



# Oldham in Profile

Strategy and Performance Service  
January 2024

# Population

## Overview

With the first release of Census 2021 data, we can see that Oldham's population is 242,089, making it the sixth largest borough in Greater Manchester.

Oldham has a higher proportion (31.9%) of non-white residents than in Greater Manchester (23.6%), and England (19.0%). This proportion has increased from 22.5% in 2011. The ethnic composition in Oldham in 2021 (last available) stood at 68.1% White, 13.5% Pakistani, 9.0% Bangladeshi and 9.4% 'other'.

Oldham has a high proportion (22.7%) of residents aged under 16 and proportionally fewer (15.9%) aged 65 and over. The overall structure of the population has shifted downwards due to the growth in Oldham's Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities, which have younger age profiles.

According to the ONS, Oldham's population is projected to reach 261,018 by 2041 – a 10% increase from the 2020 population. This increase is a result of improving life expectancy, and the continued growth of Oldham's Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities. Higher fertility rates within these communities, along with some internal and international migration, will be key determinants in the town's future population growth.

## Challenges and Opportunities

- **Population Growth** – Increases in Oldham's population will in turn increase demand for universal services. However, it will also bring opportunities for economies of scale, as well as higher funding.
- **Working Age Shrinkage** – Due to Oldham's changing age profile, increases in the proportion (yet relatively steady number) of people of working age may impact on the labour supply.
- **Older People Growth** – it is expected that the number of older people in Oldham's population will grow by 30% in the next 20 years. This will bring major challenges for adult social care and health provision.
- **Increased Diversity** – Changes in Oldham's ethnic composition are likely to affect patterns of residence within Oldham. There may be an increased need to support community relations, particularly within neighbourhoods where ethnic compositions are shifting rapidly.
- **Census 2021** – Many demographic changes have occurred since the last census in 2011, including the arrival of a small but stable Roma community. Census 2021 results, due mid-2022, will give us opportunities to refresh our knowledge and strategic approaches.

## Oldham's Population

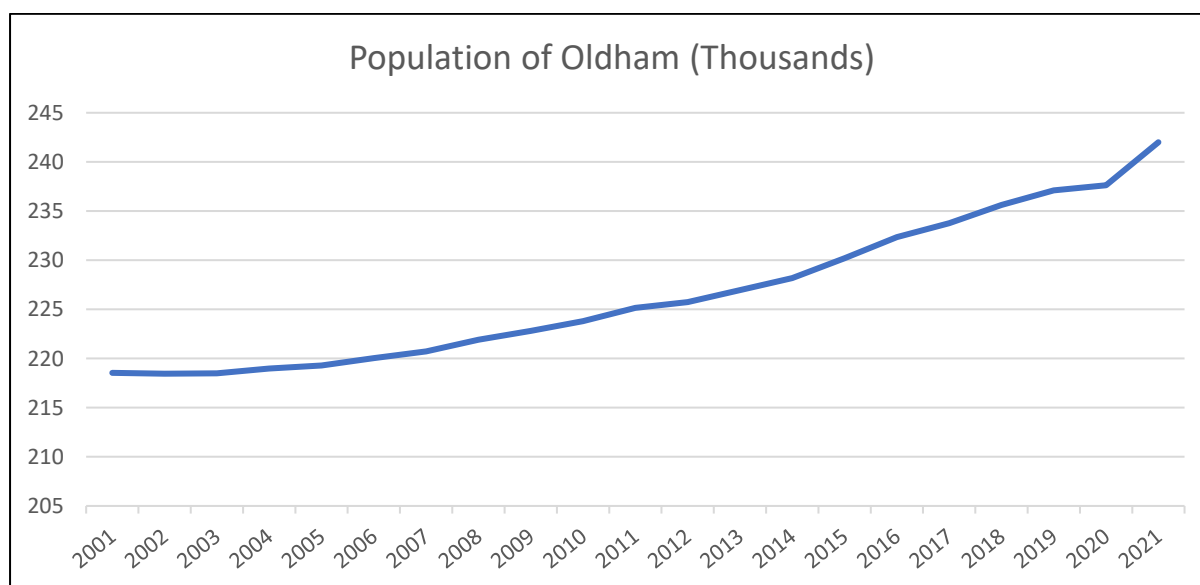
As of 2021, Oldham's population was 242,087, with 118,321 males (48.9%) and 123,768 females (51.1%) (ONS: 2021 Census). Oldham is currently the sixth largest local authority in Greater Manchester (previously fifth in 2001). Between 2001 and 2021 Oldham's population increased by 11%. This is a smaller increase than that seen across Greater Manchester (14%) and England (14%).

### Population Changes across Greater Manchester

Area	2001 Population (Thousands)	2021 Population (Thousands)	Percentage Increase
Manchester	423	552	30%
Wigan	301	329	9%
Bolton	261	296	13%
Stockport	285	295	4%
Salford	217	270	24%
<b>Oldham</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>11%</b>
Trafford	210	235	12%
Tameside	213	231	8%
Rochdale	206	224	9%
Bury	181	194	7%
<b>Greater Manchester</b>	<b>2,516</b>	<b>2,868</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>49,450</b>	<b>56,490</b>	<b>14%</b>

Source: ONS Census 2021 and Census 2001

Oldham's population remained static between 2001 and 2003 but since then has increased year on year. Improved life expectancy has influenced this, but the main growth factor is the increase in Oldham's South Asian groups (due to higher birth rates), and migration (both internal and international).



Source: ONS Mid-Year Estimates 2001-2021

## Population by Ethnic Group

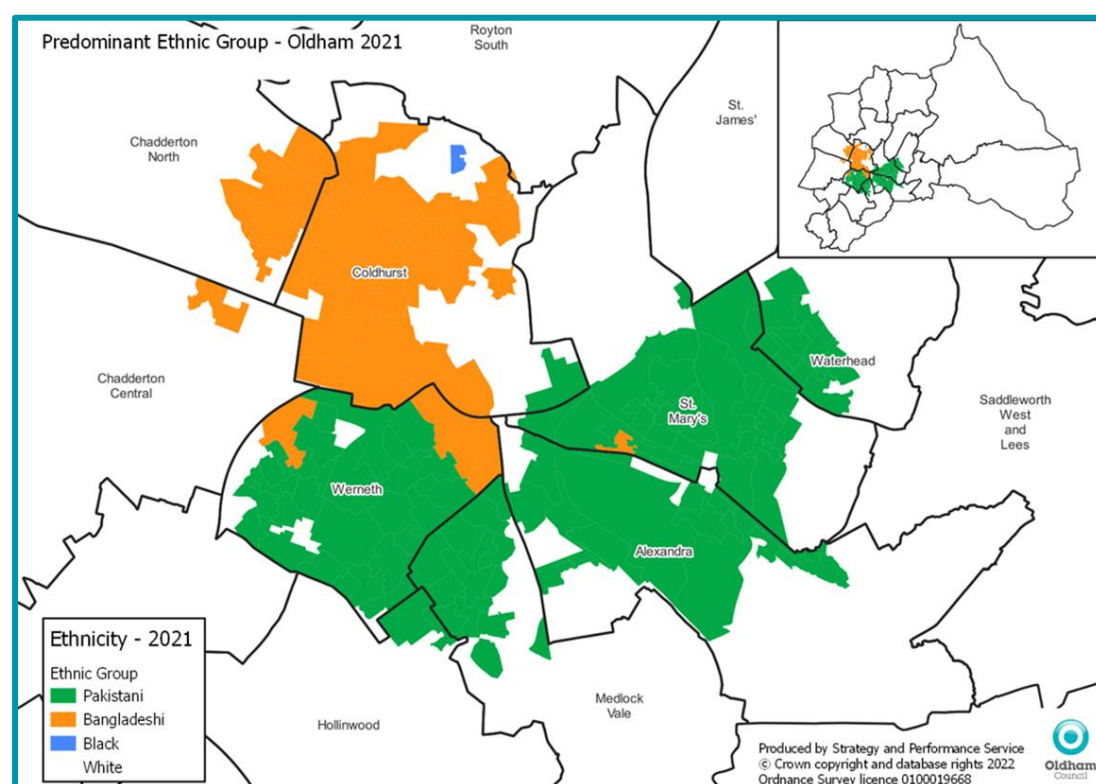
According to the 2021 census, Oldham was predominantly white (68.1%), with Pakistani heritage (13.5%) and Bangladeshi heritage (9.0%) as the largest minorities. Oldham has a higher proportion (31.9%) of non-white residents than Greater Manchester (23.6%) or England (19.0%) - this value increased significantly from 22.5% in the 2011 census.

### Breakdown of Population by Ethnic Group 2021

	Oldham	Greater Manchester	England
White	68.1% (77.5%)	76.4% (83.8%)	81% (85.5%)
Pakistani	13.5% (10.1%)	7.3% (4.8%)	2.8% (2.1%)
Bangladeshi	9% (7.3%)	1.6% (1.3%)	1.1% (0.8%)
Indian	0.7% (0.7%)	2.4% (2.0%)	3.3% (2.6%)
Black (African/Caribbean)	3.4% (1.2%)	4.7% (2.8%)	4.2% (3.4%)
Mixed and Other	5.3% (3.2%)	7.6% (5.4%)	7.6% (5.4%)
All Ethnic Minorities (Non-White)	31.9% (22.5%)	23.6% (16.3%)	19% (14.3%)

Source: ONS Census 2021

The ethnic composition of Oldham changed considerably between the 2011 and the 2021 censuses. The proportion of the population from white backgrounds decreased from 77.5% to 68.1%. Meanwhile, the South Asian population continued to grow, with residents of Pakistani heritage increasing from 10.1% to 13.5%, and residents of Bangladeshi heritage increasing from 7.3% to 9.0%. These communities primarily live in the wards surrounding the town centre – typically the most deprived areas in Oldham. The Pakistani community is concentrated in Werneth and St Mary's and, more recently, has spread into Alexandra, Medlock Vale, and Waterhead. The Bangladeshi community is centred upon Coldhurst but has similarly expanded into neighbouring Chadderton North and Werneth.

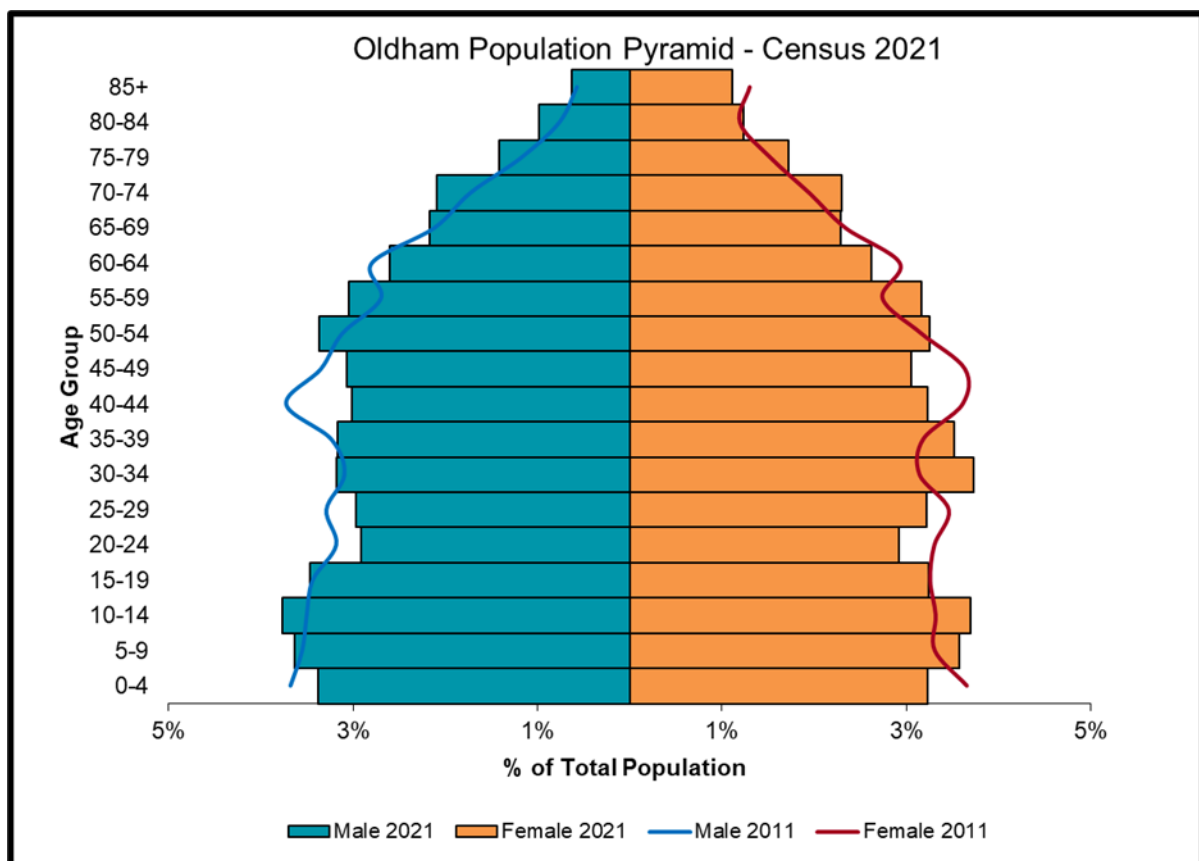


Source: ONS Census 2021

## Population Pyramids

### Oldham Overview

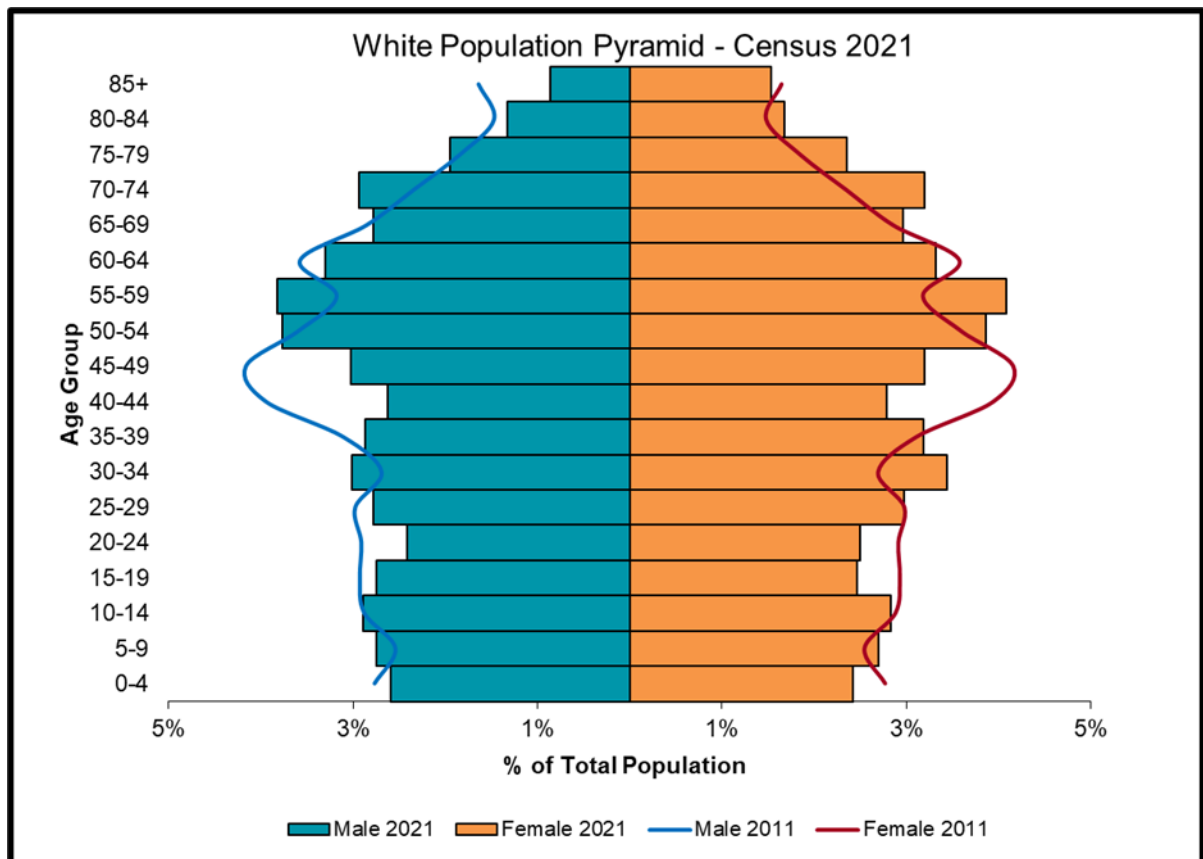
Oldham's age structure is younger than the England and Wales average. There are higher than average levels of children (especially younger children), and lower than average numbers of over 75s. This is mainly due to the large South Asian communities, who have a younger age profile than the white population. This topology suggests that the population of Oldham will continue to grow - though this will naturally be dependent on migration patterns. Over the last 10 years Oldham population has changed. There are fewer 0-4 year-olds than there were in 2011. This reflects the national trend of falling birth rates. There are more school age children, which is the highest number in 40 years. However, this number will gradually fall as the recent lower births cohorts work their way up through the age groups. There has been an Increase in people in their 50's, there was a second baby boom in the 1960s, as the baby boomers had children. This cohort are now in their 50s. There has been a large increase in people in the 70s. Many of these are in the Baby Boomer cohort, born soon after the end of WWII.



Source: ONS Census 2021

## The White Population

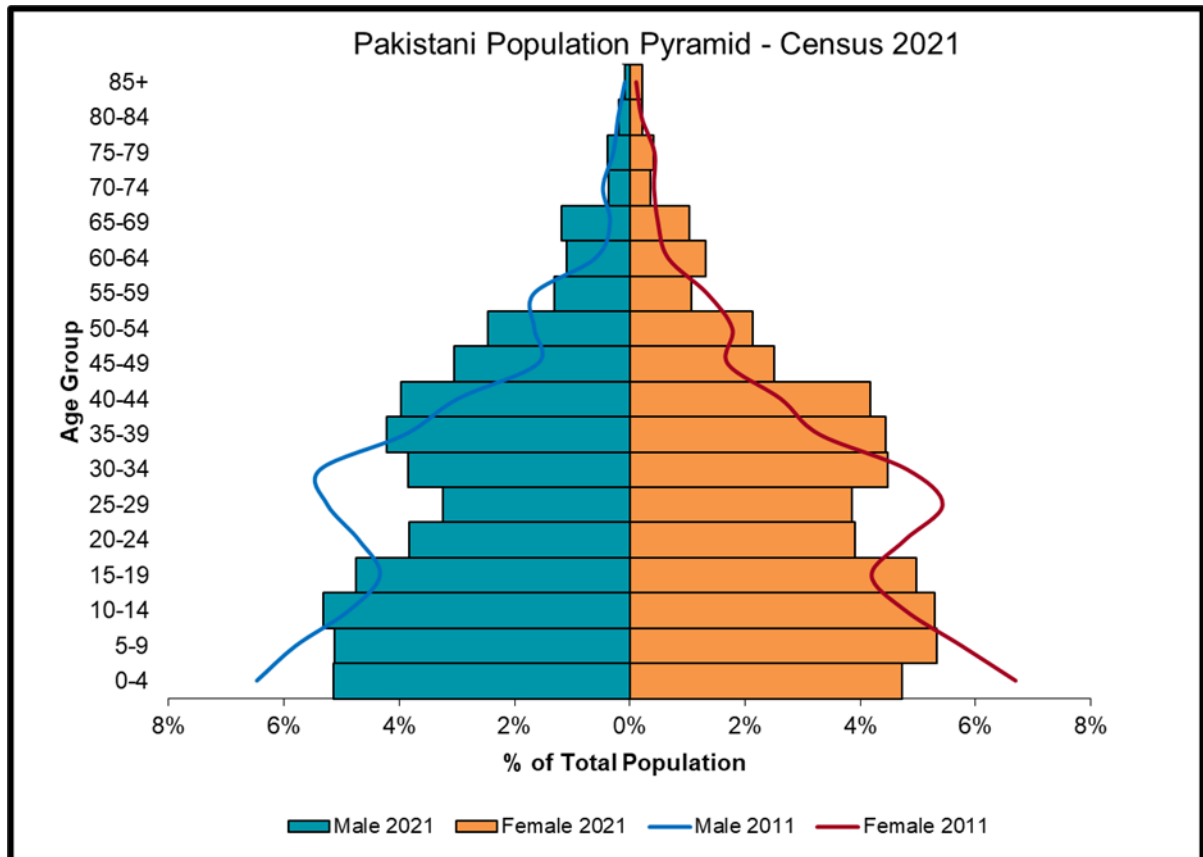
The White population of Oldham is typical of a declining population - with smaller numbers of children, and the largest segments of the population being over 40. When compared to England and Wales, there are lower proportions of people in their 20s and early 30s in Oldham. Migration data suggests that this is largely due to young people leaving for university, and not returning. Since the last census Oldham's white population has aged further



Source: ONS Census 2021

## The Pakistani Population

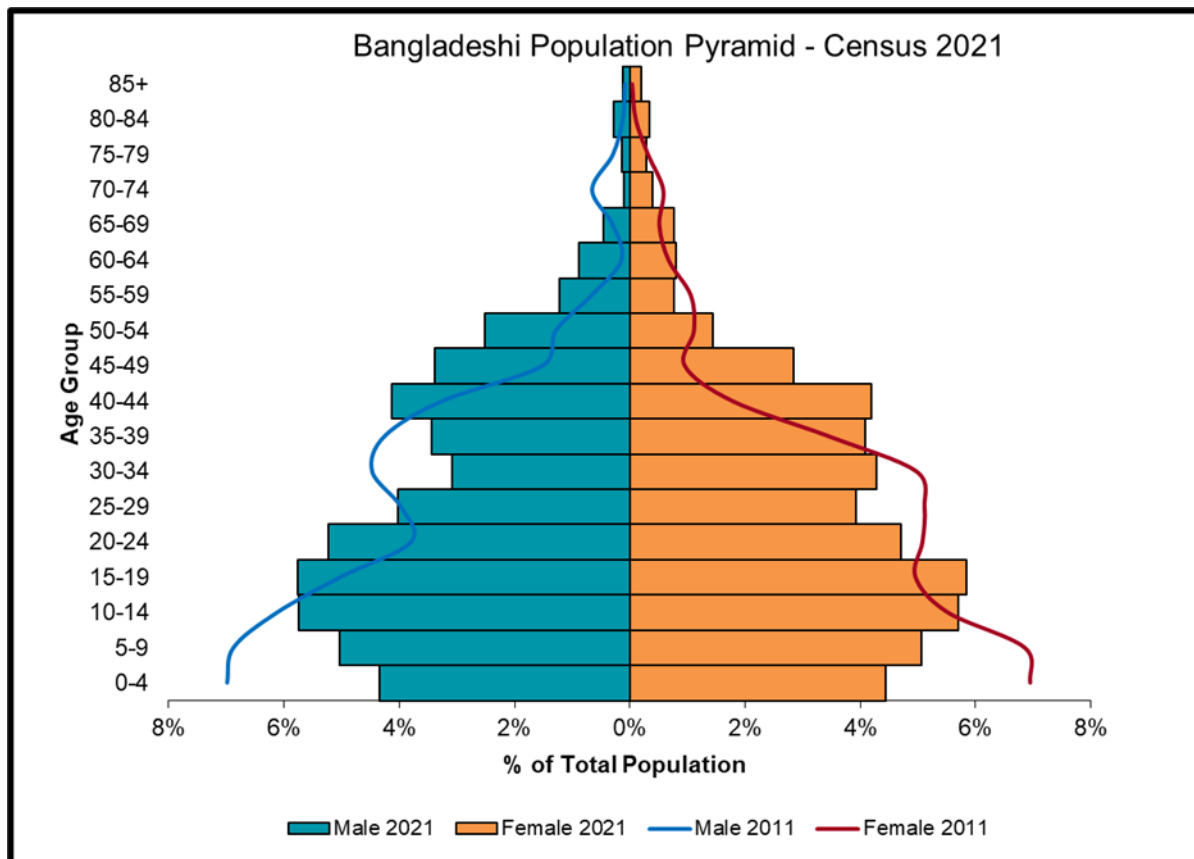
There is a large and growing Pakistani population in Oldham. At the time of the 2021 census more than 32,800 people identified themselves as belonging to this group. The population is generally young, so will likely increase in size over time. This trend can also be seen for England and Wales - though with slightly fewer young people, and slightly more older people, at the national level.



Source: ONS Census 2021

## The Bangladeshi Population

Over 21,600 people identified as Bangladeshi in the 2021 census. The distribution below shows a heavy weighting in the younger age groups, and this remains true even when compared with England and Wales' Bangladeshi profile. There are notably fewer males than females in Oldham in their 20s and early 30s, which stands in contrast to figures for England and Wales as a whole.

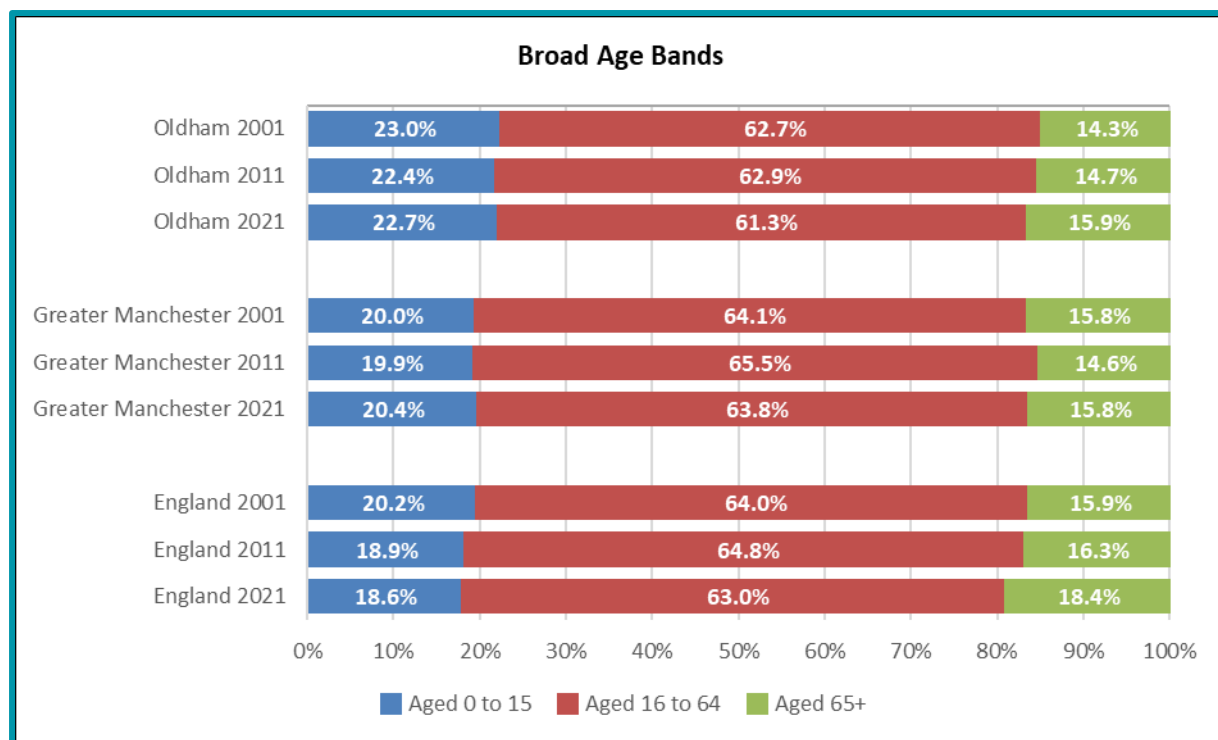


Source: ONS Census 2021



## Age Structure

The age structure of Oldham is relatively youthful with a high proportion of residents aged under 16 (22.7). Since 2001, the population across England has aged, with more people aged over 65 and fewer under 16s. This change has been influenced by an increase in the average life expectancy.

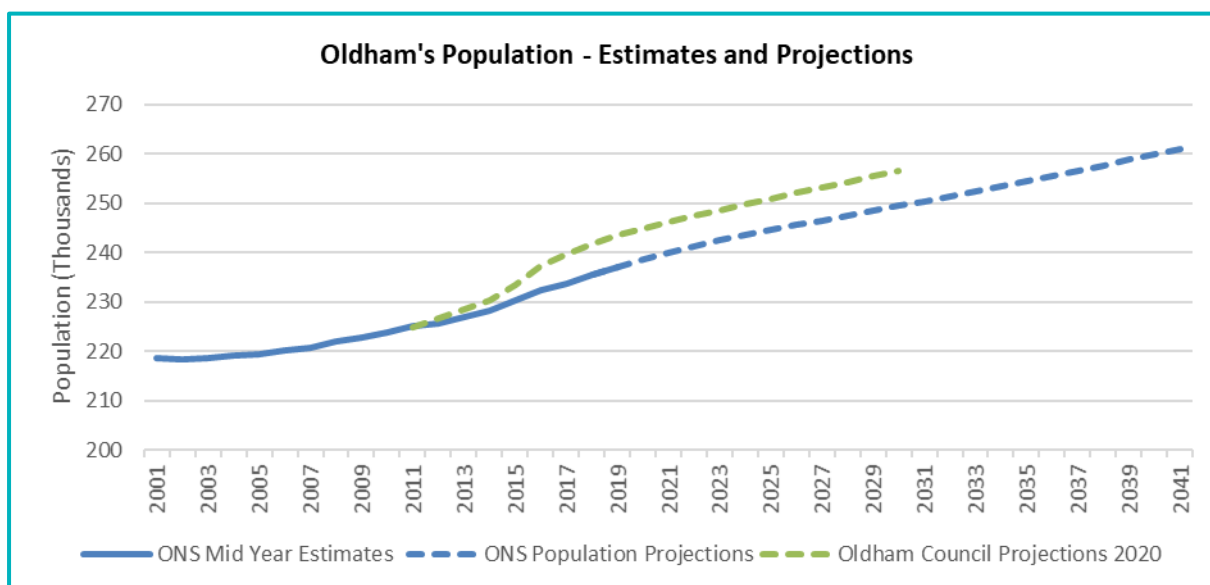


Source: ONS Census 2021

In Oldham, whilst the proportion of over 65's has increased between 2011 and 2021, the proportion of under 16's has remained consistent. This can be attributed to the growth in Oldham's Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities, which have a much more youthful age profile (as can be seen in the population pyramids above).

## Population Projections

ONS estimates that Oldham's population will reach 261,018 by 2041, an increase of 10% from the 2020 population<sup>1</sup>.



Source: ONS Mid-Year Estimates 2020, ONS SNPP 2020, Oldham Council Projections 2020

High birth rates within the Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities, along with internal and international migration, will be major influences in Oldham's population growth. Meanwhile, the rise in life expectancy can be attributed to improvements in public health, nutrition, and medicine.

### Population Forecasts by Age Group

Age Band	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	% Increase 2021 to 2041
0-14	50,320	49,398	48,316	48,770	50,333	0.02%
15-64	150,378	154,040	156,231	157,181	159,597	6%
65+	39,180	42,113	45,863	49,506	51,088	30%
Overall	239,878	245,551	250,410	255,456	261,018	9%

Source: ONS Sub-National Population Projections

Over the next 20 years, the population of Oldham is expected to increase by 9%. The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase by 30%. However, it is important to note that ONS's Mid-Year Estimates and Sub-National Population Projections suffer from a time-lag in publication and are not well-equipped to deal with changing patterns of immigration. Concerns have been raised that these figures ignore the town's young age profile, recent migration patterns, and NINo registrations – factors which may in turn result in an underestimate of Oldham's future population<sup>2</sup>. The first chart on this page therefore also includes Oldham council constructed projections, which start with higher growth assumptions.

<sup>1</sup> ONS 2018 based Sub-National Population Projections, released 2020

<sup>2</sup> Oldham Council's response to the consultation on 2012-based SNPP for England, February 2014.

## Deprivation

### Indices of Multiple Deprivations

Levels of deprivation across the borough are generally ranked among the highest in the country. Relative to other authorities, Oldham's levels of deprivation have maintained a steady downward trend since 2004, according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

#### Historical IMD Scores for Oldham

Domain	2019 Rank (of 317 LAs)	2015 Rank (of 326 LAs)	2010 Rank (of 326 LAs)	2007 Rank (of 354 LAs)	2004 Rank (of 354 LAs)
IMD Score	29	34	37	42	43
Income Scale	33	44	44	39	48
Employment Scale	36	45	48	49	44
Concentration	22	28	25	23	26
Extent	28	29	30	34	36

Source: Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (2021-Present), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2018-2021), Department for Communities and Local Government (2006-2018), English indices of deprivation.

Additional measures were introduced in 2010 and have been broken down to Local Authority level for 2015 & 2019. We have been able to retrospectively calculate comparative ranks for 2010.

#### Additional IMD Scores for Oldham

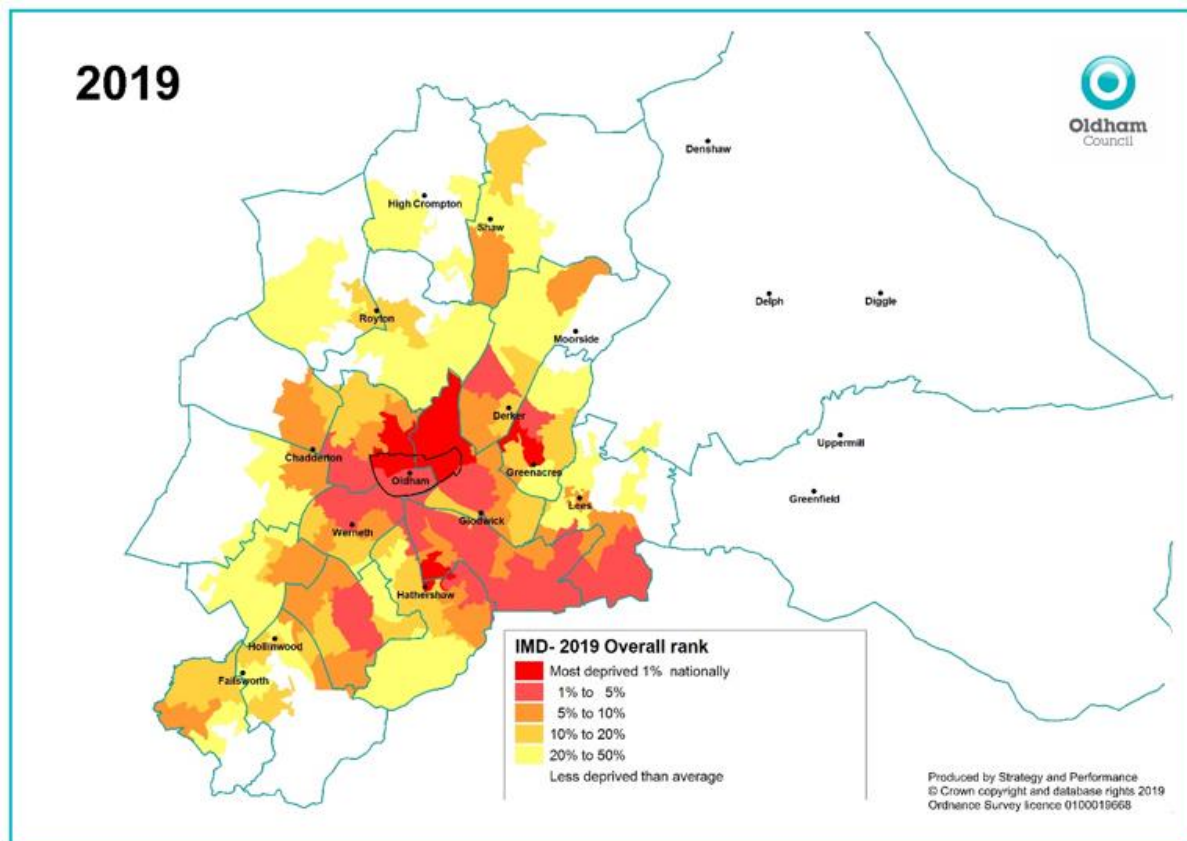
Domain	2019 Rank of 317 LAs	2015 Rank of 326 LAs	2010 Rank of 326 LAs
LSOA's in bottom 10% nationally	16	27	32
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)	31	47	50
Income Deprivation Affecting Older People (IDAOPI)	71	52	42
Income score	21	30	34
Employment score	32	28	32
Education, Skills and Training score	23	34	30
Health Deprivation and Disability score	40	31	49
Crime score	5	51	74
Barriers to Housing and Services score	307	315	298
Living Environment Score	61	129	48

Source: Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (2021-Present), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2018-2021), Department for Communities and Local Government (2006-2018), English indices of deprivation

Oldham's rank has improved in the IDAOPI, Employment, and Health scores.

The rest have worsened, with the crime element worsening significantly between 2015 and 2019 (though this may in part be due to data quality).

## Areas of High Deprivation



Source: Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (2021-Present), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2018-2021), Department for Communities and Local Government (2006-2018), English indices of deprivation

Oldham currently has four areas within the borough which are among the top 1% of the nation's most deprived areas. The majority of these areas are centred in and around the town centre, particularly within the wards of St Mary's, Coldhurst and Alexandra. Only the wards of Crompton, Saddleworth North and Saddleworth South do not contain any areas that fall within the nation's top 20% most deprived.

# Economy

## Overview

Oldham's economy was historically built upon manufacturing, chiefly within textiles and mechanical engineering. Like many other former industrial towns across the UK, Oldham's economy has experienced large-scale deindustrialisation and has undergone significant economic restructuring.

Oldham is currently home to around 7,155 businesses<sup>3</sup> employing roughly 92,000 people<sup>4</sup>. These businesses are primarily small (fewer than 50 employees) or medium sized (fewer than 250 employees) enterprises. Over time, reliance on public sector employment has increased, particularly within the Local Authority and NHS, which together provide more than 20% of jobs in the district. Oldham's economy is dependent upon relatively low-skilled and low-wage enterprise. Over the last decade, whilst new jobs have been created, the majority of these have been low value service or health occupations.

The arrival of Metrolink has significantly improved transport connectivity within the borough. It has increased the appeal of Oldham to skilled and higher-earning commuters and has linked residents in many areas historically poorly served by public transport with employment, retail, and leisure destinations throughout the conurbation.

### Challenges and Opportunities

- **Attract New Businesses** – Improving business survival rates alongside increased start-up rates is a key requirement in increasing private sector employment in Oldham, offsetting the reliance on public sector employment.
- **Improve Skills Base** – Oldham has historically had a weak skills base, with generations working in manual employment. This has made it difficult for Oldham to attract the inward investment to improve its economic base, and act as a labour market for the rest of Greater Manchester.
- **Increased Wages** – Oldham has traditionally had low wage levels, in terms of both its residents, and workplace earning potential (as measured by median weekly wage levels). This is likely a reflection of the industry mix within Oldham, and the relative skill levels of the local workforce.
- **Increased Public Transport Connectivity** – Transport connectivity has improved across Oldham since the arrival of Metrolink. However, some areas remain isolated in terms of regular, reliable public transportation, which in turn limits the economic and social mobility of these communities.

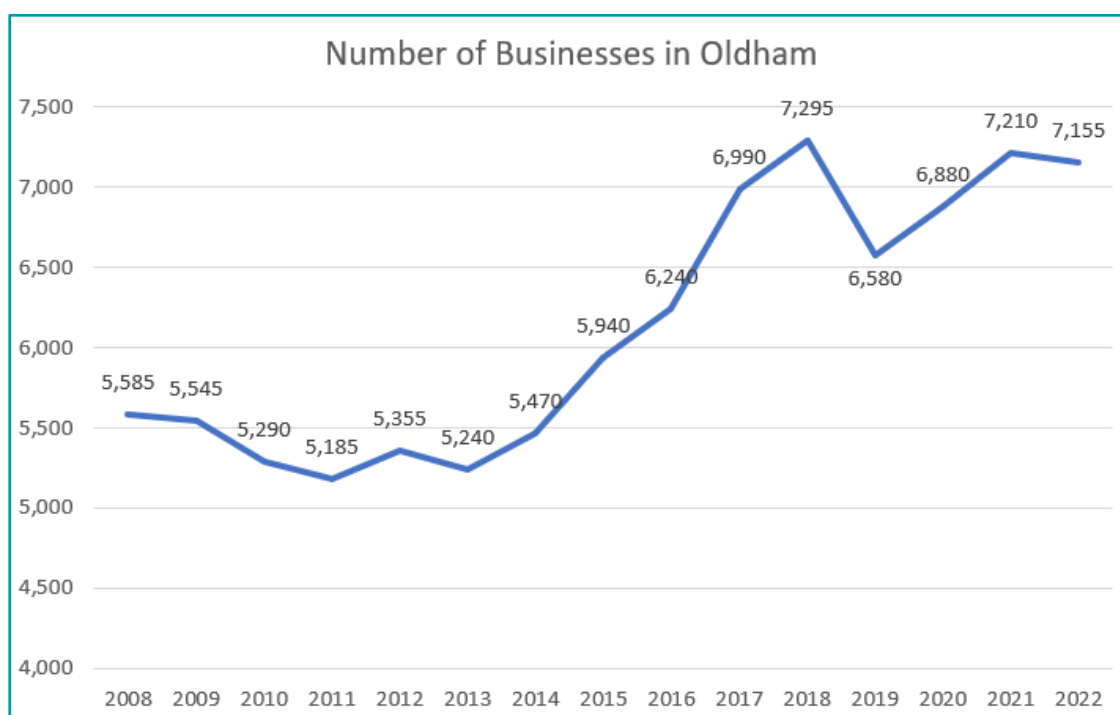
<sup>3</sup> Source: ONS – UK Business Counts ONS Nomis 2020

<sup>4</sup> Source: ONS – Annual Population Survey ONS 2020

## Businesses in Oldham

A strong, diverse business base and a culture of entrepreneurship and enterprise are key elements of a successful economy. As of 2022, there were a total of 7,155 businesses operating in Oldham – a decrease from 7,210 (0.8%) in 2021.

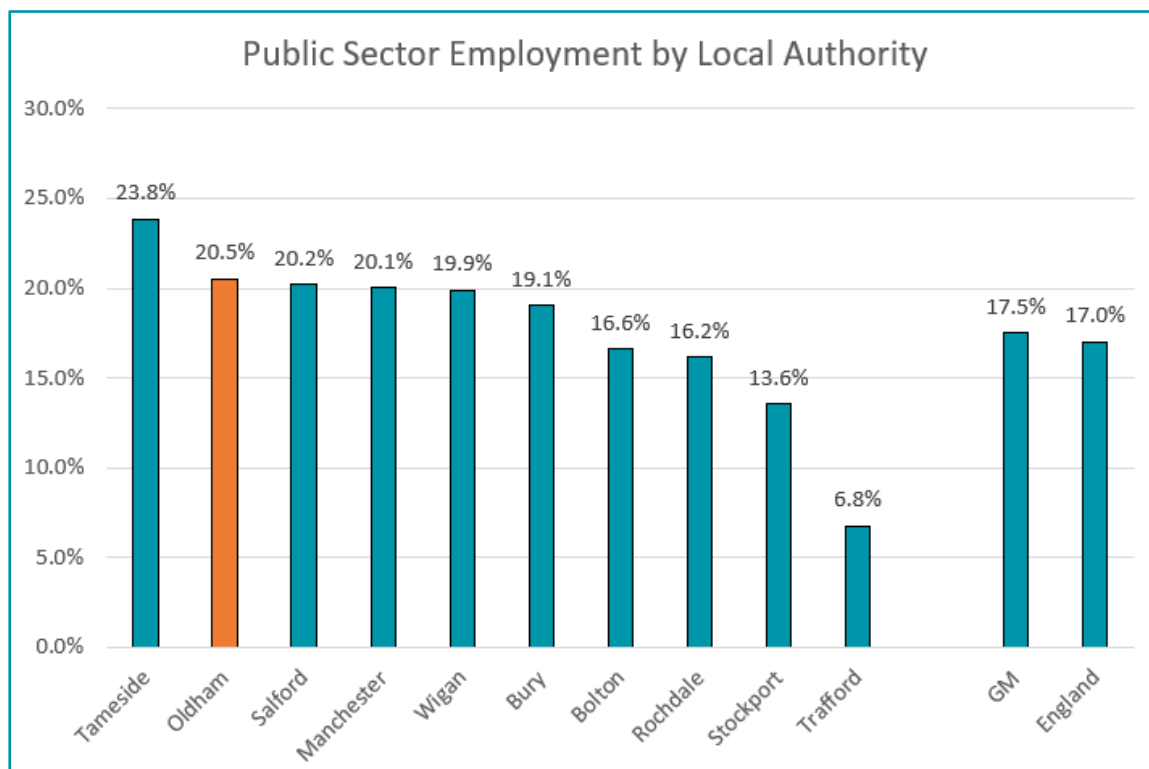
As the chart below shows, the number of businesses within Oldham shrank between 2008 and 2011, as a consequence of the recession, but has showed some resilience since that time with significant growth between 2013 and 2018. This follows a similar pattern to the wider Greater Manchester and England economies.



Source: ONS – Inter Departmental Business Register 2022

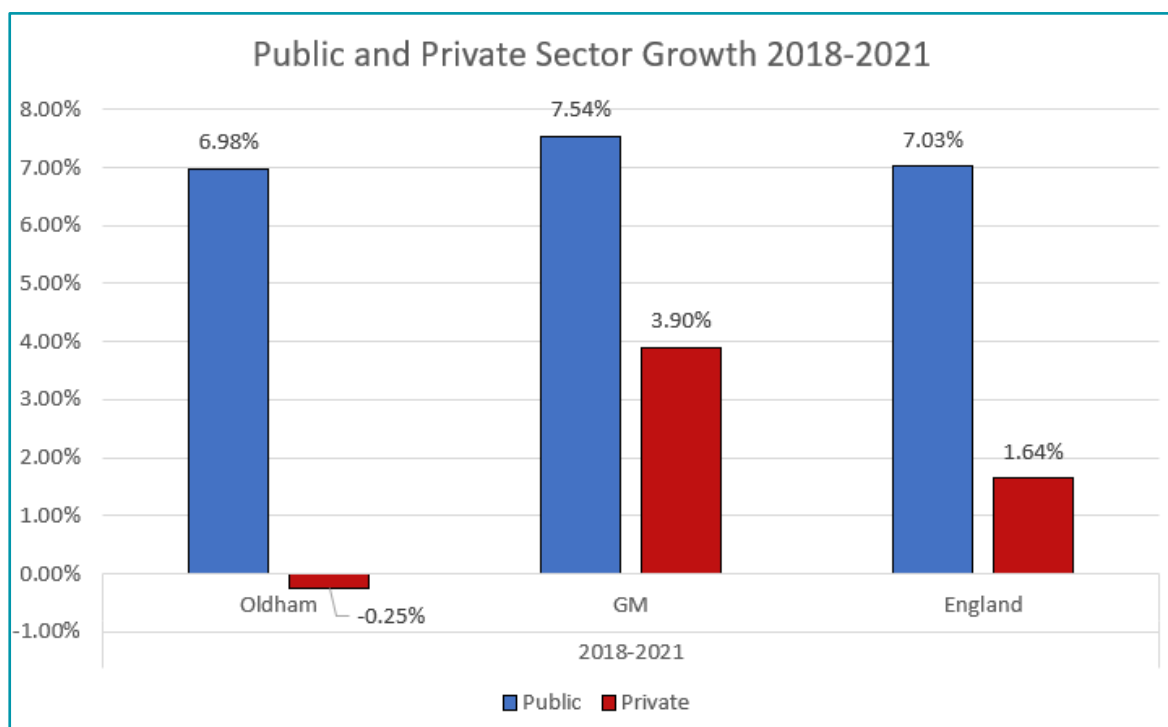
Microbusinesses (classified as those with fewer than nine employees) make up a large proportion of Oldham businesses (88.0%) - however, they form a lower proportion of Oldham's business base than nationally. At the other end of the scale, Oldham has around 25 large businesses, employing more than 250 people.

## Public Sector



Source: ONS – Business Register and Employment Survey 2022

The public sector plays a fundamental role in Oldham's economy, employing thousands of local people. With the second highest rate of public sector employment in Greater Manchester, Oldham has a clear vulnerability to any public sector contraction. The chart above shows that 20.5% of employment in the borough is accounted for by the public sector, which is higher than in Greater Manchester (17.5%) and England (17%).



Source: ONS – Business Register and Employment Survey 2021

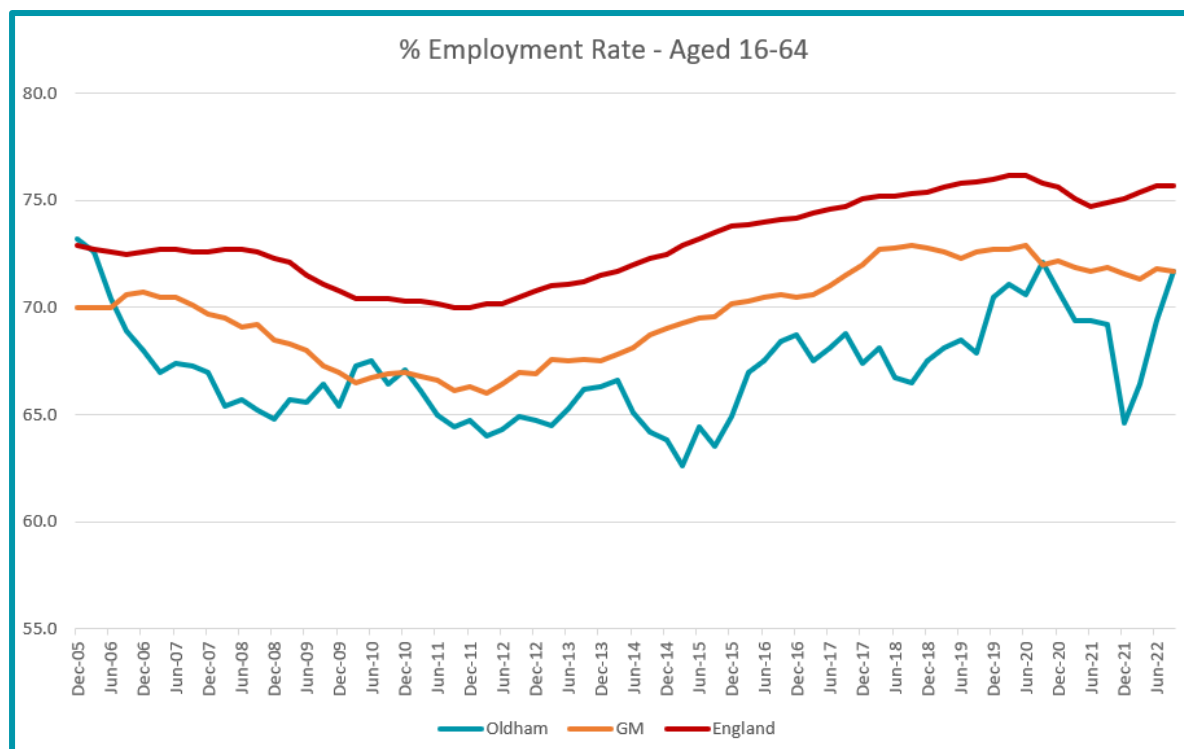
To counteract this contraction, generating private sector employment should be a priority for Oldham. However, this has been particularly challenging for Oldham.

The chart above illustrates that the private sector in Oldham shrunk by 0.25% between 2018 and 2021, whilst it increased by 3.9% across Greater Manchester and 1.6% in England.



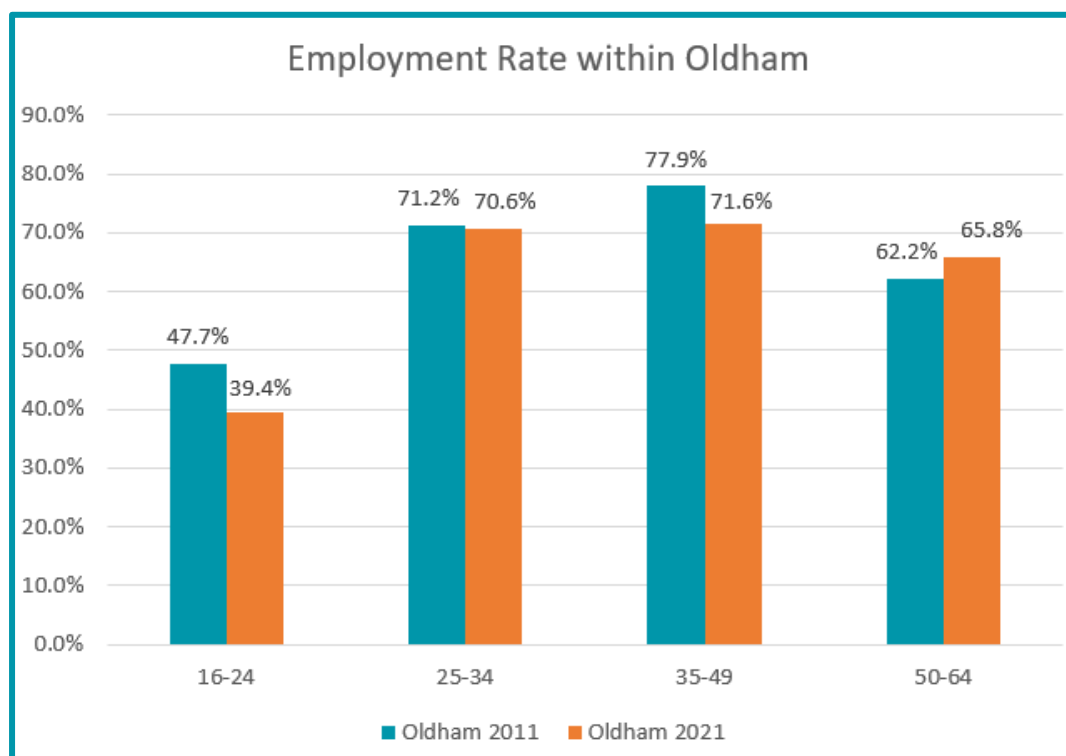
## Employment

High levels of employment are a key indication that an economy is in good health. The employment rate in Oldham fluctuates over time but is generally lower than in GM and England. The average employment rate between 2005 and 2020 in Oldham was 71%. This is lower than the GM average of 73% and the national average of 76%.



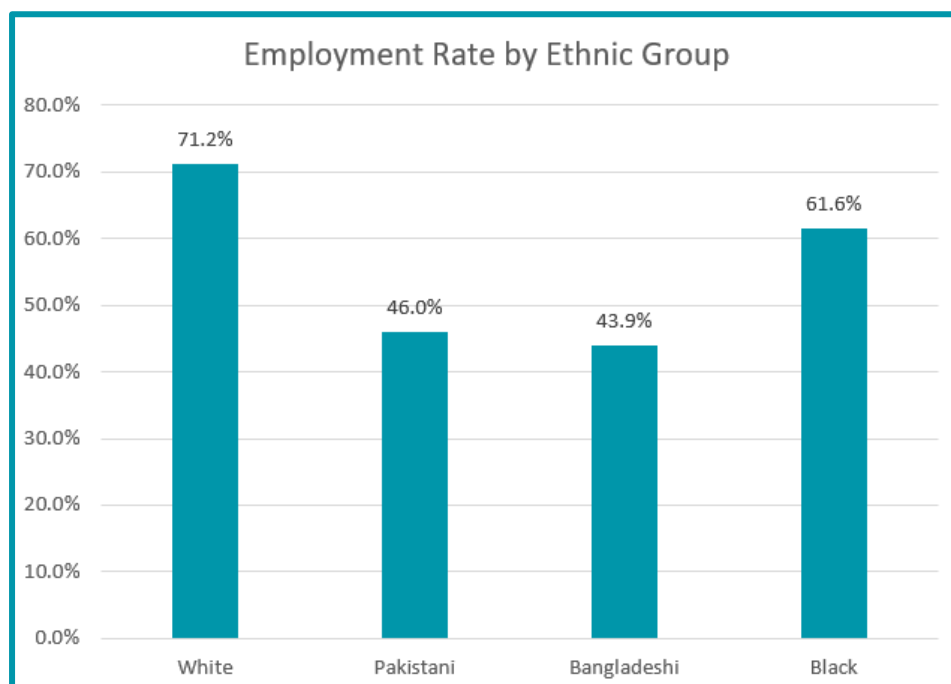
Source: ONS – Annual Population Survey 2022

The gap between Oldham residents, GM and England is largest in the 35-49 year old group. If the employment rate in Oldham is to be improved, then this cohort needs to be tackled.



Source: ONS 2021 Census

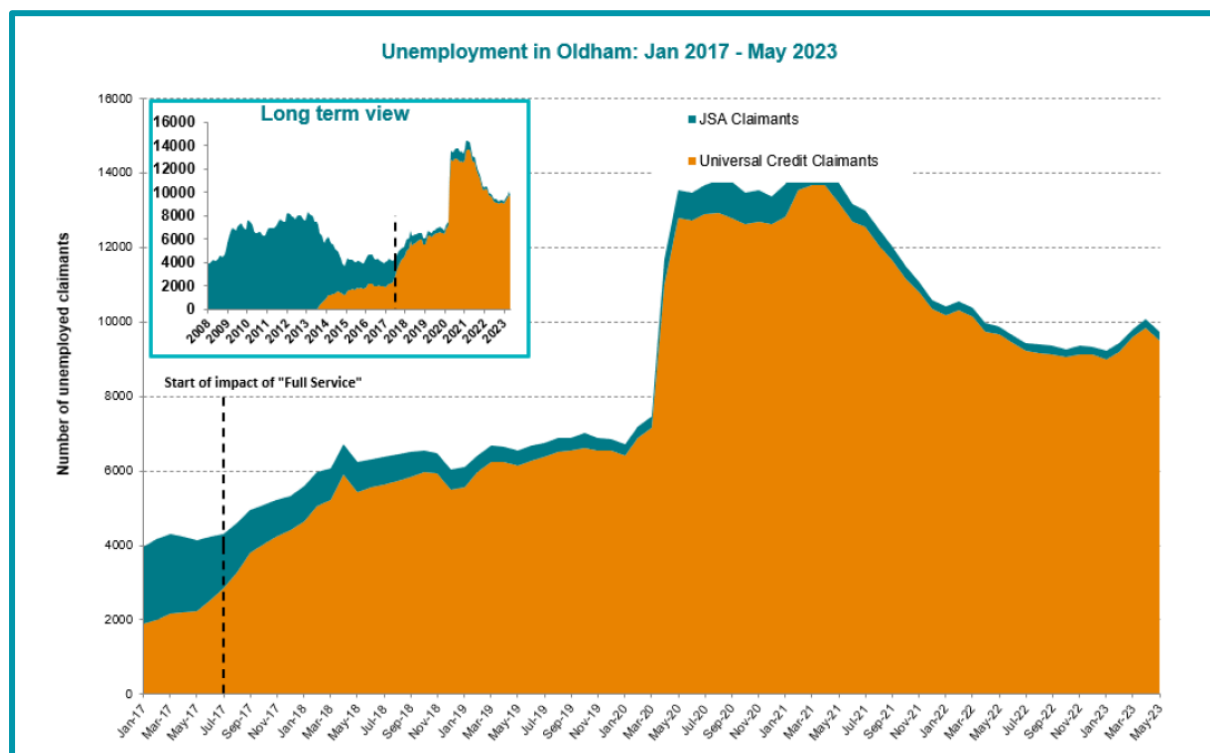
Oldham's employment rate is negatively impacted by a high proportion of economically inactive residents. Oldham has high rates of residents with long term illness/disability and large numbers of inhabitants choosing not to work. Another factor to consider is Oldham's large South Asian population - women in this community are more likely to choose not to take paid employment. However, recent trends suggest that there has been a cultural shift, with greater numbers of younger Pakistani and Bangladeshi women accessing the local labour market.



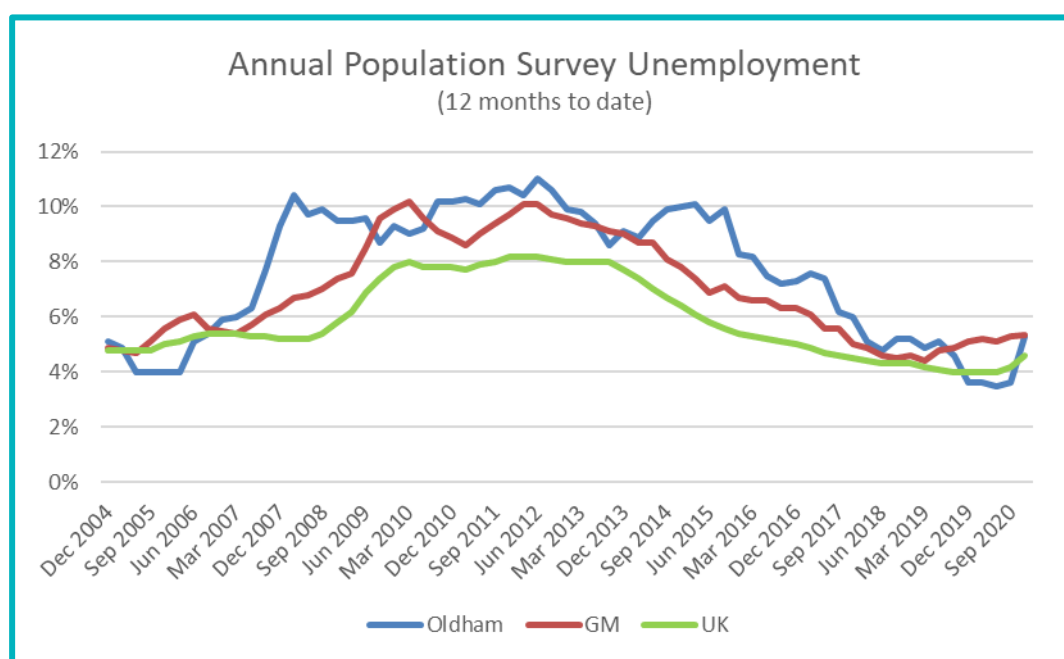
Source: ONS 2021 Census

## Unemployment

Unemployment in Oldham had largely recovered from the peak of the last recession and appeared stable. However, the migration of unemployment benefits from legacy JSA to Universal Credit (UC) has seen an increase in the number of claimants from 2015 to 2020. Then the coronavirus pandemic started in early 2020, which is the cause of the massive spike seen in the chart now. Oldham has the highest unemployment in GM.



Because of the migration of claimants from JSA to UC, we cannot accurately compare unemployment to regional and national indicators. The chart below shows Annual Population Survey unemployment rates – this is the best measure comparator of unemployment available for regional and national level.



## Skills

Skill levels are one of the most important determinants of socio-economic outcomes. Skills are not only an important route out of poverty for individuals, but a key driver of economic prosperity. Oldham has traditionally had a weak skills base - a legacy of generations of manual employment, meaning residents can find it difficult to enter new growth sectors.

Whilst Oldham has improved attainment rates across the borough in recent years, adult skill levels still remain a concern. There is a higher proportion of residents with no qualifications, and a lower proportion of residents with degree level qualifications, than the Greater Manchester and national averages.

### Highest Qualification Level Attained

	Oldham (%)	Greater Manchester (%)	England (%)
NVQ 4 and above	25	32	34
NVQ 3	16	17	17
NVQ 2	14	13	13
NVQ 1	11	10	10
Other qualifications	9	8	8
No qualifications	25	20	18

Source: ONS Census 2021

Oldham has a significantly higher percentage of its working age population with no qualifications, which is a major issue. Tackling this gap must be a prime objective in order to enhance economic prosperity in the area and enable Oldham to compete with other local authorities in attracting new businesses to the area.

At the other end of the skills spectrum, obtaining a degree or equivalent level of qualification will enhance the opportunities for individuals to find work and be employed in higher paid jobs. The data shows clearly that Oldham has a significant deficit in the percentage of the working age population with a Level 4 qualification (or above), compared to the Greater Manchester and national averages. This signals that there is a shortage of high-end skills available in the borough.

There is also some evidence to suggest that Oldham's talent is being drained – the lure of the “bright lights” of the main cities in addition to the availability of more graduate level jobs (which Oldham is in relative shortage of) are certainly impacting this. Unless there is a significant increase in the availability of local graduate level jobs it will be difficult to address this loss of skills through migration. However, improving the proportion of Oldham residents with a degree level qualification and narrowing the gap towards the national average must be a priority for the borough moving forward.

## Income

Oldham has traditionally had low wage levels in terms of both residents and workplace earning potential (as measured by median weekly wage levels). This is likely due to the industry mix within Oldham, and the relative skill levels of the local workforce.

Workplace wages in Oldham are higher than resident earnings (£514 per week compared to £501 per week), potentially suggesting that residents of the borough are not securing the higher paying jobs in the area and are resorting to lower wage jobs elsewhere.

### Average Incomes across Greater Manchester

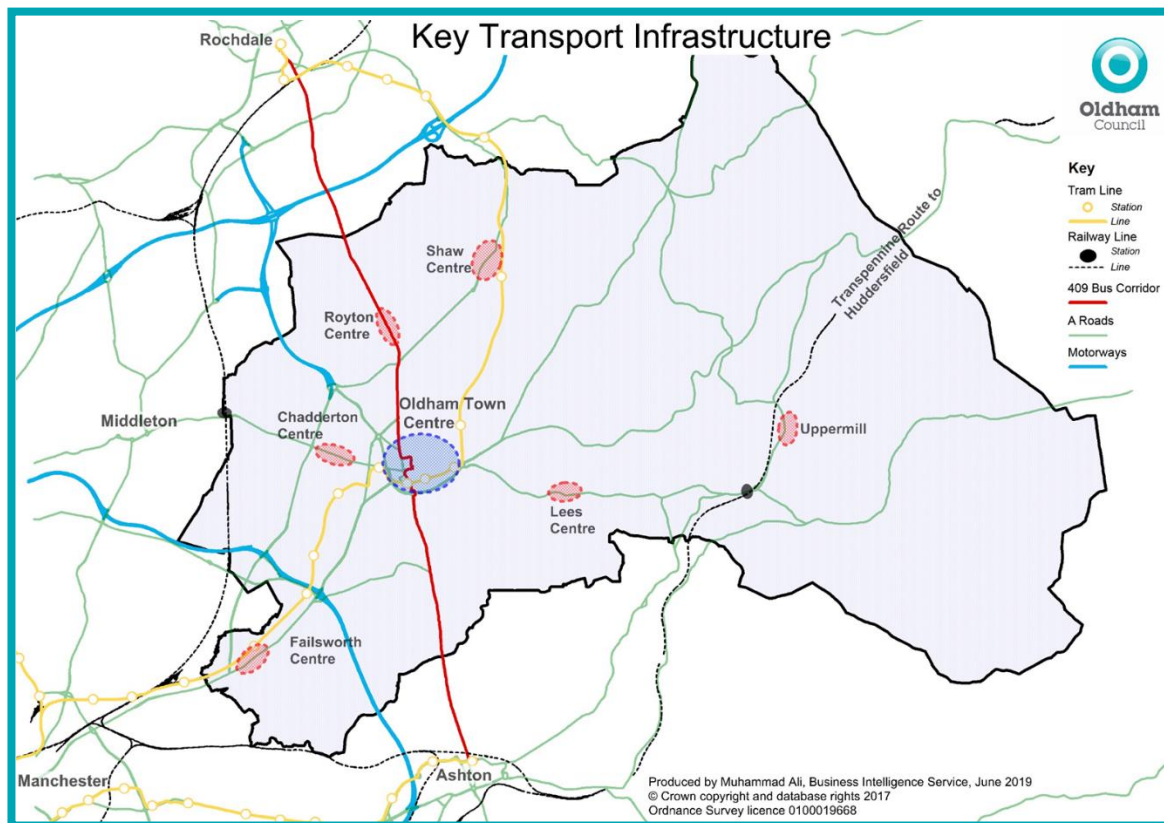
	Resident			Workplace		
	Annual Pay (Gross)	Weekly Pay (Gross)	Hourly Pay (Gross)	Annual Pay (Gross)	Weekly Pay (Gross)	Hourly Pay (Gross)
Tameside	25,643	480.0	12.46	24,148	451.5	11.38
Oldham	26,357	500.6	12.49	27,396	513.8	12.74
Bolton	27,107	523.3	12.80	25,412	477.8	12.17
Rochdale	27,444	509.0	13.17	25,993	490.9	12.37
Manchester	28,709	537.9	14.44	31,623	599.8	16.18
Salford	29,439	534.7	14.00	32,366	611.9	15.92
Wigan	29,872	574.9	14.37	26,189	525.4	13.40
Bury	32,173	591.3	15.70	26,752	532.1	13.99
Stockport	33,827	601.2	15.91	29,132	557.3	14.28
Trafford	34,599	648.4	17.25	29,845	542.0	13.96
Greater Manchester	29,205	549.8	14.37	29,257	553.7	14.49
England	31,766	589.8	15.30	31,777	589.9	15.31

Source: ONS – Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2022

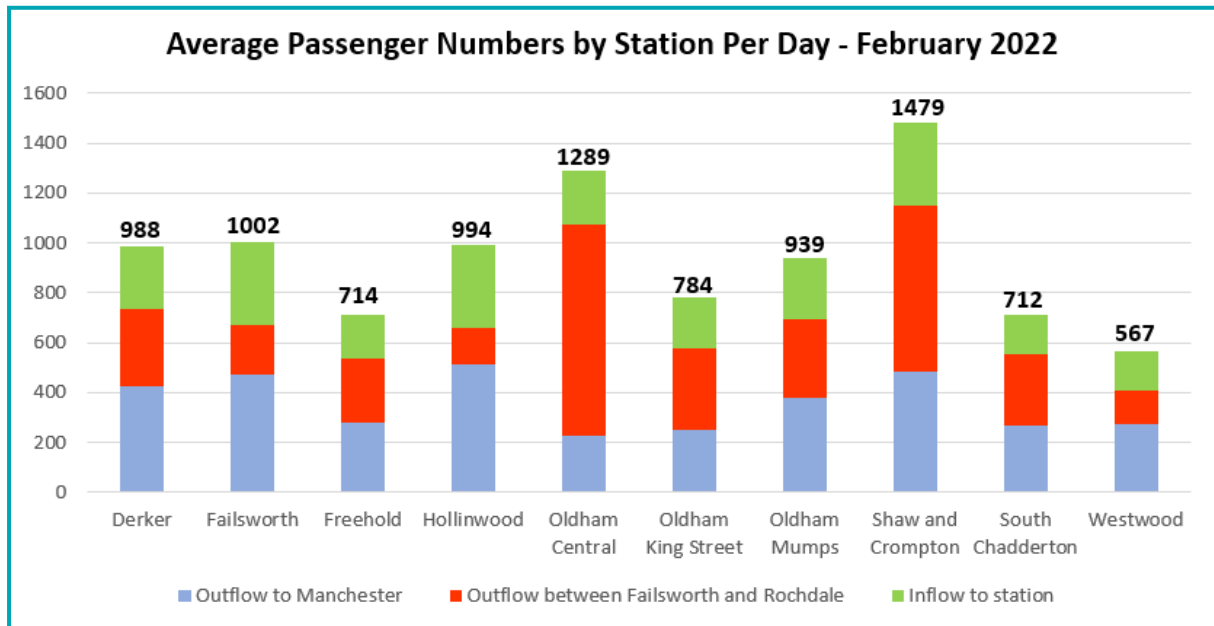
For Oldham to increase its average wage levels, it is important that the majority of new jobs created are of a suitable quality to ensure they are paid above the current median wage. However, average wages – which have been stagnant since the recession – are not expected to rise significantly in Oldham over the next 20 years.

## Transport Connectivity

High-quality transport and digital connectivity infrastructure are essential for successful, sustainable economic growth in Oldham. The arrival of the Metrolink has greatly improved connectivity with Manchester, Rochdale and beyond. However, some areas (e.g. Sholver, Diggle) are still socially/economically isolated for those without cars, and some areas of potential employment (e.g. Stakehill) are still difficult to reach for those without work.

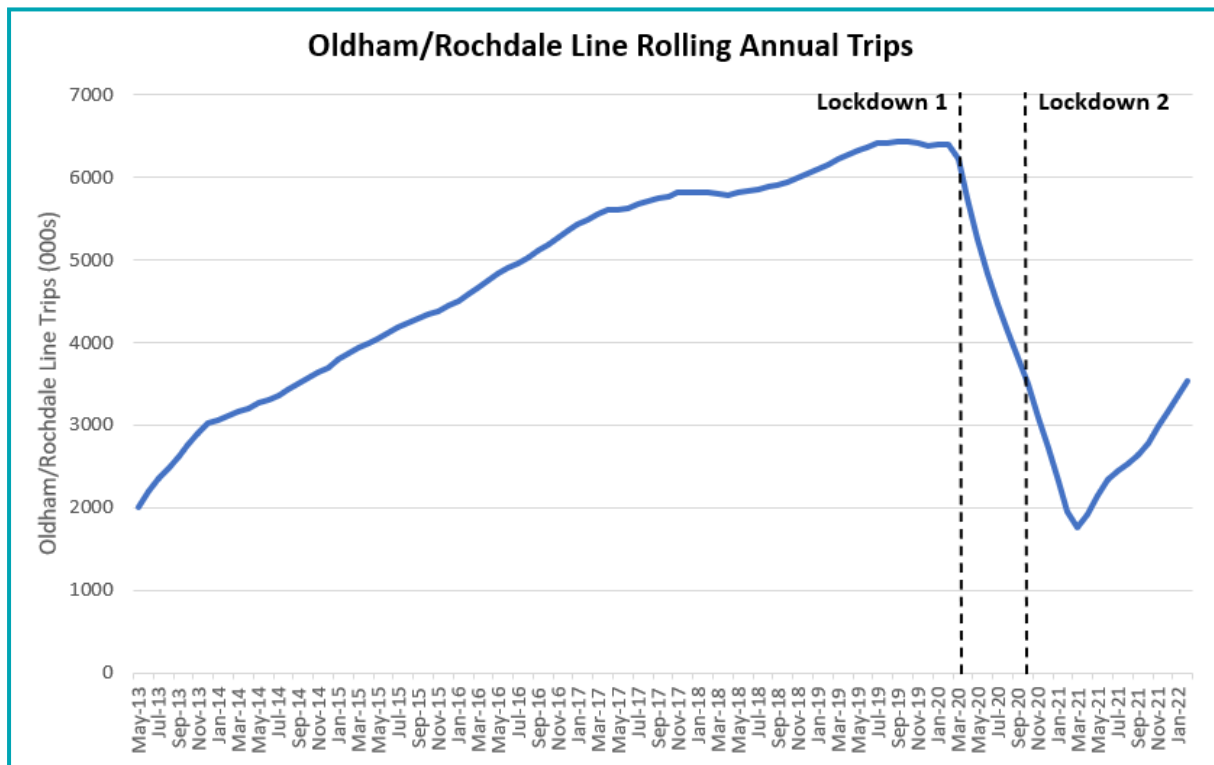


Metrolink has increased the appeal of the borough to skilled and higher-earning commuters and links residents in areas historically poorly served by public transport with employment, retail and leisure destinations. The number of passengers who start or finish their journey in Oldham has climbed since the line opened in January 2013 despite seasonal factors.



Source: TfGM – February 2022

The chart above shows the average passenger numbers by station per day for February 2022. We can see that the number of passengers using the different Metrolink stations varies considerably within Oldham. Shaw and Crompton is the most frequently used individual station within the borough (1,479) followed by Oldham Central (1,289) and Failsworth (1,002).



Source: TfGM – May 2013-Jan 2022

The significant impact of COVID-19 on transport and specifically the Metrolink can be seen from the chart above. Between February 2019 and February 2020, the number of rolling annual trips on the Oldham/Rochdale line had increased by 4% however between February 2020 and February 2021 there was a decrease of 70% in the rolling number of trips. This has wider impacts on the economy of Oldham and GM as it would be expected there are less people travelling into Oldham to work and as such supporting the economy. We can see from the chart that this number is now starting to recover with the gradual easing of COVID-19 restrictions but there is still a way to go to return to pre-COVID levels. It is possible that this never fully recovers to pre-COVID levels as a result of WFH/hybrid working.



# Health & Well-being

## Overview

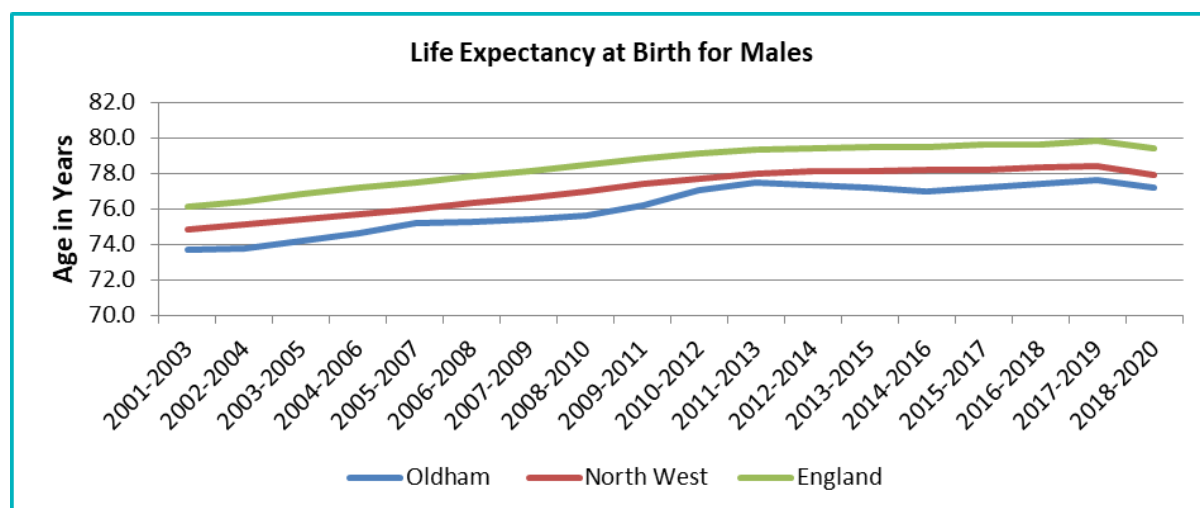
Life expectancy in Oldham is two years shorter than life expectancy across England, and Oldham's residents have worse health than England's average. There are strong links between deprivation and poor health, and high levels of deprivation in the borough have a significant impact on health outcomes. There are also significant social inequalities within Oldham - 40% of people living in Coldhurst belong to an income-deprived household, whilst this is only around 5% in Saddleworth South. These social inequalities inevitably lead to health inequalities - the difference in life expectancy between the most and the least deprived wards in Oldham is over 12 years. As such, reducing social inequality within the borough and narrowing the gap to the national rate is key to improving Oldham's Health.

## Challenges and Opportunities

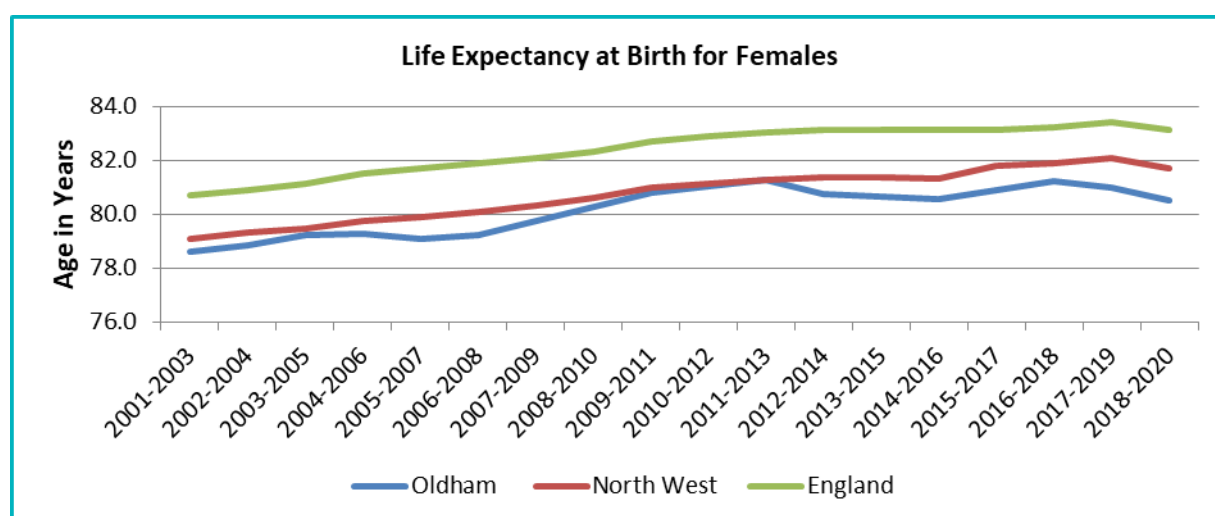
- **Best Start in Life** - Giving every child the best start in life, through accessible services which are designed to reduce health inequalities, is a key challenge and priority within Oldham. Oldham's infant mortality rate continues to remain significantly above the national average and is currently the second highest rate across the country.
- **MMR Vaccinations** - Oldham has historically performed better than regional and national averages across all MMR measures. However, following the Covid-19 pandemic, Oldham's performance has dipped over and above the reductions seen across other areas. Performance still exceeds national average on all measures, but the gap is much smaller than it has been previously.
- **Healthy Weight** – There is concern about the rise of childhood obesity and the implications of obesity persisting into adulthood. The risk of obesity in adulthood and risk of future obesity-related ill health are greater as children get older. The latest data from the 2022/23 school year reveals that in Oldham 20.0% of reception aged children and 40.1% of year 6 aged children are classified as overweight or obese. For reception year, Oldham's prevalence remains lower than the North West (23.1%) and England (21.3%) averages. For year 6, Oldham's rate is higher than the North West (38.3%) and England (36.6%).
- **Smoking** - Adult smoking rates in Oldham are high overall – and slightly above the national average. Again, this includes significant variations between areas. Rates of smoking amongst young people, however, are relatively low, and linking with “Best Start in Life” and the “GM Making Smoking History” programme, this may represent an opportunity for positive change.
- **Physical Activity** – Physical activity rates for Oldham adults remain below those Greater Manchester and England. The latest data reveals a lower percentage of physically active adults (62.7%) compared to the North West (65.2%) and England (67.3%). Oldham's rate has been below regional and national averages since 2015/16.

## Life Expectancy

Oldham's male life expectancy at birth for 2018/20 is 77.2 years, 0.4 years lower than the figure for 2017/19 of 77.6 years. This is in line with national and regional decreases. The most recent 2018/20 figures show Oldham's male life expectancy at birth falling short of the England average by 2.2 years, North West by 0.7 years and Greater Manchester by 0.3 years. From 2001/3 until the most recent reporting period of 2018/20, the overall increase in male life expectancy is similar between Oldham (4.7%), the North West (4.5%) and England (4.2%).



Oldham's female life expectancy at birth for 2018/20 is 80.5 years, 0.5 years lower than the figure for 2017/19 of 81.0 years. This is in line with national and regional decreases. The most recent 2018/20 figures show Oldham's female life expectancy at birth falling short of the England average by 2.6 years, North West by 1.2 years and Greater Manchester by 0.8 years. Overall, from 2001/3 until the most recent reporting period of 2018/20, the overall increase in female life expectancy is similar between Oldham (2.4%), the North West (2.9%) and England (3.0%). Life Expectancy in Oldham is still around 2 and a half years longer for females than males.

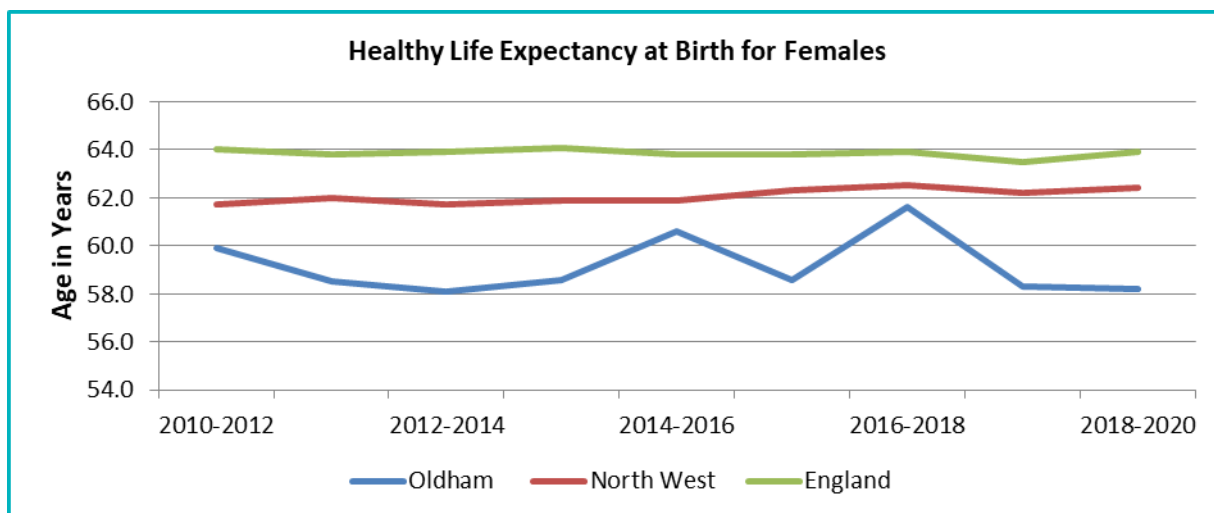
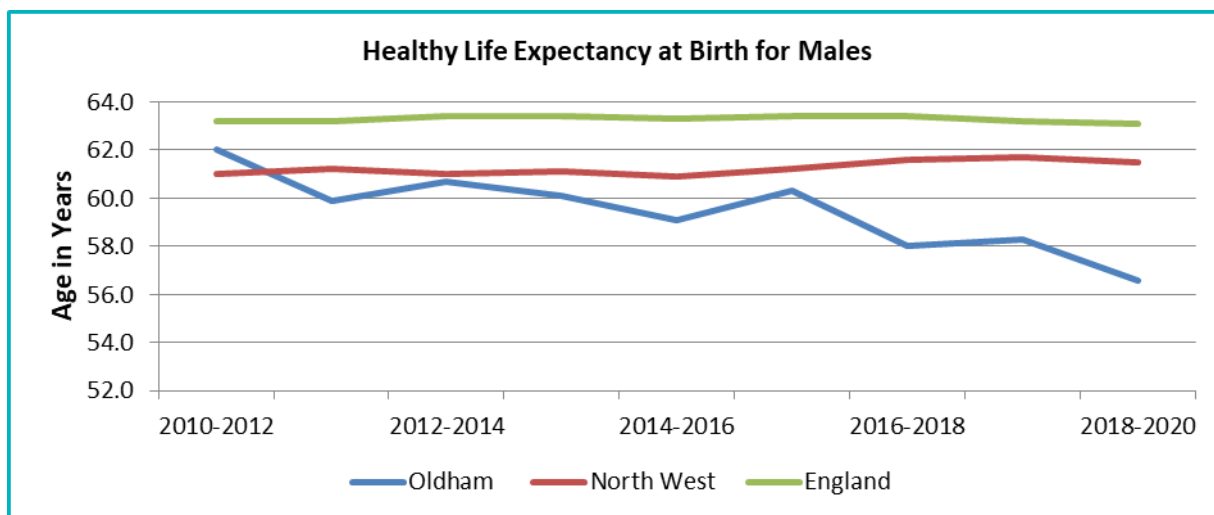


Source: ONS

[www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/datasets/lifeexpectancyestimatesallagesuk](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/datasets/lifeexpectancyestimatesallagesuk)

## Healthy Life Expectancy

Healthy Life Expectancy is a measure of the average number of years a person would expect to live in good health based on contemporary mortality rates and the prevalence of self-reported good health. It complements Life Expectancy by showing the overall trends in population health, setting the context for the local authority.



We can see from the graphs above that Healthy Life Expectancy seems to be declining for males, whilst not improving for females. During this time, Life Expectancy has decreased for both males and females.

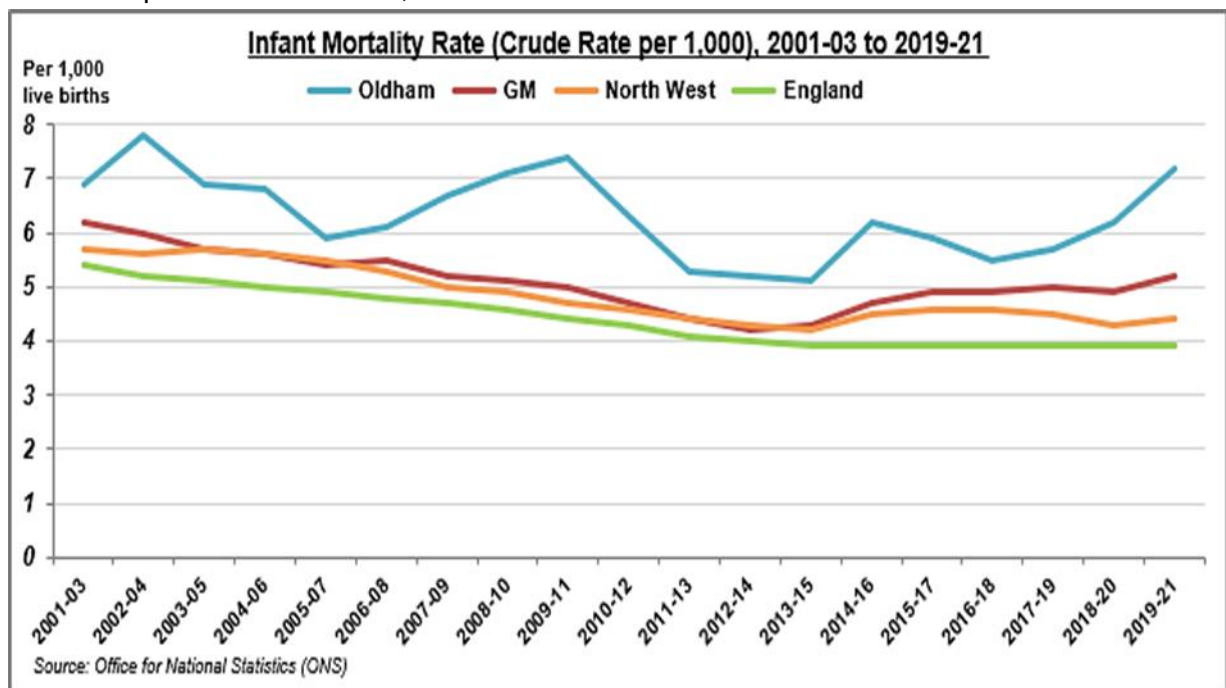
As such, the number of years and proportion of life residents of Oldham are spending in poor health is increasing. This will impact on demands for services provided by the council, such as healthcare and Adult Social Care.

Source: ONS

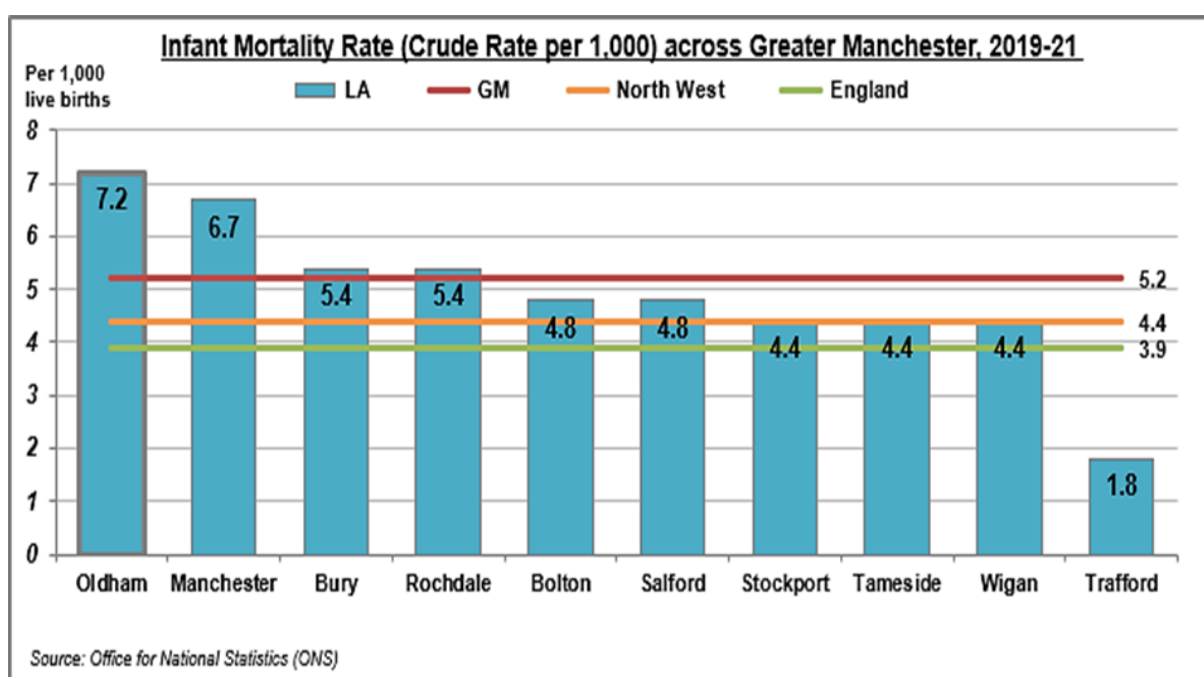
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/datasets/healthstatelifeexpectancyallagesuk>

## Infant Mortality

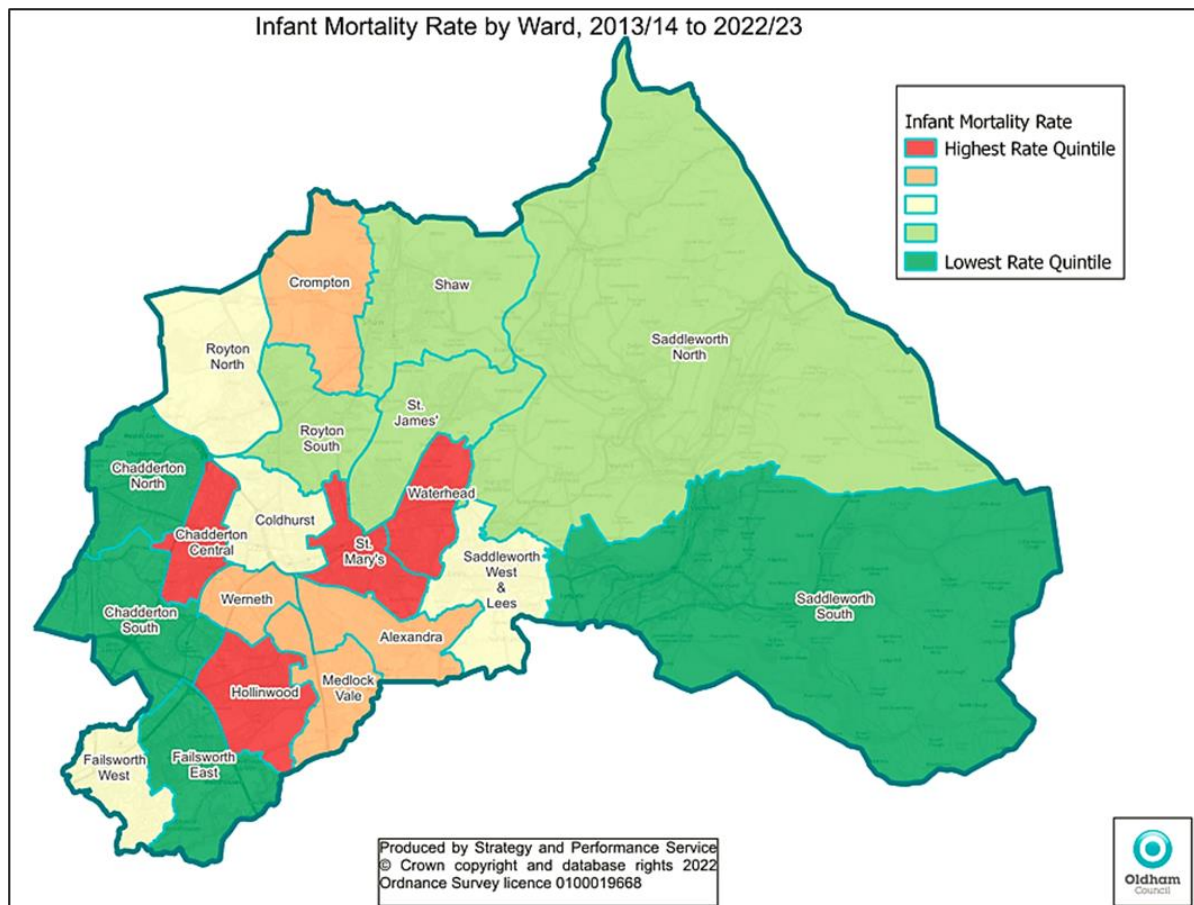
Infant mortality refers to deaths of babies under the age of 1 year. Oldham's infant mortality rate has been above Greater Manchester, regional and national averages for more than 20 years. Latest data for 2019-21 reveals that Oldham has the second highest rate in England at 7.2 per 1,000 live births. Stoke-on-Trent is the only Local Authority with a higher rate at 7.5 per 1,000. Whilst improvements in rate have been seen across Greater Manchester (-16%), the North West (-23%) and England (-28%) over the period shown in figure 4, Oldham has not experienced this trend, with rates similar in 2001-03 to 2019-21.



Across Greater Manchester, Oldham has the highest rate. When compared with the North West, Oldham also has the highest infant mortality rate ahead of Manchester (6.7 per 1,000) and Pendle and Rossendale (both with 6.1 per 1,000).



The map that follows demonstrates the inequality within Oldham for infant mortality. The data is displayed over a ten year period and by quintile. Rates are highest in Waterhead (9.8 per 1,000 live births), St Mary's (9.5), Hollinwood (8.7) and Chadderton Central (8.2) indicating these are the areas of highest need. Oldham's overall average for this period is 6.1 (per 1,000 live births).



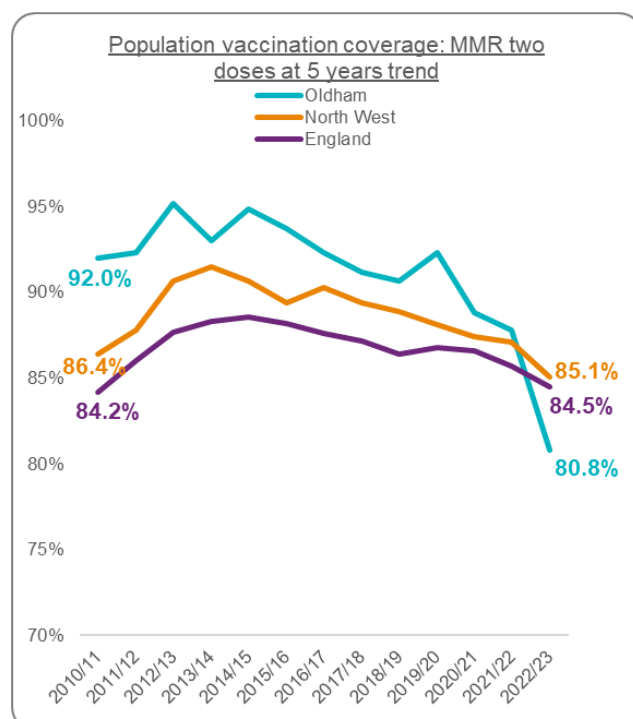
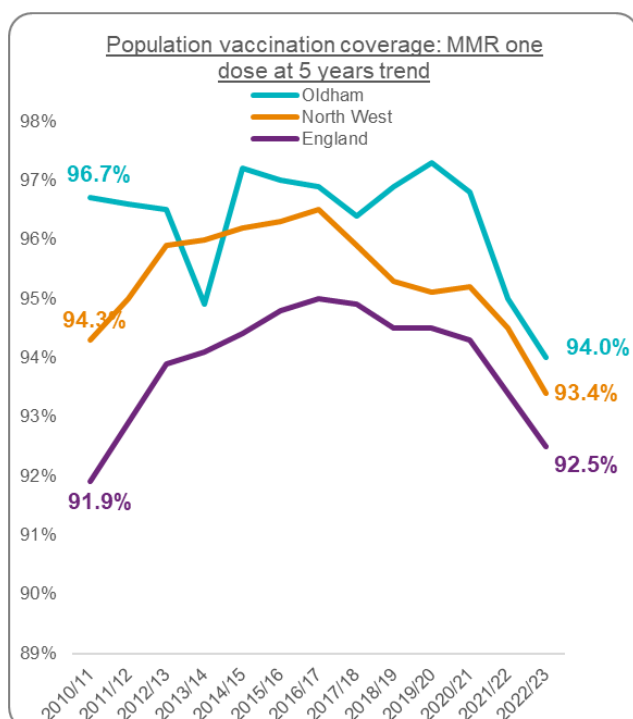
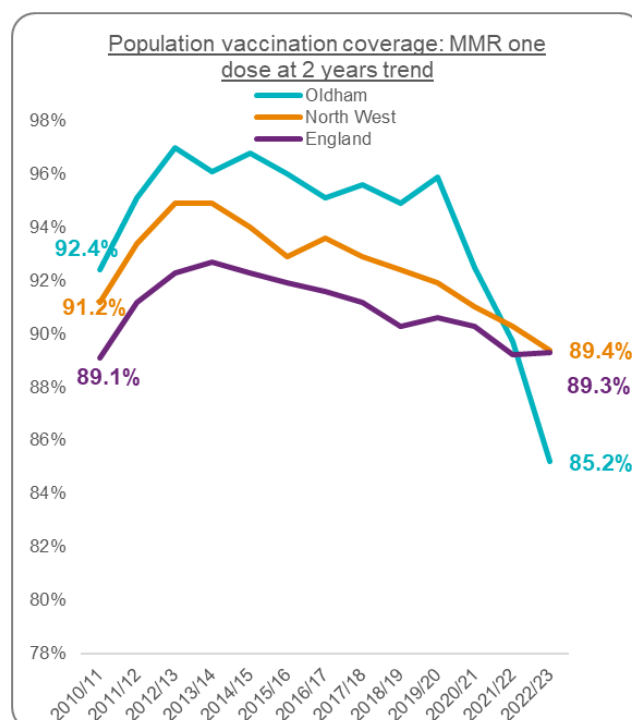
Source: ONS

## Childhood Vaccinations and Immunisations - MMR

Immunisation is a global health and development success story, saving millions of lives every year. Vaccines reduce risks of getting a disease by working with your body's natural defences to build protection. When you get a vaccine, your immune system responds.

MMR is the combined vaccine that protects against measles, mumps and rubella. Measles, mumps and rubella are highly infectious, common conditions that can have serious complications, including meningitis, swelling of the brain (encephalitis) and deafness. They can also lead to complications in pregnancy that affect the unborn baby and can lead to miscarriage.

Oldham has historically performed better than regional and national averages across all MMR measures. However, following the Covid-19 pandemic, Oldham's performance has dipped over and above the reductions seen across other areas. Following the recent decline in performance. Oldham now sits at 2nd lowest for one dose of MMR at 2, 5th lowest for one dose of MMR at 5 and 3rd lowest for two doses of MMR at 5 across Greater Manchester.



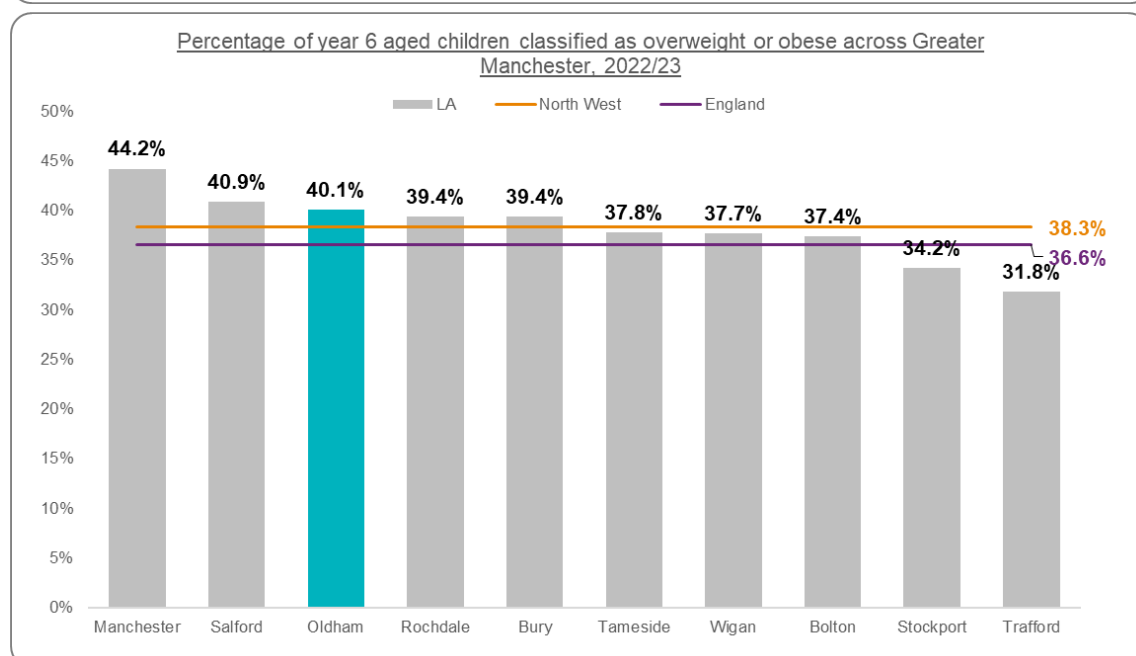
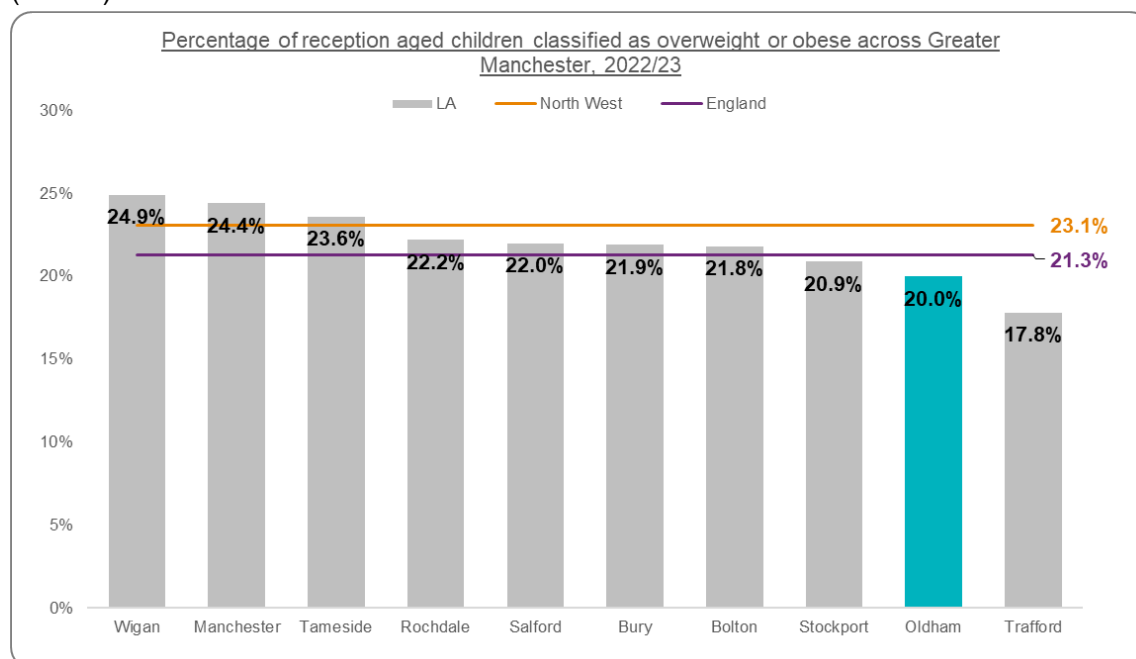
Source: UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). Available from NHS Digital



## Childhood Obesity

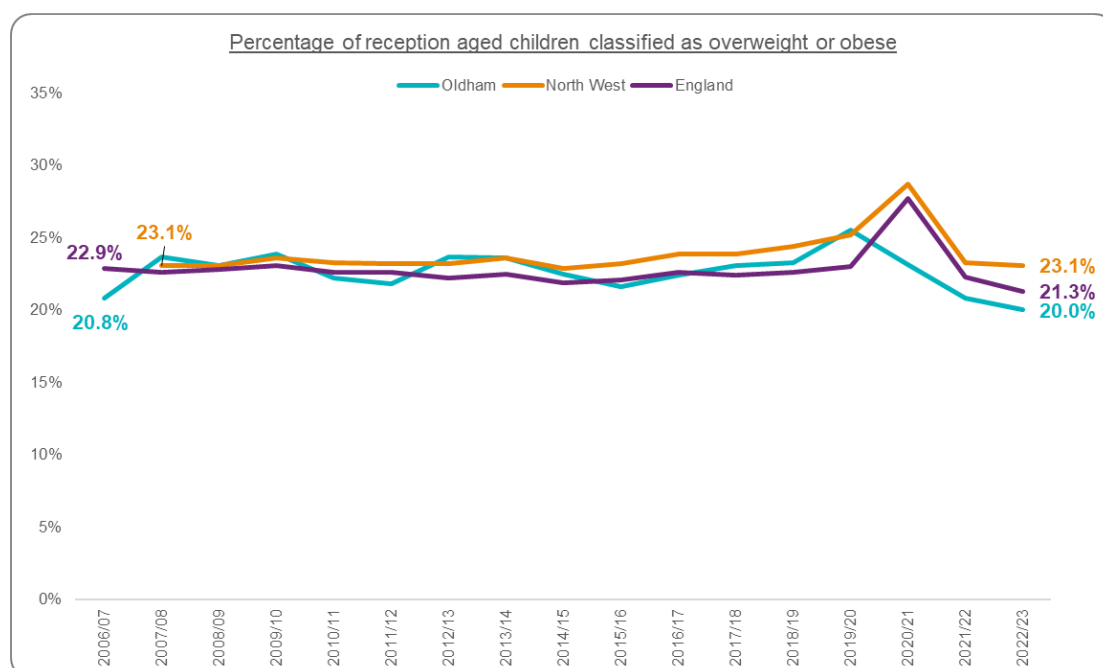
The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), established in 2006, collects annual measurements of the height and weight of over one million children in Reception (age 4-5 years) and Year 6 (age 10-11 years) in primary schools across England.

The latest data from the 2022/23 school year reveals 20.0% of reception aged children and 40.1% of year 6 aged children are classified as overweight or obese. For reception year, Oldham's prevalence remains lower than the North West (23.1%) and England (21.3%) averages. For year 6, Oldham's rate is higher than the North West (38.3%) and England (36.6%).

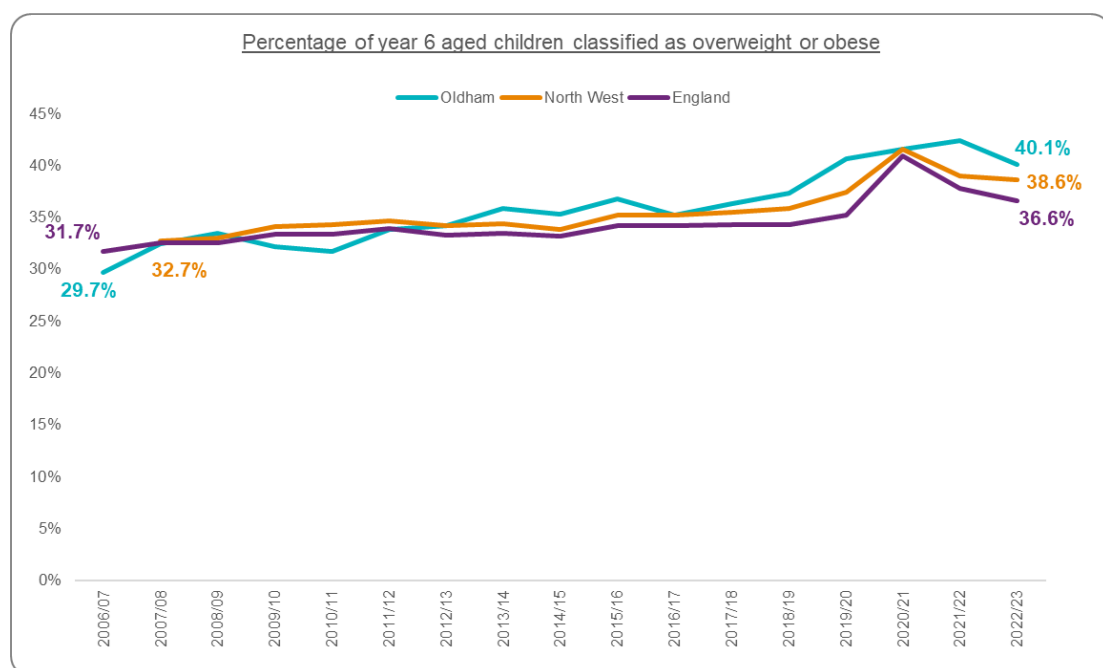


The prevalence of overweight and obesity amongst reception aged children was statistically lower in 2022/23 to the North West and England averages. In 2022/23 Oldham's rate was 3.1 percentage point below the North West rate and 1.3 percentage points below the England rate. Overall prevalence levels have remained relatively stable throughout the period shown at national level, with some small decreases seen in the North West trend (-

1%). Bigger fluctuations can be seen at Oldham level due to smaller numbers but the 2022/23 rate is now the same as that in 2006/07 due to the substantial decrease in rate for 2021/22. No data was published at regional level for 2006/07 due to data quality problems and no data was published for all levels for 2020/21 due to the pandemic.



In 2021/22 the prevalence of overweight and obesity amongst Year 6 age children in Oldham was statistically higher than the North West and England rates. The prevalence of overweight and obesity in Year 6 aged children has been on an increasing trend since 2006/07 across Oldham, the North West and England. Between 2006/07 and 2021/22, the prevalence rate has increased by 42.8% in Oldham compared to increases of 19.3% both regionally and nationally.



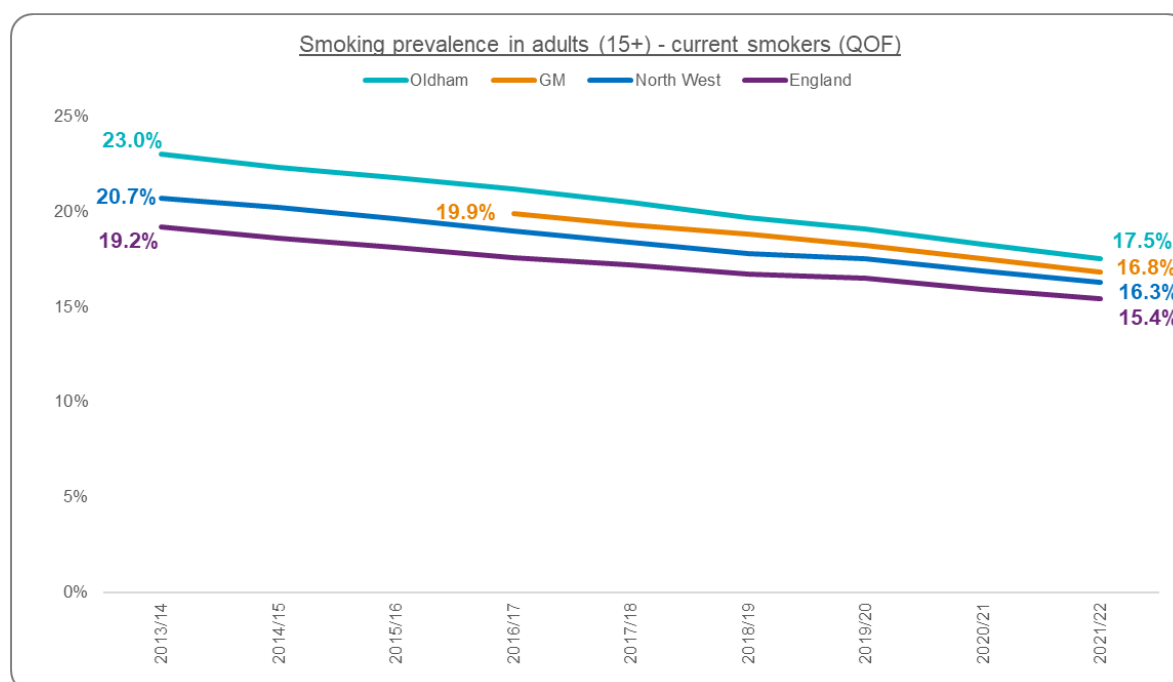
Source: OHID, using National Child Measurement Programme, NHS England



## Smoking

Smoking is the most important cause of preventable ill health and premature mortality in the UK. Smoking is a major risk factor for many diseases, such as lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and heart disease. It is also associated with cancers in other organs, including lip, mouth, throat, bladder, kidney, stomach, liver and cervix. Smoking is a modifiable behavioural risk factor; effective tobacco control measures can reduce the prevalence of smoking in the population.

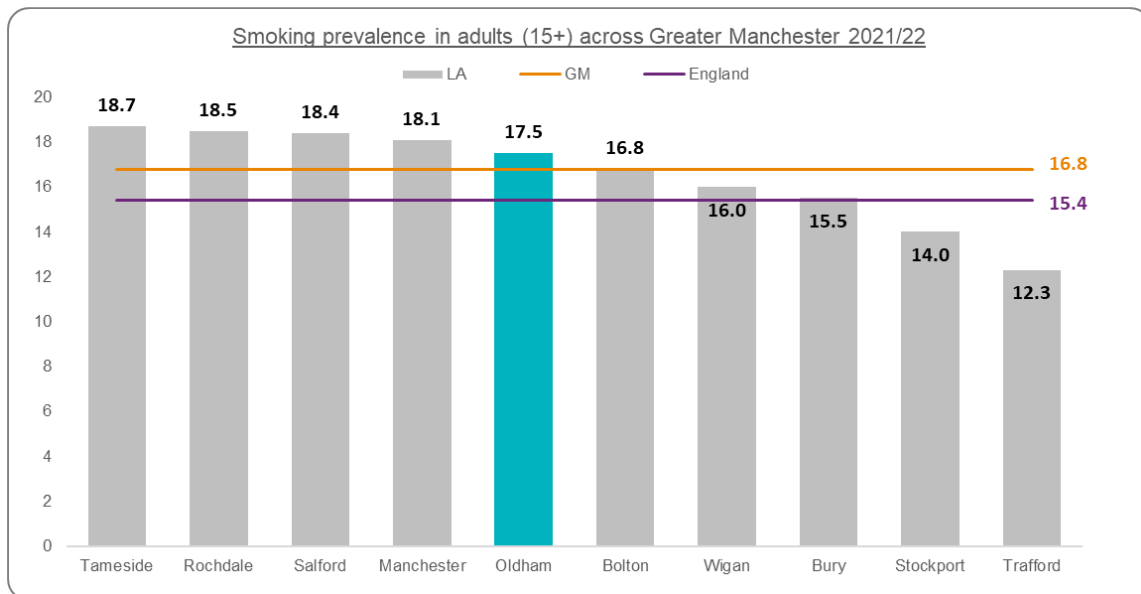
The chart below shows the prevalence of adult smokers (aged 15 +) across Oldham, GM, the North West and England sourced from the Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF). Oldham's smoking rate is currently higher than the GM, North West and England rates. Smoking rates have declining consistently between 2012/13 and 2021/22 in Oldham as well regionally and nationally.



\*GM data only available from 2016/17

The decrease in the proportion of current smokers over time may be partly attributed to the increase in vaping and e-cigarette use. Data from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) have shown regular use of a vaping device has increased in 2021 and the highest usage was among those aged 16 to 24 years. Policies associated with the Tobacco Control Plan for England, such as increased public awareness campaigns and smokefree places, may have also contributed to decreased smoking prevalence.

The next chart shows Oldham's position with Greater Manchester for the most recent year of data (2021/2). The rate is 5<sup>th</sup> highest across Greater Manchester and ninth highest across the North West. Nationally, the Local Authority with the highest percentage of smokers has a rate of 23.9% (Blackpool) and the lowest rate is 10.2% (Rutland), compared to Oldham's rate of 17.5%.

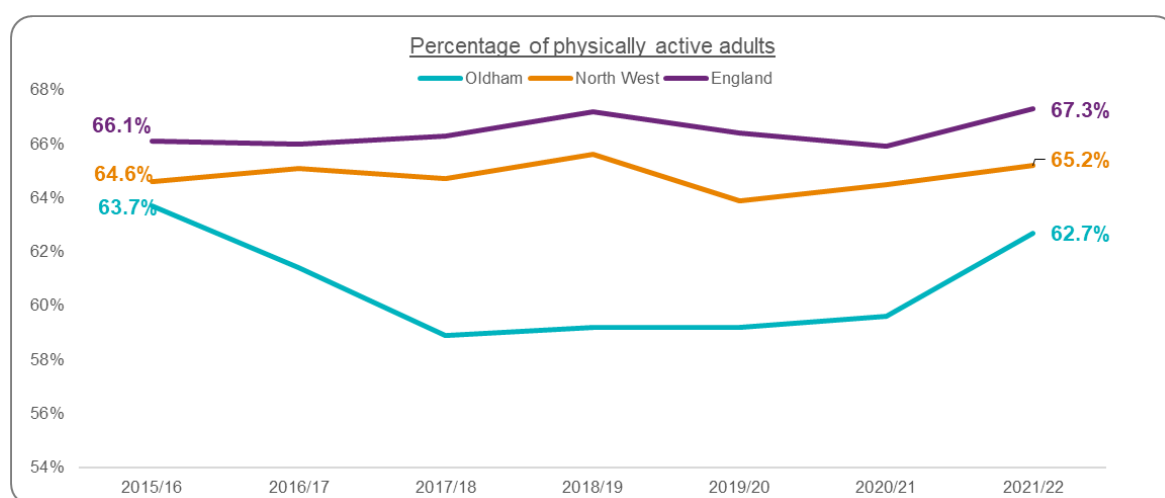


Source: Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), NHS England

## Physical Activity

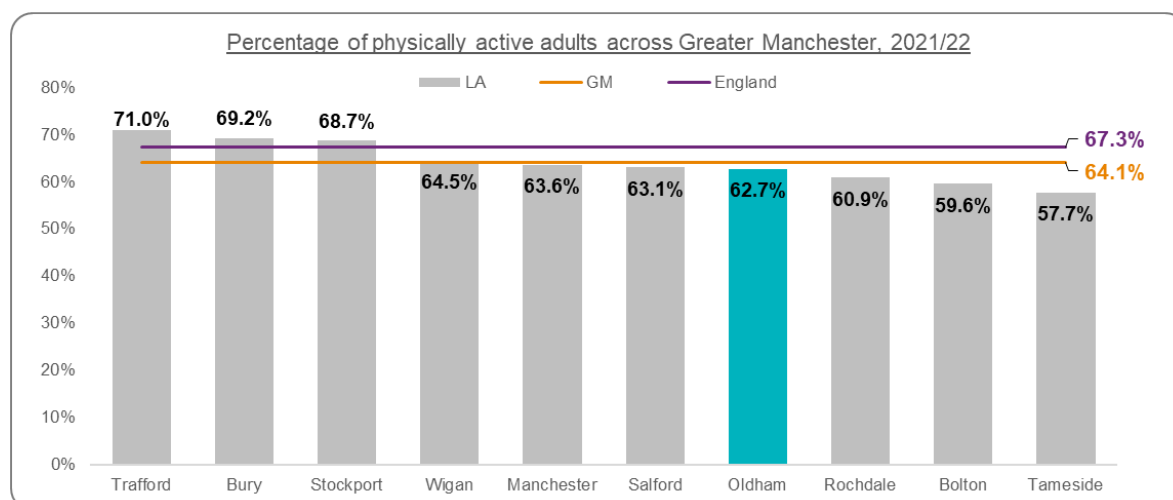
Physical inactivity is the 4th leading risk factor for global mortality accounting for 6% of deaths globally. People who have a physically active lifestyle have a 20 to 35% lower risk of cardiovascular disease, coronary heart disease and stroke compared to those who have a sedentary lifestyle. Regular physical activity is also associated with a reduced risk of diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis, colon and breast cancer, and with improved mental health. In older adults physical activity is associated with increased functional capacities.

The percentage of physically active adults has remained relatively stable throughout the period shown for England and the North West. Oldham's rate decreased between 2016/17 and 2020/21 but latest data reveals a similar percentage to 2015/16 data. Oldham's latest data reveals a lower percentage of physically active adults (62.7%) compared to the North West (65.2%) and England (67.3%). Oldham's rate has been below regional and national averages since 2015/16.



Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (based on the Active Lives Adult Survey, Sport England)

In 2021/22 Oldham ranked averagely against comparators. Oldham had the 4th lowest rate across Greater Manchester and 7th highest amongst CIPFA neighbours.



Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (based on the Active Lives Adult Survey, Sport England)

**For more information on health in Oldham, see:**

Oldham JSNA: <https://www.jsnaoldham.co.uk/>

# Housing

## Overview

As of 2021, Oldham has 93,140 households. The borough has an unbalanced housing market with low proportions of detached properties and a very high proportion of terraced homes – the highest in Greater Manchester. Oldham has a need for larger family accommodation highlighted by the issues around over-crowding, particularly in South Asian communities, and this demand is expected to intensify as time passes.

Housing tenure varies considerably across the borough, with high concentrations of social housing in the more deprived communities. The private rented sector has expanded very quickly across Oldham as well as nationally due to rising house prices in relation to earnings and a dramatic fall in the number of homes being rented out by local authorities.

While house prices remain low compared to Greater Manchester, regional and national levels, they still remain unaffordable for many due to low wages and deposits required. Rising energy prices and energy-inefficient housing means a high portion of households in Oldham are in fuel poverty.

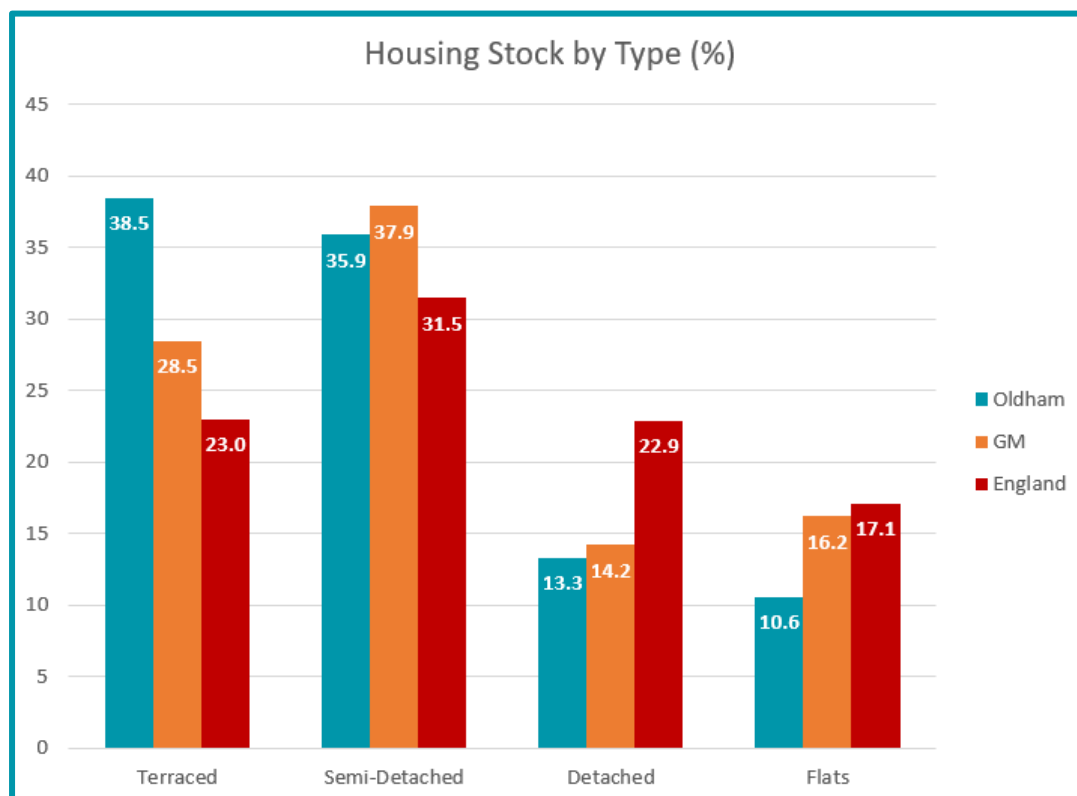
In an attempt to address housing shortages as well as other infrastructural challenges, several Greater Manchester councils have joined to form the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF). This scheme sets out to ensure supply of high-quality building plots for homes and businesses well into the future; ensuring land is used effectively – though at the cost of a portion of Manchester's Green Belt. The GMSF aims to allow around 13,500 new houses to be built in Oldham by 2035 on sites such as Broadbent Moss and Beal Valley.

### Challenges and Opportunities

- **Overcrowding** – due to the abundance of terraced and smaller properties and a growing (South Asian) population, there are significant issues regarding overcrowding – particularly in Coldhurst, Werneth and St Mary's.
- **Affordability** – Even though Oldham has some of the lowest house prices in the region, getting on the housing ladder for many is still out of reach due to low wages and current deposit requirements.
- **Population Growth/Aging Population** – Growth in Oldham's population will increase demand for all tenures of housing, particularly large affordable family housing and supported accommodation.
- **Devolution Agreement** – There is a new £300m fund for housing – enough for an extra 15,000 new homes over the next 10 years across Greater Manchester. Additionally, the GMSF plans for portions of Oldham to be renovated and additional new homes built over the next 20 years, with both greenfield and brownfield land being made available for development.

## Housing Stock

Oldham's housing stock is typically characterised by its 19<sup>th</sup> century red brick terraced properties, which make up a large share (38.5%) of the 93,140 households in the borough. Within Greater Manchester, Oldham has the largest proportion of terraced households as well as a notably higher proportion compared to the national average (23.0%). In contrast, Oldham has a small proportion of detached households (13.3%) and flats (10.6%).



Source: ONS – Census 2021

## Overcrowding

The National Housing Strategy recognises that there is national shortage of housing, leading to individuals living in overcrowded conditions or in privately rented accommodation which does not meet their needs. This is an accurate assessment of Oldham's position – the 2021 Census identified that 7.5% of households in Oldham are overcrowded compared to 4.4% nationally.

Across Oldham the distribution of households that are overcrowded is very uneven. The map below shows large concentrations of overcrowded homes located around the outskirts of the town centre, particularly in the wards of Coldhurst, St Mary's and Werneth.

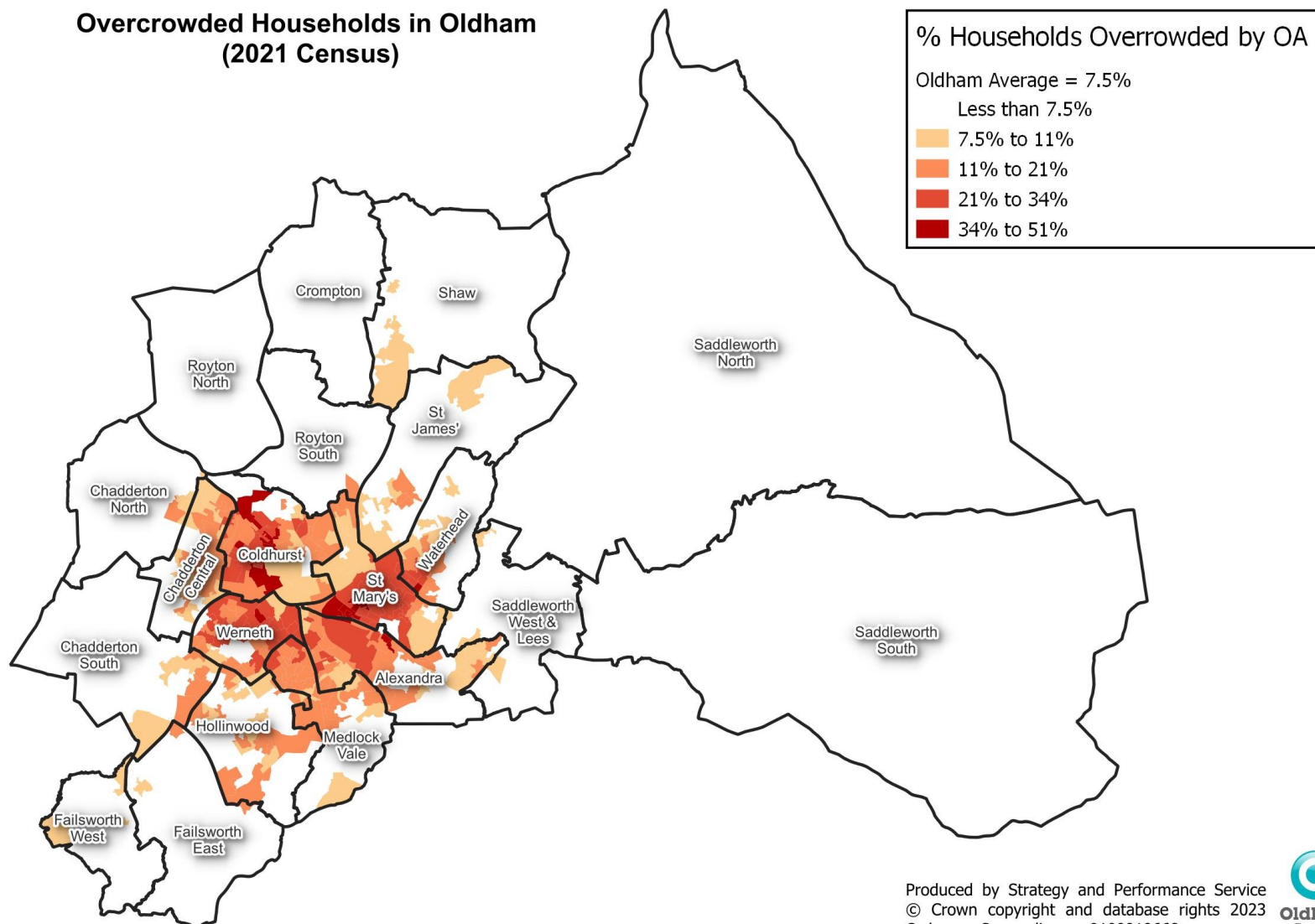
Overcrowding is most prevalent in neighbourhoods with large numbers of small terraced properties. These wards are also home to Oldham's Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage communities who characteristically have larger families, often with several generations cohabiting in a single household.

	Number of Households Classed as Overcrowded
2001 Census	6,403
2011 Census	6,772
2021 Census	6,995

Source: ONS – Census 2001, 2011 & 2021.

It's also interesting to see that the number of households classed as overcrowded has remained relatively steady between the three most recent census collections. However, the drop in proportion of White groups and the continued growth of the borough's South Asian communities implies that the proportion of overcrowded White households has most likely increased whereas the percentage of Pakistani and Bangladeshi households classified as overcrowded has likely decreased.

## Overcrowded Households in Oldham (2021 Census)



Source: ONS – Census 2021

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## Housing Tenure

Similar to the pattern in Greater Manchester and nationally, the majority of households in Oldham are owner-occupied (60.8%), with smaller percentages of social housing (21.2%) and privately rented stock (17.7%). In Oldham, home ownership is much higher in areas of greater prosperity such as Saddleworth, Crompton and parts of Royton and Chadderton. In contrast, home ownership is significantly lower in Oldham's more deprived communities.

### Housing Tenures in Oldham in 2011 and 2021 (%)

	Owner-Occupier		Socially Rented		Privately Rented	
	2011	2021	2011	2021	2011	2021
Oldham	65.3	60.8	21.1	21.2	12.2	17.7
Greater Manchester	60.6	58.6	21.9	20.7	16.1	20.5
England	64.1	62.3	17.7	17.1	16.8	20.5

Source: ONS – Census 2011

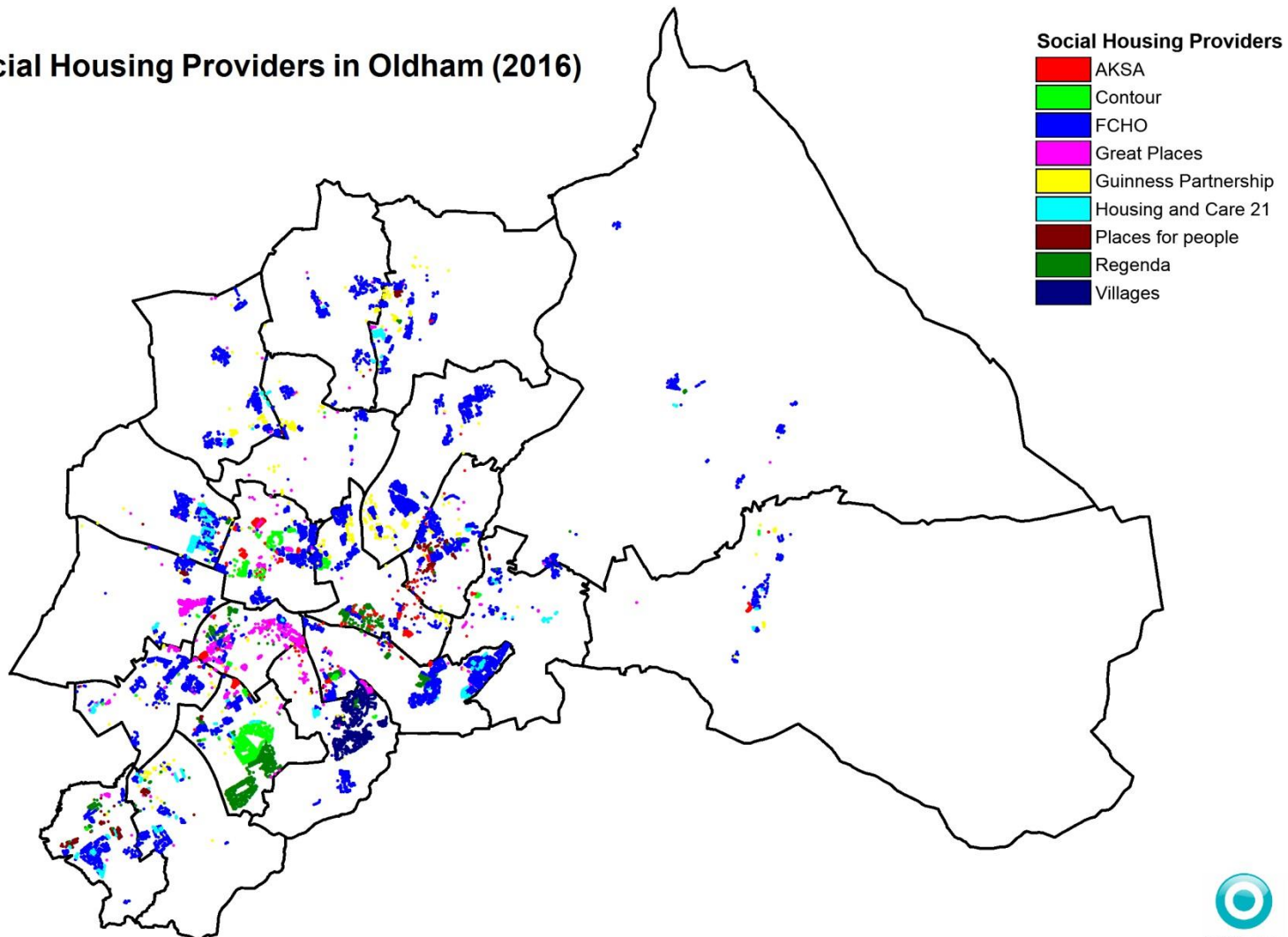
As of the 2021 Census, there are around 19,760 socially rented properties in Oldham, provided by a range of different Housing Associations. The proportion of social housing in Oldham (21.2%) is similar to that across Greater Manchester (20.7%) but is notably higher than levels reported nationally (17.1%). Social housing provision is distributed across the borough but is most clustered in areas with higher levels of deprivation.

Barriers to home ownership and the reduced availability of social housing, as well as many other fiscal and social factors, have led to high growth in the privately rented sector. The proportion of privately rented properties in Oldham has significantly increased since the 2011 census and now accounts for 17.7% of the total housing stock, though this is still below the England average of 20.5%. Areas within Oldham with large proportions of private rented properties include Hathershaw, Clarksfield, Greenacres, Hollins and Failsworth.

The breakdown of those in privately rented housing is diverse but seems to have a slightly younger composition than either owner-occupation or social housing. There are a marginally higher proportion of private renters living in urban areas than rural regions and their overall household income is lower than owner-occupiers, though higher than those in social housing.



## Social Housing Providers in Oldham (2016)



Map Produced by Jon Taylor, Business Intelligence Service, November 2016. ©Crown copyright and Database rights 2015. Ordnance Survey Licence 0100019668



Source: OHIP 2016

## House Prices

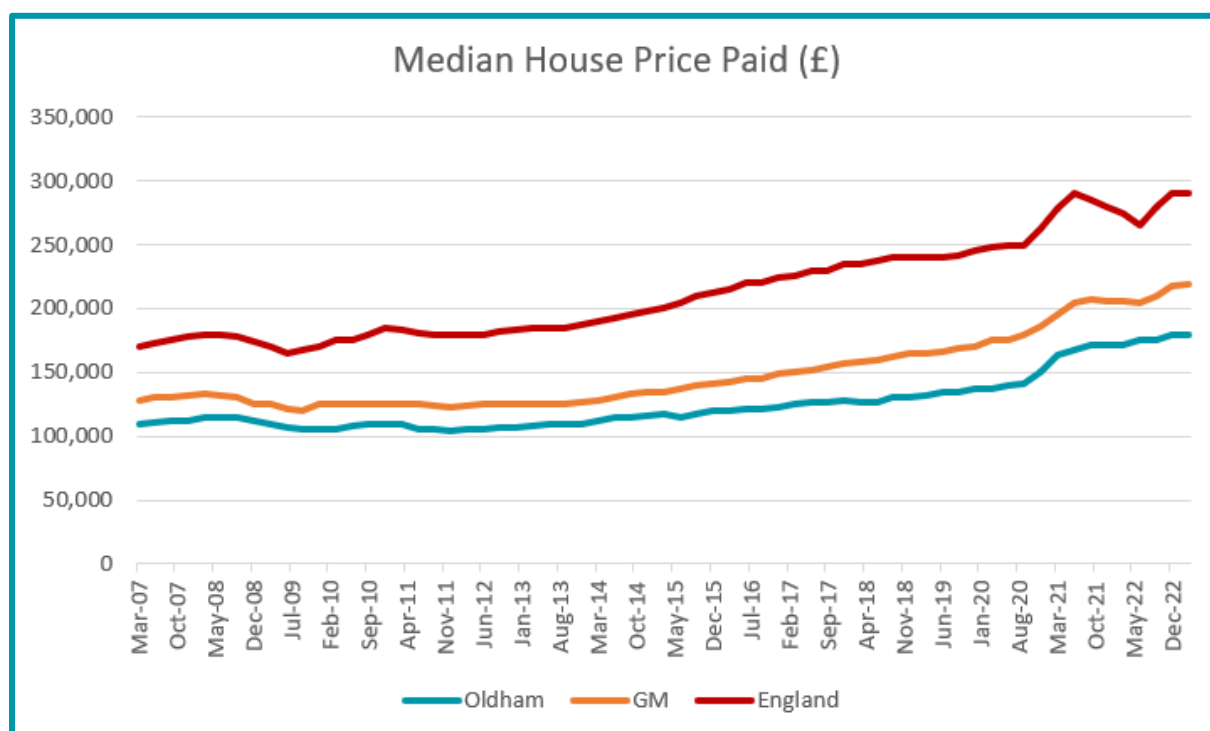
The median house price in Oldham as of March 2023 was £180,000 – less than the GM average (£219,000) and significantly lower than the England average (£290,000). House prices in Oldham are some of the lowest in Greater Manchester, no doubt impacted by the large proportion of terraced properties which make up Oldham's housing stock.

### Median House Price Paid by Housing Type – Oldham 2023 (Ending Mar 2023)

Type	Median House Price Paid
Detached	£ 319,000
Flats	£ 148,250
Semi-Detached	£ 212,500
Terraced	£ 145,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 180,000</b>

Source: Land Registry, 2022

House prices, available housing stock and affordability (the ratio of earnings to house prices) vary significantly across Oldham. The median price paid in Saddleworth North, Oldham's most prosperous ward, was £298,750, in contrast to St Mary's – one of Oldham most deprived wards at £115,000. Over the last decade, the median house price paid in Oldham has increased by 66.7% from £108,000 in March 2013 to £180,000 in March 2023, compared with 75.2% in GM and 56.8% nationally.



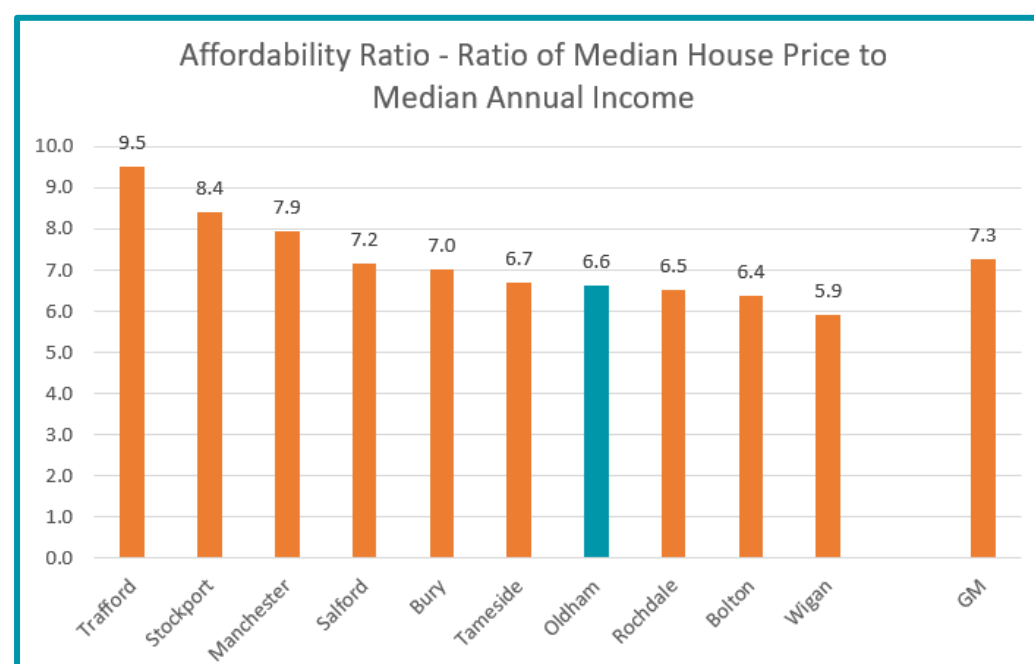
Source: ONS, 2023

The combination of increasing house prices and static income levels has compounded the issues surrounding housing affordability. Affordability ratios (measuring income against house prices) are highlighted below and show that the most affordable housing in the region can be found in Oldham along with Wigan, Tameside, Rochdale and Bolton. While house prices in Oldham may be lower when compared to Greater Manchester, they still remain unaffordable to many of the borough's residents due to low wages and high deposit requirements. The least affordable homes in Greater Manchester are found in Trafford with house prices almost seven times greater than income.

### Average Household Income, House Prices and Affordability Ratios for Greater Manchester Authorities (2022/23)

District	Median Gross Annual Earnings (2023)	Median House Price (2023)	Affordability Ratio
Bolton	£28,244	£180,000	6.4
Bury	£32,292	£227,000	7.0
Manchester	£29,080	£231,000	7.9
<b>Oldham</b>	<b>£27,167</b>	<b>£180,000</b>	<b>6.6</b>
Rochdale	£27,869	£181,600	6.5
Salford	£31,102	£223,000	7.2
Stockport	£34,610	£291,000	8.4
Tameside	£29,129	£195,000	6.7
Trafford	£37,889	£360,000	9.5
Wigan	£29,553	£175,000	5.9
<b>Greater Manchester</b>	<b>£30,142</b>	<b>£219,000</b>	<b>7.3</b>

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings – 2022 & ONS Median House Price Paid - 2023



Source: ONS, 2023

## Oldham's Future Housing Market

As already documented, there is plenty of evidence to suggest that a clear disparity exists between housing supply and demand in Oldham. This is partly due to affordability relevant to income, issues around over-crowding and the over-proliferation of terraced and smaller properties, as well as the borough's ageing population.

However, future housing demand in Oldham is expected to intensify as population projections suggest a rise in the number of inhabitants, which agrees with the ever-increasing life expectancy of the current residents. This will further increase the demand for all tenures of housing, particularly large affordable family housing and supported accommodation.

## Fuel Poverty

Due to rising energy prices, energy inefficient housing and low incomes, a significant portion of households in Oldham are in fuel poverty. This is also the case both in the wider region and nationally. As of 2021, there were 15,261 households in Oldham (16.0%) classed as fuel poor. This a significant increase from 2020 and shows the impact of the cost of living crisis.

Living in a cold home can have serious health implications, particularly for the old, very young and for people with disabilities and can even play a role in premature deaths. A household is considered to be fuel poor if it has higher than typical energy costs and would be left with a disposable income below the poverty line if the required money was spent in order to meet those costs.

Fuel poverty is closely associated with low income and is most common among those who live in privately rented accommodation. The map below highlights areas of significant fuel poverty within Oldham. It is clear that the wards with higher levels of deprivation, generally surrounding the town centre, have the greatest levels of fuel poverty. For example, in parts of Coldhurst, the proportion of households which are fuel poor is in excess of 25%. The Warm Homes Oldham programme continues to address fuel poverty with the aim of improving outcomes in other areas simultaneously.

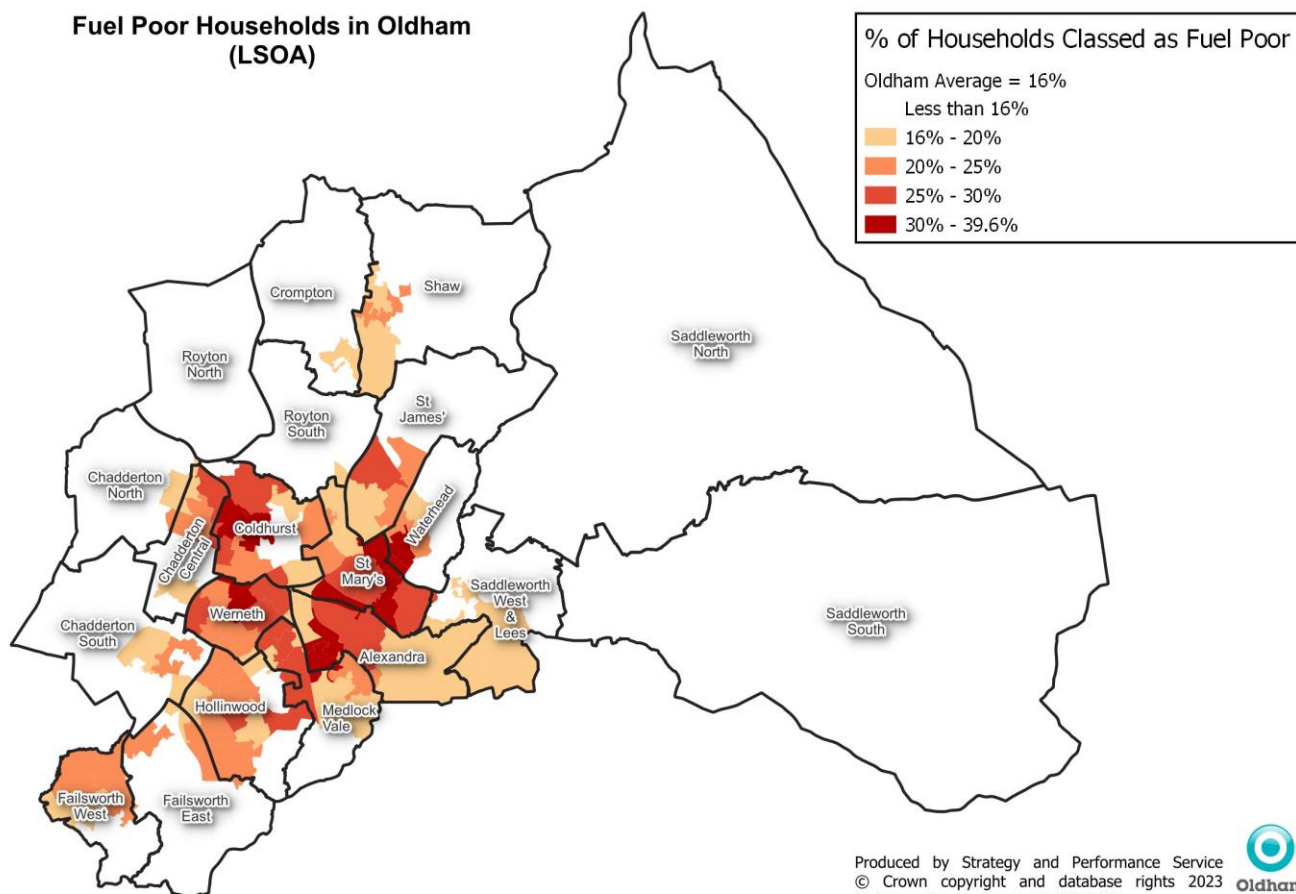
Ward	Percentage of households in Fuel Poverty (2021)
Alexandra	23%
Chadderton Central	17%
Chadderton North	8%
Chadderton South	14%
Coldhurst	23%
Crompton	11%
Failsworth East	15%
Failsworth West	15%
Hollinwood	21%
Medlock Vale	21%
Royton North	10%
Royton South	10%
Saddleworth North	10%
Saddleworth South	9%
Saddleworth West and Lees	12%
Shaw	13%

St James'	15%
St Mary's	27%
Waterhead	21%
Werneth	26%

Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2023 (2021 Data)

District	Percentage of households in Fuel Poverty (2021)
Bolton	15%
Bury	13%
Manchester	18%
<b>Oldham</b>	16%
Rochdale	16%
Salford	13%
Stockport	12%
Tameside	14%
Trafford	12%
Wigan	14%
<b>Greater Manchester</b>	<b>15%</b>

# **Fuel Poor Households in Oldham (LSOA)**



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Source: DECC 2023 (2021 Data)

# Education

## Overview

Children in Oldham have a particularly challenging start in life and education. This is further exacerbated by factors such as deprivation and language challenges. This can be seen in early years development, KS2 assessment results and by evaluating Oldham's performance against other local authorities for key performance measures in which Oldham falls significantly below the median rank. Like much of the North West, Oldham has significant areas of deprivation in which many young people don't reach the national levels of attainment. Supported by the DfE funded Opportunity Area programme, Oldham is providing additional support to disadvantaged students, with an emphasis on improving early years performance.

Key stage 5 performance is consistent. There is a need to increase the number of higher level qualifications at FE level, but Oldham has higher than expected proportions of young people gaining level 3 qualifications.

There are still significant challenges around absence and exclusions, particularly around unauthorised absence.

COVID-19 and the effects of the pandemic have had a significant impact on education in several different ways. Data is missing for certain years due to the absence of exams and where data is available for exams in 2020 and 2021 caution should be taken when interpreting these values as students were assigned a centre assessed grade.



## Challenges and Opportunities

- **Deprivation** – can impact on attainment and life chances, and is a difficult obstacle to overcome - even for excellent schools. Oldham's significant deprivation levels and the low skills base of parents, are both reasons the DfE has invested in the borough as an Opportunity Area.
- **Language and Ethnicity** – Children who speak English is an additional language may have lower than expected levels of speech, language, and communication in early years and key stage 1, but generally demonstrate improvement by key stage 2. Ethnicity may also influence results. Whilst ethnicity gaps have somewhat closed over time, challenges such as the high number of international students requiring school and community integration, and students joining schools part way through the school year still remain. However, these are challenges in which Oldham has some best practice.
- **Secondary Education** – Key stage 4 performance has improved slowly year on year but remains below national average. The changes to the curriculum in 2018 impacted on attainment across the borough, though this was replicated across most of the North West.

## Education Provision in Oldham

In 2021, Oldham was home to 61,965 children and young people aged 0 to 17. This is 25.6% of the borough's population. The number of primary school age children (Aged 5-11) is 24,819. The number of secondary school age children (Aged 11-16) is 21,513.

A total of 116 schools provide education for the compulsory years, comprised of 88 primary schools, 20 secondary schools, 1 16 to 18 establishments, 6 special schools, and a Pupil Referral Unit.

### Schools

	Sector				
	Maintained	Academy	Independent	Further Education	Total
Primary	55	31	2	0	88
Secondary	3	11	6	0	20
16+	0	0	0	1	1
Special	0	6	0	0	6
Pupil Referral Unit	1	0	0	0	1

Source: Edubase, January 2023

Pre-school education is delivered by a variety of different childcare providers. Both the maintained and private sectors play a role - including nurseries, playgroups and child minders.

### 0 – 5 Childcare Provision

	Sector			
	Maintained	Academy	PVI*	Total
Nurseries	39	23	44	106
2 Year Old Unit	2	8	N/A	10
Pre-School Playgroups	2	1	30	33
Childminders	0	0	124	124

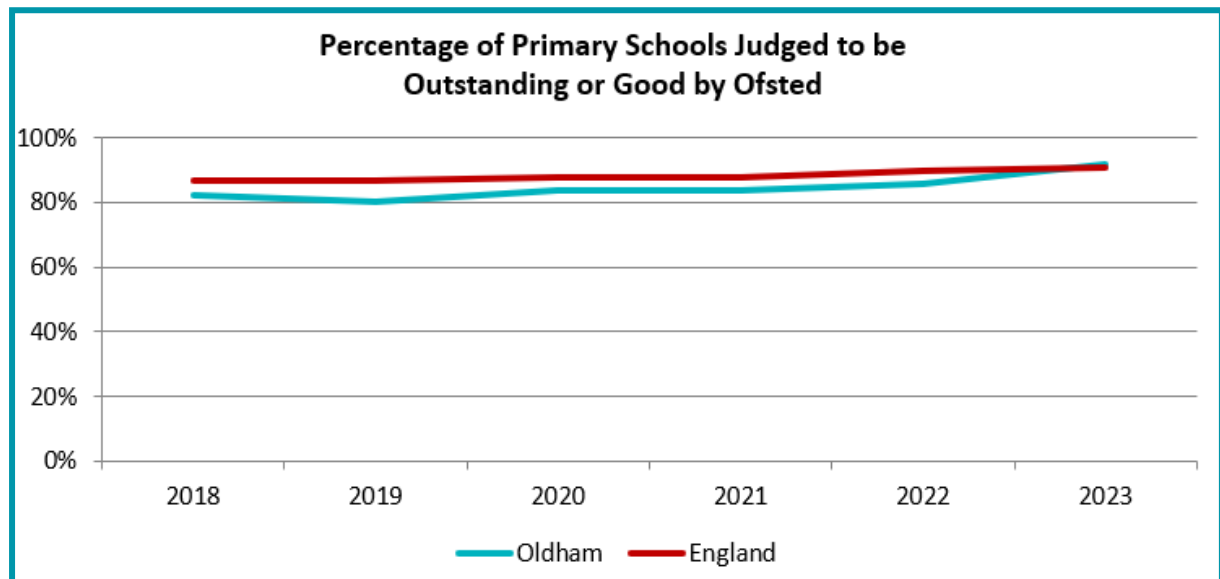
\*Private, Voluntary, and Independent

Source: Oldham Council, November 2023

Oldham also has a ‘satellite’ higher education campus, University Campus Oldham.

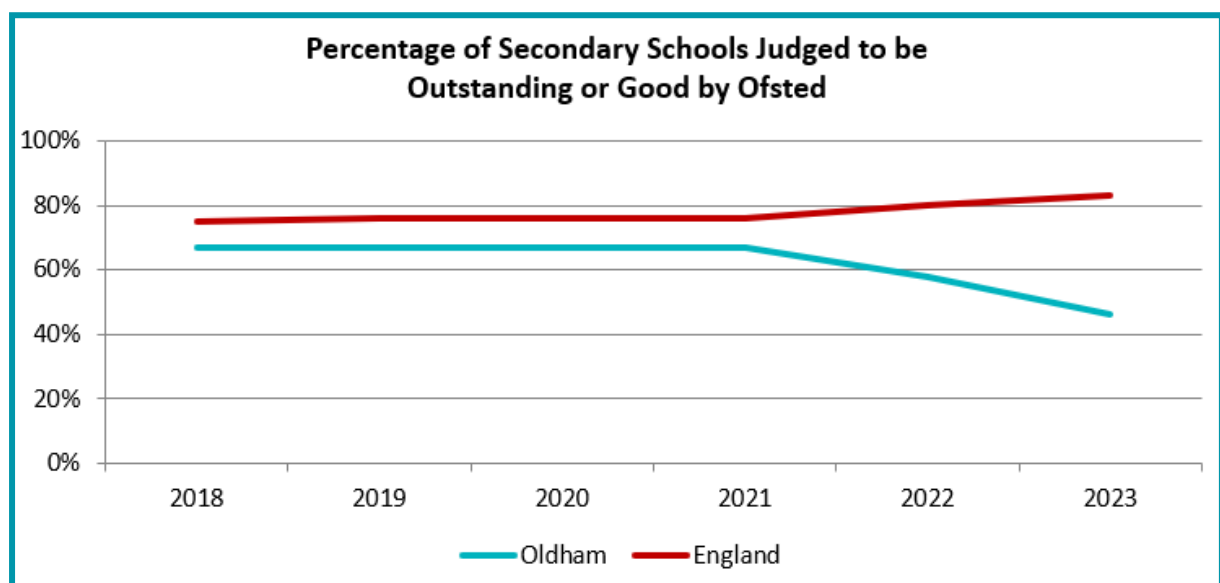
## Ofsted Judgements

The proportion of schools rated good or outstanding in Oldham has steadily improved over the last five years going from 82% in 2018 to 92% in 2023.

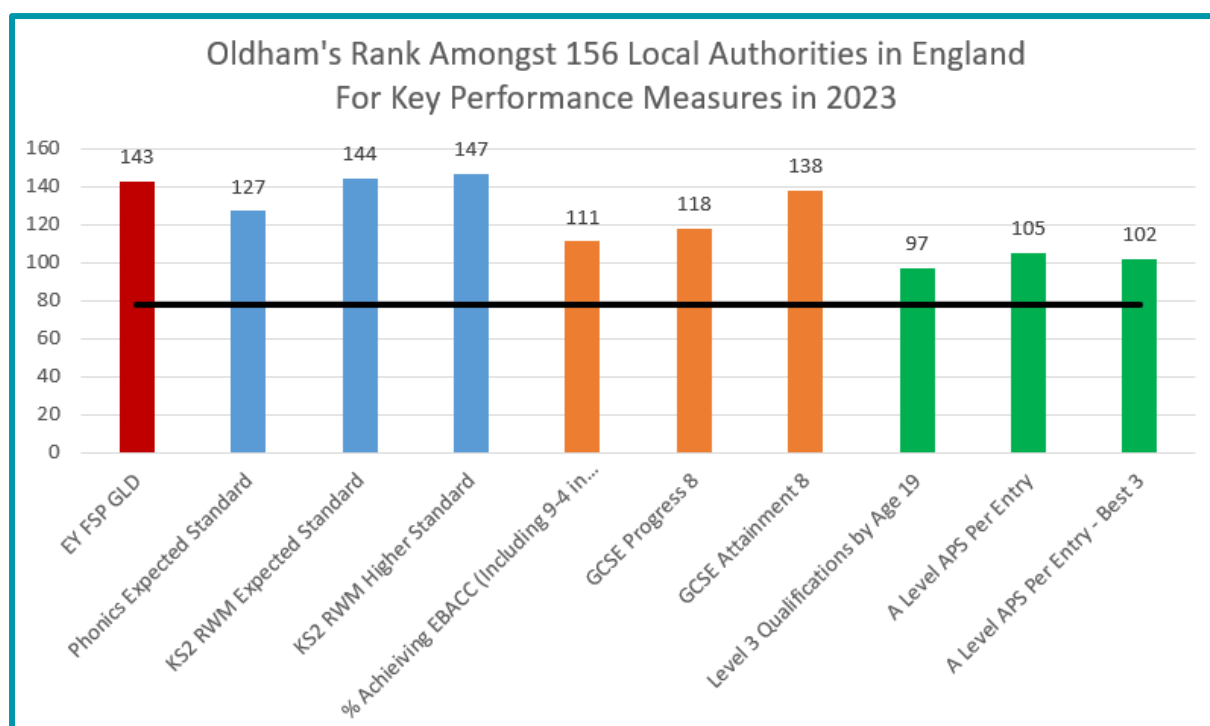


Source: Ofsted, December 2023

However, at the Secondary School level, the proportion of schools rated good or outstanding by OFSTED has seen a significant decrease over the last two years going from 67% 2021 to 46% in 2023.



Source: Ofsted, December 2023

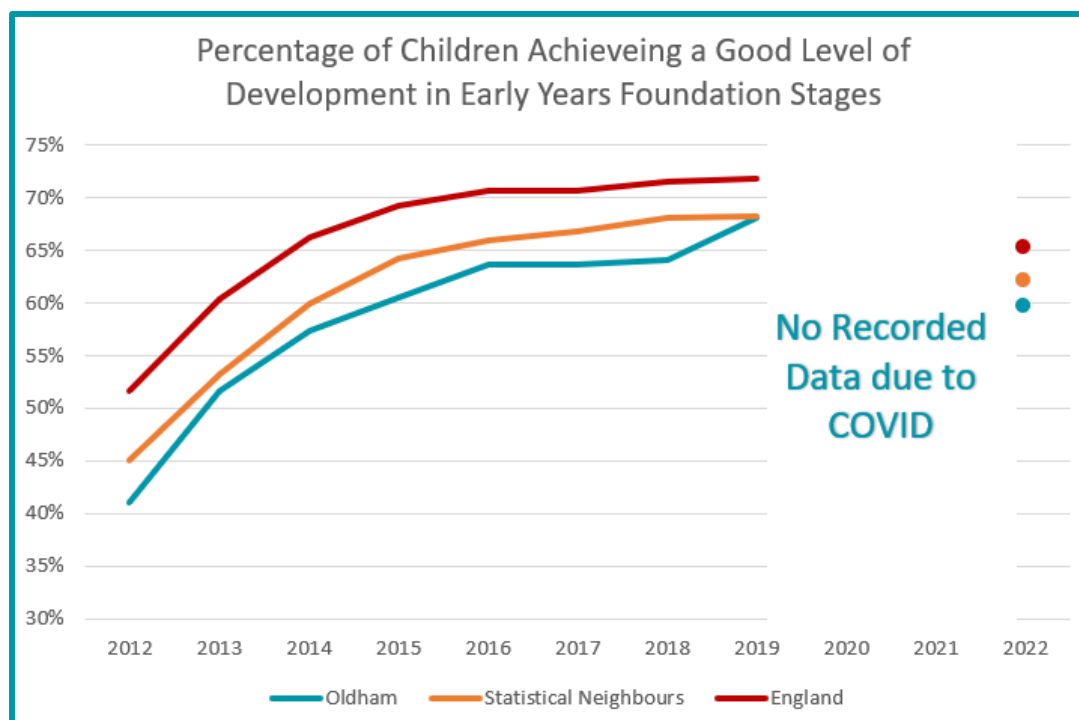


Source: collated, DfE LAIT, Ofsted, DfE, November 2023

The chart above shows Oldham's rank amongst 156 local authorities in England for Key Performance Measures up to 2022/2023. For example, Oldham ranks 138<sup>th</sup> out of 156 local authorities for GCSE Attainment 8. The lower the rank for each key performance measure indicates a better result and a higher rank indicates a poor result in comparison to other local authorities. These key performance measures are also compared to the Median to show Oldham's performance as a benchmark measure which is indicated by the black line. It's clear to see Oldham's performance for these measures is significantly worse than the median.

## Early Years

Oldham's children enter the education system at a lower level of development than most of the rest of the UK. This is influenced by high deprivation levels, and above average proportions of children for whom English is not their first language<sup>5</sup>. Child development at age 5 is assessed by the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Oldham's results have improved over time and have now bridged the gap to statistical neighbours. Oldham has also been closing the gap to the national average - in 2012/13 there was a gap of 10.6%, which has fallen to 5.4% in 2022/23.

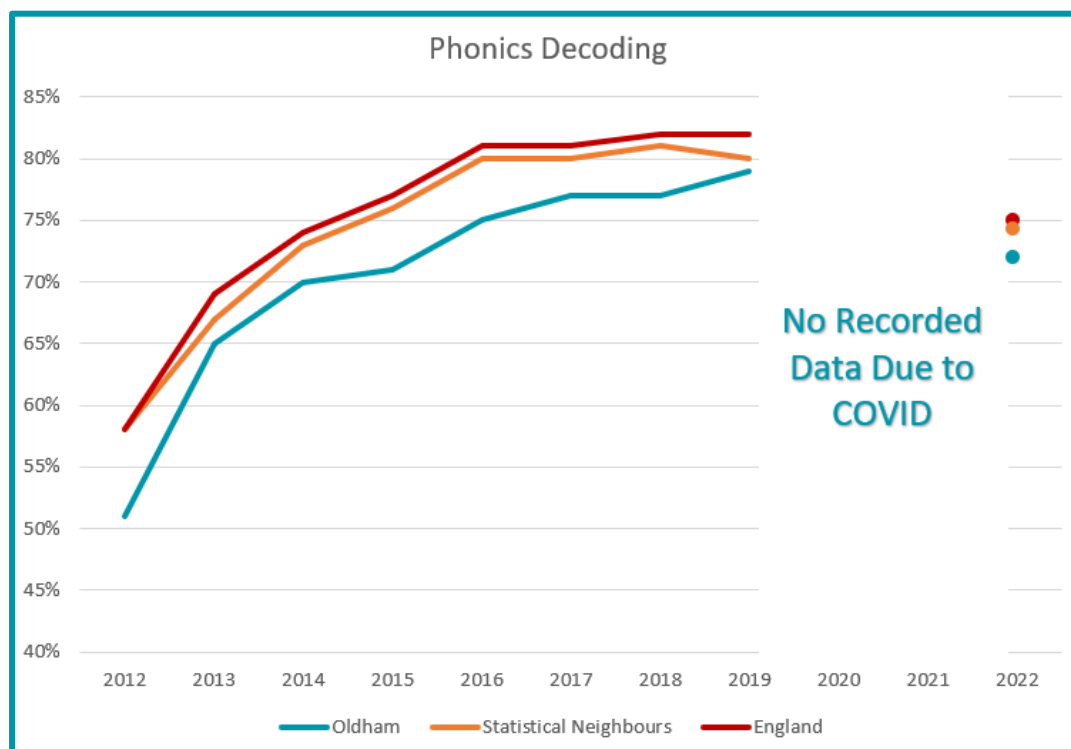


Source: DfE LAIT, November 2023

<sup>5</sup> See, for example, research from the NFER: <https://www.nfer.ac.uk/news-events/nfer-blogs/deprivation-attention-and-persistence-new-insights-into-early-years-learning/>

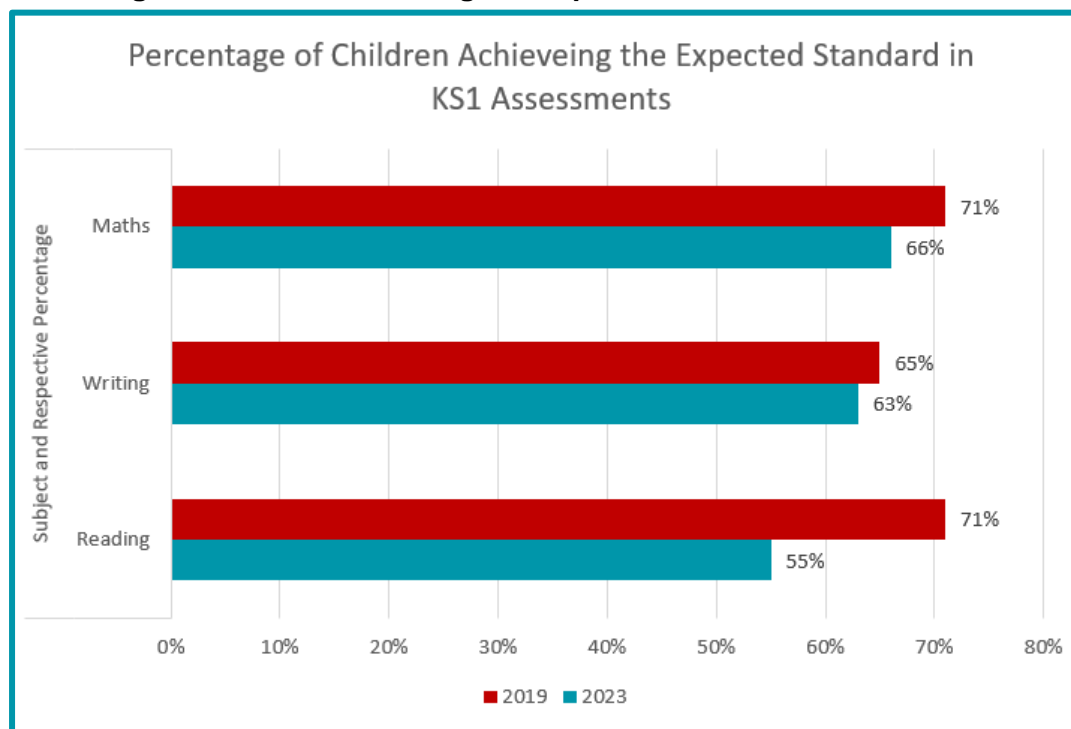
## Key Stage 1

### Percentage of Children Achieving the expected standard for Phonics Decoding



Source: DfE LAIT, November 2023

### Percentage of Children Achieving the Expected Standard in KS1 Assessments



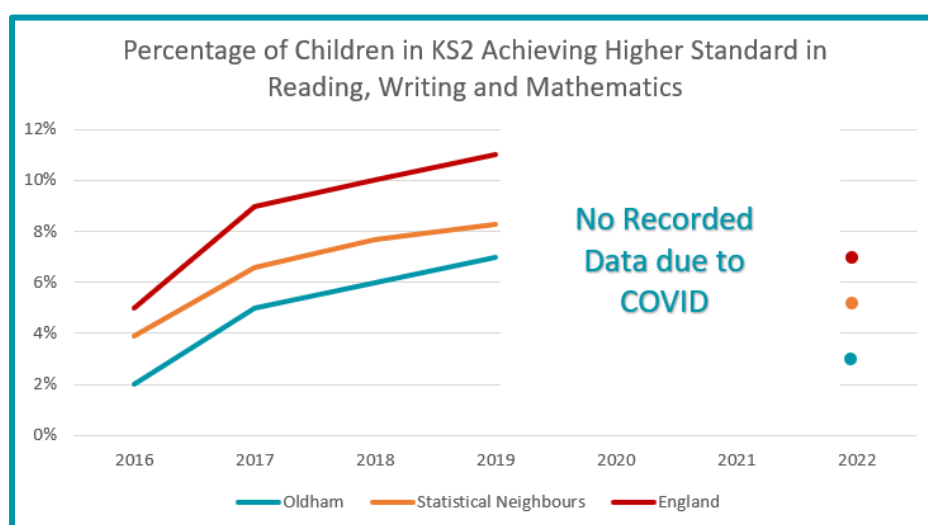
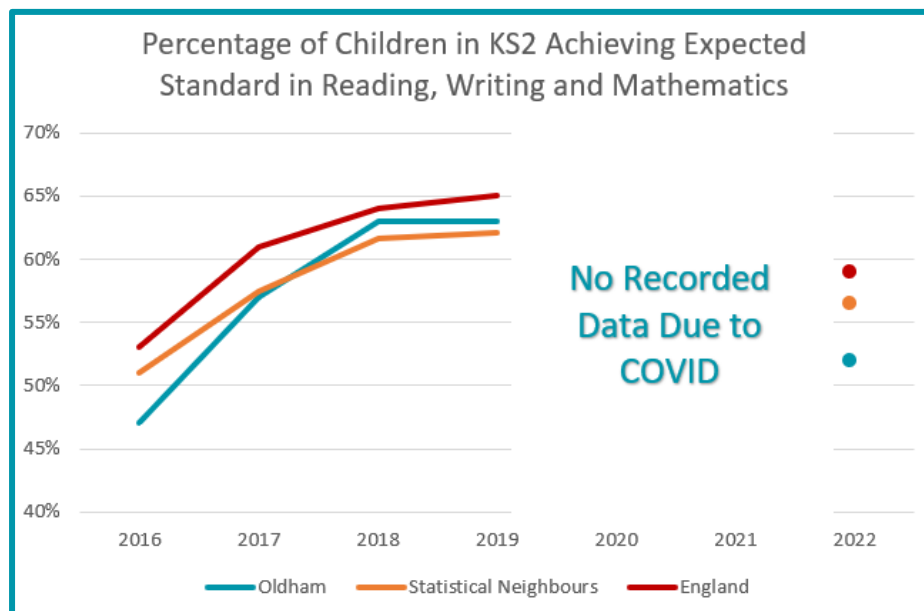
Source: DfE LAIT, January 2023

Oldham has seen decreases in all assessment subjects across the KS1 curriculum since 2019. The decrease is most significant for reading going from 71% in 2019 to 55% in 2023. This is likely to be an impact of COVID and lockdowns.

## Key Stage 2

For the Expected Standard, Oldham initially performed poorly in 2015/16, following the introduction of a new assessment method. Oldham saw a marked improvement from 2016 to 2019 however the latest post-COVID results show a staggering decline for expected standard which has also been seen with our statistical neighbours and nationally.

Source: DfE LAIT, November 2023



For the Higher Standard, Oldham performs markedly below statistical neighbours and the national average. In achieving the Higher Standard, Oldham was ranked 147<sup>th</sup> out of 156 in 2022/23.

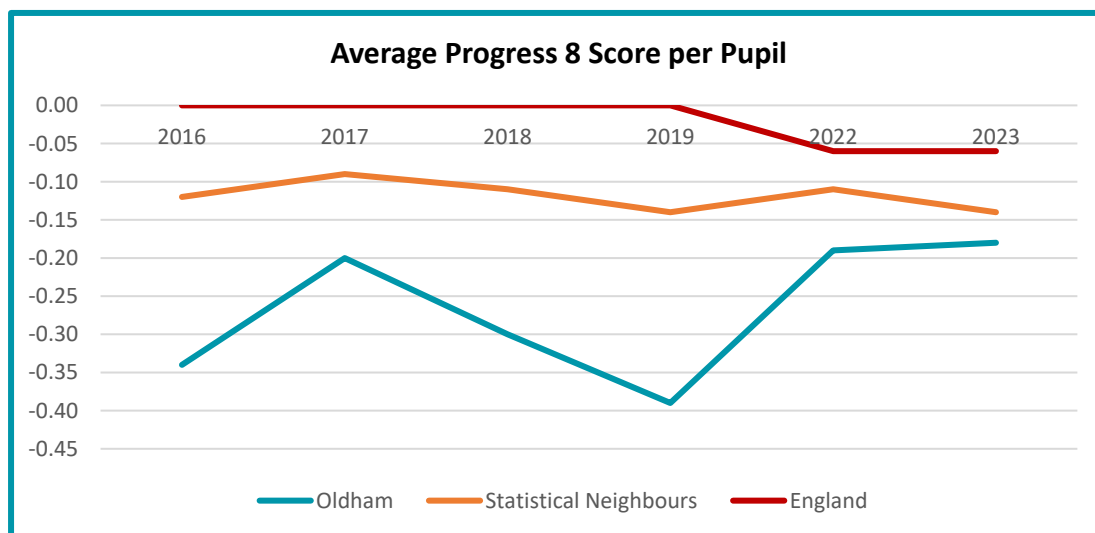
Source: DfE LAIT, November 2023



## Key Stage 4

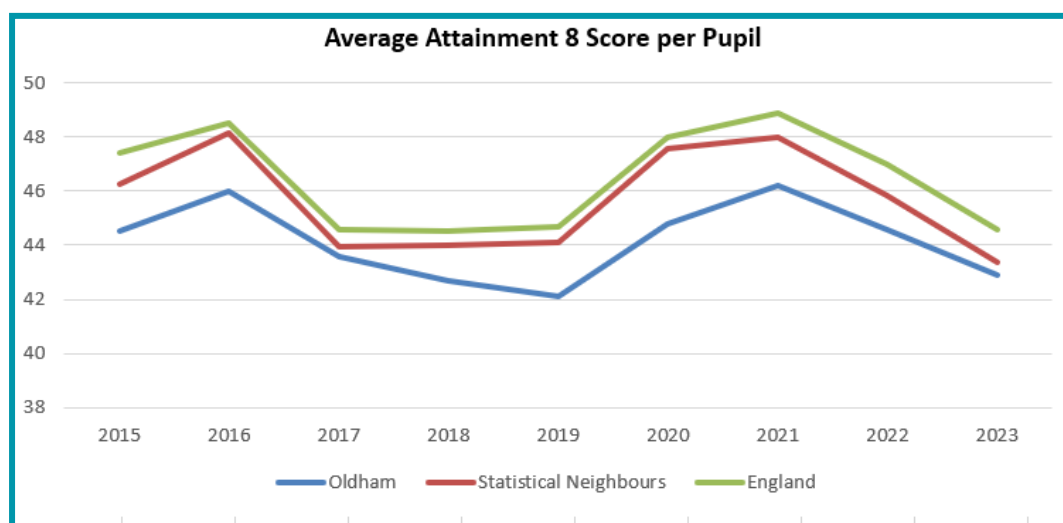
Attainment 8 measures KS4 attainment, whilst Progress 8 measures progress from KS2 to KS4. Progress 8 is normalised, so that the average progress made nationally, is 0. As such, a negative Progress 8 score means less progress than average, whilst a positive score means more progress than average.

Oldham's results on both measures are consistently below those of our statistical neighbours. The latest data on progress 8 shows that the gap between Oldham and the national average is widening.



Source: DfE LAIT, January 2023

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellations of exams, students were awarded a centre assessed grade or a calculated grade based on a model developed by Ofqual. The cancellation of these exams has led to pupil attainment statistics that are unlike previous years therefore when interpreting these latest results caution must be taken. Therefore 2019 is the latest year of data for Average Progress 8 score per Pupil.



Source: DfE LAIT, January 2023

Cohort	2022 Attainment Gap	2023 Attainment Gap
Male	2.5	3.0
Female	-2.5	-3.1
Disadvantaged	8.3	7.3
SEN Support	13.9	11.5
EHC	33.9	31.5
EAL	-0.5	-0.8
Pakistani	0.9	0.8
Bangladeshi	-5.3	-3.9

Source: DfE, November 2023

The table above shows the attainment gap for various demographics using attainment 8 score. This shows that those with an EHC in place/SEN support or those from a disadvantaged background have the largest performance gap. We can also see from the table that Females and Bangladeshi students performed better than the Oldham average.

## No Qualifications

Percentage of KS4 Pupils with no qualifications							
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
2.9	1.9	2.9	2.8	3.2	3.0	4.1	3.2

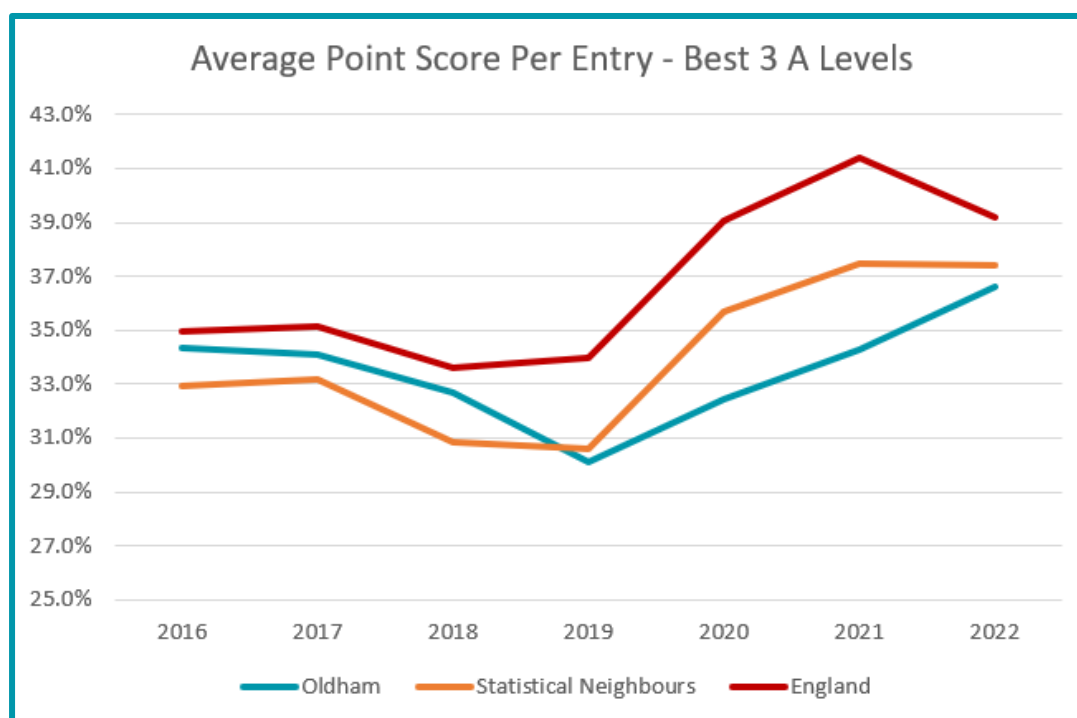
Source: DfE

The table above shows the percentage of students in Oldham who received no formal GCSE qualifications. There has been a slight increase since 2019 in the percentage of students in Oldham gaining no GCSE qualifications. This is likely to be attributed to the impacts of COVID and lockdowns on education.

## 16-18 Study

## A Levels

Historically, Oldham has performed well in average point score for best 3 A Levels. This is an important success, as it is often the criteria used by universities to determine admissions. Provisional results for 2021 show Oldham performing worse than statistical neighbours, and this seems to be part of a widening performance gap over time.

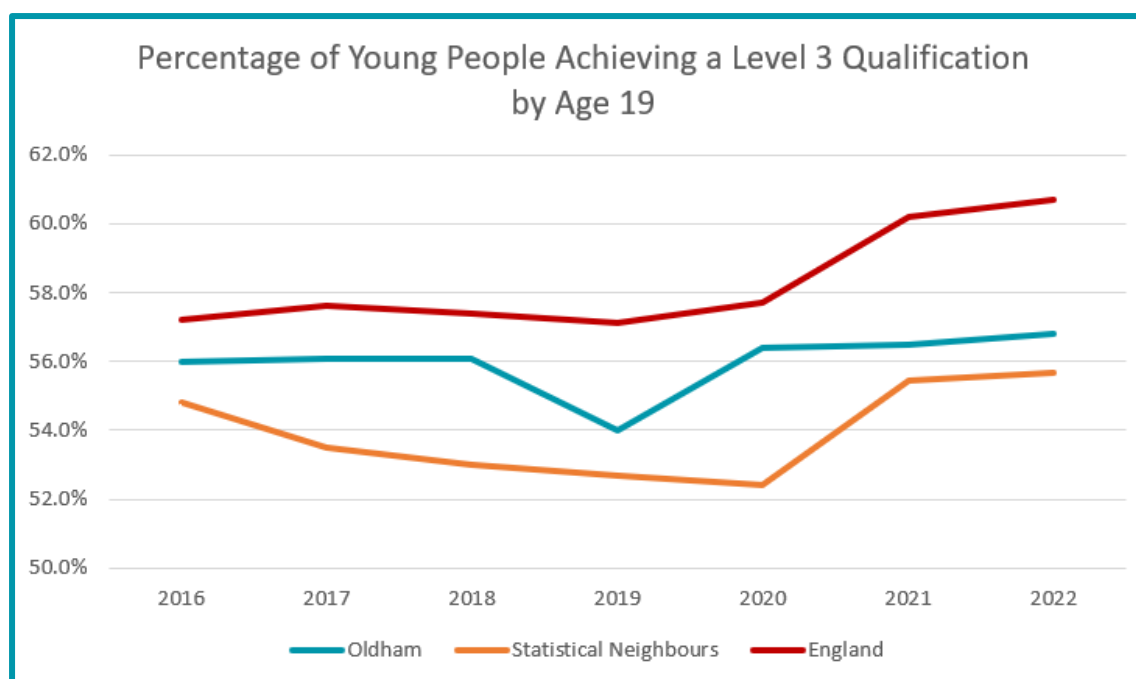


Source: DfE LAIT, November 2023

Note that results for 2020 and 2021 were rewarded as predicted grades due to COVID and comparisons to previous and future years shouldn't be made.

## Level 3 Qualifications

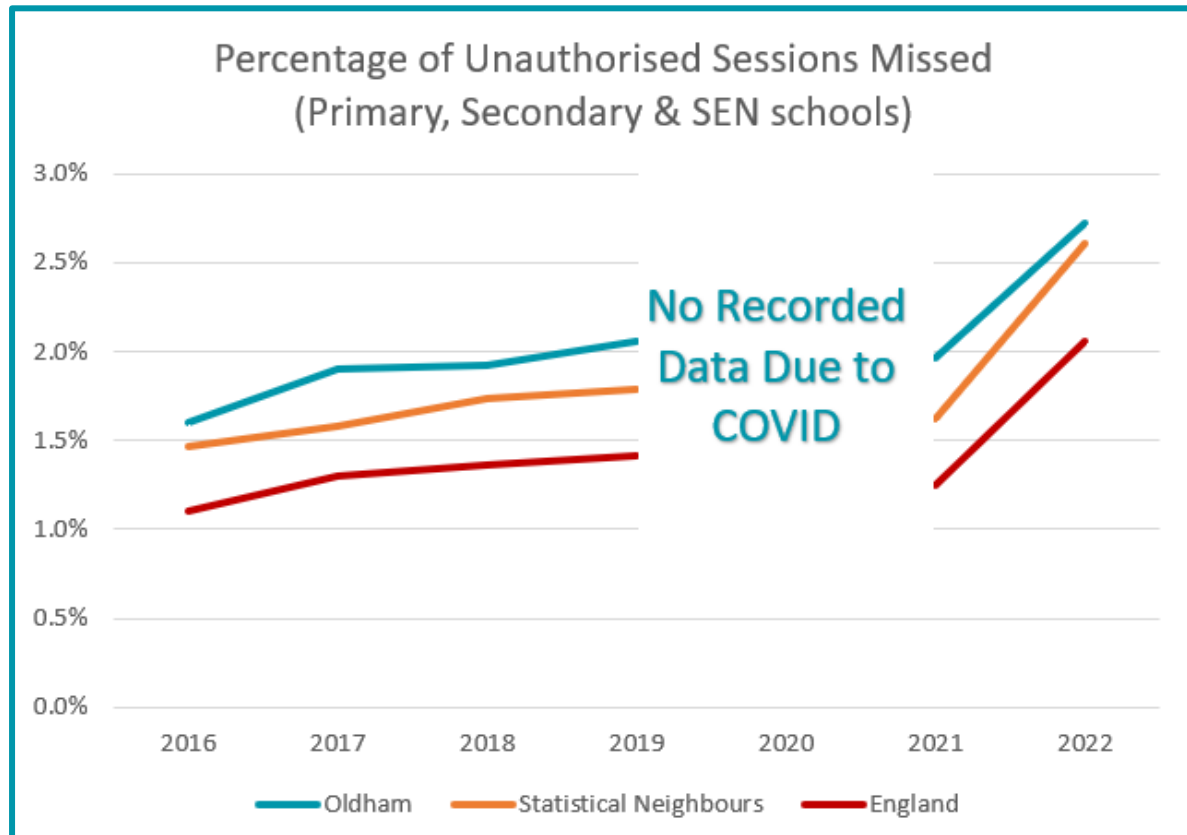
A Levels only form part of the overall Level 3 picture, which also includes advanced apprenticeships and higher education diplomas. The graph below shows all Level 3 qualifications achieved by age 19 (rather than just success by those that remain in the A Level cohort). Oldham's outcomes are consistently higher than our stat neighbours'. This represents a positive trend in retention and achievement within the FE sector.



Source: DfE LAIT, November 2023

## Attendance

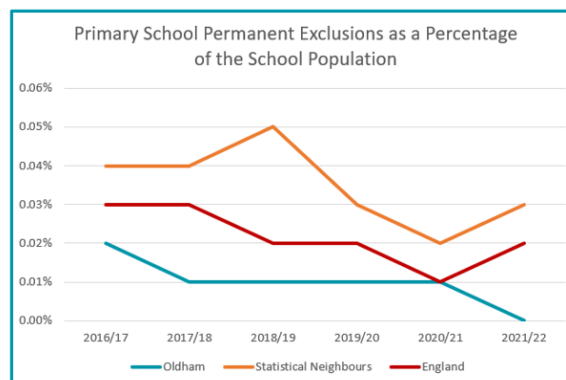
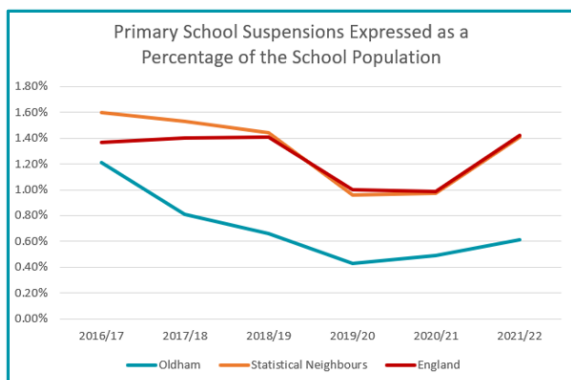
Children in Oldham have more unauthorised sessions missed than children in our statistical neighbours and England. The percentage of unauthorised sessions missed across Oldham has increased significantly since COVID and this is also reflected in the statistical neighbours and national figures.



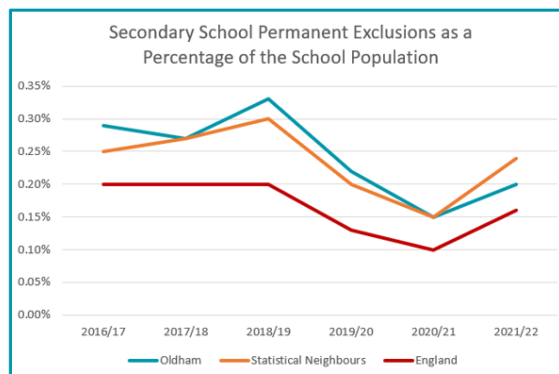
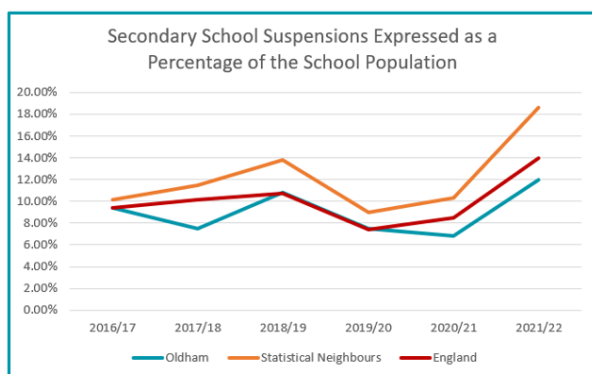
Source: DfE LAIT, November 2023

## Exclusions

Exclusions in primary schools have remained below the national average in recent years but are low in absolute terms.



At secondary level, in recent years Oldham has performed better than our statistical neighbours for both suspensions and permanent exclusions but still remains above the national figure for permanent exclusions.



Source: DfE LAIT, November 2023