

Minutes

Meeting of the Oldham Learning Board

Thursday 23 Nov 2023
Earl Mill Business Centre
at 1:30pm

Present:

Chair	Jane Acklam		
Vice-Chair	Gillian Kay		
Primary Districts	Zaira Cook	Council	Gerard Jones Matt Bulmer
Post 16	Alan Benvie	DFE	Natasha Robb
Specialist	Sue Caine	MAT	Jayne Clarke
Teaching School Hub	Katie Dallender	Secondary District	Sarah North

In Attendance

Advisor	Tony Shepherd	Administrator	Chantelle Fraser

Absent:

Council	Cllr Mohon Ali	Primary	Vikki Oldham Mary Garvey Hilary Henderson
Research School	Louise Astbury	Secondary District	Matt Halls
MAT	Jessica Giraud		

1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

JA welcomed Board members to the meeting and welcomed new member Natasha Robb. Apologies were received from Cllr Mohon Ali, Vikki Oldham, Mary Garvey, Hilary Henderson, Jessica Giraud and Louise Astbury.

TS updated members that Matt Halls has stepped down as a MAT Deputy representative due to a new position. Therefore, recruitment for a new Deputy representative will begin.

Action: SN to contact OASHP about recruiting a deputy representative.

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

3. Priorities 23/24

3.1 SEND Briefing

MB shared papers with member and discussed in detail. SEND Conference 28.11.2023 to discuss post inspection update, level of need and performance in Oldham where a thorough update will be provided.

MB discussed the two priority actions in Oldham with regards to Senior Leadership and access to services. This includes a focus on SLCN, transitions and quality of EHC Plans and reviews of EHC Plans.

SEND and Inclusion strategy has now been published. The Priority Action Plan has now been approved and published to Ofsted. This is accountable for the next 15 months.

The Council has been issued with an improvement notice from DfE and this has now been published. This means there will be a further DfE and NHS England visit to Oldham in January to complete a Deep Dive over the SEND Partnership with additional deep dives every 3 months over the year before the re-inspection. This will be discussed further at SEND Conference.

MB discussed governance and confirmed a Leadership Executive Board has been established, chaired with Council and NHS Leaders. Dame Christine Lenehen will be independently chaired from January and will be impartial. Matt Bulmer and Gerard Jones are on the board along with other members of the leadership in health Commissioning ICB, NHS England and DfE Monitoring Officials to ensure scrutiny is a measure.

Action Plan – MB discussed through the action plan for the Borough and informed members of funding from DfE to incorporate into 4 GM Local authorities to use in Alternative Provision, resource for level of need and provision and the standardisation of EHCP's. Additional funding discussed to focus on Early Language in EY/Primary setting. SLC training for 8-12 staff over the next quarter of the calendar year. Additionally, requests Expression of Interests for improving/adding provision for SEND and frontline capacity and provision available in Oldham. The Delivering Better Value programme in in the final stages of the grant application for the possible funding to be made available for provisions to assess and identify needs in the borough.

AB expressed gratitude for getting Oldham onto this programme.

JC prompted the importance of getting all the offers to work together coherently. Levels of demand is projected to increase and so all provisions need to make a difference. MB advised the SEND conference will be key for all professionals working together going forward to understand how the action plan and programmes will be developed. Supported by GK keen to hear what is happening and what the landscape is going to look like. MB advised that in addition to the Leadership Executive Board there is the wider SEND Partnership which includes PCF, Primary, Secondary and Special School representatives, there are sufficient channels for everyone to communicate effectively so that everyone can identify potential problems as they are emerging.

JA confirmed that updates will be given at each Board going forward and MB confirmed slides 2a and 2b and the priority action plan can be shared with districts.

MB discussed the new SEND Dashboard with members and advised that it is still in prototype stage at the moment but contains a range of SEND matrixes in Oldham. MB confirmed SEND demand is high comparatively to other regions and continues to increase. The sustainability funding will be utilised to reduce demand. The change programme will trial consistency of data across all neighbouring authorities to allow comparative data across GM. Performance is good comparatively, there is business case in to employ more SEND assessment officers to resource demand.

Attendance data is discussed. SC questioned data relating to special schools not being sufficient. MB National data set and confirmed work is being carried out to unpick the data set to give a sufficient overview. TS advised on special school dataset and confirmed there are variabilities across special data set. TS asked members for a volunteer to work with John Gilmore in more depth around the dataset, SC agreed.

Action: JG and SC to investigate SEND attendance data anomalies.

Waiting list data is discussed. A recovery plan is being carried out with Northern Care Alliance to reduce waiting times for SLCN. Plans are in place to improve with the potential recruitment of agency SALT professionals in Oldham to reduce the demand. In addition, increase SALT provision so that waiting times does not creep up again in the future. A vast amount of work continues to be completed with data validity. Community Pead's and CAMHS very much the same. MB less leverage on CAMHS as it is commissioned by Greater Manchester, complexities of this are discussed and ongoing plans. No CAMHS commissioned service for 16-18yos at the moment, this is currently being investigated. SALT referrals are going down because people are not referring down. The authority is still using this when building on data.

JA consulted members around information provided on SEND. All members agreed the information is beneficial.

JC questioned Strategic Partnership and what members represents schools. JC recognises an awareness for a member of school representation at the SP. MB advised the issues we are facing now are not within the schools, its LA and NHS and so members agreed Oldham Board to feed back to MB as a starting point.

Action: MB to report on SEND at each other board meeting.

3.2 Attendance

Key features include:

- Primary attendance is tracking upwards compared to last year but still below national average. TS confirmed that the LA will be writing to the Secretary of State to look at why children from a particular cultural are penalised in terms of attendance when celebrating events.
- Secondary attendance key issue is gender differences, girls tracking 1% below boys, the cohort is a significant proportion.
- Persistent absences continue to be a challenge.
- Special School 2.7% below national, and statistical neighbours we are broadly benchmarking towards the bottom.

TS invited members to give feedback on Dashboard:

ZC confirmed the dashboard is useful and asked if there could be a data set relating to ethnicity and attendance. TS advised this was piloted earlier in the year, distinct shift from primary to secondary.

NR advised the DfE currently working with TS regarding a proposal for employing family support workers to target predominantly secondary schools because that is where the priority investment area in so it will be looking at improving outcomes KS4 (English and Maths). Ongoing discussions are being carried out with DfE for Early years and Special School.

ZC questioned if family hubs can provide support. TS confirms that JG is currently working on this.

SN agreed that attendance in Secondary has improved, although the impact on outcomes at top end for a particular group of young people have significantly impacted on results due to a lack of mental health support. Although it is not showing directly showing on the figure there is a significant impact in numbers from Year 8. TS confirmed some work is being carried out with IPSA and the educational psychologist around mental health support.

JC discussed the rigidity of the offer for PEIA is not always there for targeting support here it is needed. TS confirmed that the work being carried out can pick up on themes with school and support is targeted to evidence difference and impact.

JA advised that sustainability will be a key theme over this next year.

All board agree to keep the same format and review at subsequent meets.

Action: TS/JG to consider ethnicity dataset to be added to dashboard, which will be shared at each other meeting.

3.3 School Improvements through partnerships

TS distributed papers and explained these in detail.

Primary Ofsted is now above national averages, Secondary is down which identifies a shift over time. Figures identify that there has been a positive set of results from assessments in the summer. Children who are disadvantaged are performing well in comparison with peers elsewhere.

The view is that the provision is sufficient for current requirements and population.

DfE place plan identifies enough primary MATs in the Borough, but additional strong MATs are needed in secondary. Plans are set for faith schools to move into MATs over time. Council view is that schools work better in partnerships.

Education strategy priorities reiterated.

JA invited members to discuss.

NR advised that the primary MATs are currently being looked into and she will provide an update at next meet.

JC questioned if the paper could reference number of pupils in maintained/academy.

JC questioned DfE plan for Star academies growth in Oldham. NR confirmed there may be future growth.

KD asked for inclusion of the language hub and other hubs in the area.

Action: JA invited members to share papers and discuss with districts/forums.

Action: NR to provide DfE Oldham plan update at next meeting.

Action: TS to make amendments to paper.

4. Impact 2022/23

TS shared paper on outcomes. It shows some recovery from the pandemic, improvements on last set of data and better benchmarks. Key points are:

- Outcomes for disadvantaged continue to be a strength
- KS1 – less in phonics than national improvement but reading is greater.
- KS2 – improvement writing, maths and gps compared to national
- KS4 – strong performance and P8 improved.

5. ITT

Initial Teacher Training has identified reduced workforce and number of vacancies are increasing, retention of staff has become very difficult. To add to this, results for market reform is suggest that there will not be as many providers for ITT in 2024. Large national and local providers who have been successful in being re-accredited.

Quality requirements will change and are outlined in the paper. There will be a change in the minimum mentoring time, and this will be increased. Providers are working with schools to utilise this effectively. Training time will be mandatory at 20hours, previously this was 0. This will be with any provider. Teachers in the first 3 years are well supported through intense mentoring programmes in an aim to retain teachers. There will be mentor funding through ITT.

KD advised that these changes need communicating through schools. This will have an impact of ECF requirements and funding. SN discussed that taking out best practitioners to train teachers also impact schools, results and outcomes.

Utilising Mentors across trusts is not allowed due to a restriction on being assigned to more than one school. JC asked NR if this could go back to DfE as a request to change.

Intensive Training and Placement (ITAP) - there requirement for all providers to have these placements, some providers will want to complete some specific intense placement weeks in schools setting pending the specialism.

Teaching school hubs have a specific remit. A requirement to engage school in the strategic changes that are proposed.

- Ready to provide
- Increase school engagement across the region
- Support providers to find the ITAP

There must be an understanding on what is going on in the Borough.

- Communicate reforms with schools at the level that they need it.
- Work with other NW providers
- Map what the current employment looks like so that the cold spots can be addressed.

Following this, analyse information and provide support where needed. Working together to make suggestions and think creatively on how to support schools.

Action: KD confirmed the document can be shared with districts/forums.

6. PEIA

NR confirmed that KS4 E/M diagnostic work is underway, 10 secondaries identified, 4 plans back, 2 are being reviewed. The programme will include different trusts working across different schools in the 4 priority areas, key themes to be brought to next meeting with update.

NR and TS working together on attendance contract. TS to submit expected outcomes before it gets the approval.

LA provided information on SEND programme as follows:

Oldham Secondary Schools Early Identification of Need CPD programme.

Fully funded + participation grant available.

East Manchester Teaching School Hub has been commissioned by the DfE, in partnership with Newbridge Multi Academy Trust, to develop and deliver the above CPD programme. The programme is designed to support mainstream schools to develop a whole school approach to inclusive practice through targeted professional development.

The programme will provide high quality professional development and bespoke school to school support. It will:

- support schools to review their current provision and needs;
- support strategic action planning
- provide professional development at all levels of the organisation (school leaders, teachers, and teaching assistants)
- provide each delegate/school with a named SLE to support with in school implementation
- increase multi-agency working
- enhance support for parents/carers of pupils with SEND

The programme has been developed using the latest research and guidance from reliable sources (Whole School SEND, the EEF, the Autism Education Trust), considering the Standard for Teachers' Professional Development (2016) and the EEF's guide to Effective Professional Development (2021).

The programme will run for 12 months, commencing in Spring 2024.

The programme is fully funded for all Oldham Secondary Schools through the PEIA local needs fund. Additionally, participating schools will be eligible for a participation grant of up to £1950.

Due to the funding stream, this is an Oldham Secondary School only offer and there are 12 places available.

Action: If you would like your school to participate, please complete the form on the website by 15.12.2023.

7. LeadHERship Programme

TS shared information of the LeadHERShip programme and advised that this has been launched with schools to register expressions of interest. The take up has been low and members were asked about barriers to get people onto this programme.

Action: TS to send survey out to Heads for feedback.

8. Date of next meeting; AOB

JA thanked all members for attendance.

The confirmed OL Board meetings for current academic year

- **Thursday 25th January 2024 – Please note: This will change to online – Teams invite to follow**
- Thursday 14th March 2024
- Thursday 2nd May 2024
- Thursday 27th June 2024

All meetings for 1:30 -3:30pm

10.1 Summary of actions

	Action	Responsibility
1	OASHP to recruiting a deputy representative.	SN
2	Investigate SEND attendance data anomalies.	JG/SC
3	Report on SEND at each other board meeting.	MB
4	Survey out to Heads for feedback. <i>Survey distributed week commencing 27th November, closing date 8th December</i>	TS/CF
5	Consider ethnicity dataset be added to attendance dashboard, which will be shared at each other meeting.	TS/JG
6	Share papers and discuss with districts/forums.	All
7	DfE Oldham plan update at next meeting.	NR
8	Make amendments to partnerships paper.	TS
9	Share the document with districts/forums.	KD

Meeting finished: **15:30pm**