

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	6 February 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** On 14 October MHCLG (Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government) published the Government's response to the consultation on 'Future Delivery of Support to Victims and their Children in Accommodation-Based Domestic Abuse Services'. In that response, MHCLG made clear their intention to introduce a new statutory duty requiring Local Authorities to assess the need for and commission support for victims and their children within safe-accommodation. The new duty on local authorities will commence in April 2021.
- 2.2** Refuges and other forms of specialist safe accommodation-based services play a vital role in providing this support. To help ensure what may be life-saving services are maintained ahead of the duty coming into force, the Government has provided funding of up to £15 million for the provision of support within safe accommodation-based services during 2020/21.
- 2.3** Building upon an already well established partnership approach a Pan Lancashire bid into this funding, coordinated by Lancashire County Council, has been developed and has been supported by the council. The bid proposal is focussed on three primary objectives: the sustainment of existing safe accommodation across the Pan Lancashire area; increasing capacity to meet new identified needs and gaps in the provision of safe accommodation and; improving pathways to safe accommodation.
- 2.4** Fylde Coast Women's Aid operate three refuges and other forms of specialist safe accommodation-based services across the Fylde Coast and the bid proposes the continuation of existing services together with the addition of two further Family Support Worker posts that would work

across Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre. Using existing MHCLG funding 74 women and 68 children were supported throughout the 2018/19 period.

- 2.5** If successful, the bid will help to ensure that support and accommodation will continue to be offered on a needs led basis ensuring that victims can live in a safe location. Specialist wrap around support will be available using existing pathways, specific to the victims needs to remove barriers that complex needs victims' can experience to access appropriate services. Support will be available for women who are open to Children's Social Care interventions.

### **3. Care and Repair**

- 3.1** We have received funding of £40,000 from Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group to help maintain a Care and Repair Service for Wyre from 1st April 2020. This means we will be able to maintain this important service, helping to keep older and disabled residents safe and independent in their own homes. We will no longer deliver a service for Fylde but will maintain both Handyperson and caseworker services within Wyre.

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

- 4.1** Following a presentation of the Outline Business Case (OBC) to the Environment Agency Large Project Review Group (LPRG) on 15 January I am pleased to be able to advise members that a recommendation for approval has been made to the EA Board. The LPRG commented on the high quality of the submission and presentation, to the credit of those involved.
- 4.2** Radio Lancashire and Lancashire TV interviews about the proposed scheme were conducted with Carl Green and myself in January. The interviews were broadcast on Radio Lancashire and The Wave and are currently streaming on Lancashire TV.
- 4.3** Formal sign off of the scheme is expected this month which would allow progression of the £42.6 million project which is fully funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural affairs (DEFRA). The scheme would improve the standard of protection to 11,056 properties.

### **5. Rossall Flood Defence Scheme**

- 5.1** The Rossall scheme has been entered into the Institution of Civil Engineers Awards for Constructability. I am pleased to advise members that the scheme performed very well during the recent storms.

### **6. Flood Forum**

- 6.1** The next flood forum is on 12 March 2020. Over 50 people attended the rearranged flood forum meeting on 9 January 2020 covering a wide agenda of flood related topics including presentations on funding, Shoreline Management Plans and the Wyre Beach management Scheme. The Flood Action Groups (FLAGS) remain very active with the

new groups in Pilling and Great Eccleston being supported by the well-established ones in Thornton, St Michaels and Churchtown.

## **7. Community Safety**

### **7.1 Act Awareness training sessions for Businesses**

The Community Safety Partnership have been working with partners across Lancashire to improve the awareness of the tools available that can help organisations prepare and respond to hostile attacks. As part of this work Wyre Community Safety partnership secured funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office to deliver two networking sessions primarily aimed at local businesses in the Wyre area. The dates for the sessions are 3 February at the Civic Centre and 11 February at Marine Hall. The events are free of charge and a speaker from Counter Terrorism Policing North West will deliver the Act Awareness presentation.

**7.2** Work is currently being undertaken to review the town centre CCTV system and look at options and costs to improve and upgrade this facility. To assist with the project a grant of £6,942 has been secured from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office.

**7.3** In response to the national increase in knife crime, Lancashire Constabulary have been co-ordinating the installation of a number of dedicated knife bins throughout the County with two bins to be located within Fleetwood on Milton Street and London Street. I would encourage anyone who is carrying a knife to make use of this facility and dispose of it responsibly.

## **8. Comments and questions**

**8.1.** 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.