

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Date</b>
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	11 July 2019

**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**

**Cyber-crime**

- 2.1** Cyber-crime is on the increase and can be undertaken from anywhere in the world. For small and medium-sized enterprises there is a 50% chance that they will experience a cyber security breach. These breaches can often cost in the region of £1,400. The National Cyber Security Centre, part of GCHQ, has produced a useful guide – The Cyber Security-Small Business Guide. The aim of the guide is to make it easy for people to understand how to protect their information and IT systems against cyber-attack. The Guide is available on our Business Support web page at [http://www.wyre.gov.uk/info/200358/business\\_support\\_and\\_advice/929/business\\_support\\_in\\_wyre](http://www.wyre.gov.uk/info/200358/business_support_and_advice/929/business_support_in_wyre) and will be publicised through the Wyred Up Business Forum. I strongly recommend that every business obtains a copy of this guide and implements the recommendations made, it could save them a lot of money.

**Victim Services Update**

- 2.2** Victim Services received a total of 1,146 referrals for Wyre during 2018-19 with 840 valid cases accepted into the service. Of these 152 received a brief intervention and 244 a longer term intervention.

### **3. Housing**

#### **Disabled Facilities Grant Delivery 2018/19**

- 3.1** Delivery on Disabled Facilities Grants in 2018/19 reached its highest level for over ten years. With increased funding from the Better Care Fund, additional funding from The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in January, improving referral rates from Lancashire County Council Occupational Therapists and supported by a new joint project with community nursing teams that now sees high priority cases referred directly to us, we completed 324 adaptations to a value of almost £2.4m. The highest delivery statistics for adaptations in Lancashire.
- 3.2** The adaptations delivered substantial benefits for the residents involved and their carers and included: 227 bathroom adaptations, 53 stairlifts, 48 ramps/step adaptations, 22 ceiling track hoists, 14 wash/dry toilets, 3 ground floor toilets, 2 through floor lifts, 3 ground floor extensions and 7 alterations to layout.

#### **Rapid Rehousing Pathway Funding Award**

- 3.3** Our Housing Options Team have been successful in a joint bid along with Fylde and Lancaster Council's for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Rapid Rehousing Pathway funding. The MHCLG Rough Sleeping Strategy, published in August 2018 set out a plan to meet a commitment to halve rough sleeping by 2022, and end it by 2027.
- 3.4** The Rapid Rehousing Pathway was launched as part of the Rough Sleeping Strategy. The pathway brings together four policy elements (Somewhere Safe to Stay, Supported Lettings, Navigators and Local Lettings Agencies) that will help rough sleepers, and those at risk of rough sleeping, to access the support and settled housing they need to leave the streets for good. This round is for all four elements of the pathway and will increase the provision available for rough sleepers, and those at risk of sleeping rough, in 108 areas across the country. We have been awarded £30,000 to employ a full time navigator who will develop relationships with and help people who sleep rough and are at risk of rough sleeping to access appropriate local services, get off the streets and into settled accommodation. We plan that our navigator will work with a range of multidisciplinary teams and provide both navigation and co-ordination support, using strong local relationships, expertise and collective working.

### **4. Wyre Beach Management Scheme**

- 4.1** The development of the studies required to produce an outline business case to the Environment Agency are ahead of programme. An environmental interest's consultation meeting on 16 May 2019 was well received with general agreement with the proposed options and the objectives proposed. Pre development discussions have taken place with Natural England. The requirement for Habitat Impact Assessments and further studies were discussed. Contractor Volker Stevin has been

appointed and has produced an initial estimate for the works. They will also provide buildability and assistance with the future approvals process. Detailed topographic surveys have been undertaken of the area by the in-house team. The Marine Management Organisation are reviewing the proposed options and will provide feedback shortly. The Coastwatchers' consultation and citizen's science initiative has been launched and a scheme website is being developed. Plans for a further radar at Cleveleys are being developed.

- 4.2** The scheme remains on track for a commencement date in spring/summer 2020.

## **5. Flood Forum**

- 5.1** A well-attended flood forum meeting took place on 13 June. A presentation was provided by United Utilities on Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDs). A presentation on the Local Plan and general planning enforcement was well received by members.
- 5.2** A response has been made to the Environment Agency's consultation on the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. The strategy looks at new and innovative methods of creating resilient places and climate change champions. Members of the group have been involved throughout the strategy's development which is the result of over two years of collaboration between a wide range of flood risk management organisations and infrastructure providers. It is hoped the strategy will form the masterplan for the wider management of water as well as providing essential information on flood risk management and methodologies to adapt to a changing environment.
- 5.3** Wyre's leaflet on building community resilience and achieving effective action during a flood event was discussed and distributed.
- 5.4** The forum continues to support communities and brings partner agencies together to effect positive change.

## **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.