

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	9 January 2020

**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. Housing**

**2.1 Support for Rough Sleepers**

Temperatures towards the end of November and into December dropped to freezing and this resulted in our Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) being triggered. SWEP aims to prevent rough sleeping during extreme cold weather. The protocol is triggered if night time temperatures are going to be zero degrees or below for three consecutive nights. Although not a legal requirement, every Local Authority should have a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol. We are proactive in using our protocol and in line with best practice take a common sense approach whereby we consider any forecast approaching zero and we also take the impact of rain, snow and wind chill into account. Owing to effective homelessness prevention activity we have very little on-street homelessness.

- 2.2** To assist in preventing rough sleeping during extreme weather, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have introduced the Rough Sleeping Cold Weather Fund for the winter 2019/20. £10 million has been made available for local authorities to support as many people off the streets as possible. Under this Cold Weather Fund, MHCLG will fund initiatives such as enhancing access to accommodation and the enhancement of existing outreach support services. Local Authorities are not required to bid for this funding but can submit claims to MHCLG for the work they have carried out to prevent rough sleeping over the winter period. If necessary we will use this funding to supplement the services we have available over coming months.

## **2.3 Affordable Warmth**

The Care and Repair Team continues to support elderly and vulnerable people to remain safe in their homes. In winter a significant part of the team's work involves helping residents to keep their homes warm.

Through working with external partners the team have at the time of writing provided 17 clients with new gas central heating boilers and four clients with additional heaters.

## **3. Wyre Beach Management Scheme**

**3.1** The council have completed the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the scheme and informally presented it to the Environment Agency Large Project Review Group (LPRG) on 28 November. Advice received from the informal presentation was included within the formal submission on 18 December with the formal presentation to LPRG scheduled for the 15 January.

**3.2** Consultation on the proposed scheme has commenced with a good response to date. The council is proposing to use one of two frameworks to procure a contractor to complete the works. The scheme still remains on track for a commencement date in Spring / Summer 2020.

## **4. Community Safety**

**4.1** Officers have been involved in the creation of a multi-agency group to address Youth ASB in Wyre. Attendees include the Police; Youth Offending Team; Children and Family Wellbeing Service; and Young Addaction. Meetings are held on a fortnightly basis to discuss individual cases of Youth ASB (whether location based or individual) and to devise support and an appropriate action plan.

**4.2** The second phase of this work has been to agree and implement a graduated approach to dealing with Youth ASB having regard to the range of informal and formal interventions available. A traffic light system is in operation so that minor ASB issues can be escalated ensuring that they are addressed and that parents are made aware of any incidents and are offered support.

**4.3** The process also serves to ensure that young persons involved in ASB are known to the council at an early stage. Should they refuse the advice and support offered, then the council has available the necessary evidence to justify and support more formal intervention where appropriate.

**4.4** The third phase has been to establish what interventions are already in place and which are capable of discouraging and preventing young persons from engaging in ASB, or tackling the underlying reasons why they are engaging in such behaviour.

**4.5** Such interventions include the My Choice Programme, recently developed by the Youth Offending Team to offer diversionary activities and the Triple P Parenting Programme offered by the Children and

Family Wellbeing Service, designed to give parents the support and skills necessary to both prevent and treat behavioural and emotional problems at home.

- 4.6** Interventions such as this are essential to any success in changing behaviours. Referrals are already being made. However implementation of the 'traffic light system' will undoubtedly increase the number of referrals and this will further improve the process, ensuring that a consistent approach is taken.
- 4.7** As the new teams start to embed in the Wyre area the Wyre Community Safety Partnership will seek to work with them to help to ensure safer communities across Wyre.
- 4.8** The Council's Community Safety Team organised a Mini Football Tournament on 25 November in support of the White Ribbon Campaign which is about ending male violence against women. I would like to thank the teams from the council, the Police, Fire and Rescue and Princes Trust volunteers, the YMCA and Active Lancashire for taking part.
- 4.9** In partnership with the Police the council organised a night safe operation in Poulton on 29 November 2019. A knife arch was deployed and a total of 126 people were counted going through the arch nothing was found, and most of the feedback was positive. Social media was heavily used on the night and again the feedback was in the main positive. The visible presence was very well received and it is anticipated that further events will take place across the borough.

## **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.