



Voluntary, Community, Faith & Social Enterprise Sectors Feasibility & Baseline Study

Study on Fylde's VCFSE sector contributions to local communities and the local economy: specific geographic strengths, weaknesses and gaps to highlight impacts and opportunities, with case study examples and concluding with recommendations.

Part A

Conducted by Selnet Ltd
Social Enterprise Lancashire Network



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Introduction

Selnet conducted this study to undertake a Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Sectors Feasibility and Baseline Study for Fylde Council. This report will present an overview of VCFSEs based in Fylde, and those based outside but that are active in Fylde.

The VCFSE sectors and the social value they create “*play a crucial role in our journey of transforming how the government delivers smarter, more thoughtful and effective public services that meet the needs of people across the country.*” Claire Dove CBE, VCSE Crown Representative.

Through in-depth research and active engagement across Fylde, Selnet gathered direct insight from over 100 VCFSEs and a broad range of stakeholders. This report will identify services provided for Fylde residents by VCFSEs and highlight gaps in support available and barriers to provision. In conclusion, a range of opportunities to enable and strengthen the sector are summarised, to address needs and maximise support for Fylde residents.

Overview of Fylde

“Fylde is one of the safest areas of the country when compared with the most similar groups based on population and demographics.

The borough is affluent, ranking 218th least deprived out of 354 English authorities, based on the government’s indices of multiple deprivation placing it in the 3rd least deprived areas in the county.”¹

The accessible coastline and relatively low crime levels make Fylde an attractive place to retire and subsequently the population has a higher-than-average number of older residents, especially in Lytham and St Annes. This impacts on the need for services supporting issues more prevalent in older age such as health (e.g. disability, dementia, cancer) caring responsibilities for family members, bereavement counselling and loneliness and isolation.

There are pockets of deprivation (refer to Heat Map, page 10) where areas in the top 10% or 20% most deprived in the country (e.g., in central St Annes) sit alongside much more affluent ones (e.g., Ansdell and Fairhaven). As such, in St Annes and other smaller pockets there are more needs arising from the effects of poverty such as financial struggles with the cost of living² and debt and needs for affordable housing.

High inflation affects the affordability of goods and services for households. The UK inflation rate is falling but remains high, with UK consumer prices, as measured by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI), 6.7% higher in August 2023 than a year before. A shared view raised by the VCFSE sector was that Fylde’s deprived areas are small and spread out, within a broadly affluent district, and so groups in Fylde do not qualify to apply for funding that might be available to those in Blackpool.

¹ Fylde District Area Profile: <https://new.fylde.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Fylde-District-Area-Profile-2019-v1.1.pdf>

² UK Parliament (22/09/23) Rising cost of living in the UK: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9428/>

Around a third of the population live in rural areas which are not served well, or sometimes at all, by buses. Whilst these areas are average in terms of affluence/deprivation, for anyone who needs to access support or activities in person, their options are limited unless they own a car.

Fylde's affluent areas benefit from active retired people, some with professional backgrounds which enables positive engagement around recruiting for roles with higher skills requirements such as trustee and management positions. There is a variety of active community/interest themed groups, including 32 Arts / Heritage organisations, most based in Fylde itself and 28 'Friends of' groups³.

There is a strong volunteer community whose work adds value to the economy, as we will demonstrate through case study examples in Part 2.

Themes that the VCFSE organisations are struggling with include a lack of volunteers (in some areas), inability to plan long term due to lack of long-term funding and a lack of specific skills especially social media and bid-writing/fundraising.

Evidence has been collated over specific geographical areas and core themes.

The circumstances that cause residents to be in need of support relate to the impacts of losing income, health or disability issues, and access to public transport, (no tram connection unlike Blackpool and Wyre, limited bus service).

There is strong provision of support within St Annes and Lytham, however there limited are opportunities to enable the VCFSE sector to meet needs of residents in other areas.

Specific requests were about having more connection with the council and support with networking (currently there is no networking group that is purely for Fylde without including a wider area) and reaching out to other groups advertising and promoting their events, and for connecting with refugees/asylum seekers.

In line with this project, we provide a full detailed portfolio of organisations operating in Fylde who are delivering support services to both individuals and groups within the communities of Fylde included as Microsoft Excel sheets supplementary to this report. This will provide two specific sets of data:

- Sheet 1 is a full list of organisations currently active within Fylde, collated from research available in the public domain.
- Sheet 2 presents information from representatives of VCFSEs who responded to the online survey, with a list of additional detail including address details for each organisation, the organisation type (i.e., CIC, charity, etc), the specific services they provide, the number of employed staff and volunteers, and the costs involved.

Based on all of the evidence gathered, a user-friendly report is provided for a much greater understanding of Fylde's Third Sector contribution to local communities and the local economy. This is to enable Fylde Council (and other stakeholders) to be in a stronger position to support the sector and provide a robust evidence base to inform future funding opportunities.

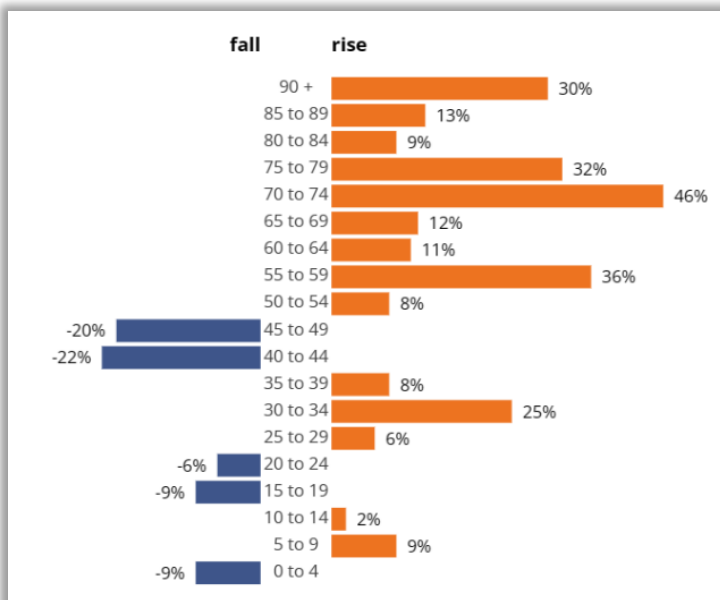
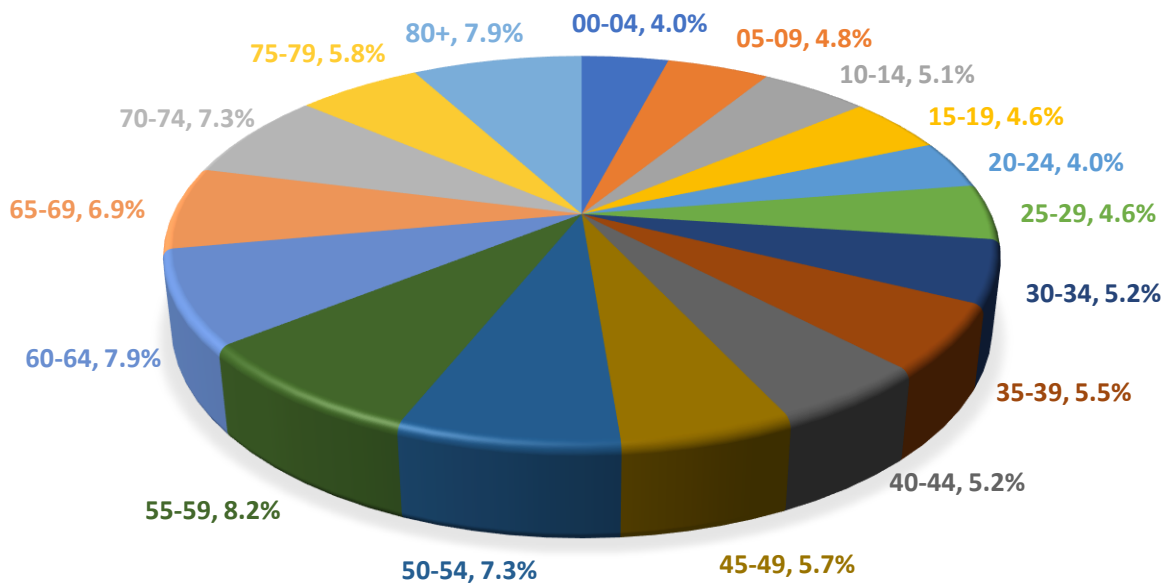
³ Including "Friends of", "PTFA" and "The Parent, Teacher and Friend Association of" groups

Population of Fylde

Community needs change with the population and economic circumstances, as do the needs of, and roles for, VCFSE organisations.

Graph 1 below is a pie chart presenting the age profile of Fylde residents in 2021, based on percentages of age groups (in sets of 5 years, i.e. newborn – 4 years old; 5-9 years old) using Census data from 2021.

Graph 1: Fylde Residents Age Profile in 2021



Graph 2: Population changes within Fylde demographics

Graph 2 shows the population change (%) by age group in Fylde by comparing the demographics in 2011 with 2021 (ONS⁴).

Key insights include:

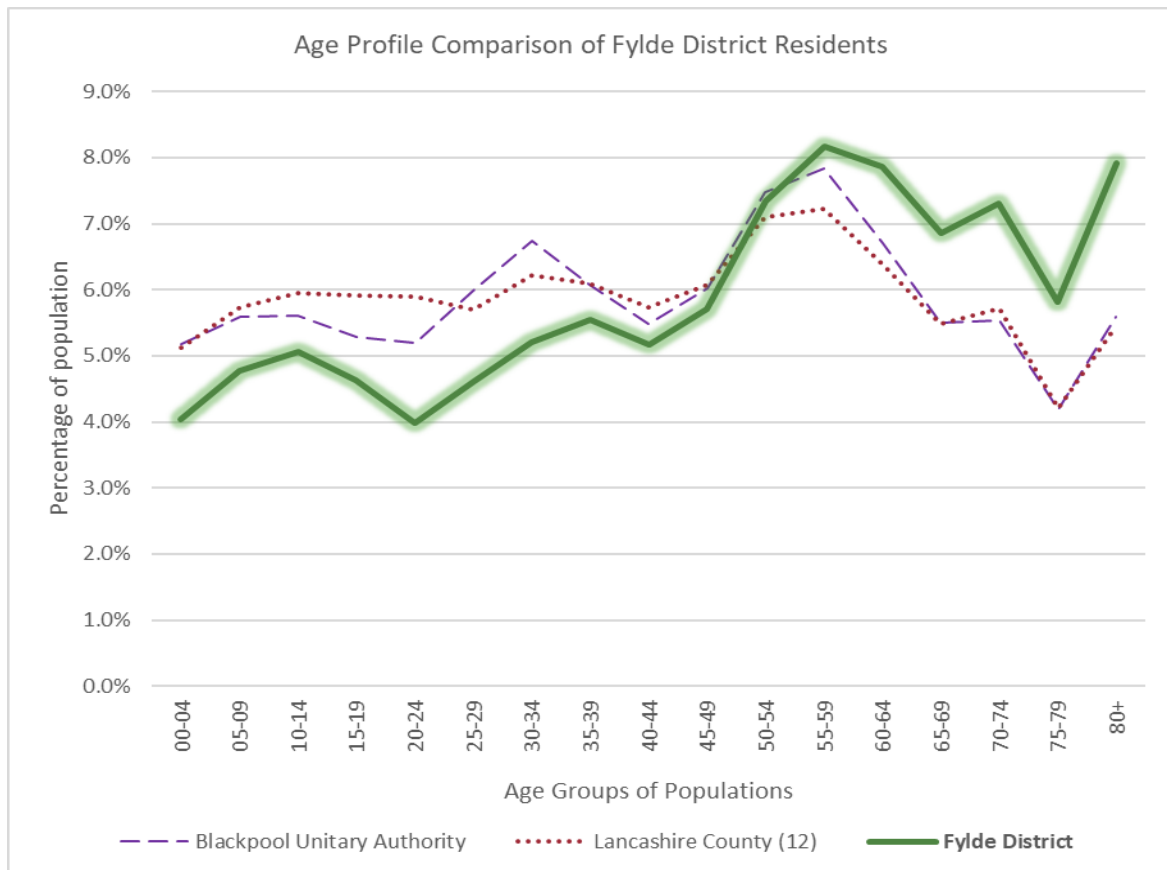
Fylde’s population size has increased by 7.4%, from around 75,800 in 2011 to over 81,000 in 2021.

“There has been an **increase of 23.8% in people aged 65 years and over**, an increase of 2.8% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 0.9% in children aged under 15 years” (ONS).

⁴ ONS (June 2022) How the population changed in Fylde: Census 2021: “Population change (%) by age group in England, 2011 to 2021” <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E07000119/>

Graph 3 below presents a geographic age profile comparison through percentages of age groups (in groups of 5 years, i.e., newborn – 4 years old; 5-9 years old) using Census data from 2021, in comparison with neighbouring Blackpool (as a Unitary Authority) and Lancashire County (of 12 districts).

Graph 3: Age Profile Comparison of Fylde District Residents



This demonstrates Fylde’s population having a lower proportion of residents under the age of 39 and a higher population of residents aged over 55. The three areas have a similar proportion of residents between the ages of 40-54.

Further to this, “Lancashire’s working age population is decreasing and significant numbers are leaving the workforce as a result of ill health or caring responsibilities. The resultant pressure on jobs is possibly the biggest threat, not only to businesses’ future growth, but for some to continue trading”⁵.

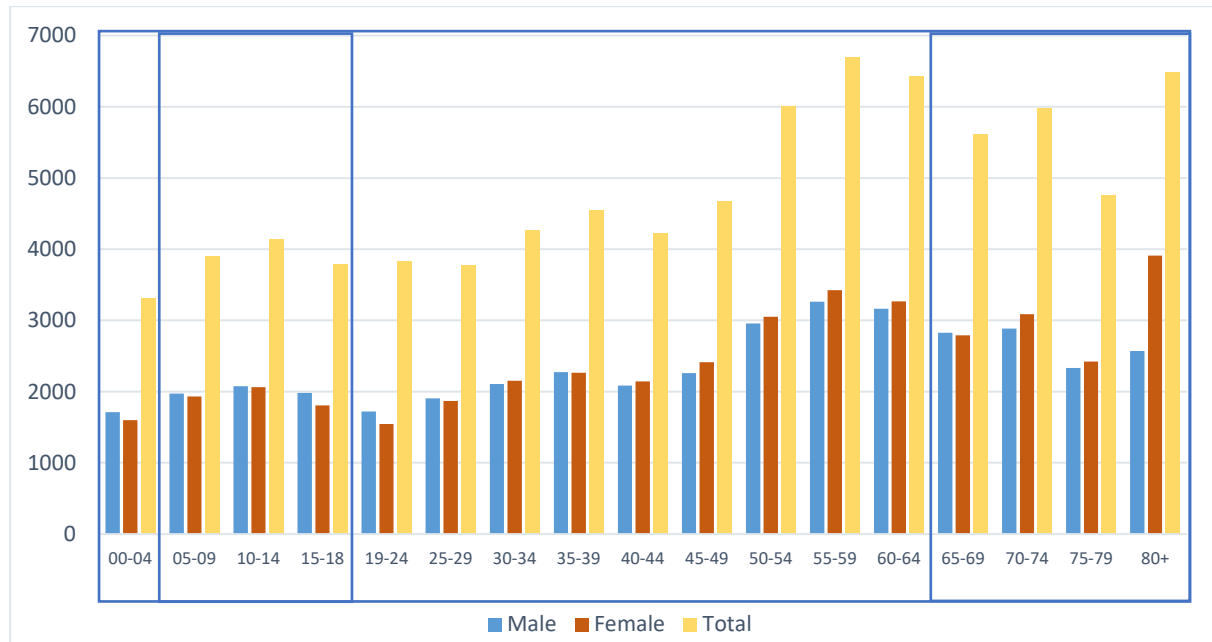
With Fylde residents being more senior than the average across the county, this is a greater issue of concern. Fylde public service provision needs to address providing more tailored support for this age group. This study will identify opportunities where the VCFSE sector can enhance public service provision.

⁵ Lancashire Local Skills Improvement Plan (2023) www.lancashirelsip.co.uk/downloads/Lancashire%20LSIP%20report%202023.pdf

Graph 4 presents the 2021 demographics for Fylde from a population of 82,412 people. This is then grouped into generalised economic age groups:

- Pre-school age group: 4% (3,311)
- Formal education age group: 13% (11,266)
- Adult ‘working age’ group: 54% (44,440)
- Over 65 age group eligible for pension: 28% (22,828)

Graph 4: Fylde Demographics in 2021



Overall, Fylde residents are 49% male and 51% female. Over the age of 70, this is 45% male and 55% female.

Further key information has been published regarding Health and Social Care (Lancashire LSIP), identifying staffing and recruitment challenges in this sector, as Lancashire’s working age population is decreasing and significant numbers are leaving the workforce as a result of ill health or caring responsibilities.

Fylde’s demographics and geographic distribution make this a key issue pertinent to the VCFSE sector’s outreach capacity and impacts they can achieve. A highlight is added below:

Health is a LEP (Lancashire Enterprise Partnership) growth pillar.

- Largest employment sector in Lancashire, employing more than 100,000 people, and accounting for 16.4% of all employment. A larger share than is typical nationally (LQ=1.19). The sector has also grown its employment share faster in Lancashire than it has nationally since 2015, with +0.4% of employment nationally and +0.6% in Lancashire.
- Similarly, Health and Social care is a massive contributor to Lancashire's economic output, with a £4.3bn contribution in 2020, the third highest of any sector, and almost 13% of overall economic output. This shows Lancashire's health and social care sector contributes a higher proportion of Gross Value Added to their total GVA than is typical nationally, with a location quotient of 1.42 (i.e. compared to the 9.1% typical GVA contribution nationally).

- Lancashire has a higher percentage of GVA that comes from Residential and Social Care (29.4%) than is typical nationally (25.9%) – contributing almost £1.3bn to Lancashire's economy in 2020.
- Despite Lancashire having a higher proportion of GVA that comes from Residential and Social Care, Healthcare still represents more than 70% of the total economic output of the sector.
- Jobs are in high demand and hard to fill in the Health and Social Care sector in Lancashire, with the average role having to be posted 6 times in order to be filled, twice as often as is typical across the wider labour market. Such jobs which are particularly hard to fill include "Health Care Assistants", "Staff Nurses", "Mental Health Practitioners", "Occupational Therapists", "Registered Nurses", "Midwives", and "Registered Mental Health Nurses".

Feedback coming out of social care organisations highlights severe difficulties around staffing, recruitment and retention. This has led to its inclusion alongside health for the LSIP⁶.

ONS Health Index on Fylde

The Health Index for England from the Office for National Statistics⁷ measures health at local authority, regional and national levels, and also enables comparison between geographic areas, health topics and combinations of the two over time. This ranks **Fylde in the top 30%** of local authority areas in England for health in 2021.

Fylde's highest score is on positive 'living conditions' (combined analysis of air pollution, household overcrowding, noise complaints, road safety, and rough sleeping). The second highest scoring subdomain is 'personal well-being' (people's belief that activities in life are worthwhile, feelings of anxiety, happiness, and life satisfaction). Fylde's score for health relating to 'personal well-being' is better than the score for England as a whole.

Fylde's worst score is for 'difficulties in daily life' including disability and frailty. Data on public needs and issues to address in Fylde are also presented. The lowest indicator score is for 'disability' (at 77.7% below the national average), 'sedentary behaviour' (87.6% below the national average), 'overweight and obesity in adults' (88.5% below the national average), 'physical activity' (89.1% below the national average), 'patients offered acceptable GP practice appointments' (89.6% below the national average) and 'cancer screening attendance' (89.8% below the national average).

This research, reinforced by Selnet's direct engagement with Fylde stakeholders, shows there is an increasing need for support, particularly for Fylde's senior residents, to access health services and address difficulties in daily life.

⁶ Lancashire LSIP (2023) <https://www.lancashirelsip.co.uk/downloads/Lancashire%20LSIP%20report%202023.pdf>

⁷ ONS (2021) 'Health in England 2015–2021: Insights into England's health in the earlier stages of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at national, regional and local authority level, using the Health Index.'
www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/

PART A

Key Highlights:

- Collation of 432 organisations included within Fylde’s VCFSE community.
- There are 134 charities registered in Fylde, and 120 are currently active.
- Community groups:
 - Fylde currently has 27 active Trusts (refer to Appendix 4) and 23 active ‘Friends of’ groups (refer to Appendix 5)
 - Cooperatives UK Directory lists 4 operating in Fylde⁸, and 1 is based in Fylde⁹.
 - Industrial and Provident Societies (IPS¹⁰) includes 3 based in Fylde; 1 is active (see footnote 3) and 2 are deregistered¹¹
- Faith based organisations in Fylde (refer to Appendix 2) are predominantly Christian (62% of Fylde residents in 2021 census) and we have recorded 38 churches (across a variety of branches of Christian faith). Lytham St Annes Islamic Society (Muslim faith) and St Annes Hebrew Congregation (Jewish faith).
- Selnet gathered direct responses from 115 organisations; from voluntary, unincorporated and community groups to charities and social enterprises.

Methodology

Selnet gathered information on the key skills, experience and provision from VCFSE sector representatives to identify the capacity and skills levels that enable delivery to take place. Insight on funding included their sources of income, limitations and what the implications are on the local economy if the skills, capacity and funding are not available in the future. We were respectful of privacy and autonomise feedback as necessary to enable access to important insight.

Our team began by gathering detailed information from across Fylde’s VCFSE community; contacting our existing connections, following up on guidance from desk-based research, recommendations gathered from meetings and individual conversations across Fylde. This involved attending a variety of community meetings in person/online, including:

- Attending the Fylde Cost of Living meeting and the Sparks (Blackpool) network meeting.
- Meeting with stakeholders including the Partnerships Manager and DEA at **St Annes Job Centre**, the Social Prescribing Team Manager for Kirkham at **Blackpool Citizen's Advice**, the Fylde Area lead from the **Lancashire Volunteer Partnership**, the Volunteer Coordinator from **UCLan Centre for Volunteering & Community Leadership** and a **Co-op Member Pioneer**.

⁸ Co-op Directory for Fylde: <https://www.uk.coop/directory?s=fylde>

⁹ Fylde Rugby Football Club: <https://www.uk.coop/directory/fylde-rugby-football-club>

¹⁰ Organisations originally registered as Industrial and Provident Societies. IPS Act 1965 renamed as Co-operative or Community Benefit Societies in 2014, when a new society must register as either a co-operative or a community benefit society.

¹¹ Kilgrimol ward: Soroptimist Housing (Fylde) Limited - Registered Society 18/04/1952 - 15/02/2007 and Carnegie ward: Fylde Jewish Flatlet Society Limited - Registered Society 18/03/1965 - 18/08/1999

- Outreach across faith sectors with bases within Fylde, including churches based in villages, and the **Fylde Islamic Society** to identify localised engagement and support.
- Contacting each of Fylde's 15 town/parishes to engage organisations active in their specific areas and invite their comments: 1 County Councillor, 4 Fylde Councillors, 4 Parish Clerks and a Parish Councillor engaged with us in conversation or through email answers to questions.
- Conversations in person with staff in 5 libraries, various shopkeepers, post offices, local people on streets and some volunteers.

Through this project, the following was undertaken:

- 16 VCFSE site visits
- 17 stakeholder conversations (in person or by phone or by Teams video call)
- 17 VCFSE interviews completed in person by Selnet's Engagement Officer (contributed to by 20 people)
- 19 follow-up phone calls on completed surveys for additional insight.

Selnet gathered further detailed views on trends from discussions with respondents after completing the survey, during stakeholder engagement in person, through video meetings and telephone calls. This is presented in Part B.

Geographic Insight

This information is collated from stakeholders and summarised into geographic areas of Fylde. The table below presents the number of VCFSE organisations in Fylde that responded to the survey.

This is followed by summaries of strengths and weaknesses of VCFSEs, specific opportunities and requests from them, and the threats/risks of this support not being provided.

Map 1: Heat Map - Fylde Populated Areas by Index of Multiple Deprivation.

The map below shows the Index of Multiple Deprivation for Fylde¹². This demonstrates how dispersed Fylde's communities are as a district, and within this, where the more deprived communities are (dark red) to the least deprived (dark blue).



Meeting Needs of Deprived Residents

Selnet have collated a summary on the take up of provision for disadvantaged residents across Fylde, to demonstrate the acute needs in the district.

The data below gives insight into three 'Building Better Opportunities' projects providing specialist VCFSE partnership services where take-up far exceeded expected targets set by using the IMD data.

¹² ONS (2022) Customer Data Research Centre Mapmaker: Index of Multiple Deprivation: www.mapmaker.cdrc.ac.uk/#/index-of-multiple-deprivation

Building Better Opportunities in Fylde (2016 to March 2023)

The statistics regarding Fylde residents with barriers to work are presented below, following the 7 year Building Better Opportunities (BBO) programme of 3 projects that were completed in March 2023¹³.

This highlights specific needs of younger people aged under 25 (lack of work experience, mental health barriers, limited aspirations), of older people aged over 50 (outdated skills, isolation, digital barriers, health), and of residents with multiple and complex barriers (combinations of issues such as impacts of bereavement, disabilities, caring responsibilities, addictions and mental health issues, for example.)

Table 1: BBO Project support in Fylde

BBO project name	People supported	Target of people to support	No. of people supported	% against target	Investment value
Invest in Youth	Young people aged under 25 and NEET (not in education, employment or training) or at risk of	12	35	292%	£92,203
Age of Opportunity	People aged 50+	20	65	325%	£147,746
Changing Futures	All ages of people with multiple, complex barriers to inclusion	11	221	836%	£583,595
		43	321		£823,544

In Fylde, each project exceeded targets, **overall supporting 321 residents when the target for the district was 43 residents**. The original targets were based on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation data from 2011. BBO delivery identified more barriers impacting residents than was initially anticipated, as the number of people who received support was driven by demand.

The highest demand was met through the Changing Futures project, where over twenty times the target number of participants were supported, highlighting needs for support by residents furthest from the labour market (reliant on universal credit, or economically inactive) with multiple barriers holding them back.

¹³ Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and European Social Fund. More information on Building Better Opportunities is available at www.selney-uk.com/bbo

Bases of VCFSE organisations in Fylde

Of the VCFSEs that responded to the survey, **86** have a base within Fylde. There are an additional **29** respondents that have a base outside Fylde but deliver support within the district.

Table 2

Table 2 identifies 10 distinct geographic areas of Fylde where Fylde-based VCFSEs that responded to the survey are based:

Geographic Area	CVFSE base in Fylde areas	Number of VCFSEs
1	St Annes on Sea*	29
2	Ansdell & Fairhaven	17
3	Lytham*	12
4	Freckleton Village	10
5	Kirkham with Wesham*	6
6	Rural North Fylde	6
7	Wrea Green with Westby	3
8	Rural East Fylde	2
9	Warton	1
10	Staining	0
		86

***St Annes on Sea** combines wards Ashton, Carnegie, Heyhouses, Kilgrimol, Kilnhouse and Park.

***Lytham** combines wards Lytham East and Lytham West.

***Kirkham with Wesham** combines wards Kirkham with Medlar and Wesham.

Geographical Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

Below is a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis for 10 distinct areas of Fylde summarising survey respondents' feedback, discussions with VCFSE representatives and local knowledge from Fylde stakeholders.

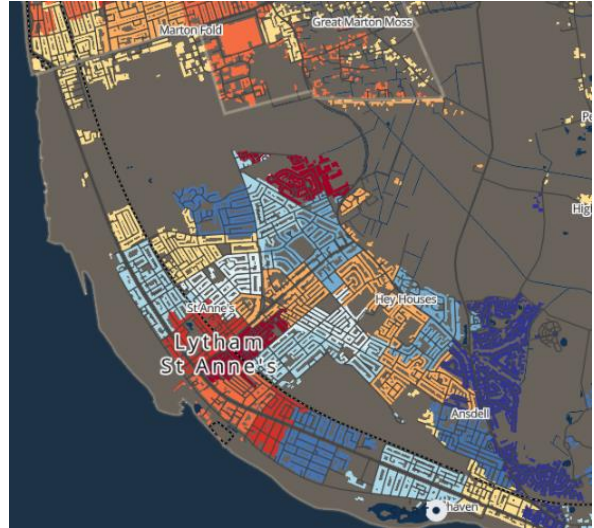
1. St Annes on Sea

The area of St Annes on Sea combines the wards of Ashton, Carnegie, Heyhouses, Kilgrimol, Kilnhouse and Park as summarised in Map 1 on page 10.

Map 2: Wards covering St Annes



Map 3: IMD data covering St Annes



Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>The number of Fylde VCFSEs providing activities and support are the highest here.</p> <p>Access to public transport, with a railway station and buses into the town centre.</p> <p>Green spaces, parks, coastal area with sand dunes are strengths, with respondents proud to be based here.</p> <p>Partnerships Manager at St Annes Job Centre says her staff actively signpost and refer people for support from VCFSEs.</p> <p>A networking group run by an NHS coordinator¹⁴ focussed on NHS connections for St Annes with VCFSE groups is held to share information, signposting and collaboration.</p> <p>For issues around Mental Health as a barrier, residents are referred to NHS Healthier Minds. Lancashire Mind and Lancashire Adult Learning for Mental Health First Aid training.</p>	<p>Central St Annes and Kilnhouse present areas in the UK's top 10% and 20% of deprivation (IMD¹⁵)</p> <p>Under One Roof service provision specific to St Annes shows just 15 approved referrals for residents in need (including Ashworth Road area and 3 in Kilnhouse). There could be an untapped provision for support for eligible residents.</p> <p>Mental Health is also a barrier to people getting back into work after losing their job or business and needing a fresh start.</p> <p>The VCFSE sector has limited opportunities for accessing third sector project development and support.</p> <p>Recruiting volunteers is raised as a difficulty.</p>

¹⁴ Emma Wann, Care Coordinator of Lytham St Anne's Primary Care Network: contact emma.wann@nhs.net

¹⁵ IMD (2019) 'Indices of Deprivation 2019 explorer' www.gov.uk/guidance/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019-mapping-resources

Opportunities for Support	Threats/Risks
<p>There is an opportunity for support providers of residents to become approved referral partners and enable eligible residents to access support from Under One Roof (UOR). There is also an opportunity for working together with the UOR team for wrap around support to break the cycle of crisis.</p> <p>There have been some requests for advice for new businesses. Residents can now be referred to BOOST¹⁶ for support with business start-up, growth and development.</p> <p>The M55 Heyhouses link road scheme will “improve access between Lytham St Annes and the M55, relieve congestion on smaller local roads, and support the commercial viability of local housing and business development sites.”¹⁷ Construction is making good progress, however a number of issues over recent months mean it is now scheduled to open in spring 2024¹⁸.</p> <p><i>Requests and ideas specifically from St Anne’s included:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Opportunities for networking and collaboration</i> • <i>Help with recruiting volunteers</i> • <i>Promoting existing support available to residents from the VCFSE sector</i> 	<p>Demand for activities is increasing due to new housing in the area. St Annes Football Club would like to increase their offer, but their building is inadequate and especially puts off ladies with the changing facilities. There is no room for them to hold a training session or have a brew.</p> <p>Since the club does not own it (this is owned by the council), they cannot apply for funding to renovate it (the council are aware of this and have been working with them to find solutions).</p>

Further to this, the Partnerships Manager at St Annes Job Centre reported that staff actively signpost and refer people for support from VCFSEs based on their needs, including:

- **AFC Fylde Community Foundation** for Fylde Focus and Multiply support projects and a recently commissioned apprenticeship support project
- **CGL Inspire** (drug rehabilitation) St Alban's Rd
- Changing Futures Lancashire support from **Empowerment Charity** based in Blackpool.
- Foodbanks (**Trussell Trust** members – i.e., Fylde Foodbanks)
- **Fylde Rugby Club Community Foundation** - for fitness activities
- **Inspira** for National Careers Service and Restart (employability scheme)
- **Seasiders** (BFC CT) for ESOL, Fit Fylde, health activities, apprenticeship programmes and events
- Social enterprise **Lancashire Women**
- **The Well** (St Albans Rd), Old Pensioners Hall for ESOL
- Green Doctor (**Groundwork**) attends the job centre to advise people.

¹⁶ BOOST, Lancashire’s Business Growth Hub: <https://www.boostbusinesslancashire.co.uk/business-support/>

¹⁷ News article, March 2021: www.pbctoday.co.uk/news/planning-construction-news/m55-heyhouses-link-road/91089/

¹⁸ Lancashire News: 12/09/23: www.news.lancashire.gov.uk/news/new-fylde-link-road-set-to-open-early-next-year

2. Ansdell & Fairhaven

The maps below show the ward area of Ansdell and Fairhaven. There is a library, post office, Ansdell Institute and row of shops situated together. The library and the Co-op convenience store advertise community events.

Map 4: Ansdell & Fairhaven ward



Fairhaven

Map 5: IMD data for Ansdell &



Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>The Ansdell Institute lets out its hall which is used by different community groups.</p> <p>There is a good bus service and a train station. Older people access the post office by taxi – there is a reliable taxi service.</p> <p>A charity shop is benefitting from being a point of contact for people who would not necessarily come into a church. They have recently employed a manager who people have opened up to following bereavement and are guided on where to access further support.</p> <p>They are actively building on this community outreach, and also have the discretion to provide clothing free of charge for people unable to pay.</p> <p>Fylde Council Housing Team is good at getting people into temporary accommodation, so they rarely have street homeless.</p>	<p>“There is lots going on in the community but most of it run by church or based in church halls. Whilst these are open to anyone, it can be off-putting to some non-Christians and there is not much for those who would rather not be involved with the churches.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-Ansdell resident</p> <p>Sometimes it is hard to access services because so much is based in Blackpool. Fylde do not have a lot of homeless people but one man is sleeping in the church porch. He did not want to return to Blackpool due to trauma but when reaching out for support, this is all in Blackpool and he cannot return there.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Summary of conversation with St Paul’s charity shop and St Paul’s Church, Fairhaven</p> <p>There have been no awards for support made through Under One Roof in this ward area.</p>

(Ansdell & Fairhaven continued)

Opportunities for Support	Threats/Risks
<p>Temporary accommodation provision is well facilitated by Fylde Council. Further to this, a need has been raised for more connections and opportunities for people in Fylde to access ongoing support (outside the boundary of Blackpool) to enable a fresh start.</p> <p>There are some very long-standing volunteers, however needs were raised for more to staff the charity shop. This presents an opportunity to support VCFSEs with recruiting volunteers; holding volunteering events, promote existing help and support available at Blackpool Wyre and Fylde's Volunteer Centre.</p> <p>The church hall next to the church can be rented out, and at a discounted rate to community groups.</p> <p>Laugh, Love, Live attend here for 40+ people each Monday, and 40+ in for a parents and tots group each Tuesday, for parent/carers with children under 3 who are charged £1 and get refreshments and a bible story.</p> <p>Issues raised for support opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the benefits system, PIP etc to help people. The Citizens Advice can do this but have waiting lists. • Help from Fylde Council to lead on coordinating resources: from access to a photocopier for use by VCFSEs (as long as costs are covered) to advising volunteers of how they can support Fylde, i.e. a resident without a garden who enjoys gardening could be connected with church grounds that need maintaining. 	<p>A key issue raised was a lack of affordable housing.</p> <p>Windsor Road Care Home is for adult mental health supported living, with 11 beds and provision of 24 hr rehabilitation care to enable people to move on, into either less intensive supported living, or private rented or social rented housing.</p> <p>There are people waiting to access this support, and 3 clients ready to move on but the current housing crisis makes them effectively "bed blocked". Referrals come from hospital, social workers, care coordinators and Guild Lodge (psychiatric hospital).</p> <p>- Windsor Rd Care Home Manager, Fairhaven</p> <p>Ansdell Institute is increasingly being used by the community but a new group to support those with dementia failed to attract any users. Barriers were possibly that parking in the area is only for 1 hour and there is no ramp for accessibility.</p> <p>- Conversation with Ansdell Memory Café.</p>

3. Lytham

Lytham combines wards Lytham East and Lytham West.

Map 6: Lytham wards



Map 7: IMD data for Lytham wards



Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Lytham hosts arts and heritage organisations and venues including Lytham Hall and Lowther Pavillion. Green spaces, parks, coastal area with sand dunes are strengths, with respondents proud to be based here.</p> <p>There are Local and National organisations offering support to older people advertised in Lytham Library (Age Concern, Age UK, Silverline, Cruse Bereavement Care)</p>	<p>Difficulties in accessing premises were raised several times:</p> <p>“We would benefit from having a dedicated 'home' for our activities.” – LSA U3A</p> <p>“...financial challenges weekly in terms of increased fuel bills and maintenance costs on an older building” – Lytham Methodist Church</p> <p>“Lack of community facilities eg community centre. - Having our own premises where we could do so much more” – Laugh Love Live CIC</p> <p>“...major construction issues with the Ecopod community centre will require serious funds to repair or demolish and replace the building” – Park View 4U</p> <p>Access to transport is raised as an issue:</p> <p>“Lack of transport limiting people's access to our work/services. Access to services for people who find it difficult walking or using public transport. Wheelchair accessible transport. Reduced cost community transport”</p>

(Lytham continued)

Opportunities for Support	Threats/Risks
<p>Two specific opportunities where support is needed were raised by VCFSEs in Lytham:</p> <p>Help with training on Equality, Diversity & Inclusion is requested: “We are inclusive and open to anyone as stated on our website. Entrants come from across Lancashire, but we do not have many entrants from ethnic backgrounds or with disabilities and want to know why that is.” - Notes from conversation.</p> <p>Help with marketing: “Getting the word out to older people we do not yet know about who would definitely benefit from our services. - Men are particularly hard to engage with.” – Survey respondent feedback</p> <p>To date, there have been 7 approved referrals for UOR within Lytham. The opportunity is to link those in crisis to the service for crisis and wrap around support.</p>	<p>The resident population is older than average for Lancashire and increasing in size.</p> <p>Alongside this is a growing demand associated with disability and frailty (refer to ONS Health Index summary, page 7) raising the need for support services and accessible service provision.</p>

4. Freckleton Village

Freckleton Village is south of Kirkham and east of Lytham St Annes.

Map 8: Freckleton Village



Map 9: IMD data for Freckleton Village



Strengths

Progress Housing manage the housing on the Lower Lane estate and have a building on site which was being used for HAF (Holiday and Food) provision delivered by **Homestart** for Primary aged children when Selnet visited. It is also used weekly by the **Fylde Food Community Hub**.

Freckleton Parish Council have set a 2023 budget of £106k for looking after green spaces and 6 buildings: The Rawstorne Building, The Bowling Pavilion and Green, the Scout Hut, Guide Hut, Machinery building and Band Room.
– Parish Clerk

“**Love Freckleton Library**” is a volunteer friends’ group. They run a Dementia café called Memory Lane once a month.

The donations box allows people to come to the foodbank who can afford it but are lonely.

During Covid people had lost jobs or experienced domestic violence and applied for benefits – The church filled the gap in the few weeks while they had nothing. This “safety net” made all the difference to them.

Weaknesses

There is a housing estate at Lower Lane Freckleton which is separate from the main village, halfway between Freckleton and Kirkham in open countryside. It has no amenities (library/shop/post office/health centre) and the bus no longer goes into the estate, but stops at the entrance of the estate.

The HAF at Lower Lane does not cater for teenagers. Older siblings were hanging around in the streets with no engagement provision for them.

At **Freckleton Methodist Church** some people get distressed that they need to use the foodbank. “Young mums, 2 in 1 week have burst into tears saying they can’t believe it’s come to this”.

(Freckleton Village Continued)

Opportunities for Support	Threats/Risks
<p>On speaking to Progress Housing staff in the office above, they said the building had not been utilised much by the community in the past but was going to close and have a full refurbishment, with a view to being used more in the future.</p> <p>“It’s a great place to live but needs a youth worker or something to engage the youth. There have been a lot of new houses built recently which have brought new families into the area. There are a lot of teenagers acting cool, riding round on bikes in the park, some causing a nuisance but there isn’t any provision, Scouts isn’t for everyone.” - conversation summary.</p> <p>There has been an increase in demand at the Larder foodbank at Freckleton Methodist Church. From 20-25 per week last year and now average 30 (at most 40), due to word of mouth reaching more people. Half of people are coming for the food (poverty) and half are coming due to isolation (to socialise) e.g. a mum at home with a toddler and no-one to talk to, people working come for lunch as working from home leads to isolation.</p> <p>There have been 10 referrals to Under One Roof for Freckleton, 4 of which are for the Lower Lane Estate on Shackleton Road. The opportunity is to link those in crisis to services like UOR for additional wrap around support.</p> <p>Freckleton sometimes benefits from outreach of the Warton Streetwise Youth and Community Centre, but this is dependent on funding.</p> <p><i>Opportunity for growth in provision for teenagers/older children.</i></p>	<p>There is no specific support, engagement or activity for older children/teenagers.</p> <p>No amenities or access to public transport.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about a lack of engagement, or positive/productive/engaging opportunities as a result, and the potential for negative consequences/limited positive opportunities for local young people here.</p> <p>There is a risk of residents not accessing support if they are unable to attend unaccompanied.</p> <p>For social prescribers – it would be good if they could accompany people the first time as getting them over the threshold is the main barrier. “Once they are in, they are fine.” This would be more powerful than increased marketing/social media.</p> <p>Post Covid, people are still anxious about mixing and going into social situations.</p>

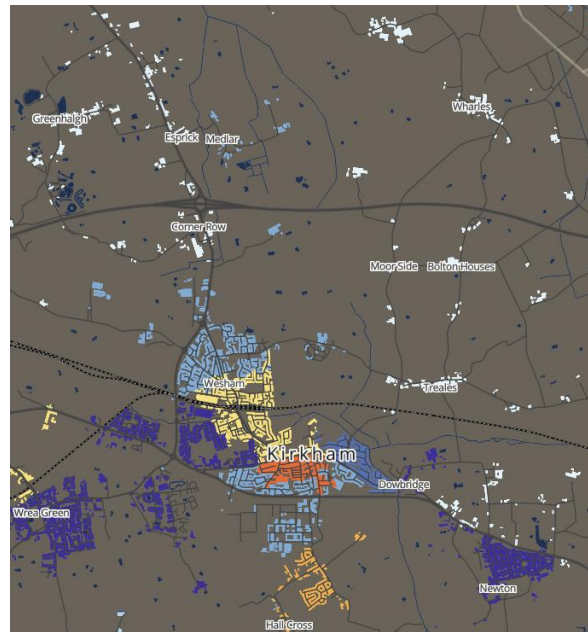
5. Kirkham with Wesham

Kirkham with Wesham combines wards Kirkham with Medlar and Wesham:

Map 10: Kirkham with Wesham



Map 11: IMD data for Kirkham with



Strengths

Over this area, 4 churches are active within the community, as is a Citizen's Advice Bureau, a Community Centre and library giving Kirkham an infrastructure of organisations that can respond to the needs of its community.

There are 3 Foodbanks – Fylde Foodbank operating on Monday & Friday from CAB office and Kirkham Methodist on a Thursday. St Michael's Parish Church operates a free family kitchen to feed families for free after school on Wednesdays in term time.

A Men's Shed project is starting at the church, using an existing shed in the church grounds and they are speaking to the NHS staff and social prescribers to try to use them for outreach and get some men involved.

'Men in Sheds' is a national movement. There is a new Men in Sheds project starting up in Fylde – the founder will contact Fylde about support but has not done so yet.

Weaknesses

Groups based at Mill Farm, Wesham are more remote from most of the housing and the bus service is very limited. In reality, this means they are only available to those with cars.

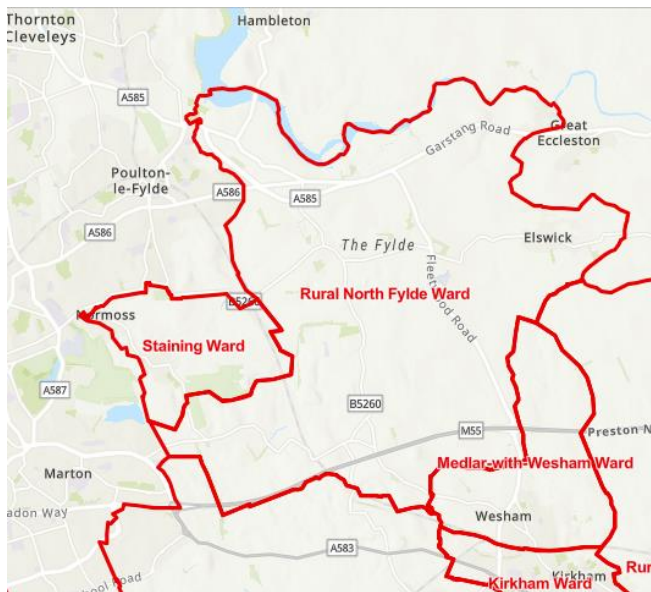
Medlar with Wesham's Old Folks Christmas Party Committee has been inactive since the Covid lockdowns due to them having an ageing committee and no new volunteers.

(Kirkham with Wesham continued)

Opportunities for Support	Threats/Risks
<p>Kirkham received some NHS funding for community wellbeing via Fylde Council who deliver classes in Kirkham. It has been mostly women accessing those classes and they would like to know how to engage more men. One approach is a new Men in Sheds¹⁹ initiative.</p> <p>There have been 5 referrals to Under One Roof for Kirkham, and 4 for Wesham. The opportunity is to link those in crisis to services like UOR for additional wrap around support.</p>	<p>No threats have been raised specifically for Kirkham with Wesham</p>

6. Rural North Fylde

Map 12: Rural North Fylde



Map 13: IMD data for Rural North Fylde



¹⁹ The Men In Sheds is a service run by some local Age UKs, and independent groups to support men to get together, share and learn new skills - all in the welcoming space of a 'Shed'.

(Rural North Fylde continued)

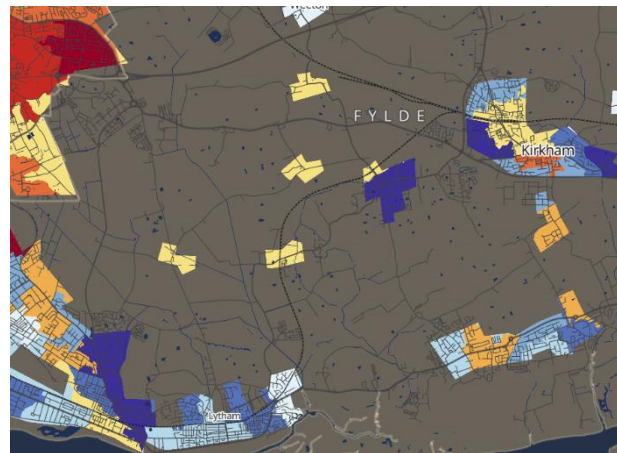
Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Lower than average levels of deprivation in the villages of Rural North Fylde.</p> <p>“Weeton - lots going on - The Crofter is the local rag with local information. Village Hall has lots of functions.” (Survey respondent quote)</p>	<p>“Transport is the biggest barrier for accessing anything. The GPs recommend community cars for getting to hospital or appointments as PTS (Patient Transport Services) only help those who are eligible.</p> <p>Buses are once an hour, stop at 6pm and only one all weekend. Go all around villages between Blackpool and Preston.” Comments from Parish Clerk for Little Eccleston with Larbreck.</p> <p>People from Weeton and other rural areas cannot get to the facilities at Mill Farm (AFC Fylde Community Foundation and Light Church) as there is no bus service.</p>
Opportunities for Support	Threats/Risks
<p>Promote links to organisations that can recruit volunteers such as UCLan Centre for Volunteering or Blackpool Wyre & Fylde Volunteer Centre. It might be they need to recruit from outside the village, maybe from Preston.</p> <p>There is no church or community centre in Little Eccleston with Larbreck but residents would go to Great Eccleston Community Centre (in Wyre), Elswick Village Hall or Elswick Church for activities.</p> <p>There is a need for public transport opportunities, from a travel pass to better train and bus links.</p> <p>“Community cars wouldn’t work for everyone as they rely on volunteers bringing people for regular activities and there aren’t enough volunteers.”</p> <p>There has been 1 referral to Weeton for Under One Roof support.</p>	<p>There is a threat to Elswick Youth Club that will impact on young people’s provision in the area if the leader cannot pass the leadership on.</p> <p>There are issues arising from the cost-of-living crisis, (e.g. food and fuel poverty) that will only worsen going into winter. If people in this area begin to struggle financially or with mental health or lose access to their cars (e.g. through ill health) they will be isolated from the kind of support available in other more populated areas as there is little infrastructure already in place to respond to needs.</p> <p>It was reported a resident lost his job when the bus service was cut.</p> <p>With concerns around isolation and cost of living, the opportunity is to establish community engagement and VCFSE sector connections with residents and link those in crisis to services like UOR for additional wrap around support.</p>

7. Wrea Green with Westby

Map 14: Wrea Green with Westby Westby



Map 15: IMD data for Wrea Green with Westby



Strengths

At **Dizzy Ducks cafe** the team were positive about local engagement in the village where people have everything they need, including a few social groups at the church.

Wrea Green Cricket Club promote the junior cricket team but this does not run in the summer holidays as residents tend to be away on holiday.

There are no problems with young people causing a nuisance.

Weaknesses

Most families (in Wrea Green) have 2 cars so the bus services are underused and then become unavailable.

Cllr raised the issue that this is a problem for the minority of (mostly mature) people who need access to buses. This problem is compounded by these tending to be people who are digitally isolated and cannot shop or access services online, so it is difficult to stay up to date with changes to bus timetables. The parish councils of Westby, Staining and Warton have all put on community buses and then withdrawn them due to lack of use.

People from Moss Side and other rural areas cannot reach facilities at Mill Farm (**AFC Fylde Community Foundation** and **Light Church**) as there is no bus service available.

Opportunities for Support

There have been 3 referrals from Westby for Under One Roof support. The opportunity is to link those in crisis to services like UOR for additional wrap around support.

Threats/Risks

No threats have been raised specifically for Wrea Green with Westby

8. Rural East Fylde

Map 16: Rural East Fylde



Map 17: IMD data for Rural East Fylde



Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>A group of rural villages for residents who have access to cars.</p> <p>VCFSEs were centred around Newton with Clifton, having a Village Hall, a Friends of Newton Park group and 2 primary school PTFAs.</p>	<p>Isolated small rural villages and poor bus service.</p> <p>Unable to find many VCFSE groups active in this area. There are none listed in Parish Council websites and the community Facebook pages are set to “private”.</p>
Opportunities for Support	Threats/Risks
<p>For Under One Roof support, there have been 4 referrals for Clifton, 4 for Newton and 1 for Salwick. The opportunity is to link those in crisis to services like UOR for additional wrap around support.</p>	<p>Issues arising from the cost-of-living crisis, (e.g. food and fuel poverty) will only worsen going into winter.</p> <p>If people in this area begin to struggle or lose access to their cars (e.g. through ill health) they will be isolated from the support available in other more populated areas as there is little infrastructure already in place to respond to such needs.</p>

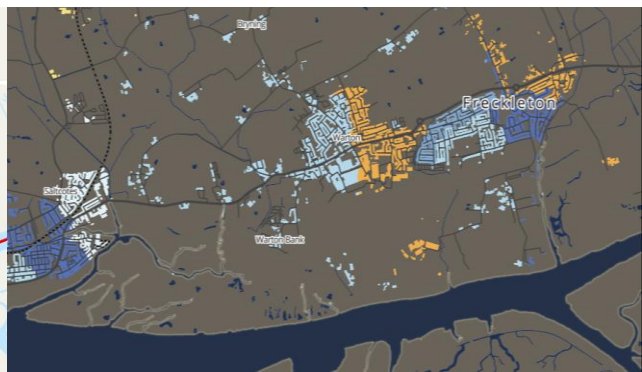
9. Warton

The ward of Warton is laid out either side of a main A-road, with BAE Warton Aerodrome occupying a large section at the southern side of the A road, making it more sprawled out. There is a younger demographic than other areas which will be added to by the new housing that is currently being built. Selnet's research showed that Warton is the area with least provision in terms of support groups and activities for the size of its population.

Map 18: Warton



Map 19: IMD data for Warton



Strengths

Community highlight: **Streetwise Youth and Community Centre**, 100% volunteer run.

When Selnet visited in the summer holidays, the manager was running a free HAF (Holiday and Food) club which was full.

Unlike the HAF at Freckleton, they also catered for teenagers.

The Centre is well-equipped for children of all ages, both indoors and outside.



Weaknesses

As stated in the original summary content for this bid, access to public transport is an issue, particularly for those with disabilities. Specific mentions in transport included that getting to the hospital is a big problem.

“The local bus service is abysmal. There is a national service to Preston / Blackpool but not very often. The housing developers promised a bike scheme for local residents to get free bikes. It was part of the conditions of their planning permission, but nobody has had any bikes. The council tried paying for a bus to take people to Kirkham every Thursday (using the new homes bonus grant) but so few used it they gave up.”

The size of population has grown significantly in the last 10 years with new housing having been built, more under construction and more planned for the future. Whilst Warton has buildings, it lacks volunteers and a community centre – there does not seem to be the same outreach initiatives from its 3 churches as is apparent in nearby Kirkham, Freckleton or Lytham.

The Chair and Clerk of the Parish Council are keen to involve the community more and improve facilities, however they have a limited number of volunteers and the Parish Council itself is short of 3 councillors (a voluntary role) .

There are no church halls or community centres with regular access / activities for all ages. Warton's library has closed, and in its place, there is a book exchange with limited opening hours (8 hours per week). The post office is inside a Morrison's Daily convenience store up a lane at one end of the village. There is no community noticeboard or notices available. When asked if they worked with the local community, the storekeeper said that Morrisons have partnered with a national charity (indicating a collection box chained to the counter) and they are not allowed to engage with any other groups.

Streetwise Youth and Community Centre run activities to try and involve families too, subject to funding but for those without school-age children there is a definite lack of provision in the village.

The village noticeboards are in poor repair with faded and outdated posters; this is backed up the claim of one female resident aged over 65 who stated that there was nothing there except lots of new houses being built but with nothing to do for all the extra people. She had cycled to a free lunch and food larder at **Freckleton Methodist Church** (in the neighbouring village) which she attended weekly for the company.

Opportunities for Support

Better noticeboards and promotion of existing support and activities to local people, including in the newly built housing.

In a central location on the main road there is a small village hall with 60 chairs used by local groups for 1 or 2 hours each per week (e.g. **Fylde Foodbank**, **Warton History Society** and **Warton Singers**) but is underutilised. A councillor has attended the village hall on different days to talk to groups and it was the same people at all the different groups. The people in the new houses do not seem to be coming in and using the village hall.

Fylde Foodbank operating from village hall on Wednesday afternoons.

Bridges Playing Fields is a pleasant area - a large field used as a football pitch by **Kirkham FC**. The pavilion building consists of shed/storeroom/office, toilets, home and away changing rooms and a large bare room, with small kitchen off it, containing a TV, table tennis table and table football which looks perfect for a youth club or small group. It also has a children's playground and a fenced in MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) that the Parish Council are thinking of resurfacing to encourage more groups to use it.

This community asset has the potential to be better-utilised but there is a lack of volunteers coming forward to set up or run groups. The place is 'off the beaten track' at one end of the village. This might become more popular in the future as there are more houses being built around it, whereas it currently adjoins fields around 3 sides.

During a conversation a parish clerk raised a proposal made to refurbish the area around and behind the Book Exchange (former library) to make a village square. We understand Fylde Council are working closely with the Parish Council and Trustees to develop a masterplan that could see the regeneration of this village centre.

One suggestion is to replace current provision with a "pod". There are activities for youths such as **RAF Cadets, Scouts** and **Streetwise** and there are plans to refurbish the MUGA at **Bridges Playing Fields**. There does not seem to be so much for adults. The Parish Hall is under-utilised but when they tried to use it as a warm hub, they did not get many people. – Conversation with Parish Clerk

The highest number of Fylde referrals for Under One Roof support has been in Warton. To date there have been 18 referrals for Warton residents, including 7 in Bumble Lane and 3 in Devoke Court.

There is an opportunity for more VCFSEs supporting disadvantaged residents, or residents in crisis circumstances (loss of a salary, fleeing domestic violence, and with no savings or access to support) to refer residents in need into the UOR scheme.

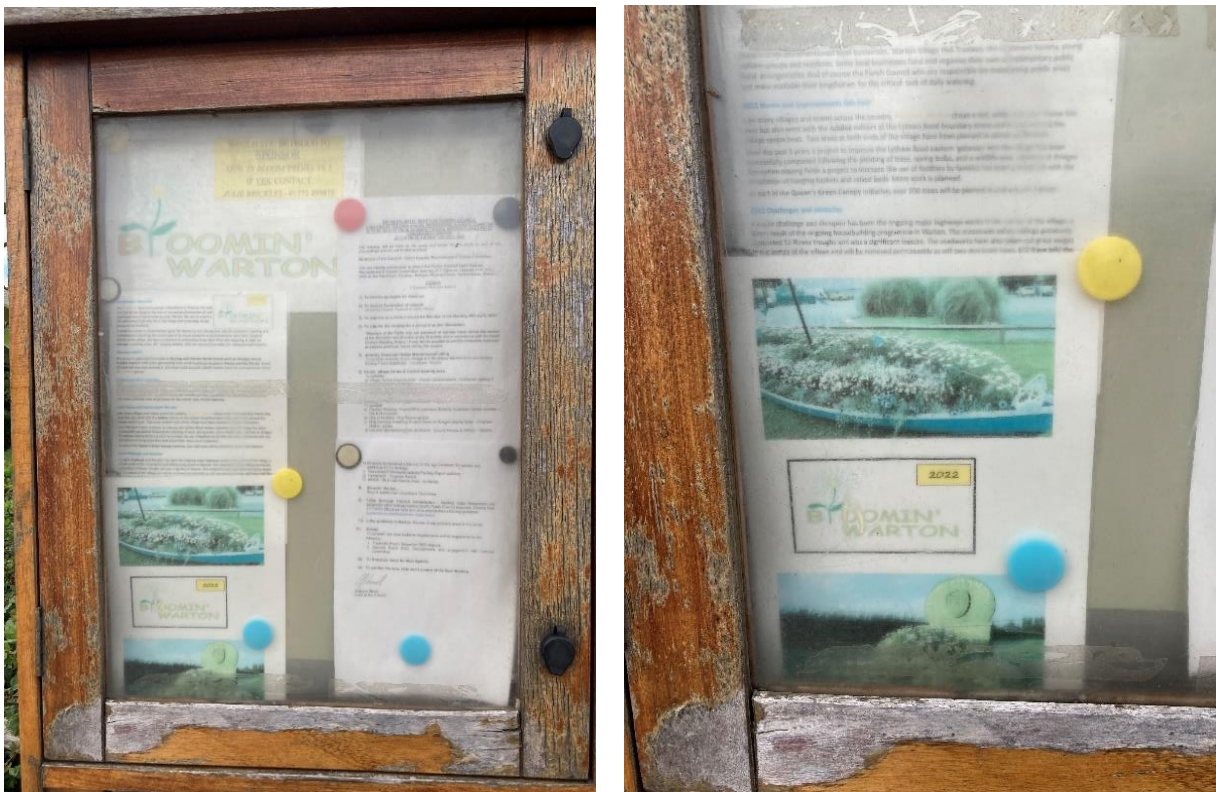
Threats/Risks

Warton has a growing population with future development plans for building new homes. There is a need for community development and support opportunities for residents to be established and/or developed.

Warton communities are isolated – there is a need to connect affordable housing with community development and support services.

Streetwise are having a wide-reaching impact from just 10 volunteers. We must ensure they have support with recruiting volunteers and infrastructure funding/support for sustainability.

Photos outside village hall:



The notices in Warton noticeboards outside the Village Hall are out of date and difficult to read.

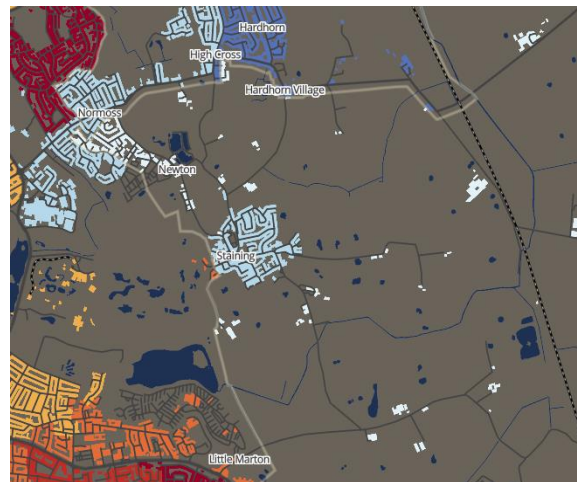
To engage and communicate with residents across Fylde, a variety of techniques to promote events and services would be well received. Up to date notice boards, content for newsletters and networking events, opportunities on key websites with reminders on social media are examples of improved engagement across the community.

10. Staining

Map 20: Staining



Map 21: IMD data for Staining

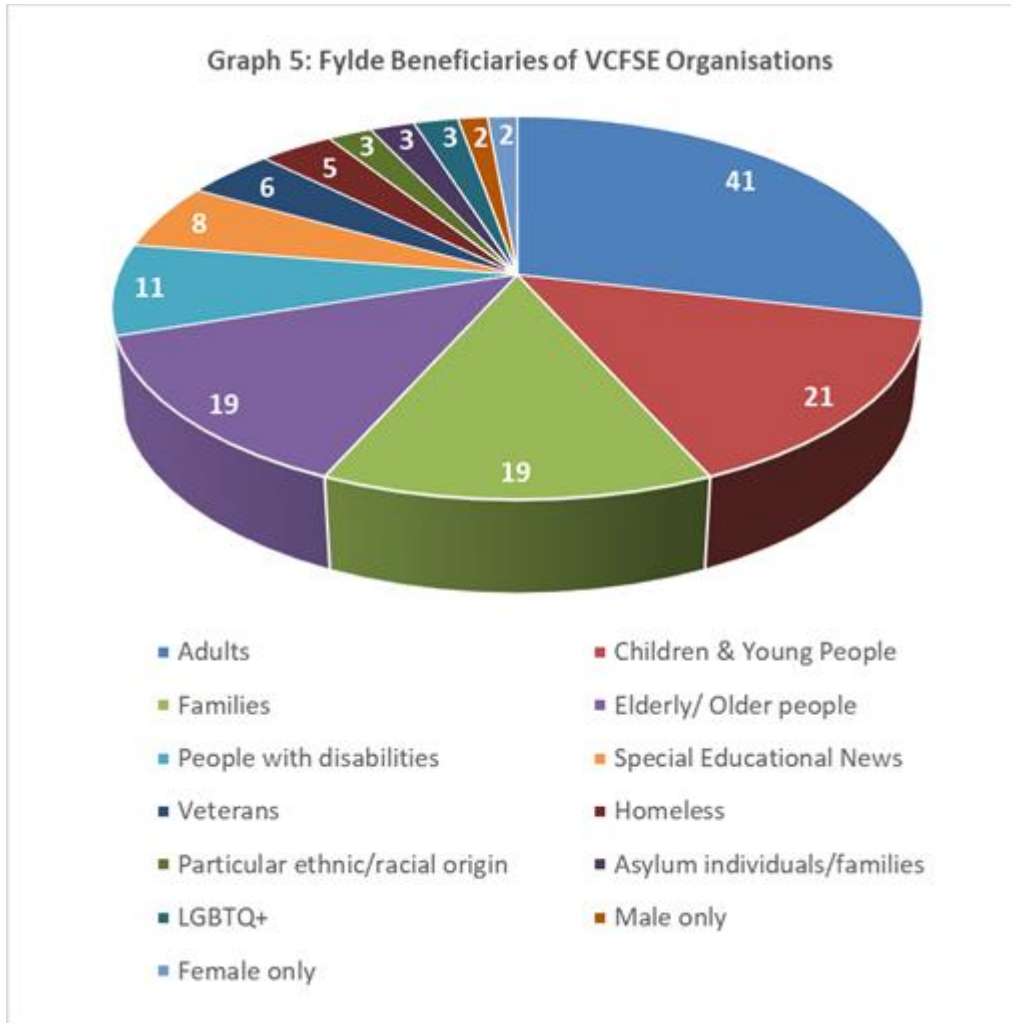


Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Rural village but with proximity to Blackpool (and Stanley Park) so residents can access support and activities there, meaning it is not as isolated as some villages in Rural North Fylde for example.</p>	<p>Most families have 2 cars so the bus services are underused and then become unavailable.</p> <p>The issue raised by a local Cllr is that a problem for the minority of (mostly mature) people who do need access to a car. The problem is compounded by geographically isolated tending to be digitally isolated as well, and cannot shop or access services online, so it is difficult to keep up to date with changes to bus timetables.</p> <p>Westby, Staining and Warton parish councils have all put on community buses and then withdrawn them due to lack of use.</p> <p>There is a lack of active awareness of VCFSEs.</p>
Opportunities for Support	Threats/Risks
<p>The Parish Council has a website and maintains a Facebook page but no VCFSEs are advertising opportunities or posting requests or events.</p> <p>Promotion of VCFSE resources, opportunities and activities would improve their outreach and increase community engagement.</p> <p>With concerns around isolation and cost of living, the opportunity is to establish community engagement and VCFSE sector connections with residents and link those in crisis to services like UOR for additional wrap around support.</p> <p>There has been 1 referral for UOR support.</p>	<p>There are issues arising from the cost-of-living crisis, (e.g. food and fuel poverty) that will only worsen going into winter.</p> <p>If people in this area begin to struggle financially or with mental health, or lose access to their cars (e.g. through ill health) they will be isolated from the kind of support available in other more populated areas as there is little infrastructure already in place to respond to needs.</p>

Fylde Residents accessing VCFSE engagement and support.

Selnet gathered information on the beneficiaries of Fylde’s VCFSE organisations, including an indication of the number of individuals and/or groups of people accessing these services with information on the ages of their beneficiaries and where they are based.

Graph 5 is a pie chart that summarises 205 Fylde VCFSE sector beneficiaries accessing their services on a regular basis.



Of the 115 organisations that responded to this project’s survey, over one third of services are open to ‘Any’ Fylde Resident.

That said, some organisations state they are open to ‘Any Fylde Residents’ but do target specific groups. For example, the **Junior Parkrun (Park View)** is “a free, fun, and friendly weekly 2k event for juniors (4 to 14-year-olds) held on Sunday mornings at 9am”. Young residents are targeted, and parents and relatives attend with them.

LSA U3A responded as being open to “Any Fylde Residents” but target those who are “no longer employed full-time” by providing “support to people to continue their learning, interests, hobbies and social interactions”.

Some organisations provide multiple services, aiming a range of support and outreach to specific social/population groups:

Examples: **Fylde Food Community Hub** supports residents in need, predominantly families, elderly residents and residents with SEN; **Take and Make** at Kirkham Methodist Church is open to all, and predominantly engages with adults, children and young people, families and asylum individuals/families. **Age UK Lancashire's** work is targeted towards adults, elderly/older people, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities and veterans).

Some organisations engage directly with a specific social group:

Examples: **Jolly Joggers Fylde Coast** direct their work to exercise and fitness sessions for women only, as a non-competitive group aimed towards physical health and mental health; this supportive environment enables beneficiaries to feel comfortable to discuss issues around menopause and childcare which they find difficult to otherwise. **Live Laugh Love CIC** engages older residents aged over 55, but predominantly reaches residents over 70, whose work promotes “the physical, mental, social, spiritual and emotional health and well-being of older people in Fylde”; and **Fylde Coast Mates** provide peer support through their social inclusion group specifically for adults 18+ with autism or social anxiety to promote their health and wellbeing.

VCFSE services operating in Fylde do so based on need and demand. There tend to be similar formats among similar groups. For example, volunteers are welcome to **Ansdell in Bloom** (creating floral displays and looking after planters and public garden areas), **Friends of the Estuary Coastal Care Group** (providing weekly litter picking over beach and salt marsh areas), **Heddles and Treadles** are open to anyone interested in textile crafts. These organisations do not actively target a specific community group but tend to have an older demographic of attendants.

The full data spreadsheet can be referred to for comprehensive details from survey respondents with categories of beneficiaries they provide for, plus their base and outreach over wards.

Trends highlighted

Based on the current economic climate with high inflation and the cost-of-living crisis, we have gathered details of trends that have been identified based on the additional support needed, with examples of what that support is i.e., financial and debt, accessing food banks, re-training or upskilling, employment support, basic skills such as English Language, getting online, etc.

- **Cost of Living:** ONS conducted an analysis of how different groups in the population have been affected by an increase in their cost of living²⁰ by analysing the main characteristics associated with people who are more likely to report an increase in their cost of living and those most at risk of not being able to afford an unexpected expense. The most common reasons reported by adults for increased cost of living were an increase in the price of food shopping (88%), gas or electricity bills (83%) and the price of fuel (77%).

In March 2022, the proportion of adults living in the most deprived areas of England who reported that they found it difficult or very difficult to pay their usual household bills, was 9 percentage points higher than in November 2021, increasing from 25% to 34%. This compares with an increase of 7 percentage points in the least deprived areas of England, increasing from 10% to 17%.

There are strong seasonal spending patterns relating to gas and electricity that may affect these results, however as this report is collated in October 2023, these seasonal spending patterns are anticipated to repeat.

²⁰ ONS (2022) “The rising cost of living and its impact on individuals in Great Britain: November 2021 to March 2022” <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/expenditure/articles/therisingcostoflivinganditsimpactonindividualsingreatbritain/november2021tomarch2022>

- **Foodbanks:** Demand/use has increased, for example, the use of **Fylde Foodbank** has increased by 62% and there is no expectation of this reducing – it is expected to increase.
- **Pre-employability support funding for people with complex needs and barriers to work:** This has been cut to many VCFSEs with the loss of EU-funded projects i.e., Building Better Opportunities wholly delivered by the sector and ended in March 2023 and More Positive Together ending in December 2023 - Provision for residents who are Economically Inactive is now available to support Fylde residents through Fylde Council’s UKSPF.
- **Older people facing isolation:** Individuals in these circumstances also face barriers to accessing services and information about the many groups that could support them which many also digitally excluded. The needs are to talk to somebody and be helped, not go online (view of Lancashire Volunteer Partnership representative). Some of the existing groups only market themselves through word of mouth (e.g. **Wesley’s Community Cafe**). There is need for the promotion of support services, engagement of isolated people and access to support that is available.

Table 3: Under One Roof onward referrals

Table 3 presents onwards referrals from December 2022 - March 2023 for referrals to meet crisis needs. The average of monthly referrals is 107 over these winter months.

Organisation / Provision groups	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	4-month total	Monthly average
Local Foodbanks, Community Groceries	22	16	13	14	65	16.25
Citizens Advice	11	10	16	13	50	12.5
MPT Steps* (Employment & Training)		17	4	24	45	11.25
Lancashire Women	8	8	14	14	44	11
Housing Advice (Local Councils/ Shelter/Landlord/ Housing Officer)		10	17	13	40	10
<i>Other: Specific Needs Referrals</i>	4		8	18	30	7.5
Minds Matter	5	2	9	7	23	5.75
Local Colleges	4	7	6	4	21	5.25
Grants (Family Fund/Energy Funds/ HSF/Glasspool)	12	3	3	2	20	5
Stepchange		6	5	4	15	3.75
Local Domestic Violence Services (Safenet/ Women's Aid/ PDVS)	1	12		2	15	3.75
Turn To Us/Entitled To		4	6	4	14	3.5
Welfare (Welfare Rights/Job Centre/DWP)	8		1	1	10	2.5
Training & Development*	10				10	2.5
ICANN (Independent Community Advocacy Network North)		2	2	3	7	1.75
ESOL Training		4	2	1	7	1.75
LCC Services	3		3	1	7	1.75
Local Borough Councils	4				4	1
Total	95	101	109	125	430	107

Gaps in support currently available to the public

Throughout our engagement for this study, we have collated additional gaps raised by stakeholders across Fylde. Fylde Council had already identified 4 gaps in support currently available; including access to transport (Fylde Council are in discussion with Community Cars re: rural areas), support and activities available for children with special educational needs, specific religious groups (i.e., for Fylde's Islamic communities), and projects that engage with asylum families to help them to integrate into the local community.

1. Access to Transport

"A staff member missed the bus and there was not another for 2 hours so was late."

Access to public transport is a difficulty within some Fylde areas. There are specific responses regarding issues around rural isolation and limited public transport:

- **AFC Fylde Community Foundation** : Community cars wouldn't be ideal. Need to make a travel pass or have better train and bus links. The bus service is poor and affected traineeships.
- **Booke Exchange**, Weeton: Isolation of those living in rural areas.
- **Coffee and Cakes**, Weeton: Very little seems to be available for those living in small rural areas where public transport is sporadic.
- **Connect Community Groups**: People can't afford the bus fare and don't come anymore from e.g. Freckleton – (refer to case study in Part B)
- **Friends of Lytham Hall**: Our members tend to use their own cars.
- **Friends of St Anne's Station**: Yes, bus services not reaching outlying areas of the town.
- **Fylde Coast Mates**: Some do not drive, we try to pick up/car share.
- **Fylde Rugby Communities Trust**: We use a discretionary fund to support this.
- **Just Good Friends**: Rural areas to get here are difficult. Poverty is a barrier to afford transport. Hard to get to the hospital. Community cars would help.
- **Live Laugh Love CIC**: Lack of transport limiting people's access to our work/services. Access to services for people who find it difficult walking or using public transport: wheelchair accessible transport, reduced cost community transport, affordable high quality care services, and communication tools.
- **Light Church**: Good at pickups with existing community but potential members may be cut off making initial contact if they cannot get there. There needs to be a bus from Kirkham and Wesham to Mill Farm and it's getting built up in the area. That bus would also be useful to get to Aldi from those areas. Both them and AFC Fylde Community Foundation do so much and have resources but only for car owners.
- **Read Easy Preston**: Can be difficult but we meet at a community setting near where they live and we will pay expenses for volunteers to travel to meet their Reader.

Summary

For residents without access to cars – and particularly those living in the rural areas – there are barriers to accessing services, from medical appointments to food shopping and social opportunities.

There are some opportunities for alternative ways to tackle isolation barriers:

- There are alternative outreach opportunities for some medical services. For example, telephone appointments, ordering online repeat prescriptions online rather than posting repeat prescription orders, accessing text alert reminders for appointments or medication. However, residents will need to have appropriate phones, necessary apps and secure internet access (i.e. NHS app, myGP app) for this to be a way of tackling isolation barriers to some medical appointments. For residents lacking such resources and awareness, this remains a barrier. The VCFSE sector's reach to disadvantaged community members can meet this gap with guidance for district-wide consistency.
- Some VCFSEs are able to provide support through car sharing, or actively supporting and transporting residents who are unable to drive. Where buses are available for residents, the price of bus fares are a barrier for residents using them or using them as often as they need to.

Residents should be able to access provision to travel to key locations. Enabling and promoting this will increase demand to access such support.

For example, there is some provision available through Wyre and Fylde Dial-a-Bus supported by Lancashire County Council, however the provision is limited to “the urban areas of Fylde and Wyre, including a fully accessible service between the Fylde Coast and Kirkham and Wesham”²¹.

An opportunity for Fylde Council can consider is establishing a link with a VCFSE organisation to become a member of the Community Transport Association, which has a diverse range of members from all across the UK. A CTA member can be any not-for-profit organisation who provides accessible and inclusive transport in their community.

An idea raised to address this gap was a community cars scheme run by a VCFSE organisation. Initial research identified the following examples:

Example: Local community provision service:

Preston Community Transport is coordinated by the Community Transport Office whose service helps people through organising local volunteers, using their own cars, to make useful trips generally within a maximum of 20 miles from the pickup point. The service is suited to rural areas and is useful for time-critical appointments or journeys where other services are unsuitable, as many people use the service for healthcare journeys such as doctors, dentists and clinics, social visits and shopping.



Such journeys are vital to enable and sustain independent living, it complements the Dial-A-Ride service especially where only one two or three people want to travel – the service does rely on volunteering. Additional information available through their website:

<http://www.prestonct.org.uk/services/community-cars/>

²¹ Lancashire County Council: Dial-a-Bus: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/public-transport/community-transport-services>

Example of transport provision in isolated areas:

Gairloch Community Car project is a non-profit organisation providing transport to those in need across the Gairloch area in the Scottish Highlands.

GCCS have accessed National Lottery Awards for All funding to provide transport vehicle for Gairloch and surrounding areas to reach hospital, GP and dentist appointments, care homes, the pharmacy, shops, the bank and the post office. This service is provided by volunteer drivers and telephonists.



In November 2020 GCCS were presented with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services²². Additional information available through their website: <https://www.gairlochccs.org/>

2. Support and Activities for Children with Special Educational Needs

**For this subject as a gap in support identified by Fylde Council, it is important to clarify that Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are used interchangeably, where SEN is a legal definition and SEND is used more as an industry acronym.*

Further to this, a direct insight was provided through the Play Inclusion Project, the biggest provider of Break Time and Break Time Plus activities in Fylde, currently supporting 14 children:

Play Inclusion Project Provision and barriers

The manager of the **Play Inclusion Project (PIP)** concurred that support and activities for children with SEND are inadequate, directly from parents and carers of SEND children. In summary:

Children may access up to 78 hours per year of subsidised Break Time Activities. This is not enough for the majority of parents, and some have already used them all up now (the start of September 2023). This is because the sessions are 2 hrs minimum, and 78hrs would be enough for 2 hrs every week in term time only. This means no provision during 13 weeks of the statutory school holidays.

If the children qualify for free school meals, then they can additionally access a HAF (Holiday and Food) programme of activities, but this still leaves 3 weeks at half terms where there is no activity for the child or respite for parents/carers. In comparison, children without SEN could (in theory) go to 3 different clubs or activities per week and access any holiday clubs.

This leaves a gap in provision for those families whose children have used up all of their allocated hours – and that provision additional to this would need to be paid for. Parents already pay £5 per 2-hour session at **Fylde Youth Club** in Lytham. Without the LCC subsidy, the manager has calculated delivery costs to be £14.31 per hour, plus the £5 fee. This is extremely prohibitive to many families, and far more than a non-disabled child would have to pay to access a similar club.

Some children need 1:1 support (especially since they opened up to younger children from 4 years old) which Fylde PIP service cannot provide within the Break Time model, so they signpost residents to get a formal assessment in order to access Break Time Plus.

There are some support services and activities for children with SEND in Fylde. We did not identify a building with adapted facilities whose primary focus was providing support and

²² Ross-shire Journal (28/11/2020) 'Gairloch Community Car Scheme presented with Queen's Award for Voluntary Services by Ross and Cromarty Lord Lieutenant' <https://www.ross-shirejournal.co.uk/news/wester-ross-community-car-scheme-recognised-for-long-standing-work-219739/>

activities for children with disabilities, in the same way as **SPACE Centre** in Preston or **Sam's Place NW Ltd** in Blackpool are, but such specialised places are few and far between.

In engaging with the VCFSE sector across Fylde on this subject we gathered specific responses regarding gaps in support available for children and young people around illness and disabilities:

- **Dance Syndrome:** We are currently developing a youth offer, including workshops in schools, co-delivered by a dance leader with a learning disability. We have just started a youth collective (September 2023) which rehearses in Blackburn but is open to all who want to improve dance skills and perform in public.
- This presents an opportunity for young people aged 14 plus who want to explore and improve their skills in dance and performance but may find it difficult to access mainstream classes.
- In addition, we hold weekly interactive online Zoom "Everybody Dance" sessions that can be accessed from home, led by a Dance Leader with a disability and open to all aged 16 plus (and younger if accompanied by an adult in the room).
- **Light Church:** We provide for SEN children within our mainstream outreach as our staff are well-trained on inclusion.
- **Fylde Coast Mates:** There is nothing for young adults with SEND once they are too old for Break Time provision.
- **PAKS- Positive Aids for Kids** (Blackpool area representative of the organisation that is based in Yorkshire). Yes, there are gaps in support as currently not enough is known about Congenital Myotonic Dystrophy (CMD).
- **Sam's Place NW Ltd** (formerly known as Childrens Hospice Play & Holiday Centre Limited, are based in Blackpool but actively engaging Fylde residents) There are no other groups in the area who provide the services that we offer.

"There is nothing for young adults with SEND once they are too old for Break Time provision."

- Quote from respondent

Existing Provision through VCFSE sector:

Fylde residents can use both **SPACE** and **Sam's Place** but with this provision being external to Fylde, barriers to accessible transport for those without the use of cars is a key issue. For residents with certain disabilities and their carers who need public transport, this must also be accessible for them.

The following provision and services are identified:

- **Sign Hi, Say Hi**, The Fylde, Wyre and Blackpool Deaf Children's Society, run a programme of events for deaf children. Further information is available online: www.signhisayhi.org.uk/programme-of-events/

- **Tram Shed Theatre Company** run inclusive theatre workshops for those aged 4-25 with SEND: www.tramshed.org.uk
- **Play Inclusion Project** runs Fylde Youth Club on Wednesdays in Lytham for 6 – 18-year-olds with additional needs and disabilities. Further information is available online: www.playinclusionproject.org.uk/fylde/
- **AFC Fylde Community Foundation** runs a project called “Just Join In” with youth clubs for disabled youngsters: <https://www.afcfyldefoundation.co.uk/justjoinin>
- **Fylde Rugby Club Community Foundation** deliver rugby programmes in schools and hold a tag rugby festival annually. These activities are inclusive for those with MLD (moderate learning difficulties) and SLD (severe learning difficulties).
- Some VCFSE organisations (such as **Light Church**, Kirkham) say that they include children with SEN within their mainstream provision e.g. youth clubs, because their volunteer staff are skilled and trained around inclusion.
- **Lancashire Positive Minds** is a support group for parents and carers of children with SEND. Started in in Leyland by a parent with lived experience, they offer support across Lancashire. For further information: www.lancashirepositiveminds.co.uk/

VCFSE organisations often emerge in response to a need in the community and a shortfall in statutory provision. To specifically identify a “gap” in support for children with SEN, there would need to be an assessment of statutory and VCFSE support against the number of children with SEN and a survey of parents of children with SEN to consider the demand. Whilst this is outside the scope of this study, the following statutory support has been identified:

- LCC (Lancashire County Council)’s Children and Family Wellbeing Service provides Colourful Footsteps and Teen Seen sessions in Kirkham and St Annes for children with SEN and their parents and carers. The telephone number is 01253 74117.
- LCC and Lancashire SEND Partnership Break Time: Group-based activities for children aged 4 – 18 with SEND during weekends, holidays and after school to give parents and carers a short break from their caring role. For further information: www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/things-to-do/break-time/
- Children do not need an EHCP (Education and Healthcare Plan) but must register online to access activities. VCFSE groups provide the activities which are both paid for by parents and subsidised by LCC. There are currently 41 Break Time provisions across Lancashire, delivered by 22 individual providers. For further information: www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND
- LCC Break Time Plus: Group based activities available to those children and young people who receive a social care package of support following an assessment or who are in care with LCC – accessed through a social worker or see Local Offer page at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/
- Fylde Council work to improve accessibility for all ages by providing beach wheelchairs, wheelchair-accessible toilets at events and a non-slip ramp at the St

Annes paddling pool. There is also a weekly session for children with SEND at the St Annes Splash Park www.new.fylde.gov.uk/splash-park-reopening-for-2023/

Mental health support in Fylde schools

As a related provision, our research identified this active outreach in Fylde where LCC and the NHS are working in partnership to support young people's mental health and emotional well-being.

Although this is outside of the remit of this project, there is an opportunity for the VCFSE organisations of Fylde to be aware of mental health outreach for young residents in Fylde. There are opportunities for some organisations to complement this work and add to support around mental health through exercise. SHINE (Support and Help IN Education²³) is 3 Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) covering selected secondary schools, special schools, appropriate provision settings, sixth forms and colleges, which began in Blackpool and Wyre – and **Fylde support was introduced in January 2023.**

SHINE in Fylde

SHINE is provided by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and works alongside other services such as child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) to ensure that children and young people get the support they need.



“The teams play a vital part in helping children and young people who are experiencing emotional well-being issues such as mild anxiety, low mood, or behavioural difficulties.

More than 100 education settings receive this support across Lancashire, with the county council investing more than £945,000 of additional funding this year to help grow provision in Preston **and add provision in Fylde.**”²⁴

Further information about this is available through Service Manager, Helen Hardacre at bfwh.shine-mhst@nhs.net.

Opportunities for further support

- Families of children with SEND are not always aware of what support and activities are available. Explore ways to improve signposting to existing provision.
- LCC are looking for more VCFSE organisations to provide a variety of Break Time activities and it is an open tender²⁵.
- Phab is an organisation which will support the setting up of youth clubs for disabled and non-disabled, offering help with the groundwork such as policies and procedures to groups who affiliate to them. Currently the nearest groups in Lancashire are to the East of Blackburn. www.phab.org.uk/

²³ Healthy Young Minds: www.healthyyoungmindslsc.co.uk/our-work/mental-health-support-teams

²⁴ LCC News (10/02/23) Lancashire County Council and NHS connect for Children's Mental Health Week: www.news.lancashire.gov.uk/news/lancashire-county-council-and-nhs-connect-for-childrens-mental-health-week

²⁵ For more information contact Sarah Deady: sarah.deady@lancashire.gov.uk

- Support could be given to existing groups providing mainstream activities to give help and training to enable them to offer their activities in an inclusive way.

Barriers/threats to support

- Lack of funding for training of staff and volunteers.
- Lack of skills, experience and resources within existing activity providers. St Annes Football Club, run entirely by volunteers, said that they do have a desire to offer football to disabled community members but currently have no links to specific help that would be needed and are not sure how to facilitate this.
- Lack of volunteers - Play Inclusion Project facilitators are skilled and experienced at delivering this provision but they have incurred more running costs since the Pandemic as they have had to take on more paid staff due to a reduction in the number of volunteers they have been able to recruit. They used to get young students at sixth form, university and adult learners who had to do so many hours in placements for their courses. Now they are able to get paid work in the care sector and use those hours towards their placement, so they are less likely to volunteer.
- Bid process - Break Time Manager at LCC says they need more activity providers and a wider variety of activities. The Manager at **Play Inclusion Project** says that the tender process has become more difficult and time consuming. This is a barrier to smaller providers who do not have the time or experience in bid-writing to overcome the complexity of the process.
- Short-term funding for this kind of thing is not appropriate or sustainable. Children with SEND need stability, routine, and continuity. Play Inclusion Project have made occasional bids in addition to funding from LCC and Blackpool Council, but it is not worth the extra work when it could end within months. LCC funding is for 5 years so allows them to plan for the children to be able to keep going to the activities they enjoy. That is why they stick to council-funded programmes now.
- Even though the LCC funding is for 5 years it is not enough at 78 hours per child. For example, if they want to put on a show where children need to attend rehearsals every week, they cannot do this through the 13 weeks of school holidays. In the past this has been achieved by staff members giving up their time on a voluntary basis and children have enjoyed it but they cannot now repeat it.

3. Specific Religious Groups

This subject was raised across Fylde, and no barriers were highlighted. Responses simply specified that services are open to all. Fylde Rugby Communities Trust reach out to a wide variety of beneficiaries and stated that they found it hard to reach a diverse range of specific religious groups in Fylde specifically. A funding application to reach BAME was turned down as they did not know how to go about making this possible.

Appendix 2 (Part B) presents a summary of religious groups active within Fylde, with a summary of Fylde residents' religions presented in the 2021 Census. The most populous religious group within Fylde is Christians (61.6% of the population) at over 50,000 people compared to England's national proportion of 46% of the population. Fylde has a Muslim population of 576 (0.7%) compared to England's national proportion of 7%.

36.7% of Fylde's residents do not have a religion, as specified in the census, compared to 38.9% nationally. There are faith-based organisations providing a wide range of support across Fylde.

4. Refugee / Asylum Seeker community integration

As this was an area identified by Fylde Council at the start, the subject was specifically raised with groups who were interviewed.

- **AFC Fylde Community Foundation** – have run weekly football sessions for adult refugees. They have good links with LCC and Fylde Council. They have also had refugees at sports camps, and they have been well-integrated.
- **Fylde Rugby Club Community Foundation** – report they have tried to integrate refugees into a HAF programme but there were issues and barriers they were unable to deal with and unfortunately had to be excluded. The Rugby Club later had some refugees at their camps, and they were great although the language barrier was still a problem.
- **St Annes Football Club** – have had 2 asylum seekers from one family in their club for 2 years. They have been in the UK for 3 years but aren't allowed to work. The mother and child play football and the mother and father volunteer to help out with activities and events. The club has offered to help with the more recent refugees, and they have one who has contacted the club.
- **Just Good Friends:** Would be willing to do more but need to work more with ESOL and the integration council.
- **Light Church** – were asked by Fylde Council to put on a social meeting for refugees. They did but not without issues. It had been identified the groups did not always need the social interactions but more help with language barriers. Light Church have members who could have done that; they are agile and responded quickly to the callout but felt provision implemented did not work.
- **Church Road Methodist:** is open to all but find word of mouth has its limitations for people finding them.
- **Park View 4U** – have a contact who teaches English to asylum seekers/refugees, so she sometimes brings groups along to activities.
- **Connect Community Groups:** Want to reach 'hard to reach' communities but need help with their marketing and communications.
- **Fylde Coast Mates:** Would be happy to work with these groups but find them difficult to access and need better links.
- **Freckleton Methodist Church:** Member of the church team had not seen any refugees/asylum seekers and is unaware of any in Freckleton. There are refugees in Kirkham and Wesham but transport or awareness are barriers.

A key issue raised from questions and conversations relating to refugees and asylum seekers, was that there are limited integration opportunities for them within Fylde communities. Groups had either worked with them as a separate community group or were willing to engage with and work towards supporting them but did not know how to reach them.

Specifically, **Connect Community Groups**, **Fylde Coast Mates** and **Just Good Friends** commented that they would be happy to work with refugees and asylum seekers but would need help with contacting them and/or information/support about English language lessons.

Additional Gaps Identified in Support

We engaged with organisations across Fylde on whether they were aware of any gaps in meeting public needs: “Are you aware of any gaps in the support or services currently offered to the residents of Fylde (e.g. support for carers or activities for people with learning disabilities)?”

There were 28 specific comments by respondents who did not know about any gaps in support or were not aware of any.

Additional responses provided have been summarised into the following themes:

- Disabled Adults / Adult Health Barriers 7
- Demand raised for support to carers 3
- Communications / engagement 6
- Higher costs / limited access to venues 3

Disabled Adults / Adult Health Barriers

In 2021, 7.6% of Fylde residents were identified as being disabled and limited a lot. Just under one in nine people (10.6%) were identified as being disabled and limited a little (ONS).

Potential Opportunities

To meet needs of this community, residents could be encouraged to engage in coaching or pastoral support to know of opportunities available, including the sports groups, and inform stakeholders of new opportunities that could be provided.

- **Active engagement:** There are opportunities available for some people with disabilities to engage in outreach with Fylde’s football and rugby charities. These are not suited to ‘all’ people with disabilities but offer current services that combine activity and opportunities to socialise in a service provided directly for them.
- **Promotion and outreach:** Raising awareness of opportunities available to residents who have disabilities or health conditions, enables more specific outreach to be provided by a range of VCFSE organisations if access is possible. It is important that opportunities available for people with disabilities are engaging with this community. This enables Fylde residents to be involved in events or opportunities based on their interests, and to identify (and ideally to deliver) new project opportunities.
- **Access:** Regarding more isolated residents, there is an opportunity for support to be provided by enabling transport or collecting attendees from their homes and taking them back home afterwards, having provided a meal with social engagement and support opportunities, in line with the ‘Wheels to Meals’ format.
- **Community support:** There are opportunities to enable community support, as a positive approach to meeting needs.

The overview of ‘Meal Makers’ below summarises how turning an everyday activity into a volunteering opportunity can strengthen connections within communities and provide a flexible way for people to volunteer their time and skills locally in a way which suits them.

Meal Makers: How to eat well and age well (by Scottish Charity Food Train)

Meal Makers is a local neighbourhood food-sharing project that connects people who love cooking, and who are happy to share an extra portion of home cooked food with an older neighbour who would really appreciate a freshly prepared meal and a friendly chat.

By turning an everyday activity into a volunteering opportunity, Meal Makers strengthens connections within communities and provides a flexible way for people to volunteer their time and skills locally in a way which suits them.

Meal Makers was founded in 2014 after Food Train CEO Michelle Carruthers MBE travelled to several community projects across the UK to look for a solution that helps older people to eat well and age well in their own homes. That's where she discovered the Casserole Club that was designed by Future Gov. She then took that back to Scotland and adapted the concept to suit the needs of older people and that's the platform we have now. Meal Makers started in Dundee and has expanded to over 10 local authorities in Scotland.

Meal Makers uses an online platform to match Cooks and Diners. To volunteer as a Cook you sign up online at www.mealmakers.org.uk and complete an online profile. All Cooks are subject to a Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) background check and are required to complete an online food safety and hygiene quiz. Diners on the other hand come to learn about Meal Makers from a variety of sources including health practitioners, social work services, housing associations and a variety of third sector organisations. Meal Makers often make self-referrals as well; as long as the diner is aged 55 or over and lives in an active Meal Makers area they are welcome to sign up to the project.

"I'm Gillian and once a week, when I'm making my family's meal, I make an extra portion for an older man who lives near us.

I'm a volunteer cook with Food Train Connects. They matched me up with Harry, an 83-year-old gentleman who lives in the same town as me.

Harry is on his own and really appreciates the meal I bring him, it's also lovely to chat to Harry and make sure he is OK. I've been doing this for nearly three years now and it's an absolute joy!

There are many more older people all across Scotland waiting to be paired up with a volunteer cook. It's such a rewarding role, I would encourage anyone to do it."

- Quote from Volunteer



Demand Raised in Support for Carers

For services available for the public, guidance is needed on ways this can be promoted, how carers can be engaged to understand their needs and barriers they face, and to establish a network or opportunity for carers to meet together for support.

Based on engagement across Fylde, there is a lack of awareness or knowledge of support for carers feeding into the research as follows:

- **AFC Fylde Community Foundation:** no specific support for young carers in Fylde and they look outside of the district for support i.e., through Barnardos where support is limited. AFC aim to do something for young carers this year (2023) and have begun bidding for funds.
- **Love Freckleton Library:** do support for carers.
- **The Arts Society Fylde,** based in Clifton offer bereavement counselling for children.

In addition, individuals hit by bereavement need support, and opportunities available are being collated. There is an opportunity for engaging individuals and their interests/skills with barriers other residents are facing. For example, gardening and handiwork. That said, sharing opportunities will need to consider safeguarding and there may be a need for a Coordinator who undertakes DBS checking etc.

In particular, older widowed men tend not to join social groups and have increased isolation following bereavement. The **Men In Sheds** is a service run by some local **Age UKs**, and some independent groups (including a current new project in Kirkham with Wesham), to support men who want to get together, share and learn new skills - all in the welcoming space of a 'Shed'.

Communications / engagement

Communication was raised from many survey respondents. There were specific responses regarding communications and engagement with the public and wider sectors:

- **Connect Community Groups:** Want to reach 'hard to reach' communities but need help with their marketing and communications.
- **Fylde Soroptimists, Lytham:** We are aware of many gaps that could be tackled with better communication through conversations and input of organisations we have dealt with over our years of supporting local groups.
- **Get Involved Volunteering and Events (G.I.V.E.), St Anne's:** My personal input would be that we need a volunteer connector/ introducer/ linker. Someone in a specific role as a central point of contact. Also, I gave up work to care for my mum, I am not aware of any help available to me.
- **Read Easy Preston, Preston:** No other such provision has been identified and we only cover PR postcodes. For 2 years we have been trying to set up a Read Easy Fylde Coast for Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde (FY postcodes). No volunteers have been forthcoming to pioneer this.
- **St Annes Football Club:** We have a desire to offer football to disabled community members but currently have no link or specific help that would be required.
- **St Annes Musical Productions:** We think more could be done to welcome more black people and people of colour into activities such as ours. We are working to address this to target new membership outside of our usual base. This will ensure our company represents all areas of society, brings in new ideas and perspectives and widens our friendship circles.

Higher rental costs / limited access to venues

There were specific responses regarding issues to the cost of venues for the VCFSE sector and access to them:

- **seriously.hooked.up**, Preston: Many groups like ours have begun closing due to increasing running costs.
- **St Annes Musical Productions**: There's also limited venues available to carry out both our rehearsals and performances. We currently perform at Lowther Pavilion once a year, but the cost increases year on year are astronomical - 35% in the past 2 years... Makes it unaffordable and inaccessible for many groups. We are running out of ways to be able to subsidise this. We also pay additional Theatre Improvement charges but see very little improvement in infrastructure. Other groups are starting to move to other venues in Blackpool and Preston.
- **Connect Community Groups**: Cost of venues has increased, with short term venue higher making it harder to plan.

There is a need for Fylde VCFSEs to have access to free/affordable communal areas for meetings and events for residents. Sharing such areas with other local VCFSEs will enable opportunities than they would be able to in isolation; from sharing resources (i.e. printers, seating) and even skills (i.e. promoting opportunities, joint bids for funding, partnership opportunities).

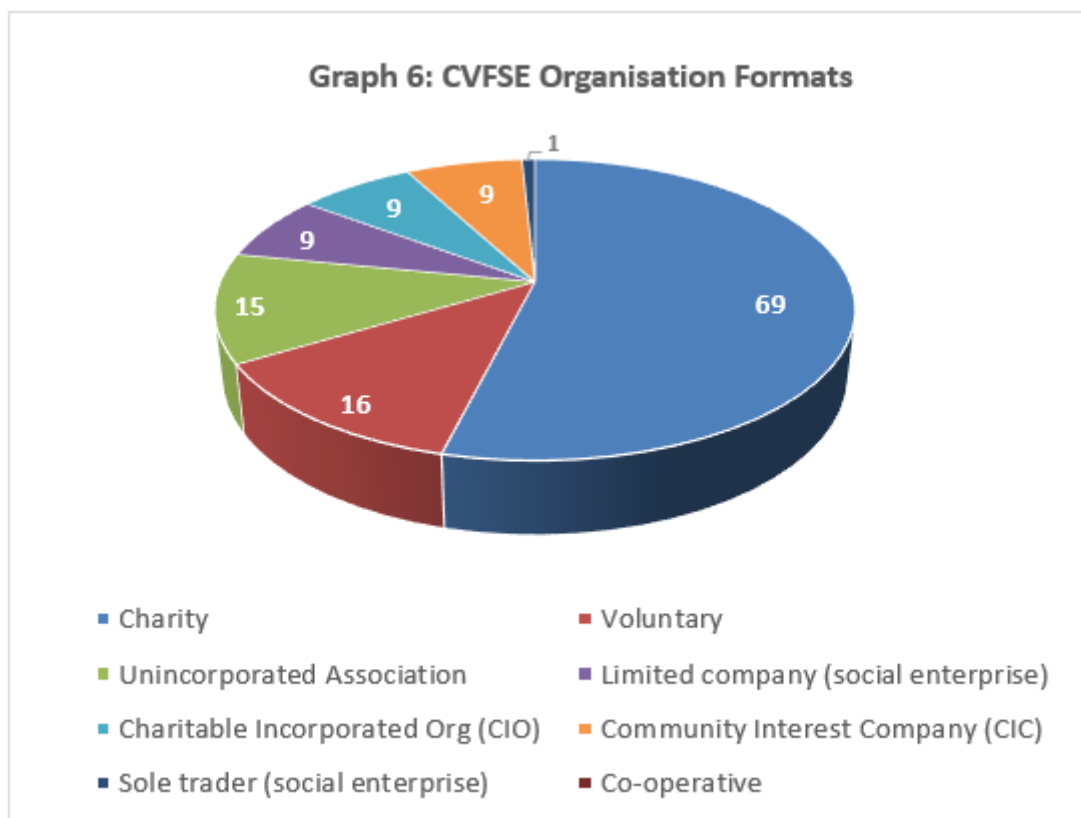
Legal Structures and Funding of Fylde’s VCFSEs

The legal structures of VCFSEs are chosen based on the purpose of their organisation, and how their income is generated. Some organisations receive income from grants and donations (charities, community groups), and others generate all their own income by selling goods and services (social enterprises, community interest companies/CICs).

“Social enterprise” is not a legal structure in itself. Social enterprises can adopt different legal structures depending on their needs and the way they work. The organisation is defined by three key characteristics: Business Orientation, Social Aims and Community Ownership.

A social enterprise is accountable to its stakeholders and generally has one a legal structure of a ‘Company limited by guarantee’ (includes Community Interest Company), a ‘Community Benefit Society’ or a ‘Cooperative Society’.

Social enterprises are forms of organisations where work can be contracted or commissioned. Due to legal structures this is not always possible for charities and community groups that are more reliant on forms of fundraising from grants and donations.

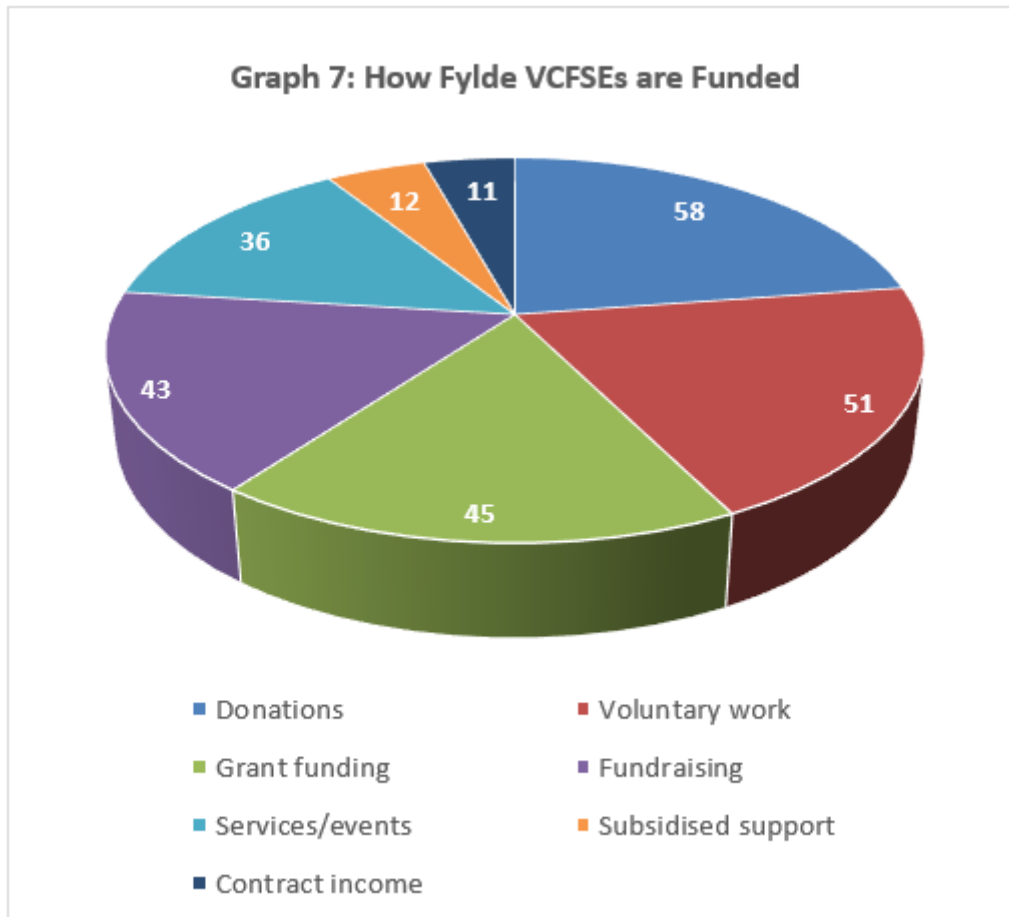


Graph 6 summarises the formats of the organisations that responded to the survey. 69 organisations are charities, 31 are voluntary or unincorporated organisations and 28 are social enterprises (Light Church has submitted an application to become a CIO and is currently a charity). There has not been a response from a cooperative organisation.

Selnet suggest that Fylde Council encourage the public to let them know of crowd funder campaigns based in Fylde, to be aware of current outreach. For example, this [GoFundMe campaign](#) opened earlier this month in memory of [Bella Greer from Ansdell](#).

How Fylde's VCFSE Work is Funded

This project engaged with stakeholders to identify their funding limitations and what the implications are on the local economy if skills, capacity and funding are not available in the future.



Other sources of funding for the sector includes:

- Some groups using the building pay a contribution for use of rooms/spaces
- Sponsorship for teams and players at events
- Each church contributes to the cost of their brass bands
- Annual memberships, admission fees
- Investment Income
- Annual membership fee
- Fylde Borough Council will refund work done on their behalf*
- Spot funded 50/50 (health & social)
- Membership fees; organising day trips, coffee mornings etc
- Lettings
- Our community centre on St Alban's Road receives regular rental income from users
- Costs covered by UCLan – to engage students in opportunities

A quarter of respondents have a source of funding through donations. 'Fundraising' activities are an active source of funding for services provided in Fylde, and voluntary work is crucial to many services being available.

VCFSEs reliant on fundraising and grant support are able to inspire and encourage volunteers, and provide updates on practical opportunities and techniques (such as enabling online donations through Crowdfunder²⁶ or Just Giving²⁷)

Contract income is an opportunity for social enterprises in particular. Securing income for delivering a service is one way to secure ongoing funding, or funding for a longer timeframe (i.e. than a one-off 12 month grant).

None of the organisations surveyed included trading as a source of income.

The UK Government website directly refers community funding information to their council²⁸ based on their postcode. Searches for Fylde postcodes²⁹ are directed to LCC's website which is an unsuccessful link³⁰.

Examples of provision are provided in Part 2 of this report.

Capacity and Skills of Fylde VCFSE sector

Through our research and interviews Selnet gathered information on the capacity and skills levels of Fylde's VCFSE sector that enable delivery to take place.

Work from the VCFSE sector meets demands and needs, springing up to fill gaps in statutory provision (budget restrictions/specialist/ small scale provision), and the private sector whose primary target is to deliver products and services to generate profit.

Case studies and additional insight are provided in Part 2 as evidence to VCFSE statements .

²⁶ Crowdfunder online donations and fundraising <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/>

²⁷ Just Giving online donations and fundraising: <https://www.justgiving.com/>

²⁸ Funding for community projects: www.gov.uk/apply-funding-community-project

²⁹ Fylde enquires for UK Government community project funding www.gov.uk/apply-funding-community-project/fylde

³⁰ Unsuccessful website link: www.lancashire.gov.uk/benefits-and-grants/grants-and-funding/voluntary-community-and-faith-sectors-grants-and-funding/

Impacts on Loss of Fylde VCFSEs

We also asked the VCFSE organisations who responded to the survey what might be the impact on Fylde if the support they provide was lost - if they are unable to overcome barriers and meet community needs.

From the 115 respondents, the impacts of their discontinuation are summarised in the categories presented below:

Table 4: Responses from VCFSE organisations	Number of VCFSEs
Loss of community engagement events/ opportunities	62
Increased social isolation	54
Loss of opportunities to develop skills of Fylde residents	51
Lack of access to community space/ loss of community hub	50
Lack of physical health support/ provision	32
Lack of mental health/ wellbeing support provision	32
Lack of foodbank support/ provision for disadvantaged communities	26
Drabness/ detrimental to appearance of area	25
Lack of animal welfare provision	6
None	0

Of the VCFSEs responding to the survey, **62** commented that there would be a loss in community engagement events and opportunities if they were to close; community engagement is a high proportion of impacts made possible by VCFSEs for the public in Fylde.

A loss in community engagement events and opportunities would be impacted the most if organisations were unable to deliver their services, including outreach from faith groups³¹, interest group meeting opportunities, health and wellbeing opportunities and accessing support.

54 organisations referred to increased social isolation, and included the diverse opportunities made possible by VCFSEs including **Headles and Treadles** crafting, **Connect Community groups**, **The Arts Society Fylde** and **St Annes Musical Productions**.

51 VCFSEs claimed that their inability to continue would cause a loss of opportunities to develop skills of Fylde residents. For example, provision for older residents through engagement and support of **Age UK Lancashire**, **Ansdell Memory Café**, **Just Good Friends**, **LSA U3A**, and for families/young residents, through organisations including **Fylde District Scouts**, **Parkruns**, **Park View 4U** and **Streetwise Lancashire** and **YMCA Fylde Coast**.

³¹ Refer to Appendix 2: Faith Groups in Fylde

50 VCFSEs provide access to a community space or community hub to other organisations. These are predominantly faith centres across Fylde (refer to appendix 2), and also interest groups meetings/events at the **Well Community Centre** and **Weeton Village Hall**.

32 organisations stated that the loss of their support would negatively impact the physical health support and provision of residents (including **AFC Fylde Community Foundation, Disability First, Jolly Joggers Fylde Coast, Freckleton FC, Fylde Rugby Communities Trust** and **St Annes Kite Surfing Club**) and **32** organisations stated that the loss of their work would negatively impact the mental health and wellbeing support provision (**Headway Blackpool Wyre & Fylde, Groundwork, Lancashire Mind** and **Live Laugh Love CIC**)

26 VCFSEs support disadvantaged individuals including Fylde's **foodbanks, Day of Sunshine children's charity, Change Grow Live**.

Drabness and detrimental to appearance of an area/across Fylde would result from losing volunteers and organisations that enable residents to actively contribute to Fylde, including **iHope, Ansdell in Bloom**, litter picking groups including **Lytham's Friends of the Estuary Coastal Care Group**, and other **'Friends Of'** groups³².

6 VCFSEs contribute to animal/wildlife welfare including **Homeward Bound, Trust Property** plots for animals and poultry and **St Annes Tuesday Beach Clean Pier Group**.

None of the respondents stated there would be no consequence if they were to discontinue.

Part 2 of this report provides case studies as examples of VCFSE impacts.

³² Refer to Appendix 5: 'Friends of' organisations based in Fylde