

Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Performance & Audit Committee
Held on	1st November 2022
Agenda Item:	8
Title:	Social Isolation and Loneliness Strategy
Summary:	
<p>The purpose of the report is to update the Performance & Audit Committee on the progress of the implementation plan of the 2018-2021 Social Isolation & Loneliness Strategy.</p>	
Author:	Phil White, Partnership Facilitator & Chair of Social Isolation Strategy Implementation Group
Recommendations:	
<p>It is recommended that the Performance & Audit Committee</p> <p>i. notes the contents of this report and the progress of implementing the strategy.</p>	
Route to meeting:	
Implications:	
Financial	<input type="checkbox"/>
HR	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equalities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
ICT	<input type="checkbox"/>

SOCIAL ISOLATION & LONELINESS STRATEGY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Performance & Audit Committee on the progress of the implementation plan of the 2018-2021 Social Isolation & Loneliness Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board

- i. **notes the contents of this report and the progress of implementing the strategy.**

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Social Isolation & Loneliness Strategy was approved by the Integrated Joint Board at its meeting on 4 June 2019. The Strategy is accompanied with an Implementation Plan designed to take forward the three key Strategic Objectives namely 'Prevent', 'Respond' and 'Restore' as well as delivering both local and national outcomes. This is the first update on progress made against the strategy.
- 3.2 Because of limitations on the availability of those updating our Pentana system this is not a full report on our local activity but provides some update information subsequent to the previous full report in 2021 (Appendix 1).
- 3.3 Social isolation & loneliness has been identified as a local priority within South Ayrshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP). The governance arrangements for the Social Isolation & Loneliness Strategy Implementation Group are provided by the Communities & Population Health Strategic Delivery Partnership incorporated within the Community Planning Partnership structure. The most recent LOIP report submitted to Scottish Government is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.4 This sets out a range of activity on the LOIP priorities including Social Isolation and older people.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Performance & Audit Committee considers the interim information that reflects current local activity to support the Social Isolation & Loneliness Strategy Implementation Plan 2018-2021.
- 4.2 Despite the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic much work has continued or been initiated within the linked constraints. Although the group continued to meet during this time, it was clear that the implementation plan

could not progress within its current form; this is reflected in the progress report of the plan.

4.3 A brief summary of highlight activities is set out below:

- Wellbeing Pledge and funding – Whilst the £64k allocated to support the Wellbeing Pledge covered a range of priority issues some funding was allocated to organisations directly addressing social isolation (for example, Girvan Age Concern) other money allocated is likely to contribute to supporting isolated people (for example work in Ayr North, Broken Chains and Wheelchair Rugby). The evaluations of these projects will be reported to the next Wellbeing Pledge Board.
- Locality Based work and PB funding – Locality Planning Partnerships continue to support local social isolation activity and recent small grant funding (what was originally Participatory Budgeting funding) has been allocated to groups addressing social isolation and loneliness amongst other priority issues.
- VASA programmes – VASA continues to receive funding from HSCP, Scottish Government Covid Mobilisation resources and some monies from NHS Endowment funding to support social isolation related activity including:

Programme	Information
South Ayrshire Lifeline	Point of contact for support and links to a range of local support options.
Telephone Befriending	Phone based befriending using volunteers to provide light touch regular support.
Up and About	Targeting those who have lost confidence through Covid and isolation to enable them to re-connect with ordinary support activity.
Digital Inclusion	Links to Connecting Scotland programme – distributing digital devices and providing light touch technical support.
Living Well Self Management Training	Initially funded by the Health and Care Alliance, 11 programmes now delivered by lay leaders. Many of referrals have significant social isolation issue.

There are useful Case Studies linked to these services included within the LOIP report.

- **SG Third Sector Mental Health and Wellbeing Funding**
In late 2021 Scottish Government allocated resources to TSIs (in our case – VASA) to lead a third/community sector mental health and wellbeing programme. The guidance from SG included Social Isolation as one of the issues to be addressed. VASA was allocated £340k in 2021/22.

Around 29 projects were funded (not all relevant to social isolation in older people) and the initial feedback has been positive. Full evaluations will be

submitted in due course but a 'show and tell' event set out the diversity of the projects funded and the impressive early stories of impact.

VASA are now leading the second year funding process with slightly less SG money committed. SG has suggested initiatives to tackle the cost of living crisis are included in funded projects and about £30k of the South Ayrshire amount is to be allocated to **Cosy Space** initiatives.

A 'Position Statement' report has been drafted that reflects back over the previous few years of this work, the progress that has been made with limited resources, and some options about where the work could go in future years. This has been tabled at the CPP Communities and Population Health SDP and the CPP Chairs meeting. This sets out some of opportunities but also challenges related to the ambitions in the strategy and the limitations on capacity to extend the scope of activity beyond what is taking place already. In addition, a Webinar Workshop took place on 10th March 2022 seeking to re-group the existing work and to reach out to wider constituencies who may support the Social Isolation agenda.

- 4.4 There is a recently appointed new member of staff in the Health Improvement Team who will support the social isolation strategy implementation (there has been no-one for about a year to support the work).
- 4.5 To reflect the changes in the landscape since the strategy was developed, the strategy is to undergo a refresh taking into account the new circumstances – challenges and opportunities.

5. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

5.1 The report represents an update on the progress made against each of the Strategic Outcomes of the Social Isolation & Loneliness Strategy 2018-2027. The Social Isolation & Loneliness Strategy supports the Partnership's Strategic Objectives, namely:

- We focus on prevention and tackling inequality
- We nurture and are part of communities that care for each other
- We work together to give the right care in the right place
- We help to build communities where people are safe
- We are an ambitious and effective Partnership
- We are transparent and listen to you
- We make a positive impact beyond the services we deliver

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

6.1.1 At a Community Planning level there is a need to access resource to support the coordination of this strategy and maintain momentum.

6.2 Human Resource Implications

6.2.1 There are no specific human resource implications.

6.3 Legal Implications

6.3.1 There are no specific legal implications.

6.4 Equalities implications

6.4.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from the consideration of this report.

6.5 Sustainability implications

6.5.1 There are no environmental sustainability implications arising directly from the consideration of this report.

7. CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

7.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with relevant officers from across statutory and third sector organisations, predominantly through the Social Isolation & Loneliness Strategy Implementation Group.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1. There are no anticipated risks arising from the content and recommendations of the report.

REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

27.10.22