Minutes

Meeting of the Oldham Learning Board

Thursday 27 June 2024
Earl Mill
at 1:30pm

Present:	**Chair**	**Jane Acklam**		
	Vice-Chair	**Gillian Kay**		
	Primary Districts	**Zaira Cook** **Vicki Oldham**	**Council**	**Matt Bulmer**
	Specialist	**Sue Caine**	**MAT**	**Jayne Clarke**
	Post 16	**Alan Benvie**	**Teaching school**	**Katie Dallender**
In Attendance	**Oldham Council**	**Paula Healy**		
	Advisor	**Tony Shepherd**	**Administrator**	**Chantelle Fraser**
Absent:	**Primary District**	**Hilary Henderson** **Mary Garvey**	**Council**	**Gerard Jones** **Cllr Ali**
	DFE	**Natasha Robb /** **Emma Beattie**	**MAT**	**Jessica Giraud**
	Research School	**Louise Astbury**	**Secondary**	**Sarah North** **Charlotte Evans**

1. **Welcome, Apologies and Introductions**

GK welcomed Board members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Hilary Henderson, Natasha Robb/Emma Beatie, Jessica Giraud, Sarah North. Charlotte Evans, Cllr Ali and Gerard Jones.

Proposal for 2024/5 OL Board to have 4 meetings, Board agreed.

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. Please note: Item 7 confidential, paper not to be shared.

Action 1 – HR information distributed.
Action 2 – Data shared with colleagues; TS confirmed that this can be shared with districts.

3. Childcare Sufficiency

PH discussed the Childcare Sufficiency with members and highlighted that the Local Authority have a statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient, high quality, flexible and affordable provision to meet the needs of parents and carers with children aged up to 14 years old (or up to 18 years old for disabled children and children with additional needs).

It also provides a helpful resource for existing and potential early education and childcare providers in planning to meet the identified needs.

In order to gain a comprehensive picture of the childcare market in Oldham, the Childcare Sufficiency is structured in three parts:

- An assessment of Oldham wide and ward level early education and childcare supply and demand to identify any potential gaps in childcare sufficiency. Particular consideration is given to the predicted future growth in capacity and take-up of places for funded two, three and four year olds in light of the extended entitlement for working parents
- Gap Analysis with potential gaps identified throughout the assessment
- Sufficiency Action Plan to address identified or potential gaps in early education and childcare sufficiency

Currently the research shows there is a need to create more two year old provision and SEND provision across the borough. PH invited Board members to discuss with districts and provide some feedback on needs, what else could be considered to enhance and promote the offer. A possible proposal could be that schools work together to determine what the demand is across the whole district area in comparison with what is available. Harmony to have 2-year-old provision in primary schools across the whole trust..

GK requested if there could be any movement on the set times of wraparound care for example, Propps Hall opening times are 7:30am – 5:45pm to meet the requirement of the parent needs and support staff working patterns which is slightly different to those that have been set. GK also discussed the national picture and how better to recruit.

PH advised that Oldham College are involved in strategic partnership to build a workforce to fill the gap on wraparound provision. There is a recruitment drive happening locally.

GK requested to see the ward data for early places. Currently, Springhead have an unused building, therefore, understanding of the demographics it needed to support others and move on with own provision.

4. Attendance

TS provided update on the attendance the work that is being completed in Oldham is being utilised efficiently. Consistent approach across all GM borough being promoted.

- Primary is lower than national average, with the majority of absence being in early years, Reception and Y1. Attendance in upper years in primary tend to improve with exception to those who take extended absence in term time.

Actions currently taking place include messages to the community and increasing the fines.

- Special education – cohort is larger than average and as a consequence currently sit 10th out of 11 with our statistical neighbours.
- In secondary's the work has been fantastic, final term has shown Oldham to be at the top in comparison to statistical neighbours. Need to look at the learning from this and consider developing a multi-agency approach with co-ordinated EH, Police, Youth Service and working with secondary schools.

Volunteers for focus school to work with JG on how this can be addressed.

JG GM Attendance Alliance – leading group pushing forward of expiration across GM and beyond.

GK advised that Royton and Shaw schools have decided to work collaboratively with a one unique letter to tackle attendance.

5. SEND Plan update

MB shared slide and updated members on the work that continues to take place for Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND). Matt advised that 3 Government Officials continue to attend Board meetings and deep dives on SEND, majority is around the health services. Ofsted will return 18months after inspection, currently there is 6-9months remaining.

Programmes continue to be implemented which have seen some disruption due to re-elections

- Change partnership Programme
- Early language Support for Every Child Programme
- Delivering Better Value
- High Needs Provision

MB discussed the Oldham Context and demands on the system and highlighted that despite the increase in demand over the last 3 years with no additional resource that Oldham continue to be one of the highest performing authorities in the UK.

Action: MB to get correct number of places taken up by Out of Borough (OOB) in Specialist Provisions.

Action: AB to discuss experiences of SEND students – EHCP numbers in the college make up around 11/12%

6. Quality of Education

TS broad update with the quality of education, 81% to 93% of schools being Good or Outstanding which is fantastic news. Two academies have been inspected in the last two weeks and things appear to be positive coming out of these. Real potential for secondaries to move to national average. Improving position going forward.

7. Population Projections

TS shared population data and discussed in detail with Board. Oldham Learning Board had advocated for LA officers to engage with schools and academies, MATS, diocese and DfE to establish a common approach to focusing on primary school places within the borough.

Secondary and tertiary will be the next focus.

The views of the Board were considered.

Action: Population to be added to next agenda.

Paper confidential.

8. Priorities in detail 2024/25

JA confirmed that 4 main priorities have been identified, to include:

- SEND to include sustainability of work that is currently being completed and alternative provision. Board agreed.
- Attendance to continue with a focus on primary. Board agreed.
- Literacy o focus on early language, continuing with reel projects and developing communication and language, writing continues to be an issue and reading appears to be an issue, transitions to secondary including post-pandemic catch up in certain years groups. To be left on the agenda until the next lot of data comes through.
- Recruitment and Retention to focus on making Oldham more desirable to apply. Teacher recruitment is possibly on agenda of the manifesto as a national focus. Before deciding on making this a priority, Board to

wait until the Government feedback on the agenda. JA requested this item to be changed to **Education Workforce**, Board agreed.

9. Date of next meeting; AOB

JC raised concerns 'no more knives tour' and cancellation. Is there anything that needs to be learned from this so that this doesn't happen again. Community Safety Partnership have completed some superficial due diligence. There is a lesson to be learned, it is difficult that something going out to schools that is endorsed schools will sign up to them. Due-diligence going forward and also required from partner schools due to the religious element.

Action: CF to check Rowtraffic for OL website Minutes accessibility.

JA thanked all members for attendance throughout the academic year.

Academic year 2024/5 Board dates to be published with the minutes.

8.1 Summary of actions

	Action	**Responsibility**
1	MB to confirm number of OOB SEND places being taken up in Oldham	**MB**
2	AB to present shared SEND Student experiences	**AB**
3	Check Rowtraffic for OL website Minutes **CF - All minutes now accessible for download**	**CF/TS**

Meeting finished: **15:30pm**