

# OLDHAM YOUTH COUNCIL



**Make  
Your Mark**

The world's  
largest youth  
consultation

**2019**

## OLDHAM RESULTS REPORT

**Make  
Your Mark**

The world's  
largest youth  
consultation

Coordinated by

**OLDHAM  
YOUTH COUNCIL**



**2019 Oldham Results Summary**

**33,970 votes cast**



**UK WIDE**  
**11,465 Votes**

Top Issue:  
**Protect the  
Environment**



**DEVOLVED**  
**11,438 Votes**

Top Issue:  
**Put an End  
to Knife Crime**



**LOCAL**  
**11,067 Votes**

Top Issue:  
**Public  
Transport**

## **Top 3 Schools**

 **The Oldham Academy North 2663 votes**

 **Waterhead Academy 3588 votes**

 **Oldham 6th Form 2651 votes**



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2013 - 2019

**113,292 votes cast**

10,443  
votes

**Curriculum for life (x7)**

10,421  
votes

**Mental Health (x6)**

10,347  
votes

**Transport (x5)**

9,081  
votes

**Votes at 16 (x6)**

7,135  
votes

**Work Experience (x4)**

6,366  
votes

**Put an End to Knife Crime (x2)**

4,288  
votes

**Living Wage (x3)**

3,460  
votes

**Support Youth Services (x7)**



**RECURRING ISSUES**



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**OLDHAM  
YOUTH COUNCIL**



## CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| CONTENTS .....   | 4  |
| INTRODUCTION .....   | 5  |
| CHANGES FOR 2019.....  | 5  |
| BALLOTING.....   | 5  |
| MAKE YOUR MARK ISSUES .....                                    | 6  |
| OLDHAM RESULTS .....   | 7  |
| SCHOOL BREAKDOWN .....   | 8  |
| The Blue Coat CofE School and 6 <sup>th</sup> Form .....       | 9  |
| The Co-Operative Academy Failsworth .....                      | 9  |
| The Crompton House CofE Academy and 6 <sup>th</sup> Form ..... | 10 |
| E-Act Royton and Crompton Academy .....                        | 10 |
| The Hathershaw College .....                                   | 11 |
| Hollinwood Academy .....                                       | 11 |
| North Chadderton School and 6 <sup>th</sup> Form.....          | 12 |
| Oasis Academy Leesbrook.....                                   | 12 |
| The Oldham Academy North .....                                 | 13 |
| Oldham College.....  | 13 |
| Oldham Hulme Grammar School and 6 <sup>th</sup> Form .....     | 14 |
| Oldham 6 <sup>th</sup> Form College .....                      | 14 |
| The Radclyffe School .....                                     | 15 |
| Saddleworth School .....                                       | 15 |
| Waterhead Academy .....  | 16 |
| REGIONAL RESULTS .....   | 16 |
| NATIONAL RESULTS .....   | 17 |
| HOUSE OF COMMONS SITTING .....                                 | 19 |
| RECOMMENDED ACTIONS YOUTH COUNCIL .....                        | 19 |
| THANK YOU .....  | 20 |



## INTRODUCTION

Every year the United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) holds a UK-wide ballot called 'Make Your Mark', where all young people, 11 – 18, can vote on what they feel is important in their lives and what they think Members of the Youth Parliament should campaign on for the year ahead. The UK Youth Parliament is managed by the British Youth Council (BYC), a youth-led charity which aims to empower young people across the UK to have a say and be heard. On the 8th November 2019 Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) came together, at the UKYP House of Commons sitting, to debate and decide the issues to campaign on for the year ahead. This report details the results of 'Make Your Mark' from the Oldham borough down to a school level and includes both the regional and national results.

## CHANGES FOR 2019

Due to the devolved nature of the UK democracy, not all campaigns run in England can be done so in the same manner in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. In the past young people have been given a list of 10 issues and have been asked to choose the one issue that is most important in their lives. These 10 issues included both devolved and UK wide topics, with the top 2 UK wide issues and top 3 Devolved issues been debated at the House of Commons. This has meant that it is not necessarily the top 5 issues being debated (Votes at 16 while being the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest UK wide issue came 6<sup>th</sup> overall in 2018) and caused confusion.

To try and rectify this, the UK Youth Parliament split to ballot into two categories, UK wide topics and devolved topics. Each category had 5 issues and those that go forward to be debated were the top 2 UK wide and the top 3 devolved issues. The ballot also allowed the opportunity for those co-ordinating the ballot to add a local issue box. Rather than leaving this open ended, which would be an issue in collating the results, Oldham Youth Council added 5 local issues for young people to choose. This meant that when voting each young person voted 3 times once in each category.

## BALLOTING

Oldham's young people had three ways to get involved and have their say.

- Fill in an individual ballot paper, placing a cross in a box as they would in an election.
- Take part in a discussion group with a group leader, such as a teacher, then noting how many voted for each topic and completing a tally sheet to record the results.
- Fill in an online ballot form.

This year all three options were co-ordinated by Oldham Youth Council. Youth Councillors and support staff contacted the schools and asked them to complete the tally sheets in form time or assemblies. The Youth Councillors then took the individual ballot papers to youth groups and organisations to capture those young people not educated in Oldham or whose school did not participate. The online option was used to capture Oldham College students.

## MAKE YOUR MARK ISSUES

As with previous years, the UK wide and devolved topics were shortlisted by the MYPs from the UKYP manifesto. The local topics were decided by Oldham Youth Councillors that they felt were important to young people from the work they had carried out over the year.

### UK Topics

**Protect the Environment** - We believe that we have a responsibility to protect the environment from the effects of climate change for the next generation; and that the Government should look towards carbon neutral alternatives.

**Votes at 16** - Give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in all elections/referendums.

**Tackling Hate Crime** - We should be educated on how to report hate crime. We believe the Government should invest in creating safe spaces that promote unity in communities.

**Make the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) Statutory Law** – This is important for children's rights. The UK government agrees with it but they don't currently have to follow it; we believe they should and make sure our voices are heard in all decisions that affect us.

**Welcome Refugees** - Everyone deserves the right to live without fear of death and persecution so we believe that refugees should be welcomed into communities in the UK.

### Devolved Topics

**Curriculum to Prepare Us for Life** - Schools should cover topics like finance, sex and relationship education and politics

**Tackle Child Poverty** - No-one should have a disadvantaged start in life just because of their financial position; the Government should do more to put an end to child poverty.

**Mental health** - Services should be improved with young people's help and should be available in schools.

**Stop street harassment** - We think it needs to be recognised more. It could be stopped through investment in local strategies; and by both consulting young people and educating young people.

**Put an end to knife crime** - Too many young people's lives are lost to knife crime; the Government need to do more to help end the knife crime epidemic.

### Local Topics

**Apprenticeships and work experience** need to have a greater variety and be more accessible for those with additional needs.

**Stop Barbeques burning our moors**

**Better Street Lighting for Oldham's Streets**

**Remove the stigma for those in or leaving the care system**

**Public transport** needs to be more often, more reliable, safer and better value for money

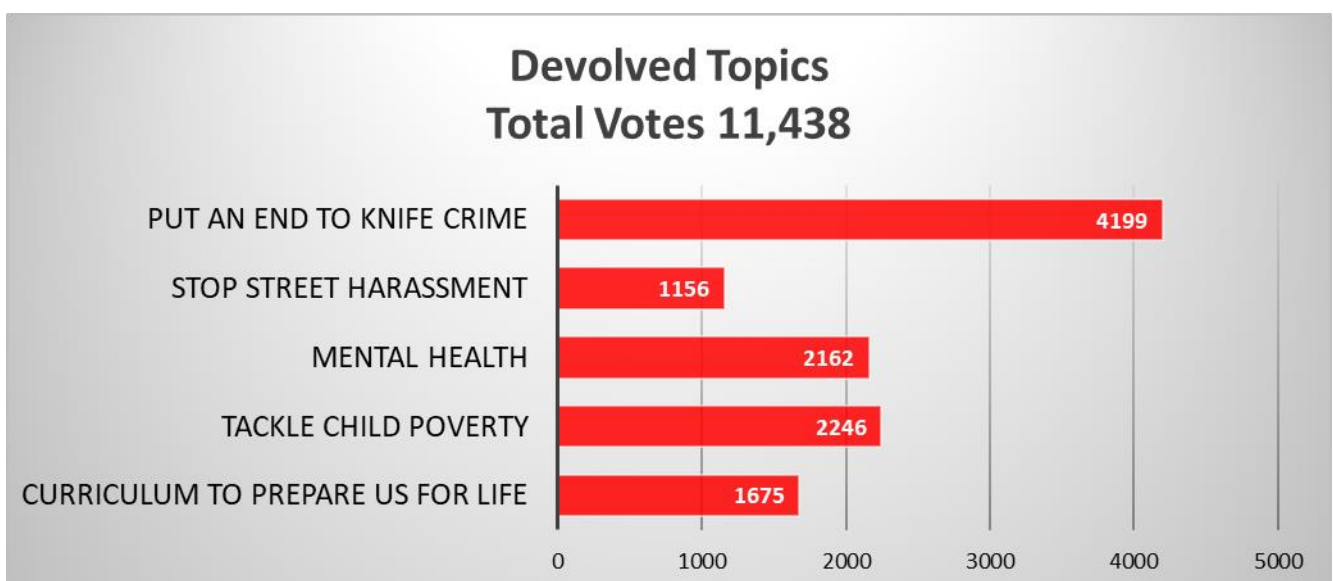
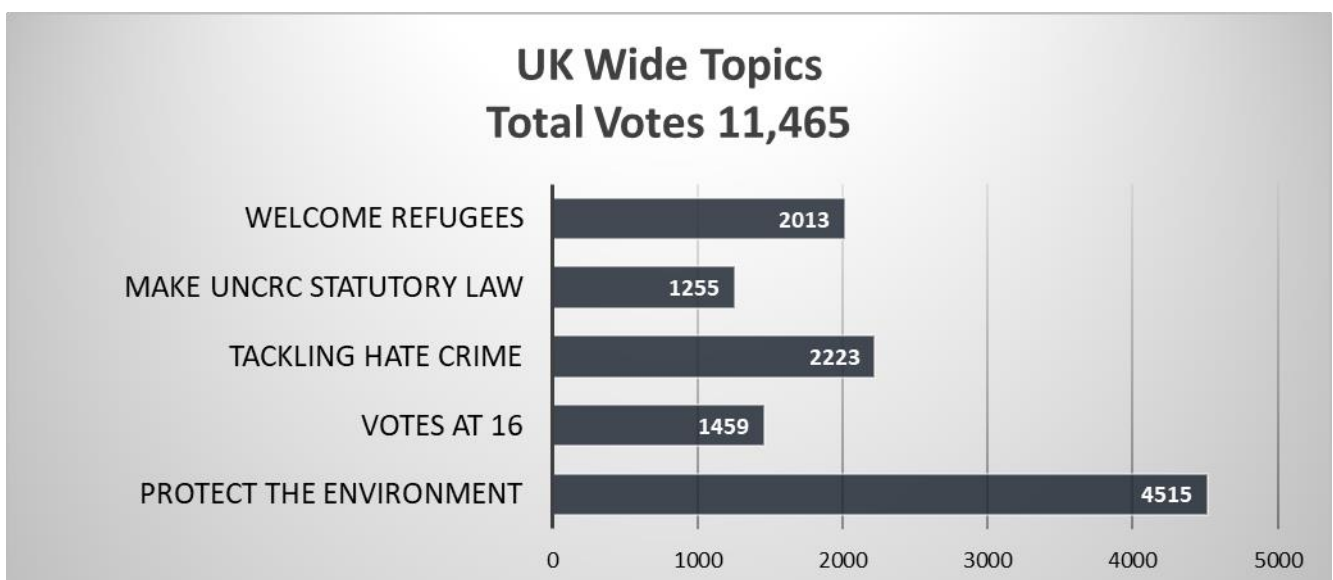
## OLDHAM RESULTS

Due to the changes to the balloting it has been difficult to get an exact figure of how many young people took part. As Oldham predominantly used the tally sheets method to get young people to vote, it was obvious that some young people didn't vote in every category. The minimum number of young people taking in 2019 was:

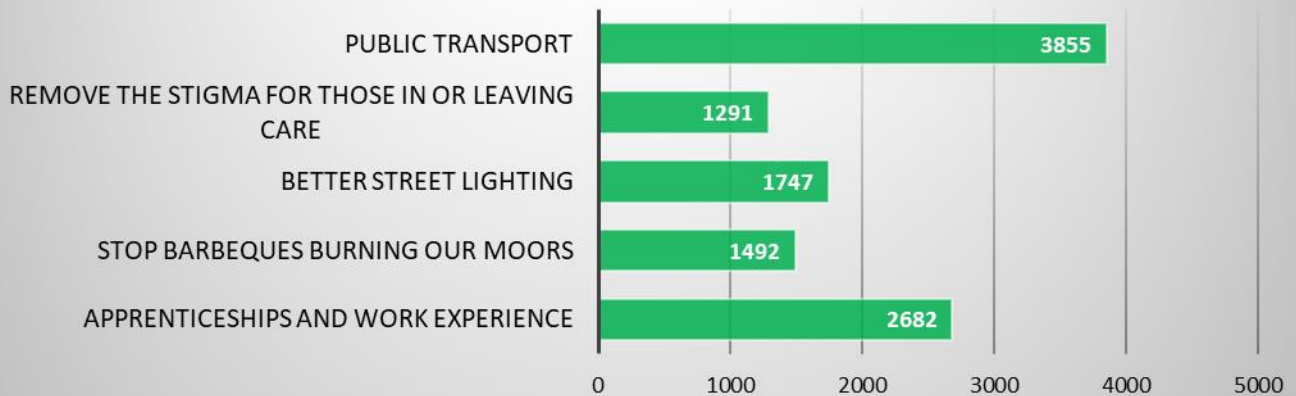
# 11,465

**This represents a 45.6% voter turnout**

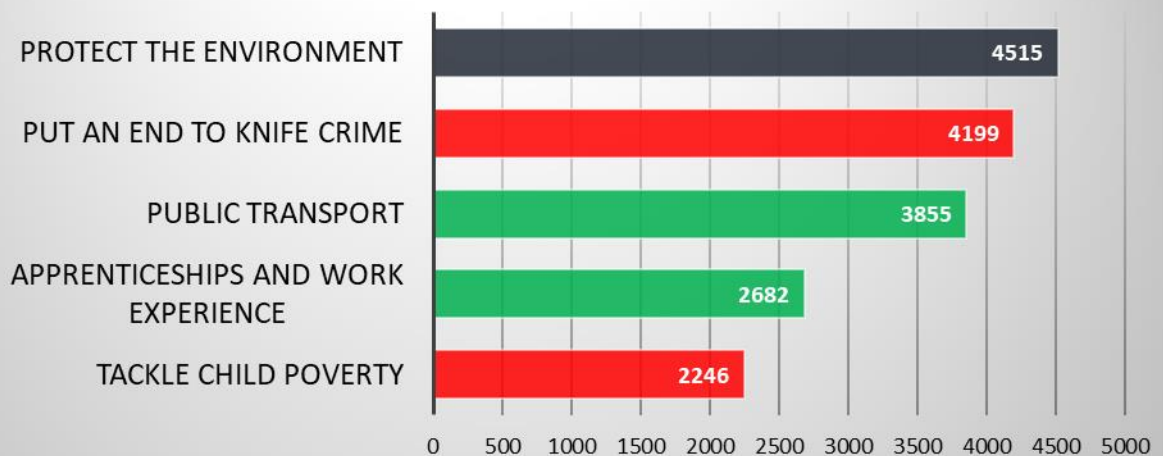
Looking at the average class sizes of the schools that took part it is felt that this figure could be as much as 10% lower than the actual numbers of young people who took part.



## Local Topics Total Votes 11,067



## Top 5 issues for Oldham



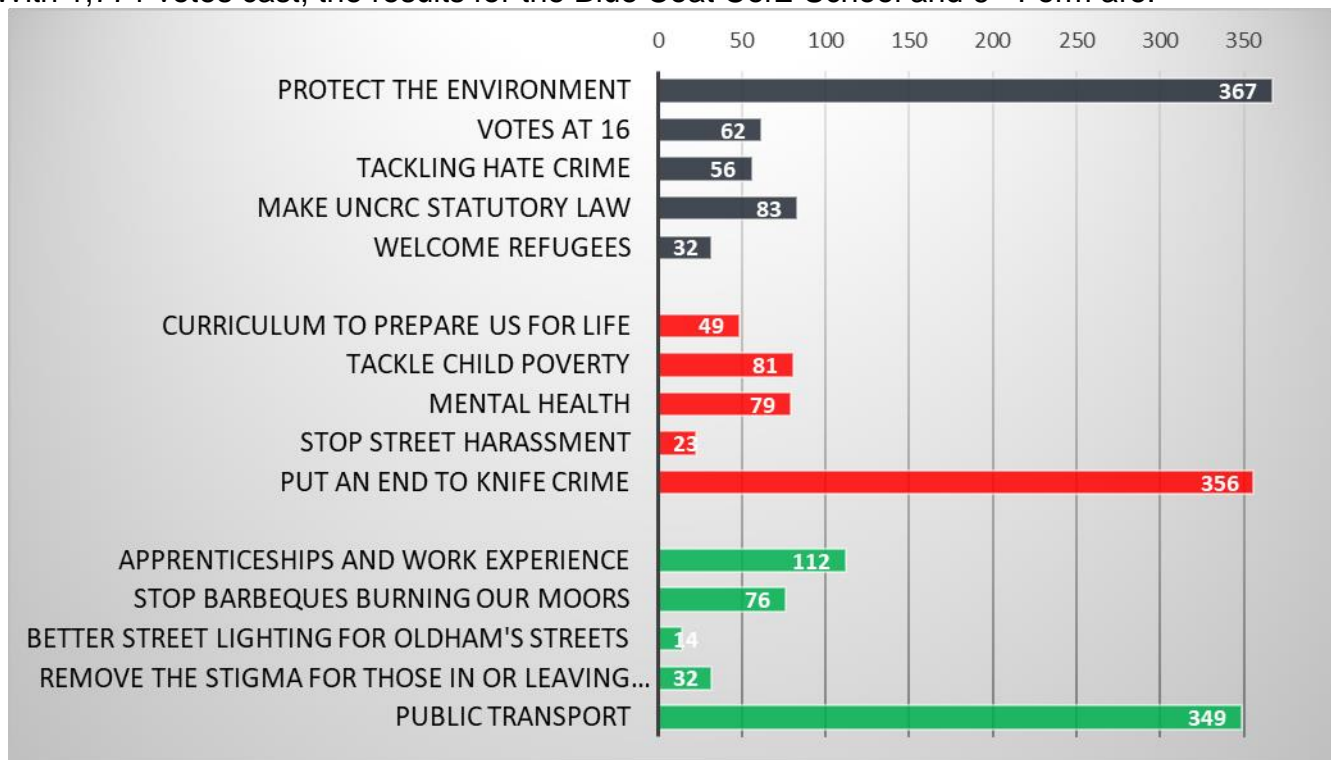
## SCHOOL BREAKDOWN

From page 9 to page 16 we have broken down the results further to show how individual schools and colleges voted. Other schools not in this list did take part but we cannot differentiate their results from others handed in by young people so it would not give a true reflection of the area or school / college.



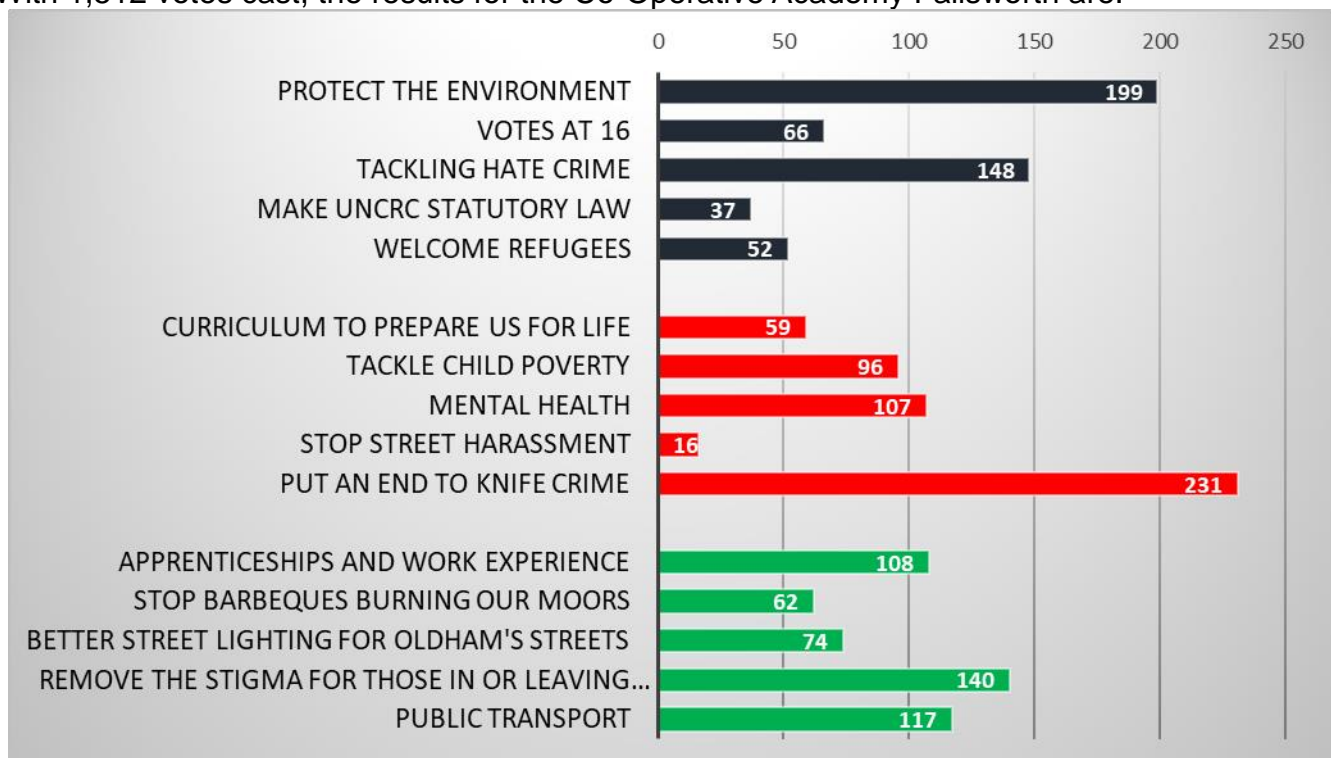
## The Blue Coat CofE School and 6<sup>th</sup> Form

With 1,771 votes cast, the results for the Blue Coat CofE School and 6<sup>th</sup> Form are:



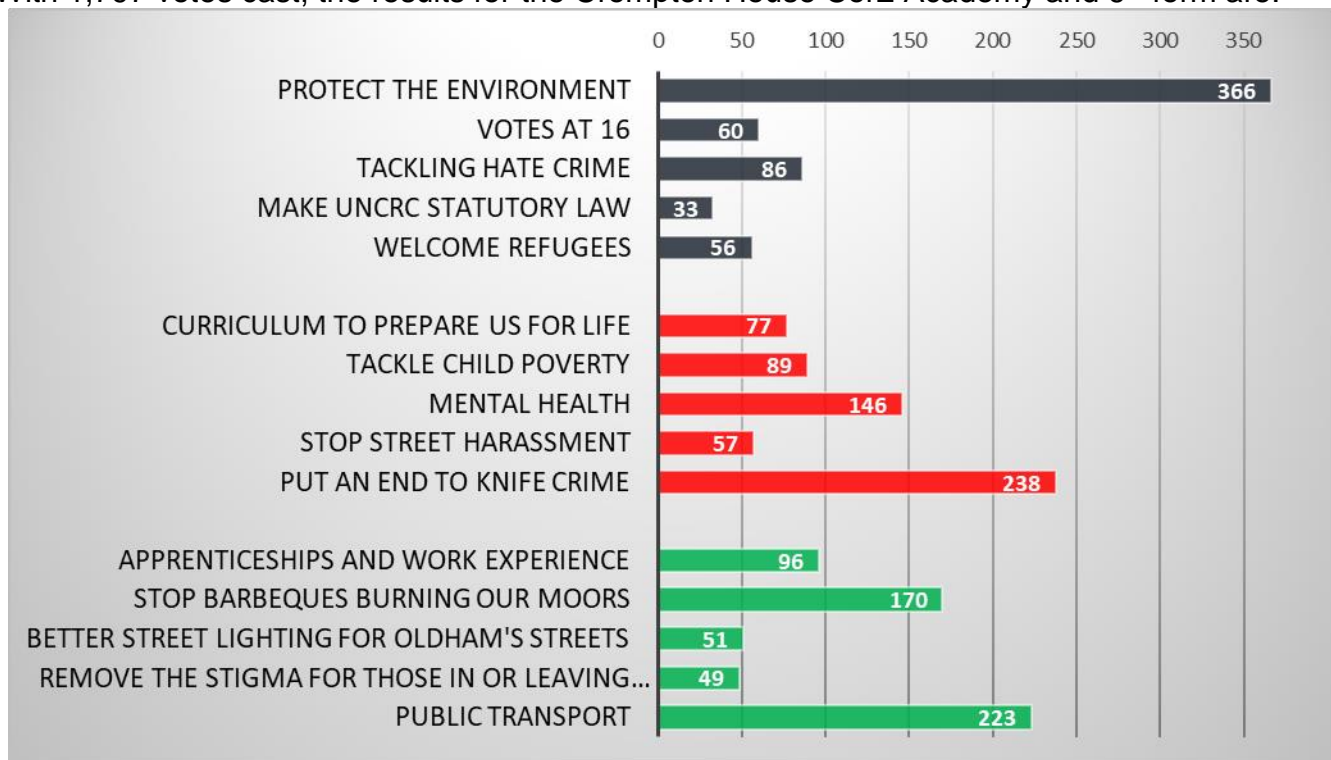
## The Co-Operative Academy Failsworth

With 1,512 votes cast, the results for the Co-Operative Academy Failsworth are:



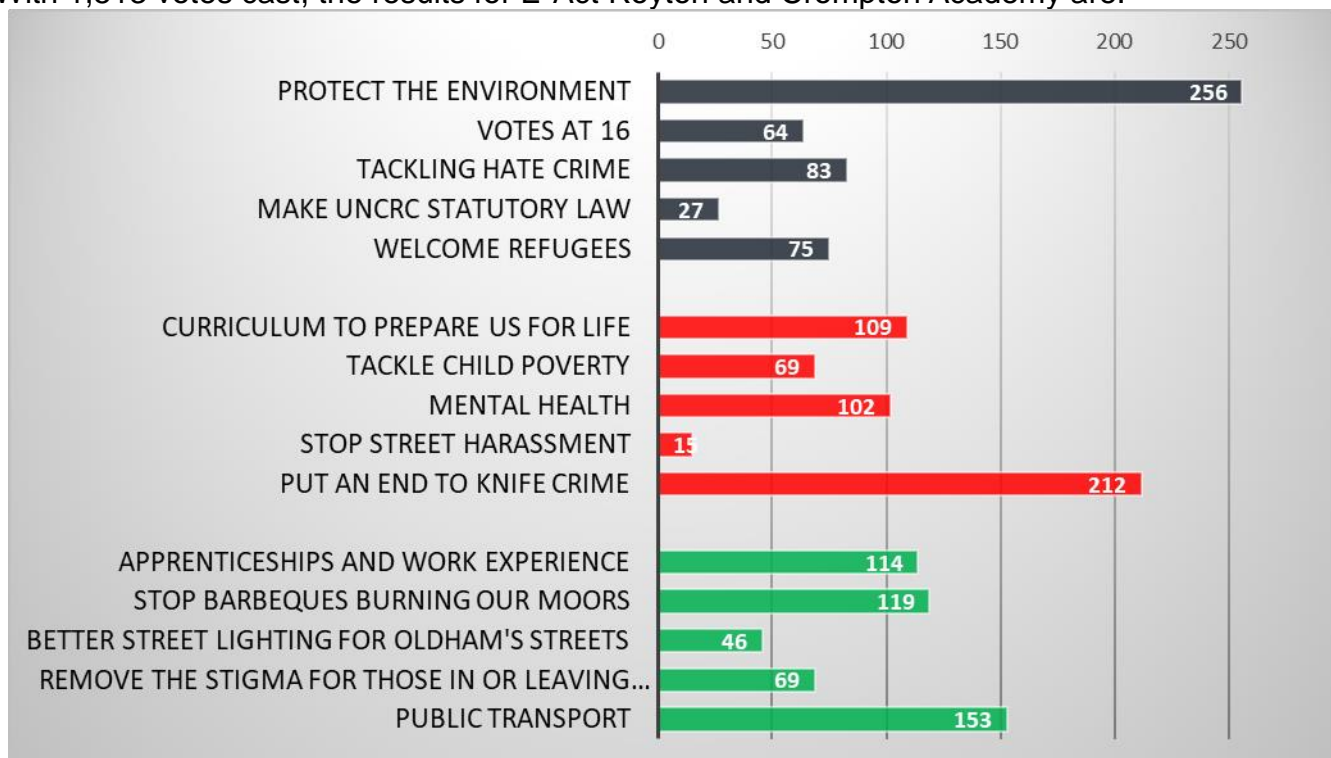
## The Crompton House CofE Academy and 6<sup>th</sup> Form

With 1,797 votes cast, the results for the Crompton House CofE Academy and 6<sup>th</sup> form are:



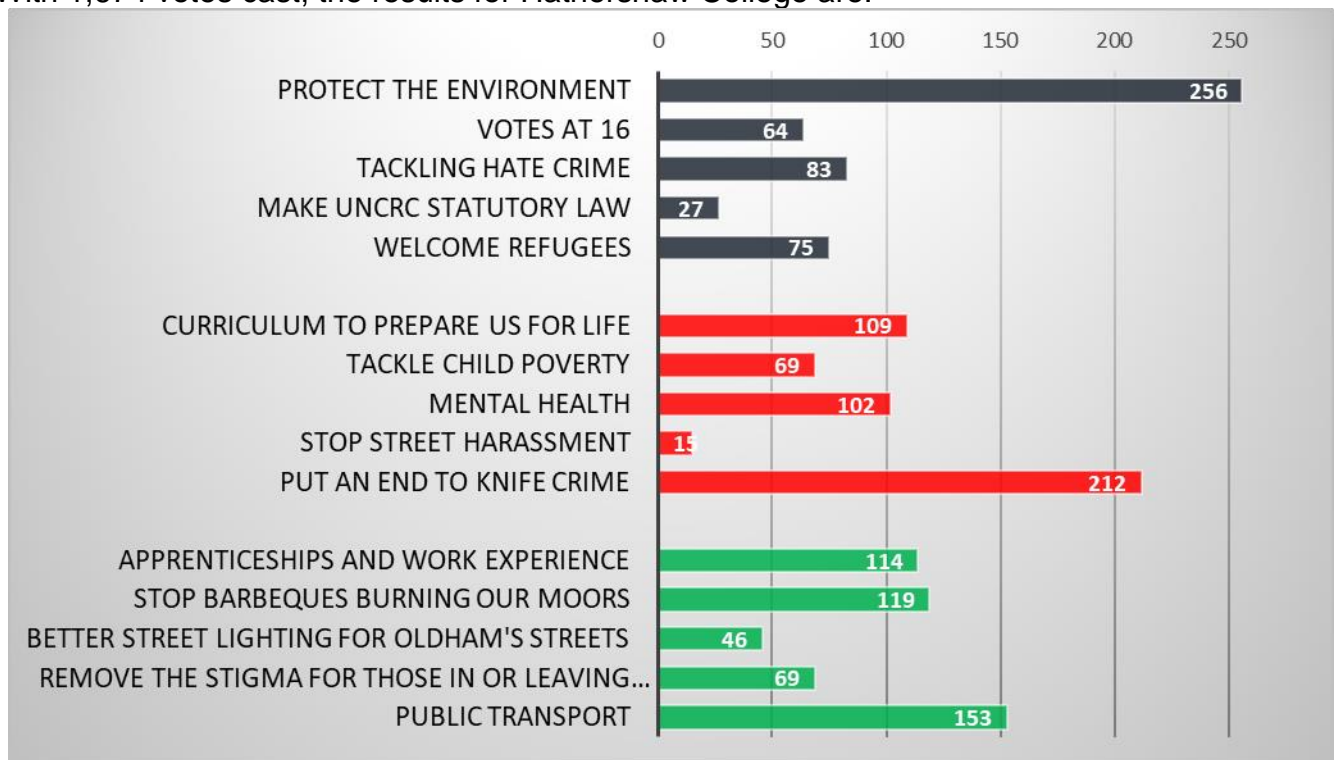
## E-Act Royton and Crompton Academy

With 1,513 votes cast, the results for E-Act Royton and Crompton Academy are:



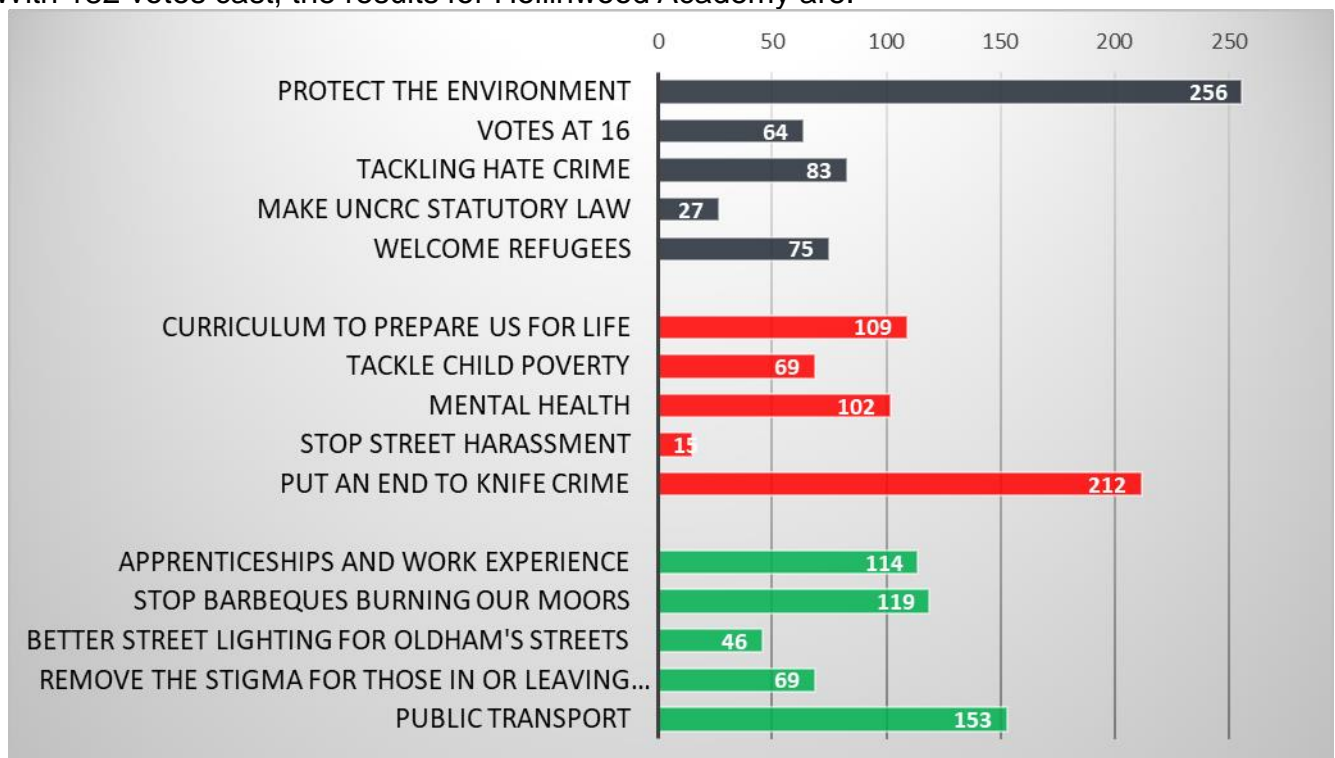
## The Hathershaw College

With 1,674 votes cast, the results for Hathershaw College are:



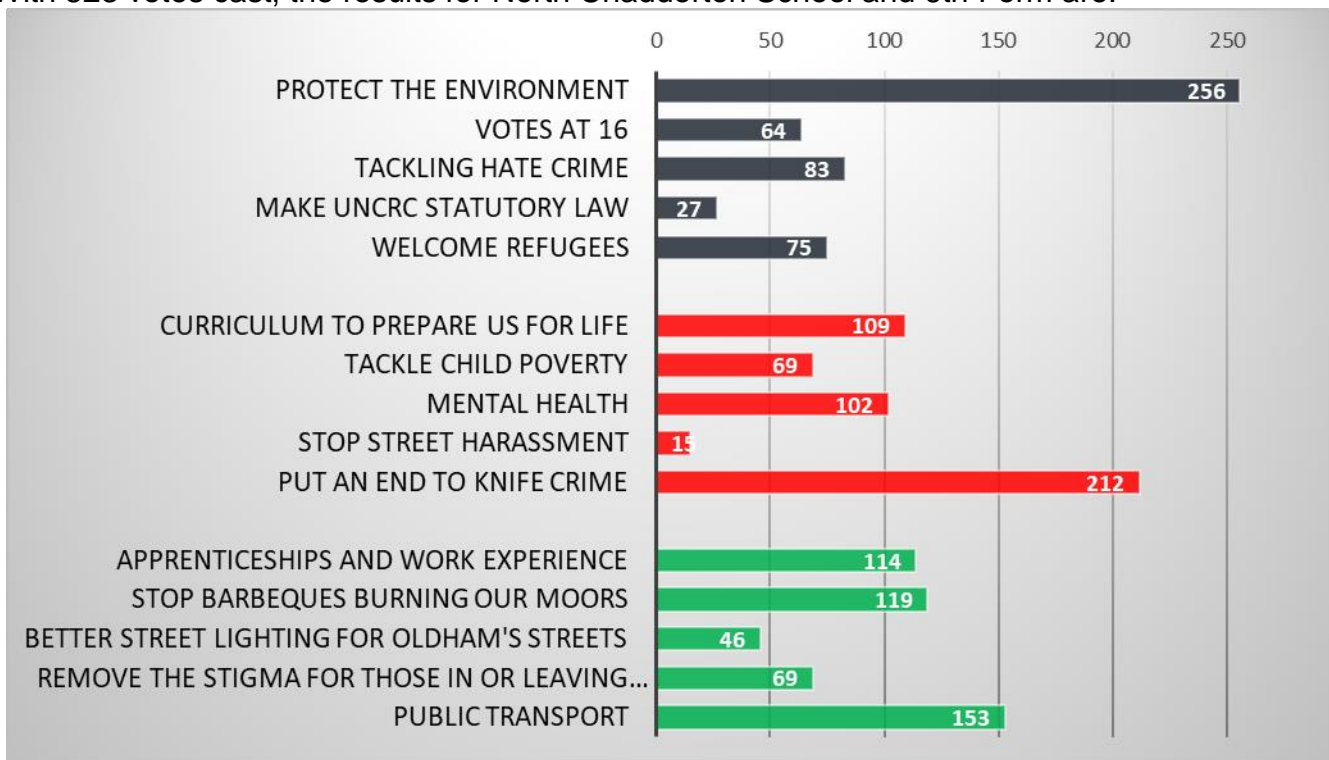
## Hollinwood Academy

With 182 votes cast, the results for Hollinwood Academy are:



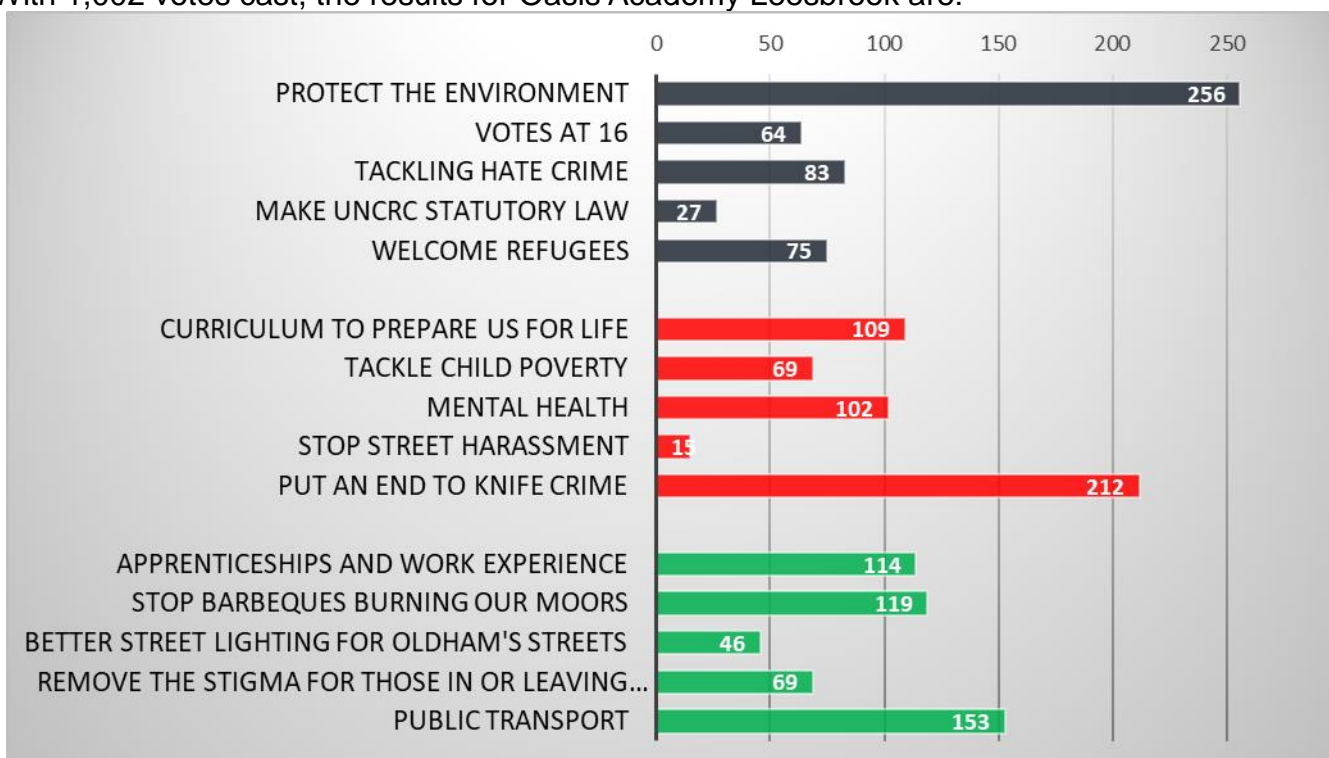
## North Chadderton School and 6<sup>th</sup> Form

With 523 votes cast, the results for North Chadderton School and 6th Form are:



## Oasis Academy Leesbrook

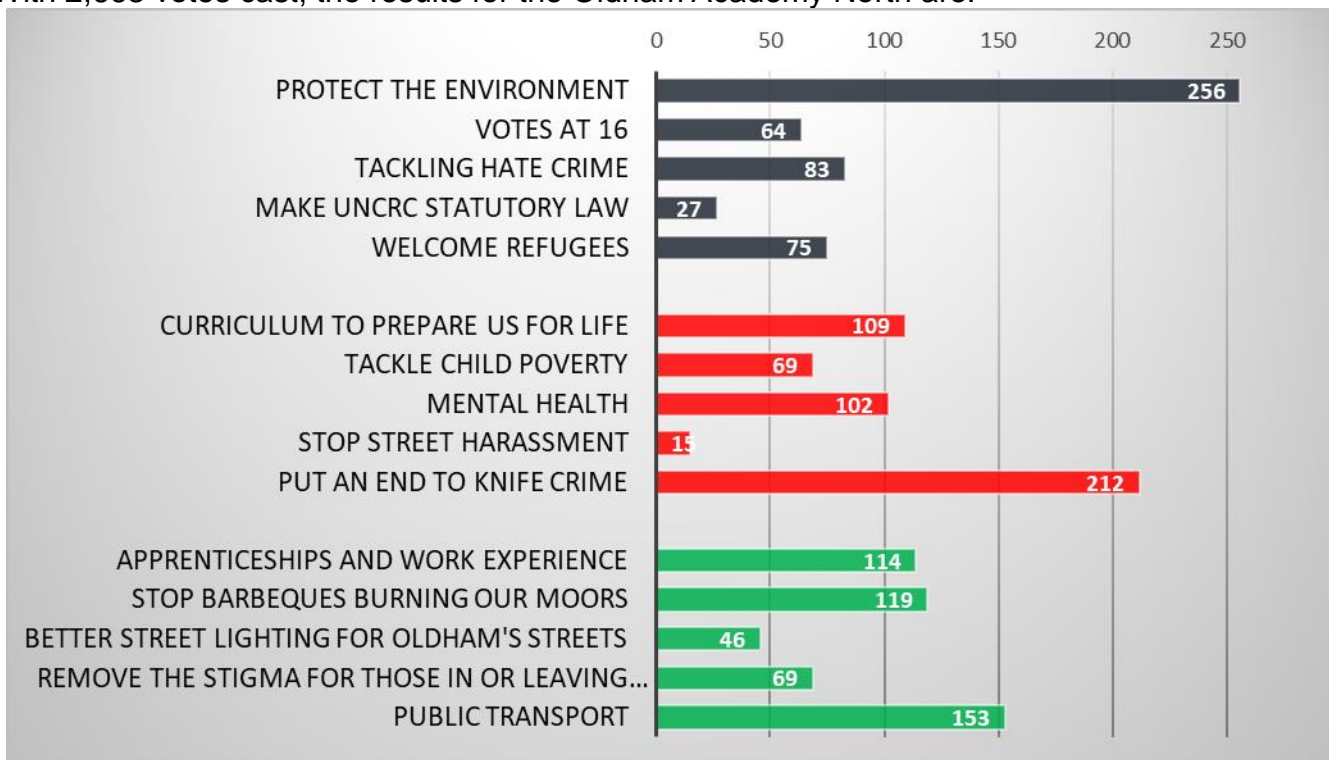
With 1,002 votes cast, the results for Oasis Academy Leesbrook are:





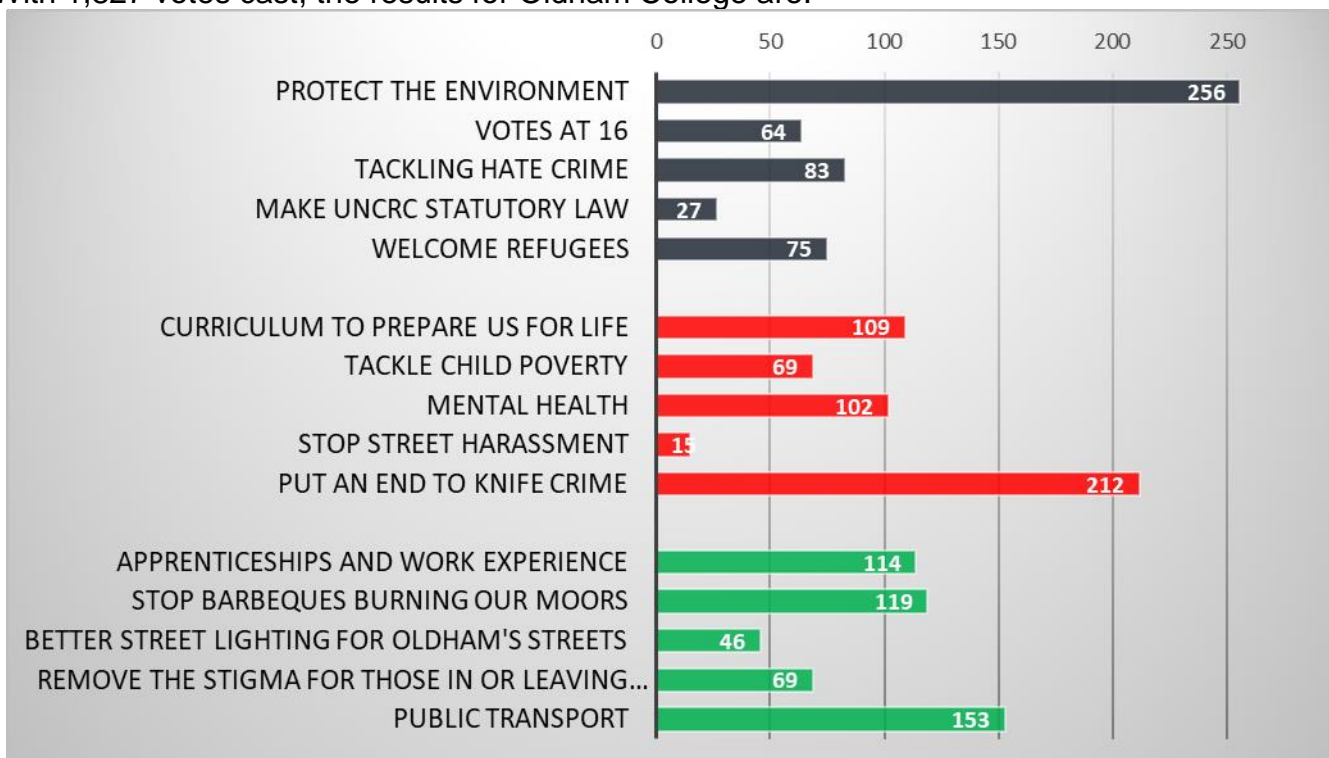
## The Oldham Academy North

With 2,663 votes cast, the results for the Oldham Academy North are:



## Oldham College

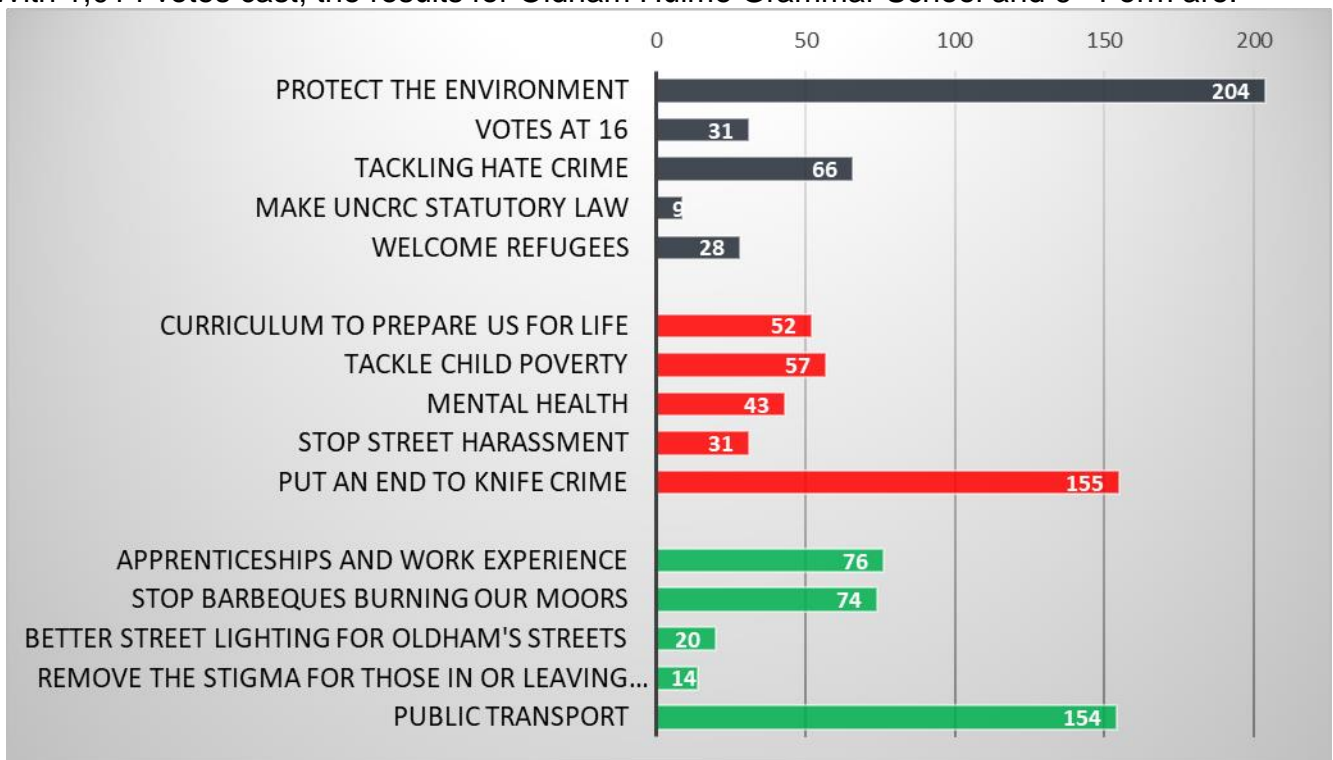
With 1,827 votes cast, the results for Oldham College are:





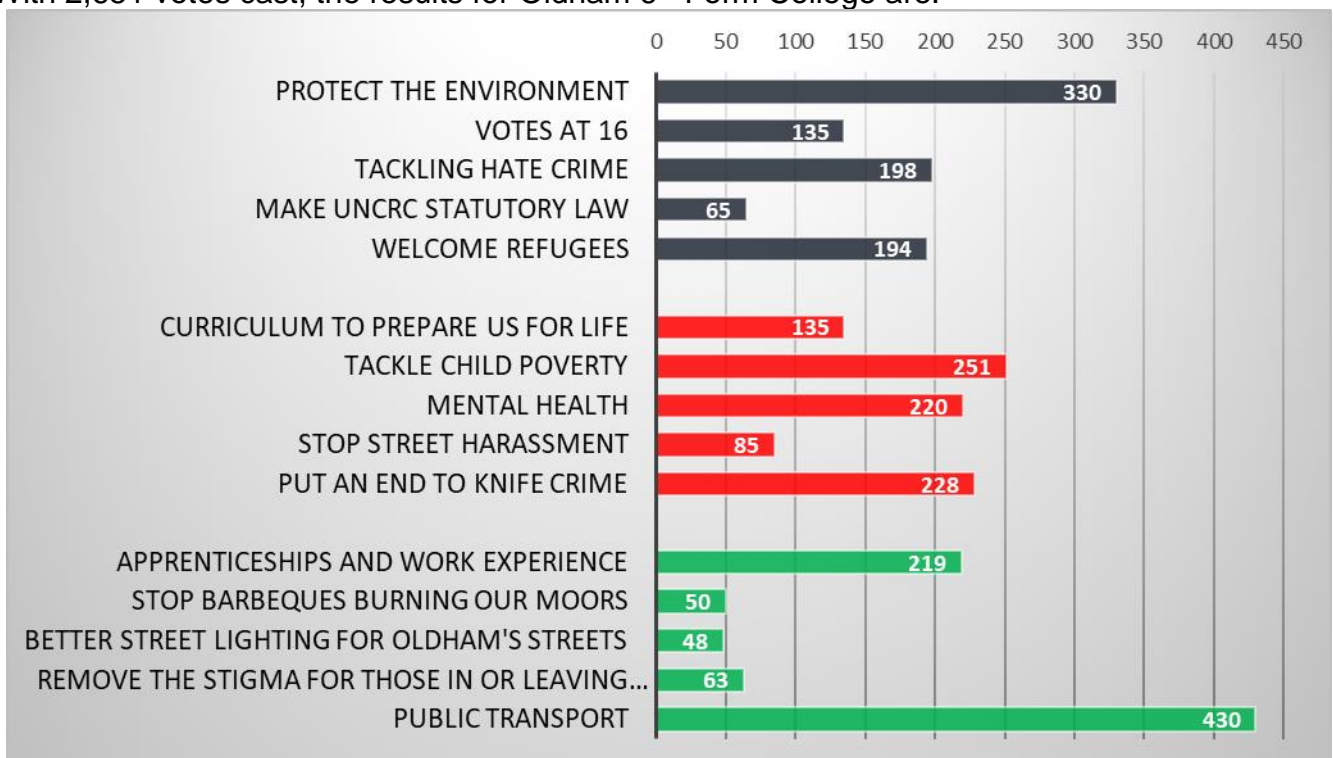
## Oldham Hulme Grammar School and 6th Form

With 1,014 votes cast, the results for Oldham Hulme Grammar School and 6<sup>th</sup> Form are:



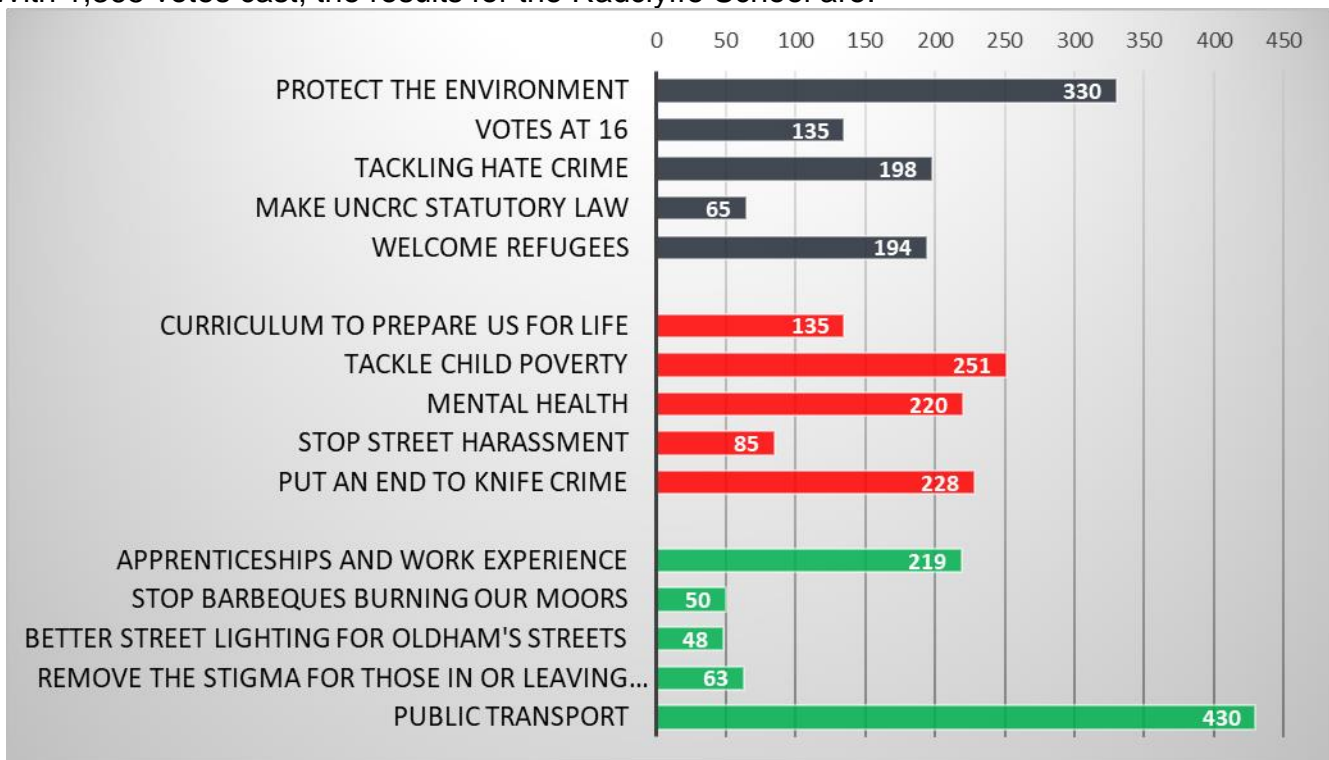
## Oldham 6<sup>th</sup> Form College

With 2,651 votes cast, the results for Oldham 6<sup>th</sup> Form College are:



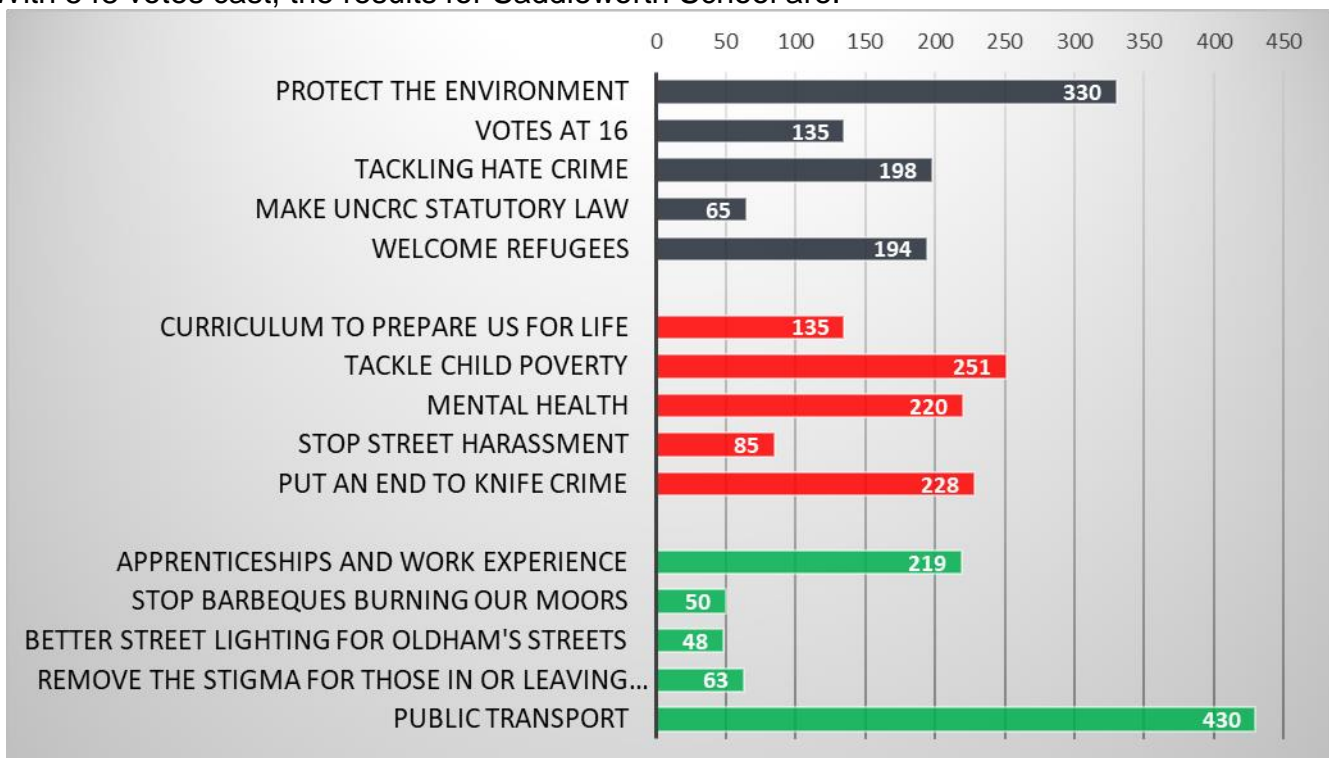
## The Radclyffe School

With 1,365 votes cast, the results for the Radclyffe School are:



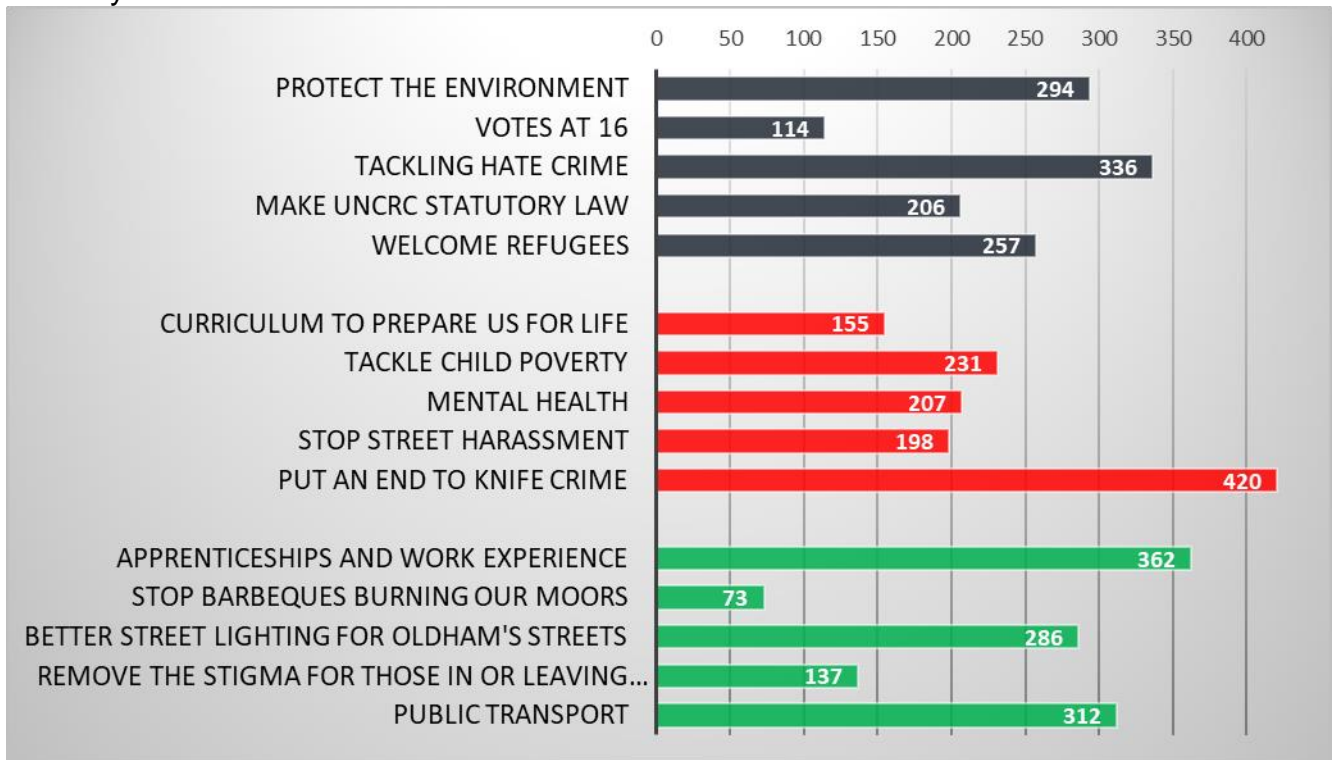
## Saddleworth School

With 548 votes cast, the results for Saddleworth School are:



## Waterhead Academy

With 3,588 votes cast (*the most by any one school in Oldham*), the results for Waterhead Academy are:



## REGIONAL RESULTS

Regionally and Nationally, the local topics were not collated so only UK wide and Devolved topics were reported on. Once again, the North West were able to get the highest numbers of young people engaged in Make Your Mark across the UK regions.

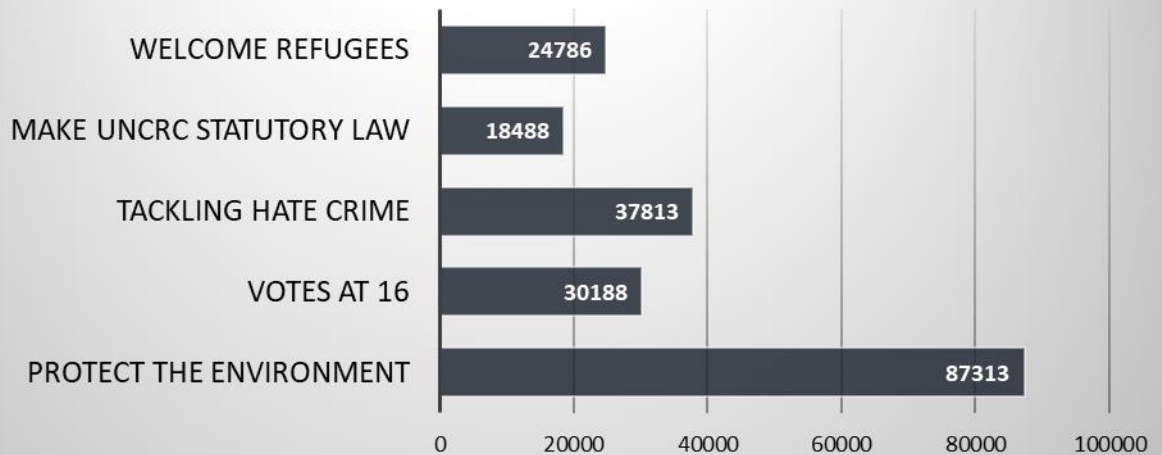
**UK Wide topics - 198,588 votes**  
(turnout of 30.23%)

**Devolved topics - 198,531 votes for**  
(turnout of 30.2%)

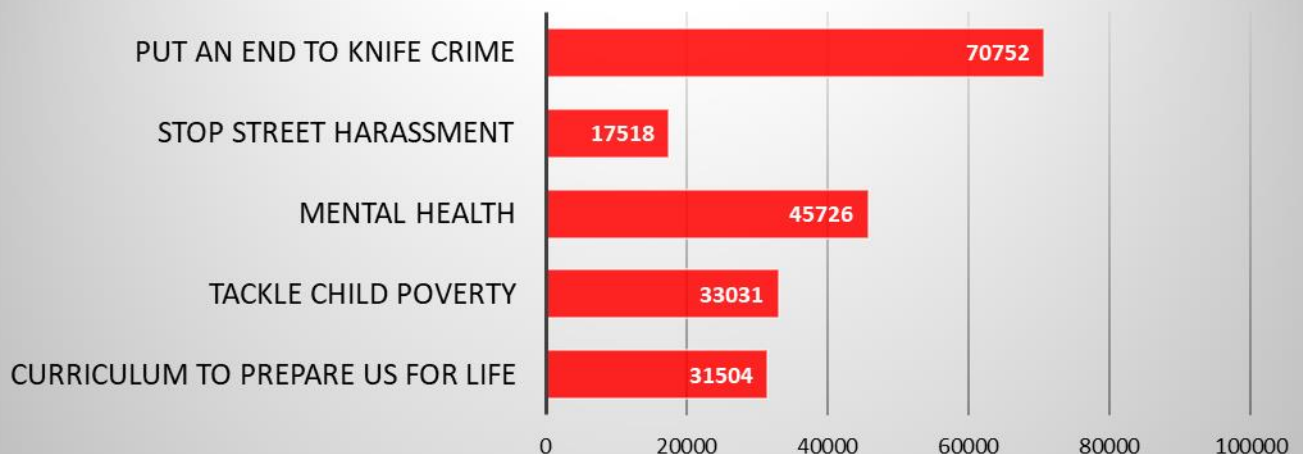
A total of

**397,119 votes**

### UK Wide Topic Results (North West)



### Devolved Topic Results (North West)



Oldham was once again a high performer in the region gaining the 5<sup>th</sup> highest number of votes in both UK wide and Devolved categories. Oldham also had the 5<sup>th</sup> highest turnout from the 23 North West local authorities.

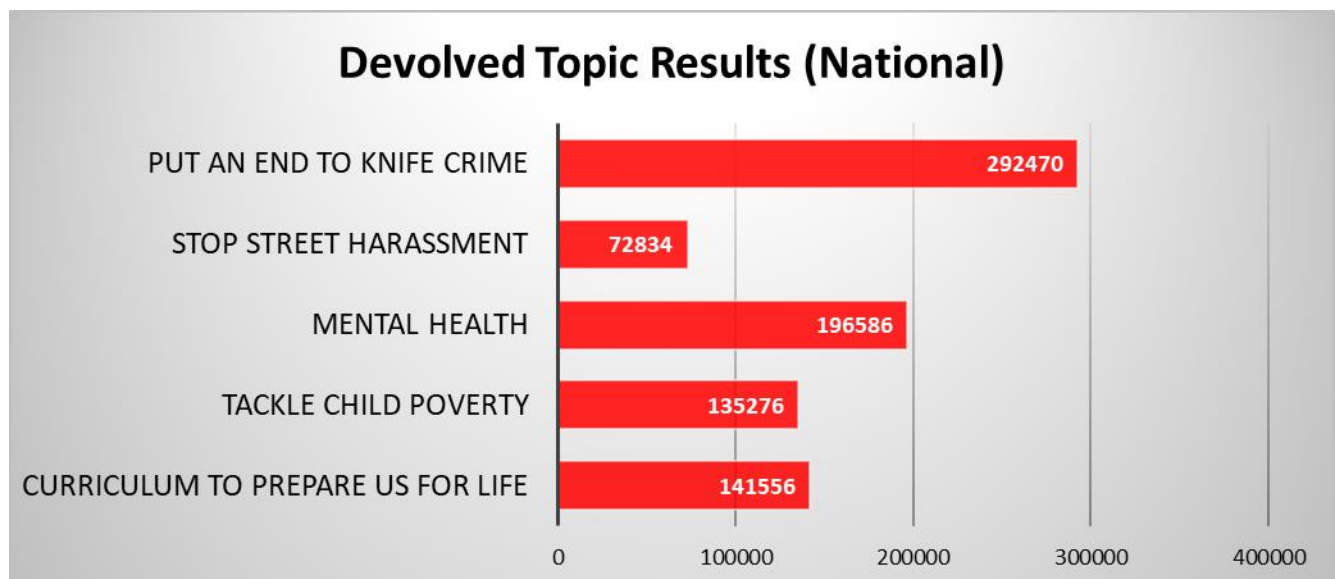
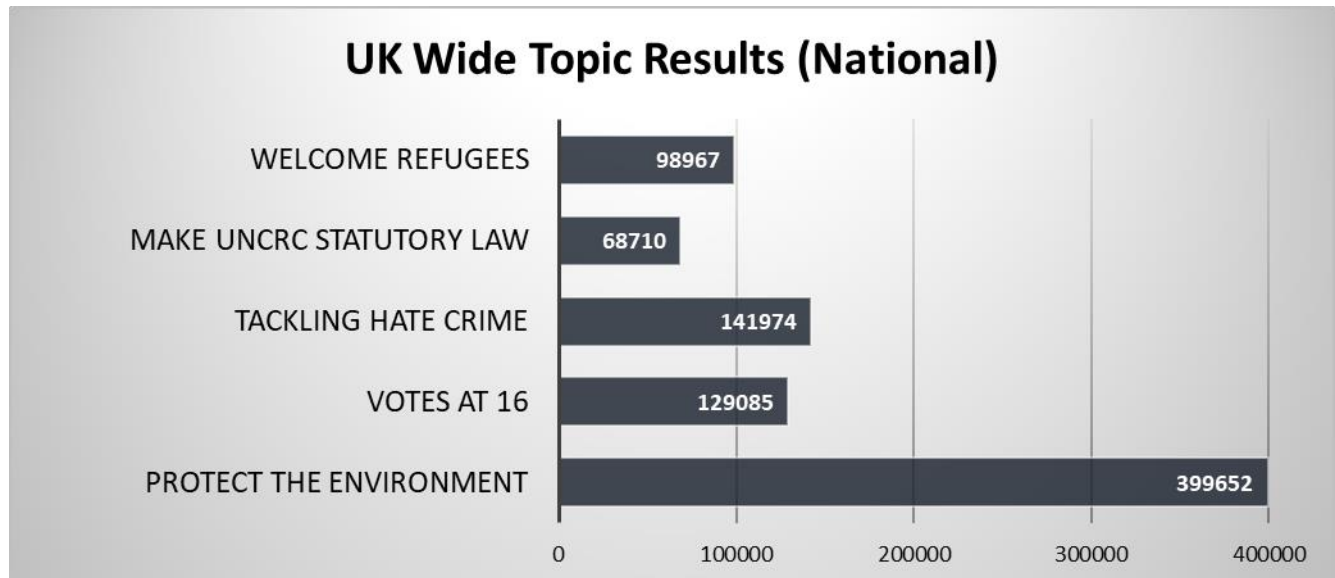
## NATIONAL RESULTS

**UK Wide topics - 838,288 votes**

**Devolved topics - 840,322 votes**

A total of

# 1,678,610 votes



Oldham was also a high performer nationally coming 14<sup>th</sup> highest out of the 224 Authorities nationally for number of votes for both UK wide and devolved topics. Oldham also similar results for turnout coming 14<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> for UK wide topics and devolved topics respectively.

To download a copy of the UKYP Make Your Mark 2019 report or for more information please go to <http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/makeyourmark/>



## HOUSE OF COMMONS SITTING

On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019 Liam Harris and Isabelle Anastasiou, as Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) for Oldham, joined the other UK representatives at the House of Commons to debate the top 5 issues. The 5 topics chosen from Make Your Mark were the top 2 UK Wide topics and top 3 devolved issues. These topics were:

- 1. Protect the environment** (UK Wide)
- 2. Put an end to knife crime** (Devolved)
- 3. Mental health** (Devolved)
- 4. Tackling hate crime** (UK Wide)
- 5. Curriculum to prepare us for life** (Devolved)

After a full day of lively debates, presided over by the newly elected Speaker of the House Sir Lindsay Hoyle and his deputy Dame Eleanor Laing, the MYPs voted on which of the issues would form their UK-wide campaign for 2020 and also choose which issue would become the devolved campaign for 2020. Official footage from the debate can be seen on BBC iPlayer, search for UK Youth Parliament debates.

As a result of the debate and subsequent vote, the United Kingdom Youth Parliament, UK wide campaign for 2020 will be **Protect the environment** and devolved campaign for 2020 will be **Put an end to knife crime**.

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Oldham Youth Council are currently looking into how they can make a difference for the young people of Oldham with regard to the top 3 issues from the Make Your Mark Ballot – Protect the environment, put an end to knife crime and public transport. Recommendations for these issues will be:

- 1. Motion to full Council** – At the next Full Council meeting (8<sup>th</sup> January 2020) Youth Councillors to put forward the results of Make Your Mark and to ask for a task and finish group with the relevant cabinet members to explore what is being done in Oldham to address these issues.
- 2. Investigate the public health method role in preventing knife crime** – From the knife crime report, and subsequent motion to Full Council, Oldham Youth Council had started to investigate the public health model and how this might be applied in Oldham. This work should continue with help through the task and finish group mentioned in recommendation 1.
- 3. Youth Summit** – In February 2020 Oldham Youth Council to host a Youth Summit. This should include a question and answer session with influential decision makers from the Council, GMP and MPs to discuss youth violence and find solutions to reduce fears of as well as actual knife crime. The Youth Summit should also tackle environmental issues by hosting a festival to disseminate information about how young people, and their families, can reduce their energy usage and live more environmentally sustainable lives. This festival will also give young people the opportunity to have their say to Government through an organised parade.

4. **Continue the work of POSH (Pioneers of Sustainable Hope) Ambassadors** – Oldham Youth Councillors are already involved in this project and continued work will help towards the Protect the environment priority. Work in the coming months will include the development of a Youth Charter of environmental rights, production of resources (that could be handed out at the festival) and work with Oldham Council's Cross-Party environmental group.
5. **Public Transport Consultation** – Oldham Youth Council need to dig deeper into the reason why nearly 4,000 young people chose this local issue. The consultation should investigate if it is the reliability, the cost or the safety of public transport that young people want changing or is it a combination of all 3. Once this has been considered Oldham Youth Council will have a better understanding of how to take this forward.
6. **Promotion of Our Pass** – The majority of students from Oldham 6<sup>th</sup> Form and Oldham College (37.7% of those who voted for local topics) chose public transport as the main issue. Our Pass provides free bus travel across Greater Manchester for all in years 12 and 13 as well as discounts in stores and to events. Promotion of this pass may reduce the numbers of young people who struggle with public transport.


## THANK YOU


Oldham Youth Council would officially like to thank all organisations for getting involved and helping their pupils to have a voice, not only on what happens in Oldham but also the UK. Once again, the schools and colleges of Oldham have shown that their students' voice is valued and important to them. We would also like to thank the teaching staff that took time to coordinate the ballots in school and do everything in the power to make sure everyone had an equal chance of participating in this year's ballot.

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