

Report of:	To:	Date	Item no.
Cllr Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	15 June 2017	8(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** I am pleased to report that a new service has been commissioned to provide support to victims and witnesses of crime across the county. Lancashire Victim Services was launched on the 1st April 2017. The services are free and confidential and can be accessed by victims of crime in Lancashire regardless of whether they have chosen to report the crime to the police or not. The service provides emotional support, information and practical help to anyone who needs it.
- 2.2** A valued partner within the Community Safety Partnership is Inspire North Lancashire who deliver a fully integrated drug and alcohol service within local community and custodial settings. The service provides rapid and open access to assessment and treatment services for people who have problems with drugs and/or alcohol. They provide all aspects of drug and alcohol treatment, including open access, structured treatment and referral to tier four rehabilitation. Their aim is to promote recovery from addiction and dependence and support people to make positive changes to their lives.
- 2.3** Inspire have recently supported the establishment of a recovery café in Fleetwood by the Fleetwood Recovery Workshop Group. Recently the Fleetwood Recovery Workshop Group organised and ran a family fun day and raised £320 to support families in recovery.

### **3. Housing – Homelessness Trailblazer Update**

- 3.1** We are seeing an increase in the number of people presenting to the Council as homeless with one or more complex needs. These complex needs can range from mental health issues to learning disabilities and substance-misuse. These cases require extra input from our Housing Options Officers as the “normal” pathways to prevent homelessness may not be successful with these more complex cases, and without further support any tenancies that may be established are more likely to fail.
- 3.2** Recently we have been successful in a joint bid with Blackpool Council and Fylde Council to deliver more intensive homelessness prevention, in particular in relation to those with complex needs. The aim being to identify those in need earlier, provide intensive support and training, and sustain tenancies.
- 3.3** Our work to deliver against this new Homelessness Trailblazer funding is now well underway and we are recruiting to two full time equivalent case workers dedicated to people threatened with homelessness with complex needs. A unit of shared accommodation will be used as temporary accommodation whilst we work with the tenants to provide them with the skills and knowledge to sustain a permanent tenancy of their own and a bond scheme will enable more people to access private sector accommodation through provision of a paperless bond with landlords. Tenancy training will be delivered to help sustain tenancies. A shared hospital link worker will work across the three boroughs in Blackpool Victoria Hospital and The Harbour to identify cases coming up to discharge who may be at risk of homelessness.
- 3.4** The project started on 1st April 2017; to date one of the complex needs workers is in post and recruitment is underway for the second post; the bond scheme and tenancy training are in place; options for a shared unit of accommodation are being discussed with providers; and the hospital link worker has just taken up post across the three boroughs.

### **4. Rossall Coastal Defence Improvement Scheme**

- 4.1** Good progress continues to be made on the coastal defence scheme with the first whole section of new sea defences, from promenade to beach, having been completed.
- 4.2** A public presentation was made to over 100 people at Marine Hall on the Environmental improvements on 12 April which was well received. The landscape work has commenced with designs in place for the bridges and marker structures. The team continues to work with schools and the local community to develop the scheme and ensure the long term community benefits are realised.

### **5. Seaside Awards**

- 5.1** I was delighted that we were able to announce recently that four beaches in Wyre achieved the seaside award that distinguishes them as amongst the best in the country. Ferry Beach and Marine Beach in Fleetwood, and Rossall Beach and Jubilee Beach in Cleveleys have all achieved the

award for 2017. The Keep Britain Tidy's Seaside Awards are the nationwide standard for the best beaches across the UK and the flag is a symbol of quality which ensures visitors are guaranteed to find a clean, safe, attractive and well-managed beach.

## **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.

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