

Notes from South Area Council Social Isolation workshop held 28th April 2017

- Need to ensure that whatever work we undertake, we ensure that we use Area Council and Ward Alliance money to lever in other funding.
- Possibly explore the licence costs for Area Teams to have access to Grantfinder, to help Area Team staff support community groups access a wider range of funding?
- Need to ensure that we tap into existing provision, including Age UK, RVS, Homestart, Local groups and activities, Churches activities
- May be worth looking at befriending scheme, but need to use existing groups as a platform for this
- Possible exploration of the Goodgym scheme which encourages runners and walkers to pop in to visit someone isolated as part of their route? Although takeup locally has not been good so far, despite extensive publicity
- Need to ensure that any befrienders are fully trained and DBS checked, as in the New Lodge/Athersley pilot described in the workshop

Which groups are we talking about locally? Who is likely to be socially isolated?

- Older people
- Those living in isolated villages or estates with few community facilities
- People with mobility issues or other disabilities
- Those who lack confidence to attend activities on their own
- People who avoid crossing busy roads
- Those without the money to attend activities
- Under 25's (these are suggested by the national data as being almost as high as the over 75's)

How could we help these groups? Do we want to focus on specific groups?

- Needs someone who can talk to existing groups (from community mapping) about social isolation and how they can help – eg: organising 'bring a friend' events etc. Too much to ask from a volunteer and Area Team don't have time on top of existing work, so would need to be a new part time role.
- This person could also work with Ward Alliances to help them to maximise their social isolation work.
- This role could also work with practitioners who engage with those who may be isolated – eg: Health visitors, Community Nurses, Postal workers etc. – to help spot isolation and train in how to help etc.
- Would be worth exploring using some of the unallocated Area Council budget to fund a part time worker (and possibly apprentice) to support this work – would be an innovative approach
- Need to explore how other areas have supported this type of work at low cost.

Actions agreed:

- Kate to work with Diane, Rebecca and Carl in Public Health to pull together a short option appraisal report on possible models to fund the above and bring to June meeting of South Area Council
- Chris to send details of Grantfinder to Kate, so she can check out costs for possible licences to include in above report
- Chris, Carl and Rebecca to investigate low cost good practice to include in above report and inform discussion at the June meeting.