one future

Oldham Children and Young People Plan 2008–2011
Published by Oldham Children’s Trust
There are many positive things happening for children and young people in Oldham:

- 95% of Oldham schools are signed up to the Healthy Schools Programme
- Engagement in sport and physical activity in Oldham is above the national average
- More than £8m has been invested in parks and open spaces in recent years, including Alexandra Park, Coalshaw Green Park and High Crompton Park
- New state-of-the-art schools have opened at Failsworth and The Radclyffe
- The £230m Building Schools for the Future programme is set to transform Oldham’s secondary education
- Children and young people now have various ways of voicing their opinions, including school councils, Oldham Youth Council and the Children in Care Council, with the latter two actively involved in making decisions about service delivery
- Children, young people and their families can enjoy a great range of cultural activities in Oldham, such as Oldham Theatre Workshop, Gallery Oldham, Oldham Coliseum and the Oldham Music Centre
- Children, young people, parents, carers and professionals have access to free, impartial information on family services, childcare and activities

Oldham Sixth Form College has secured £20m of funding towards a new Regional Science Centre
- The Oldham College has secured £70m for the re-development of its campus
- University Centre Oldham now has 1,000 students, set to increase to 2,000 over the next few years

However, we still have many issues to tackle, as many children and young people need support and intervention to help them overcome the challenges they face and achieve their full potential.
Every Child Matters

Every Child Matters is the name given to the Government’s agenda to improve the lives of all children and young people.

The Oldham Children’s Trust was formed to deliver that agenda, bringing together partners such as Oldham Council, Oldham Primary Care Trust, the Police and the voluntary sector to make sure that everybody working with and for children, young people and families themselves.

If you would like to get hold of a full version of the Plan, please use the contact details on the back cover of this booklet to find out more.

On the following pages, you will find information on how Oldham Children’s Trust is progressing towards each of these aims and what its main priorities are for the next three years.

Children and young people are Oldham’s future.

To make sure that future is as good as it can be, we need all the people who look after and work with children across Oldham to be working together to achieve the same goals. To work together effectively, we need to have a joined-up plan that will help us deliver those goals, making the best use of our combined resources to deliver the best outcomes for Oldham’s children and young people.

Together we want to enable Oldham’s children and young people to achieve their potential and to have safe, successful, healthy and happy lives.

Oldham’s Children and Young People Plan sets out what we need to do to work towards our goals and how we can measure our success in getting there.

This booklet is a short summary of Oldham’s Plan, which has been put together after research and consultation with many people working with and for children, as well as with input from children, young people and families themselves.

The Oldham Children’s Trust was formed to deliver that agenda, bringing together partners such as Oldham Council, Oldham Primary Care Trust, the Police and the voluntary sector to make sure that everybody working with and for children and young people does so in a joined-up way that focuses on the needs of children and young people themselves.

The aim of the Oldham Children’s Trust is to ensure that every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, has the support they need to:

- **Be healthy**
  - enjoy good physical and mental health and to live a healthy lifestyle.

- **Stay safe**
  - be protected from harm and neglect, to feel safe in the community and to grow up able to look after themselves.

- **Enjoy and achieve**
  - get the most out of life, achieve to their best potential at school and develop a range of skills ready for adulthood.

- **Make a positive contribution**
  - be recognised for the active and useful part they play in the community and in society as a whole and to be involved in decision making.

- **Achieve economic wellbeing**
  - achieve their full potential, to be able to access training and jobs and to have a decent standard of living.

On the following pages, you will find information on how Oldham Children’s Trust is progressing towards each of these aims and what its main priorities are for the next three years.
**What have we done so far?**

- established a young persons’ dedicated drop-in health centre
- set up a service to educate and help young people with substance misuse
- created a comprehensive Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
- allocated dedicated doctors and nurses for all looked after children
- introduced a dental health strategy to tackle Oldham’s higher than average incidence of tooth decay in children and young people
- appointed a Sexual Relationship Education Co-ordinator to work in both primary and secondary schools
- achieved a 32.8% reduction in teenage pregnancy from 1998–2006, making it the 7th most improved in the country
- successfully developed a peer mentor scheme to tackle teenage pregnancy
- involved 95% of all Oldham schools in the national Healthy Schools Programme, with 62% of schools achieving Healthy School status
- achieved attendance improvements of 10% over the last year through Oldham’s Pupil Referral Unit
- reduced the rates of child obesity by over 3%
- started a free fruit scheme to encourage healthy eating for all infant schools
- increased the proportion of children and young people involved in physical education or sport for more than two hours per week from 85% to 91%
- started the modernisation of Oldham’s healthcare facilities, with £100m of investment in new clinics and wellbeing centres

**What are our priorities?**

- to make sure early involvement and support from services is available to all children, young people and their families according to need
- to reduce high levels of dental decay
- to continue to promote health and wellbeing and address health inequalities with a specific focus on reducing obesity
- to continue to improve outcomes for vulnerable groups, including looked after children and minority ethnic groups, those in poverty and families with children and young people with additional needs
- to ensure that all children and young people have access to support for their emotional health and wellbeing
Stay safe

What have we done so far?

• appointed a specialist recruitment post in fostering and adoption
• achieved an ‘outstanding’ rating from inspectors for Oldham’s fostering service
• worked with looked after children to get them more involved in sport
• provided dedicated psychologists for residential children’s homes, fostering, adoption and fieldwork services
• focused on creating greater stability for all looked after children and increasing the pool of foster placements
• been a founder of the e-learning academy which provides online training in awareness of child abuse and neglect
• achieved national recognition for Operation Messenger as an exemplar in ensuring the safety of young people at risk of sexual exploitation
• supported 79 young carers and their families through the National Children’s Homes’ Young Carers Project
• engaged 2,500 primary school pupils in initiatives led by Greater Manchester Police and Fire Services to help them understand safety in the home
• continued to roll out 20mph zones around schools, helping to achieve a reduction of 34% in the number of children and young people killed or seriously injured on Oldham’s roads since 1998

What are our priorities?

• engaged all schools in anti-bullying strategies, supported locally through specialist advisors
• commissioned a specialist counselling service from the voluntary sector for children affected by domestic violence
• established a working group to address digital safety issues for children and young people
• been formally designated ahead of schedule by the Government for Phase 2 of the development of Oldham’s Children’s Centres

• to continue to progress the quality of safeguarding and other service practices in order to improve the outcomes for vulnerable groups
• to strengthen our approach to the prevention of bullying, with a particular emphasis on racist bullying
• to continue to tackle child sexual exploitation in the borough
• to continue to inform children, young people and their families about key risks to their safety and how to deal with them
Enjoy and achieve

What have we done so far?

- achieved an ‘outstanding’ or ‘good’ overall Ofsted rating for 57 of Oldham’s schools, with no school in Oldham deemed by Ofsted to be failing
- narrowed the gap to the national average with Oldham’s scores at Key Stage 1, with a rate of progress above the national average
- ensured all three and four year old children receive their entitlement to a free part-time childcare place
- improved in almost all measures at Key Stage 2, with national recognition of pupil achievement at Level 4 and above
- improved Key Stage 3 scores in both English and science
- shown a significant upward trend in achievement at Key Stage 4
- improved GCSE performance in 11 out of 16 secondary schools
- 13 secondary schools attained specialist status in one or more discipline
- had eight of our secondary schools in the top 25% of all schools for ‘value added’ at the end of Key Stage 4
- improved attendance rates of 94.8% (primary) and 92.39% (secondary) —higher than the national average
- delivered all-year childcare at 32% of primary schools, with 60% of primary and special schools providing care from 8am until 6pm during term time
- achieved a 64% increase in 100% attendance after offering incentives for primary and secondary school pupils
- created extensive opportunities within Gallery Oldham, libraries, museums, sports centres and swimming pools
- organised full programmes of sports activities outside the school day and during holiday periods
- opened six fully operational Children’s Centres and designated a further eight
- created 20 clusters of extended schools plus a full-service extended school campus at South Chadderton School

What are our priorities?

- to improve achievement at Early Years Foundation Stage
- to improve achievement and attainment at all Key Stages
- to improve progression by two levels between Key Stages
- to improve the overall effectiveness of secondary schools
- to improve the proportion of learners achieving level 2 and three qualifications at age 19
- to improve outcomes for looked after children, black and minority ethnic groups, young carers, children and young people from low income backgrounds and those with learning difficulties and disabilities
Make a positive contribution

What have we done so far?

• actively engaged children and young people in consultation about issues and strategies that affect them
• established Youth Committees to enable young people to influence and shape the services they receive
• involved the Oldham Youth Council in decision-making, including giving it responsibility for funding decisions
• formed a Youth Sports Council, which is influencing sports provision
• established local Youth Forums, to enable feedback on issues affecting young people in the area
• strengthened the approach to preventing bullying in schools, with particular emphasis on racist bullying
• increased the percentage of 13–19 year old young people reached by publicly funded youth services to 28.5%, which is above the national average
• engaged over 18,000 children and young people per year in sports provision
• provided musical tuition in schools for 6,500 children and young people every week, plus extra-curricular music activities for almost 1,000
• started work with an external partner, Onside (a subsidiary of Bolton Lads and Girls’ Club), to develop a new flagship youth facility in Oldham
• been awarded £452k from the Youth Capital Fund Plus to help develop a new youth facility in one of Oldham’s deprived neighbourhoods
• engaged over 2,600 young people in community cohesion activities
• paired different schools together to provide opportunities for children to meet other children from different cultural backgrounds and areas
• seen an 8% reduction in first time entrants to the Youth Justice system over the last two years
• brought together different partners to work together to tackle under-age drinking, youth nuisance and anti-social behaviour
• reduced the percentage of young offenders in most areas, including a 47% reduction in young offenders in Alexandra and Medlock Vale South

What are our priorities?

• to enable children and young people to participate in positive activities to promote community cohesion and health, and address inequalities and deprivation
• to increase participation rates in education, training or employment of young people who offend
• to reduce the number of young people who engage in risk-taking behaviour

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Achieve economic wellbeing

What have we done so far?

- invested £0.7m over three years to target the most needy in reducing the number of young people who are not in employment, education or training
- reduced the rate of 16–18 year olds who are not in employment, education or training in Oldham by 16.8% to 7.9%
- reduced the rate of those not in employment, education or training across all vulnerable groups, including young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, teenage parents, care leavers and young offenders
- achieved an 89% rate of participation in further education and work-based learning — which is above the national average
- increased the percentage of looked after children of school age with a personal education plan from 60.9% to 92.5% over the course of the last year
- ensured that 85% of care leavers at age 19 are living in suitable accommodation
- achieved ‘outstanding’ status in all five areas for The Oldham College and Oldham Sixth Form College in their recent Ofsted inspections
- scored 60.8% success rate in National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) for all work-based learners, which is higher than the national average
- improved the levels of entry to higher education
- been awarded the highest rating by Government Office North West for our Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, with particular best practice noted around partnership working and action planning
- responded to over 5,000 enquiries per year to Oldham’s Family Information Services, offering guidance and support in accessing childcare provision

What are our priorities?

- to address high levels of child poverty within the borough by tackling worklessness and re-focusing services towards early involvement and prevention
- to continue to increase the number of 16–19 year old young people in education, employment or training with particular emphasis on vulnerable groups, ward and neighbourhood hotspots
- to increase the percentage of care leavers aged 19 in suitable accommodation
For further information
The detailed version of the Oldham Children and Young People Plan can be downloaded from the Oldham Council web site at www.oldham.gov.uk/children_and_young_people_plan

Other useful sources of information:
Every Child Matters
www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

Oldham Children’s Trust
www.oldham.gov.uk/oldham_childrens_trust

Oldham Family Information Service
Oldham Council
Freephone: 0800 731 1518 (8.40am – 5pm)
Answer phone outside these hours
Email: familyinfo@oldham.gov.uk
www.ouroldham.info

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