

Report to Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board

22 January 2024

Subject:	Scrutiny Review of Loneliness and Isolation Update
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1 Recommendations







That the Board notes the activities of the Working Group and the evidence gathered to date.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 To update the Board on the activities of the Working Group and the evidence gathered to date.
- 2.2 The review has progressed well to date, and a wide range of evidence has been gathered. The review commenced in 2022/23. The Board is advised to complete the review and present its final report to the Cabinet this municipal year.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Best start in life for children and young people	Loneliness and isolation can affect people of all ages and can have a detrimental effect on health and overall quality of life. Supporting people to have meaningful social relationships is not just crucial to people's physical and mental health. It also affects their engagement in the workplace and wider community cohesion. Successfully tackling loneliness and isolation in an evidence led way, will therefore support the delivery of all of the Council's Corporate Plan objectives.
	People live well and age well	
	Strong resilient communities	
	Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods	
	A strong and inclusive economy	
	A connected and accessible Sandwell	

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Tackling loneliness and isolation is already a government priority, and the government published its strategy - *A Connected Society: A Strategy for tackling loneliness-laying the foundations for change* - in 2018. However, the problem has been exacerbated since 2020, as a result of the measures put in place to limit the spread of covid-19.
- 4.2 Research so far by the Working Group has shown that many organisations across the public, private and voluntary and community sector are undertaking initiatives that try to tackle loneliness and isolation.
- 4.3 The Appendix sets out a summary of evidence gathered so far by the Working Group. To date, there has been no engagement from the Integrated Care Board or the Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Trust on this review.



5 Implications

Resources:	The report does not propose any actions that will have any direct implications.
Legal and Governance:	
Risk:	All implications will be considered alongside the final report and recommendations.
Equality:	
Health and Wellbeing:	
Social Value:	
Climate Change:	
Corporate Parenting:	

6 Appendices

Appendix One - Summary of Evidence Gathered

7. Background Papers

Appendix lists hyperlinks to evidence gathered to date.

