



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 17th July 2019

To the Chair and Members of Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS ALLIANCE UPDATE

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Rachael Blake, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board	All	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Third Sector Social Isolation and Loneliness Partnership Alliance and to ask Members to note the progress to date.
2. Eradicating Social Isolation and Loneliness is high on Doncaster's agenda and is sited as a key strategic priority in the Health & Wellbeing Board Outcome Framework 2018-21. In addition, Cabinet Members have further emphasised their commitment by setting out an ambition for Doncaster to be the least lonely place by 2021.
3. The presentation in Appendix A provides a more detailed overview of the progress to date and the actions set for the proceeding twelve months.

EXEMPT REPORT

4. There are no exemptions to this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. The Board Members are asked to note and endorse the progress in this report and to support the approach and next steps proposed by the Third Sector Partnership Alliance.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

6. Social Isolation and loneliness is an increasingly common experience for Doncaster residents. Whilst social isolation is not something new the significant changes in the way we live, work and relate to each other, layered with the shift towards a more digital society means in reality that many people are less likely to physically connect or talk to each other. It is acknowledged that there are key points in people's lives when they are more at risk such as ill health, ageing, disability, and bereavement, becoming a carer or parent, loss of a job, divorce, teenage pressure, bullying, and moving home.

BACKGROUND

7. The need to take urgent action to address the impact on loneliness and social isolation is recognised as a key Government priority. The Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness a "call for action" alongside the Prime Minister's subsequent inclusion of loneliness within the remit of the Minister for Sport and Civil Society has raised the profile significantly. The National Strategy for Tackling Loneliness – A Connected Society (2018) provides further evidence of the associated impact of Social Isolation and Loneliness.
8. Loneliness and Social Isolation are harmful to our health: research shows that:
 - Loneliness is as bad as smoking 15 cigarettes a day (Holt-Lunstad, 2010)
 - Loneliness can have worse health outcomes than obesity (Holt-Lunstad, 2010)
 - Lonely people are more likely to suffer from Dementia, heart disease and depression. (Valtorta et al, 2016)
 - Loneliness is likely to increase your risk of death by 29% (Holt-Lunstad 2015)
9. Doncaster has chosen to take an innovative approach in tackling Social Isolation and Loneliness and has committed a Community Investment Fund, in the form of a £200,000 grant to establish and pump prime through active engagement, a different delivery model in the form of a non-profit Third Sector Partnership Alliance.
10. Extensive engagement has taken place with 17 Third Sector representatives, who have responded with great enthusiasm and commitment. A high number of representatives have signed up to be part of the Alliance, but an accountable lead organisation is required to act as the responsible body for the administration and governance of the grant, on behalf of the wider Alliance.
11. It was collectively agreed that the lead organisation would be selected through an expression of interest application process, answering a number of pre-set questions developed by Alliance members, which would be subject to a member ballot. Three expressions of interest were received and Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust (DCLT) were democratically elected as the Lead Organisation.

12. Having a Third Sector Alliance leading on this work will provide greater opportunities to access additional funding, that would not be readily available to public sector organisations, which in turn will bring about longer term financial sustainability.

13. The Community Investment funding agreement is aligned to specific action plans and apportioned over the next 3 years as follows:

Year 1	£100k
Year 2	£66k
Year 3	£34k

14. It is proposed that in the lifetime of the funding agreement, the Council will work with the Alliance in order for them to become a standalone entity. There will be a robust evaluation carried out at the end of year 1 and year 2 to inform the future direction.

For Progress to Date - Please see the presentation slides in Appendix A.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

15.

- a) To note the progress to date and to endorse the establishment of the Alliance, progress and next steps.
- b) Do nothing.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

16. Loneliness is a national and a local priority, and through the establishment of a Third Sector Alliance, there is a strong collective ambition and drive to eradicate Social Isolation and Loneliness in Doncaster, across all age and life courses.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

17.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	<p>Through employment opportunities, residents can feel socially connected and feel a sense of purpose at work.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for</p>	<p>Residents are socially</p>

	<p>Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	<p>connected and active in their communities reducing the impact of loneliness.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	<p>Education is a life skill but also promotes social interaction and connectedness, which can then continue throughout life. It provides life skills and experiences which can be transferred to future generations and promote community cohesion.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	<p>The health and wellbeing of families is fundamental to community cohesion. The role of carers is also a key priority.</p>
	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting 	<p>Residents can build community resilience by supporting others through social connections. Local befriending services are part of this infrastructure.</p>

	community assets and strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	
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RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

18. There are no immediate risks within this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials HMP Date: 05/07/2019]

19. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 sets out the Local Authority's statutory responsibilities for public health services are set out including a duty to take such steps, as they consider appropriate for improving the health of the people in their areas. This report supports that duty.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials HR Date: 05/07/2019]

20. As part of the Community Led Support Programme £200k has been set aside to fund the Social Isolation and Loneliness Grant over a three-year period, this award to DCLT was approved by Cabinet on 4th June 2019. The funding source for the Grant award is as follows - Year 1 £100k in 2019/20 will be funded from Better Care Fund and years 2 and 3 £66k and £34k respectively will be funded from Improved Better Care Fund.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials KW Date 05/07/2019]

21. There are no apparent Human Resources implications contained within this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PW Date 05/07/2019]

22. There are no anticipated technology implications.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials SH Date: 05/07/2019]

23. As set out in this paper, social isolation and loneliness are harmful to health and addressing this is a priority for the Health and Well-Being Board. The public health team have been working in partnership on this agenda and will continue to work in this area. It will be important to ensure that the work of the Third Sector Social Isolation and Loneliness Partnership Alliance aligned action plans do not increase health inequalities.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials DJL Date: 05/07/2019]

24. Everyone has the right to good health care and services and also the right to live in a safe and healthy community. No one should need to feel isolated and lonely if the environment is right. To eradicate loneliness everyone should make it their business to ensure that friends and family have support and have access to good information. It does not have to be complicated – we simply

need to ask people if they are ok and just checking in on our neighbours, friends and families can make all the difference.

CONSULTATION

25. The Wellbeing Board workshops in 2016 and 2018 and the meetings with key stakeholders including the voluntary and community sector, in recent months have provided meaningful consultation around the loneliness agenda. The Doncaster Talks insights work has also provided invaluable insight into the local behaviours and personas of local residents, and further examples may be sought through the Well Doncaster project and other community based initiatives.
26. This work needs to be further enhanced through further mapping and consultation with the wider community and voluntary sector and the local population through further community engagement work. The Social Isolation Alliance will continue to build on the foundations of this work.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

27. These include;

- Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny panel report (January 2015)
- Loneliness into Connections -Doncaster Campaign to End Loneliness workshop Report (February 2016)
- Health and Wellbeing Loneliness Workshop report (April 2018)
- Doncaster Talks report 2018
- Campaign to End Loneliness website
- Leeds Age Friendly charter
- ONS Loneliness report/Age UK Heat map
- Places, Spaces, People and Wellbeing (www.whatworkswellbeing.org)

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