



| Report of: | To: | Date of Meeting | Item No. |
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| Cllr. Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder | Council | 29 November 2012 | 9(e) |

EXECUTIVE REPORT: NEIGHBOURHOOD PORTFOLIO HOLDER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Council of the current position on a number of issues within the Neighbourhood Portfolio as set out in paragraph 2 below.

2. Current and Future Issues

(a) The Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund

- 2.1 In its new White Paper – *Caring for our future: reforming care and support* Government has launched a reform of the care and support system. Government has outlined its plan to shift the system from one that responds to crisis to one which focuses on wellbeing, and on an individual's ability to live independently for as long as possible. Specialised housing is a key part of this new system. It offers positive solutions for people who want to continue living in their own property, remaining as independent as possible as their needs change.
- 2.2 In recognition of the above and to encourage delivery, Government have announced a new fund (the Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund) and has invited bids for new and innovative supported housing schemes.
- 2.3 With our evidenced ageing population Wyre has established need for more well-designed specialised housing for older people and disabled adults. Housing Services are therefore now working with colleagues from Adult Social Care (Lancashire County Council), Supporting People and Regenda to explore the potential for a new Extra Care scheme for Wyre. We expect to be in a position to submit a bid by the 18 January 2013 deadline for applications.

(b) Wyre Warm Homes Healthy People Project – Winter 2012/13

- 2.4** Utilising funding provided by North Lancashire PCT, Care and Repair and our Private Sector Housing Team have launched our winter warmth campaign for 2012/13.
- 2.5** Already 50 referrals have been received and support delivered. This support has included; the supply of 10 emergency heaters, 4 boilers have been serviced, 3 boilers have been replaced, 5 properties have been draught proofed and a number of private rented sector landlords have been served with schedules of work to carry out improvements.
- 2.6** The clients assisted have been vulnerable to excess cold due to age and/or the exacerbation of medical conditions which have included, amongst others; poor circulation, C.O.P.D., epilepsy, diabetes and spinal arthritis. One private rented sector tenant in particular was, quite literally, blue with cold and was about to be admitted to hospital by his G.P. - our intervention prevented this.

(c) Warm Homes Healthy People Fund – Bid Success

- 2.7** To supplement funding already provided by North Lancashire PCT, in October Housing Services submitted a bid to the Department of Health's Warm Homes Healthy People Fund on behalf of Wyre and Fylde.
- 2.8** On 9 November we received preliminary notification that our bid has been successful. We are awaiting final notification of our funding allocation.
- 2.9** This funding will mean we will now be able to expand our winter 2012/13 project. Following confirmation of our actual allocation Housing Services will be working with partners to commission a number of projects to further support a range of services to help keep many more of our vulnerable households safe, warm and well during the winter months

(d) (Commercial Safety)

- 2.10** The Food Standard Agency have been concerned about the serious consequences of foodborne E coli 0157 outbreaks and this has resulted in improved guidance to all sectors of the food industry.
- 2.11** The Agency have advised Local Authorities that the Safer Food Better Business Pack (Catering & Retail) available from them to all businesses from them is not suitable for butchers handling both raw and ready to eat foods. These Butchers must have a food safety management system based on HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point).

2.12 The Commercial Safety Team have written to over 50 butchers during September 2012 explaining the above decision and providing detailed guidance on how they can implement the required changes. All butchers will be inspected in due course as part of the routine inspection programme. The inspecting officers will seek compliance of this requirement through dialogue, but will not hesitate to take action where they believe the public are being put at risk.

2.13 New requirements came into force earlier this year from DEFRA for businesses wishing to export fish and shellfish products to China. Food officers have been working closely with a local exporter to ensure that correct procedures are followed to allow continued trade with China.

(e) (Community Safety)

2.14 The Wyre Community Safety Partnership are currently undertaking the annual strategic assessment of priorities within Wyre. Statistics indicate that the 5 priorities will be

- Killed or seriously injured in collisions – Road Safety.
- Substance misuse, drugs & alcohol
- Domestic violence
- Violence against the person
- Anti-Social behaviour & nuisance.

The Partnership will continue to monitor acquisitive crime.

2.15 The Pharos Ward in Fleetwood will be the focus of the next Taking Pride event in Wyre.

Wyre Council, Lancashire Police, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and Trading Standards are coming together for a week of action aimed at tackling crime and neighbourhood issues.

Two reassurance road shows are being held where officers from these agencies will be on hand to talk to residents about their concerns and offer practical help and advice.

The road shows take place on:

- Thursday 6 December, 11am-2pm at ASDA, Fleetwood
- Friday 7 December, 11am-2pm at St Peter's Church, Lord St, Fleetwood

Wyre Council will be giving away free bicycle security kits, on a first come first served basis, at the reassurance road shows.

During the week, the authorities will be carrying out a range of community safety initiatives including supporting victims of crime, conducting home fire safety checks and implementing targeted action in problematic areas, while schoolchildren will carry out litter picks.

Wyre Council's Bulky Matters service will also be in operation during the week, picking up and recycling large, unwanted items directly from homes. Collections cost £18 for up to three items. To book a collection contact Wyre Council on 01253 891000.

- 2.16** The Community firework display at Fleetwood attended by approximately 3000 people provided a focal point for the area and has been heralded a success by both the Police and the Fire Service.

The Police and Fire Service indicate that there were no bonfire/firework related call outs for the Fire Service in Wyre during bonfire night, and Anti Social Behaviour reports were low for the evening.

In addition there were no reports of unauthorised bonfires on public land in Fleetwood.

3. Comments and Questions

- 3.1** 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.