

Minutes

Meeting of the Oldham Learning Board

Thursday 25 April 2024

Earl Mill

at 1:30pm

Present:

Chair			
Vice-Chair	Gillian Kay		
Primary Districts	Zaira Cook Mary Garvey Vikki Oldham		
MAT	Jessica Giraud	Secondary District	Charlotte Evans
Teaching School	Katie Dallender		

In Attendance

GMCA	Nicola McLeod	GMLP	Margaret Woodhouses
Advisor	Tony Shepherd	Administrator	Chantelle Fraser

Absent:

Chair	Jane Acklam	Council	Gerard Jones Cllr Ali Matt Bulmer
DFE	Natasha Robb	Specialist	Sue Caine
Research School	Louise Astbury	Post 16	Alan Benvie
Primary District	Hilary Henderson	MAT	Jayne Clarke
Secondary District	Sarah North		

1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

GK welcomed Board members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Jane Acklam, Gerard Jones, Matt Bulmer, Cllr Ali, Sue Caine, Jayne Clarke, Sarah North, Hilary Henderson, Alan Benvie, Natasha Robb and Louise Astbury.

2. Minutes and matters arising

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

Actions noted:

- Julie Stevens has redistributed the Maths Hubs information.
- TOAN AHT is happy to attend Board to discuss putting candidates forward for LeadHERship.
- TS/AC met with HTs in Saddleworth/Lees/Royton, Crompton and Shaw districts who will be affected by population changes. Also made notes of three other schools who may be affected by the changes over the next academic year. Written report to be presented at the next Board meeting. Discussions with school regards have been positive.
- Anne Clarke feedback given on attendance.

3. The Greater Manchester Baccalaureate

NM introduced the Greater Manchester Baccalaureate (referred to as the MBacc) to members. A pilot originally proposed by Andy Burnham to create two pathways for students for planning beyond their GCSEs, the MBacc will help to give young people and alternative technical route to take. This would allow those who are not as suited to the academic path to gain the technical skills that local employers need to help fill workforce gaps, whilst not depriving them of the opportunity to gain a university education.

Once the MBacc route has been chosen, young people can then go on to achieve T-Level qualifications, the technical alternative to A-Levels before then deciding on whether to go on to higher education. There are currently seven gateways of access that represent a broad view of the economy which includes 13 representatives to set up T-Levels, advocate for apprenticeships and beyond.

GK praised the vision of the project and the pathways of the project. Furthered by JG, who praised the project and added that the basis of a careers education and curriculum that can be implemented from year 7 and build around it to better prepare our young people for their futures. MBACC led but looking to explore. The sense of being in Greater Manchester. Changing attitudes to see beyond their streets and communities. Local employers working together with young people for mock interviews.

NM invited people to be a part of the project and consultations and welcomed feedback on making the project work in practice. To discuss further please contact Nicola directly on nicola.mcleod@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

For information, 19th June 2024 will be a Central Event where the Mayor will consult on how this programme moves forward to help young people and their families have that clear line of sight. Consultation will go ahead with young people, education, and businesses in co-designing a programme.

4. Greater Manchester Learning Partnership

MW shared appear with members and discussed the partnerships established from the Greater Manchester Challenge. THE GMLP incorporates all Greater Manchester Education leads, Dioceses, Trust CEOs, National Leaders of Education, Teaching School Hubs, Legacy Teaching Schools and Chairs of Headteachers Conferences in each of the ten GM boroughs. The paper outlines the remit of the partnerships which brings together all the key players in a coherent strategic partnership who work together in the interests of the children and young people of Greater Manchester and provide a contact point for schools who want to access information and engage in initiatives.

One example of engagement is working with schools in Triads to work collaboratively around priorities bringing schools, i.e. SEND and to share good practice. This year has focused on race equality.

Website for further information: www.gmlp.co.uk

5. 24/25 Priorities

KD – Project that has been committed to by Oldham Economy Board and Business Partnership Group a STEM initiative is in developing an event in June 2025 which will be Brian Cox's Horizons Tour at Boundary Park. The concept is to have LED screens for Brian Cox to deliver a to all the young people in the borough, KS2 is the afternoon, KS3/4 in the evening. The aim is to work together on the lead up Teaching School Hub, Siri, Maths Hub etc to create a package of resources around this over this next year as a lead up to deliver in schools. This is an exciting opportunity for the

children of Oldham and needs to fit in with priorities and we prepare resources around Literacy and Numeracy. Hoping for a date by May half term so schools have sufficient time to plan.

MG/JG discussed the importance of having recruitment and retention as a priority for the next academic. The changes to flexible working patterns can impact the expectations in school. A rise in teachers leaving to work abroad or completely leaving the profession. Discussions considered how the partnership can work together to attract recruiting and the possibility of all schools investing in one ITT provider. The desire to become a teacher is now falling on the financial package and there is no option to tie staff into a package once training has been completed.

Discussions about school support staff and schools experiencing TA level job applications written quite poorly. CE suggested shorter TES applications. TS advocated using Get Oldham Working.

Agreement reached on priorities next academic year:

1. SEND
2. Attendance
3. Literacy
4. Recruitment and Retention

Action: TS – to seek HR advice on flexible working.

6. Feedback from districts and Forums

HH

Attendance is a standing item on the agenda with an increasing rise on families going on holiday during termtime. Schools within the district are continuing with moderation alongside other schools. Two of the schools are working together as part of the Trauma informed pilot working at the Whole School Approach to being a Trauma informed school which has shown positive impact on student's emotional health and wellbeing.

At the end of the North District meeting those who wished to remain behind did so to carry out some collective coaching. This proved useful and supportive especially to a reasonably new Head. We will continue to offer this at the end of each meeting moving forward.

Sarah Cook from Play Grow Learn spoke to the Heads on Tuesday about this 8-week programme to promote the importance of play and conversation with 0-5 year olds in central and north districts.

The Deputy Heads network (run by the Deputy Head at St Paul's and Royton Hall) is continuing to have a positive impact upon the deputies and assistant heads who attended to discuss 'feedback' policies, improving non structured times. The deputies are looking at trying to organise a day's conference next year. HH requests if Oldham Learning can contribute to this. Recruitment and retention are a priority for next year and this is open for discussion.

VO

Three main discussions

- Attendance – continues to be the same conversation and beyond school's control. TS discussed efforts that had gone into addressing attendance over this last year, which include, writing to the regional commissioner; changed filing policy which may make a limited change and analysing data around types of schools and when holidays are being taken. Feedback will be taken to the GM Attendance Alliance to discuss an agreed on a holiday pattern and stick to it. GK the changing will make a difference.
- Fair access
- Headteacher wellbeing – this will become a fixed part of the agenda going forward to provide a safe space for HTs to ask support, advice, share concerns.

ZC

- Visits from Anne Clarke that have gone very positive and welcomed the support.

- Attendance Hub - extended leave discussed. Forest Academy with a positive outcome on good resources and use of language, incentives and reporting to parents. TS requested to share the good practice through districts.

MG

- Attendance
- Family Hubs – visits from Carly which was very positive. Great to see the work is going back into the early years.
- Fair Access – Increase in intakes of International New Arrivals/EAL that are not necessarily through fair access. TS asked if anybody escalated this to panel, advised to send to Jenny Cook and TS to investigate.
- Ward data – TS to ask if we can get the information to districts.
- Ofsted feedback from Local Authority welcomed.

Action: TS to request Ward Data to be distributed to districts

Action: MG to send fair access information to Jenny Cook and copy TS in.

GK

- Pupil numbers looking positive for Sept 2024, some concerns raised around 2-form entries. Primary – Secondary.
- Extended holidays – occasionally having no impact.

TS discussed the attendance programme that JG is leading on for the next year is currently in development with Comms to promote positives messages to parents. There will be various follow ups throughout the year. Secondaries are now doing better than pre-pandemic; Primaries have fallen just below.

Action: Members to invite John Gilmore to districts meetings.

7. Greater Manchester AAA

GM LAAA met for the first time on 29 March, the inaugural meeting was between local authorities Dame Rachel de Souza, Children’s Commissioner and the Department. The alliance agreed two priorities to focus on, these are:

- Year 6 to Year 7 transitions
- Severe absence

The next meeting is 17 May and will be attended representatives from Trusts and Health. Task forces are currently being set up to start work on the priorities.

8. Date of next meeting; AOB

GK thanked all members for attendance.

The confirmed OL Board meetings for current academic year

- Thursday 27 June 2024 Location: Earl Mill Business Park - 1:30 -3:30pm

Academic year 2024/5 Board dates to be published at next Board.

8.1 Summary of actions

	Action	Responsibility
1	Seek HR advice for flexible working	TS
2	Request Ward Data to be distributed to districts The latest ward profiles are available here: https://www.jsnaoldham.co.uk/people-places/	TS
3	Send fair access information to Jenny Cook and copy TS in	MG
4	Invite John Gilmore to districts meetings.	Primary members

Meeting finished: **15:15pm**