

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	27 October 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

Domestic Violence

- 2.1** Domestic violence continues to be an area of concern and Wyre will be supporting campaigns to raise awareness of this issue in the run up to Christmas utilising both the No Excuse for Abuse campaign material and promoting White Ribbon day which is about making domestic abuse culturally unacceptable amongst men. Opportunities to utilise Household Support funding to help domestic violence charities who are struggling with the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis are being explored.

Organised Crime

- 2.2** Organised crime takes many forms and includes drug trafficking, human trafficking, illegal immigration, fraud and financial crime, counterfeiting and illegal supply, organised acquisitive crime, cybercrime and child sexual and criminal exploitation.
- 2.3** The Geographic Inspector for Wyre in the last six months has re-invigorated operation Genga, which aims to disrupt this activity and is leading a partnership of local agencies to target all forms of organised crime within the Borough.

Police and Crime Panel Meeting on 14 September

- 2.4** The Chief Constable, Chris Rowley, spoke to Members and stressed the importance of neighbourhood policing teams in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. To assist the recruitment of additional officers, and exemption has been obtained to train new officers without their having to go on a degree course. He stressed the successes in the fight

against organised crime with increased arrests and the seizure of property. A recent operation had been launched targeting prolific burglary and robbery perpetrators.

- 2.5** In tackling anti-social behaviour and dangerous driving on the roads reference was made to the online portal Operation Snap where members of the public can upload digital footage of suspected traffic offences they have witnessed. This has resulted in the police taking action in 58% of the cases submitted. Other means of reporting include via 101, reporting online via <https://doitonline.lancashire.police.uk/> or via Crimestoppers.
- 2.6** Recent inspections of HGVs and commercial vehicles have indicated that a significant number were not fit to use the road network owing to defects, being overweight or carrying insecure loads. During a two weeks period a total of 1,232 offences were detected or prosecuted across the country.

3. Housing

Changing Futures Conference

- 3.1** On 27 September I attended the Lancashire Changing Futures Conference. Changing Futures is the innovative multi-agency partnership which supports those with multiple disadvantages. It involves lived experience teams working with local housing teams and other partners 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.
- 3.2** At the conference delegates heard uplifting stories of how lives are being changed for the better by the targeted and trauma informed support that is being provided by the many committed and enthusiastic people involved.

Homes for Ukraine Community Grant Scheme

- 3.3** The first panel to assess applications to the Fylde Coast Homes for Ukraine Community Grant Scheme met on 4 October 2022 to assess grant submissions from local community organisations supporting the integration of resettled Ukrainian guests onto the Fylde Coast.
- 3.4** For Wyre the Ukrainian Community Hub at Rossall School was awarded £10,000 for their incredible hub that offers a broad range of support for both guests and their sponsors. St Mary and St Michaels School in Garstang was also successful in their bid and was awarded £1,980, to support the seven Ukrainian children at the school with additional English language skills and opportunities to be provided by both local and Ukrainian parent volunteers.

Lancashire County Council Affordable Warmth Fund 2022/23

- 3.5** Following a successful bid we have been awarded £87,901 from the County Council's Affordable Warmth Fund for high impact affordable

warmth interventions to individuals who are the most vulnerable to harm from cold or damp homes for winter 2022/23.

- 3.6** We will be using the funding to administer a Hardship and Emergency Fund that will deliver interventions for households where a health and affordability vulnerability (as per the funding requirements) has been identified. The interventions will enhance resilience to the cold and provide a range of comprehensive emergency responses. These might include servicing and repairs to fires and boilers and the provision of emergency heating and dehumidifiers.
- 3.7** The Handy Person Service will also be able to offer a range of interventions including radiator bleeding, Carbon Monoxide detectors and the salting/gritting of paths.
- 3.8** Care and Repair will be the first point of contact for access to the Affordable Warmth Scheme and will carry out an assessment to confirm eligibility and determine appropriate measures, referrals and support from the scheme.
- 3.9** A proportion of the funding will also be used to support Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) work in the Borough.

4. Wyre Beach Management Scheme

- 4.1** Works to prepare the main compound and ancillary preparation works including widening of the access ramp commenced on 5 Sep 2022. The works are going well and consultation meetings with local businesses have been undertaken. A community liaison resource has been appointed, who will lead on community consultation and engagement.
- 4.2** The coastal defence works are scheduled to commence in March 2023 following receipt of phase 2 planning and a Marine Management Organisation (MMO) licence. The MMO are currently consulting on the full coastal scheme (Phase 1 revetment fronting promenade north, Cleveleys and phase 2 rock groynes and revetment works between the borough boundary at Cleveleys and the Marine Lakes Fleetwood) planning is progressing for the phase 2 works.

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.