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| DECISION-MAKER: | SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL | | |
| SUBJECT: | MEETING 2 – REACHING LONELY INDIVIDUALS | | |
| DATE OF DECISION: | 6 OCTOBER 2016 | | |
| REPORT OF: | SERVICE DIRECTOR – LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE | | |
| <u>CONTACT DETAILS</u> | | | |
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| STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY |
| None |

BRIEF SUMMARY

Following the framework for loneliness interventions developed by the Campaign to End Loneliness, the second meeting of the Combating Loneliness in Southampton Inquiry will focus on Foundation Services, specifically reaching lonely individuals.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) The Panel is recommended to consider the comments made by the invited experts and community representatives and use the information provided as evidence in the review.

REASON FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enable the Panel to compile a file of evidence in order to formulate findings and recommendations at the end of the review process.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. None.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. Recognising the value of hearing in person from someone who has experienced loneliness, an invitation has been extended to a Southampton resident who has been supported by Communicare, a Southampton based charity, to talk about their experiences of loneliness in the city.
4. This will be followed by a discussion on how to identify people who are lonely. As identified in the report from the Campaign to End Loneliness, '*Promising approaches to reducing loneliness and isolation in later life*', lonely individuals are difficult to identify because many are also socially isolated, and also because the strong stigma attached to loneliness limits the potential for individuals to ask for help, or readily reveal their needs.

5. There is concern that without explicit targeting, loneliness initiatives will only serve people with a more naturally outgoing nature and those who may be more able to support themselves. It is therefore argued that steps should be taken to ensure that such services are pro-actively offered to those most likely to be affected by loneliness, rather than simply being made universally available.
6. Guidance from the Campaign to End Loneliness identifies three broad categories of approach that are being taken to address this issue:
 - a) Using data to target action - There is a large body of literature on the key risk factors for loneliness and social isolation – which include marital status, and mental and physical health status. These approaches use available data pertaining to these issues to identify areas or households where there is a high incidence of risk factors. This information is then used to target services.
 - b) Eyes on the ground - Some areas have opted to work through human networks. These initiatives work by recruiting and training individuals and professionals within a community, with whom lonely people may be likely to make contact. The training gives them the skills to recognise the signs of loneliness, and to enable them to make appropriate referrals and offer support.
 - c) Links to the health service - Health professionals are often among the few individuals with whom lonely individuals have on-going contact. Approaches are being developed that utilise the knowledge and connections of health professionals to identify potentially lonely individuals and connect them with services.
7. To address each of these issues a number of guests have been invited to attend the meeting:
 - a) Using data to target action – **Sarah Weld, Consultant in Public Health** and **Dan King, Public Health Strategic Analysis Manager** have been invited to provide the Panel with details of the work that we are doing in Southampton, or have planned, to use data to identify and target support to lonely individuals.
 - b) Eyes on the ground - **Ian Loynes, Chief Executive at SPECTRUM Centre for Independent Living** and the **Senior Community Navigator** have been invited to attend the meeting to inform the Panel about the Community Navigator pilot that they are running in the city, in partnership with Southampton City Council, Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group and local third sector organisations. A community navigator is someone that helps people find their way through the many health, care and voluntary services available so they get the right service to meet their needs. They also help people develop a plan that works for them and link people with community resources to support them in taking action to improve their health and wellbeing.
Pat O'Dell, Chair of the Newtown Residents Association has been

invited to discuss the potential of supporting residents associations and other neighbourhood groups to engage communities to combat loneliness.

- c) Links to the health service – **Dr Angus Ferguson**, a GP working at the Grove Medical Practice in Southampton has been invited to provide an insight into the demands placed on the surgery by lonely people and the approaches being developed to connect them with services.

8. Central to success in tackling loneliness are efforts to improve awareness of the issue, both among professionals, and lonely people themselves. **Dawn Buck, Head of Stakeholder Relations and Engagement at NHS Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group** has been invited to provide the Panel with insight into best practice relating to awareness raising campaigns.

9. The guests invited to present information at the meeting will take questions from the Panel relating to the evidence provided. Copies of any presentations will be made available to the Panel.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

10. N/A

Property/Other

11. N/A.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

12. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Other Legal Implications:

13. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

14. None

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:

None directly as a result of this report

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

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| 1. | None |
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Documents In Members' Rooms

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| 1. | None |
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Equality Impact Assessment

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| Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out. | No |
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

| Title of Background Paper(s) | Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable) |
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| 1. | None | |
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