

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

24 July 2018



SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

Report of the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care – Councillor Ben Coleman

Open Report

Classification: For Decision
Key Decision: No

Wards Affected: All

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report summarises the work undertaken so far by the Health and Wellbeing Board and partners to develop a strategy and action plan to address social isolation and loneliness in Hammersmith and Fulham. The report focuses on a workshop with stakeholders organised in June 2018 and proposes a way forward based on the discussions at the workshop.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:
- Note the work undertaken so far; and
 - Agree on the proposed way forward.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1. Social isolation and loneliness (SI&L) requires a whole systems response. The report has been produced to support a conversation between the Board and stakeholders to help ensure that a well-rounded collaborative action plan is developed.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At its meeting on 21 November 2017, the H&F Health and Wellbeing Board, chaired by Cllr Ben Coleman, discussed SI&L. Members of the public showed the need to map services and activities already available in the borough in order to identify gaps between what already exists in H&F that tackles SI&L and what would be needed to reduce it further.
- 4.2 This has been taken on board. HWB supporting officers mapped services that currently address SI&L in the borough and carried out a short literature review, desk-based research and interviews with different stakeholders in order to answer three main questions:
1. What is SI&L and how can we fight it?
 2. How are H&F residents affected by SI&L?
 3. What is already in place in H&F that helps tackle SI&L?
- 4.3 A provisional answer to these questions was presented at the following Health and Wellbeing Board that took place on 20 February 2018. At this meeting, the board agreed to organise a workshop with all stakeholders to initiate a collaboration and develop eventually a community asset-based approach to tackle SI&L.

5. PROPOSAL

- 5.1 The workshop took place on 12 June at the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith town centre. The workshop was facilitated by We Coproduce, a charity based in Hammersmith focusing on co-production at local level. 70 stakeholders from various organisations based or operating in the borough attended the workshop.
- 5.2 At the workshop, participants worked firstly on a definition of SI&L as a problem. It was agreed that SI&L affect people of all ages across the borough and that building connected communities is key.
- 5.3 Participants were then divided into labs:
- *Connecting*, where they looked at ways of connecting existing resources and assets in the community;
 - *Growing*, where they looked at how to develop new ways of tackling SI&L at local level, using those assets within the community;
 - *Mixing things up*, where they looked at how to give incentives to the wider community to get involved.

5.4 The need to work together was recognised by all participants. At the end of the workshop, participants agreed on the next proposed step which was to create a steering group of volunteers. Such a steering group would meet to discuss what to do next, what can be achieved and how to work best with the community.

6. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. *None at this stage*

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. *None at this stage*

8. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

8.1. *None at this stage*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

None.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Feedback from 12 June workshop