

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	26 October 2023

Executive Report: Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder

1. Purpose of report

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

2. Community Safety

- 2.1** The Police have recently launched a new operation, Clear, Hold, Build in an area of Fleetwood. This has the objective of:
- Clear – Removing and impeding organised crime groups from operating in the area.
 - Hold – Preventing would be perpetrators from capitalising on the vacuum whilst improving community confidence with better security and reassurance.
 - Build – Improving the living, working and recreational environment for residents with the assistance of partner agencies and making the community more assertive and confident and adoptive to a zero tolerance approach to crime and ASB.
- 2.2** At the launch event which was very well attended by local organisations I confirmed the support of the council and the Wyre Community Safety Partnership.
- 2.3** In many respects organised crime in Wyre centres around the import and sale of illegal drugs and through analysis of crime data, the police have identified an area within Wyre where organised crime activity has had a disproportionate impact on the local area.
- 2.4** In response the police have issued 36 warrants since June 2022 in Wyre and 13 of those have been in the 'Clear, Hold, Build' area. Targeted stop searches have increased from 461 to 727 in the last six months compared to the previous six month period.
- 2.5** There have been 51 arrests of Organised Crime Group members across Wyre and three criminal behaviour orders have been successfully issued as well as two closure orders on properties used by organised

crime groups. This enforcement activity has recovered in excess of £1 million pounds worth of drugs and £300,000 from the proceeds of crime has also been seized at the same time.

- 2.6 For several years the Wyre Community Safety Partnership have been working with partners offering diversionary activity to children in danger of being involved in organised crime. Other local organisations such as Fleetwood Town Community Trust are heavily involved in the champion's programme where they receive bespoke support and Lancashire Fire and Rescue run the Prince's Trust programme for older young persons.
- 2.7 Where youngsters have been identified as participating in anti-social behaviour, multi-agency meetings are held to review what they have been doing and what has been tried before, in order to choose the most appropriate intervention based on all the evidence available. This could be diversionary activity or an escalation of enforcement action (Civil or Criminal) or a mixture of all three. The aim is always to give children the opportunity to take a step back, and reassess what they are doing and direct them into more positive activity.
- 2.8 What the Clear, Hold, Build project aims to do is improve on the work already undertaken and build the community resilience as far as possible, in order to make the area a less attractive one for organised crime to work in, and prevent criminal exploitation of our young people.

3 Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

- 3.1 Cllr Le Marinel and myself attended a recent Panel Meeting which was addressed by the Chief Constable Chris Rowley. The Chief Constable stressed the importance of Operations such as the Clear, Hold, Build referred to above and also targeting ASB Hot Spots with visible patrols of police officers and PCSOs in designated areas in the evenings and at weekends. This is backed up by a team of officers to deal with specific ASB issues in those areas. Again this Operation is already underway in parts of Fleetwood.
- 3.2 The Chief Constable also referred to a road safety operation on the M6 targeting speeding, mobile phone and seat belt use, drink and drug driving and vehicle safety checks.
- 3.3 In one week 204 fixed penalty notices were handed out and £16,000 in fines issued. He suggested that more residents should join Lancashire Talking promoting In the Know to find out what was happening in their area and contribute with information. Operation Snap allows road users to submit evidence from their cameras and dash cams of moving traffic offences and 58% of these submissions have been actionable by the Police.

4. Wyre Beach Management Scheme

- 4.1 The Phase 1 - Beach revetment work is now complete and the crest wall installation commenced during September with completion due prior to Christmas. Approximately 30 units have been cast to date. No new 'sink

holes' have found in the period since the last board meeting. Balfour Beatty will continue monitoring inspection to identify any further issues.

- 4.2** A Public Liaison Officer has been appointed and will be available every Thursday morning in The Venue, Cleveleys to discuss any concerns residents or visitors may have.

- 4.3** Phase 2 - work to install the rock armour groyne and concrete crossover ramps has commenced and is progressing well.

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.