

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	15 September 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. Community Safety

- 2.1 Fleetwood - Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP)** - As alcohol appears to be a contributory factor in a significant proportion of crime, Wyre Council has launched a Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) in Fleetwood. Initially the partnership will highlight the risks of underage drinking in order to improve the health and well-being of local young people.
- 2.2** The aim being to improve young people's attitude to alcohol, in recognition that they may become the alcohol consumers of the future, and if they have a better attitude towards alcohol consumption, long term it could have an impact on violent crime. During the launch week, officers from Wyre Council and the Police were out in the community, collecting residents' views on young people's drinking and anti-social behaviour and urged the public to voice their concerns by completing a survey. This will be used to inform the partnership going forward. Working with local retailers, the CAP aims to help them avoid making underage sales and reduce proxy sales where adults buy alcohol for under-18s. If successful it is hoped the scheme can be developed in other areas of the Borough.
- 2.3 Domestic Homicide** - In 2020 the Council received a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) referral from the police. The partnership appointed an independent chair to undertake the review and a report was produced detailing the involvement of agencies in the case and identified recommendations for improvement. This was submitted to the home office to consider in late 2021. The Home Office then carried out quality assurance checks and have approved the report. The community safety partnership will endeavour to utilise its influence to implement the recommendations within the report. Unfortunately I am extremely sad to

report that the partnership has received a further Domestic homicide referral from the police in July 2022, which was considered and accepted by the Community Safety Partnership on the 18 August 2022. The DHR process will be followed.

2.4 Mediation Service - Unfortunately we are experiencing an increase in neighbour disputes and heightened tension between some members of the community. This is impacting on the work of both ourselves and the police who are witnessing increasingly emotional behaviours in both the complainant and the subject. In response together with Lancaster City Council and Fylde Council we have undertaken a procurement exercise to obtain the services of an independent mediation company to try and target the worst cases in an attempt to de-escalate the situation and bring disputes to a more rational conclusion. It is hoped that this will also have a positive impact on the health and well-being of the individuals involved.

3. Housing

3.1 Homes for Ukraine - In partnership with Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Fylde Council we have recently launched a Fylde Coast Homes for Ukraine Grant Scheme to enable local groups and organisations supporting Homes for Ukraine guests to bid for funding to support integration activity. Grants are available for up to £10,000 and bids need to be submitted by 30 September. Further details are available at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/grants/ukraine-community-grant-scheme/?page=1>

3.2 Rough Sleeper Initiative - We have been successful in bidding for additional funding from the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities as part of the ongoing Rough Sleeper Initiative. The Rough Sleeper Initiative helps to provide a rapid response to reports of rough sleepers and provides funding to support interventions that work to break the cycle of rough sleeping. We have been awarded £75,860 for each of the next three years up to 2024/25. This funding will provide a full time officer to engage with rough sleepers and will fund interventions such as rent in advance, rent bonds and tenancy training, as well as ensuring temporary accommodation is available for when rough sleepers need to be accommodated immediately.

3.3 Ex-Offender Housing Support - We have submitted a bid to Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities to extend a successful initiative we implemented to provide housing support for ex-offenders. In 2020/21 we were part of a successful joint bid with Fylde Council to support ex-offenders into their own private rented sector tenancies. Over £80,000 was awarded and we were able to support 25 clients into settled accommodation with all the necessary support. We have applied for a further £30,000 and if successful aim to support a further 14 clients into settled accommodation.

4. Wyre Beach Management Scheme

- 4.1** I am pleased to advise members that work on the £42m Wyre Beach Management scheme commences this month. The scheme will better protect 11,000 properties by working with natural processes to stabilise beaches. The initial works will be preparatory work for the phase 1 beach revetment works and involve setting up a site compound at Jubilee Gardens and constructing a road crossing and access widening to allow large construction plant to move rock from the compound to the beach. The council and contractor Balfour Beatty who have worked together on the Rossall and Cleveleys schemes will minimise disruption as much as possible. Public liaison and communication is critically important to keep residents and visitors aware of what is planned and to enable a quick resolution to any issues that may arise.

5. Flooding

- 5.1** Following comments at the previous full council, I have the following update to provide for members: On the morning of Monday 27 June large parts of Cleveleys were hit by a brief period of intensive rainfall. For approximately two hours from 4.30am to 6.30am over 60mm of rain fell. It had not been forecast nor had warnings been issued by the Met office. The flooding was restricted largely to Cleveleys with the rest of the Borough unaffected.
- 5.2** Drainage systems were inundated by the sheer intensity and volume of water over a comparative short period of time with the result that many roads were flooded and bow waves from traffic caused standing water to threaten homes. By noon most of the flooding had dissipated with only an area around Queens Walk and Carr Gate flooded until late afternoon. The flooding appears to have been largely restricted to the road network with very few reports of minor internal flooding to residential properties.
- 5.3** Inspection of the drainage systems after the event found them generally in good order with the lack of maintenance not the reason for the flooding and operational logs have confirmed that the UU pumping station at Anchorholme operated as designed throughout the event.
- 5.4** Two meetings have already been held with Risk Management Authorities, Councillors, Flag members and members of the public at which the local drainage system involving five separate networks were plotted in detail on maps and various sites were visited.
- 5.5** It was agreed that a full report of the flooding event would be prepared and this has just been completed. Key actions highlighted in the Report include further work in various areas along the drainage system and expanding membership of Cleveleys Flood Action Group

6. Comments and questions

- 6.1** 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.