

## Matters referred to Scrutiny from Cabinet or Council

### Exempt Information

None.

### Executive Summary

The following Committee has referred the following matter to Cabinet:

Committee	Matter referred	Scrutiny Committee
Council (28.02.23)	Loneliness and Isolation	Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny

### Purpose

To refer the recommendations made at Full Council to the Committee

### Recommendations

**Following consideration of the item the Committee agree to the following recommendations being made to Cabinet:**

1. recognises the sterling work done by our charity, voluntary and third sector organisations and the excellent work done by Council Officers and further improve information and advice on existing services and activities that reduce loneliness and isolation.
2. Agreed to work with local partners to launch a campaign to raise awareness of the health effects of loneliness and isolation amongst target risk groups
3. support our voluntary and community sector partners to take active interest and role in ensuring the public health problem of social isolation in in Tamworth is recognised.
4. Task scrutiny to look at the issue of social isolation
5. Work to ensure addressing loneliness and isolation is reflected in relevant strategy of the authority.

*(Moved by Councillor M Summers and seconded by Councillor S Peaple)*

## **Back Ground Information**

At Full Council on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 under rule no 4.12.1 the following motion on notice was considered –

Loneliness and isolation are a serious public health issues that deserve more attention.

Residents can find themselves isolated for a number of reasons, leaving individuals at risk of suffering from health issues, mental health problems or other urgent needs without much needed help. We recognise that this is a particular risk to the elderly and disabled.

This is an issue that must be tackled at a local, as well as national level.

Following a discussion Cllr Summers moved the following amendment to the motion (that includes after the words this motion, add in) recognises the sterling work done by our charity, voluntary and third sector organisations and the excellent work done by Council Officers.

The Council moved 5 recommendations in response to this as above.

## **Executive Summary**

Prior to the motion being heard at Full Council the Committee on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 the Committee received an update on Loneliness and Addiction Support Organisations 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.

It was resolved by the Committee following this meeting that the Committee:

1. Welcomed the Report provided
2. Recommended that every two years there was a face-to-face all members seminar forum to which voluntary organisations were invited and in the intervening years, there was online training from Officers for members on the voluntary sector partners' work
3. Recommended that the Council's website signpost to the Staffordshire Connects website which was a public searchable database of contact details for voluntary sector organisations locally.

The Council has since held a Community and Voluntary Sector Event for Members and representatives from the Voluntary sector on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee received the Wellbeing Strategy and Baseline Priorities report on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

The Assistant Director, Partnerships provided the following update on work being undertaken:

Social isolation is a priority area for wellbeing – several projects are underway through both the UK Shared prosperity fund and health inequalities fund. The Council adopted the business community connectors scheme to ensure all employees can signpost to services.

Several projects being undertaken include:

- Funding for the 'Wheel Connections' scheme with CT CIC providing social transport to community groups and outings
- Signposting information through doctors surgeries around community groups available (working with social prescribers)
- Commissioning of Homelessness Hub
- Ongoing support for the Dementia Friendly Community alliance (including funding for Memory Café)
- Tamworth Borough Council community grants scheme
- Support Staffordshire volunteering project (UKSPF)
- Support for community hub at Heart of Tamworth (UKSPF)
- Community connector scheme (CT CIC) through UKSPF
- Support schemes to ensure integration and help for asylum seekers (Home office grant)

In terms of supporting our voluntary and community sector partners to take an active interest and role in ensuring the public health problem of social isolation in in Tamworth is recognised, the Council participates in the Wellbeing partnership, signposts to grants schemes etc.

In terms or working to ensure the Council is addressing loneliness and isolation and is reflected in relevant strategy of the authority this one of the priorities agreed for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

## **Options**

The report is for information only for the Committee to decide whether any further work needs to be undertaken by Scrutiny on this matter.

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