

Minutes

Meeting of the Oldham Learning Board

Thursday 28 Sept 2023
Earl Mill Business Centre
at 1:30pm

Present:

Chair	Jane Acklam		
Vice-Chair	Gillian Kay		
Primary Districts	Vikki Oldham Hilary Henderson	Council	Cllr Mohon Ali Matt Bulmer
Post 16	Alan Benvie	Research School	Louise Astbury
Specialist	Sue Caine	MAT	Jessica Giraud Jayne Clarke
Teaching School Hub	Katie Dallender	Secondary District	Sarah North Matt Halls

In Attendance

Council	John Gilmore Martin Burroughs Amber Burton		
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Advisor	Tony Shepherd	Administrator	Chantelle Fraser
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Absent:

DFE	Natasha Robb	Primary	Zaira Cook
Council	Gerard Jones		

1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

JA welcomed Board members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Gerard Jones, Zaira Cook and Natasha Robb. JA welcomed new Board members, SC, JC and NR.

2. Minutes and matters arising

JA confirmed that all papers have previously been circulated, matters discussed are confidential. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed, and all actions discussed. All actions addressed.

AB noted Section 8 – post 16 information and confirmed that T-levels are promoted as equally as A-Levels. In addition, locational occupational maps have been produced. Occupational hyperlink will be shared individually by AB.

3. Impact 2022/23

End of Key Stage outcomes

TS spoke about the paper showing positive impact at most KS levels:

- EY outcomes are stronger, and in some cases above GM averages.
- KS2 are moving closer to national averages.
- KS4 outcomes was a priority for opportunity area and now started to see success, with improvements across most academies and schools.
- KS5 A*-E above average but A* – A is below average. This does not reflect post 16 achievements because just 1/3 of Oldham cohort take them. Post 16 Board is looking at collection of additional data on other qualifications.

Priority 1 – Attendance

JG shared presentation with members. JG presented attendance data to members and discussed areas where dips in attendance had happened over the year and reasons for the dip. JG discussed secondary attendance in line with national average and vulnerable groups were outlined. There is a substantial gap in special schools falls 2.5% in line with national average. Persistent absence is currently in line with national averages for KS4. Special schools and primary highlight above national average.

- Key themes from data have identified that there has been a fall in transition in year 6 and year 7, as a result the inclusion teams have worked with school and completed 101 home visits for support with transitioning pupils which has had an impact on attendance. Waterhead and R&C have seen significant increase in attendance with this support when working with the schools and families.
- Another key theme is persistent absence continues to be a concern across the borough. As a result, back to school communications were completed throughout in August. Inclusion teams have been working with schools and attendance teams have been in contact with families.
- Early years reception attendance is 1% below national average. JG working Early Years teams and attendance teams to provide dashboards on attendance so that it can be reviewed collectively.
- Increase in students' absence due to EBSA, attendance has been tracked to reception level to look at themes in data. Predominately in Year 8 girls (73%) and they continue to fall in 9-11. Early identification is needed with EBSA, and generally these students attend Primary very well. This has become a key focus for attendance leads, Vicky Harold (EP) senior lead, and case studies are being carried out on young people to work on.

HH questioned data packs and identification errors. JG confirmed that statutory and non-statutory figures were causing some issues with data due to not segregation. This has now been rectified and continue to work through those issues. JG confirmed that data packs for next academic will be built with individual schools with data checks to avoid these issues.

JC asked if all the trusts are signed up with the attendance team for transition targeted meeting, could some trusts be missing out on support if the trust doesn't sign up for the SLA. TS confirmed all details will be on Oldham Connect and asked JG to consider this proposal. MB if attendance does arise as a priority for OL, we would welcome a discussion with the trusts on what this would look like as an Oldham-wide approach.

Cllr Ali discussed the key focuses of attendance and questioned if Covid catch up continues to be an issue. Cllr Ali asked what Eid is marked as, JG confirmed as per DFE guidelines this is marked as Religious Observation which does not count on attendance. Members agreed that some schools are disproportionately affected by this measure. JG highlighted that this has been questioned with DFE to investigate further with case studies and evidence. Cllr Ali is in

discussions with MB and TS to address the impact, for example The Hathershaw College complete Inset Days on EID to address this DFE issue.

TS confirmed that we are not back to pre-pandemic levels where attendance is concerned. HH confirmed this is noticeable at EY stages with some challenges with attention which is currently being discussed at districts.

JA thanked all the team involved in improving attendance and supporting children, young people and their families.

Priority 2 – Writing

TS shared information on writing and discussed impact on KS1 & KS2 outcomes. Due to improvements in writing, both are moving closer to national averages. This was supported through additional training targeted at 59 schools and district collaboration. Anecdotal feedback indicates that both made significant difference. This is evidence of impact from prioritisation.

Priority 3 – SLC

AB not available today. MB will add some context in later item on SEND.

District Projects

Oldham East (GK) – developing teaching assistants, the uptake was positive, and training is in very early stages. Feedback is mixed due to the difference in experience of the staff across schools. Webinar allows access for all staff to be able to attend around school needs. This will form part of the appraisal and impact continues to be in the very early stages.

North – (HH) as above. Also, contributes to appraisal and allows for monitoring impact. Tas feel confident support children and young people but expressed greater support around Autism and effective use of teaching assistants. Full collation of responses have been sent to TS for information.

Chadderton (VO) – writing and moderation, the impact has been positive on outcomes which evidences this training has worked. Second priority is SEND, a new directory of expertise has been established to share good practice.

South (MG) – writing and moderation, visiting different school which feeds into improvements boroughwide. Maths leads and developing subject Leads and impact, these projects were led by SLE's which has a positive impact. Attendance continues to be a priority at district level. TS proposed that there will be potential capacity for JG attend a District meeting to share data and good practice. GK confirms there is a buy in for this from all primaries on this.

JA raised concerns around 60% approx. uptake. JC attendance correlates with the schools that need it the most. HH highlights non-attendance will impact on other members of SLT and what they can access. MB suggested allowing opportunities for schools to discuss this. GK confirmed those schools with new Heads have good attendance. All districts agreed to review previous attendance and look for trends to bring back to Board.

4. Priorities 2023/24

Borough population data (MBurroughs)

Annual forecasts for population are requested by DFE for academic years. MBu shared paper and discussed trends for birth figures compared to schools. 'Cohort survival' is completed to project how that will look for academic years. Housing development/demolitions projection are considered which then informs the data going forward. There has been a slight decrease in number of births over the past two years and determination of this will continue is unknown. Primary places are expected to go down and Secondary is likely to be maintain for the next ten years. Migration is unknown due to Brexit. There are also lots of other factors that contribute to data such as impact of Covid and increase in marriage ages etc.

HH questioned if data is based on birth registrations. MBurroughs confirmed that this is recording using births in hospital. GK highlighted back up plans for schools. MB invited member to discuss what this will mean for schools if numbers become limited. There is an understanding of where this data sits for the future and how is this planned for

the here and now. JG confirms that schools have had a fall in numbers, concerns at secondary levels. JC acknowledged and raised similar concerns. JA questioned patterns of migration, MBu advised it is very difficult to track these patterns. JA invites Board to discuss what happens to schools and how the message is delivered. How do we prevent it. TS highlighted that pre-pandemic projections originally showed an increase in birth rates, migration causes a concern and Brexit has a part to play in this. Having the data allows for discussions and plans to take place in preparation for it.

MB discussed the correct response and asked member not to distribute population data with staff. MB advised to communicate it within forums with practical considerations for actions going forward. JG suggested for this to be discussed at Oldham Secondary/Trust CEO level. All members agreed that having the data allows for discussions and plans to take place in preparation for changes in population data.

SEND

MB discussed the SEND Area Inspection at length and reflected the position in Oldham. The Inspection findings priorities and areas for improvement were discussed with members. MB advised that the partnership (Oldham Council and ICB) continue to work together to produce a priority action plan to be finalised and published in line with DFE. A formal monitoring inspection will then commence, and Oldham Council will be subject to re-inspection to monitor progress in the next 15 months.

Oldham Council/Health colleagues continue to work on recovery plans and investments so that services can become sustainable for families in Oldham.

Demand for EHCP continues to rise, therefore, additional support continues to be reviewed and established from early intervention and prevention perspective with early language support.

MG expressed gratitude for information on the plan going forward with respect to SEND. SN supported this and highlighted that secondary's recognise that early intervention and prevention at EY level is where the priorities need to be. MB foresees this as a priority for many years and believes must see this as a positive.

Cllr Ali will continue to chair the SEND partnership Board and asks Board to support this partnership. Local Improvement Board will be established for delivery of the improvement plans of SEND going forward.

JA invites board to decide on have SEND as a priority for Oldham Learning Board. As a board we should be in a position that we can feel the difference to the SEND plan. All Board agrees.

School improvement through partnerships

JA highlighted that the data identifies some factors are uncertain for the future, however OL Board need to ensure that all schools are in a partnership to ensure support is there for any possible demographic challenges. Data shows that some things are uncertain, considerations need to take place for the impact of these. JA invited members to agree this becomes a priority for Oldham learning. All Board agreed.

JA invited members to discuss any other priorities for the next academic year. No other priorities discussed.

PEIA attendance priority

TS shared paper with members and advised it is still awaiting approval from the DFE.

5. Accountability

JA opened discussions on Multi Academy Trusts and noted that Oldham has a range of national, local, and regional MATs are currently working. OL Board are able to discuss and explore that we are getting the best out of all the MATs to ensure that the needs of all of our children and young people are being met. JA discussed utilised MATs as educational bodies and civic responsibility. OL is aware of the work that the local trusts are contributing to the Borough, for example Teaching Hub, SKIT, research school etc. However, more work is needed to investigate what

the National Trusts can bring to the Borough. JA proposed a collective MAT engagement exercise around performance to build data and intelligence is required to determine what support is being given to Oldham.

MB proposed the role for OL Board is to lead on this system in discussions with the trusts on what we do for Oldham as a place, for its children and you people and build on the strengths that is bespoke to the Borough. MB invited members to discuss.

JG advised there has been a new CEO and leadership team with a plan to move in line with the local authorities. The intention is to work more within the local authority. As a start, TOAN have started those conversations with Heads to discuss what they can offer the borough. JG confirms that outreach has been successful at Royton and Crompton and welcomes the outreach to other schools. JC confirmed this should be part of all trusts strategic plans and welcomes the challenges this will bring. MB is currently in discussions with CEOs of Oldham to develop a mandate through Oldham Learning and engagement going forward.

Using case studies TS discussed the positive impact of Trusts and contributions at borough level.

6. CPD Offer

KD discussed the following:

- KD all ECTs are in conferences this week and last week. Approx. 1000 have had face to face conferences which has highlighted a huge improvement on attendance.
- Lack of knowledge from Primaries around ECF, so communications are continuing around this.
- Appropriate body – 200 active schools with ECTS. Most schools in Oldham with ECTs are working with the Hub. KD thanks Board for their input and partnership with this.
- 48% of next cohort for NPQs are from Oldham schools which is positive
- Leading Primary Maths to follow in Spring.
- The teaching Hub Start to map the local area in ITT, this has been requested from as many schools as possible. KD welcomes some support around this information. Train and place trainees.
- ECT additionality is now live and will be sent to all those in their 3rd year with a menu of twilight sessions to chose from.
- Networks 24 secondaries now subscribed to networks.
- Language Hub will commence in January – 5-7 secondary schools to partner to complete intense. Transitions of language, more information to follow on how this will look.
- For information; <https://www.cranmer-institute.com/ect-programme/>
- ECT+ Programme attached for information.

LA discussed the following:

- Pre MPQ – new to leadership.
- Leadership for managers – non-teaching staff ie business managers
- Combined offer from OL on primary curriculum – commences Oct
- Non-teaching staff training on behaviour management.
- Research school has changed now that Oldham has been taken off the list.
- HH confirms Deputies Network is now established for the whole of Oldham.
- Education Psychology – discussions currently being taken place on needs of the borough

TS - LeadHership

The programme for prospect BAME women leaders is starting January 2024. There will be a soft launch for Black History Month with info through the briefing. Please encourage staff to come along to attend.

1. Date of next meeting; AOB

JA thanked all members for attendance.

The confirmed OL Board meetings for current academic year

- Thursday 23rd November 2023
- Thursday 25th January 2024
- Thursday 14th March 2024
- Thursday 2nd May 2024
- Thursday 27th June 2024

All meetings for 1:30 -3:30pm at Earl Mill Business Centre

10.1 Summary of actions

	Action	Responsibility
1		

Meeting finished: **15:33pm**