

Tasking Group

Older People

Led by: Marianne Fellows

Attended: Sharon Cuthbert, Mary Schedrin, Sharon Harkin (Apologies Lesley Hill)

Observations:

- Isolation and loneliness will be exasperated by poverty/inflation and global events.
- We noted the data provided on presentation at Comm Partnership Annual Forum and would like to see outcomes of questions to workshops.
- Groups are beginning to resume post-Covid, but access to services and opportunities is 'patchy' over the area due to location and lack of transport for individuals to attend.
- INFO LINK is a good conduit for information, but may no longer be managed or kept up to date always.
- Hard copy information is also needed for those with no/limited digital access.
- Follow-on funding is difficult for small but effective projects, leading to reduced sustainability (short term provision) when they have to reinvent themselves to reapply.
- No networking forum or information sharing between providers.

Suggestions/proposals:

- ALS Comm Partnership to map service provision across the area and contrast with wider ES, Ipswich areas etc. with assistance from ES team?
- Minimum standard to be achieved by either providing transport to locations (more info needed from Transport task & finish group and interim solutions) or enable satellite services to grow into other areas. (Good practise minimum standard would include but not limited to; A men's shed, A dementia project, Parish Nurse, Women's group, educational/interest groups, walking football, chair-based exercise/falls prevention, Library or mobile service, Coffee Caravan, a Carer's group, meet up Mondays or equivalent.)
- Set up a forum/conference for service providers to network/share best practise and coordinate (would replicate across ES?)
- Establish if INFO LINK is managed and who POC is for updates and new info - can this be expanded and link to it provided on more websites (including ES, SCC, Town/Parish councils).
- Provide information pack for distribution via Pharmacies, Funeral Directors, Estate Agents and rural Pubs (assumption that it is provided to Libraries, Social Prescribers, Social Care/Health/Police/Education, places of Worship and Neighbourhood schemes etc.)
- Task group to explore adult version of Duke of Edinburgh (High Sheriff Passport?) scheme for those experiencing loneliness, isolation, reduced mobility, other need etc. Gather potential service providers and provide framework and pilot? Example

- Aldeburgh Yacht Club sailing for disabled/young people could be expanded? Potential to roll out across District if successful.
- Develop links with Suffolk Community Foundation to assist with follow-on grants or access to other streams for projects given short term ALS Comm Partnership funding.
- Contact other established groups such as U3A, WIs, Probus, Gardening clubs to explore opportunities.
- Audit of existing groups via questionnaire to ES staff, Comm Partnership membership (what do you attend or know about?) to assist mapping of gap assessment.
- Consider questionnaire at forthcoming Jubilee Events (ALS) to ask what individuals enjoy, would like to see more of, and to increase potential volunteer base.