

## **Oldham Partnership Press Release**

**12<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

**AP/120506**

### **QUALITY OF LIFE SET TO RISE AFTER LOCAL LAUNCH**

The Oldham Partnership today (Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May) hosted the local launch of a Government initiative which will increase the quality of life for the residents of the Borough.

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a contract between Government and the Oldham Partnership about the services the Oldham Partnership will deliver to the people of the Borough over the next three years.

A variety of factors affect the quality of life in Oldham, and this is reflected in the breadth of the issues which will be addressed over the next three years.

These include the strength of local communities, which will be enhanced through projects to reduce crime, domestic burglaries, and house fires, whilst increasing the number of people participating in performing or visual arts.

The health and the opportunities available to the Borough's children and young people will be improved through greater academic achievement, and a commitment to increase the amount of time that children spend exercising.

Initiatives will also be instigated to improve street cleanliness, increase employment, reduce levels of homelessness, and increase the number of older people supported to live at home.

Chair of the Oldham Partnership Executive and Principal of Oldham Sixth Form College Nick Brown said: "The Oldham Partnership is committed to improving the quality of life for everybody within the Borough."

"The long-term challenges which Oldham faces will only be addressed by the collective and co-ordinated actions of all partners within the Borough."

"These initiatives will narrow the gap between the quality of life in the Borough and the country as a whole, as well as providing targeted support to neighbourhoods and communities which need it."

"The increased quality of life will lead to greater levels of community cohesion, and will reinforce the changing face of Oldham as a Borough that is increasing opportunities for all its residents."

Chief Executive of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council Andrew Kilburn said: "This is all about improving the quality of life and the quality of local services for people in the Borough."

“We believe that the package we have put together will address the major priorities for the Borough over the next three years – stronger communities, improved housing, economic development and improved health, as well as specific issues which affect children and older people.”

Chief Superintendent of Greater Manchester Police (Oldham Division) Caroline Ball said: “The targets outlined in the Local Area Agreement represent excellent value for money.”

“By co-ordinating activity across a number of local agencies against a clear set of local targets, we will be able to get the greatest results from the money that is invested.”

The launch of the Local Area Agreement in Oldham took place at the Avant Hotel, Oldham, with guests including Phil Woolas MP and Michael Meacher MP.

It also featured a performance from Oldham Theatre Workshop’s Actors Group, who acted out a 10-minute section from their play “The Hunt For The Shmoozle”.

The number of people who participate in performing and visual arts is a key target in the Local Area Agreement.

Participation in cultural activities enables the individuals involved to develop new personal and professional skills, as well as stimulating economic growth and promoting community cohesion in the Borough.

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.

The over-arching aim for Oldham’s Local Area Agreement is to increase the opportunities available in life to all residents, as embodied in the Agreement’s strap line – “increasing opportunities for all”.

The Local Area Agreement will bring together over £400million worth of funding from 45 funding streams over the three years of the Agreement.

Projects will be allocated resource based on their ability to make a direct contribution to the targets outlined in the Local Area Agreement.

**ENDS**

**For further information [please contact Adam Patterson, Marketing and Communications Co-ordinator at Oldham Partnership on 0161 615 5038, or email \[adam.patterson@oldhampartnership.org.uk\]\(mailto:adam.patterson@oldhampartnership.org.uk\)](#)**

## 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)

