



<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Date of Publication</b>	<b>Item No.</b>
Cllr Patsy Ormrod, Lead Member Older People	Council	28 November 2013	10

## **LEAD MEMBER REPORT : OLDER PEOPLE**

### **1. Purpose of Report.**

- 1.1 To inform Council of progress on the implementation of the strategy and action plan for older people.

### **2. Background.**

- 2.1 The Strategy and Action Plan was adopted by Wyre Council in January 2013 following consultation with Wyre Pensioners Forum, Wyre Senior Forum, other stakeholders and Heads of Service. The Strategy and Action Plan serve to highlight and best co-ordinate services across the Council contributing to improving services for older people.

### **3. Warm Homes and Healthy People Project.**

- 3.1 The winter warmth campaign 2013/14 for vulnerable residents, coordinated by Care and Repair, is underway. Currently we have limited funding but, we are awaiting the outcome of a decision to be made by Lancashire County Council (Public Health) as to the availability of funds. The extent of interventions we will be able to offer this winter will depend on the outcome of our bid. The work conducted by Care and Repair last year has been used to make the case for the Lancashire wide bid to the County Council.

### **4. Care and Repair provision of support to Older People in claiming due benefits.**

- 4.1 So far this year (2013/14), Care and Repair have supported 102 older people to make claims for Attendance Allowance. To date this has resulted in £120,863.60 additional annual income being awarded to older people.

## **5. The Introduction of Wyre Council – Ageing Well Web Site Page.**

**5.1** The Wyre Council Ageing Well web site page has been introduced. The Web site page provides access to the Wyre Council strategy and action plan. It also splits ageing well into 5 key areas, money matters, health & wellbeing, travel and lifestyle, home & care and work & learning. The Web site page has made use of existing website resources such as Lancashire County Council – health and wellbeing directory and help direct providing links to this resource. In addition, if an organisation wants to be included on the page, there is an opportunity for them to make contact via the web page.

## **6. The Development of a Community Garden – Intergenerational Allotment Project.**

**6.1** In March 2013 unused scrub land on Cottam Hall playing fields in Poulton, adjacent to the current allotment site, was identified as a suitable location for the community garden project. Between April and September the site has been transformed, removing fly tipped waste and significant unwanted vegetation, replacing a crumbling outbuilding with a brand new fit for purpose shed, replacing the damaged fencing to provide a secure area and introduced a number of raised beds. This has been achieved with the assistance from various Wyre Council services, Community Pay Back, Wyre Council volunteer ranger service, Poulton in Bloom and members of the public.

**6.2** The last 6 months has been all about establishing the framework for the on-going success of the project. To date, the work in transforming the site has not been suitable for older people. However, the project has raised interest and retired volunteers have already started to make themselves known to the Community Safety Officer, the project co-ordinator. The site is almost ready to start planting next year's harvest which we look forward to with interest.

## **7. The Development of a Wyre based Older People Network.**

**7.1** In January 2013 Wyre Council were one of a hundred local Authorities invited to apply for Big Lottery funding to reduce isolation amongst older people. We are now down to the last 32 and have just submitted a bid for development funding to develop a comprehensive strategy and vision to address loneliness. We will find out if the next stage of our bid is successful in January. Work conducted in putting our bid together has effectively pulled together a comprehensive list of partners and whether our Big Lottery bid is successful or not. This has effectively created a network of service delivery partners that could be used to take our older peoples agenda forward.

## **8. Action Plan 2014/15**

- 8.1** Work will commence shortly on next years Action Plan for Older People, which will aim to improve services Wyre Council currently offers for older people.

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