

**20
22**

**OLDHAM
YOUTH COUNCIL**
PRESENTS



Make Your Mark

**OLDHAM RESULTS
REPORT**

CONTACT OLDHAMYOUTHCOUNCIL@OLDHAM.GOV.UK FOR MORE INFO

Make Your Mark

INFOGRAPHIC

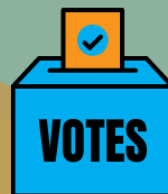
**OLDHAM
YOUTH COUNCIL**



2022 RESULTS SUMMARY

NATIONAL ISSUES

10,888



LOCAL ISSUES

10,086

42.0%

**HIGHEST TURNOUT IN THE
NORTH WEST
3RD HIGHEST IN THE UK**

41.8%

National Topics

Jobs, Money, Homes & Opportunities (3,218 votes)
e.g. more training and apprenticeships, ending homelessness

Poverty (2,006 votes)
e.g. end child poverty

Education and Learning (1890 votes)
e.g. climate education, free university, better mental health education

**TOP 3
ISSUES**

Local Topics

Tackle racism and xenophobia by celebrating diversity
and educating Oldham residents (2100 votes)

Tackle sexual harassment on the streets and public
transport (2,060 votes)

Cheaper and safer public transport (1,743 votes)

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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 UKYP 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. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic the ballot was delayed, pushed back from the usual time of October and November to February. This has meant that there was no Make Your Mark ballot in 2021.

This report details the results of 'Make Your Mark' from the Oldham borough down to a district level and includes both the regional and national results.

CHANGES FOR 2022

In the previous year's Make Your Mark ballot, young people voted from a list of 10 National campaign ideas as well as 10 local issues. Feedback from young people across the UK was that these were often confusing and as local issues were chosen nationally, they were not as relevant as they could be. For 2022, to simplify the ballot, UK Youth Parliament removed the local issues and chose 7 general National themes, rather than campaign topics, so that the MYPs could create campaigns and priorities from the top issues once young people had voted. UK Youth Parliament also wanted to streamline the process of running Make Your Mark and electing Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs). Rather than host 2 elections during the year, local areas could add their MYP candidates to the ballot paper, allowing young people to vote for both their main priority and who they wanted to represent them.

As Oldham Youth Council are democratically elected, Oldham's MYP elections are an internal vote of its members. As there was no need to add candidate names to the ballot this allowed for Oldham to add their own local issues. These local issues were chosen by Youth Councillors based on their own experiences and in consultation with those they represent. The Youth Council chose 10 issues they felt were important to the young people of Oldham, so that they could be used to inform the priorities of the Youth Council for the coming year.

BALLOTING

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

- Take part in discussion groups with a group leader, such as a teacher or youth worker, and vote by show of hands with each young person being able to vote for 1 National theme and 1 local issue. The group leader then noted how many voted for each issue and then submitted these results to Oldham Youth Council via google forms.
- BYC also produced an online ballot link that could be promoted through social media channels. Young people's votes were submitted directly to BYC who then reported back the results to Oldham Youth Council to give the total figure, however, the 10 local issues did not appear on this online vote.

As in other years, Youth Councillors and support staff contacted the schools and asked them to get involved with Make Your Mark. Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) created resources such as videos to promote the event. The Youth Councillors then shared links to social media to capture those young people not educated in Oldham or whose school did not participate.

MAKE YOUR MARK ISSUES

MYPs met at the UKYP Annual Conference to look at their manifesto and debate what is important to young people. The National issues were shortlisted by the MYPs voting for issues from the UKYP manifesto.

National Issues
Covid-19 Recovery (e.g. including young people in the Recovery Plan)
Education and Learning (e.g. improved climate education, free university, better mental health education)
Environment (e.g. climate change, plastic pollution)
Health and Wellbeing (e.g. improved access to mental health support, end food poverty, banning gay conversion therapy)
Jobs, Money, Homes & Opportunities (e.g. more training and apprenticeships, ending homelessness)
Our Rights and Democracy (e.g. votes at 16, freedom of speech, building a better relationship between young people and government)
Poverty (e.g. end child poverty)

Oldham Youth Councillors discussed what was important with friends and school colleagues. This information, along with evidence from their previous work, was brought to a full Youth Council meeting, debated and a short list of 20 issues created. Each Youth Councillor then voted for which they thought should be the 10 local issues.

Local Issues
Better Mental Health Education - professionally led training for young people that is less generalised that looks at action and cause before consequence
Cheaper and safer public transport
Curriculum for life - better education for life after school
Improve and increase the street lighting in Oldham to make the streets feel safer
Improved support to prevent young people from becoming homeless and couch surfing
Increase the number of mental services in Oldham where young people can be confident in attending and feel anonymous
More awareness of what domestic abuse is and where to get support for young people
Reduce CO2 emissions across Oldham
Tackle racism and xenophobia by celebrating diversity and educating Oldham residents
Tackle sexual harassment on the streets and public transport

OLDHAM RESULTS

Even with the restrictions in place, schools still wanted to take part with Make Your Mark and initially all schools and FE colleges signed up to be involved. However, some schools did struggle to carry out the consultation either due to staff absence, due to the new ways of working such as not having assemblies / formal form tutor time or due to student bubble isolation.

The number of votes cast for the national issues were:

10,888

Representing a 42.0% voter turnout

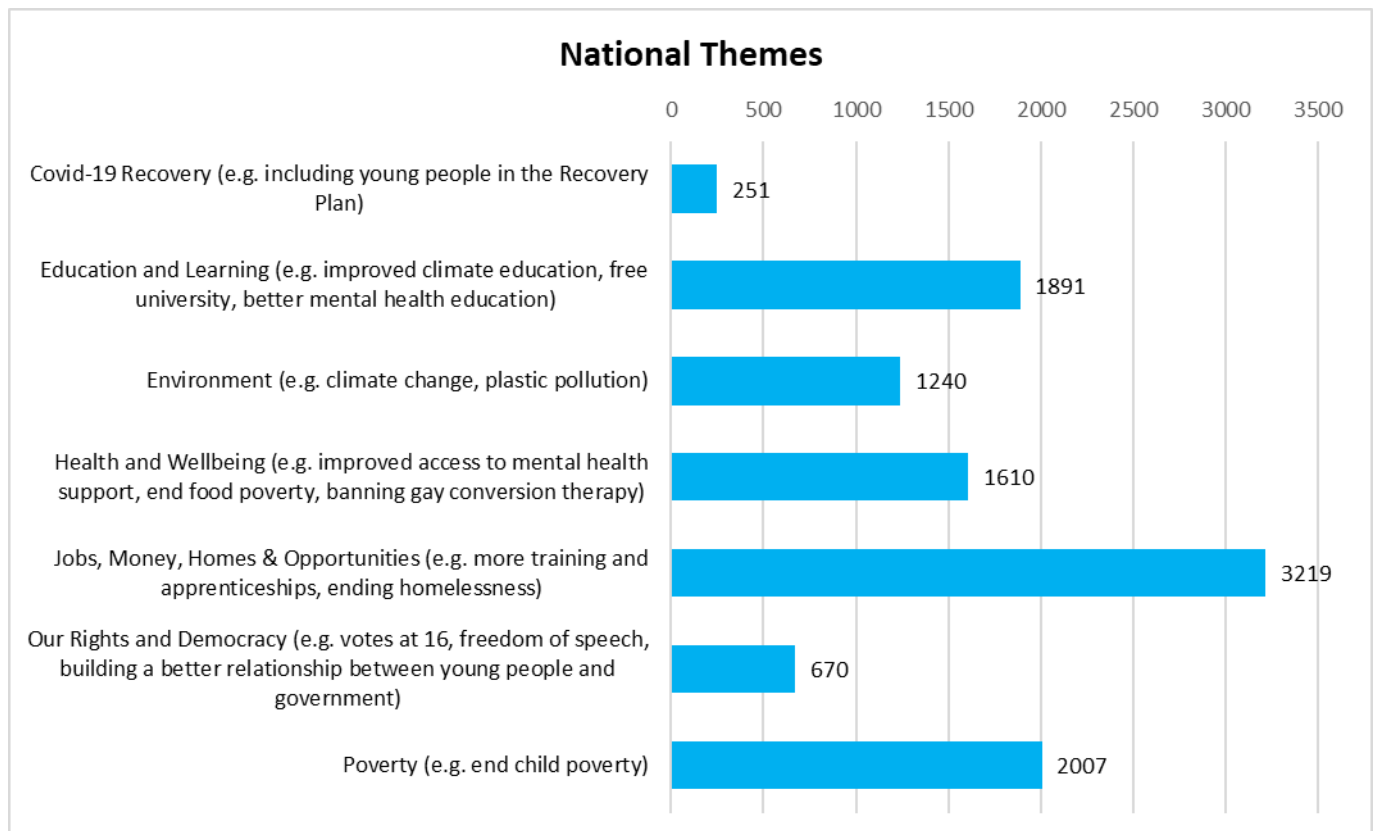
Given that some young people voted via the UKYP online vote they were not able to vote for local issues. This has meant a slightly lower number of votes for the local issues.

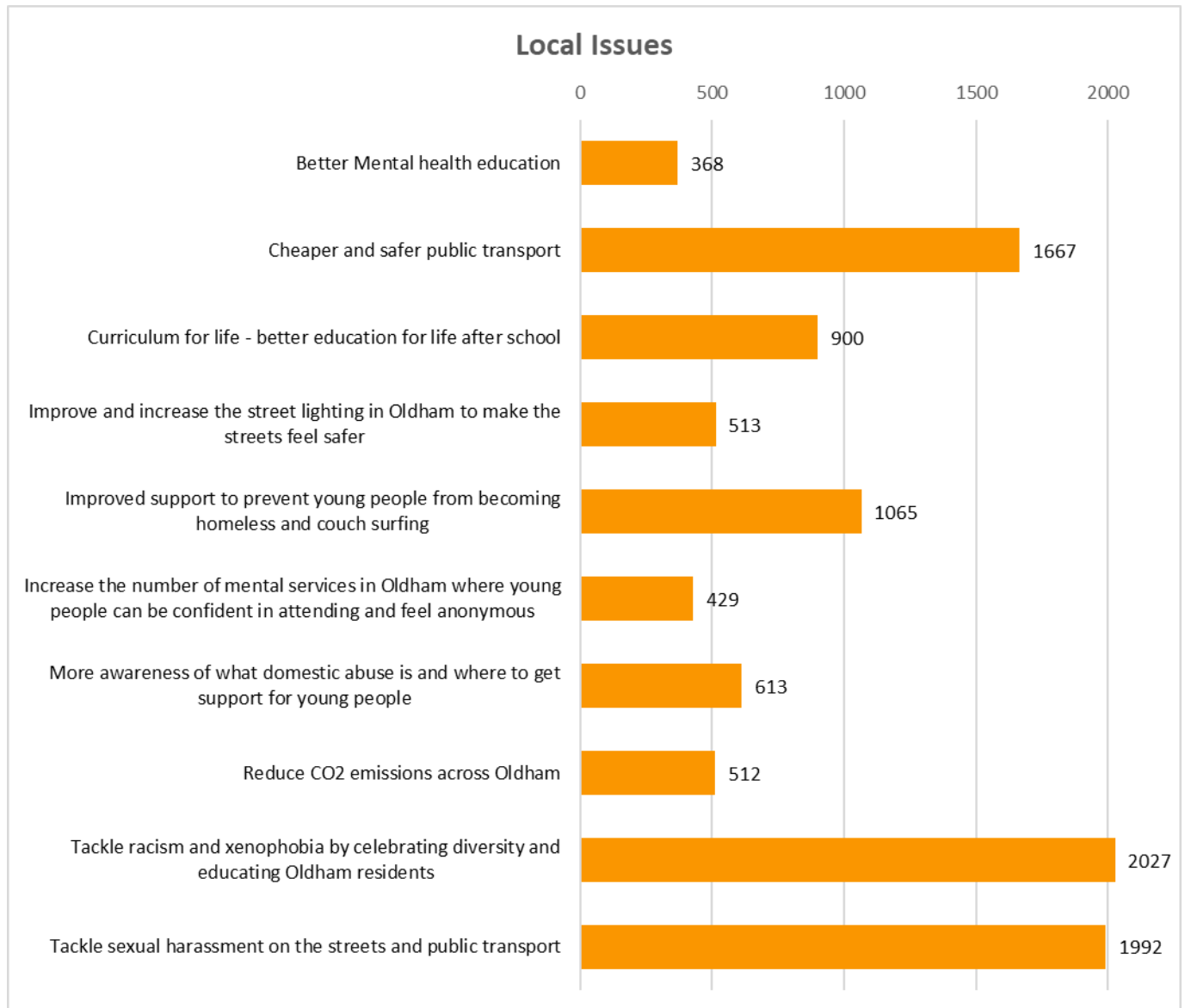
The number of votes cast for the local issues were:

10,086

Representing a 41.8% voter turnout

The results from Oldham's votes are as follows:





DISTRICT BREAKDOWN

As those who voted online had to give a post code to verify their vote, we are able to analyse all results at a district level. Those votes taken in schools and colleges were added to the district that the school sits within.

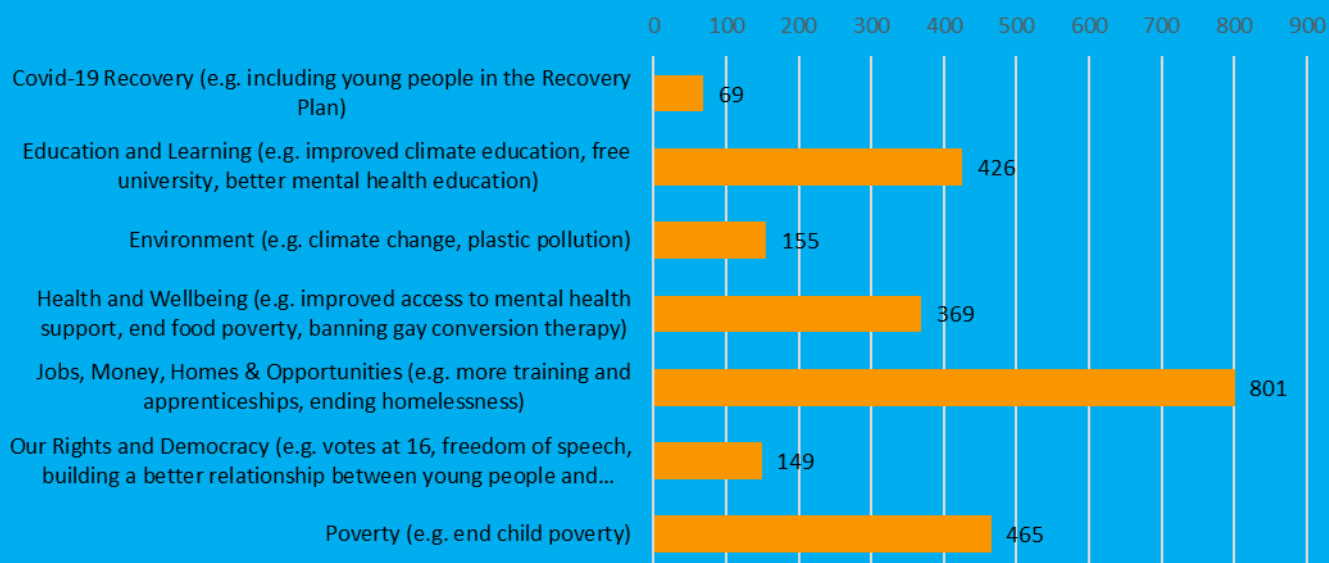


Oldham Central District

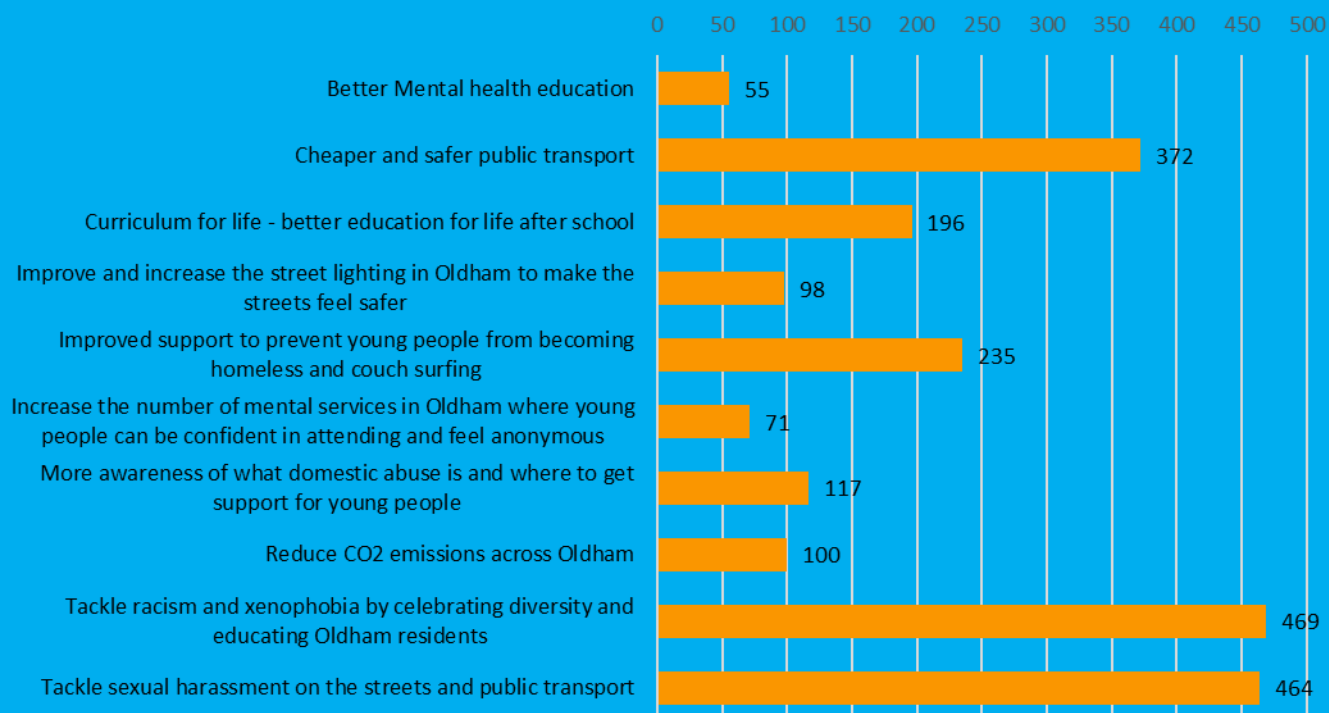
Central District

Including Oasis Academy Leesbrook, Oldham College, Oldham 6th Form and Blue Coat School

2434 votes for National Topics



2177 votes for Local Issues



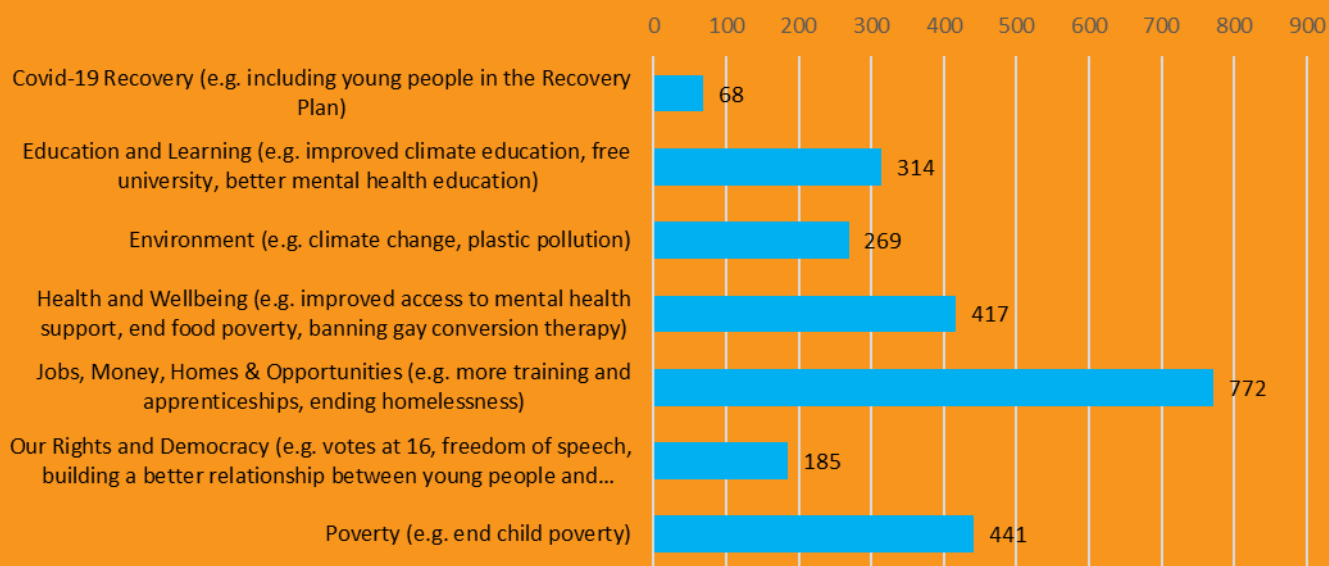


Oldham North District

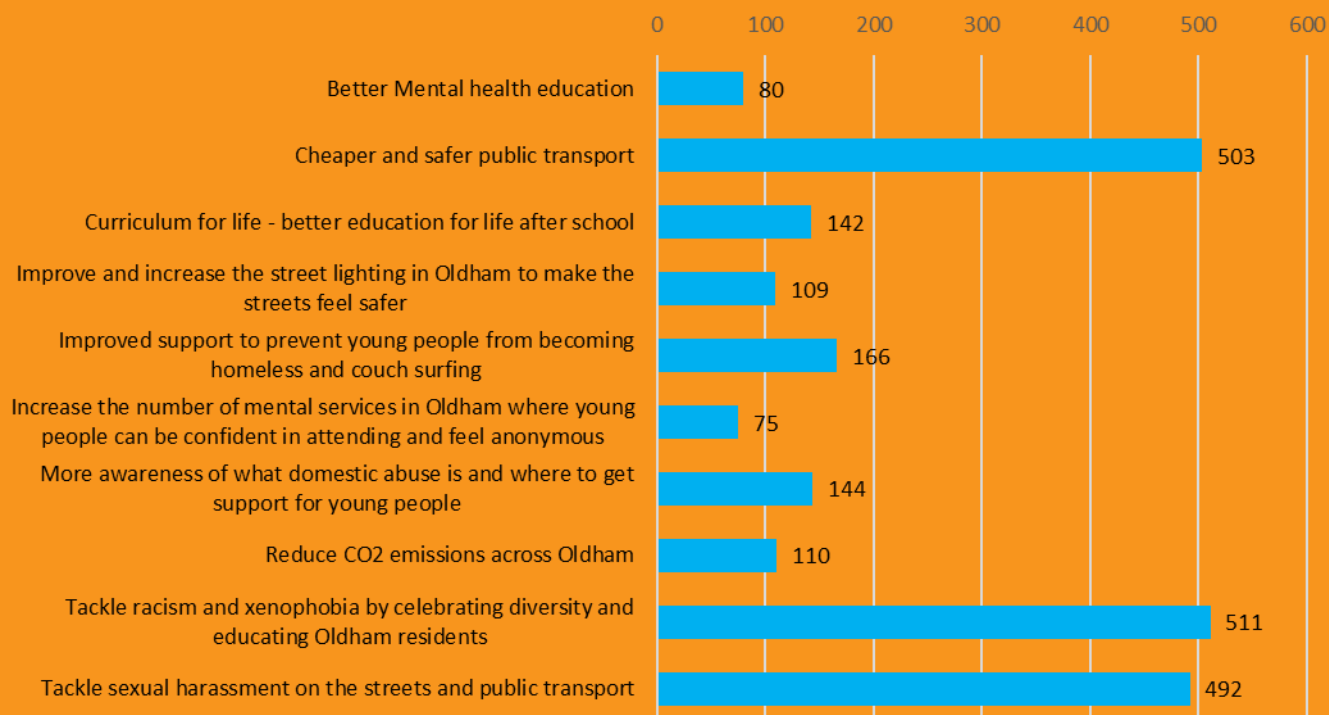
North District

Including Crompton House C of E Academy and 6th Form, Royton and Crompton School and the Oldham Academy North

2466 votes for National Topics



2332 votes for Local Issues



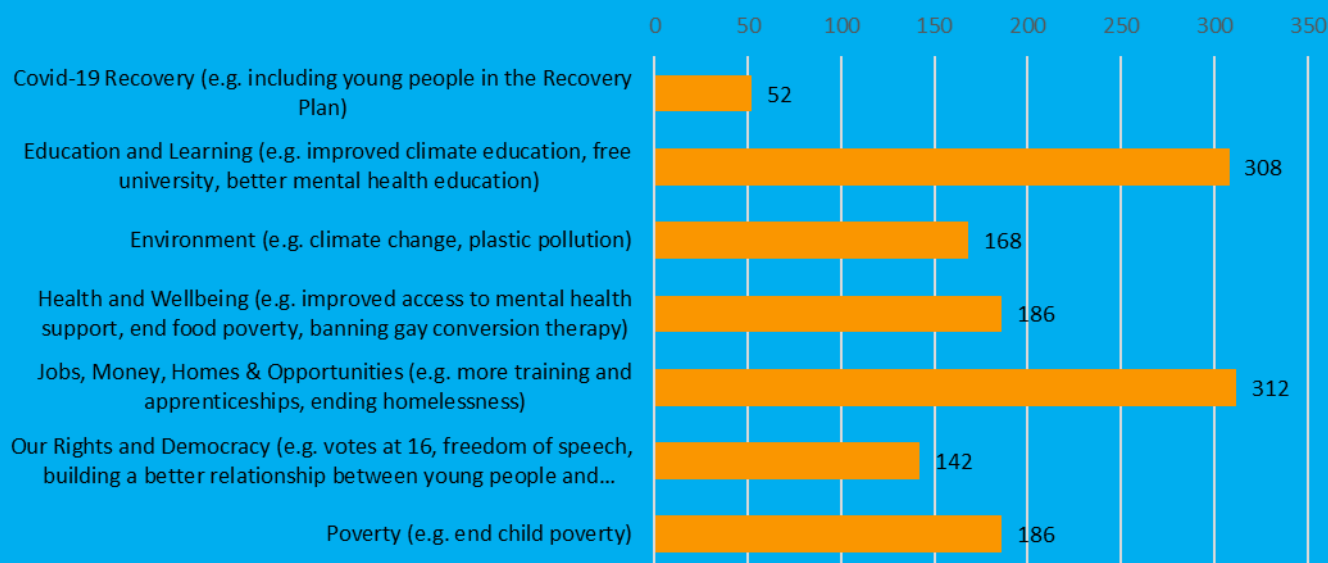


Oldham East District

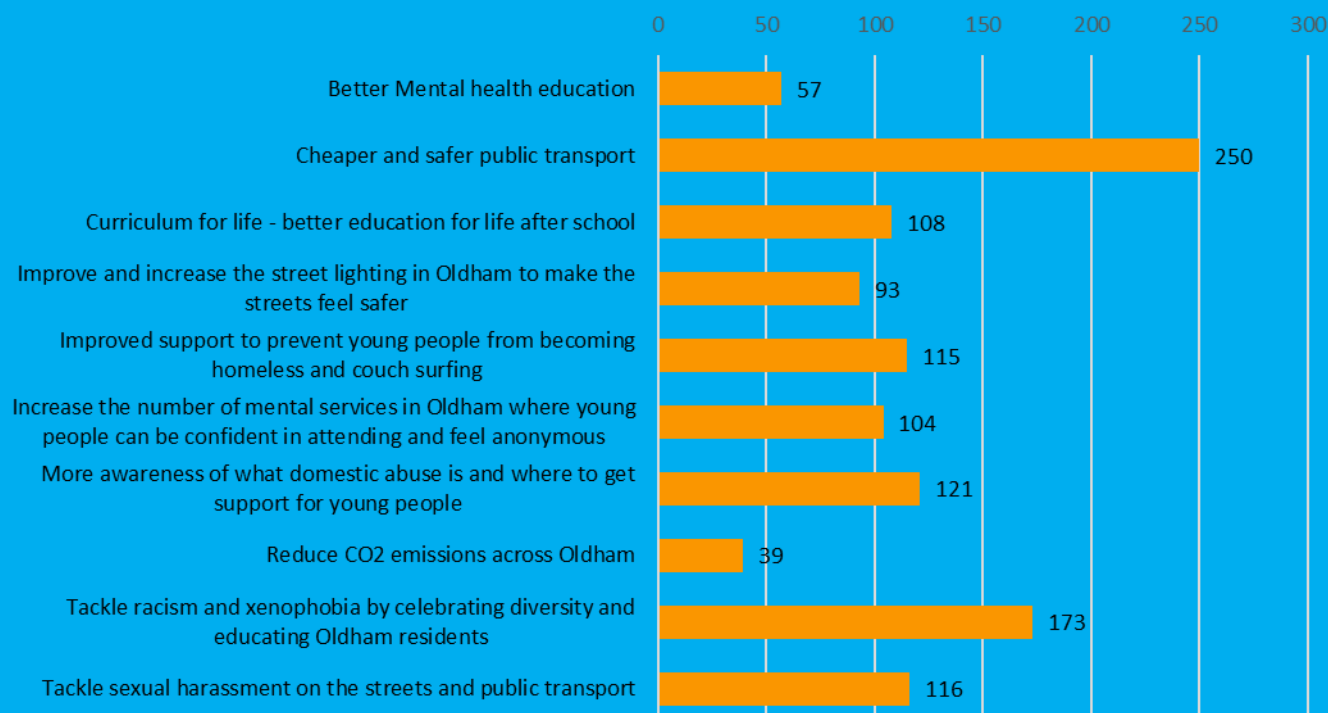
East District

Including Saddleworth School and Waterhead

1354 votes for National Topics



1176 votes for Local Issues



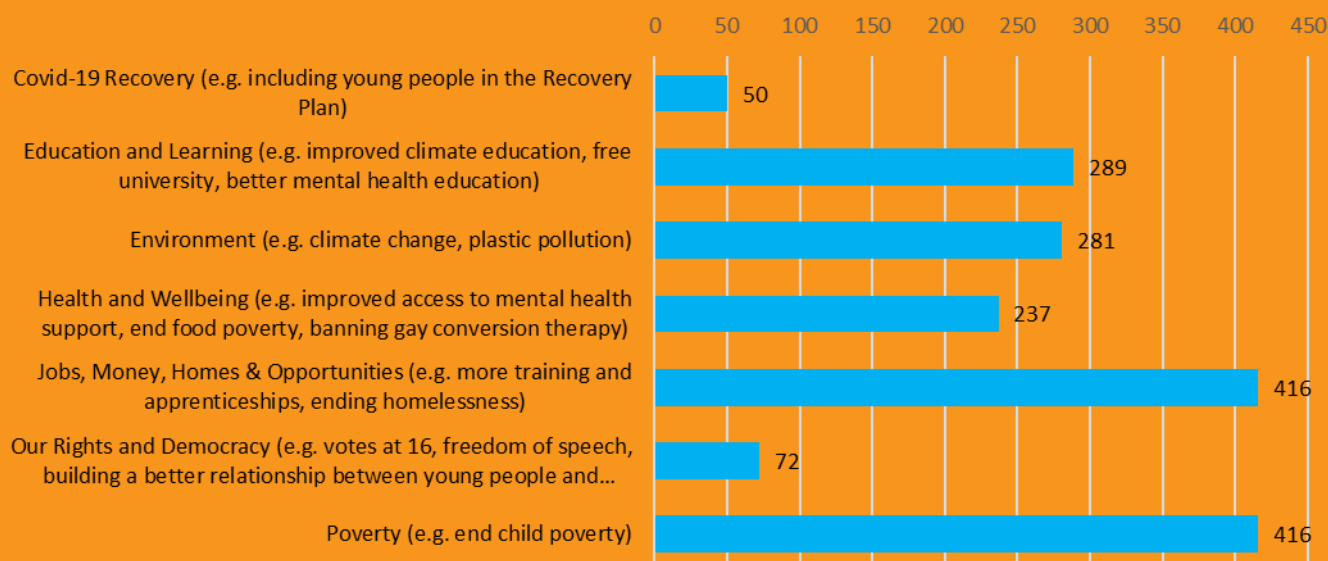


Oldham South District

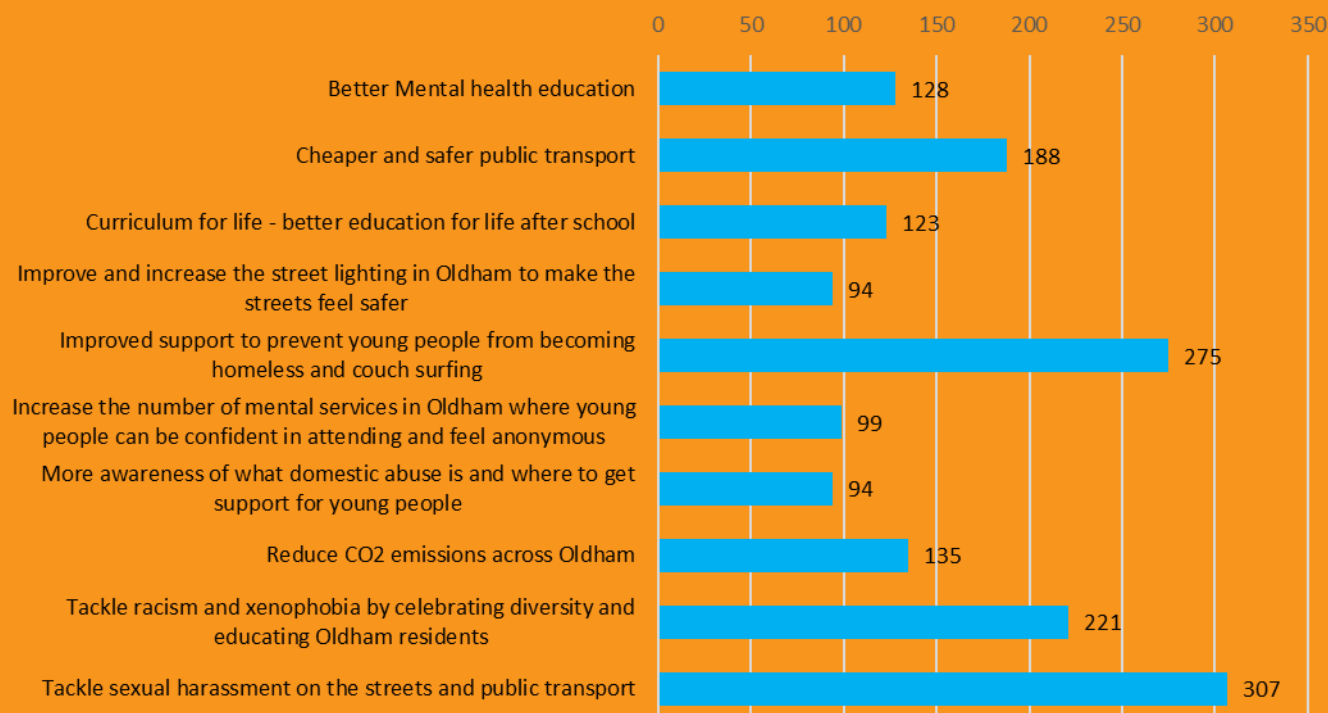
South District

Including Co-operative Academy Failsworth, Hathershaw College, Hollinwood Academy, New Bridge School, Oasis Academy Oldham and Oldham Hulme Grammar School

1761 votes for National Topics



1664 votes for Local Issues



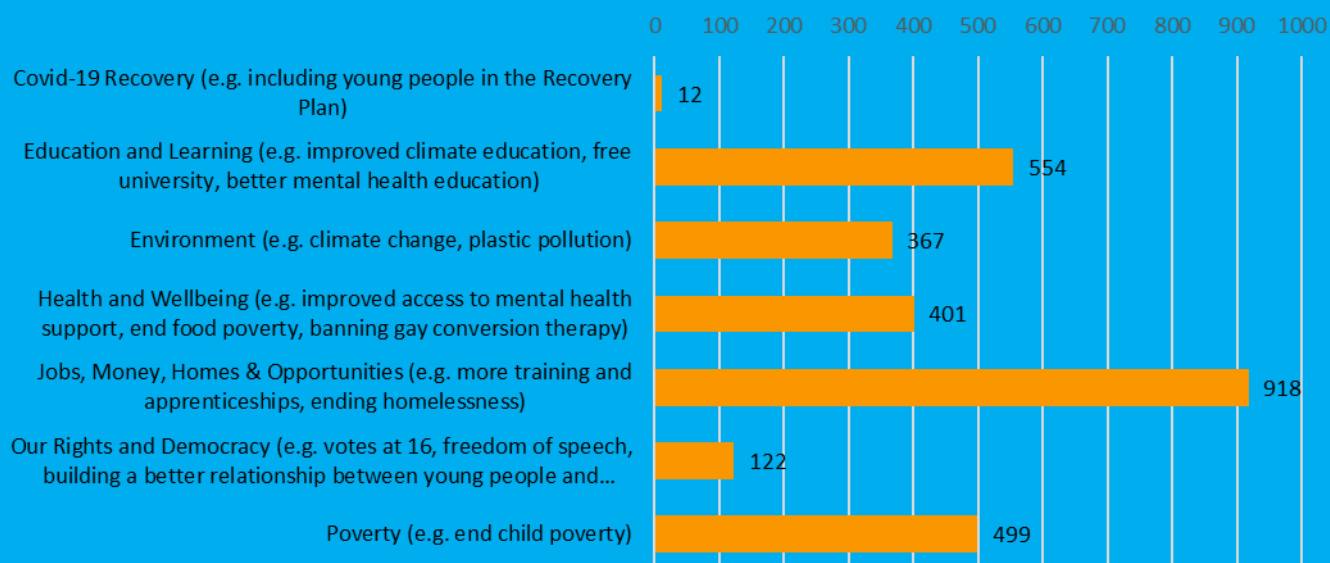


Oldham West District

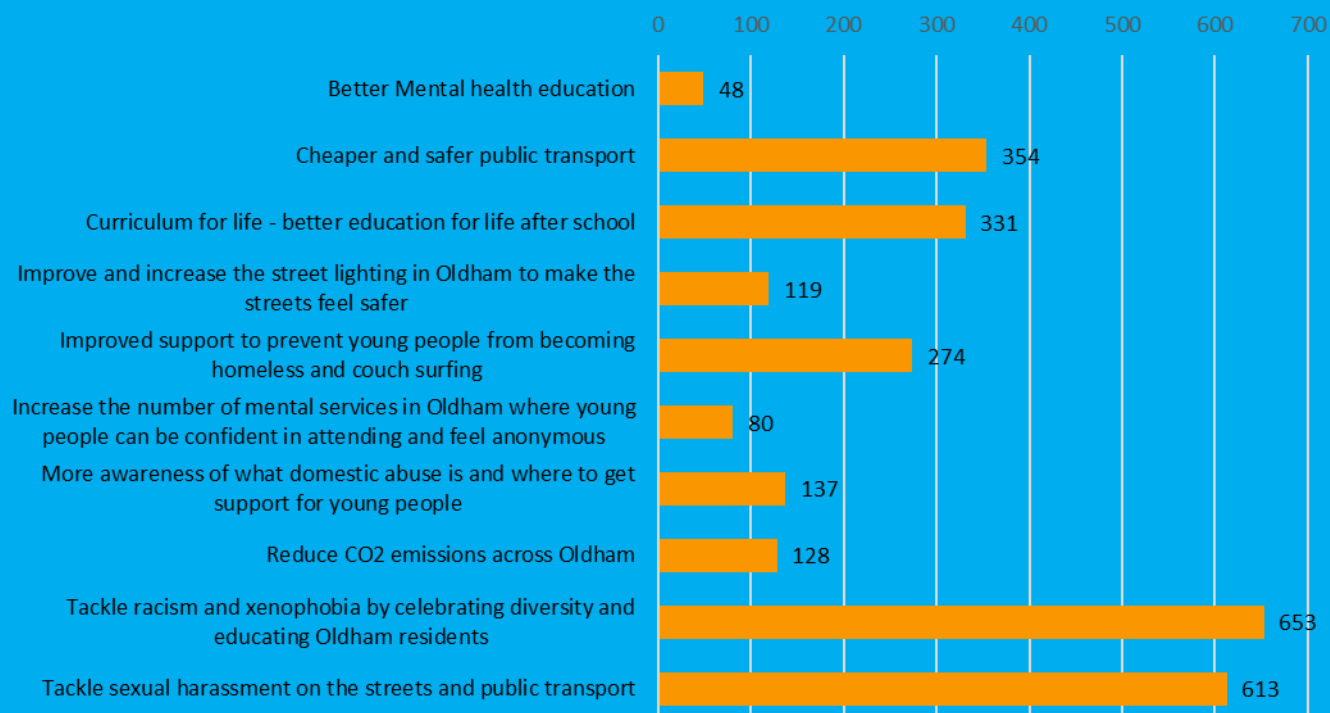
West District

Including Newman RC College, North Chadderton School and 6th Form and the Radclyffe School.

2873 votes for National Topics



2737 votes for Local Issues



REGIONAL AND NATIONAL RESULTS

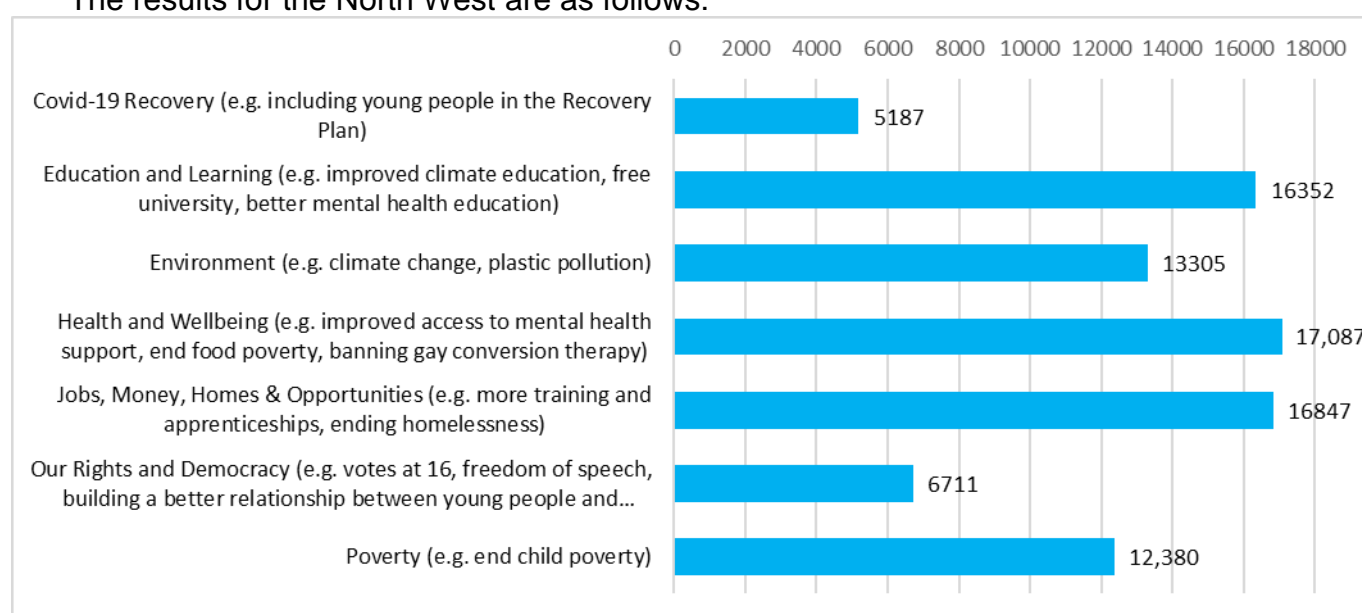
As the local issues were only on Oldham ballots, they have not been collated regionally or nationally.

The number of votes cast, across the North West, for the National issues were:

87,869

Representing a 12.91% voter turnout

The results for the North West are as follows:



The number of votes rose after coming out of Coronavirus restrictions and once again, the North West were able to get the highest numbers of young people engaged in Make Your Mark across the UK regions. This represented the 2nd highest turnout across the UK regions.

Oldham was once again a high performer in the region gaining the highest turnout from the 23 North West local authorities. Our 41.97% turnout was 7 points higher than our closest rival, Trafford. Oldham's 10,888 votes put us in 2nd place behind Lancashire who's 11-18 population is more than 4 times higher than in Oldham.

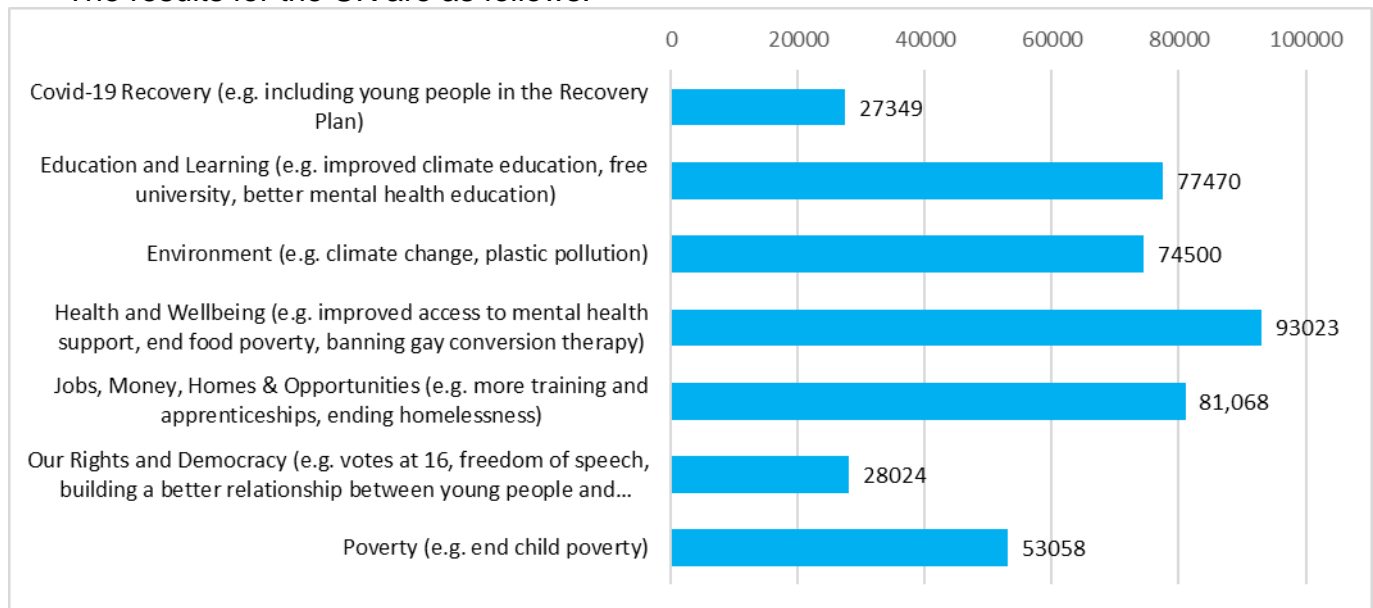
NATIONAL RESULTS

The number of votes cast, across the UK, for the National topics were:

434,492

Representing a 7.06% voter turnout

The results for the UK are as follows:



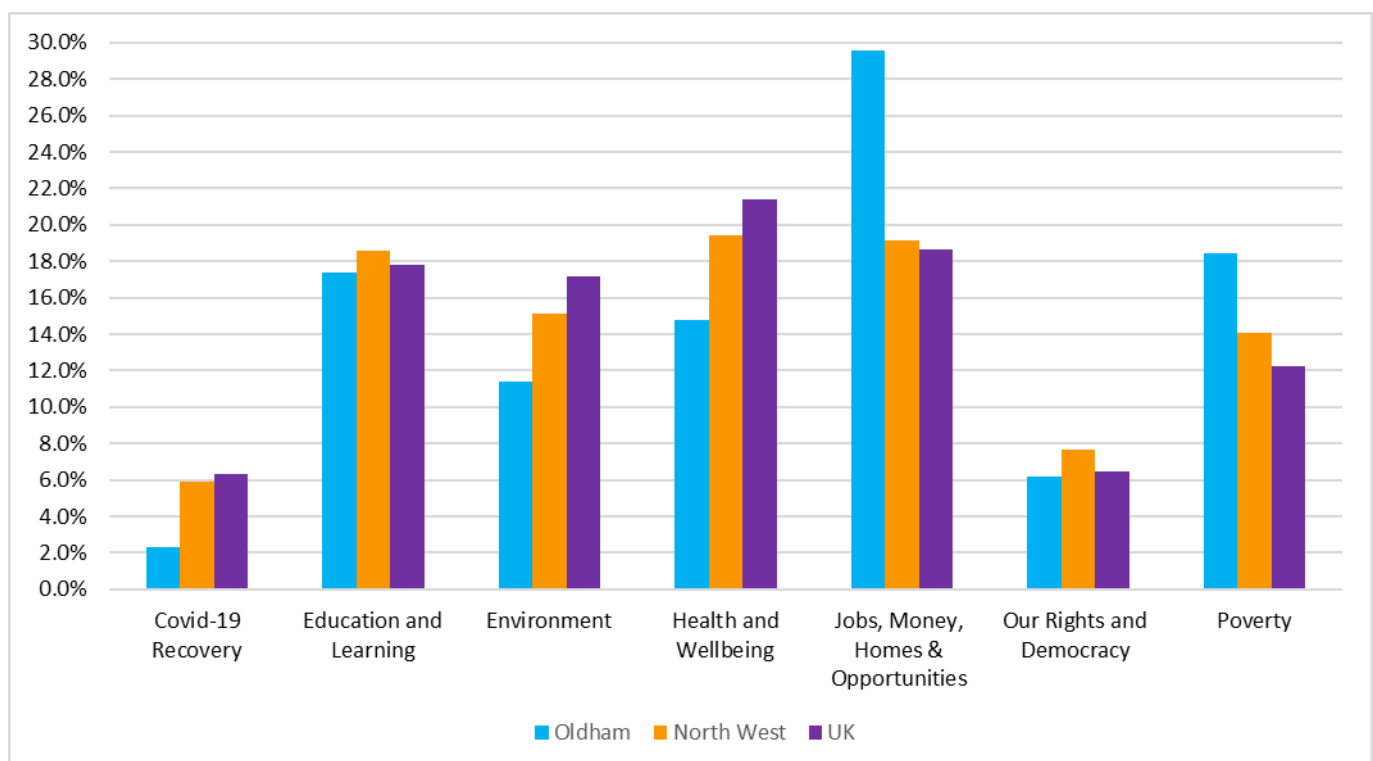
Oldham was a high performer nationally, achieving the 3rd highest turnout from all the 224 authorities across the UK, only narrowly beaten by Rutland and Southend-on-Sea.

Oldham was also in the top ten for number of votes, coming 6th highest across the UK.

To see a copy of the UKYP Make Your Mark 2022 report or for more information please go to <https://www.byc.org.uk/uk/uk-youth-parliament/make-your-mark>

COMPARISON OF RESULTS

The chart below shows the percentage of votes given to each topic for Oldham, the North West and across the UK.



The North West votes appear to track the National votes, coming within 1 or 2% of each other. Oldham's votes do not track, with 'Jobs, Money, Home and Opportunities' coming in higher by over 10%. Poverty is also higher than the North West (approx. 4%) and UK (approx. 6%) votes. With 'Education and Learning' combining to form the top 3 National topics, it would suggest that Oldham's young people are more worried about their future than the rest of the North West and UK.

To compensate these high priorities 'Covid Recovery', 'Environment', and 'Health and Wellbeing' all tracked lower than the regional and National voting. We believe this may be in part down to the work done in schools and across Greater Manchester around mental health (such as Opportunity Area and Bee Well) and with projects on the environment such as Northern Roots. All these issues also appear regularly in the media so young people may feel require less of a priority.

The other two topics, 'Education & Learning' and 'Our Rights and Democracy' appear to receive the same priority in Oldham as in the North West and UK.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR OLDHAM YOUTH COUNCIL

Oldham Youth Council are currently looking into how they can make a difference for the young people of Oldham with regard to the results from both the National and local list of issues. The following recommendations will look to tackle these.

1. **Campaign: Tackle Racism and Xenophobia** – Oldham Youth Council will look to deliver a campaign to tackle racism and xenophobia and the wider issue of hate crime. This campaign will include an immersive theatre piece in partnership with Oldham Theatre Workshop that has already been planned.
2. **Campaign: Tackle Street Harassment** – Through previous consultation, young people appear not to understand either what street harassment is or that it can be reported. Oldham Youth Council will look to produce an awareness raising campaign challenging behaviours and informing young people how to report incidents.
3. **UKYP Campaigns** – Members of Youth Parliament and the wider Youth Council to work with partners, both regionally and nationally, to deliver outcomes on the UKYP campaigns – seeking further input from young people on ending child poverty, improving access to mental health support, and banning gay conversion therapy.
4. **Motions to full Council** – Oldham Youth Council to take motions to full Council to relay Make Your Mark results, to ask for support around Racism and Xenophobia, Street Harassment and to look wider at training and job opportunities for young people.
5. **Investigate concerns over young people's future** – Results in the National topics raise concerns that Oldham's young people are worried about their future. Oldham Youth Council will look to run more consultation around these issues and deep dive into why they chose the topics they did.
6. **Public Transport** – Oldham Youth Council will work with GM colleagues to look at how we can improve the public transport systems and will promote the 'Our Pass' scheme to increase its up take in Oldham.

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Oldham Youth Council recognises that it cannot solve all the issues on their own and have produced some recommendations to look for help from other organisations. These recommendations are:

1. Oldham Youth Council recommends that this report is disseminated across Oldham, to be used to inform planning of curriculums, activities and services for children and young people. This should include Oldham Council teams, schools, colleges, wider youth organisations and service delivery teams.
2. Oldham Youth Council recommends that the information in this report should be used in the commissioning and design of services for children and young people.
3. Oldham Youth Council recommends that the report is widely shared across Decision Making forums relating to Children and Young People's Services and that the decision-making processes, on behalf of young people within Oldham, should include what we have learnt from Make Your Mark.
4. Oldham Youth Council recommends that organisations providing opportunities for young people's futures should look at how their services inform young people of what they do. Since 2020, opportunities around jobs and training have been at the top of the Make Your Mark issues. The past two campaigns have also shown concerns around money including paying for university and the wider aspects of poverty. There are several potential reasons including a lack of awareness of what support is out there and media stories around the rise in the cost of living. Oldham Youth Council is currently working with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to investigate these issues and recommend that this continues for 2022.
5. Oldham Youth Council recommends that Council teams look further at safety on public transport and work with TfGM to see what can be done for Oldham's residents to feel safe.

THANK YOU

Oldham Youth Council would like to officially 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. Again, COVID impacted Make Your Mark, making it a difficult time but the way all schools and colleges tried to involve pupils is much appreciated. 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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