

People Scrutiny Commission

8th March 2021



Report of: Hugh Evans, Director, Adult Social Care

Title: Isolation / Loneliness and Older People

Ward: All

Officer Presenting Report: Carol Watson, Head of Adult Social Care Commissioning, with Kay Libby, CEO Age UK Bristol, and Judith Brown, Chair of Bristol Ageing Better.

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Recommendations:

- That Members consider the learning of Bristol Ageing Better (BAB) re Impact of isolation on Older People, and evidence-based approaches to addressing it.

The significant issues in the report are:

- Social Isolation and Loneliness are linked to long term health issues in older people and may contribute to the differences in healthy life expectancy amongst our communities.
- Isolation can be addressed through a range of lower level interventions. It does not of itself indicate eligibility for adult social care provision but is closely associated with an increased likelihood of meeting eligibility through poor health outcomes.
- Amongst people already receiving some support from adult social care, isolation is linked to an increased reliance on formal services, loss of independence and long term placement.
- During a period of restricted investment from other sources, and under the leadership of older people themselves, BAB has been able to invest £6 million in developing an evidence base of what works and effective.
- As well as recommending the efficacy of specific interventions BAB outcomes indicate that the best way to address isolation rigorously is through a strategic Age Friendly City approach
- BAB is now in its final year and working to ensure that the learning is embedded in work, including Age Friendly Bristol and specific workstreams within adult care and other work.
- Appendices refer members to areas of work addressing these issues, further information about BAB and sources of help and support for older people.



1. Summary

Refer to Appendix A

2. Consultation**a) Internal**

Not Applicable

b) External

Co-written between Adult Care Commissioning and Age UK Bristol/ Bristol Ageing Better

3. Public Sector Equality Duties

- 3a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
 - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to -
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
 - iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.
- 3b) This paper refers to the work undertaken by Bristol Aging Better. This work was led by older people, and specifically addressed a wider range of equalities impacts amongst older people, including impacts on different BAME communities and LGBTQI older people. It also refers to a range of work underway to address isolation within Adult Social Care each of which is subject to, and informed by, an Equalities Impact Assessment.

Appendices:

Appendix A: Isolation / Loneliness and Older People Report

Appendix 1: Contacts and Support

Appendix 2: Related Work

Appendix 3 Further Information on BAB

Appendix 4: Leaflet for Older Peoples HUB

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

The Bristol JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 20/21

A range of papers reporting on evaluation undertaken by UWE of aspects of the Bristol Ageing Better Programme. All can be viewed at www.bristolageingbetter.org.uk