



**TACKLING YOUTH ANTI-
SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
TASK GROUP
Final Report**

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Introduction

Tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the community and protecting vulnerable persons from harm from others is a key priority for Wyre Council and the wider Community Safety Partnership. In addition, cutting youth crime and making the streets safer is a key priority of the current UK Government (*June 2022*).

For many years, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has identified ASB as a topic for future review. The Community Safety Annual Report for 2020 explained that since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, reports of ASB have significantly increased in Wyre; however, towards the end of 2021 ASB incidents in Wyre seem to be returning to pre-pandemic levels.

People's understanding of what constitutes ASB is determined by a series of factors including context, location, community tolerance and quality of life expectations (Nixon et al. 2003). As a result, what may be considered ASB to one person can be seen as acceptable behaviour to another. The subjective nature of the concept makes it difficult to identify a single definition of ASB. A range of approaches to defining ASB is set out below to overcome this issue.

A widely used definition of ASB is the definition contained in the Crime and Disorder Act (1998):

'ACTING IN A MANNER THAT CAUSED OR WAS LIKELY TO CAUSE HARASSMENT, ALARM OR DISTRESS TO ONE OR MORE PERSONS NOT OF THE SAME HOUSEHOLD AS (THE DEFENDANT).'

There are three types of ASB:

- ❖ Adult ASB
- ❖ Location based ASB
- ❖ Youth based ASB

The committee found that a potential risk of reviewing ASB was that the remit may become too broad and the size of the project would limit the quality of the work. For their review to have an impact, members realised that it needed to be focused and meaningful. For that reason, following assistance from officers, they decided to commission a task group to focus on youth ASB only.

This review aims to add specific value as it identified areas of strategic focus to assist the council to achieve its corporate objective (as set out in the Business Plan). The conclusion and recommendations identified in this report intends to better the health, wellbeing and life opportunities of residents. Additionally, specifically targeting youth ASB aims to support the council in its ambition to raise the aspirations of young people.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced a statutory duty to ensure local authorities consider crime and disorder in all aspects of service delivery.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act (2014) requires Wyre Council to be committed to tackling ASB and, along with professionals such as the Police, other Local Authorities, and Housing Providers, to use this Act to manage reports of such

behaviour. The Home Office maintains that the reforms through this Act, which have amended and revoked numerous ASB legislation, are "designed to put victims at the heart of the response to ASB, and give professionals the flexibility they need to deal with any given situation".

The purpose of the review was to protect residents and to strive for lower levels of youth ASB in the community, it is therefore essential that the council consider the use of all available tools and powers.

This report provides a summary of evidence the group gathered and this evidence has been analysed to formulate several conclusions and recommendations.

Aim of review/ Terms of Reference

1. To understand the causes and scale of youth ASB in Wyre and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the increase of incidents.
2. To explore the impact of ASB on:
 - ❖ The community
 - ❖ Council owned assets
 - ❖ The Police
 - ❖ Businesses, and
 - ❖ Community groups.
3. To review the council's current ASB policies and procedures.
4. To assess the effectiveness of the mechanisms for how the authority responds to and deals with ASB, including the community trigger.
5. To examine the effectiveness of multi-agency partnership working such as the Community Safety Partnership, in so far as it affects youth ASB.
6. To make succinct recommendations to Cabinet on what more the council can do to help reduce youth ASB in Wyre.

The review process

The review process involved task group members identifying and calling for evidence as appropriate. For the first meeting, the task group interviewed Neil Greenwood, the Head of Environment Health and Community Safety, and Councillor Roger Berry, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety. They additionally attended the group's final meeting to comment on the emerging draft recommendations.

As part of their gathering of evidence, the task group subsequently interviewed Corrine Mason, Manager of Environmental Protection & Community Safety, and Shelley Birch, Health Partnerships & Early Action Officer. They also interviewed Police Inspector Martin Wyatt, Lancashire Constabulary, Fraser Smith and Samantha Preddy, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services (LFRS). The group additionally interviewed Brian Wood, Team Leader Targeted Youth Support, Matthew Pilling, Senior Manager Early Help (LCC) and Nicola Pattrick, Lead Youth Worker at Preesall Youthy. These interviews involved a series of pre-prepared questions and allowed time for follow up questions and the end. The use of a semi-structured interview meant that the responses were firstly centralised on achieving understanding and insight into the expert witnesses' perceptions and values. It also allowed for in-depth answers that were analysed.

The Chair and Vice Chair of the group were invited to an outreach session with the police to walk through the main crime hot spot areas in Poulton-le-Fylde, and they provided feedback to the rest of the members. This highlighted to members the localised work of the police and its partners and the positive relationship they have with the young people of Wyre. The Chair encouraged the rest of the group to meet with their local PC and join them on an outreach session in their area when available.

Members received evidence from Siobhan Collingwood, Education Lead Lancashire Violence Reduction Network and Education Based Multi-Agency Meeting (MASP) Lead, surrounding the MASP project in Fleetwood.

Members also requested a research paper on the use of Mosquito Devices to deter loitering by emitting sound at high frequency and in some versions, is intentionally turned up to be heard by primarily young people. Some members stated the benefits of these devices to deterring youth ASB, however, following discussions they agreed that the use of the mosquito devices would not be recommended by the task group and they did not investigate further.

The group additionally produced a survey regarding youth ASB in the community for Parish/Town Councils and Wyre Borough Councillors. The Democratic Services Officer distributed the online version of the survey.

The Chair, Councillor Andrea Kay, would like to thank all expert witnesses for making the review possible by giving up their valuable time to be interviewed and submit reports. Thanks are also due to the task group members for their time and dedication to completing the work.

Summary of evidence provided by the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety, Councillor Berry, and the Head of Environmental Health and Community Safety, Neil Greenwood.

The Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety, Councillor Berry, and the Head of Environmental Health and Community Safety, Neil Greenwood attended the first meeting to make some introductory comments about the context within which the review will take place.

Councillor Berry introduced a briefing paper on youth related anti-social behaviour (ASB), which can be viewed under supporting documents at page 29.

Youth ASB amounts to 25 per cent of the overall ASB numbers in Wyre and the wards that are most prevalent are Pharos, Mount, Jubilee and Park. Other areas of interest are Bourne, Thornton centre, Preesall and Garstang. Additionally, there was some evidence of some young people using their mobile phones to carry out ASB from outside their areas such as people from Anchorsholme travelling into Cleveleys and people from Grange Park travelling into Poulton-le-Fylde.

Councillor Berry explained that the recent Covid-19 pandemic had affected staffing levels as the Community Safety Team were heavily involved in the rollout of the vaccination service. As the borough emerges out of the pandemic, he believes the situation has improved, owing to the increase in policing numbers; collaborative working with Lancashire County Council associated agencies and increased funding opportunities from the government and the new Police and Crime Commissioner.

Councillor Berry welcomed this task group on youth ASB to see how the council can improve and take advantage of the new resources available.

The report highlights that the public is encouraged to report ASB providing as much intelligence as they can, to both, the police and the council. This enables Wyre Council and partners to identify locations where ASB is a particular concern. Targeted work is then completed through the location based ASB meeting. Youth ASB is often associated with these problem locations.

Once a young person is identified as either actively engaging in ASB within the community or at risk of engaging in ASB, they can be referred to the Community Safety Partnership and the Youth Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Panel. The meetings enable agencies to share information and evidence around individual cases and use collective powers and positive interventions to agree to a plan of action to address the behaviour of concern and ensure that those affected receive the necessary support and reassurance to minimise the impact of the behaviour on their physical and mental health.

The Community Safety Partnership encourages a graduated approach to enforcement and much emphasis is placed on working with partners on early advice education to perpetrators and on bringing any unreasonable behaviour to their attention or their parents/guardians attention at an early stage in the process in the hope of bringing about an early resolution.

The following partners make up the Youth ASB Panel:

- ❖ Neighbourhood Police

- ❖ Community Safety (Police)
- ❖ Children and Family Wellbeing
- ❖ Our Lancashire
- ❖ Lancs Fire and Rescue
- ❖ LCC – Teams Around The Schools
- ❖ Prevent (North)
- ❖ We Are With You
- ❖ Child Justice Service
- ❖ Fleetwood Town FC (Youth Divert)

Neil Greenwood provided the group with a couple to highlight some of the successful work of the Youth ASB Panel. Neil Greenwood informed the task group of the following:

BT aged 12 from Fleetwood

“BT came to our attention in October 2021 due to increasing ASB incidents in the community. The family are open to Children and Family Wellbeing and regular TAF (Team around the family) meetings are held. BT is 12 but has a learning age of 6 but presents as much older due to his size. He was served an ABA (Acceptable Behaviour Agreement) (with curfew) by Wyre Council and Police and an ASDA banning letter as this is where a lot of the ASB was being committed. Wyre Council and Targeted Youth Support started a pilot boxing project and BT was identified as a candidate. BT has attended every session on time and has fully engaged in the process. We have seen a reduction in incidents of ASB and also a change in his behaviour. His school attendance is very good and works between the school, police and council to ensure messages about behaviour are consistent. Work will continue for the next 4 weeks then a TAF review will take place. He remains on our Youth ASB agenda.”

JC aged 14 from Fleetwood

“JC came to our attention in May 2021 due to significant damage to one of the polytunnels at the memorial park (he wasn't the only one present but the only one who was identifiable) He was open to the Youth Offending team at the time and contact made to arrange reparation/mediation with the volunteers. Volunteers had written letters to express how upset they were by the damage. These were presented to JC and conversations took place over what the volunteers do in the garden and how this mindless vandalism had affected them all. JC didn't realise how his behaviour had impacted others. He agreed to meet up with some of the volunteers to apologise for his behaviour. JC has not come back to our attention following this.”

Councillor Berry suggested that the group could look into the availability of parenting programmes for parents who are struggling to cope with social issues and look at schools across the borough and how they deal with ASB in the community and non-attendance issues. He highlighted that Wyre had the third-highest number for fixed time school exclusions in Lancashire.

Councillor Berry also brought the group's attention to the former 'Northern Beat Project' where high schools across Lancashire put on productions to address key

social issues such as youth ASB and suggested that it may be of interest for the group to review the successes of such a project.

Following this meeting, the task group raised interest in the Northern Beat Project. Neil Greenwood provided the group with some key points regarding a proposed revival of the project for consideration.

1. *Each drama department from each high school in Wyre would need to be contacted initially and then agree to participate in the project. (No easy task as we as a District have no Authority over schools.)*
2. *It would need to fit into the education programme of the students.*
3. *Therefore choosing a suitable topic that fits both our purposes and the schools would have to be identified. County Lines could be a good topic for students to learn about and then produce a play about would be a good topic.*
4. *Students would have to write a play about the subject area, rehearse and perform their play.*
5. *We would need a suitable venue for the event to take place, which has the capacity to put on an event of this nature.*
6. *The event would need to be organised in terms of refreshments, security, lighting etc. (likely to be a cost for staffing and venue hire that would need to be identified)*
7. *A suitable compere would need to be paid for to introduce each of the acts, there may be a cost to this.*
8. *Finally, we would need a suitable judging panel in order to deliver this.*
9. *It however needs to be recognised that doing something on this scale takes a lot of time and effort and money, neither of which is a foregone conclusion.*

Neil Greenwood also attended the fifth meeting of the task group and submitted a briefing note updating the group on the Community Safety Grant applications to the Police and Crime Commissioner since 2015. The note included the date, the grant application/ match funding, a description of the grant and the impact it had on youth ASB.

The summary of grant applications discussed by members is attached at Appendix B.

Neil also highlighted that at present the police have an interest in applying for a grant to purchase doorbells with inbuilt CCTV, which could be fitted to victims of domestic abuse to help them feel safer. Blackpool Council had piloted the scheme and provided victims of Domestic Abuse with free Ring Doorbells with a built-in referral mechanism. Members suggested that a version of this should be something for Wyre Council to consider and potentially extend the use for residents known to have persistent youth ASB against them. The doorbell proposal is attached at Appendix C.

He also added that the Wyre CCTV town centre system needed upgrading from analogue to digital and the community safety team are undertaking a review to determine future options and associated costs.

Summary of evidence provided by the Manager of Environmental Protection and Community Safety, Corinne Mason, and the Health Partnerships and Early Action Officer, Shelley Birch.

The Manager of Environmental Protection and Community Safety, Corinne Mason, and the Health Partnerships and Early Action Officer, Shelley Birch, attended the second meeting to answer several questions from members.

Before the questioning began, the Chairman, Councillor Andrea Kay, queried the age range of youth anti-social behaviour (ASB). It was confirmed that the age was up to 18 years (school age).

Q1 Please could you explain an overview of your respective roles?

Corrine Mason and Shelley Birch provided the group with an overall picture of their roles concerning youth ASB and other commitments. Their roles are wide-ranging and varied.

Q2 How much of your role is consumed with youth ASB related issues?

Around 50 per cent of Shelley's role is consumed with youth ASB. Corrine added that she aims to spend around two/three days a month on youth ASB; however, owing to the pandemic she recently spends much more time on youth ASB. Once structures and processes were put in place she hoped to reduce her time on youth ASB.

Q3 What are the main reasons causing young people to be involved in ASB in the community?

Reasons why include alcohol and drug misuse, boredom, parenting issues, peer pressure, a shortage of facilities and a lack of understanding. The majority of children in Wyre do not intend to engage in ASB. Early intervention is key to a young person's success. There are many activities for children in Wyre; however, the difficulty was not all young people engage in these activities.

Corrine highlighted that the 16 to 17 age group do not see themselves as 'young'; therefore do not understand what they are doing is wrong. Many young people want somewhere safe and warm to meet their friends.

Engagement with young people involved in ASB is more important than enforcement, as there could be many underlining factors affecting the child such as home life or mental health. The benefits of youth clubs were explained but it is found that many young people are territorial to their areas and are not willing to travel outside their area and mix with others. Therefore, this provides difficulties with the positioning of facilities such as youth clubs.

Q4 What has the council done in the past that has been very successful to address youth ASB in the community? Do you have any case studies of best practice?

Diversional activities include:

- ❖ The Parkour Project at Marine Hall Gardens, Fleetwood
- ❖ The Boxing Project in Fleetwood
- ❖ Community Safety Partnership Northern Beat Project with high schools across Lancashire

Shelley explained that long term funding and resourcing for these projects do pose a challenge.

Corrine introduced the robust process of referral to the Youth ASB Panel. Once a child had been identified, the panel then aimed to create a bespoke package of diversional activities following their individual needs.

Q5 What activities are currently available, such as the recent piloted boxing programme, for young people who are involved in ASB in Wyre?

Corrine updated members that they were in the process of asking each partner of the Youth ASB Panel to provide, in writing, what they can offer to diversional activities, support and education over the next 12 months. A service directory would then be produced to help map what activities the panel can offer and identify the gaps.

She also informed members that activities open to all members of the public are advertised on the Our Lancashire website.

Q6 How much of a voice do the young people of Wyre have to determine what activities are available?

Shelley explained the work of the Active Lives and Community Engagement Team in delivering sports activities for Wyre Council, this included consultation with young people. She then highlighted the role of the Wyre Youth Mayor and suggested that more could be done to allow young people a voice in the democratic process at the council such as attendance at meetings.

Q7 What work are you currently doing to assist schools to combat, or prevent, ASB in the community?

Shelley affirmed that it is not the role of the schools to tackle ASB that is the role of the police and council. She then explained the process of the Youth Referral Scheme (YRS). The first trigger is a letter sent home to parents, which explained that their child had been involved in ASB. If the child is issued with a second YRS this would result in a home visit from Shelley and the Police, and further investigation into the home and school life.

In addition, Corrine explained that through the Multi-Agency Support Panel (MASP) schools sit on the panel and can refer to the process, therefore, she hoped that this would assist to improve the communication channels with schools.

Q8 What funding is available for community initiatives and projects to help address youth ASB?

The council had recently been successful in a bid for £10,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioner for directed interventions. They were still in the process of setting the spending criteria.

Q9 What is the Multi-Agency Support Panel (MASP) and what work does it involve?

The MASP, driven by the Violence Reduction Network, is a support panel of various partners including schools. It is different to the work of the Youth ASB Panel as it covered children at risk of criminal exploitation. Wyre Council had agreed to assist with the administration of the panel meetings.

Q10 What is the average annual financial cost to the council in replacing and fixing property damaged because of ASB?

Shelley provided the group with some figures that covered the cost of damage including graffiti removal of council assets but stated that it is difficult to break down whether the damage was youth-related.

- ❖ The financial year 2018/19: £18,947.46
- ❖ The financial year 2019/20: £4,375.42 (Covid year)
- ❖ The financial year 2020/21: £6,677.86 (Covid year)
- ❖ The financial year 2021/22: £24,227.05

Q11 How can we expand on our current offer to divert vulnerable young people away from ASB?

The Youth ASB Panel aims to be reactive to the need.

Q12 Would it be possible to have a breakdown of the average ages of young people involved in ASB in Wyre? If a trend is found in relation to age, could efforts be concentrated on those younger children before they are most likely to be causing ASB in the community?

The ages of children involved in ASB ranged and there are particular peaks and trends dependent on the time of year. Corrine reiterated that the common theme is that most young people want somewhere warm with WIFI and refreshments to be able to mix safely with their friends.

The hot spot areas for ASB across the borough are:

- ❖ Fleetwood: McDonalds, the Mount, Marine Hall and Memorial Gardens
- ❖ Thornton: the YMCA building and Marsh Mill
- ❖ Cleveleys: Jubilee Gardens, Cleveleys Town Centre and Cleveleys McDonalds
- ❖ Poulton-le-Fylde: Teanlowe and Booths Car Park, Jean Stansfield Park, Cottam Hall

❖ Preesall: the park and neighbouring properties

In conclusion, Shelley stressed to the group the importance of encouraging residents to report incidents of ASB either to the council by phone or via the website or direct to the Police.

Summary of evidence provided from the high schools in Wyre regarding questions asked about youth anti-social behaviour in the community.

The group produced ten questions for the eight high schools across Wyre regarding if and how they address youth ASB in the community. The questions were as follows:

1. If a pupil of yours were identified as being involved in ASB in the community would you want to be informed? Yes /No (if you answered yes go to question 3)
2. If you do not want to be informed could you explain your reasoning in your own words, please?
3. What would be the best way for you to discuss pupils identified as causing ASB in the future with external agencies?
4. Does your school have any current policies on addressing ASB in the community by pupils of your school and would you mind sharing them?
5. Do you have any case studies or best practice that has worked well to tackle ASB in the community and would you mind sharing them?
6. Do you enlist the support of the local youth services or other agencies to provide targeted assistance to those at risk of ASB?
7. If so, which services/agencies do you work with?
8. If you are aware of behaviours outside of school, do you generally see poor conduct in school?
9. What is your record for dealing with poor attendance and suspensions including fixed term periods and permanent exclusions?
10. Would you mind sharing any plans or projects in the pipeline to address ASB in the community?

Unfortunately, the response rate was relatively low. Out of the schools contacted, Millfield, St Adians and Fleetwood High responded. The group also invited each of the schools to attend a meeting of the task group, however, they did not respond to the invitation.

Summary of responses:

- ❖ All three high schools responded yes to question one. Millfield added they would only want to be informed if the pupil was in a school uniform and not if the incident was during the evening/weekends; schools cannot be responsible for the actions of young people 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, this is the responsibility of the police/families.
- ❖ Fleetwood High explained that an email to the patrol team/ Senior Leaders was the most appropriate way to discuss pupils identified as causing ASB with external agencies. St Aidan added that the Encompass System they use for the Police to notify them of incidents such as domestic violence could have the potential to be extended to ASB incidents. Millfield was unable to identify external agencies other than the police. They added that in the past, the

police have been into school with CCTV footage and we have helped them to identify the young people, so they can contact their parents/carers.

- ❖ Fleetwood High explained that the topic of ASB that occurs to and from school is covered in their school assemblies and that school sanctions could be put in place and would be applicable depending upon the issue. Millfield repeated that if the student was displaying ASB in a school uniform, they are dealt with by the school within means such as inviting the local PCSO into the school to talk with the student. St Aidans stated that their Personal Development Programmes and assemblies encourage their students to make wise choices. They echoed that they have a responsibility for the behaviour of their students in school or on the way to and from school. They do not deal directly with incidents of ASB at other times for example, in the evening - so they have no policies to cover this, but were happy to work with other agencies in dealing with ASB.
- ❖ Fleetwood High stated that they assist local shareholders to identify pupils through CCTV and inform parents of their activities. Pastoral teams meet with offending pupils and at times involve the community police team. They added the work of a 6-week programme with Tosef Khan (Wizer CIC) specifically for pupils potentially involved in county lines. Millfield added that they sometimes have staff presence in areas known to them where pupils are causing ASB. St Aidans explained that the most effective measure to tackle ASB by pupils was an enthusiastic PCSO in the local area.
- ❖ Fleetwood High stated that a simple guide on who to contact if the school has a concern about a student includes:
 1. What services are available and what names (some change periodically).
 2. Name of the person coordinating and phone number/email.
 3. Sharing of names we have concerns and youth services information on FHS pupils.
- ❖ Fleetwood High's work with YOT, Youth Services and the Community Police Link.
- ❖ Both Fleetwood High and St Aidans implied that there was not always a correlation between behaviours inside the school and in the community.
- ❖ Regarding poor attendance, Fleetwood High explained there are daily calls for every absent pupil. The attendance team do daily home visits (30- 40 per day). 1:1 meetings with the pastoral team with agreed actions. Court proceedings when necessary. Fixed Term Exclusions - we have an internal exclusion centre to reduce external FTE. Permanent Exclusions - last resort after having been through all provisions we can offer.

A table with the full results can be viewed at document 2 of the supporting documents section (page 29).

Summary of evidence provided by Police Inspector Martin Wyatt, Lancashire Constabulary.

Police Inspector Martin Wyatt from Lancashire Constabulary attended the fourth meeting and was interviewed by the group.

Q1 How many police officers and PCSOs are employed to patrol Wyre?

The neighbour establishment consists of three Sergeants, six PCs and 15 PCSOs. The urban task force consists of one Sergeant and Five PCs and is shared with Fylde. Inspector Wyatt recently put a bid in for Wyre to have its own urban task force. The rural task force was made up of four PCs. Three Police Now student PCs were recently recruited.

The response establishment consists of two Police Sergeants, 16 PCs per team and five teams providing 24-hour coverage. The usual operating level for this establishment is 70 per cent.

Tactical unit teams are also requested based on demand and risk.

Q2 Are these police officers and PCSOs allocated to specific geographical areas for patrolling? If so, who and what areas?

The Neighbourhood Officers are assigned specific geographic areas for patrolling. A potential future proposal is to allocate officers to specific ward areas, particularly PCSOs.

The task force teams are flexible and deployed depending on the need.

Q3 Do we have officers on the beat patrolling in the day? Do they go out on the beat at night?

Wyre Police Officers patrol the streets during the day. He alluded to the public perception of fewer police officers 'on the beat' and suggested this was due to reduced numbers of officers nationally. Martin explained that he is encouraging his officers to use bikes more often and is placing officers on cycling proficiency courses.

Police engagement with local businesses and the public is very important.

Q4 What percentage of your budget is taken up on youth ASB incidents in Wyre?

He did not answer this question, as the operational budget is not broken down into demand areas. This could be quantifiable if they ran an ASB operation.

Q5 How can residents report incidents of youth ASB and other youth-related crimes and what is the importance of reporting?

Methods of reporting ASB incidents:

- ❖ 101
- ❖ Online reporting
- ❖ Crime Stoppers - 0800 555 111
- ❖ Speak with an officer

Reporting incidents is very important as it assists officers to have an accurate picture of the situation and can respond accordingly. Reporting influences patrol plans and resourcing through tactical tasking.

Martin acknowledged the known issues with the 101 service including difficulties with getting through to report a crime. The Chief Constable was working on resolving the issues.

Q6 What are the current process and timescales for responding to ASB incidents, in particular youth ASB incidents?

All crime incidents are responded to in the same way and are ranked in the following grades:

- ❖ Grade 1 – within 10 minutes
- ❖ Grade 2 – within 60 minutes
- ❖ Grade 3 – within 72 hours
- ❖ Grade 4 – resolved without deployment
- ❖ Grade 5 – police deployment (e.g. a warrant)

Q7 What methods do you currently use to tackle youth ASB? Are these methods working and what alternatives could you use?

Martin repeated the importance of scanning and analysing reported incidents also known as, Problem-Orientated Policing (POP) to tackle ASB. In addition, he explained the cooperative work with Wyre Council to address the holistic response to ASB, which included:

- ❖ Youth Divert
- ❖ Early intervention schemes
- ❖ Youth Panel
- ❖ MASP
- ❖ Frontline engagement
- ❖ Youth referral scheme (graduated response)

Ideally, he would like to see response police numbers increase to meet demand.

Q8 What are your thoughts on Mosquito Devices as a way to deter loitering young people from youth ASB hot spots? Do you support this method?

Martin explained that he is unaware of the effectiveness of the device.

Q9 The task group has been discussing a potential recommendation for the council to look into the feasibility of reviving the Northern Beat Project for the high schools of Wyre. This would involve the drama departments of each school, if agreed, to put on a production that addresses crime and community safety topics such as ASB. Hypothetically, would this be something that the police could contribute to and support?

The neighbourhood team and potentially the police cadets could support such a project in partnership with the council. The police could assist to identify key issue topics for the schools.

He added his support for the introduction of a PCSO dedicated to the schools across Wyre.

Q10 Can you identify any areas of improvement for Wyre Council to tackle youth ASB more effectively with the resources available to it?

Martin Wyatt addressed the need for a CCTV upgrade in Wyre, which he noted was on going; however, he added the suggestion for the update to include re-deployable CCTV (moveable cameras). Additionally, for the CCTV to be linked directly to the police control room/network. Martin informed the group that the drone can be requested which is normally used during the tasking process.

In response to a question regarding resources particularly the numbers of PCSOs, Martin Wyatt stressed the value of PCSOs and in an ideal world, it would be beneficial to increase the numbers, however current funding provided limits on this. He repeated the suggestion of PCSO dedicated to schools and the potential funding from the schools to facilitate it.

Martin suggested that the council should collaborate with authorities who were similar for comparison and best practice learning. Members welcomed this idea.

A question was asked about reassuring the public that they can report ASB incidents anonymously. Martin explained that the public can ask to remain anonymous when they ring the 101 services to report, however, the most reliable option would be to use crime stoppers. He added that the police use many media channels to communicate how residents can report, but there could be scope to do more.

The Chair asked a final question to Inspector Wyatt regarding what Wyre Councillors could do to assist the police tackle youth ASB. Martin suggested councillors continue to lobby for an increase in resources and support services.

Summary of evidence provided by Fraser Smith and Samantha Preddy, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service.

Fraser Smith and Samantha Preddy from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service attended the fourth meeting of the group to provide an update on the recording mechanism for fire incidents; in particular, ASB related fire incidents.

The task group were informed that even with the new data recording mechanism, it is difficult for the fire service to deal with youth ASB, as they usually did not know who was responsible. The group were presented with some information that included several graphs and a breakdown of fire incident data for the month of May 2022.

Fraser highlighted that during May 2022 Wyre experienced eight ASB-related fire incidents. Four in Fleetwood, two in Preesall and two in Bispham. These tended to consist of fires in outdoor structures, bonfires in gardens, grassland and crop fires. At the end of each month period, they review the data to discover trends; however, due to the low rate in Wyre, it was difficult to find correlations. Where a trend was found, resources were directed to key areas of interest.

Fraser then explained to members what the fire service could do to assist in tackling youth ASB. This included the following points:

- ❖ If the offender is known, they refer them to the community fire safety team or sometimes refer offenders to the Prince's Trust.
- ❖ They would report incidents to the 101 services.
- ❖ They attended ASB Panel meetings and worked closely with partners such as the police, council etc.
- ❖ They were building on the relationships with the police and PCSOs.
- ❖ They would review incident data and create heat maps for particular areas to direct resources.
- ❖ They could use the Special Operations Firefighters.

In response to several questions from some members, Fraser and Sammy added the following:

- ❖ Neither the firefighters nor the fire trucks had cameras fitted.
- ❖ An arson threat is taken very seriously and procedures were followed for such a threat.
- ❖ Bispham, Blackpool and South Shore are whole-time stations, Fleetwood and St Annes are whole-time and on-call stations and Preesall and Garstang are on-call stations only. There are some difficulties in the recruitment to on-call stations. Most whole-time stations are out in the community undergoing proactive work.
- ❖ There are four Area Listing Platforms within the service, with one at Blackpool.
- ❖ Service policy had been updated so that they do not attend automatic fire alarms during waking hours.
- ❖ Usually fake calls came through known offenders due to factors such as mental health; the service work with their partners to help the individual involved.

Summary of evidence from Brian Wood, Team Leader Targeted Youth Support, Matthew Pilling, Senior Manager Early Help (LCC) and Nicola Patrick, Lead Youth Worker at Preesall Youthy.

Brian Wood, Team Leader Targeted Youth Support and Matthew Pilling, Senior Manager Early Help (LCC) attended the sixth meeting to give a detailed outline of the Targeted Youth Support Offer and to answer questions from members.

The presentation included the following key points:

The targeted youth support team sits within the child and family wellbeing service. There is a team in each area.

- ❖ East – Burnley, Pendle, Rossendale and Hyndburn and Ribble valley
- ❖ South – West Lancs, Preston and Chorley South Ribble,
- ❖ North – Fylde and Wyre, Lancaster and Morecambe
- ❖ Participation – Countywide

The Targeted Youth Support Offer delivers wide ranging opportunities for young people aged 12- 19 years or up to 25 years for young adults with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities to engage with and experience the benefits of Youth Work. Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society. A developmental process starts when young people are ready to get involved, learn and make use of it. Youth work is based on the belief that young people should choose voluntarily to take part. It accepts how young people view the world and treats young people with respect. The relationship between a youth worker and a young person is central to this process.

The four cornerstones of youth work are Education, Empowerment, Equality and Participation.

The staff include:

- ❖ Team leaders – professionally qualified and have a degree in youth work with JNC. One for each area.
- ❖ Professional range youth workers – qualified youth workers who hold or are working toward a degree in youth with JNC
- ❖ Youth support workers – qualified youth workers who hold or are working toward a level 3 in youth work
- ❖ Assistant youth support workers – qualified youth workers who hold or are working towards a level 2 in youth work

In each district, there will be up to three professional range youth workers, up to two youth support workers and up to eight assistant youth support workers. The staff have different roles and responsibilities, which all contribute to delivering the full curriculum offer of youth work within Lancashire.

The professional range of youth workers and youth support workers are full time or four days and the assistant youth support workers normally work six or nine hours per week covering the core offer that runs in the evenings. The participation team consists of two professional range youth workers and a youth support worker that covers participation across the county.

Participation is a cornerstone of youth work; it is a way of working with young people that underpins the delivery model for Targeted Youth Support and our various approaches. Participation means working with young people to facilitate their own learning, feel confident in having a voice and influence decisions that affect them and their peers.

The Participation Team runs the wider Voice and Influence agenda for the Local Authority, they have their own curriculum and oversee these groups.

- ❖ LINX (Listen, Inform, Negotiate and Xpress) is Lancashire's Children In Care Council
- ❖ POWAR (Participate, Opportunity, Win, Achieve, Respect) is Lancashire's Special Educational Needs and Disability Forum for children and young people.
- ❖ Care Leavers Forum is Lancashire's forum for young people who have left care, 18 to 25
- ❖ Lancashire Youth Council, supporting Lancashire MYPs with the Regional and National agenda

The team support other projects such as Young Inspectors Programme, Social Work Interviews, Scrutiny Committee meetings etc

The targeted youth support offer includes

- ❖ Core offer of evening sessions including SEND group, issue based drop ins, youth council, youth centre, detached.
- ❖ Twilight offer – afternoon sessions covering a range of different programmes such as time to talk, emotional wellbeing, ASB, fearless, escape the trap and many more dependent on the need of the young people and community.
- ❖ School offer - professional range of youth workers can run up to one programme per term in schools in the area. These programmes depend on the identified needs of young people (evidence based).

One to one support - professional range youth workers can be allocated to complete one to one support for young people open to CFW with an allocated FIS worker and on a CAF.

Working in partnership with other organisations is very important. Working in partnership with other organisations supports the work TYS offer to young people and their communities, it informs our practice and also reduces duplication of work and gives more opportunities to young people.

Our professional range of youth workers and youth support workers attend various partnership meetings/forums and community meetings and work with other agencies such as – police, health, LGBTQ+, HAF, voluntary community and faith sectors, local sports groups, CJYS and borough councils.

In addition to the presentation, Brian and Matthew were interviewed by members.

Q1 Regarding support for young people, what is your existing working relationship like with Wyre Council?

There is a good working relationship with Wyre Council. Brian explained the difficulties in 2017 due to redundancies in the service but explained that since the introduction of targeted youth support in 2021 the relationship with the council

improved further. He highlighted the benefits of the Wyre Youth Mayor and the intentions to give the role a bigger purpose.

Brian highlighted the positive work of the boxing project organised by the Targeted Youth Support team alongside Wyre Council and other partners. This project is offered to young people identified by the youth ASB panel. As well as offering boxing, the project involves educational services on topics such as criminal exploitation. For an eight-week course, it costs around £600. Long term funding would be needed to keep the project running.

Q2 Is there a correlation between young people who use youth services (clubs, out of school activities etc.) and the levels of youth ASB in the community?

Matthew Pilling suggested that there could be a correlation, but it was dependent on the individual. As a lot of their work involves targeted youth support, many of the young people they work with day to day were more likely to be involved in issues such as ASB. He believed that without the provision of youth services there would be more youth ASB in the community.

Brian Wood touched on the current difficulties with engaging with young people in the area due to the reduction in youth workers over the years, there is work on going to improve the engagement and trust with young people.

Q3 Are your services affected by youth ASB such as vandalism etc.?

Before the introduction of targeted youth support, over the last few years, there was lost respect from some young people towards the service, which caused issues with abuse and vandalism.

Brian Wood also explained that the Covid-19 pandemic affected engagement as many internal services moved online; however, most of the detached youth work remained face to face during that time.

Q4 Do you think young people need better access to education on the harms and effects of ASB?

Brian Wood and Matthew Pilling stressed the importance of developing young people's thinking and education about the harms and effects of ASB.

Q5 Do you have an understanding of the Youth ASB Panel?

Brian Wood confirmed that he with one of his youth workers regularly attends and contributes to the panel meetings.

Q6 To your knowledge, have any young people who use your youth services been referred to the Youth ASB Panel?

Again, Brian confirmed that referrals take place.

Nicola Pattrick, the Lead Youth Worker at Preesall Youthy, also attended the sixth meeting and provided a verbal update to members on her work with the Preesall Youthy Youth Club.

Nicola explained to members her background; Lancashire County Council (LCC) employed her 15 years ago as a Youth Worker and she then took over the running of Preesall Youth Club under LCC Young People's Service. In 2017, she was made redundant from LCC. With the support of the Preesall Town Council granting funds to keep the centre open, she was able to take over the running of the centre alongside volunteers. She updated members that she had 13 volunteers who dedicate one to four nights a month to enable the centre to remain open.

She added, that due to the changing population of Over Wyre because of building development, they found that they had an influx of young people who had never lived in a small village community and they found it very difficult to adapt. She explained that the club did struggle with ASB when the centre is both open and closed such as spitting, rude gestures, foul language and vandalism. Nicola touched on her close working relationship with PCSO Kirsty and the access to CCTV in and outside the centre to help address the ASB.

Nicola explained that the club facilitated school years 5 to 7 for a session on Tuesdays and year 8 plus on Thursdays. She had found, however, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, they had very low numbers of older young people return to the session on Thursday and believed that this had caused an increase in ASB in Hambleton Park. She added that she was moving the school year 7s to the Thursday session so that the volunteers were able to cope better with the numbers.

Nicola raised concerns to members about the essential youth work training was no longer available to her as she was not employed by LCC.

She updated members that she had recently been working with LCC and they were able to give her two detached youth workers for an eight-week period to assist with the ASB issues at Preesall. This is to start in October 2022.

Summary of evidence from Siobhan Collingwood, Education Lead Lancashire Violence Reduction Network and Education Based Multi-Agency Meeting (MASP) Lead.

Siobhan Collingwood, Education Lead Lancashire Violence Reduction Network and Education Based Multi-Agency Meeting (MASP) Lead was invited to the sixth meeting; however, she was unable to attend. Instead, she provided the group with a written briefing about the MASP project.

The briefing included the following key points:

The Multi Agency Support Panel (MASP) has been set up in Fleetwood as part of a multi-agency contextual safeguarding response to the increasing incidents of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) happening within Fleetwood.

The MASP is made up of multi-agency partner representatives across the Fleetwood area, including:

- ❖ Fleetwood area Secondary and Primary schools
- ❖ Regenda and Great Places, housing agencies
- ❖ Children and Family Wellbeing Service
- ❖ Fire Service
- ❖ Youth Offending Team
- ❖ Lancashire County Council
- ❖ Lancashire Police
- ❖ Lancashire VRN
- ❖ Our Lancashire
- ❖ Youth Divert

All MASP referrals are dealt with confidentially and in line with GDPR regulations.

It is recognised that young people are targeted within their neighbourhoods, peer groups and schools and a response, therefore, needs to focus on these areas. We recognise that these issues cannot be addressed in isolation and that by sharing information between agencies and identifying common risk factors that contribute to a young person being exploited support can be put in place that prevents the risk from becoming reality.

Aims of the MASP:

- ❖ To keep our young people safe from criminal exploitation within their neighbourhoods, peer groups and schools in Fleetwood.
- ❖ To provide a multi-disciplinary approach to consider how best to intervene early when a young person is showing indicators of vulnerability.
- ❖ To identify and share information about those young people at risk across agencies to tackle CCE on a wider scale
- ❖ To provide young people at risk or involved with criminal exploitation and their parents/carers with positive support, information and opportunities
- ❖ To support professionals working with young people at risk or involved in criminal exploitation

How does it work?

The MASP is a panel of professionals from Police, Children's Services, Education, Health and third sector community organisations that meet as needed to discuss support and actions for young people who are presenting with early indicators or vulnerability for Child Criminal Exploitation in Fleetwood.

As with any early concerns around safeguarding or welfare of young people, it is the expectation that the referrer has already discussed concerns with the parents/carers of the young person being referred. Consent needs to be obtained for a referral to this panel.

MASP is not a referral to statutory involvement from services. For any concerns where a young person is at risk of their health or development being significantly impaired (section 17 Children Act) or their reasonable cause to suspect a child is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm (Section 47 Children Act) then the referrer must follow their organisation's safeguarding policy.

The Police should be contacted about the criminal activity via either 101 (999 in an emergency).

Children and Family Wellbeing Service conducted a survey of children and young people during February and March 2022. The survey covered safety in Fleetwood. The survey received responses from eight local schools in Fleetwood. The school years ranged from year 5 to year 10. The survey received approximately 500 responses.

Some of the key findings are as follows:

- ❖ On a scale from 1-10 the average across schools for the happiness of young people was 6.3
- ❖ When asked what keeps young people safe the top answer for primary age children emergency services (120) and the top answer for secondary age young people was family (28).
- ❖ When asked what is a risk to young people in Fleetwood the top answer for primary age children was a crime (70) and the top answer for secondary age young people was specific places (49)
- ❖ When asked if drug taking is common in Fleetwood 96 per cent of primary age children stated yes and 85 per cent of secondary age young people said yes. The places most likely to happen were Memorial Park, Bold Street, Lind Road, Milton, Broadwater, Chatsworth, back alleys, abandoned buildings, near schools, Park Ward, and The Mount.
- ❖ When asked if gangs were common in Fleetwood 97 per cent of primary age children stated yes and 85 per cent of secondary age young people said yes. The places most likely to happen were Memorial Park, golf course, down town, Chatsworth, back alleys, abandoned buildings, near shops, Park Ward, Skate Park.
- ❖ The overwhelming majority see both threats as high prevalence and high levels of risk. The older the young person the less they see the level of risk posed.
- ❖ When asked what advice they would give to their younger siblings about staying safe in Fleetwood, the top responses were to avoid strangers.

- ❖ The top three wishes to make Fleetwood better were: more parks and things to do, less violence/gangs/criminals and no drugs/alcohol
- ❖ Fleetwood said to be positive, relationships matter, our community bonds are strong, give us the resources to be our own answers, work together to optimise responses, get to problems early, we need things to do and infrastructure matters.

Siobhan also answered the following questions posed by the group.

Q1 Is Wyre Council involved in the MASP project?

Wyre Council is very involved, Shelley Birch does a great job of administering the meetings and communicating the organisation of the group. Corinne Mason and Shelley were very closely involved with the planning and implementation, Corinne is a very active member of the meeting and always takes actions away that are promptly enacted.

Q2 Within their existing responsibilities, how else could Wyre Council support the MASP project?

It would be helpful to work together on how to communicate the level of risk within the area to the Fleetwood community and what our young people said during the consultation and conference.

Q3 Would you say there is a link between young people identified and referred to MASP and their potential involvement in ASB in the community?

There is a link. Vulnerability to participation in ASB is created by the same factors that increase the risk of CE

Q4 Could MASP have the potential to be rolled out in other high schools in Wyre?

The LVRN has supported the establishment of three MASPs across Lancashire, Fleetwood included, and we are very keen to roll the MASP model out across all Lancashire areas. Protocols and referral documentation are all written and need only be tweaked by areas wishing to adopt the model.

Purpose of report

From 3 July until 30 August 2022, the Tackling Youth Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Wyre Task Group, commissioned by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, surveyed Wyre Borough Councillors and the boroughs Parish and Town Councillors. The survey covered incidents of youth ASB in their areas, the communication with the council regarding youth ASB and the partnership work with key stakeholders to tackle youth ASB.

Background

Tackling ASB in the community and protecting vulnerable persons from harm from others is a key priority for Wyre Council and the wider Community Safety Partnership. In addition, cutting youth crime and making the streets safer is a key priority of the current UK Government.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for many years, have identified ASB as a topic for future review. The Community Safety Annual Report for 2020 explained that since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, reports of ASB have significantly increased in Wyre; however, towards the end of 2021 ASB incidents in Wyre seem to be returning to pre-pandemic levels.

The group believed that consulting with ward councillors and parish/town councillors would provide them with a greater perspective of this topic on a local level and assist them to make meaningful recommendations to Wyre's Cabinet to improve and support the council to tackle the problem.

Summary of results

Overall, there were 35 respondents in the survey. Four of those were partial and 31 complete responses. The survey asked parish/town councils and ward councillors their experience with youth ASB. The responses were received from a variety of areas from the more urban areas of Fleetwood, Cleveleys, and Poulton to the more rural areas of Pilling, Preesall, and Garstang.

The survey asked how much of a problem if at all, youth ASB was in their area. The majority of respondents (67.6 per cent) said that youth ASB was an occasional problem; eight respondents (23.5 per cent) said it was a big problem and three respondents (8.8 per cent) said it was not a problem at all.

According to this survey, 77.4 per cent of respondents stated the main two problems in their areas were vandalism/graffiti and groups causing a nuisance. Other problems that were noted were drunk/rowdy behaviour (48.4 per cent) and verbal abuse (38.7 per cent). Some respondents also submitted written responses to this question. Some of the responses mention problems such as drug taking/dealing, speeding cars, intimidation of residents and kicking footballs against residents' front garden walls.

The results indicate that 60.6 per cent of respondents receive one to three complaints from residents about youth ASB each month. It is worth noting that six respondents (18.2 per cent) receive zero complaints each month.

When comparing question four to question five it can be observed that even though 60.6 per cent suggested ward/town/parish councillors receive one to three complaints each month, only 9.1 per cent stated they often contact Wyre Council or the Police to raise concerns over youth ASB.

84.8 per cent of respondents answered yes to knowing how to report incidents of ASB.

This survey suggests that town/parish councils and Wyre Council ward councillors communicate with the council to discuss youth ASB mostly via email (72.7 per cent), followed by phone (48.5 per cent), Wyre Council website (21.2 per cent) and social media (3 per cent). Other responses were that they would contact the Police or a Wyre Councillor.

The survey shows that 50 per cent of respondents find communication with Wyre Council regarding youth ASB to be easy.

The survey asked how councillors would rate the responses from Wyre Council for youth ASB incidents raised to them. The top three answers found that 34.4 per cent of respondents find it satisfactory, 28.1 per cent of respondents do not know and 12.5 per cent of respondents found it average.

The survey questioned whether Wyre Council has good engagement/communications with parish/town council or ward councillors. The top responses show that 37.5 per cent of respondents said no, followed by 34.4 per cent of respondents said don't know and 28 per cent of respondents said yes.

The survey asked what more Wyre Council could do to engage with parish/town councils and ward councillors concerning youth ASB. Some of the responses have been summarised below:

- ❖ Active contact with town and parish councils regularly
- ❖ Provide parish/town councils with a dedicated point of contact
- ❖ Someone from the Wyre Community Safety Partnership to attend a council meeting
- ❖ Communicate summary data, outcomes, action plans and police liaison information
- ❖ Monthly reports on all reported incidents and CCTV incidents
- ❖ Send an officer to meetings
- ❖ Ward meetings to discuss issues
- ❖ Give quarterly reports on the incidents and any repair costs the council has incurred
- ❖ Publish a 'Report It' message on all local social media and printed media
- ❖ Easier reporting
- ❖ Make sure all information is well advertised on the website and respond efficiently
- ❖ Suggest ways to engage with youths and their needs and concerns
- ❖ Senior officers and councillors undertake ward walks

The survey questioned whether respondents have an understanding of the work of the Wyre Community Safety Partnership. 51.6 per cent answered yes and 48.4 per cent answered no.

The survey also asked if respondents could name members of the partnership. 11 respondents listed some members. Wyre Council and the Police were some of the top answers.

The survey questioned the Police presence in their parish/town or ward area. 51.6 per cent of respondents stated there was a small presence, 35.5 per cent stated there was no presence and 12.9 per cent stated there was a general presence.

The survey concluded by asking respondents for other related comments regarding the questions asked in the survey. Some responses have been summarised below:

- ❖ Close contact with local PCSO
- ❖ More could be done with additional funding
- ❖ Parents should be responsible for the actions of their children
- ❖ Police strategic positioning does not work. It takes too long for action to be taken Over Wyre
- ❖ We struggle to get members of the public to report ASB either to the Police or to Wyre Council so may not be aware of all the incidents. It would be good for the Community Safety Partnership to get more information out there and to make it as easy as possible to report ASB
- ❖ There is no better way than police seen on the beat and not in their cars

Approach

The agreed approach for this consultation was to use an online survey. The Democratic Services Officer provided Wyre Borough Councillors and Parish/Town Clerks with the link to the survey. This approach was found to be the most effective and efficient way for the survey to be completed quickly and with ease. Paper copies were provided if requested.

The consultation included both qualitative and quantitative data. The qualitative data provide councillors with an understanding of how individuals subjectively perceive the service; whereas the quantitative data help, councillors identify patterns within the responses.

The survey was estimated to take around five minutes and responses were agreed to be kept anonymous.

Consultation respondents

In total, there were 35 responses to the consultation. Due to the relatively low response rate, it is important to understand that the responses of this survey provide only a snapshot of the experience that a small sample of local politicians has with their residents and youth ASB. A report with the full results of this survey is attached at Appendix D.

Supporting documents

Elected Members were presented with a number of additional documents that supported them with their work.

The documents are hyperlinked below, if you require any assistance with accessing these documents please email democratic.service@wyre.gov.uk

- ❖ Document 1 – [Anti-Social Behaviour \(Overview and Scrutiny\) briefing paper on youth related anti-social behaviour](#)
- ❖ Document 2 – [Responses from Wyre's high schools](#)
- ❖ Document 3 - [Full minutes pack of the Tackling Youth Anti-Social Behaviour Task Group](#)

Conclusions and recommendations

The task group are clear that not all young people in Wyre commit ASB offences, and it would be unfair to assume that they do. It is only a small minority and usually, the young people do not intend to engage in ASB, therefore the group realise that education and early intervention are key to successfully tackling youth ASB.

The group's research highlights the vast number of organisations that all work towards tackling youth ASB therefore they identify that there is no one solution to tackle youth ASB meaning the close working relationship with external partners is important to maintain.

The group believe that an improvement to the levels of ASB in the community and how incidents are dealt with will result in better health and wellbeing and life opportunities for residents, whilst also protecting Wyre's USP, the Great Outdoors, from harm. In addition, a reduction in youth ASB has the potential of supporting the council in its ambition to raise the aspirations of young people.

The group notes the significant cost to council assets as a result of youth ASB, therefore a strong stance by the council to reduce these types of activities would hopefully reduce these costs in the future.

The council and its relevant stakeholders should be congratulated on its problem-solving, holistic approach to tackling youth ASB through its agencies such as the Youth ASB Panel and the Community Safety Partnership. The group fully support the work they do. However, it was noted that 50 per cent of the Health Partnerships and Early Action Officer's role is spent on youth ASB and the Manager of Environmental Protection and Community Safety is spending much more time on youth ASB, owing to the pandemic, than what is desirable as they have many other additional responsibilities. They also explained to the group that their roles were wide ranging and varied. Therefore, Cabinet must consider resourcing, staffing levels and workloads to address youth ASB.

In addition, the task group is impressed by the recent successful £10,000 bid to the Police and Crime Commissioners Office allocated for bespoke diversional activities and suggests that this money, alongside further bids, could be looked to fund proposals suggested by the group.

The task group concludes that the following recommendations be made to the Cabinet:

Recommendation one:

That the council continues to develop closer working relationships with organisations such as schools across Wyre to communicate the council's role with youth ASB. The council working partnership with the Community Safety Partnership and other relevant agencies should approach schools, particularly high schools, to engage with them about what assistance they may need and what the council can offer regarding tackling youth ASB in the community.

The group found that education and early intervention are the key drivers for a reduction in youth ASB.

The group recognise the ongoing work by the council to engage with schools in Wyre. However, the group found it difficult to engage with the high schools and members acknowledge that the council will also feel these difficulties, as they are not the responsible authority for schools. During the group's consultation with the eight high schools in Wyre, Fleetwood High responded that a simple guide on what services are available and who to contact if the school was concerned about a student would be beneficial. The health and wellbeing of young people in Wyre is a council priority and the group identify that the council may benefit from better engagement with schools will help get across key messages and highlight to schools what Wyre Council can offer, in particular youth ASB support in the community.

Recommendation two:

That the council make enquires with external organisations to consider running and financing a revival of a project where the high schools across Wyre, including pupil referral units, create drama productions on key community safety topics such as youth ASB. The task group propose that the council could assist with the productions such as the offering of Marine Hall as a venue to host the productions. There should also be consideration by the organisation running the project to work alongside the council, the Police and Lancashire County Council to identify topics for the productions.

Developing young people's thinking and education about the harms and effects of ASB is integral to their development.

It was noted early on in the review that the group saw the benefits of the Northern Beat Project. This was a Lancashire County Council funded project, where topics such as criminal exploitation, drugs and ASB were identified and the drama departments in the high schools across Lancashire were asked to produce short drama productions about these topics. For the schools that took part, their final productions were shown at a selected venue and were judged and a winner was announced. The group believe the purpose of this project was to communicate to pupils problems in society in an engaging way that young people can relate to. The high schools across Wyre, including pupil referral units, should have the opportunity to participate. The group suggest "Wyre Beat" as a potential name.

The group believe that a recommendation on the reintroduction of a scheme such as the 'Northern Beat Project' would assist with the council's ambition to raise the aspirations of young people as stated in the business plan.

The group acknowledge that the council can only work within their existing resources and owing to staffing and financial restraints, the council may struggle to commit to running this project. Therefore, the group believe that the council should make enquires with external organisations to run a project for the high schools in Wyre. The group believe that grant-funding opportunities via the Police and Crime Commissioners Office or Central Government grants should also be considered to assist the revival of the project.

The group's interview with Police Inspector Wyatt suggested that Wyre Police would be supportive of such a project. For example, assisting with the identification of topics for the productions and offering the Police Cadets to help during the final production. The group believe that the project should be a joint venture with multiple agencies including Lancashire County Council's Children and Family Wellbeing Service and Lancashire Constabulary.

Recommendation three:

That the council consider the formation of a Wyre Council Youth Forum to give a voice to young people to provide feedback, thoughts and ideas on issues that matter the most to them and support and influence tackling key areas such as youth ASB. The Wyre's Youth Mayor should have a key role in the Youth Forum. The task group suggest that council investigates into other avenues in which a Youth Forum could be supported.

The group commend the creation of the Youth Mayor roles by Wyre Council and Lancashire County Council to assist Wyre Council in identifying the needs of young people and what is important to them. They agree with the values around providing opportunities for young people to get involved in local decision making and to feed into and tailor services to meet the needs of young people in Wyre. However, they find that more should be done to allow young people a voice in the democratic process at the council and the Youth Mayor should be integral to that.

The group suggest the introduction of a Youth Forum would be a great opportunity to build on young people's opportunities to be at the heart of decision making at Wyre, especially regarding decisions that affect them. Again, the group find that a recommendation on increasing the role of the Youth Mayor and the development of a Youth Forum would assist with the council's ambition to raise the aspirations of young people. Not only would this provide a great voice for young people, but it will also foster a greater knowledge of local democracy and promote the idea of democratic participation at a local level.

The group understand that there are other matters to consider specifically resources and staffing. During their evidence gathering stage, the group found that currently the Health Partnerships and Early Action Officer would not have the capacity to take on this task. Dealing with youth ASB is around 50 per cent of their role, therefore, consideration would be needed about reasonable administration support for meetings, including looking into the possibility of holding meetings virtually. Another thing to consider would be establishing the forum's main responsibilities, procedure rules, governance arrangements, the remit of the forum, membership, quorum, Chairpersonship, meetings etc.

Recommendation four:

That the council to continue to work with external partners to support diversionary activities such as the boxing project in Fleetwood and to consider expanding such projects for a more universal appeal.

The group recognise that an ambition of the council is to empower healthier communities by supporting and maximising opportunities for improving health and wellbeing across the community.

Several of the group's expert witnesses praised the boxing project in Fleetwood as it provides young people with an opportunity to change their behaviour. They explained that support and funding would be required to continue the project in the long term. The task group believe the continuation of the Targeted Youth Support and Wyre Council joint boxing project for young people identified through the Youth ASB Panel is very important when tackling youth ASB. This diversional activity includes a boxing training session alongside educational activities on topics such as criminal exploitation. The group received a case study from the Head of Environmental Health and Community Safety about a young person from Fleetwood who was enrolled in the boxing project and as a result, they found a reduction in incidents of ASB and a change in their behaviour.

The group identify that boxing is a specific sport that not all young people who require diversionary activities would wish to take part in. Therefore, the group think there should be some consideration for other sports and activities when providing future projects.

The group understand the robust process of referral to the Youth ASB Panel. Once a child is identified, the panel create a bespoke package of diversional activities in accordance with their individual needs. They believe that reacting to the individual needs of young people is a positive step forward and this approach should continue to be supported.

Recommendation five:

That the council's promotion of how residents can report incidents of ASB be continued.

Recommendation six:

That the council replicate the work of Garstang Town Council in providing councillors with a guide on reporting ASB to relevant authorities and how to share this information with local residents. The group also suggested a future pre-council briefing slot be scheduled on this topic.

The group identify the importance of individuals recording and reporting incidents and this is the best way for the relevant partners to investigate and tackle ASB. The council must continue to spread this message. Reporting, particularly in those areas where ASB has been identified as more frequent, assists with building trust with residents and for them to feel as if something will be done about it.

Members feel that the form to report ASB on the Wyre website should be as accessible as possible and easy to navigate for residents to find. The group's survey results solidify this argument as it found that even though 60.6 per cent of respondents suggested ward/town/parish councillors receive one to three complaints

from residents about youth ASB each month, only 9.1 per cent of those respondents stated they often contact Wyre Council or the Police to raise concerns over youth ASB.

At the group's final meeting, the task group were informed that a Parish Councillor for Garstang Town Council had drafted a detailed document of guidance for both the Garstang Town Council and members of the public on how is best to deal with and report ASB as well as support those affected by or victims of ASB. Members agree that guidance, such as the one produced for Garstang Town Council, should be adopted for Wyre Councillors. The group believe this would be a productive way to provide the most accurate information to residents who are victims of ASB. The group suggest a pre-council briefing slot by officers on the reporting of ASB for councillors should be considered.

Recommendation seven:

That, after considering the evidence provided, it be recommended that CCTV is vital to the infrastructure and safety of the borough. The Task Group agrees that public CCTV is a vital community asset, which provides reassurance, deterrence and response. Further to this, it is recommended that work continue to look into upgrading the existing CCTV. Additionally, it is recommended that the feasibility of additional options to enhance the CCTV across Wyre such as re-deployable cameras and/or providing Ring Doorbell cameras for identified victims of youth ASB be explored.

The task group support the necessary upgrades to the CCTV across the borough from analogue to digital. This upgrade will be an effective way to combat ASB and other crimes.

The group were introduced to a pilot scheme that was rolled out by Blackpool Council to provide victims of Domestic Abuse with a free Ring Doorbell, with installation. The committee saw this as a positive scheme and thought it could be adopted by the council and extended to victims who have continuous youth ASB against them. The group acknowledge for a scheme like this, legal and GDPR factors, alongside the fitting arrangements of the Ring Doorbells must be explored before implementation.

Recommendation eight:

That the implementation of the recommendations agreed by Cabinet be reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee after 12 months.

Councillors' attendances

There were seven meetings of the Tackling Youth Anti-Social Behaviour Task Group.

Name of councillor	Meetings attended (maximum)
Councillor Andrea Kay (Chair)	7
Councillor Peter Le Marinel (Deputy Chair)	7
Councillor Lady Dulcie Atkins	5
Councillor Howard Ballard	3
Councillor Peter Cartridge	6
Councillor Kenneth Minto	3
Councillor Phil Orme	6
Councillor Cheryl Raynor	4
Councillor Mary Stirzaker	1
Councillor Collette Fairbanks	2
Councillor Holly Swales	5

List of appendices

Appendix A - Tackling Youth Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in the community Task Group – Draft Scoping Document

Appendix B – Summary of grant applications to the PCC

Appendix C – Ring Doorbell Pilot – evaluation

Appendix D – Full survey results

Appendix E – Anti-Social Behaviour Guidance – Garstang Parish Council example

References

- ❖ Nixon, J., Hunter, C., Reeves, K., & Jones, A. (2003). Tackling anti-social behaviour in mixed tenure areas. London: OPDM
- ❖ Crime and Disorder Act 1998, c.37. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/contents> (Accessed: 25 July 2022).

APPENDIX A



Tackling Youth Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in the community Task Group – Draft Scoping Document

Review Topic	Tackling youth Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in the community. A definition of ASB can be found on the Government website here .
Chair	Councillor Andrea Kay
Group Membership	Councillor Peter Le Marinel (Vice Chair) Councillor Lady Dulcie Atkins Councillor Howard Ballard Councillor Roger Berry Councillor Peter Cartridge Councillor Paul Ellison Councillor Colette Fairbanks Councillor Kenneth Minto Councillor Phil Orme Councillor Cheryl Raynor Councillor Mary Stirzaker Councillor Holly Swales
Officer Support	Marianne Unwin, Democratic Services Officer.
Purpose of the Review	To protect residents and to strive for lower levels of youth anti-social behaviour in the community.
Essential Criteria (at least one must be marked)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A council priority (as set out in the Business Plan) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A matter of significant, demonstrable public concern, as raised through ward councillors, local media etc.
Role of Overview and Scrutiny in this Review (mark all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Holding Executive to account – Key Decision

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Holding Executive to account – performance based <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community champion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Contribution to policy development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy review <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory duties / compliance with codes of practice
Aims of Review / Terms of Reference	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To understand the causes and scale of youth anti-social behaviour in Wyre and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the increase of incidents. 2. To explore the impact of youth anti-social behaviour on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The community - Council owned assets - The Police - Businesses - Community groups 3. To review the council’s current ASB policies and procedures. 4. To assess the effectiveness of the mechanisms for how the authority responds to and deals with anti-social behaviour, including the community trigger. 5. To examine the effectiveness of multi-agency partnership working such as the Community Safety Partnership, in so far as it affects youth ASB. 6. To make succinct recommendations to Cabinet on what more the council can do to help reduce youth anti-social behaviour in Wyre.
What specific value can Scrutiny add to this work area?	<p>Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, reports of anti-social behaviour have significantly increased in Wyre. A review of how the council tackles anti-social behaviour will highlight potential areas of improvement to reduce ASB incidents.</p> <p>The review will identify areas of strategic focus to assist the council achieve its corporate objective (as set out in the Business Plan). An improvement to the levels of ASB in the community and how incidents are dealt with will result in better health and wellbeing and life opportunities for residents, whilst also protecting Wyre’s USP, the Great Outdoors, from harm. In addition, a reduction in youth ASB has the potential of supporting the council in their ambition to raise the aspirations of young people.</p>

	Overall, the review will assist the council in making Wyre a safer community for all residents and visitors.
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review previous reports and documentation (see below) - Review of the Business Plan proposal (see below) - Interview witnesses at task group meetings - Site visits - Consultations with businesses and residents - Review and compare the policies of other councils and their impact
Limits of Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This review is not specific to any particular geographical location; therefore, it is a borough-wide issue. - Crimes that do not fall under the definition of ASB should not be included in this review. - This review is limited to youth related ASB.
Potential Expert Witnesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder, Councillor Roger Berry - Corporate Director Environment, Mark Billington - Head of Environmental Health and Community Safety, Neil Greenwood - Manager of Environmental Protection and Community Safety, Corinne Mason - Health Partnerships & Early Action Officer, Shelley Birch - Pan Lancashire Violence Reduction Network and education based multi-agency meeting (MASP), Siobhan Collingwood - Partnerships Officer (CCTV) - Community Safety Partnership - Chief Constable, or local Inspector - Neighbourhood Watch - Youth ASB Group key partners - The Zone in Wyre (Milton Youth and Community Centre Fleetwood) - YMCA - Local businesses - Parish and Town Councils - Members of the public
Documents to be considered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual Community Safety report 2020 and 2021 - The Business Plan 2019 – 2023 - Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Anti-social behaviour powers Statutory guidance for frontline professionals – Home Office - Office for National Statistics – data tables - Additional related documents.
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential that the remit of the review may become too broad (size of the project).

Level of Publicity	Potentially high
Indicators of a Successful Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The investigation should provide the council with a greater perspective of youth anti-social behaviour across the borough and provide solutions to tackle the problem. - A clear recommendation to Cabinet that will assist with reducing the incidents of youth anti-social behaviour in Wyre.
Approximate Timeframe	6 months
Projected Start Date	March 2022