

Report to Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board

12 September 2022

Subject:	Review of Social Isolation and Loneliness
Director:	Director of Public Health – Lisa McNally Director of Adult Social Care – Rashpal Bishop
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1 Recommendations

- 1.1 To consider and agree on the scope of the review into social isolation and loneliness in Sandwell.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board has agreed to carry out a review of loneliness and social isolation in the Borough. The scope document (appendix 1) sets out the rationale and suggested way forward for the review to progress, with the possibility of working group being set up to review and refine the scope further.
- 2.2 The scope document (appendix 1) sets out the proposed areas of inquiry for the loneliness and social isolation review, together with a description of range of methods that could be used to gather evidence including experts by experience and carers interviews, public engagement focus groups, and local and national datasets. Views will also be sought from health partner organisations in Sandwell and voluntary organisations.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>People Live Well and Age Well</p> <p>The review will enable the Board to gain an understanding of the issues faced by residents in terms of social isolation. The Board will be able to analyse data and evidence considered through the review process to make informed recommendations.</p>
	<p>Best Start in Life for Children and Young People</p> <p>Young people are one of the groups at greater risk of suffering with social isolation and depression.</p>
	<p>Strong and Resilient Communities</p> <p>Addressing any barriers people have to accessing community resources will contribute towards creating stronger and more resilient communities.</p>
	<p>Quality Homes in Thriving Neighbourhoods</p> <p>Housing is one of the wider determinants of health and housing conditions and security of tenure can significantly impact on people's feeling of isolation.</p>
	<p>A Strong and Inclusive Economy</p> <p>Social isolation has enormous impact on people's mental health. It is essential that people are provided with support to remain in employment even when facing crisis due to social isolation.</p>
	<p>A Connected and Accessible Sandwell</p> <p>Access to walkable and cyclable places in green spaces, where group activities take place, is crucial to tackling the problem of social isolation.</p>



4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The review aims to gather evidence to inform service shaping and future provision of services provided to help people with social isolation and loneliness. Recognising and protecting the future of these valuable services is important for the residents of Sandwell, but it is also important to note an environment of increasing demand.
- 4.2 The review will gather evidence from stakeholders, the Council and partners, evaluate findings and options and make recommendations to influence strategies with regard to preventing social isolation in the borough.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 There is no content within this report that requires any further consultation at this stage.

6 Alternative Options

- 6.1 The purpose of the review is to develop an understanding of the prevalence of social isolation and isolation in the Borough and devise strategies to provide support to people suffering from these issues.

7 Implications

Resources:	There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.
Legal and Governance:	The National Health Service Act 2006, as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, confers health scrutiny functions to local authorities.
Risk:	There are no associated risks with this report.
Equality:	There are no current considerations.
Health and Wellbeing:	Effective and efficient mental health services contribute to the wellbeing, cohesion and resilience of Sandwell's communities.



Social Value	There are no specific social value implications arising from this report.
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8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix A – Loneliness and Social Isolation Review Scope Document Draft

