

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	12 September 2024

**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. Tourism and Events**

- 2.1** The annual Garstang Walking Festival took place between 4 - 12 May, with this year's event celebrating 20 years of the great initiative. It started over a weekend in 2004 and has grown to a 9-day event, delivered in partnership between the Friends of Garstang Walking Festival and Wyre Council. Fifty walks and activities took place over the festival, with many fully booked; more than four hundred tickets were issued online before the event, with more bookings taken during the festival. The programme included a range of diverse walks to cater for different abilities across many different locations in the borough (urban parks and open spaces, rural and coastal locations), such as Fleetwood, Garstang, Winmarleigh, Pilling, Bleasdale and Knott End. Garstang in Bloom volunteers, Wyre Rivers Trust, Friends of the Garstang Walking Festival volunteers, Wyre Coast and Countryside Rangers and volunteers, local landowners and land managers all supported across a variety of walks and events. This year we held the Big Bday Bash fun day on the Monday, which attracted nearly 700 visitors – many keen to try our rodeo sheep!
- 2.2** Amongst the many fun fairs and galas, we also held the poignant D-Day Beacon Lighting event at The Mount on 6 June. A 1940's singer entertained dignitaries, veterans and 50 residents as the beacon was lit. Marine Hall and our communications team worked together to put on this beautiful tribute.
- 2.3** The weekend of 9 June was a busy one for the team, as we ensured Cleveleys Classic Car show ran smoothly as well as the D-Day 80th anniversary event in Memorial Park, Fleetwood. The car show was deemed the biggest and best ever and drew 8,000 visitors to Cleveleys.

- 2.4** Poulton came to life a week later with the creative Spot On festival featuring choirs, performances, crafts and street art throughout the week. The event was delivered in partnership between Poulton Community Hall, Culturapedia and ourselves, funded by Arts Council England and UKSPF. The rain didn't dampen spirits and a new Maker's Market in the Teanlowe Centre added to the fun! In July, we also supported Ron's Run in Poulton, Memorial Park fun days in Fleetwood and the Scarecrow Festival in Garstang.
- 2.5** The piece de resistance was our first fully-hosted Family Festival Wanderland held at Cottam Hall playing fields on 27 July. Crowds celebrated Hey Duggee's 10th Birthday, joined in the singing with Massaoke and met Mr Bloom and the veggies - CBeebies favourite gardener. Final tallies are still being worked out but around 1,800 tickets were sold and Poulton traders enjoyed bumper sales as visitors continued their day out in the town. There were three themed zones, interactive workshops, a real Mermaid, giant inflatables, games to enjoy and crafts to take home. We put on a shuttle bus from the Sixth Form college bringing visitors to the event every ten minutes and a wonderful time was had by all. Feedback has been phenomenal with great coverage from local print media and radio and visitors saying it was outstanding value for money. The team have lots of ideas to make Wanderland 2025 even bigger and better next year.

### **3. Environmental Health**

- 3.1** As a result of the investigation into Legacy Independent Funeral Directors in Hull and East Riding by Humberside Police. All councils were requested jointly by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to visit funeral director's premises within their local authority area.
- 3.2** This followed action taken by councils in Hull and East Riding and was supported by the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) and the National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF). Both organisations have Codes of Conduct that members must follow in relation to standards of treatment of deceased people.
- 3.3** This important additional work has been undertaken by the councils Environmental Health team with a total 16 premises being inspected within Wyre representing 12 different companies.

I am pleased to report that under the four 'inspection' categories set by MoJ and DLUHC officers did not find any issues of significant concern with only verbal advice provided – the categories were:

- Hygiene, Premise Condition and Capability
- Traceability and Transparency
- Dignity Observed and Condition of Deceased
- Pre-Paid Funeral Plans and General Financial Processes

At present there are no further actions for the Council as a result of this investigation.

- 3.4** Our food safety team were involved in the recent visit from the South Korean Ministry of Food and Drug Safety fishery establishment auditors. Officers have been working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the business AM Seafoods Ltd, Fleetwood to help them prepare for the audit. The audit was important to facilitate access to new export markets and maintain the existing export market. AM Seafoods Ltd, Fleetwood was one of four fish processors, chosen by the auditors due to their export of processed whelk meat and whole whelks to South Korea. While the onus of the audit was on AM Seafoods Ltd to demonstrate that they met the export requirements of South Korea, the outcomes might impact wider on UK international trade and therefore it was very important to DEFRA and all the local authorities involved.
- 3.5** It was a requirement of the audit that the local authority qualified Environmental Health Officer (Food Safety) with knowledge of the premises and the business also attended and had appropriate documentation available for the South Korean auditors. DEFRA have since reported that all audits have been considered a success and the businesses can continue to export their products and trade with South Korea. The food safety team provide support to businesses who export fishery products and a lozenge manufacturer and by issuing export health certificates and other relevant certificates required by export processes. This often involves an inspection, outside routine visits (as determined by the Food Law Code of Practice). Fleetwood businesses currently export to the EU, China, Japan, Vietnam and South Korea.

## **4. Healthy Lifestyles and Communities**

### **4.1 Poulton and Carleton Communities Together**

There have been two events held to bring together representatives of the Poulton and Carleton voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector. The events will continue quarterly with the aim of helping the groups to work together and support each other. The groups are supported by Lancashire County Councillor Alf Clempson, Wyre Councillor Peter Le Marinel and NHS social prescribers with 29 people attending the first group and 16 the second, representing more than 17 local community groups. The events have received great feedback and LACVS (Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Service) have offered to support further meetings. There are already many positive outcomes from the events:

- Poulton Over 60's Club have offered NHS social prescribers the use of their centre.
- Poulton Youth FC have offered Talkin' Tables a table at their café at the weekends.
- A local martial arts school have offered free sessions to domestic abuse groups and the local Alcohol-free Women group.
- An offer from Moorland Tennis Club to host the second meeting.
- A cohort of groups want to create a community owned space with a sports hall, lounge, kitchen and meeting rooms.

### **4.2 Holiday Activities and Food Programme Delivery**

Our Easter programme of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) once again raised the bar for holiday clubs in Wyre with an

improvement on both the number of sessions provided and the number of children attending compared to Easter 2023. In total 1,565 sessions were attended, a 14% increase on Easter 2023. We also worked with a record number of children, with 740 different children attending sessions. Easter HAF activities included 25 different camps/drop-in's spread out right across the borough. Nine different providers were involved offering a huge variety of activities. In particular the Active Travel and HAF Festival held at Marine Hall Gardens on 4 April was particularly successful with over 200 children and their families engaging on the day.

- 4.3** Wyre Summer HAF 2024 has also been a great success offering 9,084 places through 14 different providers, at over 25 different clubs/activities. The summer programme involved us working with regular providers such as Fleetwood Town Community Trust, Targeted Youth Support, SportsCool, Absolute, Fylde Coast Holiday Club, Fleetwood Gym ABC, Fylde Coast YMCA, Fylde Rugby Foundation and Acorns. We also recruited new providers, such as Jam Coding and Real Skate, who have added new specialisms and widened even further the variety of activities on offer. Activities took place right across Wyre including at venues in Fleetwood, Thornton, Garstang, Carleton, Poulton, Over Wyre, Hambleton, Elswick and Cleveleys.

**4.4 Wyre Weight Management**

We are delighted to be continuing to work with Slimming World on the Wyre Weight Management contract for a further four years. The twelve-week programme is funded by Lancashire County Council and is for people in Wyre who have a body mass index of 30-45. We will have over 3,000 places at 28 different groups right across the borough. The programme, which has run for the past three years has been incredibly successful supporting over 1,900 people. Over 66% completed the full programme losing on average a stone in weight.

- 4.5** We have also awarded a family weight management contract to Healthy Heads Education, who we have worked with for the past two years. Healthy Heads are an excellent local company who work in most of the schools in Wyre to promote healthy lifestyles. They will be providing a family weight loss programme in four primary schools for the next five years. These twelve-week programmes involve children and their parents cooking healthy meals and taking part in physical activity together at an after-school club. Each week, the families cook and take home a healthy meal. Both providers have received excellent feedback and we look forward to continuing to work with both organisations and the County Council to help reduce levels of obesity in Wyre.

**4.6 Wyre Moving More Launch**

I was pleased to attend the successful launch of our new physical activity and sport strategy - Wyre Moving More - on 26 June at Highbury, the Fleetwood Town Football Club stadium. Over 85 partners and professionals attended the event, which had a range of motivating and inspiring speakers, as well as interactive marketplace stands for people to try different activities. We are looking forward to working closely with our partners in Wyre to help reduce physical inactivity. As part of the launch, we showcased our Wyre Moving More brand, marketing and

campaign materials, which will help us implement the strategy over the next five years.

#### **4.7 Arts & Health**

Our arts and health programme continues to grow and develop with nine artists delivering creativity filled sessions at our Easter and Summer Holiday Activities and Food Programme clubs. Activities included a wide variety of arts and crafts from Easter trees decorated with paper eggs to clay model making. A nature-inspired session at Wyre Estuary Country Park involved children making beautiful clay pendants and pots and doing some fun sketching. Reminiscence sessions continue to go down well at Fleetwood Market and Cleveleys Library and creative wellbeing sessions were enjoyed by participants at Over Wyre Medical Centre. Led by a professional artist participants explored their creative minds and had a lovely social time making new friends. We are delivering a series of new creative projects using UKSPF funding, these include 4 x seven weeks of creative projects at the Market House Studios. These will be led by professional artists with one project specifically for young people.

### **5. Marine Hall**

**5.1** On 29 July 2024, Marine Hall hosted BBC Radio 4 Any Questions? This was a great even to raise the profile of Marine Hall as an all-round entertainment venue both locally and regionally. Proactive work continues with filming production companies to encourage Wyre as a location for filming.

**5.2** The Marine Hall team hosted a wonderful celebration of life in late July as well as the graduation events for the Nautical College and a packed international dance championship. In early September, Marine Hall held its popular Food and Drink festival outside in the beautiful Marine Hall gardens with a full entertainment line-up for families including a bouncy castle. It continues to demonstrate its versatility as a working theatre and beautiful event space. A new marketing plan is being drafted to promote its entertainment programme and conference and event space offer.

### **6. Comments and questions**

**6.1** 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.