


<p align="center">London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p align="center">Health, Adult Social Care and Social Inclusion Policy and Accountability Committee</p> <p align="center">12 December 2016</p>		
<p>Addressing social isolation and loneliness in Hammersmith and Fulham</p>		
<p>Report of the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion</p>		
<p>Open Report</p>		
<p>Classification: For discussion as part of pre-consultation engagement Key Decision: No</p>		
<p>Other services consulted: The draft strategy has been discussed at the Cabinet Board for Social Inclusion which includes representatives from each department of the council. Those services named in the work programme have also been consulted.</p>		
<p>Wards Affected: All</p>		
<p>Accountable Director: Kim Dero, Director of Delivery & Value</p>		
<p>Report Author: Anna Waterman Strategic Public Health Advisor</p>	<p>Contact Details: Tel: 020 7641 4651 E-mail: awaterman2@westminster.gov.uk</p>	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Cabinet Member's Social Inclusion Board was established in February 2015. During its first year, the Board identified social isolation and loneliness as a priority for action, agreeing to develop a strategy for how best it might be prevented and addressed in Hammersmith and Fulham.
- 1.2 This paper presents the draft strategy as part of pre-consultation engagement. It is built upon the framework developed by the Campaign to End Loneliness, which identifies four pillars:
- Foundation Services
 - Direct Interventions
 - Gateway services
 - Structural enablers.

The committee is asked for feedback on the draft strategy and the (early draft) work programme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To consider whether the draft document makes the case for a strategic response to isolation and loneliness.
2. To advise whether the draft strategy sufficiently conveys existing activity with the borough while also highlighting the need and scope for further intervention.
3. To approve the strategic commitments.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1. Social isolation and loneliness require a whole systems response. The strategy is being presented to the Committee at this pre-consultation stage to help ensure that a well-rounded approach to developing the strategy and work programme is being adopted.

4. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

What is social isolation and loneliness?

- 4.1. The risk factors for isolation and loneliness, and their prevalence in the borough, means that doing nothing is not an option.
- 4.2. While isolation occurs at the level of the individual, interventions to reduce social isolation must act on the structural determinants, including economic disadvantage and discrimination, as well as supporting the immediate needs of socially isolated and/or lonely individuals.

Strategic landscape

- 4.3. There are a number of tools and levers which will facilitate co-ordinated and effective delivery of a work programme designed to address social isolation and loneliness and improve social connectedness and community cohesion.

Addressing the challenge: What does the evidence say?

- 4.4. While there are gaps in the evidence base for initiatives to reduce social isolation and loneliness, there are some clear messages from the emerging evidence base:
 - Whole systems approaches are recognised as more effective;
 - Asset based community development – offers the greatest gain for social capital and community resilience;

- For approaches to be sustainable, there must be a clear return on investment and this must be calculated incorporating returns for social value and social capital.

Where are we now?

- 4.5. Hammersmith and Fulham has many assets and offers many opportunities for engagement.
- 4.6. A more co-ordinated offer, which is appropriately marketed might aid awareness, facilitate greater neighbourliness and promote engagement.
- 4.7. The greatest impact might be secured through greater resident awareness of isolation and loneliness – encouraging people to come forward, encouraging people to look out for each other - spot it in themselves and each other and feel confident about taking action.
- 4.8. Encouraging residents to engage in addressing the detrimental factors in their community can aid connectedness as well as engender a sense of ownership and belonging.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1. This strategy is currently at the stage of pre-consultation engagement. It has been developed by a task and finish group of council officers drawn from the broader Cabinet Member's Board. The Board includes representatives from departments across the council as well as local voluntary sector agencies including CAB, the Trussell Trust and Shepherds Bush Housing Group, and Job Centre Plus.

6. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The strategy specifically seeks to address inequalities experienced by those who are socially isolated and/or lonely. Those residents with protected characteristics are identified as being particularly at risk.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. Any legal implications associated with the implementation of the strategy will be considered and reported to Members as the strategy is developed.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. Any financial implications associated with the implementation of the strategy will be considered and reported to Members as the strategy is developed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

None.

LIST OF APPENDICES:

Appendix: Tackling Social Isolation and Loneliness: A Strategy for
 Hammersmith and Fulham (DRAFT)