

The review of Area Based Grant (ABG) Challenge panel recommendations

If you have any questions about the review of area based grant, please contact the Oldham Partnership support team on 0161 770 3199 or info@oldhampartnership.org.uk

The ABG review challenge panel has now met three times to look at the current ABG funded projects, and to finalise its recommendations.

On 24 June, Oldham Partnership executive agreed the panel's recommendations.

The recommendations

No activities have been de-commissioned at this stage. The panel have instead recommended that services are redesigned so that they are more efficient and effective, and better value for money. This will mean that we won't be able to continue everything we currently do but will ensure we don't lose what is core and important in delivering our Prospectus priorities.

ABG currently funds around 120 activities. The challenge panel's findings will mean that this number is reduced and we create larger commissions which will make more impact and remove duplication, rather than lots of small pieces of work. This will also help us manage any future budget reductions.

To enable this, current activities were put into clusters around common outcomes. Each cluster has been given a savings target, but much more work is needed to look into where the savings will be made and exactly how each service will look in the future. This is very much a 'point in time' picture. Until we have fully analysed activity and understand how ABG finance fits with mainstream and other funding, the savings figures for each cluster may change. A senior staff member within one of the partner organisations has been assigned to lead the work on each cluster, with help from the partnership support team.

As a sensible precaution, all planned activity which is not already underway has been halted until the review has concluded. The panel also recommended that unspent ABG funds are returned to the central pot every quarter, unless a very good justification can be presented. This will help make sure our services are well planned and we deliver what we say we will.

The national picture

As expected, the government announced £2.8m cuts to this year's area based grant programme. The challenge panel's recommendations mean that we ought to achieve these required reductions in Oldham.

As you probably know from the media, the future will be challenging for the public sector. Partners in Oldham have all made a commitment to work together to make our services better and more efficient.

Next steps

The agreed recommendations are outlined below. The recommendations will be reported to the thematic partnerships and the boards of partner agencies who are accountable for particular targets. At this point, the boards will identify any risks and plans will be put in place to mitigate these risks.

There will also be a thorough consultation about implementing the recommendations with organisations who currently deliver activities and with key stakeholders. This will comply with guidelines in the Oldham Compact. At this point, any appeals will be dealt with in line with the council's corporate complaints process.

The challenge panel will continue to meet to oversee and agree the implementation of its proposals, and to look at them again if government announces further funding reductions. The partnership executive will receive a full report of our financial position and pressures in September.

The final stage in the process will be a commissioning strategy to ensure all partners are clear on the way forward.

Contact us

We will continue to keep you informed through out the process and information will be available on the partnership's website www.oldhampartnership.org.uk/reviewing-abg.

The partnership's support team fully understands that this is a challenging period, and can offer support every step of the way. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call Alison Vaughan on 0161 770 3199 or John Eley on 0161 770 5254.

Thank you for your support.

Clusters and Recommendations

Alcohol	
Recommendation - This is a priority but still need to gain maximum efficiencies. Activity to be reviewed for effectiveness and for this to be part of a broader discussion around other alcohol support to identify smarter ways of working.	
Prospectus narrative - <i>A borough in which people enjoy long, healthy, active and fulfilling lives and reduce the impact of drugs and alcohol</i>	
Activity	
AMOAT	ADS and Acorn Treatment
Oasis.	Positive Steps Oldham
Access	Positive Steps Oldham
Alcohol Co-ordinator	Positive Steps Oldham
Total Funding committed 10/11	£486,350
Potential saving to be realised	£80,559
Strategic Lead	Gail Richards with input from Janet Sewart
OPST support	Denis Durnian/Shirley Allen
Timeframe	Sep-10

Crime	
Recommendation - Current support is critical for Oldham, domestic violence in particular, in protecting our most vulnerable residents. A 30% efficiency saving to be realised from the cluster of activity is felt to be a manageable risk.	
Prospectus narrative - <i>High quality neighbourhoods with low levels of crime.</i>	
Activity	
Domestic Abuse Partnership Unit	Oldham Council Community Safety Unit
Challenge and Support Team	Positive Steps Oldham
Violent Crime Coordinator	Oldham Council
Supporting Victims of Crime	Victim Support and Witness Service
Services for Children Affected by Domestic Abuse	Barnardos
Safe Tasking	GMP/Oldham Council
Saddleworth Inspector.	GMP
Neighbourhood Justice Coordinator	Oldham Council Community Safety Unit
Integrated Offender Management	Probation Service
Get Offenders Back On Track (GOFBOT)	H2O
Chief Inspector Community Safety Services.	Oldham Council Community Safety Unit
Integrated Youth Crime Prevention Initiative	Positive Steps Oldham
Total Funding committed 10/11	£1,704,557
Potential saving to be realised	£511,367
Strategic Lead	Tim Forber with input from Chris Sykes
OPST support	Anna Forster/Dave Catherall
Timeframe	Jul-10

Third Sector Infrastructure	
Recommendation - A full mapping and gapping of activity to be undertaken drawing in all related activity and determining what additional activity could also be delivered through this for an improved impact. One commission to be developed with a 30% efficiency in place at this point	
Prospectus narrative - <i>creation of a cohesive society where people get on and where people want to live</i>	
Activity	
Community grants and VCFP development	OCAS and VAO
Capacity building and development	Oldham Communities Unit
The HUB	Positive Steps Oldham
Interfaith development/faith related cohesion	Oldham Communities Unit/Interfaith forum
Local Involvement Networks	Oldham Council
Embedding Equalities	Talawa consulting
Total Funding committed 10/11	£871,666
Potential saving to be realised	£85,605
Strategic Lead	Liz Windsor Welsh with input from Bruce Penhale
OPST support	Denis Durnian/Dave Catherall
Timeframe	Aug-10

Cohesion and Preventing Violent Extremism	
Recommendation - Not in the Prospectus but still recognised as a cross cutting strategic priority for Oldham as stated in the Sustainable Community Strategy. A review of activity is currently underway and a mapping and gapping around this agenda to be undertaken to ensure a strategic fit to the Community Cohesion strategy that's currently being reviewed. A minimum 30% efficiency to be realised	
Prospectus narrative - <i>creation of a cohesive society where people get on and where people want to live (SCS)</i>	
Activity	
Preventing Violent Extremism co-ordination	Oldham Council Cohesion team
PVE top slice	AGMA - Oldham Council accountable body
Good Relations Oldham	Oldham Council
Total Funding committed 10/11	£145,000
Potential saving to be realised	£43,500
Strategic Lead	Bruce Penhale
OPST support	Denis Durnian/Alison Vaughan
Timeframe	Aug-10

Volunteering	
Recommendation - One commission to be developed encompassing all volunteering activity from other funding streams and within other activity. A 30% efficiency saving to be realised from this	
Prospectus narrative - <i>creation of a cohesive society where people get on and where people want to live (SCS)</i>	
Activity	
Oldham Volunteering Agency	Voluntary Action Oldham
Public Sector Volunteering Co-ordination	North West Network
Total Funding committed 10/11	£167,792

Potential saving to be realised	£50,338
Strategic Lead	Liz Windsor Welsh
OPST support	Denis Durnian/Dave Catherall
Timeframe	Aug-10

Culture/Diversionsary Activity	
Recommendation - To review related activity against the Go Oldham programme and identify where activity can be rationalised to achieve efficiencies of 30%	
Prospectus narrative - <i>participation in high quality activities to help improve the prospects of all young people, develop socially and emotionally, building communication skills and improving self confidence and self esteem</i>	
Activity	
Go Oldham	Oldham Council
Carnival mela and pride events	Oldham Council
Festival Partnership	Coliseum Theatre
LATICS	Oldham Athletic Community Trust
SHOP programme	Oldham Council Arts Team
Total Funding committed 10/11	£456,165
Potential saving to be realised	£136,850
Strategic Lead	John Eley
OPST support	Miriam Biran/Dave Catherall
Timeframe	Jul-10

Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)	
Recommendation - To be considered alongside the Culture agenda and to determine whether some elements of activity should no longer be funded through ABG. Activity to be reviewed for effectiveness and a 30% efficiency to be achieved.	
Prospectus narrative - <i>participation in high quality activities to help improve the prospects of all young people, develop socially and emotionally, building communication skills and improving self confidence and self esteem</i>	
Activity	
Play Development	Oldham Play Action Group (OPAG)
Asha Project	Barnardos
CAF commissioning and participation	Oldham Council
Youth Zone	Positive Steps Oldham
Junior Youth Clubs	OPAG, Barnardos, Werneth and Freehold CDP
Sports Provision for children and young people	Oldham Council Integrated youth services
Total Funding committed 10/11	£766,194
Potential saving to be realised	£196,204
Strategic Lead	Tim Mitchell with input from Liz Windsor Welsh
OPST Support	Andy Nichols/Shirley Allen
Timeframe	Aug-10

Community Support	
Recommendation - To review community engagement activity within existing activity. A clear programme to be developed to ensure the right mechanisms are in place and to eliminate duplication. Need to understand the impact of interventions and for this to be linked to the City Region pilots. One commission around legal, information, advice and guidance support to be developed with a 30% efficiency saving.	
Prospectus narrative - <i>creation of a cohesive society where people get on and where people want to live (SCS)</i>	
Activity	
Legal and advice services	CAB and Oldham Law Centre
Credit Union	Oldham Credit Union
Community Centres and Organisations	Oldham Council
Community engagement	-
Learning and Disability Development Fund	Oldham Council Adult Services
Total Funding committed 10/11	£808,989
Potential saving to be realised	£115,170
Strategic Lead	John Eley with input from Ben Spinks
OPST Support	Denis Durnian/John Eley
Timeframe	Aug-10

Strategic Health	
Recommendation - A review of activity to be undertaken and to be linked into the work currently underway within the PCT around lifestyle related interventions. From this a more rounded and targeted approach to be developed with improved performance and a 30% efficiency saving. Some elements are a statutory requirement and funding is recommended to be ring-fenced to these activities with funding not required to be returned at year end.	
Prospectus narrative - <i>Improving people's overall lifetime expectancy and tackling the inequalities gap to achieve better health and well being for all. A Borough in which people enjoy long, healthy, active and fulfilling lives</i>	
Activity	
Heart of Oldham	Oldham Community Leisure Ltd
School Travel Plans	Oldham Council
Preserved Rights	Oldham Council Adult Services
Child Death Review Panel	Oldham Council Safeguarding Team
Total Funding committed 10/11	£490,134
Potential saving to be realised	£72,869
Strategic Lead	Gail Richards
OPST support	Harji Patel/Shirley Allen
Timeframe	Sep-10

Connexions	
Recommendation - All related activity to be reviewed against the recently renegotiated Positive Steps Oldham contract to determine what additional activity could be included within the contract, including Think Family Grant that has now been un ringfenced and relates to this agenda. To also look at the total funding available around teenage pregnancy and determine a more joined up service with efficiencies found from this.	
Prospectus narrative - <i>participation in high quality activities to help improve the prospects of all young people, develop socially and emotionally, building communication skills and improving self confidence and self esteem. Preventing young people from starting to commit crime or ASB, reducing truancy, low attainment, mental health problems and improving employability</i>	

Activity	
Integrated and Targeted Youth Support	Positive Steps Oldham
Healthy Schools	Positive Steps Oldham
Achieving NEET stretch targets	Positive Steps Oldham
NEET Re-Engagement	Werneth and Freehold CPD, Coppice community Centre, Groundwork
Learner tracking and management System.	Positive Steps Oldham
Reducing Teenage Conception Rate	Brook
Total Funding committed 10/11	£4,348,023
Potential saving to be realised	£436,500
Strategic Lead	Tim Mitchell with support from Gail Richards and John Eley
OPST Support	Andy Nichols/Shirley Allen
Timeframe	Aug-10

Support for Independent Living	
Recommendation - To identify how activity can be co-ordinated and targeted more effectively or if a different approach could be introduced linking to the broader Government agenda and other commissioned activity, particularly community engagement. One commission to be developed with a 30% efficiency.	
Prospectus narrative - <i>Provide high quality preventative services and support independent living. When care is needed, good services will be delivered in a timely manner</i>	
Activity	
Neighbourhood Network co-ordination	Age Concern
Capacity Delivery Officers	Oldham Council
Where Can I find?	Age Concern
Safe at Home and Home Shopping	Age Concern
Gardening Maintenance	Oldham Council
Community Transport (Promobility)	Community Transport
Total Funding committed 10/11	£265,000
Potential saving to be realised	£73,500
Strategic Lead	Anne Ryans with input from Colette Kelly
OPST Support	Harji Patel/Alison Vaughan
Timeframe	Jul-10

Housing	
Recommendation - To identify linkages to other services and commissioned activity and for potential efficiencies against related activity to be realised	
Prospectus narrative - <i>high quality neighbourhoods through high quality affordable homes</i>	
Activity	
Oldham Reconnect (mediation)	De Paul Trust
Oldham Nightstop	FCHO
Oldham Bond Scheme	FCHO
Mortgage Rescue Scheme	Oldham CAB
Emerging Communities Co-ordinator	FCHO
Total Funding committed 10/11	£150,000
Potential saving to be realised	To be confirmed

Strategic Lead	John Eley with input from John Rooney
OPST Support	Dave Catherall
Timeframe	Aug-10

Supporting People	
Recommendation - To identify synergies with related mainstream activities and commissioned activity and for potential efficiencies to be identified from this.	
Prospectus narrative - <i>Provide high quality preventative services and support independent living. When care is needed, good services will be delivered in a timely manner</i>	
Activity	
Older people	
Socially Excluded	
Social Care	
Total Funding committed 10/11	£8,227,686
Potential saving to be realised	To be confirmed
Strategic Lead	Gail Richards with input from Veronica Jackson
OPST Support	Shirley Allen
Timeframe	Aug-10

Carers	
Recommendation - To retain the service but to look to understand the real impact and if this can be linked and joined up to other activity more effectively, with potential efficiencies identified.	
Prospectus narrative - <i>Provide high quality preventative services and support independent living. When care is needed, good services will be delivered in a timely manner</i>	
Activity	
Carers Grant	Oldham Council Adult Services
Specialist Service for Young Carers	Positive Steps Oldham
Total Funding committed 10/11	£1,367,987
Potential saving to be realised	To be confirmed
Strategic Lead	Gail Richards with input from Tim Mitchell
OPST Support	Harji Patel/Shirley Allen
Timeframe	Aug-10

Mental Health and Mental Capacity Advocacy	
Recommendation - This is a statutory and vital service but there may be opportunities for more support being provided by streamlining services. Need to review whether this remains funded through ABG or if it can be provided in other way. More information to be provided to gain clarity.	
Prospectus narrative - <i>Provide high quality preventative services and support independent living. When care is needed, good services will be delivered in a timely manner</i>	
Activity	
CAMHS	Oldham Council safeguarding
Mental Health and Mental Capacity Advocacy	Oldham Council Adult services
Total Funding committed 10/11	£1,525,230
Potential saving to be realised	To be confirmed

Strategic Lead	Gail Richards with input from Tim Mitchell
OPST Support	Andy Nichols/Shirley Allen
Timeframe	Jul-10

Supporting Learning	
Recommendation - All activity to be reviewed against the Junior University for synergies, reduced duplication and potential efficiencies. To determine where the service is best placed and to consider the benefits and value of interventions and also ensure it is targeted where it is needed. This is also part of the extended schools agenda and needs to be linked to this and Aiming High. Potential changes to the funding of schools needs to be built into considerations and whether activity should be provided through ABG in addition to the potential purchasing of support for schools.	
Prospectus narrative - <i>investment in higher level skills, increase level 3 and 4 progression, expand curriculum provision, strong apprenticeship routes, reduce unemployment and worklessness. Narrow the gap in educational achievement</i>	
Activity	
Junior University:	Oldham Sixth Form College
Training Opportunities for Young Parents	Key to the Door
Study Support	Oldham Council Integrated Youth service
Enterprise in Education (Young Enterprise)	Enterprise Factory, Young Enterprise NW, North Chadderton Schools, Engineering Development Trust
Young Professionals	Oldham College
Extended Right to Free Transport	Oldham Council
Total Funding committed 10/11	£1,242,897
Potential saving to be realised	£370,133
Strategic Lead	Nick Brown with input from Tim Mitchell and Michael Jameson
OPST Support	Karen Wells/Dave Catherall
Timeframe	Aug-10

Workforce Development	
Recommendation - To confirm how the resource is used and review to ensure there is no duplication, identifying efficiencies from this. To review alongside the joint PCT/Council arrangements and the City Region agenda to maximise and target support	
Prospectus narrative - <i>increase the proportion of highly skilled people in the City Region, attracting talent, retaining and nurturing the best talent</i>	
Activity	
Workforce Development	Oldham Council PCS
Children's Social care workforce development	Oldham Council PCS
Adult Social Care Workforce	Oldham Council PCS
Total Funding committed 10/11	£891,591
Potential saving to be realised	To be confirmed
Strategic Lead	Alison Vaughan
Timeframe	

Extended Schools	
Recommendation - To review as one commission to ensure no duplication and to identify potential 30% efficiencies from this. To link through to the Supporting Learning agenda as part of this.	
Prospectus narrative - <i>investment in higher level skills, increase level 3 and 4 progression, expand curriculum provision, strong apprenticeship routes, reduce unemployment and worklessness. Narrow the gap in educational achievement between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers</i>	
Activity	
Extended Schools	Oldham Council School Improvement
School improvement teams	Oldham Council School Improvement
Choice Advisors	Oldham Council School Improvement
Behaviour Improvement	Oldham Council School Improvement
Family Group Meetings	Child Action North West
Psychology Service	Oldham Council Safeguarding
SEN Activities	Oldham Council School Improvement
Care Matters White Paper	Oldham Council Safeguarding
Virtual Schools Co-ordinator	Oldham Council School improvement
Total Funding committed 10/11	£2,165,184
Potential saving to be realised	£649,555
Strategic Lead	John Eley with input from Michael Jameson and LLP
OPST Support	Andy Nichols/Shirley Allen
Timeframe	Aug-10

Worklessness	
Recommendation - To look at synergies and efficiencies that can be gained around related activities with a potential 30% efficiency found. Much of the activity is already under review through the AGMA Commission for the New Economy, Government's Welfare to Work agenda and the move to a universal service, and IAG support is being remodelled by Government. The review needs to follow the national agenda with outcomes to be known in July. Performance triggers and unit costs to be renegotiated.	
Prospectus narrative - <i>increase the proportion of highly skilled people in the City Region, attracting talent, retaining and nurturing the best talent. Investment in higher level skills, providing apprenticeship routes, reduce unemployment and worklessness</i>	
Activity	
Bulky Bobs	FRC Trading
J21 Construction training.	Rochdale Council
Get Oldham Back On Track 1 (GOBOT)	Upturn Enterprise Ltd
Get Oldham Back On Track 1 (GOBOT)	H20
Highways to Education-	H20
Total Funding committed 10/11	£564,375
Potential saving to be realised	£137,700
Strategic Lead	Elaine McLean
OPST Support	Karen Wells/Dave Catherall
Timeframe	Aug-10

Business Support	
Recommendation - Recognised the value coming from this type of activity and the savings that are felt elsewhere should be effectively measured. To look at whether the organisation of delivery is the most effective way alongside related activity and to create one commission with 30% efficiencies.	
Prospectus narrative - <i>Increase the proportion of highly skilled people in the City Region, attracting talent, retaining and nurturing the best talent and development of high tech industries</i>	
Activity	
Think Local	Oldham Council EPS
Employer engagement programme	Oldham Council EPS
ISUS- Intensive Business Start up Programme-	
Supporting Oldham businesses	
Total Funding committed 10/11	£297,722
Potential saving to be realised	£51,396
Strategic Lead	Elaine McLean
OPST Support	Karen Wells/Dave Catherall
Timeframe	Aug-10

Strategic Regeneration	
Recommendation - To look at whether certain areas be rationalised, delivered in a different way. Activity as a whole is under review to identify rationalising support as part of the AGMA combined authority agenda and this to direct the review.	
Prospectus narrative - <i>High quality neighbourhoods, good well maintained environments and clean streets</i>	
Activity	
Beyond Oldham Beyond-	Oldham Council EPS
Economy and Skills Unit-	Oldham Council EPS
Economic Assessment Duty	Oldham Council EPS
Improvement of LEQ	Oldham Council EPS
Total Funding committed 10/11	£570,000
Potential saving to be realised	To be confirmed
Strategic Lead	Elaine McLean
OPST Support	Karen Wells/Dave Catherall
Timeframe	Sep-10

Cross Cutting	
Recommendation - To be reviewed as part of the Governance requirements for the LSP going forward.	
Prospectus narrative	
Activity	
Marketing and Comms	OPST
Strategic Research	Strategic research Working Group
OPST	OPST
Safeguarding Chair	Oldham Council Safeguarding
Supporting People Admin	Oldham Council PCS
Total Funding committed 10/11	£1,089,759
Potential saving to be realised	To be confirmed
Strategic Lead	John Eley
Timeframe	Aug-10

Committed Activity (including carry forward 09/10)	£28,602,301
Government Funding cuts 10/11	£2,838,000
Potential Savings (pro rata)	£3,011,246