

To: City Executive Board

Date: 12 February 2015

Report of: Scrutiny Committee

Title of Report: Activities for Older People and Preventing Isolation

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To present comments from the Scrutiny Committee on the City Council's activities for older people and efforts to prevent isolation.

Key decision? No

Scrutiny Lead Member: Councillor Simmons, Chair of Scrutiny Committee

Executive lead member: Councillor Simm, Executive Member for Culture and Communications

Policy Framework: Corporate Plan 2014-2018;

Recommendation: That the City Executive Board completes a high level review to flag up any issues of non-compliance with the Equalities Act.

Introduction

1. The Scrutiny Committee requested a report detailing services the City Council provides for over 50s, with a focus on reducing isolation. The Committee would like to thank Vicki Galvin, Luke Nipen and Ian Brooke for preparing and presenting this item.

Summary of the discussion

2. The Go Active Coordinator highlighted that an isolation project led by the Citizens Advice Bureau has generated over £1m of additional income for vulnerable older people. There is a diversity of provision in place for older residents. Much of this is user-led and officers are focused on sustaining and developing provision.
3. The Scrutiny Committee welcomed the good work that is taking place and asked questions around the accessibility of activities, signposting to other services, and links to faith groups and partner organisations. The Committee suggest that officers liaise with the Sweet Memories Senior Citizens Club, and would also encourage officers to engage with faith groups and offer free training and support to them.

4. The Committee expressed concerns around proposed cuts to grant funding and questioned whether £50k of funding for isolation work in 2014/15 is being made available in future years. This was a one-off funding.
5. The Committee heard from a public speaker who highlighted the City Council's duties under the Equalities Act. The Committee questioned whether compliance with the act is monitored and reported, for example to the Council's Audit and Governance Committee. The Committee suggest that this exercise should take place if it doesn't already, and the findings made publically available.

Recommendation – That a high level review takes place to flag up any issues of non-compliance with the Equalities Act.

Director and Board Member Comments

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List of background papers: None