

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	16 September 2021

Executive Report: Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio, as set out below.

2. Holiday Activity & Food (HAF) Programme

- 2.1** I am pleased to report how successful the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme has been with over 500 children and young people attending sessions over the school summer holidays. Funded by the Department of Education, the programme was for both primary and secondary school aged children who were eligible for free school meals. Paid for places were also available for those not eligible for free places.
- 2.2** We have worked with seven different providers across the borough, including Fylde Coast YMCA, the Fylde Coast Holiday Club and Fleetwood Town FC Community Trust to deliver over 250 sessions. There was a wide variety of activities to choose from such as sport and physical activity and healthy eating as well as exciting creativity focussed sessions. I went along to one of the sessions at Thornton YMCA on 19 August to speak to some of the children and to see the activities in action. The feedback from the sessions has been excellent and we hope to be able to offer activities again over the Christmas holidays.

3. Events and Arts

- 3.1 In Memoriam** - A dramatic and moving installation of 100 flags was created by Luke Jerram in the Marine Hall Gardens over the weekend of 17 and 18 July. This emotional artwork reflected on the impact of Covid-19 and incorporated contributions from over 500 people into the artwork by displaying their own thoughts on smaller flags over the weekend. Many more viewed the artwork from The Mount during the glorious weather of that weekend. The artwork was accompanied by a specially commissioned moving soundscape. The event was organised by

LeftCoast in partnership with the council.

- 3.2 Fleetwood Moves** - LPM Dance based in Lancashire and specialising in dance for all ages, all abilities and in particular dance for those with disabilities, took up residency in the Marine Hall for a week, developing a brand new dance piece and community programme. The sessions culminated in a mini festival on Saturday 24 July on the terrace of the Marine Hall. The programme was a mix of contemporary dance, folk and blues music, craft workshops and creative fun and was well received by an audience of over 150 people attending over staggered time slots during the eight hour event. This was a great partnership between LPM Dance and the council with particular thanks going to the staff at Marine Hall.

4. Health and Wellbeing Activities

- 4.1 Wyre Weight Management Programme** - Our LCC Public Health funded programme was launched in February 2021 and so far we have had 126 people sign up for a free 12 week programme of weight management support with Slimming World. 29 people have completed their 12 week programme with over 82% having attended 10 or more weeks. There has been an average weight loss of 11lbs, 11% of referrals are male and 89% female with an average reduction in BMI of 1.8%. We are delighted with the results so far and more and more health professionals are coming on board to refer people to the programme.

5. Leisure Centre Update

- 5.1** Our leisure centres continue to be well supported by the local community. Total memberships across all Wyre leisure centres were 5,949 at the end of July 2021 (an increase from 5,848 at the end of May 2021). The reduced direct debit offer of £25 per month has continued. We are currently working with a marketing agency to help develop a refreshed marketing campaign to be launched later this year.
- 5.2** Poulton Leisure Centre has now ceased to be a Lateral Flow Test site and the YMCA are making preparations for its phased reopening. School swimming returned on the 9 September, swimming lessons begin on 20 September and the gym will be open from 2 Oct. We are hoping that the leisure centre will still operate as a community collect site for lateral flow test kits.

6. Tourism

- 6.1** After the success of the major Disney filming in May, there has been a steady stream of filming enquiries over the last quarter. BBC filmed in Fleetwood for a 'safety at sea' programme and Marketing Lancashire filmed parts of Wyre as part of the Lancashire 2025 City of Culture bid. There is also filming planned on the coast as part of the Real Housewives franchise.

7. Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre

- 7.1** Marine Hall hosted the 9th Fylde Coast Food and Drink festival on 15 August. The Food and Drink Festival was our first large event of 2021 and was a great success. Over 3,000 customers visited throughout the day. The free event was purposely planned to be smaller in size this year, with more activities and stalls outside, and fewer stalls inside the venue. All traders reported record sales, with most stalls completely selling all stock. Most traders have already booked on the Christmas Market which will take place in November this year.
- 7.2** We have also been pleased to be hosting weddings once again at Marine Hall. Two weddings took place at The Mount Pavilion and Marine Hall over the August Bank Holiday weekend. More weddings are booked in for September.
- 7.3** Regular community bookings continue on Friday evenings and Sunday mornings. Other regular bookings will commence in September, including U3A (University of the Third Age) and LLLs (Life Long Learners). These bookings would normally take place at Thornton Little Theatre but are being accommodated at Marine Hall whilst the Little Theatre once again becomes a vaccination centre between September and December this year. The popular Monday Tea Dances have now resumed with tickets being sold in advance rather than on the door. They are now on sale for all dances up to Christmas.

8. Environmental Health

- 8.1** Covid-19 continues to have a significant impact on the service and currently the outbreak is still regarded as a pandemic. The case rate in Wyre is higher than it has ever been since the outbreak began. The vaccination programme over the course of 2021 appears to have prevented the mortality rates seen during 2020 and the early part of 2021. The strategy to contain the virus remains to ensure as many people as possible over the age of 16 receive both vaccination doses. There are still concerns about variants of the disease and therefore it is still vital that businesses and the public manage their own risk, regularly test and co-operate fully with test and trace officials.

9. Countryside Management

- 9.1** The Countryside team and volunteers have successfully worked in partnership with Nether Wyresdale Parish Council and a local farmer. They have undertaken restoration and improvement works to the concessionary route of the Scorton Millennium Way (and Wyre Way) which runs adjacent to the busy road into Scorton village. Lockdown delayed completion but it looks great and future plans include a refresh to the interpretation panels along the route.

10. Comments and questions

- 10.1** In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of Council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.5.

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