

Report of:	To:	Date	Item no.
Cllr. Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	19 July 2018	7(e)

**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** In the UK an estimated 13,000 people are said to be working as modern slaves in agriculture, hospitality, fishing, private homes, brothels, nail bars and cannabis farms. The UN says modern slavery and trafficking is now the second-largest organised criminal industry in the world. Many of our employees are out and about in the community visiting individuals and businesses and it is an important part of our safeguarding procedures that these staff have an understanding of modern slavery and what to look out for. In association with the police we recently organised an awareness raising session for officers so that in the future, if they see something which they regard as suspicious, they will feel confident enough to report the issue via our normal safeguarding procedures.

**3. Private Sector Housing**

- 3.1** During the year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, Care and Repair (Wyre and Fylde) dealt with 3,355 enquiries for advice and support. Caseworkers carried out 515 visits to vulnerable older or disabled people in their homes, undertaking an assessment of their needs and providing appropriate support. Nineteen clients were supported to access in excess of £40,000 of charity and/or grant funding to carry out essential work to their property. Caseworkers completed applications to support clients with claims for disability-related benefits, resulting in over £754,000 of extra annual income for older and disabled residents in Wyre and Fylde.

- 3.2** We are leading on a new initiative that will see Care and Repair (Wyre and Fylde) become a hub, for both Wyre and Fylde, for the receipt of referrals for Disabled Facilities Grants from community and neighbourhood health professionals. These referrals will be made to support faster discharge from hospital to home and to avoid hospital admissions. Adaptations will be provided via improved collaboration with primary and secondary care through new and improved referral routes. This work is supported by NHS Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group, Fylde and Wyre Multi-speciality Community Provider and the Lancashire and South Cumbria Better Care Fund which is supporting the work with an award of £42,900. We recently gave a presentation to the Lancashire and South Cumbria Better Care Fund Steering Group who would like this best practice to be adopted across the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System.

#### **4. Comments and questions**

- 4.1** 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.