

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	26 October 2023

**Executive Report: Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder**

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1** To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio, as set out below.

**2. Environmental Health**

- 2.1** The Food Standard Agency (FSA) have reported that Environmental Health teams across the country are seeing the cost of living crisis resulting in food businesses and consumers cutting corners over food safety. The FSA Compliance Director, reported that data showed about 25% of people have reduced cooking times or temperatures and 20% have turned down fridges and freezers to save money. They highlighted that Environmental Health Departments had done a great job in delivering their Local Authority recovery plan. The profession's ongoing recruitment shortages within Local Authorities was highlighted. The Agency intends to publish research around the challenges faced in order to find solutions. Finally, there will be a new model for delivering food standard's control. The aim is to balance more frequent checks on non-compliant businesses with reduced checks on businesses demonstrating good level of compliance.

- 2.2** Thanks go to our Wyre team for the part they have played in delivering the recovery plan in our area and their work to return to normal expectations in the Food Law Code of Practice.

**3. Tourism and Events**

- 3.1** We were pleased to be able to offer free family activities once again during half-term. Nightmare before Christmas themed theatre took place on Saturday 21 October at Poulton Community Hall and Sunday 22 October at Pilling Village Hall. There's lots of other Halloween fun taking place across Wyre and we will be promoting what's on across our Discover Wyre social media and website.

- 3.2** The Festive Get Together is returning for our more senior residents. After last year's successful event we are putting on a day of cheer at Poulton Community Hall on Friday 8 December. Residents can come and socialise, enjoy some entertainment, meet and chat to people from various council services as well as local clubs and societies.

#### **4. Health and Wellbeing**

- 4.1** Lord Victor Adebawale, current Chair of the NHS Confederation, visited Fleetwood on 19 and 20 September to see first-hand the good work going on to improve health and wellbeing across the town. Highlights of his trip included visits to the new community café 'Strive' at Flakefleet Primary School, Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs, Men's Shed and The Hub at the old Fleetwood Hospital site. Representatives from the NHS, the council and Regenda Homes accompanied Lord Adebawale on his visits and highlighted the positive partnership working between the statutory and voluntary, community and faith sectors as being instrumental in supporting this work. Lord Adebawale was impressed with what he saw and undertook to highlight the community led work of Healthier Fleetwood to senior NHS and ministerial colleagues.
- 4.2** To support the delivery of the new Lancashire Place Based Partnerships, a new Fylde and Wyre Health and Wellbeing Partnership has been formed with the purpose of working collaboratively to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of our residents. The partnership consists of key stakeholders from a variety of organisations – voluntary, community, faith, social enterprise, NHS, councils, public health, hospice and education. A series of workshops are being arranged to determine key priority areas that the partnership can collectively focus on.

#### **5. Active Lives and Community Engagement**

- 5.1** **Holiday Activity & Food Programme (HAF):** Summer 2023 has proven to be our most successful season of camps to date, with attendances way above those of previous years. The quality and consistency of the camps has once again shone through with provision reaching more children than ever in both primary and secondary schools across the borough. In total we ran 19 HAF camps during the summer holidays (24 July – 1 September). We used 11 local providers across 21 local venues including schools, community centres, churches, sports centres and parks. Camps ran across the borough with events in Fleetwood, Thornton, Over Wyre, Garstang, Carleton, Poulton and Hambleton. All eligible children had access to 16 days free holiday provision. During the holidays a total of 6,082 places were filled with 5,402 of these places being filled with children from primary schools. Our camps also supported children with special educational needs and disabilities with 523 places being filled by children from this group. In total 1,168 different children in the borough accessed HAF provision during the summer. This is more than double the number of last summer's provision. HAF will return after Christmas with provision likely to be running from 2 January 2024. Bookings for the Christmas sessions will open in early December.

- 5.2** We have had a busy summer providing a range of arts projects including the Market Heritage Arts Project – a successful eight weeks of sessions which created artwork that celebrates the heritage and social importance of Fleetwood Market. A resultant exhibition of selected works by the participants ran in the gallery space at the market during September. Nine other artists delivered over 60 creative sessions at HAF summer camps creating much joy and delight for the children. Just Reminiscing sessions were held as part of the Alexandra Care Home (Poulton) Summer Fayre which saw over 50 visitors engage with us and receive information about Wyre’s health and wellbeing offer. Children’s arts and crafts session were also held at the outdoor classroom at Wyre Estuary Country Park. During these sessions the children were inspired to make beautiful nature-inspired dreamcatchers.
- 5.3** UK Shared Prosperity Funding Cottam Hall Community Garden is making good progress with the ground being cleared and laid with weed suppressant material. A poly-tunnel has been installed and consultation with the wider community is being carried out. Once the site is finished, we will be working with Poulton-in-Bloom volunteers to develop a growing area to support the displays in and around Poulton as well as working with local social prescribing teams to create community garden clubs.
- 5.4** We have had a great response to the Active Wyre Awards with over 70 nominations for physical activity groups, sport groups and individuals who have contributed to supporting others to become more active across Wyre. There are 10 award categories and we have winners in every category. Choosing those winners has been extremely difficult, with the standard of applicants being very high. A celebratory afternoon tea event was held on 17 October with the Deputy Mayor in attendance. All of the Wyre winners will be going on to represent Wyre at the Active Lancashire awards celebration in November.

## **6. Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre**

- 6.1** The Fylde Coast Food and Drink Festival, held at Marine Hall on Sunday 10 September was a great success and plans are now well underway for the Fleetwood Christmas Festival Weekend taking place on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 November. It is sure to be a weekend to remember with exciting events, live performances, gift stalls, amazing activities and of course festive food and drink.
- 6.2** The Fleetwood Fireworks Extravaganza returns to Marine Gardens on Sunday 5 November for the first time since 2019. This fabulous display is free to attend with donations welcomed on the night. This will be followed by the annual Wyre Business Awards 2023 on Tuesday 7 November.

## **7. Comments and questions**

- 7.1** In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of Council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.5.

