

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	7 July 2022

Executive Report: Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** To inform council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio as set out below.

2. Housing

- 2.1 Homes for Ukraine** – We are continuing to support the Homes for Ukraine Scheme with the Housing Team having now inspected 33 local homes where sponsors have come forward to support Ukrainian guests. The standard of homes inspected and the support provided by Wyre sponsors has been very good. In all 44 Ukrainian guests are being supported so far in the Borough, with more guests on their way. We are supporting a number of local support groups including the Rossall School Ukraine Support Hub and the Garstang Ukrainian Support Group.
- 2.2 Changing Futures** – Our partnership work with the Fylde Coast Changing Futures project continues. This multi-agency partnership works to support those with multiple disadvantages and a lived experience is working to support clients with three or more of the following disadvantages: homelessness, substance misuse, mental health issues, domestic abuse and contact with the criminal justice system.
- 2.3** The team is now working from a base at the old Fleetwood Hospital site. Housing and Community Safety teams are linking in with the project and have recently met with the Changing Futures team to see how they can help ensure health, police, substance misuse and criminal justice colleagues make referrals into the project whenever appropriate.
- 2.4 Regenda Homes** – I recently chaired our Partnership meeting with Regenda Homes and we received a comprehensive and very positive update on the tremendous housing and regeneration work Regenda have completed and have planned.

- 2.5** Regenda are our largest social housing provider and they are investing over £50m into Fleetwood as part of their 10 Year Regeneration plan. This includes new homes, energy efficiency improvements, environmental improvements, raising aspirations in schools and employment skills and training to support residents into work.
- 2.6** The Lighthouse View Extra Care development is now providing 72 apartments for rent to support people to live independently and Marine View Apartments on the Esplanade, Fleetwood provides 16 new homes for social rent which were prioritised for local people. Their latest development is adjacent to West View and will provide 102 homes with a mix of properties for affordable rent, shared ownership and rent to buy (a Government scheme that helps people to save a deposit to buy the home following a period of rental).
- 2.7** With the support of Wyre Council officers, Regenda have secured £1.4m from the Government's National Decarbonisation programme to carry out further home improvements this year to improve efficiency ratings and reduce fuel poverty through external wall insulation, new roofing, windows and doors. To date, they have upgraded around 400 homes.
- 2.8** To support the Regeneration of the old Fleetwood Hospital, Regenda have now moved into new premises at the site to work alongside other community support services. The facility also includes a training centre for their training company, The Learning Foundry. This will provide training, apprenticeships and adult learning courses. Their vacated offices on Lord Street will be developed into three additional apartments for social rent.
- 2.9** Regenda Homes' careers company, Positive Footprints are now delivering their children's Raising Aspirations programme in 19 primary schools across Fleetwood and other areas of Wyre. They ultimately aim to offer the service to every primary school across Wyre, subject to funding. If members wish to find out more about Regenda Homes services or visit any of the developments above, please contact their Wyre Director - steve.newsham@regenda.org.uk

3. Flooding

- 3.1** Wyre is preparing to meet the challenges of sea level rise by leading the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) refresh in the North West. The refresh includes addressing the impacts of climate change on long term policy for the coast as well as improving the link between the technical advice and policy within the SMP and planning.
- 3.2** I have also previously advised members of the Ecological Community Owned Coastal Buffer Strips Innovative Resilience bid for the northwest coast, including working across 14 different coastal communities to increase resilience and understanding of coastal processes and change. The scheme also promotes the processes allowing coastal adaptation and multiple benefits including carbon capture and bio-diversity benefits. The Outline Business case is currently being considered by the Environment Agency.

- 3.3** We are also working with the Wyre Rivers Trust to promote an innovative funding scheme through the Wyre Natural Flood Management scheme. The scheme was launched on 31 May. The scheme is the first of its kind, a £1.5m nature restoration project to reduce flood risk.
- 3.4** Interventions in the Wyre catchment will include wetland creation and temporarily storing water by putting in place leaky barriers, sloped embankments and hedgerows alongside peatland restoration and river restoration. Other measures include slowing overland water flow through changes in grassland management and tree planting to allow water to seep into the ground. Emma Howard Boyd, Environment Agency chair, praised the scheme as the future of flood risk management funding and working with nature.
- 3.5** Along with Councillor Ibison and Hon Alderman Roger Brooks I saw some of these on a recent trip to Abbeystead organised by the River Wyre Trust and the Grosvenor Estates. Of particular interest was the valuable work being carried out by them to restore and maintain peat and boggy moorland on top of the fells in the area where the Tarnbrook section of the River Wyre rises. Although this area is outside of Wyre's boundary it is vital to holding rainwater and slowing the flow downstream and protecting our communities from flooding.
- 3.6** Wyre's Flood Action Groups continue to raise the bar at a National level. The Churchtown FLAG was awarded the Community Partnership Award at the Flood and Coast Excellence Awards at Telford last month.

4. Community Safety

4.1 Community Alcohol Partnership

In 2021 a strategic assessment of crime was undertaken which highlighted that Alcohol related hospital stays in Wyre are increasing and are significantly worse than the England average but similar to the regional average. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) features as one of the primary concerns for the people of Wyre in the Lancashire Talking Survey.

- 4.2** The wards with the highest volume of ASB reported were Pharos, Mount, Jubilee and Rossall. 22% of all ASB in Wyre is youth related, which involves groups congregating, being rowdy and abusive, and causing other issues including criminal damage.

- 4.3** The strategic needs assessment for Wyre indicates that there is a higher rate of admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions in under 18's than Lancashire average. Pharos Ward is the most deprived area in Wyre, scoring within the most deprived in England (2019).

- 4.4** In response over the last six months Wyre Council's Community Safety team have started to work with Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAP) which is a Community Interest Company (CiC) which brings together and supports local partnerships of councils, police, retailers, schools, health providers and community groups across the UK to reduce alcohol

harm among young people, improve their health and wellbeing and enhance their communities.

4.5 In June 2022 we launched our own Community Alcohol Partnership focusing on Fleetwood, initially with partner agencies with a view to engaging with the community to try and reduce the impact of alcohol induced crime. I will be reporting on the activities of the Alcohol Community Partnership in future reports.

4.6 Lancashire Victim services (LVS) update

The Police and Crime Commissioner office with partners including Wyre Council, commission Lancashire Victim services to provide support to victims of domestic abuse across Lancashire. The following figures provide a breakdown of the support provided over the last financial year. Unfortunately, domestic abuse is a very complicated and emotional crime where the victim may have feelings for the perpetrator. As a consequence, not all victims have reached the stage, where they want the support from the team, hence the difference in number of victims eligible for support and the number accepting support.

LVS Domestic Abuse Figures April 2021 – March 2022	Wyre	Lancashire
No. of DA referrals into LVS	1,114	13,119
No. of referrals suitable for support	885	9,948
No. of rejected cases (cases are rejected for a variety of reasons e.g. no consent, victim already receiving support, not sufficient contact information)	229	3,171
Risk breakdown of referrals	High – 152 Medium – 545 Standard - 188	High – 2,071 Medium – 5,734 Standard – 2,143
No. of victims successfully contacted by LVS	603	7,002
No. of victims accepted support	337	3,677
No. of victims receiving long term support	200	2,053
No. of victims received a brief intervention (safety planning, information and advice.) (Client didn't require / or accept longer term support.)	137	1,624

5. Comments and questions

5.1 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.