

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

**Report of the Assistant Director Partnerships**

**Loneliness & Addiction Support Organisations**

**Exempt Information**

None

**Purpose**

This report is in response to a workplan item of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny committee to provide some information on how the Council interacts with voluntary and community groups who provide services in Tamworth around substance misuse, addiction, loneliness and social isolation.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that:

1. Scrutiny discuss the information at Appendix 1
2. Provide any recommendations for future interaction with these groups, considering the proposal for a Councillor Briefing Session

**Executive Summary**

Tamworth has a very strong and supportive Voluntary Sector, working across communities throughout the Borough with dedicated volunteers.

Social Isolation was a thematic stream highlighted in the Council and VCSE response to the pandemic. The Befriending Line set up by one of the anchor organisations Community Together CIC remains open and has reported a 42% increase in calls during 2022,

Financial Exclusion and Mental Health concerns can contribute to substance misuses and alcohol as a vulnerability risk and is these remain a priority of the Community Safety Partnership.

At the request of the Committee, the Partnerships Team have worked to identify some of the Voluntary and Community Organisations that provide services to Tamworth and how the council interacts with them.

The table attached at Appendix 1 lists the relevant groups. This list is not an exhaustive list of Voluntary groups in Tamworth and has concentrated mainly on the ones who provide services around loneliness and addiction.

It is proposed that Councillors may wish to have a fuller understanding of the work of the groups and that an all Councillor Briefing Session focussed on the Loneliness and Addiction partner organisations could be arranged, outside of the cycle of the formal meetings.

A similar session was arranged by the Partnerships team in October 2021, held at The Assembly Rooms.

### **Future Work**

The council have recently contracted with Community Together CIC as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Funding to undertake some feasibility studies with the voluntary and community sector to provide the council with some baseline data and inform three strategies:

- Wellbeing Strategy
- Voluntary Sector Strategy
- Voluntary Sector Commissioning Strategy

The information gathered will help focus future areas for commissioning the UK Shared prosperity funding and will also feed into the councils reset and recovery work.

### **Resource Implications**

There are no staffing, community/performance planning, sustainable development, community safety, equal opportunities or human rights implications arising from this report.

### **Report Author**

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### **List of Background Papers**

N/A

### **Appendices**

#### **Appendix 1 – Voluntary Sector Organisations**