

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	27 January 2022

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. Relaunch of grant programme for Covid-19 support projects

- 2.1** The Covid-19 Response grant scheme has been re-launched thanks to an ongoing partnership between Wyre Council, Fylde Council and Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde CVS. The Covid-19 Response Fund helps to provide further support to the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector (VCFSE) and is now open for applications. The maximum award is £5,000 per organisation, but a wide range of bids is encouraged from a minimum of £300 up to the £5,000 maximum. The partnership is keen to fund projects that:

- Meet the immediate need of Wyre and Fylde residents who are struggling to afford food and essentials owing to Covid-19
- Provide advice and information to residents affected by Covid-19 to help them access longer term support they might need, such as benefits, debt advice or employment support
- Provide emotional and mental health support
- Help address social isolation
- Demonstrate how significant numbers of residents most affected by Covid-19 will benefit from these funds and which geographical areas and issues are being addressed

Please share the application form with your networks – a copy can be found here [Fylde and Wyre Grants | CVS \(cvsbwf.org\)](https://www.cvsbwf.org). All successful organisations will need to produce an outcomes summary and funding should be spent by 31 March 2022.

3. Wyre Moving More

- 3.1** KKP continue to make good progress with work to develop a physical activity strategy. The consultants have been meeting with Town Centre Partnership Boards to update on progress. Public consultation will be officially launched in the new year. Members will have heard an update of this work at the pre-council slot but to get involved in the consultation. More information is available on the council's website.

4. Communications and Visitor Economy

- 4.1** Staff from communication and marketing, tourism and events have been brought together to form a new service called Communications and Visitor Economy. Part of this new team remit will be to focus on welcoming people back to Wyre and supporting tourism recovery as well as continuing to provide an excellent communications and marketing service for the council.
- 4.2** Prior to Christmas the team have supported all the festive lights switch on events across our towns which were all enhanced thanks to the Welcome Back Fund. They also actively supported the Christmas in Cleveleys event on 18 December working closely with the local community. There was street theatre and entertainment, Harry the Cola Truck and face painting for the children, live music, an artisan market and Santa and the elves. The event was a successful partnership between Wyre Council and the local community in Cleveleys, many of whom volunteered on the day.

5. Holiday Activity Programme

- 5.1** The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) clubs programme took place during the December 2021 holidays at venues across Wyre: Cleveleys community centre, Fleetwood and Thornton Leisure centres and Fleetwood High school. Funded by the Department for Education, the clubs were held in partnership with local holiday club providers and were free for primary and secondary aged school children who were eligible for benefits-related free school meals. There were also specific provisions available for children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), and other additional needs.
- 5.2** Activities varied depending on the venue, and ranged from Christmas arts and crafts, bowling, football, team sports, swimming, trips to the beach and local parks and even a visit from santa! Each child received a free meal every day as well as receiving some goodies and treats to celebrate the festive season.

6. Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre

- 6.1** The Fleetwood Festive Weekend held on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 November was a great success, despite various challenges and disruptions caused by the weather. Over 6,000 customers visited and took part in various events including the Festive Lights Switch on at Marine Hall and festivities at Fleetwood Market. Santa's first residency up at The Mount Pavilion was particularly successful with all

appointments sold out across the three weekends and fabulous feedback from families who attended. Almost 2,000 customers attended the 2021 Panto at Marine Hall.

- 6.2** The Mayor's Ball returned to Marine Hall on 1 December and made full use of the theatre's facilities to showcase local talented performers and the night was a great success. Funds were also raised for the Mayor's Charity.
- 6.3** Several comedy shows are booked into our Theatres in February, including Dave Spikey at Marine Hall on Friday 25 February and Su Pollard at Thornton Little Theatre on Saturday 26 February. We are also looking forward to welcoming back The Fleetwood Beer and Cider Festival from 10-12 February. This will be the 39th Festival organised by CAMRA at Marine Hall. For the first time ever, tickets have been sold in advance and through the theatre's Box Office rather than being sold on the door, on the day.

7. Comments and questions

- 7.1** 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.