

Commissioned programmes

LAA Block	Economy and Enterprise
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Activity title	Junior University: Higher Skills in Oldham
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Activity/current impact
<p>The Junior University will work with a wide range of school pupils and college students with the aim of raising achievement at both level 2 and level 3 and increasing progression to and retention in both Further and Higher education. The activity aims to provide the extra academic support and individual advice and guidance to improve the achievement, retention and progression of young people with the potential to succeed in Higher Education but who are ultimately at risk of not doing so. The activity will look to raise the aspirations of young people in Oldham who have the talent to succeed but not necessarily the drive or ambition. It will by definition therefore work with a large number of young people from under represented groups.</p> <p>The activity has a range of intervention strategies to achieve these ambitious goals. They are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a programme of mentoring that will support young people across the 14-19 age range that are 'at risk' of not achieving their potential. This intervention will take place in all 15 of Oldham's secondary schools and both colleges. This mentoring will come from six Junior University Mentors and two Connexions Mentors. This will significantly increase the personalised support available to this vulnerable group. • To develop close ties with The University Centre Oldham. The project will seek to establish clear, continuous qualification pathways for the 14-19 age range and ensure an integrated 14-19 support programme. • The Junior University website will be developed to provide access to a range of very useful materials for the 14-19 Junior University cohort. This will include curriculum based resources designed to raise achievement and key information on advice and guidance to support progression and retention. • The Junior University Learning Resource Centre Assistants will support young people in the Junior University Resource Centres as they work on their assignments and prepare for their exams. They will also assist with school visits from their JU cohorts to the Junior University Centres in college. • The Junior University Centres will be available for study events, taster sessions and family events for the JU cohort. Links will be made to the parents of the JU cohort. • The Junior University will develop and deliver subject based extension

classes in a range of subjects to the 14-19 age group in Oldham.

- Links will be made to a sample of primary schools in Oldham.

The Junior University will fund additional Citizenship activity through two strands. This will support the community cohesion agenda in Oldham. The first strand will be to promote citizenship in FE, exploring issues such as economic and political literacy, leadership and management skills, increased environmental awareness and a wider understanding of social responsibility. The second strand will be delivered by the Connexions Service and will promote areas such as the Positive Areas of Young People programme.

Activity title	Young Professionals
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Activity/current impact

Through targeted schools liaison programmes, joint working with the Junior University and HE institutions, The Oldham College will:

- establish The Oldham College as a 'Vocational Sixth form' for people aged 16-19
- raise the Aspirations of Oldham's youth through a programme focused on employability, enrichment and entrepreneurship, leading to increased progression through vocational and occupational pathways to HE and employment
- deliver awareness sessions to schools focused on careers in the key skill shortage areas
- launch the 'Young Professionals' brand in October 2007
- publish successful destinations of young people leaving The Oldham College

raise the aspirations of Oldham's youth through a range of established and new programmes leading to increased retention, achievement and finally progression through vocational and occupational pathways to HE and employment.

deliver a continued commitment to Pacific Institute training for more tutors across College to develop motivation and aspiration.

deliver awareness sessions to secondary schools focused on careers in Oldham's skill shortage areas.

undertake more outreach work into Oldham High Schools working directly with identified groups of young people for whom vocational learning and work based learning are real alternatives to academic learning when

deliver a programme of Employability, Enrichment and Entrepreneurship in college

develop student democracy in college

Activity title	Economy & Enterprise Unit
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Activity/current impact

The E&E Unit will provide the co-ordination capacity required to support the Economy and Enterprise Board and its associated partnerships and groups to ensure the effective delivery of the E&E Local Area Agreement (LAA). It will consist of a number of posts funded by the Council and externally funded posts within a single Unit. On behalf of the Board and partnerships, the Unit will carry out research, develop policy, secure external funding, develop delivery programmes of activity, performance manage those programmes and develop effective relationships with all relevant partners in order to ensure successful delivery of the LAA targets and E&E plans and

strategies.

Activity title	Highway to Opportunities
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Activity/current impact

The Highway to Higher Education project is Oldham's response to the Manchester Area Agreements desire to deliver a full adult careers service. The project will provide in-depth careers guidance for adult clients to help them to develop their learning and consequently enhance their career and life opportunities. The services will be delivered from both the town centre base at Brunswick House on Union Street and in a variety of locations within communities including – Job Centre Plus, Lifelong Learning Centres, Libraries, Community Centres etc.

Activity title	Beyond Oldham Beyond
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Activity/current impact

The main aim is to contribute to delivery of the Oldham Beyond Implementation Plan approved at the Oldham Partnership Executive on the 20 March 2008. Through the continued development of master plans/area action plans and implementation plans for specific areas of the Borough identified as being priorities within Oldham Beyond Implementation Plan and including District Centres, Employment Areas and Oldham Town Centre the activity will build upon the work already undertaken to guide change, encourage co-ordinated investment decisions and thereby promote the ongoing and early physical regeneration of key areas of the Borough. In addition resources will increasingly be used to undertake physical regeneration work that will facilitate investment, including improvement of major gateways, environmental improvements, and District Centre improvement works identified in the approved and emerging masterplans. The investment of these resources will both stimulate and promote high quality development activity at an earlier date than would be the case if the work was not undertaken and contribute to ensuring the survival of our very important District Centres as they adapt to change.

Activity title	Bulky Bobs –
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Activity/current impact

This activity has five key elements, namely to:

- Establish a sustainable, social enterprise in the Oldham Borough
- Provide a service to collect bulky household waste, replacing the current mainstream services operation
- Repair and reuse of items of bulky household waste, thereby increasing household waste recycling levels, which will help meet local and national targets

Reduce poverty and inequalities through the provision of low cost furniture to low income households

- Provide increased employment levels through an Intermediate Labour market (ILM) for disadvantaged groups ((long-term unemployed, BME communities, vulnerable people who will gain valuable, transferable skills to equip them for the workplace.

Activity title	IB Claimants into Work (Standguide Ltd.)
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<p data-bbox="231 340 558 376">Activity/current impact</p> <p data-bbox="231 380 1369 515">Standguide Limited will deliver a programme of activities with a cohort of 52 IB participants recruited between the commencement of this commissioned activity and the roll-out of the JCP national programme 'Provider-led Pathways to Work' in the Borough, currently expected to be from December 2007.</p> <p data-bbox="231 519 1369 683">A Manager will lead delivery in the selection of participants, engagement of employers, matching of participants with identified employer vacancies and the delivery of individual training packages designed to prepare the IB claimant for employment and will be responsible for ensuring participant eligibility based on post-code residency and qualifying benefit criteria.</p> <p data-bbox="231 687 1369 817">Fully trained employment advisers will assess each client individually to determine their accessibility to employment based on previous work / training history, current situation, barriers and goals. The programme contents will be fully explained to prospective clients including programme outline and purpose.</p> <p data-bbox="231 822 1369 985">Dedicated advisers will liaise with GP surgeries, mainstream providers and other IAG providers to market the provision using a variety of methods, e.g. meetings, presentation and leaflets. Initial referral appointments will take place on a one-to- one basis at various locations to create interest in the programme and reflect the diverse nature of the client group.</p> <p data-bbox="231 990 1369 1422">Following an in-depth discussion an individual Pathway Plan will be negotiated with each client outlining the planned programme. Clients will sign the Pathway Plan to indicate their agreement to the planned activities selected from a menu of confidence building, motivation, team building, local labour market information, skills analysis, CV writing, application form completion, letter writing, interview techniques, peer support networking, presentations from local employers, key agencies and voluntary and community organisations, understanding in-work benefits, awareness of other supportive interventions, e.g. mainstream delivery of Skills for Life and ICT qualifications, introduction to work routines and accessing the enrichment one day courses in Health & Safety, Emergency First Aid, Food Hygiene and Manual Handling ; all delivered by qualified staff and certificated internally by Standguide. Clients will receive a portfolio and record of achievement on exiting the programme to assist progression to sustainable employment.</p> <p data-bbox="231 1426 1369 1523">Activities will be delivered from Standguide's centrally located premises – Meridian Place, King Street, Oldham, OL8 1EZ with access within the working week to suit clients' individual circumstances.</p> <p data-bbox="231 1527 1369 1657">Delivery will be via a variety of styles, following a clearly structured plan, and will include group sessions, one to ones, peer mentoring and social interaction sessions. All clients will have four weekly documented reviews recognising progress and recording aims and routes to the identified goals.</p> <p data-bbox="231 1662 1369 1758">All elements of the programme will be delivered by suitably trained and experienced staff, who will have a case load of clients to ensure pastoral and course support is provided by one named contact throughout.</p> <p data-bbox="231 1762 1369 1825">A qualified placement officer will liaise with the client to locate a suitable training placement and perform the placement provider's Health and Safety pre-vet.</p> <p data-bbox="231 1830 1369 2033">The activity will target eligible participants which includes those in receipt of Incapacity Benefit (IB), Severe Disability Allowance (SDA(TP), Income Support (IS) on the basis of disability and those awarded National Insurance Credits (NICs) on the basis of disability for 13 weeks or more and resident in one of the 7 priority wards of the Borough, identified in Oldham's Local Area Agreement as Hollinwood, Coldhurst, Werneth, St Mary's, Lees, Alexandra (including NDC area) and St Paul's.</p>
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Standguide will provide individual employment pathway plans to participants and will work alongside JobCentre Plus to further provide supportive and complementary interventions to stimulate return to sustained employment.

Further to this activity Standguide will:

consider IB patients referred by GP surgeries acting as referral agents for participation in the programme.

liaise with other delivery agents within the “Increasing IB claimants into work “ initiative to refer clients to alternative options in order to meet the employment pathway plan needs of individual participants.

- liaise with Jobcentre Plus to ensure the preserved integrity of each claimant's access to benefits for the duration of the interventions until the client takes up an employment offer.

Activity title	IB Claimants into Work (Groundwork Oldham and Rochdale)
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Activity/current impact

The activity provides interventions for Incapacity Benefit claimants to maximise opportunities to job entry and to gain sustained employment for 16 hours a week or more for thirteen consecutive weeks. Groundwork Oldham & Rochdale will ensure its partner organisations work collaboratively primarily with other IBIW programme contract holders of Standguide and the PCT and secondly with Shaw Trust, the deliverer of the DWP Pathways to Work and ESF programmes in the borough, to offer a seamless service of diverse interventions for IB claimants and maximise participation by those resident in the 7 most deprived wards in Oldham. In addition to this provision, to ensure maximum delivery Groundwork will identify of key staff within each partner organisation to take responsibility for delivery and nominate a Groundwork Co-ordinator to lead the Consortium delivery. In addition to this the production of Service Level Agreements with each partner organisation, identification of a mechanism for tracking and recording participant progress will be provided.

Activity title	IB Claimants into Work (Oldham PCT)
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Activity/current impact

Oldham PCT's involvement in IB claimant programme is limited to one aspect. This involves selected GP practices within the target wards building on existing working relationships with and the practices of Jobcentre Plus staff in providing a medico-socioeconomic approach to encouraging IB claimant patients to consider uptake of employment opportunities.

This activity represents a variation on a model of Jobcentre Plus / GP co-operation currently being explored under a national pilot scheme 'Pathways to Work '. This aims to promote multi-agency collaboration and a holistic approach to promoting uptake of employment by maximising the individual's opportunities within the parameters of existing medical conditions, and by focusing on abilities rather than difficulties.

The Referral Pathway comprises:

1. Once the GP / Primary Care clinician has identified a patient claiming IB during their consultation, which may occur as a result of opportunistic screening, (a patient recall for assessment on receipt of an IB113 request or a request for Med 4 for example), a clinical decision will be made as to the suitability of the patient commencing a return to work programme. This decision will be informed by clinical

judgement, knowledge of the patient and the patient's view.

2. Jobcentre Plus Employment Advisers will develop a practice-based clinic in the GP surgery and the GP / Clinician will identify an appointment in that clinic and advise the patient of the referral.
3. The patient attends the Employment Adviser clinic, undertakes a Skills Assessment and receives advice about suitable employment options. Patient attendance at the Employment Advice appointment triggers the first incentive payment for the GP practice.
4. The GP will arrange an appointment to review the patient 2 weeks after the booked Employment Adviser appointment to encourage attendance, discuss any perceived obstacles to the next step, ensure that the employment advice given is not in conflict with the medical condition or its treatment regime and discuss the benefits to be gained by a return to employment activity in relation to overall well-being, e.g. motivation, social contact.
5. The patient accesses the agreed appropriate intervention within a return to work support programme, general progress on which may be a discussion point at subsequent medical appointments. Commencement of the agreed return to work pathway intervention by the IB claimant patient triggers the second incentive payment to the GP practice

Activity title	Werneth and Freehold CDP
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Activity/current impact
<p>The activity will employ two qualified and experienced part time youth workers, sessional workers, specialist workers and support volunteers, trainees and university placements. The work will take place in three locations throughout the Werneth, Freehold and Coppice area of Oldham. One session is female only, the majority of whom are from an Asian heritage background. The initiative is aimed at individuals who face barriers to reaching their full potential and who have, or are at risk, of dropping out, of mainstream education, training or employment. This target group encompasses some of what are considered to be the 'hardest to reach' young people to engage with. These include those from ethnic minority communities, young mothers, young people aged 17 to 19, young people with learning difficulties who were not in education, training or employment, and isolated young women.</p> <p>The activity will divert young people at risk of offending away from crime and anti social behaviour leading to reduction in both incidences of reported youth nuisance and number of young people aged 10 - 17 cautioned or convicted for the first time. The workers provide developmental and diversionary activities to young people both term and non-term time.</p> <p>The activity will deliver a 12 months programme of diversionary activity combining recreation learning, citizenship personal development, informal learning, accredited courses with young people who are involved in or at risk of crime, or anti social behaviour. The long-term aim of the activity is to encourage them and equip them with the skills to enter into and support them back into education, training, employment or other to mainstream provision.</p>

Activity title	Coppice Youth Development project
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Activity/current impact

The focus of this activity is to engage young people who are hard to reach in the Coppice area. Coppice has a large number of young people and this project will work with those young people who do not attend any form of structured youth interventions. To do this Coppice Youth Development Project will continue to employ 2 part-time youth development workers. They will engage hard to reach young people from their locality, which other providers are not able to do as they are not from the locality, they may not understand issues of culture including language, faith, street culture, which requires specialist workers and facilitate an annual programme of activities delivered by the providers in partnership, including structured youth clubs, residential and trips, outreach work, running one to one and group sessions on education and employment, CV preparation and job seekers training, drugs awareness, summer programmes etc. The activities will be both held within the coppice community centre and also out in the community. The Coppice youth development project aims to benefit at least 80 young people aged 11-20 years old residing in the Coppice area (Werneth Ward).

The main aims are to:

Provide training for young people to play a positive role in the community, prevent abuse of alcohol/drugs consumption, anti social behaviour, enhance respect agenda, citizenship and reduce crime in the area.

Provide advice and support on employment, career development, and educational opportunities to compete in the labour market.

Cultural and sporting activities to enhance community cohesion.

Participate in improving local environment.

- The project will strengthen relationships with other organizations eg Connexions, Oasis, UR (United Response), YOP (Youth Offenders Project) etc to deliver these programmes.

Activity title

Derker Teenways

Activity/current impact

This activity is neighbourhood based running from the Derker Residents Association at their Cheltenham St centre – receiving referrals and engaging young people not in education employment or training and then providing learning and individual support to achieve progression through school, vocational courses or jobs.

A project officer will work in partnership with Connexions and other agencies to place young people aged 13 to 19 who are not in education, employment or training and come from Derker and surrounding neighbourhoods in East Oldham.

Activities will involve personalised learning, active citizenship and positive recreational opportunities.

Drop in sessions for referrals and links with local schools, Educational Welfare Services, First Choice Homes, Connexions, Community Safety Unit Workshop and advice courses to engage and progress young people

Links with variety of providers – Connexions, NotSchool.net, YMCA, Fairbridge, Oldham College.

- Services of volunteer mentors

Activity title

Learner Tracking & Management Information System

Activity/current impact

The purpose of the activity proposed is to create a 'data hub' of prospective and actual adult learners which will:

- inform skills and workforce strategic development;
- track learners through their learning pathways and into further employment, education and training,
- create a database of adults which can then be targeted for future education, training and employment opportunities (e.g. the Tesco recruitment process);
- enable information advice and guidance providers to offer appropriate IAG interventions at transition points.

The activity will be in two distinct phases:

- Implementing a comprehensive client management information system at Highway to Opportunities, which enables H2O to deliver its services effectively.
- Create a web-based data hub which will, through computer 'middle-ware' communicate with learning and IAG providers' own systems to track potential and actual adult learners as they pass through the provision.

Activity titleEnterprise in Schools
(Fast & Furious)**Activity/current impact**

The Enterprise Factory and North Chadderton High School will run the Fast and the Furious activity. The aim of the activity is to encourage year 10 and 11 would be entrepreneurs from schools across Oldham to develop potential business ideas. Each school will choose 2 winners who will be asked to pitch their idea to "Oldham's Dragons Den". The winners of the competition will be announced at a Grand Award Ceremony. The winners will receive a full business support package, access to The Enterprise Factory Facilities, telephone and broadband connectivity, full admin services and use of a hot-desk.

Activity title

What's Stopping You Starting

Activity/current impact

The activity will offer development and delivery of a range of services designed to support business start-up and to stimulate business growth through the provision of pre start-up advice, business acceleration programmes, and advice and guidance on supply chain and procurement issues.

Activity will aim to increase the number of new business start-ups, assist SMEs and provide assistance to ensure new products and processes introduced by businesses as a result of receiving assistance.

Activity title	J21 Construction
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Activity/current impact
J21 objectives are to capitalise on the volume of construction activity across Oldham and Rochdale to maximise employment opportunities, create new pathways to employment through public procurement and counter the skills shortages in construction. The requirements of this activity are to build on the existing J21 project, to ensure Oldham residents can take up training opportunities therefore creating sustainable employment and ensure an exit strategy can be developed for J21 to create sustainability for the future. The main activity delivered will be to provide local residents pathways to securing employment in construction by providing formal construction related training. In addition to this the activity will encourage residents from under represented groups to secure employment (BME, Women, Disabled) and measure the value of subcontract packages secured by local businesses.

Activity title	Outreach Programme Enterprise Centre
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Activity/current impact
The Enterprise Centre offers a range of services to compliment the other provision of business support across the region and provides an expertise based integrated, customised business support and nurturing service that proactively seeks to stimulate the creation of entrepreneurial businesses and drive their growth. Stimulation of growth within organisations engaged will increase the need for additional employees. The activity will identify and work with individuals who are currently out of work to assist them in developing new skills to promote self-employment (including providing assistance to micro-enterprises) or alternatively use existing generic skills in such things as project planning to enable more employability by providing individualised mentoring programmes.

Activity title	GOBoT I
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Activity/current impact
<p>The activity will be commissioned in line with the Greater Manchester City Strategy Business Plan, which outlines the three keys stages along the client journey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client Engagement - including outreach, assessment, information, advice and guidance and referral. • Improving Employability – Improving the basic employability and occupational skills of those not in work to improve their employment prospects, ensuring that employment and training programmes are appropriately coordinated; • Employer Engagement – Engaging with employers to encourage them to recruit workless residents and retain people in work as well as developing programmes with employers, supporting changes to workforce e.g. redundancies. <p>The activity to be commissioned must be strongly aligned to these three stages and with the client group. 80% of the client group must live within the City Strategy Wards (Alexandra, Coldhurst, St Mary's, St Pauls, Werneth, Hollinwood and Lees).</p>

The activity aims to provide a programme design that encompasses all of these elements. Activity will look to include elements of prevention for example working with the pre-NEET population and employees at risk of redundancy. Activity will also look to reduce barriers to employment such as supported travel plans, access to childcare etc.

Activity title	GOBoT I
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Activity/current impact
<p>The activity will primarily include, training, workshops and 1 to 1 individual support sessions.</p> <p>The project will engage with and support Lone Parents into employment. 80% of the client group will be living in deprived wards. Other support will include assistance into employment, providing a range of bespoke training and employment opportunities leading to job outcomes. 80% of the client group accessing this provision will be living in the deprived wards, including residents over 50 years of age or individuals from Black and Minority Ethnic groups.</p> <p>The programme will offer support into employment, providing a range of bespoke training and employment opportunities leading to job outcomes.</p>

Activity title	Achieving the NEET Stretch Targets in Oldham
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Activity/current impact
<p>The main aim of the activity is to increase the proportion of young people with Learning & Other Disabilities in Employment, Education or Training (EET), the proportion of teenage parents in Employment, Education or Training (EET) and the percentage of 16-18 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training.</p> <p>The activity will provide targeted support to 75 young people who are vulnerable to successful progression in their last year of compulsory education and due to leave in 2008 are identified and targeted. Other activity will include providing work placements supported by Learning Agreement funding which will be utilised to support both employer and employee. It is anticipated that this initiative will extend to large private, voluntary and independent sector companies. The activity will provide supported travel and other costs and support activity to include college and other learning provision, personal and social development including: sport; life-skills; basic skills; ESOL; self-esteem, interview techniques and opportunity-seeking skills and simple economic awareness and travel to work patterns; and extended work experience.</p>

Activity title	GOBoT II
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Activity/current impact
<p>The activity aims to support individuals from the following priority groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">prolific offendershigh risk offenderssubstance using offenders (i.e. to include alcohol and drug clients)substance users

The activity will be aligned, or adjoined, to both the OLASS (offender learning and skills service) and ETE service, within the Alcohol and Drug Service which is currently working with the identified client groups providing impartial information, advice and guidance, in addition to, developing individual learning plans and supporting clients to access learning and employment opportunities.

Activity title	Regional Academic Science Centre
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Activity/current impact
<p>The purpose of the activity is to develop the core foundations for delivering the Regional Academic Science Centre. The main concept of the project is to ensure that the Regional Academic Science Centre is realised within a tight timescale. There will be two elements to the activity.</p> <p>1) to carry out the feasibility study for the Regional Science Centre to be submitted to the Learning and Skills Council. The RSC will form a critical element to delivering the increased aspirations, achievements and progression of young people from Level 2 through to Higher Education. A feasibility study, which will outline the size, costs and location for the Regional Science Centre will be developed. The activity will also ensure that a project team will be employed with Urban design support from Urbed, to ensure that the building relates to the New West End design principles.</p> <p>2) The final element of the programme is to design a business case for an expanded Junior University programme that will recruit young people onto science related curricula, which will increase the proportion of Oldham residents achieving a level 2 qualification.</p>

Activity title	The Enterprise Factory
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Activity/current impact
<p>The project is split into distinct sections – Pre Start, New Business Support, Business Incubation and Existing Business Support. All these strands run from the same premises thereby sharing cost and also allowing continuity of advice, support & mentoring to both new and existing businesses. All the business counselling is carried out by experienced specialist business advisors who give an outreach service as well as in house support.</p> <p>Pre Start includes talking to local residents who have the germ of an idea and wish to discuss the potential and the pitfalls of entering into business. Many of these ideas are explored in the Entrepreneurs Scholarship Programme (ESP) which is run in conjunction with University Centre Oldham – a 12 week business development programme for people wanting to start up and manage their own business. A number of the residents are referred to the programme by the NDC Job Shop which operates at the Honeywell Centre on Ashton Road. Additionally the project has run the phenomenally successful Fast and Furious programme, working with local schools to encourage entrepreneurship amongst its pupils through a Dragons Den type of competition.</p> <p>The New Business Support strand encourages and supports start-ups, focussing on micro businesses that can add value to the local economy and create employment opportunities for local people. It includes business planning and counselling support to start-ups and newly established businesses, looking especially to encourage the</p>

establishment of businesses with high growth potential focusing on the knowledge based economy.

The Business Incubator Unit aims to facilitate new company formation by nurturing young start-up and spin-out companies within small, serviced, specialist premises, encouraging them to survive and grow, and reach their true potential.

The facilities located in the business incubator unit offer an extensive range of services tailor made to meet each company's individual needs, from financial management and market research, to business planning and secretarial services.

The Existing Business Support strand offers a continuing business support and mentoring service, through the development of systems and the introduction of best practice, to provide an efficient business support network and ensure the financial and commercial viability of companies. Advice includes such topics as the introduction of cost efficiencies, improved sales & marketing and exploring new markets & new technologies.