

**MEETING:** Health Scrutiny Committee

**DATE:** 09<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**SUBJECT:** Update on the Social Isolation and Loneliness Task and Finish Group and the Carers Task and Finish Group

**REPORT FROM:** Councillor FitzGerald, Chair of Health Scrutiny

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Chloe Ashworth, Democratic Services

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## 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Health Scrutiny Committee of the work going forward from the Loneliness and Social Isolation and Carers Task and Finish Group.
- 1.2 A meeting has now taken place with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing to discuss next steps.

## 2.0 ISSUES

### 2.1 Social Isolation and Loneliness Task and Finish Group

- 2.1.1 Visit the Nicky Alliance Centre to see provision and meet with users.
- 2.1.2 Investigate what offer there is for new mothers and their toddlers who are socially isolated following the Covid19 pandemic. We were unable to meet with this group during the current municipal year.
- 2.1.3 Engage with young people through Youth Participation workers/Youth Cabinet/Schools to discuss issues and work being done for young people in the area.
- 2.1.4 The Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing to reengage with the Council's Social Isolation & Loneliness steering group, and to ensure there is councillor representation on the body.
- 2.1.5 Discussions took place with officers and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young people about how we could avoid the unintended consequences of some of the Council's policies and cuts to services exacerbating loneliness and increasing mental health issues. A further discussion about whether this should be focused on positive wellbeing checks on policies as proforma took place. The 'Let's Do it' assessment on Council policies and the work of the Locality Board were suggestions of how this could be achieved.

### 2.2 Carers Task and Finish Group:

- 2.2.1 To visit a coffee morning or listening café to meet with carers and have photographs taken for a press release which will highlight and promote the services
- 2.2.2 All Councillors to undertake awareness training of the service and what it can offer. This will enable Councillors to be able to recommend and promote the offer to constituents.
- 2.2.3 All Councillors to be invited to become 'Friends of Bury Carers' which will then give them access to regular information and news.
- 2.2.4 All schools be asked to provide their governors with information relating to young carers within their schools.
- 2.2.5 To look at the widening of a befriending service in Bury to support families where children are carers but to consider for both cohorts.

### **3.0 CONCLUSION**

The Health Scrutiny Committee is asked:

- To note and support the actions going forward within the report.
- To inform Democratic Services if they wish to attend the following:
  - Visit the Nicky Alliance Centre
  - Visit a coffee morning or listening café
- To attend carer awareness training and promote to other Councillors
- To become 'Friends of Bury Carers'
- To await an update from the Cabinet Member about the Social Isolation & Loneliness Steering group.
- To highlight to cabinet members and other councillors when scrutinising policy to ensure the impact on wellbeing is included as part of the 'Let's do it' considerations.
- To write to the Locality Board about the T&F group's findings and that we understand one aspect of their role is to monitor the impact of the Council's work on Wellbeing across Bury.

### **4.0 SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS**

None.

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#### **List of Background Papers:-**

Social Isolation and Loneliness Highlight Report  
Carers Highlight Report  
Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23

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