

# Street Wisdom in Oldham

The answers are everywhere



November 2017

# What is Street Wisdom?

Street Wisdom is a powerful, innovative game-changer that uses the streets as an invisible university.

Over three hours, participants learn how to access the urban environment and find fresh answers to personal or work-related questions. It's a technology that allows anyone, anywhere to get unusual inspiration from their everyday surroundings.

At the centre of Street Wisdom lies the idea that every moment is extraordinary and every street is full of inspiration; that there's no such thing as an ordinary street, just ordinary thinking. Few of us give ourselves time or permission to really focus on the world around us but the urban landscape is full of signs and signals that we normally ignore. This is all rich stimulus that can help us learn something new.

In just three hours of walking and wandering, people have resolved problems that have dogged them for years, found new business ideas, changed careers, found new directions, and learned how to deal differently with life, love, debts, and difficult choices.



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in Oldham**

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A key part of Oldham's co-operative approach has been to build a new relationship with residents.

Through our Your Oldham Festival we have tapped into local community spirit, inspiring residents to do their bit and get involved in their local area.

Street Wisdom is one of the tools we are using to inspire residents to see their local area differently and connect with it in different ways.

Over 70 people have attended Street Wisdom sessions in Oldham as part of the Your Oldham campaign and the feedback has been fantastic...



STREET  
WISDOM  
ANSWERS ARE EVERYWHERE

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## Quotes:

- “ Not obvious at first by the title but this is really great way to get into mindfulness’ ‘To put a spin on Mark Twain’s quote about Golf, this isn’t a good walk spoilt but a good walk to inspire. ”
- “ I found the activity a very personal experience with a touch of emotion. The activity was a unique opportunity to reflect on the work life balance as a full time working parent. ”
- “ The activity provided the head space for reflection and a tool to manage head space in the future. In a period of uncertainty for many council workers the activity offered an opportunity to reflect on options that are open to us as individuals, and how we can make the most of our options. ”





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## Quotes:

“ The activity enables Oldham to be seen in a positive way and be proud of the town where we live and work. (It is very beautiful) I think this would be a good tool to use with young people especially in the age of technology. I hope that helps with feedback. ”

“ Mind Blowing experience. Thoroughly enjoyed. Apprehensive at first. Fantastic opportunity. Highly recommended. Opened my eyes and ears to things around me. ”

“ It was great to focus on the world around me and take in some of the inspirational signs to assist with my thought for the future. Would love to have a staff day or undertake this again myself. ”





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## Quotes:

- “ Although familiar with using similar mindfulness and coaching approaches, I turned up on a beautifully sunny morning looking forward to the full immersion Oldham Town Centre and Street Wisdom could offer. ”
- “ On seeing a ‘one way’ sign, I realised that I’d been caught in tunnel thinking and a new question popped into my head ‘Is there only one way? How else could I tackle this problem? ”
- “ The discussion when the group returned to our rendezvous point was quite striking in that we had all had some great and meaningful experiences as well as covering a serious number of miles between us, not to mention the sunburn! ”





For further information about Street Wisdom please visit [www.streetwisdom.org](http://www.streetwisdom.org)