

Appendix 3

Update to the Inner East Community Committee on activity delivered around reducing social isolation

1. Background

In January 2015 a Community Committee discussion on Social Isolation found that:

“Individuals who are socially isolated are between two and five times more likely than those who have strong social ties to die prematurely. Social networks have a larger impact on the risk of mortality than on the risk of developing disease, that is, it is not so much that social networks stop you from getting ill, but that they help you to recover when you do get ill.” (Marmot Fair Society Healthy Lives, Final Report, 2010).

2. What have we done about it?

Since that time a small sub group has been working to find out what services are currently available and this has been put into a local directory to help frontline staff connect people to appropriate help.

Some of those services cater for groups that were identified at the Community Committee as likely to be socially isolated:

Migrants

- Migrant Access Service (MAP)- People who are new or unfamiliar to Leeds don't know how things work; MAP tells them what services are available and how they can access the right service at the right time, Tel 07891 272004 / 07825 438 374 or e mail Pria.bhabra@leeds.gov.uk / samanthap@touchstonesupport.org.uk

Asylum Seekers

- PAFRAS-Provides relief of poverty for those asylum seekers rendered destitute with no recourse to public funds and no permission to work. Tel 0113 262 2163 or www.pafras.org.uk

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Groups

- Yorkshire MESMAC-Support for Gay, Bi and LGBTQI people between 18-25 yrs, Tel 01132444209
- Broken Rainbow UK. The only National LGBT Domestic Violence Helpline, email and instant chat service. The service is entirely free and confidential. Tel 0300 999 5428 (helpline) or 0845 260 5560 (office) Website www.brokenrainbow.org.uk

Other Individuals experiencing domestic violence

- HALT- An independent charity specialising in helping clients who are victims of Domestic Violence with the legal system. Tel Referrals on 0113 246 0401 and Clients Tel on 0113 243 2632

Learning Disabilities

- Leeds Advocacy Unit A4, 26 Roundhay Road, LEEDS, LS7 1AB
This project works with people who have learning disabilities and need support on housing or mental health issues. Tel 0113 244 0606

Families

Family Information Service run by Leeds City Council- Free, impartial advice and guidance on a range of family services www.familyinformationleeds.co.uk

Substances and Alcohol Services

- Forward Leeds- Alcohol and Drug support services for Young People and Adults across Leeds
Tel 0113 887 2477 or www.forwardleeds.co.uk

Financial Services

- Leeds City Credit Union- Financial information service. Offering members affordable financial services including loans and wide range of saving plans. Tel 0113 242 3343

Young People

- Flagship North East - Provides supported accommodation for homeless young people age 16-24 and empower them to live independently in the community Tel 0113-26272721 or <http://www.leedshc.org.uk/en/scheme/sojourner2.aspx>

The Directory can be accessed from the Documents section at the bottom of the page of the following website: <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/phrc/Pages/Useful-links.aspx>

3. Older People

Lottery funding of £6 million over 6 years is also helping to reduce social isolation in older people across Leeds.

In Inner East:

- AGE-is developing an Intergenerational project in Wykebeck Valley Tower blocks
- Yorkshire Dance and LEAF Consortium (Leeds Education Arts Forum) are developing Culture Buddies to give socially isolated older people the opportunity to connect through cultural encounters, creative participation and engagement (Gipton)
- Richmond Hill Elderly Action Street Links project is to 'build a chain of connections between older people, street agents (neighbours), RHEA, statutory and voluntary agencies and communities

4. Work developing in Clinical Commissioning Groups and Primary Care

- Work around Social Prescribing and Social Connectors is developing in Oakwood Lane Practice in Gipton and both Leeds South and East and Leeds North Clinical Commissioning Group are developing large social prescribing projects. These provide a single point of access to a wide range community groups and activity in an easy, accessible way which aims to reduce social isolation and improve health and wellbeing.

5. Community Organisations and Activity

Orion consortia is developing a number of activities and projects which aim to reduce social isolation (attached) and other projects are being developed in Inner East Leeds, which will help reduce social isolation in vulnerable groups, including:

- A Roma café in Lincoln Green
- Cook4Life sessions in the Meeting Point Café in Harehills
- A Fair Share food outlet in Lincoln Green with an opportunity to develop more across Burmantofts and Richmond Hill

The Inner East Community Committee Social Isolation tasking group has prepared three outline propositions for projects (attached), based on best practice, that could be progressed further with additional funding. The Community Committee is asked to consider these.

6. Attachments

- Summary of Orion Consortia and statements of impact
- Men's Health Project –example project put forward for further funding
- Roma Café-request for funding