

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND PREVENTION

**COUNCILLOR
ARSHID MAHMOOD**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR:
SAYYED OSMAN
DATE: January 2017**

Community Safety

- The Sub Regional CCTV Hub based in Blackburn with Darwen and servicing the wider east and central Lancashire areas is now fully operational with all functions and personnel transferred across to the Northgate Suite Control room. An official Launch event is planned for the 22nd March with facilitated visits available for members and staff.
- A National Lottery funded extension to our early intervention approach to domestic abuse, launched before Christmas, has begun in earnest. Staff from Changing Lives, are the recipient of the grant, and are working with colleagues from children and adult social care to mitigate demand, allowing services to concentrate on complex cases which require intensive and sustained support.
- The Community Safety team have issued 24 Community Protection Warnings out to owners of vehicles being driven anti socially in the last 6 months, to include a further 6 in January. Should there be further evidence of continued anti-social driving from these vehicles the council will issue a notice which will allow the owner to be taken to court where the council can request the vehicle is seized. This is part of our zero tolerance approach to road safety. The team are also developing a trial of in car recording devices to be used in partnership with residents in areas where road safety is a heightened concern. The devices can evidence poor driving which can be used to target the owners and drivers of those vehicles.

Housing

- Homelessness Trailblazer for Adolescents : the Council in collaboration with Lancashire County Council and the Pennine Lancashire Districts have successfully bid to government for funding for a project to prevent youth homelessness. It's all about taking an innovative and new approach to preventing young people aged between 14 and 25 from becoming homeless in the first place. We will launch a new website focusing on educating and supporting young people about homelessness.. We'll be working in the community to support young people who are at risk of becoming homeless. This will include working with schools and parents to educate them about homelessness and providing mediation when appropriate to ensure young people can resolve any difficulties and stay with their families rather than becoming homeless. The project is worth £734k over 2 years.
- The Central Heating Fund :- the first time central heating project is entering its final phase as we now have sufficient applications to fully deliver. Currently the project is scheduled to complete at the end of February and we will be seeking permission from government to extend to allow remaining payments in to March.
- Consultation on the new Selective Landlord Licensing scheme for Darwen has been completed and we will shortly be seeking approval from Executive Board to designate the new area. This will build on the improvements in condition and safety of properties, and landlord management practices achieved in the earlier designation.
- The Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) Project working with vulnerable adults who are appearing as homeless and associated work with landlords to improve management of larger Houses in Multiple Occupation is continuing.

Lancashire Volunteer Partnership Project

A project funded by the Police Innovation Fund aims to provide additional volunteer opportunities across the whole public sector. Following a successful launch in Preston the project is shortly to be rolled out in Blackburn with Darwen. A recruitment drive will take place to grow and support volunteers to work with vulnerable people within our neighbourhoods. Referrals will be taken as “step down” from Transforming Lives and Adult services. Full training and ongoing support will be provided to volunteers to ensure they are able to complement and add value to existing Prevention work already underway.

