

Oldham Parent Power

About Parent Power

Through advice and guidance on accessing higher education, and developing skills in community organising, Oldham Parent Power, in partnership with the Trinity College (University of Cambridge) and Oldham Council, empowers parents and carers in Oldham to make change in their children's future.



Oldham Parent Power in Numbers

53

Parents/Carers

50%

of parents/carers have no history of higher education themselves.

3

university visits to Edge Hill University, Trinity College, University of Cambridge and University of Manchester.

Oldham Parent Power Activities

1. Parent Power Meetings

In regular group meetings every six weeks, members have built connections and received advice and guidance on student finance, university applications and study skills.

2. Combatting the digital divide

Parents/carers gave testimony to Trinity College, University of Cambridge about the digital divide in Oldham and how this was impacting their children's learning during the pandemic. As a result, Trinity gave 20 laptops to families in Oldham who were in need.

3. Campaign for mental health support

Through community listening, poor mental health support was identified as a key enabler of educational inequality in Oldham. Parent leaders approached Oldham Council, who have committed to introducing mental health provision in their family hubs across the Council as well as offering mental health training for parents/carers in Oldham.

Yaasmin's Story

Our children ask us this question: 'We live in Oldham. How do you think we can end up at Cambridge or Oxford?'. I used to say to them 'if you live in Oldham, so what?'. I feel angry that my children are feeling limited by the place that they grew up. It's the bigger system that makes them think this way.

Yaasmin was educated in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, before moving to the UK, and raising her family in Oldham. There are big differences in the education system that she experienced and the system here in England. Yaasmin feels that our system is very laid back and avoids putting any pressure on children until they reach their GCSEs, when the pressure becomes extreme. This is why she has been a passionate member of Oldham Parent Powers mental health campaign, which is striving to secure mental health support for families across Oldham.

