

Minutes

Meeting of the Oldham Learning Board

Thursday 25 January 2024

Microsoft Teams

at 1:30pm

Present:

Chair	Jane Acklam		
Vice-Chair	Gillian Kay		
Primary Districts	Zaira Cook Mary Garvey	Council	Gerard Jones Matt Bulmer Cllr Mohon Ali
Post 16	Alan Benvie	DFE	Natasha Robb
Specialist	Sue Caine	MAT	Jayne Clarke
Teaching School Hub	Katie Dallender	Secondary District	Sarah North Charlotte Evans
Research School	Louise Astbury		

In Attendance

John Gilmore	Council		
Advisor	Tony Shepherd	Administrator	Chantelle Fraser

Absent:

MAT	Jessica Giraud	Primary	Hilary Henderson
Primary	Vikki Oldham		

1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

JA welcomed Board members to the meeting including new member Charlotte Evans. Apologies were received from Hilary Henderson, Jessica Giraud, Vikki Oldham.

JA congratulates Jayne Clarke OBE who was recognised in the King's New Year's Honours list for services to further education. Congratulations from all members of the Board.

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.

Action - SEND attendance anomalies to be presented at next Board by JG

3. Priorities 23/24

3.1 SEND Briefing

MB shared papers with members and discussed in detail.

Paper 2a SEND Brief

Governance - MB and AB met with Dame Christine Lenehan, who will chair first The Local Inclusion Partnership Executive Board on 5 February 2024. Dame Christine Lenehan also chairs SEND Partnership for Hertfordshire and Nottinghamshire.

Progress since SEND Conference:

Funding for the following programmes is now with the partnership, action will commence in Spring/Summer term.

- Delivering Better Value Programme this is where schools will notice frontline support. This programme is focused on stemming demand, early identification, and prevention. This will fund additional advisory Teachers with specific SEND experience to work with schools and SENCOs. A focus will be given to ASD advise in schools.
- Change Partnership Programme is focused on the statutory process of EHCPs, assessments and reviews. employ transitions officer. For schools a transitions officer will be employed to be responsible for transitions at all levels. Also, a quality officer will be employed within LA to review and improve the quality of education and health care plans. There will be five posts funded for auditing alternative provision in Oldham, working with schools to determine what alternative position. There will be specific work with the pupil referral unit in Kingsland to complete targeted work with pupils prior to exclusions and include a step in/out provision. There will be national standardisation of EHCPs and standardised data set.
- Early Language Support for Every Child Programmes focused on early years and primary sector. Funding will employ 11 posts for early identification and prevention work, to include Team Leader, Therapists and 8 assistant therapies with health background. Fixed term posts 18months - 2years, co-managed with LA and northern care alliance and will sit with early years better communications team of which MB oversees.

GK - Summary paper highlights all the progress since the SEND Conference. Following the Primary Headteacher forum requests for additional information for schools who have been accepted on the alternative resource provision.

Action: MB to confirm and update accordingly.

Paper 2b. SEND Dashboard

Dashboard shared with members. MB highlighted no major movements in the data, currently outlines the waiting lists for Speech and language.

Paper 2c. SEND Demand

MB referenced paper and contextualised the reduce in performance of timelessness of EHCP, highlighting that Oldham is still above the national average.

JC discussed 'recommendations' section of the paper and highlighted to be cautious of the use of benchmarks and comparisons to statistical neighbours. MB confirmed that paper went to executive board where this data is required and acknowledged that national and regional comparators is outlined for information for members. This paper outlines how we deal with demand now and put into place preventative measures to stem demand in the future.

GJ discussed paper and thanked members for understanding on moving forward as the funding starts to arrive. GJ shared there has been significant investments and reassured colleagues that the council are working at pace. GJ commended MB for hard work in obtaining funding. The scales of overspend are incredible which is having detrimental impact on all services. GJ discussed the borough statistics, external pressures are having an impact on demand, schools, admissions. Coming together to support each other to manage this and asked members to continue to support.

MB confirmed that members can share Papers **2a. and 2b. (only)** with representatives. Paper 2c not to be shared at present.

AB offered support on assisting with lobbying through the Change programme.

Action: All members with specific phase issues on SEND to let CF know prior to the next Board meeting so that they can be passed to MB.

3.2 Partnerships

TS reminded members to share information and key items through the briefing that is shared through partnerships to keep it high profile. If there are any items members want adding to the brief, then send these to Gerry Barry.

Key features include:

- Reviewed revised data for KS1 and 2 – identified that some schools continue with challenges around writing, targeted work with these schools will be carried out. JS will include information in next briefing.
- Reinvigorating the work we do with hubs, includes literacy and numeracy. JS has been working through the hubs to ensure they are getting the full range of Oldham schools to sign up.
- Population changes in the borough. Demography information shared at previous Board. Primary schools in Royton, Crompton & Shaw and Saddleworth & Lees impacted. DFE research proposes advocacy work across partnership. Conversations with school leaders already happening, as well as forum briefings.

ZC confirmed at Primary Heads meeting the fair access protocol was discussed and questioned if the protocol could be linked in with schools not in education but schools who have places to offer that than those that do not have numbers. TS/JA confirmed that this approach would undermine the fair access protocol.

Action: Members aware of schools struggling to engage with hubs contact JS.

3.3 Attendance

JG shared dashboard with members and discussed data of the borough for both Primary and Secondary sectors. As requested, attendance by ethnicity has now been added to the dashboard. Ethnicity data can be filtered further to ascertain data on certain pupils' groups by gender, FSM for example.

MB discussed take up of childcare entitlement being low across different populations which could impact primary attendance. This is currently a focus on central district with regards to termtime holidays which will have impact on attendance. MB confirmed that work is being carried out in local communities and through mosques to target impact.

JG confirmed this paper can be shared with districts.

4. MAT CEO Roundtable

MB updated members on the MAT Roundtable event Chadderton Town Hall in February which will include leaders across the Borough and CEO of MATs in Oldham coming together to re-establish a forum for where capacity that is held within the trusts can be identified and discussed across the system with an ambition that is co-ordinating over time. Oldham Learning will be central in this discussion, JA role will be to explain to leaders where OL fits into these plans, sector led organisation with shared priorities for the benefit of Oldham.

Communication will include demographic changes in Oldham, systemwide approach, joint working for all schools, ITT and recruitment. KD has completed important work around the ITT survey which will be included and discussed with members. Lastly, identifying the funding for schools over the next 5 years and safeguarding the financial viability.

5. PEIA

NR shared paper with members Oldham delivery plan for local needs plans.

Set into two main priorities:

- KS4 outcomes focuses of two commissioned programmes. One programme is targeted key stage support for ten schools, uses trusts in or outside the area for attainment improvement. The other programme is part of the universal SEND Offer currently working with KD to get commissioned.
- Attendance working closely with TS on programme to tackle persistent absence in 10 secondary schools

Not all school improvement plans are active yet. NR and TS are working with schools on this so that the funding can be used. For school who have submitted plans, general themes include quality of education, sequencing of curriculum and embedding of learning, expectation of pupils and achievements during lessons and disadvantaged pupils improving progress 8. Other voluntary offers from the department can be shared and further uptake is welcomed.

TS highlighted positive borough data for disadvantaged pupils compared to non-disadvantaged pupils and asked for this to be feedback to DFE to reconsider cohort.

JC questioned 'stage 2' section of the paper what this means in practice. NR confirmed the sustainability of the changes that are carried forward and learning that can be shared across the trust schools.

AB shared information on EEF and Post 16 provision there is access to the centre of excellence.

KD questioned the Behaviour Hubs and there was appetite from Oldham schools but looks as though only one school in Oldham was selected. Is there possibility to obtain feedback on this on selection process.

SN said that Secondary Heads discussed inconsistency of provision around attendance hubs work, and geographical issues. TS advised that feedback from Heads was that they struggle with feedback from NET, who have since got in contact with those two academies. NR to raise concerns, investigate and feedback

Action: Amanda Youlden/AB to consider action plan at Skills and Employment Board of what is coming prior to Easter to share with Board.

Action: LA will update on EEF trials and programmes coming to Oldham.

Action: NR to obtain information on Behaviours Hubs selection for Oldham schools and bring to May 2024 Board.

6. ITT Survey Findings

KD shared information on survey feedback and engagement in the area. Strategic recruitment for Oldham and how it can be utilised to retain teachers. Response rate is now up to 80%, KD thanked Board for pushing this through networks.

Key information from survey:

- Most schools are engaged in ITT with varying experiences.
- Those schools who are not engaged is not because they don't want to be, but external factors preventing them.
- Lots of school are working with different providers which will pose a problem when the new mentor training requirements come through.
- Capacity issues
- All schools want to be engaged to grow their own and increase capacity.

MB and KD are meeting to discuss how this can be shared with MAT schools, locality and providers for local placements for Oldham, communicating the changes in the training mentoring programme, the recruitment crisis. All to be discussed with MB and shared with Board.

GK confirmed the paper was shared and noted the changes in mentor training requirements to districts.

TS recruitment and retention continues to be a challenge across the borough, in particular secondary schools. Take some views on whole borough initiatives and sharing them with Board to take a strategic view.

MG agrees creative thinking is requirement especially on some of the trusts who are suggesting 9-day fortnight. JC agreed that attractive and variable working options could mean Oldham become an attractive place to work for work-life balance.

SN funding apprenticeships for certain subjects for the next academic year, exploiting other professions to take a change in career direction.

KD confirmed that paper can be shared through networks.

7. LeadHERship Programme

CF shared information of the LeadHERShip programme and advised take up, starts dates and programme information. The current take up has been low and members were asked about barriers to get people onto this programme. Feedback from the Heads survey included.

Cllr Ali agreed this is a very good programme for BAME women, possibly looking at lowering the grade of who this can be offered to. Cllr Ali agreed to push this offer/programme through coffee mornings in schools.

GJ highlighted the importance of having representatives working in schools, reflective of the communities they work with.

TS confirmed that the issue needs further exploration, including pathway into teaching for BAME colleagues.

JA noted this may become a priority for Oldham Learning next year.

Action: TS/JA to consider ways of gathering additional data on pathway into teaching and SLT for BAME colleagues.

8. Feedback from Districts and Forums

MG/GK – SEND Officer Nicola Smith in attendance and remit discussed partnerships, low pupil numbers and SEND services. Failsworth and Hollinwood focused on writing, Maths Leadership and attendance networks.

ZC discussed increased in attendance, collaborative working, SLT supporting teaching and learning in other schools in preparation for deep dives and Ofsted inspection. Positive feedback received with regards to communications from Council on SEND and Attendance.

OL slot available at Leadership Conference on 22 March. LA offered to use this time to discuss Research School trials and programmes.

Action: JA and TS to discuss options for the OL slot at Leadership Conference.

9. Date of next meeting; AOB

JA thanked all members for attendance.

The confirmed OL Board meetings for current academic year

- Thursday 14th March 2024 Location: Oldham College Rochdale Road, Town Centre, Oldham OL9 6AA. Report to Reception.
- Thursday 2nd May 2024 Location: Earl Mill Business Park
- Thursday 27th June 2024 Location: Earl Mill Business Park

All meetings for 1:30 -3:30pm

10.1 Summary of actions

	Action	Responsibility
1	SEND attendance anomalies to be presented at next Board	JG
2	Alternate Provision Resource - MB to confirm and update accordingly	MB

3	All members with specific phase issues on SEND to let CF know prior to the next Board meeting so that they can be passed to MB.	ALL
4	Members aware of schools struggling to engage with hubs contact JS	ALL
5	Amanda Youlden/AB to consider action plan at Skills and Employment Board of what is coming prior to Easter to share with Board.	AY/AB
6	LA will update on EEF trials and programmes coming to Oldham.	LA
7	NR to obtain information on Behaviours Hubs selection for Oldham schools and bring to May 2024 Board	NR
8	TS/JA to consider ways of gathering additional data on pathway into teaching and SLT for BAME colleagues	TS/JA
9	JA and TS to discuss options for the OL slot at Leadership Conference.	TS/JA

Meeting finished: **15:30pm**