

## **Oldham Partnership Press Release**

9<sup>th</sup> February 2006

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### **OLDHAM PARTNERSHIP WINS NATIONAL AWARD**

The Oldham Partnership has been awarded the Partnership Award for Sustainable Communities at a national awards presentation in London.

BBC journalist John Humphrys presented the award, which is part of the Local Government Chronicle Sustainable Communities Awards 2006, to Superintendent Stuart Harman (Greater Manchester Police) and Michele Carr (Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council), who accepted the award on behalf of the 100 agencies and organisations who are involved in the Oldham Partnership.

The judges looked at Oldham's Sustainable Community Strategy, which details how the Oldham Partnership will build strong, confident communities in the Borough – economically, socially, physically and environmentally.

The judges praised the training that had been given to support the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy, such as Voluntary Action Oldham's Bridging The Gap programme, which encouraged community activists to get involved in the local decision-making process.

Mr Humphrys' said that the Oldham Partnership "was a great example of training and capacity building to help communities get involved in decision-making. It also showed a level of evidence of partnership training that set it out from the competition."

The Oldham Partnership was also able to demonstrate how its planning and training programmes have started to bear fruit in tangible projects throughout the community. Examples of these include the Festival of Diversity (over 7,000 people attended 38 different events throughout the Borough); The Green Olympics (local media promoted environmental issues and encouraged local people to take positive action at a local level); and Neighbourhood Solutions (local Area Action Teams working across traditional organisational boundaries in conjunction with local councillors and Area Co-optees to address local issues).

Chairman of the Oldham Environment Partnership and Chair of the Oldham Partnership Steering Group, Bill Edwards said: "One of the challenges that the Partnership faces is to deliver these projects – along with the other goals outlined in the Community Strategy – in a sustainable manner."

"That means that we have to look at the long-term impact of our actions, in addition to the immediate effects. Put simply, its not just what we do, it's how we do it that's important."

The work of the Oldham Partnership is now being used as a case-study of successful partnership working by the Local Government Association in a DVD they are producing for the Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit, which takes place at the Birmingham International Convention Centre, between 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

## **ENDS**

**Picture attached:**

### **Superintendent Stuart Harman and Michele Carr receive the award on behalf on the Oldham Partnership**

The individuals on the photograph are (left to right):

- John Humphrys, Host of the Awards
- Superintendent Stuart Harman, Greater Manchester Police.
- Michele Carr, Head of Corporate Policy, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Elliot Morley MP, Minister of State (Climate Change and Environment), who presented the award.

**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](mailto:adam.patterson@oldhampartnership.org.uk)**

**A full copy of the Oldham Partnership's submission can be found on the Oldham Partnership website: [www.oldhampartnership.org.uk](http://www.oldhampartnership.org.uk)**

**More information on the awards can be found on the Sustainable Communities Awards 2006 website: [www.sustainablecommunities2006.com](http://www.sustainablecommunities2006.com)**

## **NOTES TO EDITOR**

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

The 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.

The Oldham Partnership is supported by the Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

For further information on the Oldham Partnership, please visit [www.oldhampartnership.org.uk](http://www.oldhampartnership.org.uk)