



**Co-operative Councils**  
Innovation Network

## CO-OPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

Oldham Council

# Thriving Communities

### Background

The Thriving Communities (TC) programme is the bedrock of the Oldham Cares programme and central to the Oldham Model contained in the Oldham Plan. It focuses on creating the conditions for sustainable prevention, social action and change which are pre-requisites of achieving the overarching outcomes of the wider programme. It will do this through developing and implementing systematic approach to maintaining, building and growing community capacity across the borough through effective collaboration and ways of working with communities and the Voluntary, Community, Social, Faith and Enterprise (VCSFE) sector.

***The overarching vision is for people and communities to have the power to be healthy, happy, able to make positive choices and both offer and access insightful and responsive support when needed.***

Thriving Communities is a wider platform for change and one of the key pillars central to the refreshed Oldham Plan 2017-2022. The model, as shown below, demonstrates how Thriving Communities, Inclusive growth and Co-operative services, enabled by a simultaneous and conscious investment in public service reform and empowering communities, will deliver on the ambitions and aspirations for a Co-operative Oldham – people and places.

### What are we doing?

- Delivering direct improvement to the health and wellbeing of all people living in Oldham and in doing so help address health inequality.
- Adopting an asset-based approach to commissioning that draws upon the strengths of individuals, families and communities and supports a thriving VCSFE across the borough.
- Working with the VCSFE to develop a sustainable approach to funding of the sector.
- Maintaining and growing community capacity across the borough.
- Engaging people and communities in the design and delivery of services.
- Developing an approach to social prescribing that supports the whole of the Oldham Cares system and bridges dependencies with other elements of reform such as place based integration.
- Supporting early intervention and prevention.
- Supporting the building of the Oldham brand and attracting investment to the borough.



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- Ensuring that the resources of the wider social care system are directed towards places and the people that need it most and enable positive demand management.

## Why are we doing it?

There is a strong and extensive evidence base that these initiatives and projects which underpin the plan work and have undergone appropriate challenge and scrutiny already, some applicable examples are referenced here but the evidence base is much wider.

## How are we doing it?



**Thriving Communities Hub** - Leaving a legacy of system change which transforms the way the VSCFE and public services interact and commission. Drawing in the best in academic research to attract funding to the borough and drive innovation and transformation in how we deliver care across the health care system with an emphasis on moving to earlier community support models.

**Funding** - The funding work stream will seek to multiply the programme allocation through match-funding and other investment opportunities.

## What's co-operative about how we are doing it?

Thriving Communities will deliver on the ambitions and aspirations for a Co-operative Oldham – people and places.

Putting local people at the heart of this approach bringing together residents, communities, partners and organisations to work co-operatively on demand shift and service redesign.

Through the Leadership and Workforce strategy we will continue to build an asset and place-based approach, maximising the capability and contribution of individuals, families, the VCSFE and of statutory services – the co-operative workforce.



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## What are we hoping to achieve?

Empowering communities help to increase the well-being of those residents who live in them. Increasing people's confidence and skills, leading to better public services or changed policies tackling the issues that make the most difference to people's lives.

## What's next?

Roll out fast grants and social action fund

Progress the place-based pilots

Develop our approach to social prescribing

Continue to develop the Thriving Communities Index

Work up the Thriving communities' hub approach with our community groups

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### For further information contact:

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