

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr Vivien Taylor, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	15 June 2017	8(g)

Executive Report: 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 Health and Community Engagement Portfolio, as set out below.

2. Community engagement

- 2.1 Wyre Campaigns Plan** - As part of our ongoing commitment to deliver quality information, consult and empower local residents about our services, we have published a campaigns plan detailing how we will fulfil this commitment. The plan consists of 19 campaigns which have been based on the business plan projects, service needs and priorities, national and local awareness campaigns and outcomes from the Life in Wyre survey. Each campaign is led by a member of the Engagement Team working closely with relevant lead officers to ensure each campaign meets its objectives. The full plan can be viewed on the intranet or members can request a copy by emailing communications@wyre.gov.uk.

- 2.2 Together We Make a Difference Network** - Building relationships with partners and fact finding is a key priority for the network to ensure appropriate referrals are received, so far we have had four referrals which are currently being scoped and almost daily requests for information and advice. This has included advice on project development, consultation and support for activities run by parish and town councils. If you know of a large scale community priority that needs attention then please email details to together@wyre.gov.uk so that the team can make contact.

- 2.3 Lancaster Canal tow path project** - Linking Preston to Kendal the Lancaster Canal is a unique lock free stretch and one of the country's few coastal canals. After the success of the Barton towpath project, which included upgrading of the original surface and provided disabled access on the canal, a further path extension project has been proposed. An initial consultation exercise with the nine parish and town council areas the path would run through has been held and an outline

proposal has been completed which looks to redevelop the rest of the path within the borough. Further updates will be provided on this project as it develops.

3. Health and wellbeing

- 3.1 LGA Corporate Peer Challenge** – As the Leader has mentioned earlier we have received the feedback report from the LGA Peer Challenge which took place during 14 - 16 March. I am delighted that the report clearly demonstrates that the council has a strong commitment to the Healthier Wyre priority and is making excellent progress towards addressing the challenges we are faced with.
- 3.2** The report states that we have a good understanding of our local context and the factors that influence the wider determinants of health and wellbeing. The peer team found examples of partnership working that were innovative, exceptional and game changing. Partners spoke of us as forward thinking, as being actively engaged and the successes we have had in attracting inward investment into the Borough were specifically acknowledged.
- 3.3** Of course, our staff play a particularly important role and it is especially heartening that the peer review team found that we have ‘dedicated and talented staff who have a good understanding of health and wellbeing in its wider sense... and the impact their own work area can have on this priority’. I would like to echo the Leader’s thanks to our staff who continue to provide exceptional services in helping to support a Healthier Wyre.
- 3.4** Within the report there are, of course, recommendations for improvement and I would expect no less. There are four recommendations that the peer team have suggested would help us take our work to the next level, these are:-
- for us to use a new Economic Development Strategy to develop a sharper, more compelling long term vision and set of ambitions for Wyre and for these to be agreed and shared with partners
 - for us to agree clearer areas of focus and priorities for staff to deliver the Healthier Wyre priority with clearly defined outcomes
 - for us to strengthen the co-ordination of activity and partnership initiatives taking place in Fleetwood to facilitate partnership working around shared priorities and:
 - that we explore opportunities to harness the relatively strong financial position of the council to support business plan priorities.
- 3.5 Healthier Fleetwood Funding Success** - Through a Healthier Fleetwood based partnership that includes Wyre Council, Regenda Homes, Mountview Practice, West View Community Association, UR Potential and Lancashire County Council a bid was submitted to DCLG’s Communities Fund. The bid for £56,000 to support social prescribing was successful and we will now be working with our partners to establish social prescribing into a number of positive health related activities carried out in our parks, leisure centres and on the seafront.

3.6 Care and Repair (Wyre and Fylde) – Last year was another busy year for Care and Repair (Wyre and Fylde). I am pleased to report that the service carried out 553 caseworker visits, delivered 563 minor adaptations in the homes of vulnerable residents (installing banister rails, external handrails, steps, ramps etc) and the handyman service carried out 1,926 jobs. Taken together these activities have helped many of our older and disabled residents to live more safely and independently.

4. Environmental health

4.1 Food Safety - Food safety data from April 2016 to March 2017 has been collated and sent to the Food Standards Agency. I am pleased to report that the percentage of food establishments in Wyre that are considered broadly compliant has increased from 89% in March 2016 to 93% in March 2017. This represents a significant achievement for the food safety team and helps demonstrate the effectiveness of our policy of targeting non-compliant premises for increased enforcement and the impact of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme in helping to raise the standards of food hygiene in the Borough.

4.2 Last month our Food Safety Team successfully prosecuted Oban Fish Selling Co. Ltd for a number of food hygiene offences. These included dirty tables and equipment, insufficient food safety management procedures and cigarette ends in food storage areas. The company was fined £13,500 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £170 and full costs of £1,639.

4.3 Environmental Protection - Air Quality Data from January 2016 to December 2016 has been collated. I am pleased to report that data for the Wyre area has once again shown no areas where the levels of NO₂ have exceeded the 40Ug/m³ threshold set by the European Union. We are therefore cautiously optimistic that we will be in a position to revoke the current Air Quality Management Area in Poulton-le-Fylde this time next year (subject to advice from DEFRA). However now is not the time to rest on our laurels and we will continue to encourage the take up of low emission vehicles to replace ageing diesel cars and wherever possible encourage walking and cycling which offer clear health benefits as well as having zero impact on air quality.

5. Comments and questions

5.1 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.