

## Oldham Partnership Press Release

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### ISSUED ON BEHALF OF OLDHAM PARTNERSHIP

### OLDHAM THROUGH TO NEXT ROUND OF LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS

Oldham Council has been selected by the Government to go through to the next round of Local Area Agreements it was announced last week.

Local Area Agreements (LAAs) are made between central and local government and combine different funding streams to focus on an agreed set of outcomes, which are a combination of local and national priorities.

This means that key local partners will work together to improve local services, address local issues and make a difference to the lives of local people.

LAAs were first launched in July 2004 and a second round of pilots have been scheduled to come into effect in 2006/7.

Earlier this year Oldham Partnership and Oldham Council submitted a joint application to be included in this next round of pilot schemes and were delighted with Thursday's announcement that they will be included in the next round of agreements.

Oldham's inclusion provides an excellent opportunity to accelerate the re-development of the Borough and improve community cohesion.

The issue of community cohesion formed the basis of Oldham's submission with emphasis on the work of Oldham Partnership to continue to narrow the gap between different groups and areas within Oldham.

**More...**



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Local organisations – including those from the community sector – will work together to achieve ambitious targets in four “blocks”, around which the LAAs are based:

- Children and Young People
- Safer and Stronger Communities
- Healthier Communities and Older People
- Economic Development and Enterprise

Gail Richards, Chief Executive of Oldham PCT and Chair of the Oldham Partnership said: “Oldham’s successful application to be included in the next round of Local Area Agreement pilots reflects the success that the Partnership is beginning to have in making a difference to the lives of those that live, learn, work and play in the Borough.

“Our selection is a stamp of approval from the Government that Oldham is moving in the right direction.”

“The Agreement will allow us to minimise the bureaucracy associated with having to deal with a number of external funding streams, and focus yet more energy on delivering change. One of the many benefits of the LAAs is that they will allow us more freedom to focus resources on Oldham’s priorities.”

Andrew Kilburn, Chief Executive of Oldham Council added: “We are extremely pleased to have been selected and are keen to use the Local Area Agreements as a mechanism to speed up the rate of change already underway in Oldham.

“It will give us an opportunity to develop a new type of relationship with Government and help us to direct funding to the key local issues that will make the biggest difference to the lives of local people. ”

Phil Woolas MP for Oldham East and Saddleworth and Minister for Local Government, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister said: ““On the face of it this is technical and boring, but in reality it is a revolutionary idea that will bring us all together and make everyone work to make Oldham better.”

## ENDS

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