

Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Ian Amos, Lead Member for Older People	Council	30 November 2023

Periodic report - Lead Member for Older People

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** To update the Council on some of the activities I have been involved in since being appointed the Lead Member for Older People.

2. Corporate priorities

- 2.1** The work that the lead member for older people undertakes links to the ambition to empower healthier and resilient communities.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1** To raise awareness of the activities of the Lead Member for older people as outlined in appendix 1.

4. Background

- 4.1** During the course of the year there has been a change in the lead member for older people with the new lead taking up their position in July 2023.
- 4.2** The lead member acts as a champion for older people in the community, if contacted they will raise any concerns with the relevant organisation.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** My work has initially focussed on an initiative to increase participation and promote, the opportunities amongst older individuals that walking football and netball provide. The walking aspect allows people of different health constraints to participate, and by participating in regular exercise improve individual's health and quality of life. The team aspect of both these sports allows people of a similar age group to mix and socialise which help combat feelings of loneliness

5.2 To help promote the sports a leaflet has been produced and distributed initially throughout the Cleveleys ward area with wider circulation to follow.

5.3 The Council's Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles & Communities Team support older people in Wyre by offering a variety of activities including Just Reminiscing, Tea Dances at Marine Hall, Harmony and Health Singing groups and Fun Arts. All these activities help to address loneliness and isolation and support the recovery of our older person community after the pandemic.

5.4 A key part of staying healthy as you age is keeping active and Wyre Council promote the "Great Outdoors Programme"
www.wyre.gov.uk/greatoutdoors Many of the well-being walks, cycling and activities promoted are suitable for older people to start on their fitness journey.

5.5 The Short Walks programme, Accessible Walks and Trampers, Gardening opportunities at both Memorial Park Fleetwood and Cottam Hall Poulton, Wyre Wheels, Low impact Exercise classes, accessible beaches and parks are all eminently suitable for older people to use and keep active.

5.6 Volunteering is a great way for older people to keep physically and mentally active, make friendships and feel a sense of achievement. You can volunteer for as little or as much time as you want. You can apply to become a volunteer using the following link.

[Volunteering – Wyre Council](#)

5.7 The housing team administer Disabled Facilities Grants, which make homes more suitable for living in and enable older and disabled people to live more independently at home. A total of 240 homes were adapted in 2022/23. The Wyre Care and Repair service works with older and disabled clients to help keep them safe by carrying out repairs and minor adaptations that prevent accidents, such as falls. The team also supports improvements and repairs to heating systems and helps households to maximise their household incomes by conducting benefit checks

5.8 The team are also part of the Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) which is a partnership of the 15 Local Authorities in Lancashire, offering eligible residents in the region access to free first time central heating, gas connections, affordable heating solutions, energy advice and support on a range of money saving energy measures to help keep homes warm and save money.

5.9 Rhea Energy manage the CHiL scheme and the Administration Hub on behalf of the Lancashire Local Authorities.

The Lancashire Authorities have recently secured Green Homes Grant (Home Upgrade Grant) from Central Government which is available to owner-occupiers and tenants and will cover the cost of larger insulation measures and renewable heating technologies. It is only available to properties which do not have gas central heating at the present time.

View the full range of energy measures available via the following link <https://www.chil.uk.com/>

- 5.10** The Council are also encouraging the building of suitable homes for older people as part of the planning process.

Policy HP2 of the Local Plan adopted in 2019 requires that:

- a). New housing development will be required to widen the choice of housing types available in Wyre.
- b). Proposed developments should provide an appropriate mix in terms of size, type, tenure of housing, to meet identified housing need and local market demand that accords with the most up-to-date Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Rural Affordable Housing Needs Survey.
- c). In order to help meet the needs of an ageing population and people with restricted mobility, at least 20% of dwellings within developments of 20 dwellings and above should be of a design suitable or adaptable for older people and people with restricted mobility. Where housing for older people and people with restricted mobility is provided as part of a Wyre Local Plan (2011 – 2031) larger scheme, this should, where appropriate, be located within the scheme in the most accessible location for services and facilities.

- 5.11** Older people may qualify for an assisted bin collection service if they have mobility or health problems and there is no one else in the home who can put the bins out. An application form must be completed and if the application is successful your address will be added to our assisted collections list and shared with contractors. A home visit may be required to confirm your circumstances. On your normal collection day the crew will collect the bin or sack, empty it and return it to where they found it.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 6.1** The lead member is appointed by the Leader of the Council and no other options have been considered at this point.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	None arising directly from this report
Legal	None arising directly from this report

Climate Change	None arising directly from this report
----------------	--

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Neil Greenwood	01253 887410	Neil.greenwood@Wyre.gov.uk	03/11/2023

List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
none		

List of appendices

None.