

Oldham Community Health Champions Network

Terms of Reference

29/06/26

Version 1.1

1. Purpose

The Oldham Community Health Champions Network brings together trusted VCFSE organisations across Oldham to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for local communities. Through disseminating accessible and culturally appropriate health information, building awareness of services, and supporting preventative approaches, the Network strengthens community capacity to confidently make choices and participate in decisions about their own health. It also gathers community insight and lived experience to inform system partners, helping to improve service design, address barriers to access and reduce health inequalities across Oldham.

2. Aims and Objectives

- Support the dissemination of accessible, relevant, and up-to-date health information within communities
- Improve awareness and uptake of health services, including preventative interventions
- Strengthen community understanding of how to access care and navigate health systems
- Provide opportunities for communities to share insight on health needs, barriers, and priorities
- Participate in training and development on key health and wellbeing topics
- Influence health service design and delivery through community feedback loops
- Contribute to reducing health inequalities across Oldham

3. Membership

Membership of the Network is free and open to organisations working with the following communities in Oldham in the health and wellbeing space:

- South Asian
- Black African
- Roma
- People with Learning Disabilities & Autism
- Young People
- Any other communities experiencing economic disadvantage

Anyone wishing to join the network can email stan.benes@actiontogether.org.uk for more information.

Member organisations are expected to:

- Attend Network meetings regularly
- Actively disseminate health information within their communities
- Engage communities in conversations about health and wellbeing
- Share insights and feedback with the Network
- Contribute to collective learning and good practice

Members who have received funding from the Action Together for health awareness and information dissemination are expected to prioritise Network attendance and activities, as well as adhering to the terms of their grant agreement.

4. Governance and Coordination

Facilitation and oversight of The Network is provided by Action Together, with input from Oldham Public Health. Action Together are responsible for:

- Strategic oversight
- Convening and facilitating meetings
- Booking and liaising with external speakers
- Finalising agenda items
- Providing support to Network members
- Disseminating ad hoc resources, news, events, and updates relevant to the Network
- Any other functions as required

Public Health have committed to:

- Providing information and training as required
- Sharing the latest information and updates on key health policies and provision in Oldham, and on priorities identified by communities
- Providing mechanisms for communities to share insights and influence system change, including participation in governance groups, working groups etc.
- Ensuring insights are routinely shared in appropriate forums, and there is a consistent feedback loop into the Champions Network
- Highlighting good practice approaches to addressing barriers to inequalities to ensure there is opportunity for system learning and wider adoption

Network members are encouraged to provide input and feedback to the Action Together point of contact to guide and inform Network focus and activities but are not required to partake in formal governance.

5. Meetings

The Network operates through a combination of:

- Monthly online meetings
- Bi-monthly in-person sessions
- Ad hoc sharing of in scope information, resources, and activities

Meetings are used to:

- Share updates on health priorities and services
- Build knowledge and skills
- Share good practice and learning
- Gather and feedback community insight
- Contribute to positive system change in the Oldham health and wellbeing space

A typical meeting is focused on awareness and capacity building, with speakers presenting on health topics relevant to communities in Oldham. This could include awareness of risk factors, signs, and management techniques, relevant services, and signposting. Some of the regular meetings will be dedicated to sharing community barriers, priorities, and to discuss ways of working together and collaborating as a network.

6. Principles and Values

The Network is:

- Prevention-focused
- Strength-based
- Inclusive
- Culturally competent and accessible
- Collaborative

7. Review

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually to ensure they remain relevant and reflect the evolving needs of the Network and its members. Responsibility for initiating and finalising the review lies with the Action Together staff member overseeing the network, with the content being reviewed and amended collaboratively with network members.