

Community Focus Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Thursday, 26 July 2012
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members:	Councillor Kiran Mulholland (Chairman) Councillor Christine Akeroyd (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Maxine Chew, Fabian Craig- Wilson, Susanne Cunningham, Nigel Goodrich, Kathleen Harper, Paul Hodgson, Barbara Nash, Linda J Nulty, Dawn Prestwich, Viv Willder
Officers:	Paul Walker, David Gillett, Christine Miller, Lyndsey Lacey
Other members:	None
Members of the public:	Ms Donna Studholme (Age UK in Fylde) Ms Michele Lee (Care and Repair (Wyre and Fylde) Manager)

Councillor Barbara Nash

Following the recent by-election, the Chairman, Councillor Kiran Mulholland welcomed Councillor Barbara Nash to her first official meeting.

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee held on 14 June 2012 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute members

The following substitutions were reported under council procedure rule 22.3:

Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson for Councillor Tim Armit

Councillor Barbara Nash for Councillor Gail Goodman

4. LSP end of year Financial Statement and Report

Christine Miller (Partnerships Manager) presented a comprehensive report on the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) end of year Financial Statement and Report.

By way of background, Mrs Miller explained that the LSP received the majority of its funding via the second homes funding allocation. She added that Lancashire County Council is the main contributor of this funding and that Fylde Borough Council also contributed an element of their second homes funding to the LSP.

Mrs Miller advised the committee that as part of the agreement, an end of year financial statement and narrative report was issued to the County Council. A copy of the document was circulated with the agenda for members' consideration.

Mrs Miller further reported that in February 2012, the Leader of the County Council wrote to the borough council stating that there would be no further funding available after March 2013. She added that it was intended to present a report on the position to next meeting of the Scrutiny committee in September.

In summary, the report included a financial statement and also made reference to the various projects the LSP had previously been involved with including: 'Build Up', Food Co-operative, Fylde in Focus, Community Projects Fund, Shaping the Place, Wild Life Trust, Monitored CCTV and the various Theme Groups projects. The report also included details of relevant expenditure.

Councillor Chew asked for further details on the future funding arrangements of the LSP. In response, Mrs Miller stated that it was intended to present a full report on this matter to the next Community Focus Committee.

Councillor Goodrich commented that he was generally impressed how the small amount of funding was suitably distributed amongst the various worthwhile projects and wanted to commend the LSP on its work.

Following detailed discussion it was RESOLVED:

1. To note the report.
2. To express the Committee's support for the on-going work of the LSP and its projects whilst the 2nd homes funding is still in existence.

(The Chairman dealt with the matter by a show of hands rather than by taking a recorded vote)

5. Annual Report - Age UK Lancashire

By way of introduction, David Gillett (Head of Environmental Health and Housing Services) presented an overview of key aspects of the one year Service Level Agreement, which the Council has in place with Age UK Lancashire, to provide an information and advice service in Fylde. In doing so, added that as part of the agreement, the Council paid a grant of 12k per annum for the provision of key services (detailed in the report).

Ms Donna Studholme (Information and Advice Manager at Age UK) attended the meeting to present key points arising from the Annual Report including details of performance over the previous year.

In brief, the presentation covered details of the range of information and advice service provided and a profile of service users within the Fylde area. In addition, it made reference to the work undertaken with key local partners, staffing/volunteer arrangements/training undertaken, networking events together with an overview of comments received about the service and information of development plans in place.

A copy of the performance report of Age UK Lancashire and the Service Level Agreement together with a copy of an information leaflet produced by Age UK Lancashire was circulated with the agenda.

Councillor Chew complimented Age Concern on their work and, in particular, suggested that it had greatly benefited the residents of her ward. She added that since the cessation of the bus service in the area more of the residents had been experiencing difficulties accessing the service. In this respect, Councillor Chew sought further details on the 'outreach' service.

The Chairman, Councillor Mulholland asked for further clarification on the funding element of the service. This was addressed by Ms Studholme.

Various other questions from members were asked in relation to the profile of service users/ demand for the service and the percentage of residents from the rural community using and/or having access to the service.

Following consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED to note the report and to thank Ms Studholme for the presentation and her attendance at the meeting.

(The Chairman dealt with the matter by a show of hands rather than by taking a recorded vote on it)

6. Annual Report - Care and Repair (Wyre & Fylde)

David Gillett (Head of Environmental Health and Housing Services) and Ms Michele Lee (Care and Repair- Project Manager) presented the fifth Annual Report Care and Repair (Wyre & Fylde) for the period April 2011 to March 2012.

For background purposes, Mr Gillett explained that the Care & Repair Service is administered from Wyre Borough Council on behalf of both districts. He added that the service is a “not for profit” home improvement agency which is available to older people and people with disabilities in the Wyre and Fylde area.

Mr Gillett further reported that the service is delivered in two distinct parts. The first is the “core” service which is designed to facilitate repairs and adaptations to enable someone to stay in their home. The second element is the “handyperson” scheme. He explained that the aim of this scheme is to keep people safe in their homes, to prevent the risk of trips and falls, and provide help with small jobs around the house. Members were advised that the cost to the householder is confined to the cost of materials (labour was provided free).

Ms Lee introduced her report by providing the Committee with an overview of the performance of the care and repair service during 2011/12 and performance comparisons against target over a number of years. In doing so, she stated that during the year the service had dealt with 5834 enquires for advice and support. Ms Lee then went on to highlight the general finance and on-going funding issues of the service with particular reference to two proposed changes to the Lancashire County Council funding arrangements in future years. Details with respect to this matter were set out in the report.

In brief, the presentation highlighted the core service arrangements in particular how the service had facilitated works for clients in: the provision of private/charity funded works and benefit claims. It also detailed work undertaken on marketing/ promotion, working with partners, quality assurance and monitoring and staffing arrangements. The Annual Report also provided information on handyperson service (minor aids and adaptations and small repairs) including the number of cases completed and in progress.

Ms Lee reported that one of the most significant partnership work undertaken was the Keep Warm, Keep Safe, Keep Well project funded by the Department of Health Warm Homes Health People fund (a separate report was included as an appendix to the report) She added that the success of this project had resulted in additional funding from North Lancashire NHS to continue the work in the forthcoming winter months.

Also included as appendices was a summary of surveys undertaken quarterly/ associated feedback from clients who had core service work undertaken. In addition, a breakdown of work carried out by the Handyperson services.

Councillor Paul Hodgson commented on the excellent service provided and the useful leaflets that are disseminated to the public.

Other questions raised by members related to the potential overlap of key service organisations,

Following the presentation it was RESOLVED:

1. To note the report.

2. That Michelle Lee, Care and Repair Project Manager, be thanked for attending and reporting to the committee.

(The Chairman dealt with the matter by a show of hands rather than by taking a recorded vote on it)
