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Annual Report 2011



1. Introduction

This report covers the period December 2010 to December 2011. It highlights the activities of the Oldham Children & Youth Alliance and The Hub during that period, and reports on the key achievements and impact of the work.

2. Chair's Report

This year has been a very busy year for Oldham Children and Youth Alliance, with the further development of the Hub, supporting voluntary, community and faith sector children and young people's organisations and of course this year's event Go! Oldham Unite! We all face challenges delivering services to children and young people and we have come up against many challenges this year. We have many more to navigate as we strive to improve outcomes for children and young people in the 'new world'. With less resources and policy potentially shifting the priorities for our work to contend with, we most certainly need to find ways to improve how we come together to develop the capacity of all our organisations to deliver services for children and young people. Oldham Children and Youth Alliance and The Hub help us to work together in many ways, the key to this is sharing information and communicating with each other, and coming together to meet each other, develop strong working relationships and co-ordinate our activity and provision.

Oldham Children and Youth Alliance has come along way since its inception in 2003, and has over the last 8 years, become the beacon for partnership work around children and young people in Oldham. This year has been the final year of Big Lottery funding which resources the Alliance, and so as we head into our final months of guaranteed funding, it is important for us to reflect on the achievements of the Alliance and the Hub, and the impact that it has had with organisations to achieve outcomes for

children and young people. Whilst the future for the Alliance may be uncertain, what is certain is that now more than ever there is a need for us to come together, to work better together, to improve the lives of children and young people.

In my role as Chair of Oldham Children and Youth Alliance I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff team, Laura, Adele, Kashif and Jo, members of the Executive Committee for their continued commitment in steering the work and finally all individuals and organisations who come together to form the Alliance.

Cathy Lingard, Assistant Head Integrated Youth Service and Alliance Executive Committee Chair



3. Statement

The aim of the Children and Youth Alliance is to promote the best interests of children and young people in the Oldham Borough by developing partnership working with organisations and supporting their representatives. The overall vision is of an alliance made up of independent, statutory and voluntary organisations, working with children and young people of Oldham, which enhances provision for children and young people by supporting strategic planning, co-ordination, enabling and supporting specific training for members and increases joint working and sharing of resources.

4. Membership

The Alliance is made up of an Executive Committee (or Steering Group) and 6 Area Groups. Each Area Group elects a member to represent their Area Group on the Alliance Executive Committee. The Committee also incorporates nominees from Voluntary Sector and the Statutory Sector Children and Young People's Organisations and Services.

The Executive Committee meets quarterly to receive updates from the Area Groups, to monitor the outcomes of the work of the Alliance and the Hub to make decisions and give a steer to the direction of the work and resolve any issues.

Currently membership of the Alliance totals **175+ organisations and services**; amounting to over **500 individual members** representing these organisations.

Members of the Alliance Executive Committee for this period were:

- Catherine Lingard, OMBC Integrated Youth Service (Alliance Executive Chair)
- Dawn Fox, Groundwork Oldham and Rochdale. (Alliance Executive Vice Chair)
- Chris Medley – Sea Cadets and Life Saving
- Adrian Ball – PSO and Hub Chair
- Wendy Bond – Brook
- John Corbishley – CLCGB
- Jim Kenworthy, GMP
- Zoe Charnock, OMBC Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children
- Charles Shaw - CVYS
- Debbie Holland, OMBC Extended Services
- Gail Holden, OMBC Heritage, Libraries And Arts
- Thomas Maloney, PCT
- Mark Thomson, GM Fire and Rescue
- Kelly Tattersall, OCLL
- Judith Haughton – Girls Brigade and Youth About
- Siama Suleman – Werneth and Freehold Community Development Project
- Nina Eden – New Life Church

5. Alliance and Hub Achievements

5.1 Alliance Area Groups

In this period the Alliance Area Groups have gone from strength to strength, increasing numbers of organisations represented and engaging in network meetings. The 6 Area Groups reflecting the Borough's 6 District Partnerships now link formally with the District Partnerships to provide the Children and Young Peoples district network function, co-ordinating activities and provision in partnership and identifying priorities in meeting the local needs for children and young people especially around activities and facilities and co-ordinated approaches to local gaps in provision. The Alliance has also co-ordinated the District Partnership Commissioning process for additional children and young peoples activities in East Oldham, West Oldham, Chadderton and Failsworth and Hollinwood. During this period each Alliance Area Group met 6 times.

5.2 Go! Oldham Unite – Alliance Fun Day

The Alliance Fun Day was held on Saturday 18th June 2011 in Alexandra Park, a hugely successful event delivered in partnership which proved the most successful event to date with **over 5,000 children, young people and their families attending**.

Over 200 young people took part in the Dragon Boat Race.

60 organisations gave their time, staff, volunteers and equipment to make the event as enjoyable as possible by delivering in excess of **40 different activities** for the children and young people of Oldham. Thanks to Kerrching – Youth Opportunities fund, who sponsored this year's Stage Programme.

A team of **60 volunteers** supervised the event and activities making sure that everyone on the day was safe and having fun.



Thanks to the Big Lottery Fund who funded the majority of the event. All activities were free of charge and feedback from families as well as children and young people was overwhelmingly positive. On the day, views and observations of events were collated from children, young people and their families and the team of Go! Oldham Ambassadors who worked to record events and opinions of the day.



Special thanks go to members of The Alliance Events Committee for all their work in planning the event and all who contributed to the Alliance Fun Day including;

Alexandra Children's Centre	Oldham Climbing Club
Alexandra Parents' Forum	Oldham Community Health Service
AR Entertainments	Oldham Community Leisure Ltd
Bang Drum	Oldham Council Adoption and Fostering
Bored Sports	Oldham Council Parks Department
Brook Oldham	Oldham Greenhill Community Sports Club
Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade	Oldham Libraries
Charlotte Kilroy – Vocalist	Oldham Play Action Group
Cueball Crazy	Oldham Roughyeds
Dance Heads	Oldham Royelles Dance Troupe
Ebony James – Vocalist	Oldham Scout Association
Failsworth Army Cadet Force	Oldham Theatre Workshop
Family Information Service	Oldham Youth Council
Greater Manchester Police	Outta Skool
Greater Manchester Fire Service	Positive Steps Oldham – The Centre Teams including Connexions, OASIS, Health Team
Gable Events	Robin Hill Youth Centre
Girl Guides	Royton Youth Centre
Groundwork Oldham and Rochdale	Royton Army Cadets
Groundwork Youth Inclusion Project	Saddleworth Youth Centre
Hathershaw School	Shaw Youth Centre
Integrated Youth Service	Tower of Fun
Kickstart	Unholy Messiah
Lee Pickering – Graffiti Artist	Werneth and Freehold Development Project
Manchester Medical	Wheels for All
Meninos	
My Place Young People's Development Group	
Oldham Athletic Football Club	

5.3 Alliance and Go! Oldham

During this year Oldham Children and Youth Alliance worked closely with the Go! Oldham Partnership to provide a link between children and young people's organisations and the Go! Oldham Strategy. We held integrated summer planning event in **each of the 6 Districts and facilitated 100 organisations** across the borough to come together to jointly plan their summer programmes, to look to share staff and volunteers, venues and resources and dovetail provision. The Alliance has also enabled more voluntary, community and faith groups to register with Go! Oldham to promote their services and activities through one-to-one support and training.



5.4 Website and E-update

Further developments to the websites

- www.oldhamcya.org.uk
- www.thehuboldham.org.uk

and the launch of the 'new look' weekly e-update has increased our capacity to develop and utilise our 'virtual network' with excellent results. In this period we shared **over 400 information articles with 800+ members** of the children and young people's workforce and our website received an astonishing **75,816 hits – an average of 6,318 hits per month!**

5.5 Representation

In this period The Hub has worked closely with the Children's Trust to identify priority strategic and tactical groups within the Children's Trust Governance arrangements; including the Children's Trust Board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board, and has nominated and elected Hub representatives to work on these groups providing a direct link from the Hub to the Children's trust. This has significantly improved communication out to the voluntary, community and faith sector, and equally importantly has ensured that the sector has a 'voice' when decisions are being taken that impact on services for children and young people. During this period the Hub has elected representatives to work on priority boards within the new Children's Trust Structure.



Some of the impact for the sector as a direct result of representation include;

- Improved access to face to face Safeguarding Training by developing bespoke training for the sector
- Sector involved in Safeguarding and Looked After Children Inspection preparation
- Sector involved in the Needs Assessment which will inform the refreshed Children

and Young People's plan and the anti-child poverty strategy

- Young People from Voluntary Sector Forums participating in the Youth Voice Event
- Voluntary Sector input in developing an 'induction standards workbook' – that will be 'sector friendly'

This is by no means an exhaustive list, a special thanks to our Hub representatives who continue to give their time to represent the sector and provide the 'voice' and the link for organisations to the Children's Trust.

5.6 Hub Development Work

Throughout 2011 the hub engaged with **40 voluntary community and faith groups** or organisations who were not previously engaged in Oldham Children and Youth Alliance or the Hub. Of these **40** new organisations **10 were BME groups**. In this period Hub member organisations rose to **140 groups**, **40** organisations were supported and developed an initial support plan, whilst **30 organisations were supported and developed an intense support plan** including numerous visits to the groups or organisations to support them to implement the plans and work through their development needs.



In this period we have further developed links with Voluntary Action Oldham, Oldham Community Accountancy Service and Volunteer Centre Oldham to ensure we work much closer together to meet the development needs of the sector, including directly referring organisations and delivering joint support visits.

5.7 Workforce Development

In this period the Hub has significantly improved the sector's access to Child Protection training. Through training needs analysis this was highlighted as gap in provision for the sector. The Hub working in partnership with the LSCB over this period has trained a further **4** individuals from a wide range of voluntary community and faith sector organisations to become child protection trainers making a total of **11** Hub trainers.

They in turn have trained **126** individuals from **45** different groups or organisations. Here's what some of the participants said;

"The course forms a topical reminder of the importance of remaining aware and observant" and **"Leaders were friendly and put group at ease /professionally delivered."** Child Protection Level 1 Participants.

During this period we worked closely with VAO, OCAS and a number of partners to produce a joint training programme for the sector, this **training programme was sent out to around 800 VCS organisations**, and can also be found on the website www.oldhamcya.org.uk.

During 2011 we also arranged and supported **75 individuals to process their CRB checks**.

We are committed to ensuring that the sector are involved in any opportunities to enhance integrated working and we ensure that we update the sector by communicating developments, but also by inviting guest speakers to Hub meetings to brief members on agendas such as Family CAF, Safeguarding and Looked After Children Inspection and District Working.

5.8 The Active Involvement of Children and Young People

During this period the Alliance has championed the work with the Active Involvement Matters (AIM) Group. Throughout 2011 the Alliance has continued to be involved with the work of this group.

5.8.2 District Youth Forums

During 2011 the Alliance Area Groups were integral in developing the District Youth Forums, which are, representative groups of Young People who are supported to be actively involved in the decision making processes within their districts and community. District Youth Forums are delivered in partnership by organisations that are engaged with the Alliance Area Groups. Integrated Youth Service have done an excellent job in taking the lead on co-ordinating the delivery of the forums in each District Area.



6 Staffing and Funding

6.1 Staffing

The Alliance continues to be funded by Big Lottery – Reaching Communities, 2011 was the final year of the grant and continued to enable the Alliance to employ a full-time Development worker, and part-time Admin Worker. This year the Hub Commission has continued to enable the Hub 3rd Sector Community Networker, Adele Thomson.

7.2 Funding

The Alliance Finances are managed by the Alliance and Positive Steps Oldham. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Alliance Executive Committee are both signatories for the Alliance Bank Account.

Below is a report of the financial accounts of the Alliance from Feb 11 - Nov 11. It is important to note that this is for 10 months of the 12 month project year and only 8 months for the commissioned HUB activity, therefore whilst the under spend figure looks quite high this will have evened out by the end of the project Financial Year (Jan 2012) and is projected to be balanced by the end of the organisation's financial year.

Alliance Finances are reported annually at project year end (January) to the Alliance Executive Committee and the Big Lottery Fund.

Revenue Cost	Funding Received Big Lottery Fund	Other Funding Received*	Actual Expenditure	Overspend/ Under spend
Salaries and Oncosts	47,820	29,000	57,405	19,415
Training	1,500		217	1,283
Travel	800		399	401
Organisational overheads	10,888	4,000	10,908	3,980
Other Cost Inc Funday	17,174	4,032	21,207	-1
HUB Project related costs		1,000	275	725
Total Revenue Costs	78,182	38,032	90,411	25,803

*Other funding received

Source of Funding	Amount	Project
Kerrching – YOF	1,953	Alliance Fun Day – Stage Area
OMBC – The HUB	34,000	Funding to support the project from 1 st April 2011 to 31 st March 2012
BLF carried forward	2,079	Alliance Fun Day

7. Looking Towards the Future

It's difficult to know what the new year will hold for work with children and young people. We can be sure that there will be much change as organisations and groups re-model and re-shape their services in line with further cuts from Government budgets. However, some priorities for Oldham Children and Youth Alliance and the Hub will include;



7.1 Closer links between Alliance Area groups and district working, ensuring that the Area Groups provide a sound base for children and young people's district working, including closer partnership working and better co-ordination of services and provision.

7.2 Closer links with Go! Oldham. Next year's schedule of Alliance Area Groups have been once again planned around the Go! Oldham planning cycles for 2012 to enable groups and organisations to jointly plan and deliver their term-time and holiday provision and share their activity information in an integrated approach through the Go! Oldham website www.gooldham.com

7.3 Increase capacity for development work with children and young people's groups and organisations responding to some of the challenges and opportunities that will be presented throughout the year.

7.4 Don't Forget Cohesion the campaign we are launching to share and promote best practice within young people's community cohesion activity.

7.6 The Alliance/Go Oldham mobile youth centre will enable members to provide services for new communities.

7.7 The arrival of Mahdlo in Oldham will provide tremendous opportunities for our young people, we look forward to working with the team in a productive partnership.

7.8 Finally we will be looking to sustain funding for the Alliance and the Hub going forward into 2012 and beyond.

8. Vote of Thanks

On behalf of all members, the Alliance staff team would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Alliance Executive Committee, Cathy Lingard and Dawn Fox. We would like to thank them for their continued commitment and support to the work of the Alliance.

The staff team would also like to thank all the Alliance members who continue to work tirelessly to improve outcomes for children and young people in Oldham.

Finally we would like to extend our thanks and best wishes to Laura Windsor Welsh, who has moved on to pastures new with the Mahdlo team.



Oldham Children and Youth Alliance
80 Union Street
Oldham
OL1 1DJ

Tel: 0161 621 9660
Fax: 0161 621 9401
Email: thealliance@positivestepsoldham.org.uk
Web: www.oldhamcya.org.uk