



### Oldham Reconnect

Depaul UK  
Positive Steps  
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[www.depauluk.org](http://www.depauluk.org)  
Registered charity number 802384



**Depaul UK helps young people who are homeless, vulnerable and disadvantaged.**

**We are passionate about what we do, working in the very heart of local communities.**

Through our mediation and early intervention services we **prevent** young people from becoming homeless.

Through our housing and accommodation projects we **protect** young people who have become homeless.

Our training, mentoring and employment schemes give young people opportunities to **progress** beyond homelessness and fulfil their potential, training and jobs.

Each year we provide and support over 125,000 bednights and, since we started in 1989, we've made a difference to over 50,000 young people.



# Mediation in Oldham

Preventing homelessness by reconnecting families





Depaul UK Reconnect aims to reduce the incidence and impact of homelessness amongst young people through strengthening family relationships.

### Who we work with

The project is available to young people in Oldham between the ages of 15 1/2 and 25 who are homeless (including those in temporary accommodation), or at risk of homelessness, because of family problems. The project also works directly with parents and carers.

*Young people may for example:*

- Want to stay at home but are having family problems
- Have left home in a crisis or after an argument
- Feel that their parents or carers don't understand them
- Be experiencing conflict about cultural or religious differences, or about their sexuality
- Want to move out but in a planned way with family support

### What the project offers

- Having someone to talk to in confidence about their family situation
- Offering to talk with family members on the young person's behalf
- Setting up a family meeting
- Offering on-going support to the young person and their family
- Support with making a phone call or writing a letter
- One to one support for parents

### How we work

- We listen without taking sides or making judgements
- We offer a safe space to meet where the young person and their family members can hear each other's point of view

- We help to identify the problems and what the young person would like to happen in the future
- We work together to look for achievable solutions

A member of the Reconnect team will arrange individual sessions and any family meetings that may follow. Information will only be shared with other agencies with the permission of the young person.

### Where and when?

Any organisation that works with young people, homelessness agencies, young people themselves or their key workers can call 0161 621 9433 or 07811 451648, Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm for an informal discussion or to make a referral. Referrals can also be emailed to [oldham.reconnect@depauluk.org](mailto:oldham.reconnect@depauluk.org). Parents and other family members are also welcome to contact the project for support and advice.

Reconnect is based at Positive Steps in the town centre. Sessions and meetings can also be arranged at the young person's home or accommodation, at the referring agency, or somewhere neutral if this is preferred.

Sessions will be arranged at a time to suit the young person and their family, where possible between Monday and Friday. The project may also be able to help with travel expenses.