

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Vivien Taylor, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	6 April 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 LGA Communications Health Check** - Earlier this year we participated in an LGA Communications Health check. Health checks are improvement-orientated and tailored to meet individual councils' needs. Our health check explored whether the current communications service is fit for purpose and whether the Engagement Team structure, strategy and activities are in the best possible shape to deliver the corporate priority on engagement. I met with the reviewers during the health check as did a number of officers from across the council. I am pleased to report that reviewers found the Engagement Team enthusiastic and passionate about delivering a high standard of work for the council and its residents. We are well on our way to developing positive engagement activity and have a number of best practice examples which we should be proud of. The shift to the focus on community engagement has been embraced by the team and its importance is understood. The reviewers identified that the development and implementation of an engagement strategy, completion of the marketing review and the embedding of a commercial mind-set were all important areas to be taken forward in order to ensure that the council's priorities are delivered.

**2.2 Together We Make a Difference Network** - In these early stages building relationships with partners and fact finding including mapping local assets in local communities is crucial. The team have been meeting with a number of parish and town councils to find out what are local people's priorities, as well as partner agencies and other local groups. If you are involved with a local community group then send the details to [together@wyre.gov.uk](mailto:together@wyre.gov.uk) so that the team can make contact.

**2.3 Seagull Campaign** - Before the nesting season begins we have been running another seagull campaign to try and control numbers. All relevant information and advice is held on [www.wyre.gov.uk/seagulls](http://www.wyre.gov.uk/seagulls). We have been creating new social media content for Facebook and Twitter which started in February and features tips on bird proofing your home ahead of the nesting/breeding season (between March and May). An article has also appeared in the spring edition of Wyre Voice, which has been distributed to all households. Future messages will include asking residents and visitors not to feed the birds, trying to prevent bathing water pollution and keeping your waste covered.

### **3. Health and wellbeing**

**3.1** Between 14 and 16 March we welcomed a Local Government Association Peer Review Team into the Authority to challenge us on work underway around our 'Healthier Wyre' theme. The review also included a focus on Council governance and leadership.

**3.2** Whilst we await a full written report we have had initial feedback from the Peer Review Team. I am pleased to report that the feedback has been very positive. The review team have identified that we have strong, credible political and organisational leadership, we have good core services, we are financially sound, partnership working is strong, we are highly regarded by partners, are delivering innovative projects, have a can do attitude and capable, well-motivated and talented staff.

**3.3** We are clearly well placed to deliver against our Business Plan priority of improving the health and wellbeing of our communities. I would like to thank all officers, elected members, partners and stakeholders who took part in what was clearly a challenging and comprehensive review. We await the full report but it is clear there is some great work underway, work that we will continue to build upon in the creation of a healthier Wyre.

### **4. Environmental health**

**4.1** The Environmental Protection team have been attending the Police led Wyre Early Action meetings since the initiative commenced. This has yielded some very positive outcomes in that the team have now made good links with Adult Social Care at Lancashire County Council, with Integrated Care Coordinators from NHS Fylde and Wyre CCG, and with Supported Housing providers such as Creative Support in Fleetwood. This has been particularly useful recently in dealing with a number of cases of self-neglect. These are always difficult cases but Early Action is now helping agencies to work better together to achieve the best outcome for the individual concerned.

**4.2** The Environmental Protection Team continues to explore the use of anti-social behaviour powers to resolve issues such as rubbish accumulations on private land which are not directly prejudicial to health. In the past the team would not have been able to address these issues formally but new anti-social behaviour powers now provide the Authority with another enforcement tool to utilise.

## **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.

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