Action Oldham Fund has a vision of Oldham giving locally, working co-operatively and transforming Oldham together.

The Action Oldham Fund is a charitable fund that supports good causes across borough with grants, so they can make a real difference to local lives.

This report provides details of Action Oldham grants awarded between April 2016 and March 2017 to community projects working across the Oldham Borough.

The overall objectives of the Fund were to:

- enable local communities to identify and implement local solutions to local problems and provide appropriate support
- promote voluntary social action and a culture of volunteering
- promote co-operation and collaboration within and between communities

To apply for funding projects needed to:

- help Oldham residents into work
- promote wellbeing amongst Oldham residents or
- promote independence & resilience

**TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED IN 2016**

£122,272
Vision formally known as Oldham Bangladeshi Youth Association was established over 40 years ago to provide facilities to support young people’s personal development and promote inclusion by organising social and cultural events and activities.

Vision operates in Coldhurst and Chadderton and uses an asset based sustainable approach to deliver their vital services and support to its beneficiaries. Their purpose is to remain an open, friendly and approachable entity that works alongside the community to provide support and better the lives of local people.

‘Parents and children actively took part and engaged in most sessions and activities, we were lucky to meet some great people, some of which would go on to become active volunteers.

From feedback we learned that participants who went on to become volunteers felt valued and empowered through being given responsibilities and roles which they managed.’

Aminul Hoque—Vision manager

As a result of the funded project:

10 dads are now running and volunteering the Saturday mornings dads and lads club.

152 local people have benefited from the project, from ages as young as 5 to 65+ both male and female.

40 over 40 families have been supported

Vision Youth and Community

FUND:
Action Oldham Project Fund

Funded Project:
The Family Synergy Project was developed by residents who wanted to bridge the gap between young and old people complaining of a cultural and generation divide. With a grant of £9,981 they created a friendly space for use over the weekend and drew families closer to emerge as a stronger unit, able to deter and tackle the adverse issues faced within the communities.

Outcomes:

- Improved employability through basic skills and work experience within the community
- Reduction in the number of young people engaged in antisocial behavior due to an increase in positive healthier activities.
- Increase in awareness of mental and physical health and well-being

Action Oldham Give Backs:
Held a raffle at the Summer17 BIG event and raised £62.50
Indoor 5 a side football tournament to be held in 2018
**Friends of Bright Futures School**

Friends of Bright Futures School (FBFS) is the parent/teacher association of Bright Futures School for children with autism in Grasscroft.

One of the main aims of the Association is to advance the education of pupils in the school in particular by:

- Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment, which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.

**FUND:**

Action Oldham Seed Corn

**FUNDED PROJECT:**

Friends of Bright Futures School were successful in securing £867.84 for pupils to access horse riding and horse therapy sessions at Dicky Steps Riding School.

Children with autism benefit from equine therapy due to the motor, emotional and sensory sensations that come with riding a horse.

**OUTCOMES:**

- Improved confidence
- Improved life opportunities
- Improved emotional wellbeing

---

**Mandel’s Community Cafe**

Cafe Mandel’s is a community cafe based at the McGrother building in Dunwood Park, Shaw, Oldham. Established by Right Opportunities

**FUND:**

Action Oldham Project

**FUNDED PROJECT:**

Café Mandel’s used their funding of £7,720 too create and provide work placement opportunities and personalised support for young people with learning difficulties combined with new volunteering for local residents. The six week training programme enabled young people to take part in a curriculum of active learning that helped to develop confidence and employability skills.

**OUTCOMES:**

- Improved confidence
- Improved employability skills

**Action Oldham Give Backs:**

- Percentage of profit from furniture sale
Anthony an 18 year old man from Eritrea at the last session said that before the course he was very stressed and anxious all the time, he is now more relaxed, like the pressure was lifted up from him and he was having a better life. As a celebration of the course the whole group went to the cinema and he was so happy as he had never been to the cinema before. He said that the experience was very refreshing and he gave a hug to everyone, he was so grateful.

‘CAP Life Skills was an important reminder to remember to follow some specific steps to manage stress without confusing information from third parties, to find support and to stay safe have fun and talk to people. It was great to work alongside residents and group leaders of community organisations who share similar values and there is real help available’—Rhonda

As a result of the funded project:

- Eight week long CAP Life Skills Courses
- People have directly benefitted from the course
- People have found employment
- Are now volunteering

Outcomes:

- Reduced social isolation
- Increase in new skills, confidence and a greater sense of belonging
- Increase in volunteers/helpers for future projects
- Increased quality of life

Action Oldham Give Backs:

- Raised £123.86 from a second hand goods sale
- Took part in a skydive and raised £100.85
- Held a cake sale and raised £75.00

Fund:

Action Oldham Project Fund

Funded Project:

Ark North West and Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Oldham are small groups that work together to help local people. Ark runs a weekly drop-in for vulnerable people based at the Salt Cellar in Oldham Town Centre. The CAP Oldham Debt Centre provides support for clients with serious debt problems. The Action Oldham Fund awarded the project £5450 for a joint project between Ark and CAP which gave people the confidence and skills they need to survive life on a low income by teaching practical techniques on budgeting, health, wellbeing and relationships.
**Art with Heart CIC**

Art with Heart are a not-for-profit CIC creating Performance, Participation and Education projects. They tackle difficult and often stigmatised topics to open up and create discussion. They have a focus on encouraging and engaging women, young people and isolated communities in the arts.

Art with Heart CIC work with local communities and people who would not usually be able to access the arts.

**FUND:**
Action Oldham Seed Corn

**FUNDED PROJECT:**
With a grant of £1,000 Art with Heart CIC performed Declaration to the Oldham stage. Based on Sarah’s journey with what the doctor’s have labeled as ADHD, the one-woman play opened up conversations about mental health, challenged stigmas and worked with communities to create an environment fueled with understanding, support and personal confidence.

**OUTCOMES:**
- Improved educational attainment
- Improved life opportunities
- Reduced isolation or improved social inclusion.

**Action Oldham Give Backs:**
Support from Action Oldham highlighted in interviews, press releases and on programme.
OL1 Oldham

OL1 Oldham is a voluntary group of residents from the BGreen area of Oldham. The group work closely with partners and residents to work with the community particular areas covered include; St Mary’s, Coldhurst, Baker Street, Egerton Street, Wallshaw Street.

The OL1 model which has brought together key partners and residents. The success of sharing time, resources and knowledge with the committees who make up Bgreen show how a community can successfully bring people together.

Action Oldham Project

Funded Project:

A grant of £7,608 helped OL1 Oldham with their aim of helping local people make positive lifestyle changes by supporting them to become more physically active.

Regular weekly health walks were established and Chair Based exercise classes and women only Zumba Class were arranged following consultation with local mums.

A series of SPLAY (Sport Through Play) events was successfully run in conjunction with the Children’s Breakfast Club at Barker Street Community Centre.

Outcomes:

- Improved long term improvements to health and wellbeing
- Increased experience of managing projects
- Increased engagement with members of the local community
- Reduced isolation or improved social inclusion.

Action Oldham Give Backs:

- Organising a sponsored walk
Dovetales International Trust

Dovetales International Trust was originally set up in 1992 and helped street children in South East India. Now their primary aim is to encourage socialisation and participation for people over 50. They have recently purchased an ex-bridal shop in Shaw and are converting it into a community facility.

**FUND:**

**Funded Project:**

Dovetales International Trust received £9,986 towards the converting an old shop into a multi purpose community centre. This included a new kitchen and new central heating system.

**Outcomes:**

- Increase in number of people attending the centre
- Increased knowledge of services available in the Shaw area
- Reduced isolation for people over 50 with new friendships formed

**Action Oldham Give Backs:**

- Raffle prizes donated to Action Oldham
- Use of room for any events

Community Lived Experience Organisation (CLEO)

CLEO are a group of people all with lived experience of mental distress. They provide advocacy, peer support, social support and activities to anyone with a mental distress in the borough of Oldham.

Having a support network in place has been critical in maintaining good mental health and has helped in combating loneliness.

**FUND:**

**Funded Project:**

CLEO received £1,000 to organise a diary of events and activities where people with mental distress could come together to take part in activities, have fun and build new relationships.

The funding gave them the confidence to arrange their own activities and they enjoyed the flexibility and freedom that came with it.

**Outcomes:**

- Increased social interactions, networks and companionship
- Improved life opportunities
- Reduced isolation

**Action Oldham Give Backs:**

- Held a Christmas raffle and raised £40.00

“I don’t see anyone else but my family, I get depressed and sleep too much, this is my lifeline. I worry about the impact on the other members if the groups stops. Loved it!” Chris
Firwood and District Residents Association (FADRA)

The Firwood and District Residents Association covers over 2000 households. Their aim is to provide community facilities and activities inclusive of everyone and they work in close partnership with the local primary school and the neighbourhood police team.

**FUND:**
Action Oldham Seed Corn

**FUNDED PROJECT:**
FADRA were successful in securing £1.000 towards the organising of three tea dances at Chadderton Town Hall.

Over 300 people attended and have stated that they feel healthier and happier and can’t wait for the next event.

**OUTCOMES:**
- Improved confidence
- Improved life opportunities
- Improved emotional wellbeing

Off The Record

Off The Record (OTR) provides and maintains an independent, free, accessible, confidential, face to face counselling and training service, which promotes good mental and emotional health among young people aged between 10 and 25, living in Oldham and Tameside and surrounding areas. In essence, OTR is a specialist counselling service that enables young people to be heard in a confidential, safe, supportive and non-judgemental space.

**FUND:**
Action Oldham Project

**FUNDED PROJECT:**
Off The Record received £9,748 to re-establish their Oldham Crisis Drop-in and Counselling Service at Positive Steps focusing on Domestic Abuse and related issues.

**OUTCOMES:**
- Improved confidence
- Improved life opportunities
- Improved emotional wellbeing

Action Oldham Give Backs:
- None specified
Oldham Greenhill Community Sports Club

Oldham Greenhill CS&RC is based in Alexandra Ward in Oldham five minutes away from the town centre. They deliver physical and enjoyable sport sessions for children and young people and are now running ladies only fitness classes and family sessions. Community events, celebrations and fun days are also planned throughout the year and with support from the community they deliver fundraising activities, tournaments and competitions to help sustain the club in the long run.

FUND:
Action Oldham Project

FUNDED PROJECT:
The Sports Club asked for £3515 towards the costs of refurbishments to the centre, mainly separate wash facilities for women users. They have seen an increase in users and now have many more women and children using the sports facilities. External partners are also using the premises for meetings outside of normal working hours.

OUTCOMES:
- Increased number of users and volunteers
- Improved health and wellbeing

Action Oldham Give Backs:
- Offer of free pitch hire and function room to hold events
Oldham Play Action Group (OPAG)

Oldham Play Action Group is a registered charity working across the borough of Oldham to extend and enhance both the quantity and quality of play and free-time opportunities for children, young people and their families.

OPAG provides advice and support to community groups, runs junior youth clubs, art projects, consultation and training. OPAG also runs a small play resource store based at Greenacres Community Centre.

**FUND:**

Action Oldham Project

**FUNDED PROJECT:**

OPAG with their grant of £4,000 ran a series of creative workshops with clusters of volunteers across Oldham building to a high profile National Playday event in August 2017 rooted in the skills and enthusiasm of Oldham’s communities. Titled ‘Handmade Arts for Homemade People’ in order to put the event on a new and more organic footing that is built on the creative contributions people make to the planning and delivery. The aim was for the event to be more people led and families have more of a role in shaping and putting on the event. ‘Build it’ workshops has since become part of OPAGs outreach and play development offer and give tangible focus for activity and learning new skills.

**OUTCOMES:**

- Better equipped with new skills to be used to support community events
- Increased interactive play provision for children
- Improved social inclusion

**Action Oldham Give Backs:**

- Circus themed games made for Action Oldham Ball
- Volunteer took part in the Action Oldham Fund charity shark dive
Fullcircle nw CIC

Fullcircle works with young people, residents, and community groups within the Oldham Borough and surrounding areas. The key aims of the company are to:

- Inspire and empower people to be actively involved in issues that affect their community;
- Provide innovative and responsive effective services which reflect the needs of the community;
- Provide young people with the best opportunities to achieve their full potential.

**FUND:**
Action Oldham Project

**FUNDED PROJECT:**
With funding of £4676 Fullcircle set up ‘The GIRLS Project’. The project was a 20 week health and well-being project targeting girls aged 10-15 years old and has been a positive learning experience. The sessions provided a safe place to go where the girls were able to participate in a range of positive activities including cooking delivered in partnership with WIFI Oldham

**OUTCOMES:**
- Improved mental wellbeing
- Increased knowledge and understanding in a range of areas including body confidence and self-esteem
- Increased staff and volunteers knowledge and skills

**Action Oldham Give Backs:**
- Offer of staff and volunteers for Action Oldham events
- Promoted the Fund on social media

Fullcircle Director Dawn Fox said: ‘This project has been awesome!! the young people and workers who have been involved have loved every minute. We are keen to continue this project and have applied to a national
Pennine Mencap supports the development and wellbeing of adults with learning disabilities and autism by helping them to develop new skills and improve their confidence. They work with many disabled adults who are socially isolated, financially deprived and lacking in opportunities to improve their lives. They are often under-supported and at substantial risk of abuse, alcohol/substance misuse and housing instability.

The charity is based at Rhodes Bank Chambers, a prominent Victorian premises in Oldham which was donated to the group in 2015. This former YMCA is gradually being transformed into a base for their projects, including performing arts, film making, supported reading, confidence building and social groups.

**FUND:**
Action Oldham Project

**FUNDED PROJECT:**
Pennine Mencap asked for £9,902 to help fit out three rooms in their new building (one as a multi purpose drama studio, one as a food preparation kitchen and one as a general hot drinks making kitchenette). Following refurbishment of the rooms they have established a full schedule of weekly activities utilising the new facilities. This includes two performing arts sessions per week, a community choir, film and media sessions, a supported reading group and weekly cookery sessions from our premises. Pennine Mencap have also hosted several public performances, a stand-up comedy night and confidence building courses.

**OUTCOMES:**
- Increase in new service users
- Improved mental/physical wellbeing, challenging behaviours and life skills of beneficiaries.

**Action Oldham Give Backs:**
- Community choir performed at Action Oldham Ball
**FUND**: Action Oldham **Project**

Successful applicants

- Waterhead ARLFC
- Oldham Greenhill Community Sports Club
- Oldham Play Action Group
- Fullcircle nw CIC
- Westwood & Coldhurst Women’s Association
- Block Lane Tenants and Residents Association
- OL1 Oldham
- Right Opportunites
- Hollinwood Hub
- Off The Record
- Pennine Mencap
- St Georges Over 60’s Club
- Vision Youth & Community
- Dovetales International Trust
- Christians Against Poverty (Oldham and Saddleworth)

£2700  
£3515  
£4000  
£4676  
£4976  
£7000  
£7608  
£7720  
£8889  
£9748  
£9902  
£9958  
£9981  
£9986  
£10000

**FUND**: Action Oldham **Seed Corn**

Successful applicants

- Uppermill Cricket Club
- Hack Oldham
- Scouthead and Austerlands Community Group
- Stitch and Share
- Friends of Bright Futures School
- Crossley Centre
- Anglo West Indian Sports and Social Club
- Art with Heart CIC
- Chadderton Together
- CLEO
- Hollinwood Work Club
- Support And Action For Women (Sawn)
- The Rangers Organisation
- Vision Youth & Community

£280  
£500  
£500  
£500  
£868  
£965  
£1000  
£1000  
£1000  
£1000  
£1000  
£1000

Total grants awarded in 2016, £122,272. For further information on any of the grants awarded please contact Jane Glaysher-White on 0161 339 2345 or email janegw@actiontogether.org.uk