

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	2 December 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. Environmental Health Update**

- 2.1** The Covid-19 case rate in Wyre has increased in the last few weeks to extremely high levels and whilst it is not starting to decline, is still a significant concern. However the implementation of the vaccine program has had an impact on the number of people ending up in hospital or dying from Covid-19, this is being closely monitored together with other respiratory infections such as Flu, and if the situation changes plan B may be implemented. The uptake of both the Covid-19 and Flu vaccination remains critical to ensuring that our hospitals are not overwhelmed, and therefore we continue to encourage everyone who is eligible for either vaccine to take up the offer. Areas of low vaccination uptake in Wyre include Pharos ward in Fleetwood and Jubilee ward in Cleveleys. We continue to assist our health colleagues by commissioning drop in Covid-19 vaccination days in both Cleveleys and Fleetwood.

**3. Food safety**

- 3.1** The pandemic resulted in the Food Standard Agency issuing guidance in March 2020 to Local Authorities to reduce the planned inspection programme taking into account that some businesses closed voluntarily or as part of the lock down arrangements and there was also an acknowledgement that some of the staff involved in delivering the food safety inspection programme were redeployed to assist with Local Authorities response. In June 2021, the Food Standard Agency produced its recovery plan for local authority food safety teams (July 2021-March 2023). The recovery plan requires us to meet targets they have set by March 2023. The Environmental Health team maintained inspection of new businesses throughout the pandemic and are now

working towards delivering the recovery plan as set out by the Food Standard Agency.

#### **4. Wyre Moving More**

**4.1** Sport and physical activity has a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. A new stream of work was launched on 20 October with key partners and stakeholders meeting to discuss the development of a new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for the Borough. This first meeting discussed how we collectively shape the conversation that we need to have with our communities and neighbourhoods to find out the issues, barriers, motivators and opportunities that exist and either encourage or discourage people from taking more physical activity in Wyre. Excellent debate was had with partners including Sport England, Active Lancashire, NHS, public health, YMCA, Regenda, Fleetwood Town Community Trust, local colleges and consultants KKP. Assisted by our partners community consultations are being planned that will further help frame the development of the strategy.

#### **5. Arts, Events and Health Activities**

##### **5.1 Wyre Wheels - cycling for people with disabilities**

Wyre Wheels is a cycling programme for people with disabilities to enjoy being active through taking part in adapted cycling. The sessions, each Friday, offer participants the opportunity to ride adapted bicycles including trikes, side-by-sides, hand bikes, quad and wheelchair bikes. The sessions at Memorial Park have been taking place from May to November this year and have had over 200 attendances. The attendees absolutely love their cycling. The sessions welcome anyone that attends but are aimed at people with disabilities, have limited mobility, are recovering from illness or injury or just want to get back on a bike. Up to four local volunteers support the programme each week and we are very grateful to them. We also have a specific page on our website to advertise the range of activity opportunities available for people with disabilities in Wyre - <https://www.wyre.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/disability-friendly-sports-activities>

##### **5.2 Sanctuary Space at Marine Gardens**

This pop up art and entertainment space took place at Marine Gardens between 10 and 13 November. Visitors enjoyed a variety of creative workshops, exhibitions and live entertainment with something for all ages. The event was a great success and quite the tonic everyone needed after the wet weather of the preceding couple of weeks.

#### **6. Leisure Centre Update**

**6.1** We have worked closely with the YMCA to develop a new marketing campaign "Why choose YMCA". Early feedback is this campaign is going well. Across all the centres the numbers of members returning are good with recent membership offers resulting in memberships across all centres standing at well over 6500 at the end of October. During October alone there were over 51,000 visits across the centres.

## **7. Tourism**

- 7.1** Members may recall some filming that took place in Fleetwood at the end of 2020/early 2021. This was for Cobra Cyberwar (Series 2) which is currently playing on Sky One. Whilst the story centres on the coastline of Kent, the episodes indeed show clear footage of the landmarks and the coastline in Fleetwood.

## **8. Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre**

- 8.1** Marine Hall's Family Christmas Pantomime is back this year. Oh No, It Isn't...!? Oh Yes, It Is!!! Aladdin was postponed in 2020 but it is now finally back and features soap legend Peter Amory, best known for his role as the villainous Chris Tate in Emmerdale. Performances run from Thursday 9 December to Sunday 12 December and prices start from just £7.50 per child for a school group with teachers able to attend for free. Family tickets for up to four people are available at just £32. Further details can be found at [www.wyretheatres.co.uk](http://www.wyretheatres.co.uk) or by contacting our Box Office on 01253 887693.
- 8.2** Following on from the Fleetwood Christmas events on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 November, the Mount Pavilion will play host to Santa's Grotto over the first few weekends in December, including the weekend of the Panto. There will also be two festive wedding ceremonies at the Mount Pavilion on the lead up to Christmas.
- 8.3** The diary for Thornton Little Theatre is becoming very full for 2022 as our local amateur dramatic societies and other community organisations look forward to returning to the venue, once the vaccination programme finishes in December.

## **9. Business Health Matters**

- 9.1** We are pleased to be a key delivery partner of Active Lancashire's Business Health Matters programme which has been developed to support businesses in improving the physical and mental health of their employees so that staff are happier, healthier and more resilient. The Lancashire wide programme launched in September. We will be working with Active Lancashire to provide this programme in Wyre until December 2023. The programme includes the creation of a new post of Healthy Workplace Co-ordinator who has started to work alongside Active Lancashire and other local authority partners with the aim of delivering a programme of accredited training for Workplace Health Champions. The training programme aims to increase physical activity in the workplace and improve awareness of mental health support whilst improving employment prospects for the individuals who participate, including an opportunity to improve basic skills. The programme is open to SME's in Wyre and in partnership with the Economic Development Team, the Co-ordinator will be developing a programme of workplace wellbeing that will help these local businesses to recover and grow.

## **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.