

## INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	2 SEPTEMBER 2021	11
<b>SAFE COMMUNITIES AND CONFIDENT YOUNG CITIZENS PROJECT UPDATE</b>			

### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

### SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

The Fylde Community Safety Partnership supported a bid from Fylde Council being put forward for the 2020/21 allocation of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) funding. The Partnership is awarded £10k each year and invited to put forward a bid/bids for projects which support community safety across the Partnership. A larger amount of funding was offered in 2020/21 and a bid was successfully made in the sum of £15,300 for a 'Safe Communities and Confident Young Citizens Programme'. Because delivery was not possible in 2020/21 due the pandemic the funding was carried forward to 2021/22. This report provides members with an overview of the project and its delivery to date.

### SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Successful application for funding to the PCC.

### WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

The Committee is the designated crime and disorder committee under the Police and Justice Act 2006. This report gives an update on a key project being delivered in the name of the Fylde Community Safety Partnership.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

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The Borough of Fylde is currently experiencing anti-social behaviour at locations across the Borough. These are predominantly in the areas of St. Anne's, Lytham, Kirkham, and Warton.

Concerns had been raised within various locality meetings relating to the increasing anti-social behaviour, particularly amongst young people between the ages of 14 – 24. The local Geographic Police Inspector had also raised concerns both with the Community Safety Partnership and to the council. Councillors also share the same concerns. As a result of this funding was successfully sought from the Police and Crime Commissioner to run a programme of support and activities for young citizens who are in hard to reach target groups. The aim of this was to engage the young people concerned in more positive pathways.

Some of the recent examples of anti-social behaviour include criminal damage through graffiti, evidence of NOX canisters and large groups of youths loitering causing intimidation to the local community.

Alongside our partners, Fylde Council is committed to engaging with the young people to create activities that will be both enjoyable and stimulating for the young people.

The impact of the young people taking part in this risk-taking behaviour not only affects the individuals taking part in them but also the wider community who are negatively affected by this behaviour, and therefore the behaviour affects the cohesion of the communities in which the ASB is taking place.

Experience has been drawn from previous projects and a programme of support activity has been developed to try to counter this behaviour through the strong working partnerships that have been built over years of delivery. Examples of projects that partners have been involved in include Writing Wrongs, Positive Pathways, Holiday Hunger, Positive Personal Energy and Active Futures.

**Below is a list of key areas which are being addressed by the project:**

- 1. Improve engagement with children and young people using sport and physical activity to promote positive values.*
- 2. To provide young people with access to informal learning, opportunities, information, and resources on their own turf.*
- 3. To stimulate, challenge & empower young people.*
- 4. To inform young people about existing or proposed services and to encourage them to access these.*
- 5. Improve community cohesion.*
- 6. Reduce anti-social behaviour.*

### **The Project:**

This project is addressing loitering and anti-social behaviour within problem locations across the Borough by putting in positive pathways for young people to follow to give them more meaningful life experience opportunities. Tackling crime and reoffending through a collaborative partnership approach helps to develop safe and confident communities.

In terms of the engagement aspect of the project, Fylde Council and its partners, which includes AFC Fylde Community Foundation, Progress Housing, YMCA, Streetwise, Local PCSO's and LCC Children and Family Well Being Service recognise the positive impact that youth engagement can have on disengaged young people.

Engaging with the young people in the key target areas across the Borough has been a key aspect of the project which has sought to create positive avenues for young people to express themselves. Joint working between statutory agencies, voluntary and community groups has extended from collecting data, to sharing and making use of it, to identify and support at-risk young people at the earliest opportunity.

Due to the wide age range of young people within the areas the project has focused on two distinct age groups/themes.

### **Theme One:**

These sessions have focused on young people aged between 13 – 17 and multi-sports activities have been delivered in a friendly, enjoyable, and safe environment. Participants have been offered a wide range of young volunteer opportunities with our partners with the aim of helping the young people gain experience in a variety of subject areas.

Rewards are another important part of consistent engagement and each young person supported has had the opportunity to access local youth clubs, exercise programmes and music projects.

### **Theme Two**

These sessions have focused on working with 18 – 24-year olds and with a focus on employability skills and work experience. This age group tends to be the hardest to reach within the communities and includes ex-offenders, those at risk of addiction, or taking part in risk taking behaviours and NEET.

This part of the project has used the power of sport to improve the confidence of participants to lead more active lifestyles. The sessions have had both physical and social mechanisms for engagement within them which will help develop trust between the service providers and the young people. Giving them positive outlets, together with regular contact with qualified youth workers, has allowed the youth workers to build relationships and offer further opportunities which include coaching courses, further education and leading healthier lifestyles will help reduce the crime rates within the target areas.

#### **Detached Youth Work:**

Both the above themes have had an element of detached youth work within them. Detached youth work has targeted the most vulnerable young people in the borough and sessions have taken place on the young people's own territory such as, parks and open spaces.

The detached youth workers have been looking at understanding the behaviour of the young people and what are the issues within the target areas that are being faced. A programme of intervention has been developed which will include events or visits, offering education, or creating opportunities for learning skills such as music, arts, or sports. Local community venues have been utilised that are familiar to the local young people and working with the behaviour management teams within schools and the LCC youth offending teams, more cohesive work has been delivered alongside families of targeted young people.

Intelligence gathered through the first part of the project identified potential hotspots where anti-social behaviour is most prevalent and provided appropriate out-reach support to develop positive relationships with young people. Discussions with the young people helped gauge outlook/aspirations of young people following a 14 month long period with its corresponding restrictions and discern any health wellbeing, cultural shifts that may impact 'take up' of proposed activities

#### **Local Partners:**

- Fylde Council Sports Development
- AFC Fylde Community Foundation
- Streetwise
- YMCA
- Progress Housing
- Local Town and Parish Councils
- LCC Youth Service
- Local PCSO's
- Local school's

#### **Target Areas of concern:**

- Fairhaven/Ansdell
- Windmill Promenade
- Lytham Sainsburys
- Park View

#### **Delivery update:**

Intelligence gathered through the first part of the project identified potential hotspots where anti-social behaviour is most prevalent and provided appropriate out-reach support to develop positive relationships with young children and youths.

Sessions have seen all partners work pro-actively with the young people with a low-key start in order to gain the participants trust and respect. The team also aimed at signposting participants to other activities delivered by local service providers across the Borough to keep youths engaged and aware of local provision.

Below is baseline data on UK crime statistics indicating that reported incidents are falling in areas where the project has focused since the targeted work commenced in May. The number of young people engaged in the project is also shown across the May-July period.

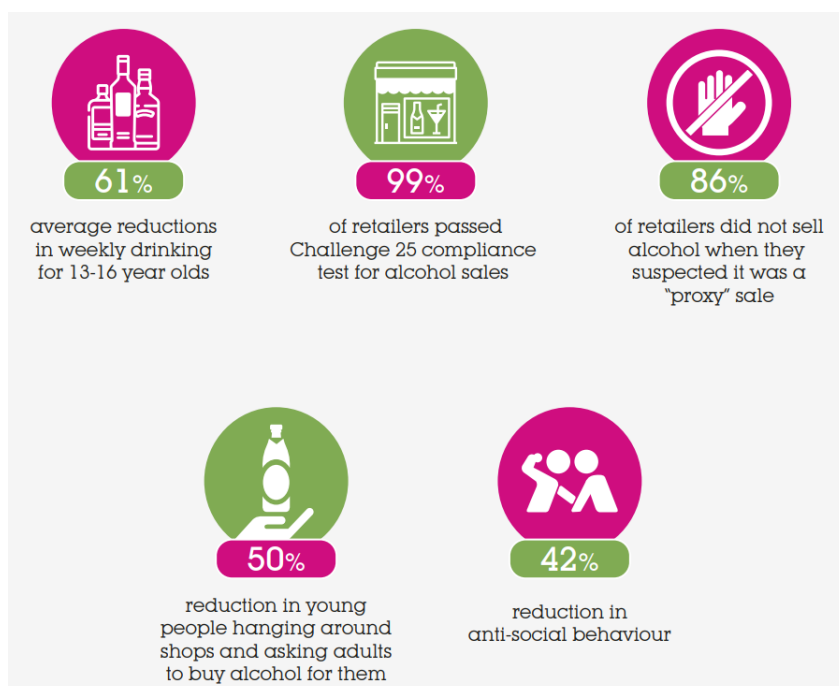
Postcode <i>*(ASB within 1 Mile)</i>	Location	ASB JAN 21	ASB FEB 21	ASB May 21	ASB June 21	ASB July 21
FY8 1YD	Ansdell/ fairhaven	111	29	13	18	20
FY8 5LD	Windmill	42	29	13	20	22
FY8 5EN	Outside Sainsburys	42	29	13	20	22
FY8 4JE	Park view	42	29	13	20	22
<b>Engaged Youth</b>				<b>100</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>170</b>

Source UK Crime stats

With the deployment of local service providers including Fylde Rugby Foundation, AFC Fylde Community Foundation, and Streetwise the project has engaged with 420 young people thus far who have participated in a variety of positive activities.

Information gathered shows we are in the midst of unprecedented times relating to post lockdown stabilisation. Young people require intensive youth provision to curtail an increasing 'detachment' from previous social interaction and cultural norms. Cause for concern remains a drink culture being exhibited by 11-19 cohorts, moreover on the notion of this misdemeanour being 'normalised' may have a profound impact for the younger/vulnerable individuals both now and in the future. As a result of these concerns, the project has also looked to progress a partnership with a national organisation which could support local partners to reduce alcohol harm among young people, improve their health and wellbeing and enhance their communities.

Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAP) supports the creation and success of local partnerships in communities where underage alcohol consumption and alcohol harm is most serious. The figures below show the impact that CAPs have had in other areas and what we in Fylde are looking to achieve.



All statistics calculated from evaluation returns covering the period 2016-2020

The project's action plan is based around three key themes:

- Alcohol education in schools and for parents
- Provision of activities for young people that promote their health and wellbeing
- Retail signage and training to prevent underage purchase



Our Local CAP will be established and run by people from a variety of organisations within their communities, including retailers, to identify and tackle the problems associated with alcohol consumption by young people. We have a proposed launch date in September as a part of the PCC funded project.

The national CAP organisation identifies local needs, facilitates the assembly of the local team, offers start-up funding and expert advice, provides a toolkit of interventions, shares best practice gathered across the national CAP network and supplies a rigorous evaluation system. The Fylde local partnership has identified its own priorities which include reducing alcohol related anti-social behaviour, enhance / raise awareness of positive activities for young people in the area, proxy purchase, sales to under 18s, and enhance alcohol education and awareness with young people, their parents and the community. Work has already commenced in partnership with the local police teams who are undertaking a licensee survey and raising awareness of under-age drinking.

A directory of youth provision within the Borough is also being established to direct youths to engagement opportunities

Targeted events will continue to take place throughout the project period and beyond. Thanks, should be expressed to Ian Brookes who is leading on this initiative and putting much energy into the project on behalf of the Fylde Community Safety Partnership and Fylde Council.