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OLDHAM PARTNERSHIP SHORT-LISTED FOR INAUGURAL NATIONAL AWARD

The Oldham Partnership is proud to announce that it has been short-listed for the Local Government Chronicle's (LGC) inaugural award for the Local Strategic Partnership of the Year.

The award recognises the growing importance of partnership working as the key vehicle to effectively tackle the long-term challenges faced by an area, and improve the quality of life for local residents. The winners of the award will be chosen from the short-list of just six Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), and will be announced at a gala evening at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London on 12th March 2007.

The Oldham Partnership's award submission gave a snapshot of the range of programmes which are taking place across the Borough to improve the local quality of life. Many of these programmes are unique, as they involve organisations from the public, private, voluntary, community and inter-faith sectors, who work side-by-side to maximise their positive impact on the local community.

The submission also set these programmes in the context of the long-term strategic challenges that the Borough faces, such as community cohesion, employment, housing, and health, and how these underpin the entire work of the Oldham Partnership.

One example of the programmes cited in the submission is the drive to reduce the number of accidental house fires in the Borough. Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service are working with Age Concern, Surestart, Social Services, and the local housing associations to identify which homes will benefit most from a free Home Fire Risk Assessment (HFRA). The HFRA provides advice to residents about how to minimise the risk of house fires, and where necessary includes the fitting of free smoke alarms.

Other programmes include the Junior University, the smoking cessation campaign, the reduction in the number of homeless people, the improving levels of employment and the range of strategic regeneration schemes that are taking place.

Oldham Council has also been nominated in the LGC awards for the Most Improved Council of the Year. With the Health Service Journal (HSJ) awarding Oldham's Primary Care Trust (PCT) its PCT of the Year award last week, and the Oldham Partnership's success at last year's LGC Sustainable Communities awards, it signifies a growing recognition at a national level about the improving quality of services being delivered in the Borough.

Chair of the Oldham Partnership Executive and Principal of Oldham Sixth Form College Nick Brown said: "It is right and fitting that Oldham is now being

recognised for some of the excellent work that is taking place across the Borough. Oldham is often portrayed in a negative fashion, but the recent success in a variety of awards and independent assessments show that excellent progress is being made.”

“The Oldham Partnership has an ambitious long-term vision for the Borough, and whilst we are very pleased to have been short-listed for this award, we need to continue to develop innovative solutions which improve the quality of life for local residents, and continue to build Oldham’s positive national profile.”

Bill Edwards, a local resident and Chair of the Oldham Partnership Steering Group said: “I am very proud that Oldham has been short-listed for this award. I have seen the level of partnership working increasing in the Borough over a number of years, and it is excellent news that we are being recognised as one of the best areas in the country at doing this.”

“As a lifetime resident of the Borough, I am genuinely optimistic about the future.”

ENDS

For further information please contact Adam Patterson, Marketing and Communications Co-ordinator at Oldham Partnership on 0161 615 5038, or email adam.patterson@oldhampartnership.org.uk

NOTES TO EDITOR

The Oldham Partnership is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for the Borough of Oldham.

The Oldham Partnership brings together the various groups in Oldham – the public, private, voluntary, community and faith sectors – to ensure that they work together, and achieve more than they could individually.

For further information on the Oldham Partnership, please visit www.oldhampartnership.org.uk

