

MAKING YOUR MARK OLDHAM

2023



**OLDHAM
YOUTH COUNCIL**



MAKING YOUR MARK OLDHAM

TOTAL VOTES

Regional Topics

8,276

Local Issues

8,257



TURNOUT

34.2%

TOP ISSUES

Regional Topic

- 1. Cost of Living (2,564 votes)**
- 2. Mental Health (1,083 votes)**

Local Issues

- 1. Oldham needs places to go and things to do for young people that are affordable for all (1,720 votes)**
- 2. Young people need easier access to job opportunities and work experience post 16. (1,287 votes)**

MAKING YOUR MARK OLDHAM

Since 2013 the United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) held a UK-wide ballot called 'Make Your Mark', where all young people, 11 – 18, voted on what they felt was important in their lives and what they thought the 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 that aims to empower young people across the UK to have a say and be heard.

Unfortunately, due to issues with funding the BYC, and subsequently UKYP, were unable to deliver a consultation for 2023. Oldham Youth Council have always used Make Your Mark results to inform their work, as have other organisations in Oldham, so it was decided to run a local consultation.

This report details the results of that consultation, renamed Making Your Mark Oldham, and is broken down to a district level.

BALLOTING

As with other years, Youth Councillors and support staff contacted the schools and asked them to get involved with Making Your Mark Oldham. Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) created resources such as videos to promote the event.

In schools, students took part in discussion groups with a group leader, such as a teacher or youth worker, and voted by a show of hands with each young person being able to vote for 1 Regional 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.

To capture the votes of young people not educated in Oldham or whose schools did not participate, the Youth Councillors then shared links to social media and held a consultation event in Mahdlo.

REGIONAL TOPICS

As there was no National vote this year, UKYP did not select any national topics, but the North West region Youth voice groups decided they still wanted a comparison. At a regional meeting, the Youth Councillors from across the North West chose 10 topics to be voted on. These were:

- **Cost of Living**
- **Discrimination**
- **Education**
- **Environment**
- **Food Poverty**
- **Mental Health**
- **Opportunities for Communities**
- **Physical Health**
- **Safety in Public Spaces**
- **Transport**

Unfortunately, as not all local authorities were able to complete the ballots at the same time (at the time of publishing this report) there was no regional data to compare Oldham to.

LOCAL ISSUES

Oldham Youth Councillors discussed what was important with their peers. This information, along with evidence from their previous work, was debated, and a short list of 20 issues was created. Each Youth Councillor then voted for what they thought should be the 10 local issues.

- **More needs to be done to decrease childhood obesity in Oldham.**
- **Oldham needs more advice and education to challenge sexual harassment.**
- **Oldham needs places to go and things to do for young people that are affordable for all.**
- **Reduce the barriers between the Police and Young People to make our streets safer.**
- **Young people deserve a better curriculum for after-school life.**
- **Young people need better and more thorough political education.**
- **Young people need easier access to job opportunities and work experience post-16.**
- **Young people need more employment skills education in school**
- **Young people need more education and awareness around discriminatory language, including sexist and racist jokes, to reduce hate crime.**
- **Young people need more awareness and support around the dangers of smoking and vaping, including how to quit.**

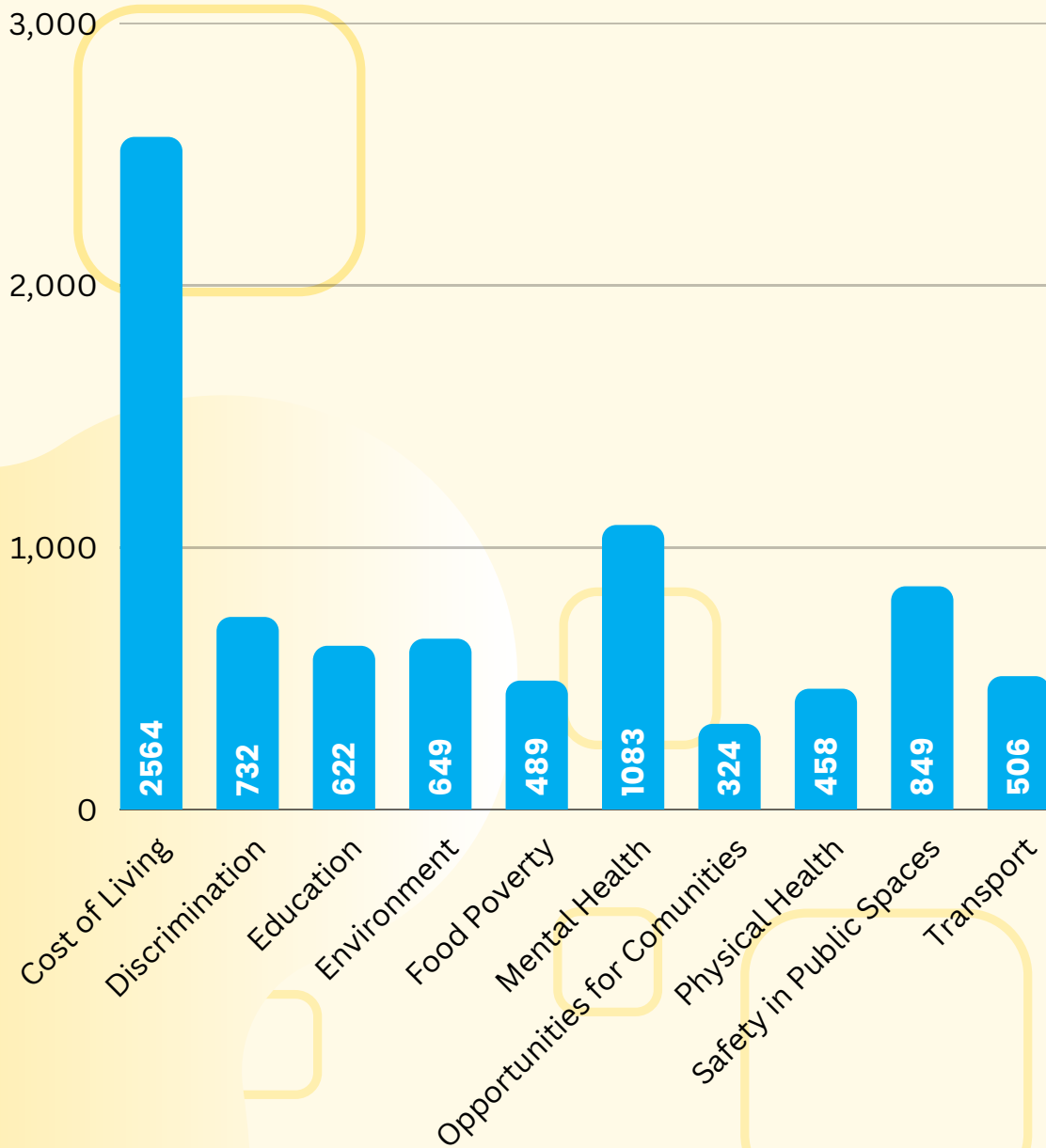
RESULTS

REGIONAL TOPICS

The number of votes cast for the regional issues were:

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representing a 34.2% voter turnout



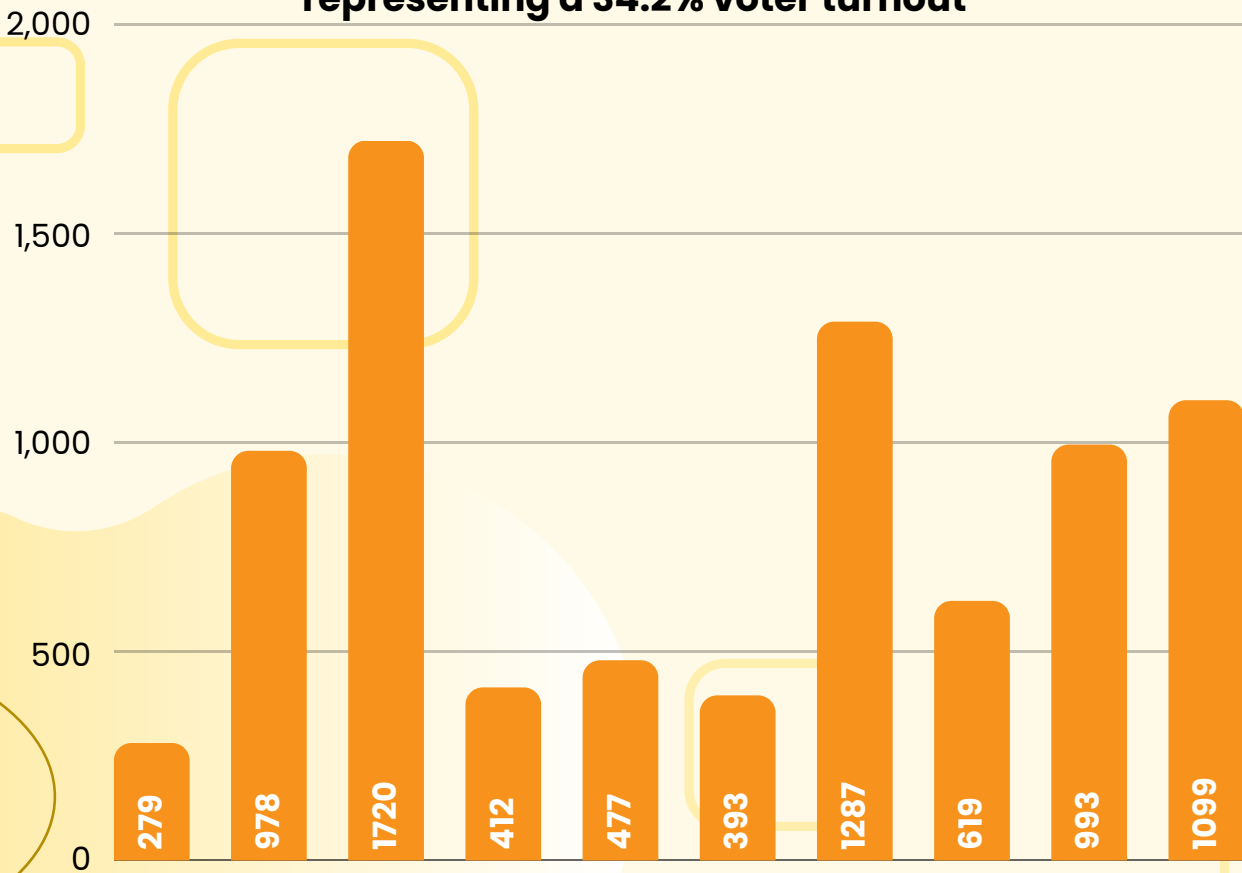
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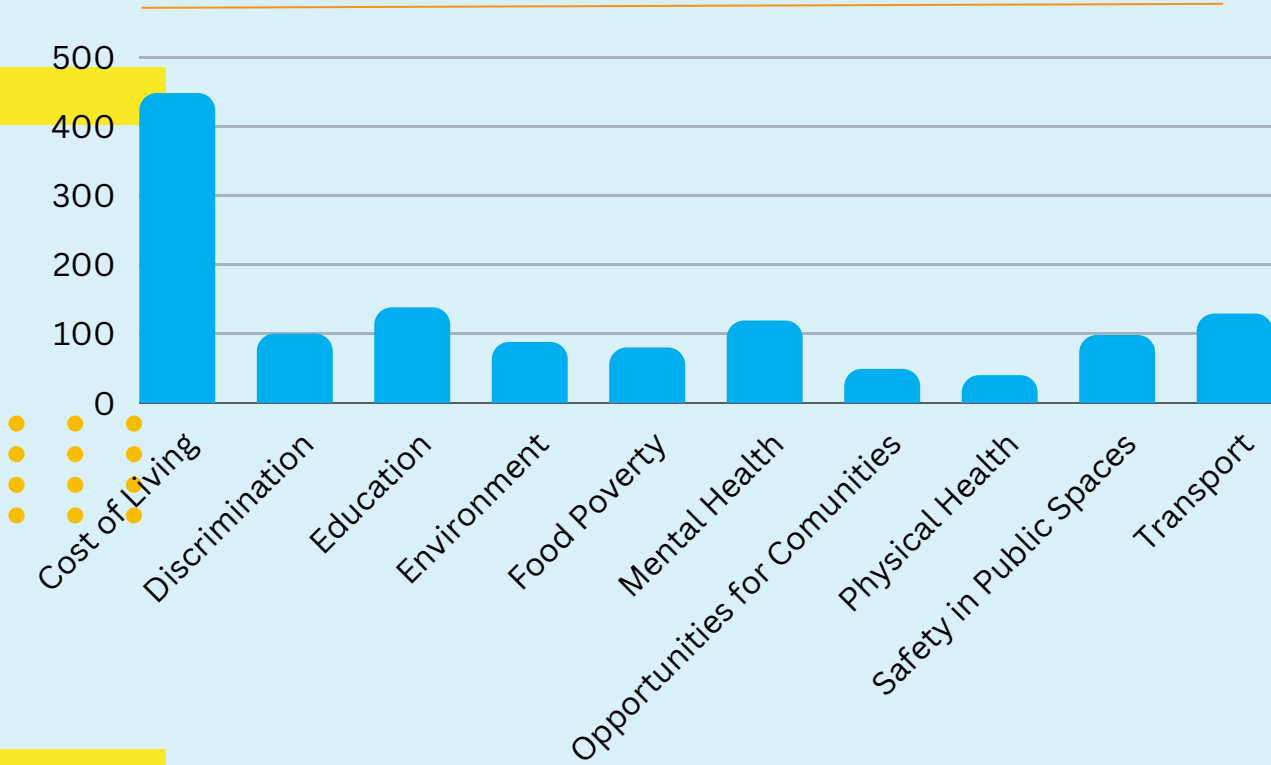
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OLDHAM CENTRAL DISTRICT

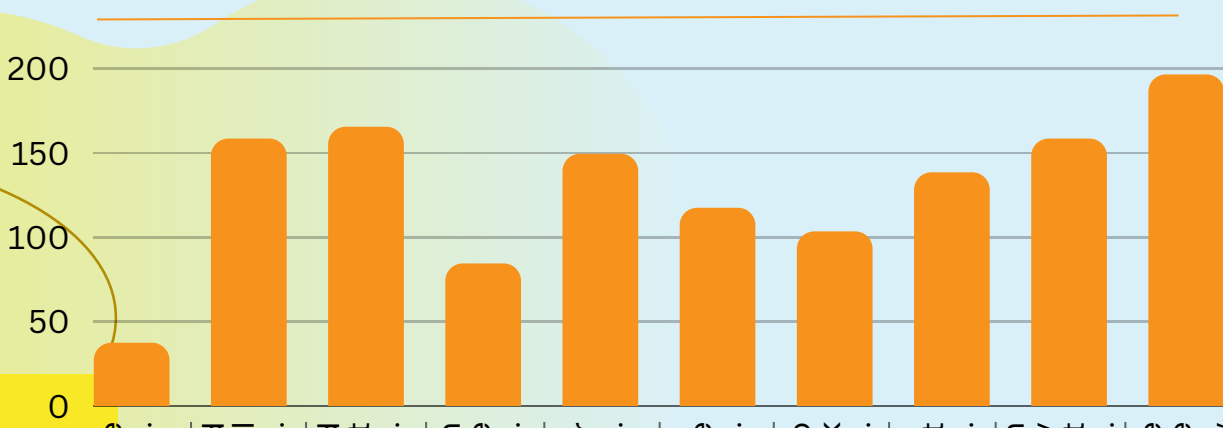
MAKING YOUR MARK OLDHAM 2023

Including Oasis Leesbrook School, Blue Coat School and the Newbridge group schools.

REGIONAL THEMES



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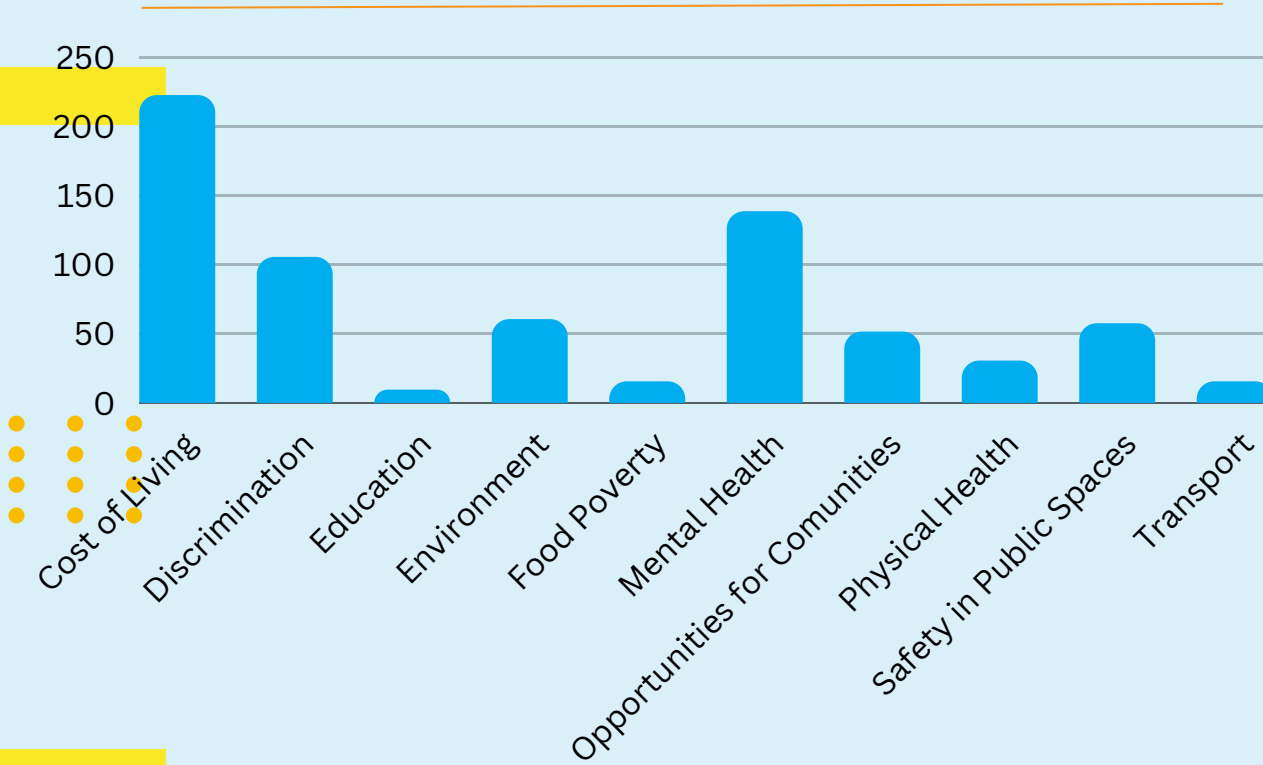
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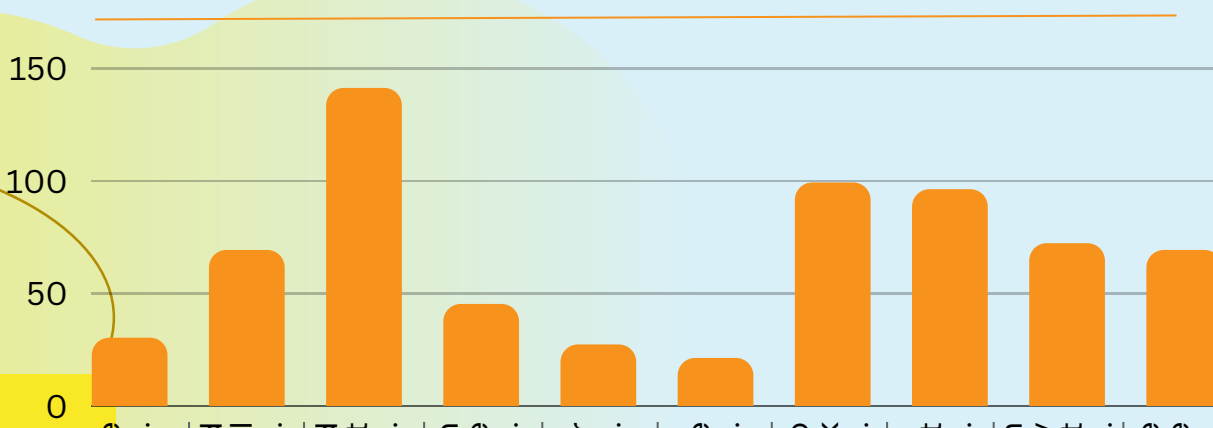
MAKING YOUR MARK OLDHAM 2023

Including Crompton House School, Royton & Crompton School and the Oldham Academy North.

REGIONAL THEMES



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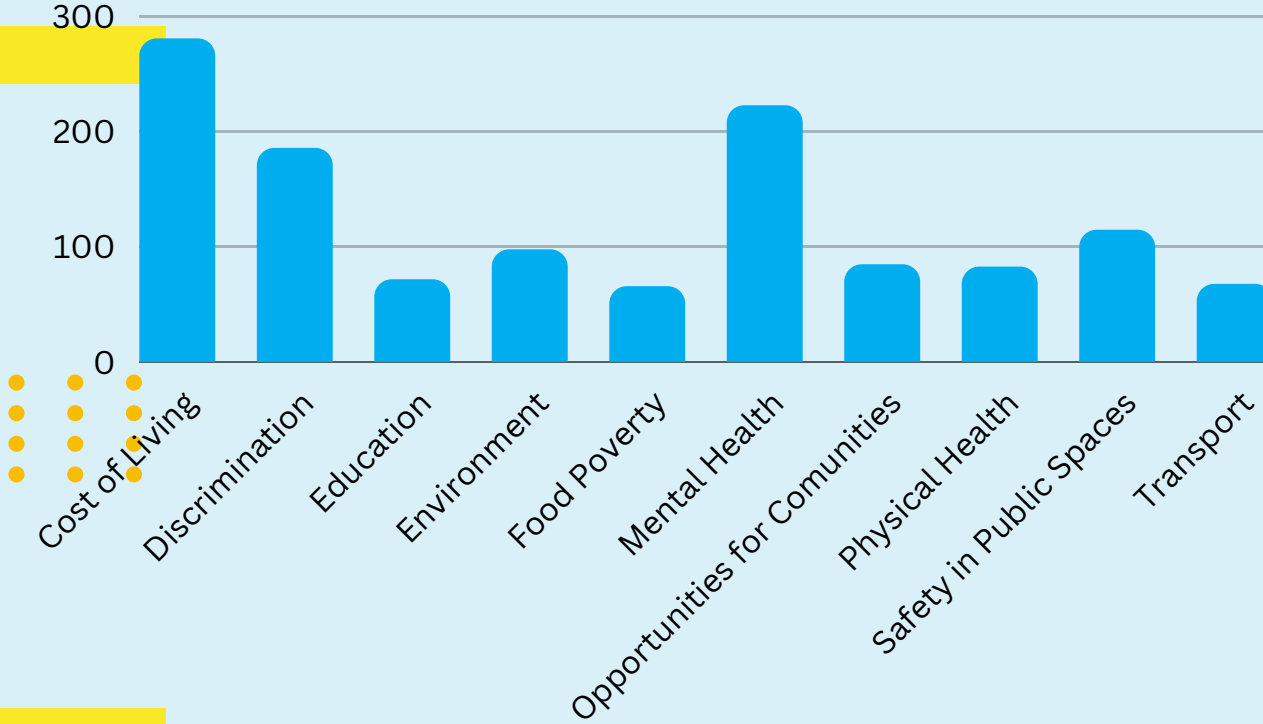
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OLDHAM EAST DISTRICT

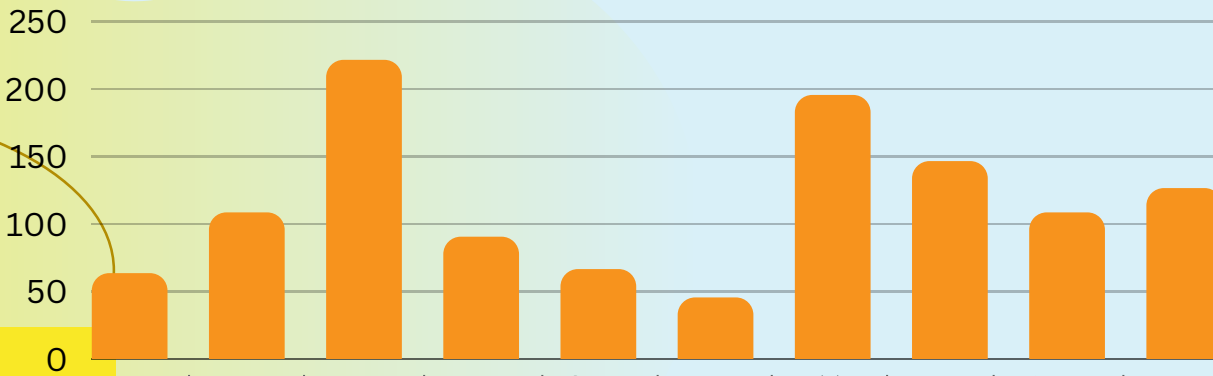
MAKING YOUR MARK OLDHAM 2023

Including Saddleworth School and Waterhead Academy.

REGIONAL THEMES



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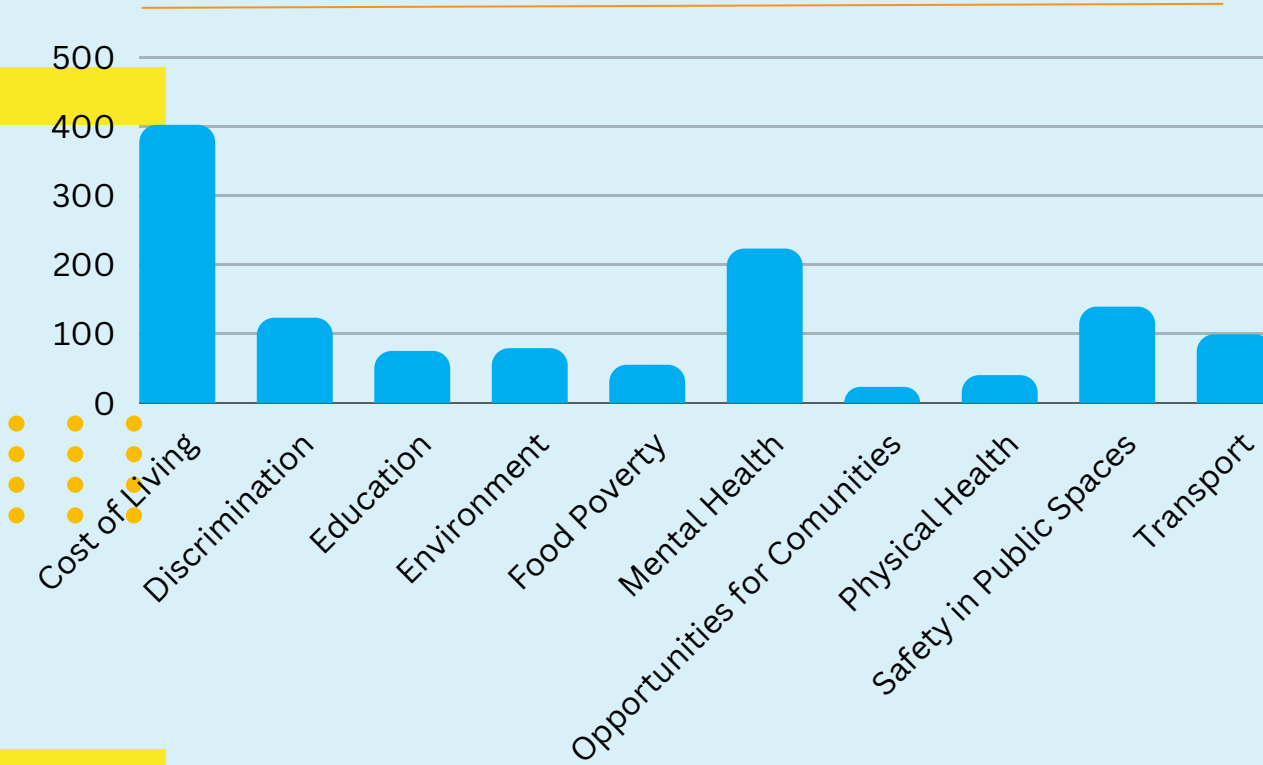
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OLDHAM SOUTH DISTRICT

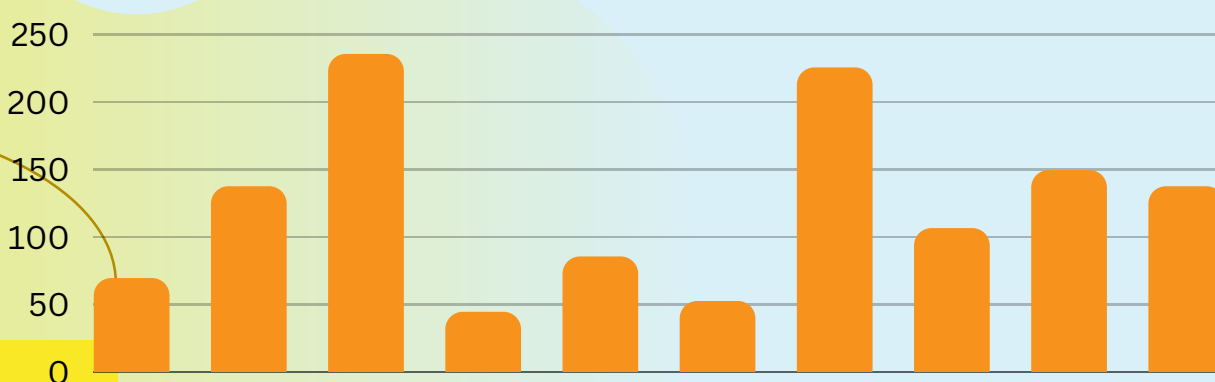
MAKING YOUR MARK OLDHAM 2023

Including Co-operative Academy Failsworth, Hathershaw College, Oasis Academy Oldham, Oldham Hulme Grammar and the Newbridge group schools.

REGIONAL THEMES



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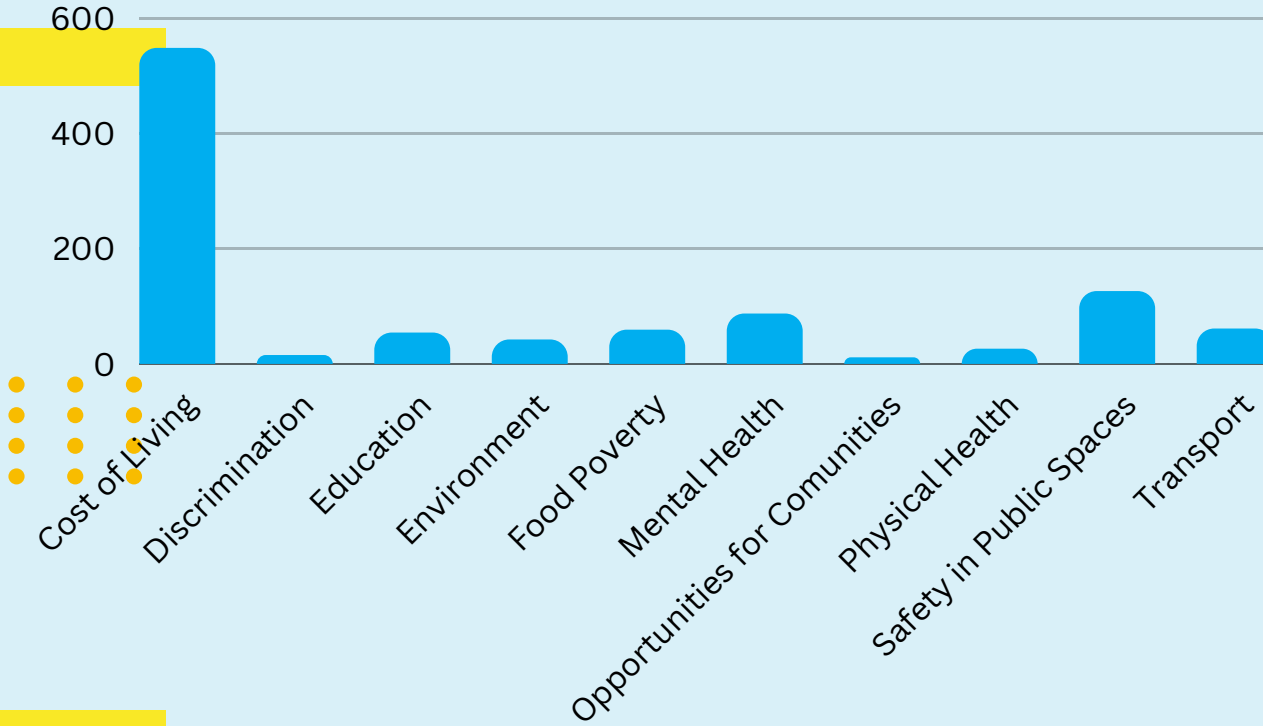
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OLDHAM WEST DISTRICT

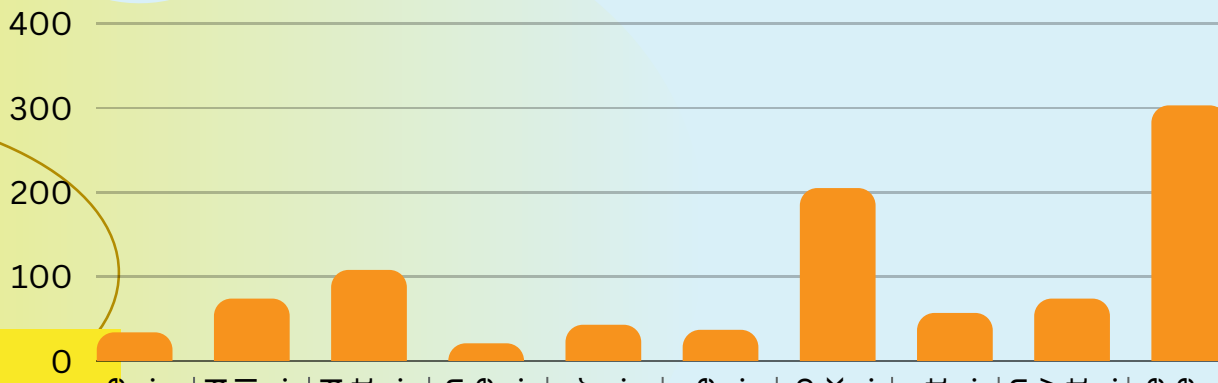
MAKING YOUR MARK OLDHAM 2023

Including Newman College, North Chadderton School and the Radclyffe School.

REGIONAL THEMES



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RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

REGIONAL TOPICS

1. **Cost of Living** - Oldham Youth Council will hold the Cost of Living as a priority for 2023/24. They currently sit on the Oldham Partnership and Town Centre Board where they can directly influence change and will continue to do so.
2. **Cost of Living** - Oldham Youth Council will work on the BYC Food for Learning campaign, looking at providing free school meals for all young people in education.
3. **Mental health** - Oldham Youth Council will hold Mental Health as a priority for 2023/24. This will allow Youth Councillors to work with mental health professionals on a variety of projects.
4. **Mental health** - Over the past 3 years previous consultation has highlighted the issues of stress and anxiety during exam periods. Oldham Youth Council will look at providing information to those in Year 11 and Year 13 to cope with these issues

LOCAL ISSUES

1. **Things to do** - Oldham Youth Council will look at what provisions are available to young people and the costs incurred. Work with the Children & Young People Scrutiny Board will identify gaps. Youth Council will then look at how to better promote what is available especially programs such as HAF.
2. **Job Opportunities** - Work with Oldham Council teams to organise an event to promote post-16 provision across the borough is ongoing. Youth Councillors will look at how opportunities are promoted and will raise awareness of what is already out there for young people.
3. **Vaping** - As the issue of vaping received an eighth of the votes cast, Oldham Youth Council will also work on this issue. Working with public health colleagues, youth councillors will look to produce an awareness campaign around the dangers of vaping for schools. Oldham Youth Council will also put a motion to the Full Council asking to lobby Government, to ban the sale of disposable vapes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Oldham Youth Council recognises that they 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 be disseminated across Oldham, to be used to inform the 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 be widely shared across decision-making forums relating to children and young people's services and that all decision-making processes, on behalf of young people within Oldham, should include what we have learned from Making Your Mark Oldham.
4. Issues such as the Cost of Living crisis affect families as well as young people. Oldham Youth Council recommends that service areas relating to the themes, even though they may not directly work with young people, should also receive a copy of this report to help with their decision-making processes.
5. Mental health has been a consistently high issue in Make Your Mark ballots but there is a lack of clarity around the reasons for this. Oldham Youth Council recommends more research is carried out to address the gap in information, seek further understanding as to why Mental health is always a high priority, and explore potential solutions to address the issues.
6. Many issues voted for already have services available for young people to access. For them to receive so many votes suggests young people face barriers in receiving or accessing these services. Oldham Youth Council recommends that organisations providing services for young people relating to the themes create more awareness and improved access to information for young people.
7. Oldham Youth Council recommends that a group or board be identified to take ownership of these recommendations and the responses, to enable us to review and report back to the young people who voted, on what actions were taken as a result of Making Your Mark Oldham 2023.

THANK YOU

Oldham Youth Council would like to thank all organisations for getting involved and helping their pupils to have a voice.

This year, without the backing from the UK Youth Parliament, organisations could have decided not to put as much weight on getting involved. The way the schools and colleges tried to involve pupils is much appreciated and it shows once again, the schools and colleges of Oldham value student voice.

We would also like to thank the teaching staff who took the time to coordinate the ballots in school and do everything in their power to make sure everyone had an equal chance of participating in this year's ballot.

Thank you!

MAKING YOUR MARK OLDHAM

2023

TOP ISSUES

Regional Topic

1. **Cost of Living**
2. **Mental Health**

Local Issues

1. **Oldham needs places to go and things to do for young people that are affordable for all.**
2. **Young people need easier access to job opportunities and work experience post 16.**

**OLDHAM
YOUTH COUNCIL**





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