - I/we do not want/need this at the moment: 4%
  - Does not apply: 8%

- **…a holiday away from home, for at least one week a year, whilst not staying with relatives at their home?** (3058)
  - I/we have this: 49%
  - I/we would like to have this, but cannot afford it at the moment: 37%
  - I/we do not want/need this at the moment: 7%
  - Does not apply: 8%

- **…enough money to replace or repair major electrical goods such as a refrigerator or washing machine when broken?** (3045)
  - I/we have this: 48%
  - I/we would like to have this, but cannot afford it at the moment: 38%
  - I/we do not want/need this at the moment: 9%
  - Does not apply: 6%

- **…enough money to replace any worn out furniture?** (3041)
  - I/we have this: 43%
  - I/we would like to have this, but cannot afford it at the moment: 43%
  - I/we do not want/need this at the moment: 8%
  - Does not apply: 5%

*Source: Ipsos MORI North, You and Your Community Survey 2010.*
Compared with residents overall, extended families were more likely to say they could not afford:

- Friends or family around for a drink or meal at least once a month (30%)
- Two pairs of all weather shows for each adult member of the family (32%)

Compared with residents overall, one parent families were more likely to say they could not afford:

- A holiday away from home, for at least one week a year, not staying with relatives (62%)
- Friends or family around for a drink or meal at least once a month (33%)
- Two pairs of all weather shows for each adult member of the family (38%)
- Enough money to keep your house in a decent state of repair (47%)
- Household contents insurance (36%)
- Enough money to make regular savings of £10/month or more for rainy days or retirement (61%)
- Enough money to replace any worn out furniture (66%)
- Enough money to replace or repair major electrical goods such as a refrigerator or washing machine when broken (59%)

All differences reported are significant at the 0.05 level.

Compared with residents overall, two parent families were more likely to say they could not afford a holiday away from home, for at least one week a year, not staying with relatives (40%). Otherwise, two parent families did not differ significantly from residents overall.

Source: Ipsos MORI North, You and Your Community Survey 2010.
What are families telling us?

From causes to solutions: poverty, income and work in Oldham (2010):

- ‘I don’t have a tea, I make the kids their tea then I won’t have anything until like 8 o’clock and it will just be toast.’
- ‘Well, baby, she’s always got a cough. Well anything you get with damp, all sorts of health problems. It could lead to asthma. It could lead to anything couldn’t it? You’re just dragging money hand over fist for nothing.’
- ‘You can’t go on days out with your family and stuff because you’ve got no money to get anywhere on the bus.’
- ‘If it was just the two of us I wouldn’t mind struggling, but I’ve got two young children and they get half what their friends get. They’ve never had a holiday apart from going to Blackpool to my brother for a week because he lives there.’
6.6 Financial Support

Child Benefit
- Child benefit is a form of non-means-tested support available to most households with children aged under 16 (and in some cases to households with children aged 16-19). The current child benefit rate is set at £20.30 a week for the oldest child and £13.40 a week for subsequent children. Child benefit data can be used as a proxy for population information as national take-up rates are very high (ca. 97% in 2007-08). Caution is needed as child benefit is not universal. Households with children that are ineligible for child benefit include:
  - those subject to immigration control with ‘no recourse to public funds,’ unless they hold citizenship with a state that has with reciprocal social security arrangements with the U.K. or are living with a family member who is an EEA national (including the U.K.). Children born in the U.K. to parents who are subject to immigration control (e.g. with limited leave to remain, or on a student visa) are not U.K. citizens, though they can apply for registration for citizenship at the age of 10 years or over.
  - asylum seekers and those refused asylum.

Personal Tax Credits
Child tax credits (CTC) are intended to bring together income-related support for children and for qualifying young people aged 16-19 who are in full time non-advanced education or approved training into a single tax credit, payable to the main carer. Families can claim whether or not the adults are in-work. There are a number of different elements of child tax credit including the family element (which does not begin to taper off until household income exceeds £50,000), the child element, the disability element and the severe disability element.

Working tax credits (WTC) are intended to provide “in-work support for people on low incomes, with or without children. It extends eligibility to in-work support to people who work 16 hours or more a week and; are aged at least 16 and are responsible for a child or young person; are aged at least 16 and are receiving or have recently received a qualifying sickness or disability related benefit and have a disability that puts them at a disadvantage in getting a job, or are over 50 and going back to work after being on a qualifying out-of-work benefit for at least six months. Otherwise it is extended to people who are aged 25 and over who work 30 hours a week or more. Working tax credits has a number of different elements with direct relevance for children, including the Lone Parent element and the Childcare element for single people who work at least 16 hours a week or couples who both work at least 16 hours a week and who spend money on registered or approved childcare. Source: “Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics - Finalised annual awards 2008/09,” HMRC: 2010.

HMRC have published 2008-2009 information for Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit stating that:
  - 14,590 children and qualifying young people living in 6,980 families are in out-of-work families in Oldham.
  - 10,210 in-work families (housing 20,390 children) are in receipt of both WTC and CTC; a further 8690 families (housing 14,150 children) are in receipt of CTC only.

This section uses the most recent small area WTC and CTC data (31 August 2008 snapshot data) together with 2008 Child Benefit data to give ward level information about:
  - Low income working households with children; and
  - Worklessness rates in households with children.
Across Oldham, nine in ten households in receipt of child benefit are also in receipt of tax credits. This proportion is generally higher in wards with higher levels of income deprivation affecting children. This proportion are much lower in Saddleworth North (62.5%) and Saddleworth South (56.8%), probably reflecting both higher household incomes and lower case-load take-up rates.

Across Oldham, roundly nine in ten households in receipt of child benefit are also in receipt of tax credits. Except in areas with very high household incomes, this percentage should be high, reflecting that most households were able to claim the CTC family element (which begins to taper off for households with an annual income above £50,000). Where wards have high proportions of children living in income deprivation, but households in receipt of child benefit have relatively low tax credit take-up this may indicate a need for tax-credit take-up work interventions.
Working tax credits are intended to provide support for low income working households.

As this graph shows, almost half of households with dependent children in Werneth, St. Mary’s and Coldhurst are in receipt of Working Tax Credits.

Across Oldham as a whole, 36.9% of households with dependent children are in receipt of working tax credits.
6.7 Childcare provision

All Local Authorities have a statutory duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to secure as far as is reasonably practical sufficient childcare for any parent who needs it to work or where a parent is undertaking a course of study that is expected to lead to employment. Childcare is defined in legislation in Section 18 of the Act as any form of care for a child including education (thereby including nursery and reception classes) and any other supervised activity but excluding:

- Education or activities provided by a school for a pupil during non school hours, unless that pupil has not yet started Key Stage 1.
- Care provided for a child by a parent, step parent or person with parental responsibility, or any relative, or foster parent (LA or private) care provided by a children’s home, care home, a hospital or residential family centre, a young offenders’ institution, secure training centre, or a secure care-home within any of those establishments

Local authorities are required to undertake and produce a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) report every 3 years. The purpose for the CSA is to ascertain demand for childcare through a range of statutory consultations to identify and specific gaps. The following section extracts some of the key issues emerging from Oldham’s completed CSA in 2011.

Childcare places for children aged 0 to 4 years

There are currently a total of 3805 places available for children aged between 0 to 4 years and 630 of these places are vacant.

All wards have some vacancies but the highest levels of vacancies are in Shaw and Royton South.
Childcare places for children aged 5 to 14 years

There are currently a total of 2973 places available for children aged between 5 to 14 years.

503 of these places are vacant.

All wards have some vacancies but the highest levels of vacancies are in Failsworth West and Saddleworth South.

Childcare places available during school holidays

The number of childcare places that are available through holiday play schemes operating during the school holidays.

The highest number of schemes are in Chadderton Central, Royton, Shaw, St James and Saddleworth.

There are low numbers in St Mary’s, Werneth and Coldhurst.
Geographical spread of childcare facilities in Oldham

The findings from the consultation suggest that there is a good mix of childcare which is sufficiently meeting the childcare requirements of parents and carers across Oldham. It is estimated that no child should have to travel further than 2 miles from their home to find appropriate care. The analysis of the supply of childcare did identify some wards that still have outstanding gaps in the type of childcare available. Notably that Failsworth requires more full day care places and Thornham St James requires more out of school care. Alexandra and Medlock Vale appear to have a gap in relation the number of children born and the number of places available.

Childminders

The 2011 assessment illustrates the spread of childminders in Oldham. It shows there is a concentration in the Failsworth and Hollinwood areas, and more sporadic availability in Saddleworth and Lees. Oldham currently has one borough wide childminding network which meets the requirements specified by sure start children’s centres core offer for phase one centres. Oldham’s Network currently has approximately 36 childminders. Network childminders are often more flexible than other providers and are in a good position to care for a number of siblings together. Some of the network childminders are able to provide short term care for children in need and emergency care, including a pick up and drop off service.

Dependency on Childcare

Reliance on childcare was defined as having to leave a child in the care of a childcare provider and being dependent on that provider so that weekly activities such as work, study or regular commitments can be carried out. When asked if they rely on childcare to look after any of their children in a typical week…

24% of parents interviewed said that they do rely on childcare for at least one of their children

This proportion peaks at 52% in the Saddleworth West & Lees ward.
Ease of finding Childcare
To determine if there is sufficient childcare for people in Oldham, parents were asked how easy it was for them to secure the childcare they currently use.
- 88% said they had found it easy to secure their current childcare, including 18% who said it was very easy.
- Fewer than one in twenty (4%) state that securing the childcare they currently use has been difficult.

Parents were also asked if they have looked for childcare that they haven’t been able to find or that they haven’t been able to take up for some reason.
- 95% were successful in securing the information and place that they required
- The majority of the remaining 5% of parents who have been unsuccessful in finding or securing places related to day nursery care (18%), followed by childminders (13%).

Type of childcare used

The largest proportion relies on out of school care (28%) 25% of respondents use a day nursery. Nearly 1 in 5 use informal care such as family. Only 3% acknowledged the use of any free entitlement.

Further analysis in respect of childcare used suggests that out of school care and holiday care could be perceived to have a significant gap for older children, however locally there appears to be no demand for this provision.

*The sample base of those with unsuccessful childcare searches or enquiries is just 76, these results are indicative rather than statistically robust.*
Weekly usage
There is no significant variation in the number of days of childcare used per week is evident by household income. However, as might be expected, those parents/carers who work full time are those most likely to state that they use 5 days of childcare per week (54%). In comparison, 36% of those working part time use 5 days of childcare per week.

Childcare flexibility
The most flexible type of childcare is informal childcare provided by family and friends. Whilst the research has provided qualitative information about the reasons for choosing informal childcare, the quantitative data is still limited. This issue is a reoccurring theme for Local Authorities nationally, as highlighted in the Office for Prime Minister (OPM) review of the 2008 CSA’s. Research carried out nationally is likely to provide further guidance to support local authorities to predict the number of families who are relying on informal childcare. In Oldham Alexandra ward is the ideal starting point for further research into informal childcare due to the high numbers of children and low take up of childcare places this could suggest high levels of informal childcare is being accessed.

Childcare for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)
Significant progress has been made in relation to supporting families who have a child with a disability or special educational need, with a huge increase in the number of families who are now accessing respite and short breaks care. The training provided to childcare practitioners through the Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH) programme has supported settings to improve inclusive practice. Further work is planned to introduce the Inclusion Quality Standards to a number of childcare settings across Oldham, especially in those settings where the quality of inclusive practice has been identified as an issue. Parent opinion of childcare for children with additional needs highlighted some negative perceptions of childcare but these parents had not accessed childcare for their children and unrealistic expectations indicated that these parents may need access to more accurate information.

Future use of Childcare
Planning future childcare is very complex as there are many influencing factors. A decline or rise in birth rates should not be used as an indicator for future demand for childcare, as each ward in Oldham has a very unique demographic makeup and the political reforms, economic climate and individual's social reasons all contribute to the ever evolving childcare market. Of the parents asked how many of their children they expect to be using childcare in the next three years:
- 3% are expecting another child in the next nine months;
- four fifths of parents state they do not expect to have any children requiring childcare in the next three years;
- around one in seven expects to have one child in childcare, whilst 5% expects to have two children and 1% three children; and
- those parents living in Saddleworth West & Lees are most likely to say they will have at least one child needing childcare in the next three years.
Times that childcare is required
The diverse needs of parents’ childcare requirements are still ever changing and can be unpredictable. It is a complex area to monitor and is often difficult to anticipate changes in requirements. Flexible working patterns are becoming more commonplace; the session times that childcare is required and the lower number of sessions required could present sustainability problems in the future. A lack of understanding amongst childcare providers of the importance of the business health checks and possible ability to complete the current model was noted.

Childcare affordability
Parents provided an estimate of the total amount they spend on childcare per week per child. As would be expected parents spend less per week on provision such as family members than they do for provision such as day nurseries. The majority of parents using family members to care for their child/children do not pay any costs towards this childcare. In contrast, nearly a quarter of those using day nurseries are paying more than £100 per week.

Income as a key influence of childcare usage
The household income of parents/carers appears to be a key influence on whether they are childcare users. Those with a household income £40,000 -£49,000 or £50,000 - £59,000 are more likely to be childcare users than those on lower incomes. Predictably, those who are employed full time and part time are significantly more likely to use childcare than those who are not in employment. Of the parents/carers consulted more than three fifths who incur expenditure on childcare find it easy to pay their weekly childcare fees,
including 12% who find it very easy. Conversely, 18% indicate they find it difficult to some extent. There were no statistical differences across demographic groups.

**Assistance with cost of childcare**
- More than nine in ten parents/carers are aware of Child Tax Credits, while four fifths are aware of Working Families Tax Credit and almost half are aware of Childcare Vouchers.
- In contrast, a fifth of parents do not receive any financial assistance with the cost of childcare.
- Overall, the most prominent financial assistance for childcare comes in the form of Child Tax credits (65%) of this figure 83% are distributed to those whose income does not surpass £10,000
- Conversely, the least common assistance recorded is the use of childcare vouchers (3%) the highest proportion of these distributed to households where income is between £50,000 and £59,000 (13%)
- Nearly 1 in 5 stated that they receive no assistance including 10% of households whose income is less than £10,000

**How parents choose a childcare setting for their child**
The chart below provides a useful insight into the factors that parents consider when selecting suitable childcare for their child, all respondents were asked to consider a list of factors and say which are important to them. Parents were allowed to select as many options as they wished.

![Bar chart](image)
The quality of care is the decisive factor given by those in all forms of employment and those who are not. It is also most commonly chosen by respondents of all income levels. This serves to emphasise that although practical, pragmatic factors such as location and opening hours will be of greater consideration for some; responses suggest that ultimately it is the perceived quality of the care offered that will determine whether a particular care provider is used. It is important to note that although quality of care is highly rated some of the indicators of good quality are rated significantly lower e.g. ratio’s, room sizes, environment and equipment. This could indicate a lack of understanding about quality indicators for a childcare setting.

Accessing information (all respondents)

When asked where they generally get information regarding childcare, parents indicate they obtain information from a variety of sources, the most common of which being school, friends and neighbours, other family members and other parents.

A quarter state they do not get information about childcare from anywhere.

NB. Only 7.4% of childcare providers stated that they updated their records with the Family Information Service on a monthly basis.

What are children, young people and families telling us?

When asked where they generally get information regarding childcare, parents indicate they obtain information from a variety of sources, the most common of which being school, friends and neighbours, other family members and other parents.

A quarter state they do not get information about childcare from anywhere.

NB. Only 7.4% of childcare providers stated that they updated their records with the Family Information Service on a monthly basis.
Childcare Sufficiency Consultation 2011:
- Children overwhelmingly liked, or liked a lot, their experience of early years and childcare provision. This level was consistent for both girls and boys.
- Positive responses to their early years and childcare experiences outnumber issues for development in a ratio of 6:1.
- Nearly a third stated that they enjoyed the social element of their childcare.
- Less important to the children consulted was feeling safe and the staff.
- 19% of children responding to the consultation could not find any aspect of their childcare that they did not like. Of the 81 responses the key issue was related children feeling bored.
- Nearly 40% of participants stated that an improvement in the number and variety of activities would improve their time at their childcare setting.
- Just short of 30% stated that they would like to have more time with their peers (17%) and with children of different ages (10%).
- Nearly 1 in 10 stated that they would enjoy their setting more if they were able to spend time on their own.

Special schools childcare survey of 29 parents:
- Most parents do not use formal childcare - this was particularly true when children have autism and/or behaviour difficulties.
- Parents want to use childcare to have some time for themselves. As there is little adequate childcare for their children, parents feel their children become isolated which results in demanding attention from parents and also in inappropriate behaviour. This resulted in greater stress for both parents and child.
- Some parents find it hard to find suitable childcare to meet the needs of their children, this can be a barrier to work.
- Children need to be able to access childcare alongside other children to support their self esteem and social skills.
- Parents need time to be able to spend with their other children.
- The greatest demand for childcare is during the school holidays.
- Need for childcare that caters for children 11+, parents would like it to be located at school where possible.

From causes to solutions: poverty, income and work in Oldham (2010):
- A further associated barrier to learning was the cost of providing childcare or finding family support to look after children while study takes place.

Consultation with care leavers ‘Making successful transitions to adulthood for looked after children’, and feedback from After Care Team:
- There are a lack of childcare options for care leavers, usually on low incomes who wish to get involved in education, training or employment Source.
### 6.8 ‘Growing up to achieve economic well being’ district profile for children and young people in Oldham

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>% Year 11 School Leavers NEET 2010</th>
<th>% Youth Unemployment September 2010</th>
<th>% of children in poverty *</th>
<th>% of households with children under 16 in receipt of Council Tax Benefit and/ or Housing Benefit</th>
<th>% of children living in income-deprived households (IDACI, ID2007)</th>
<th>Number of child care places (0-14) August 2010.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chadderton</td>
<td>Chadderton Central</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>9.3%</strong></td>
<td><strong>31.2%</strong></td>
<td><strong>36.9%</strong></td>
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*NI116 defines the % of children in ‘poverty’ defined as the number of children living in families in receipt of Child Tax Credit (CTC) whose reported income is less than 60 per cent of the median income or in receipt of Income Support (IS) or (Income-Based) Jobseekers Allowance (JSA), divided by the total number of children in the area (determined by Child Benefit data).*
Low income, welfare reform and housing changes

It will be important to assess the likely impact of forthcoming and proposed Welfare Reform, changes to housing benefits and rights to social housing and the impact of public sector cuts. Proposed Welfare Reform and public sector cuts could impact disproportionately on particular groups and potentially increase poverty and the need for targeted support. Changes to housing benefit and entitlement to social housing are also likely to impact disproportionately on low income families.

The projected impact of forthcoming and proposed changes to welfare benefits and the impact of public sector cuts needs to be assessed, with a view to identifying ways of limiting the harm done to children and groups of residents who are already vulnerable and disadvantaged. The proposed welfare reform and public sector cuts are likely to lead to increased poverty in Oldham, as public sector employment makes an important contribution to the local economy and the borough already has a high proportion of low income households. Forthcoming changes to housing benefit and entitlement to social housing are also likely to have a disproportionately negative impact on low income families.

Reducing income inequality by bringing households out of income deprivation should be a priority for Oldham. To be effective, interventions should address income deprivation among both out-of-work and in-work households: recent national evidence (New Policy Institute, Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion in 2010) indicates that almost six in ten (57%) children in poverty live in households with at least one working adult.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronyms</th>
<th>Terms</th>
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<td>ABC</td>
<td>Acceptable Behaviour Contracts</td>
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<td>Active Involvement Matters</td>
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<td>Anti-Social Behaviour</td>
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<td>ASBO</td>
<td>Anti Social Behaviour Orders</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIA</td>
<td>Boarder and immigration Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>BME</td>
<td>Black Minority Ethnic</td>
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<td>CAF</td>
<td>Common Assessment Framework</td>
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<td>CAMHS</td>
<td>Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services</td>
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<td>CCSR</td>
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<td>CLL</td>
<td>Communication Language and literacy</td>
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<td>Children and Young People Plan</td>
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<td>Disabled Children’s Access to childcare</td>
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<td>DCLG</td>
<td>Department for Communities and Local Government</td>
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<td>DfE</td>
<td>Department for Education</td>
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<td>DH</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
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<td>DWP</td>
<td>Department for Work and Pensions</td>
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<td>EEA</td>
<td>European Economic Area</td>
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<td>ETE</td>
<td>Entry to Employment</td>
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<td>Early Years Foundation Stage</td>
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<td>FE</td>
<td>Further Education</td>
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<td>Youth Crime Family Intervention Project</td>
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<td>FSM</td>
<td>Free School Meals</td>
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<td>JSA</td>
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<td>LAC</td>
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<td>NASS</td>
<td>Former acronym for Borders and Immigration Authority</td>
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<td>NCSP</td>
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<td>NEET</td>
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<td>NINo</td>
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<td>Oldham Alcohol and substance Intervention Service</td>
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<td>PAYP</td>
<td>Positive Activities for Young People</td>
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<td>Permanent Childhood Hearing Impairment</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
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<td>Youth Offending Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>YRD</td>
<td>Youth Restorative Disposal</td>
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</table>
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