

Scrutiny Review – Scoping Document (DRAFT)

Review Title:	Review of Loneliness and Isolation
Scrutiny Board:	Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board
Date of Review:	Commencing October 2022

Reasons for undertaking the review:

There is an extensive evidence base about the impact of loneliness and social isolation on people’s lives, their relationships and their wellbeing. It is also a serious public health concern. It is known to adversely affect health, thus increasing demand on health and social care services and also leads to higher rates of premature mortality comparable to those associated with smoking and alcohol.

The covid-19 pandemic and resultant lockdown resulted in further isolation. A report published in July 2021 by the Campaign to End Loneliness found that Covid-19/lockdown had exacerbated existing inequalities, meaning that groups already at risk of loneliness – such as those who were poorer, in worse health or from ethnic minorities or LGBTQ+ communities – were at greater risk during the pandemic. Research by the Local Government Association has also found that adults most at risk of being lonely, and increasingly so during lockdown, have/had one or more of the following characteristics: they are young, living alone, on low incomes, out of work and, or with a mental health condition.

Key Lines of Enquiry identified:

- a) Are Sandwell residents more or less isolated and lonely when compared to previous years?
- b) Are Sandwell residents more or less isolated and lonely when compared to residents of other areas?
- c) What groups/demographics are disproportionately affected by feelings of loneliness and Isolation?
- d) How are people at risk of/suffering from loneliness and isolation identified?
- e) What services/local programmes/community assets exist within Sandwell (Council/NHS/Third Sector) to help assist those suffering from loneliness and isolation; are these services adequately promoted? Data on those accessing these services?
- f) How is the impact of these services measured?
- g) What impact does loneliness and isolation have on quality of life and life expectancy?

h) Are decisions, that are made by Council considering social concerns such as loneliness and isolation?

Intended Outcomes:

Officer Group (including partners):

Lisa McNally (Director Public Health)
 Anna Blennerhassett (Consultant in PH for Healthy Lives, (incl social isolation))
 Lina Martino (Consultant in PH for Intelligence (incl public mental health))
 Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust – officer TBA)
 Healthwatch Sandwell – contact TBA

Links to Corporate Plan and Vision 2030:

Ambition 1: Sandwell is a community where our families have high aspirations and where we pride ourselves on equality of opportunity and on our adaptability and resilience.

Ambition 2: Sandwell is a place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer, and where those of us who are vulnerable feel respected and cared for.

Ambition 3: Our workforce and young people are skilled and talented, geared up to respond to changing business needs and to win rewarding jobs in a growing economy.

Ambition 4: Our children benefit from the best start in life and a high-quality education throughout their school careers with outstanding support from their teachers and families.

Ambition 5 Our communities are built on mutual respect and taking care of each other, supported by all the agencies that ensure we feel safe and protected in our homes and local neighbourhoods.

Ambition 8: Our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods are successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families.

Ambition 10: Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local

	partners are focused on what really matters in people's lives and communities.
Scoping undertaken by:	Ant Lloyd Stephnie Hancock Lina Martino
Council Chief Officer (or partner equivalent):	Lisa McNally (Director Public Health)
Existing data available for consideration:	
Residents Survey Data Public Health data NHS data https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/adhocs/14409trendsinpersonalwellbeingandlonelinessbyageandsex https://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/	
Potential witnesses	SCVO/Third sector groups Campaign to End Loneliness
Activities	Desk top research