

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to the Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care)

Date: 25 July 2012

Subject: Combating Loneliness in Leeds

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Not applicable Appendix number: Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. At its meeting on 27 June 2012, as part of its work programme discussion the Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care) identified 'Loneliness' as a potential area for more detailed consideration.
2. Loneliness and social isolation are often described as significant determinants of current and future health and social care needs in older populations – with some research suggesting it has a similar impact on mortality as smoking and has significant links to a range of chronic conditions, including hypertension, depression, and cognitive decline – increasing the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease by 50%.
3. Some initial research has identified a recent guide produced by the Local Government Association - *Combating Loneliness: A guide for Local Authorities (March 2012)*, which is attached for members information.
4. In addition, the Campaign to End Loneliness, with funding from the Department of Health, have created a loneliness toolkit to enable Health and Wellbeing Boards to better understand, identify and commission interventions for the issue of loneliness in older age. The toolkit is available at: <http://campaigntoendloneliness.org/toolkit/>
5. The toolkit explains how to best include assessments of loneliness prevalence and indicators in Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies (JHWSs). It covers key research on the detrimental impact of loneliness on our health and offers a financial case for taking preventative active. It also demonstrates how loneliness relates to Adult Social Care and Public Health Outcomes Frameworks.
6. It should be noted that the Leeds Social Isolation Toolkit (also attached) is highlighted within the national toolkit as an example of good practice, and that tackling Social

Isolation as one of the key priorities within the Leeds Ageing Well Framework (see attached).

7. Relevant officers from Adult Social Care have been invited to the meeting to help inform the Board's discussion on how this area of the Scrutiny Board's work might be taken forward and developed.

Recommendations

8. To note the content of the report and its attachments and consider the scope of any further scrutiny activity deemed appropriate.

Background documents¹

None used.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.