

Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING	Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE	16th January 2015
TITLE:	Update on Health and Wellbeing Board priority: “Increase the resilience of people and communities including action on loneliness”
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report:	
Appendix One: Further information on local projects.	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This reports updates the Panel on work being undertaken to deliver the Health and Wellbeing Board’s priority to increase the resilience of people and communities, including action on loneliness

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Panel note the work being undertaken by the Board in delivering this priority
- 2.2 That the Panel identify any specific opportunities for promoting this priority through partnership working and engaging with local communities

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 None arising from this report. There is the potential for agencies to work more closely together to align commissioning budgets to deliver outcomes relating to this issue.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Relevant considerations include equalities, human rights and public health. The reports aims to deliver the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy which is a statutory document.

5 THE REPORT

5.1 Bath and North East Somerset's Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out the Board's priority to "increase the resilience of people and communities including action on loneliness". This reflects national research which suggests that loneliness can have significant impacts on key health and care outcomes. In addition, demographic and social changes which can contribute to loneliness – such as people living further away from relatives than previously- will place increasing pressure on informal care. The IPPR estimates that by 2030 there will be more than 2 million people aged over 65 with no child living nearby to give care if needed. It is estimated that there will be an additional 3000 residents aged over 75 living in our area by 2021,

5.2 There are many strengths locally in relation to this theme. These include:

- Our locally-commissioned services such as Active Ageing and the Independent Living Service
- The work of voluntary and community organisations such as Age Concern, which supports befriending schemes and a wide range of projects which aim to address the needs of older people
- Our Village Agents scheme, which operates in 20 parishes
- A wide range of local community initiatives including
 - The Hub in a Pub at Chew Stoke, providing services and support to older people living in the Chew Valley. Hub in the Pub is a joint initiative between The Stoke Inn, Age UK B&NES, Bath & North East Somerset Council, and City of Bath College Community Learning Team. Amongst the many activities taking place at the Hub is the "Gadget Busters" IT scheme
 - Keynsham Older People's Group, a monthly group of older people which meets at Community@67, now in its 3rd year.
 - The Food for Life Project which sees older volunteers passing on practical growing and cooking skills to pupils at Chew Valley School. The project will support intergenerational activities in the school

5.3 Appendix One contains further information on a number of relevant local schemes and projects. The Campaign to End Loneliness has awarded Bath & North East Somerset its "Gold" standard for our Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, one of only 11 in the country. A key initial focus of this priority has therefore been on sharing information, understanding current provision better, identifying gaps and securing better co-ordination.

5.4 The Health and Wellbeing Board received a report on this priority at its July meeting. The Board noted that the Campaign to End Loneliness have identified specific risk factors for social isolation in older age including bereavement, disability and mobility. In addition, our own Joint Strategic Needs Assessment identifies a number of factors as potentially leading to social isolation which are not related to age.

5.5 The Board also received an update from a Health and Wellbeing Network session on this topic which brought together a wide range of partners and organisations to share their knowledge of the impact of loneliness and isolation on health and to identify factors can contribute to people becoming lonely and isolated. The Board also noted research which concluded that it is important to distinguish between “isolation” and perceptions of “loneliness” and involvement in social networks. The notes of the Health and Wellbeing Network event can be found [here](#).

5.6 The Board also stressed the importance of not seeing loneliness simply as an issue for older people, and in not reinforcing negative perceptions. It also agreed that key Council strategies such as Advice and Information strategy, Transport Strategy and Leisure Strategy were central to delivering this priority. It agreed to establish a working group on this issue comprising representatives from partner agencies and the voluntary and community sector. This group is focusing on sharing information and is exploring practical “on the ground” improvements. “on the ground”, including

- Further developing the current “volunteer car” service in rural areas
- Supporting more initiatives which are shaped positively by what local people have said they would like to be involved with. For example, Age Concern are designing new projects which respond to the needs of older men, as they are more likely to experience social isolation and loneliness, and are reluctant to report health issues
- Working with Community Pharmacies as convenient and knowledgeable local points of contact. This winter Age Concern is ensuring local pharmacists receive posters/flyers on its Winter Warmth service and a stock of *Winter Wrapped Up Leaflets*.
- Developing a “first contact form” which would be standard across the area and could be used by all public services

5.7 In addition, the following are expected also to shape how this priority is progressed:

- (1) The results of local survey research on perceptions of loneliness which is currently being undertaken. This uses the internationally-recognised “Duke Scale” and will be used to ensure effective targeting of available resources.
- (2) The Public Service’s Board’s “Connecting Communities” programme. The recently established Forums in the Chew Valley, Somer Valley and Keynsham areas provide a basis for engagement at local level with communities on this issue. The Forums involve partners including the Council, Police, CCG and parish councils and are designed to help identify local priorities and shape service delivery to local needs.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 The recommendations are based on the Board's role in delivering its priority as agreed in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Strategic Director: People and Communities, Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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Background papers	Report to Health and Wellbeing Board, 16th July 2014
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

Appendix One- Further information on local projects

- **Age UK Bath and North East Somerset** provides a wide range of services to support older people to remain active, healthy and independent. Services include information and advice (including at the Council's one-stop shop), day services and lunch clubs. Each year, Age Concern screen and match 70 volunteer home-visitors with older people living alone, usually without relatives nearby, to combat loneliness and to promote independent living. **Day centres** at Bath, Keynsham and Midsomer Norton, provide fully accessible transport and intensive support to 130 older people each week, especially for people who find it difficult to get out. The **Culture Club** meets monthly with a variety of speakers.
- Our **Village Agents** provide direct help and support to people across 20 parishes in Bath and North East Somerset. The Agents undertake home visits, and signpost key services including support for health, transport, finance, police and fire services as well as social networks. 12 Village Agent "Roadshows" have been held so far held at local village halls and have covered subjects such as "healthy happy feet" and falls prevention. The Norton Malreward Roadshow saw a "myth busting" quiz to publicise the many free services available.
- Sirona **Community Links** facilitates social support groups, including sport, arts and horticulture across Bath & North East Somerset
- Sirona's **Active Ageing Service** visits older people in their homes and provides a support service to those who are aged 80-84 The team aims to enable older people to maintain independence and to promote dignity and quality of life in their own homes by offering health advice. The team consists of Health Visitors and Health Visitor Support Workers who are based in the community.
- Curo's **Independent Living Service** is dedicated to helping older people to live at home, independently, with support for well-being. The service offers security, peace of mind and regular contact, as well as extra help with issues such as arranging repairs, aids and adaptations to individual's homes if needed. There is also the offer of an alarm linked to a 24 hour call centre. Those eligible to receive the ILS are older and vulnerable people who have support needs, and who are unlikely to sustain their independence without support.
- The latest Bath & North East Somerset's **Community Challenge** days saw over 250 volunteers from partner organisations (including 7 local employers) take part in activities designed to bring communities together. These ranged from garden maintenance at St Martin's Hospital to a Quiz Session at the Leonard Cheshire Home in Timsbury.