

City Executive Board response to the recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee on preventing elderly isolation

Provided by the Board Member for Culture and Communities

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Recommendation	Agree	Comment
1: That consideration is given to how the Council could obtain a clearer view of how to identify and engage with older people who are isolated or at risk of isolation. The former should include the use of population data for different parts of the city to identify any geographical concentrations of older people and gaps in provision.	Yes	<p>All service areas have an ongoing responsibility to make their services accessible to all of the community, including older and isolated people. The Communities Team have good links to the 50+ Network and numerous smaller groups supporting older people across the city and act as link between those and Council Service Areas.</p> <p>The Council's Data Analyst can be approached to provide an insight in to population data for geographical concentrations of older people so that services can consider how they can adapt or prioritise support to older people in given areas, recognising that the City Council role is primarily one of preventing isolation and that to bring people out of entrenched isolation is a specialist role, resource intensive and not widely achievable within current City Council capacity.</p>
2: That consideration is given to developing the role of local intelligence and local assets such as community centres, community newsletters, parish councils and food banks in identifying and supporting older people facing isolation. One option is to expand the reach of the national Older People's Day, which is promoted locally by the Oxford 50+ Network, and seek to involve a wider range of stakeholders in it.	Partly	<p>As per the Scrutiny Panel's report and the original report to the Scrutiny Panel in December, there is a shared and collective community responsibility reaching across organisations and individuals to support the welfare of older people.</p> <p>The Older People's Day event organised by the 50+ network is a highly valuable contribution to the inclusion of older people in Oxford and to improving their quality of life. The network has successfully reduced its dependence on the City Council to make this an independent event. Therefore expanding the reach of the event needs to be considered in terms of the capacity of the 50+ network to do so.</p>
3: That the Council explores joint working opportunities with	Yes	Health Partnerships take place in areas across the city and

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<p>the County Council and CCG on preventing elderly isolation and continues to make the case for dedicated resource and the wider use of social prescribing.</p>		<p>are attended by the Council, the CCG and other partners such as Public Health and other local organisations. Isolation, particularly amongst older people, is a recurring theme of these Partnerships</p> <p>Practice Care Navigators are funded by OCCG and delivered by Oxford Federation for General Practice and Primary Care (OxFed). They are link workers supporting frail patients usually who are largely housebound. They will usually visit the patients and define their social needs and then follow up for a limited number of sessions. It has had favourable feedback from both patients and carers.</p> <p>Social prescribing is funded as a key element of NHS England funding for Barton Healthy New Town, the evaluation of this programme will help inform future models of care across the city and beyond.</p>
<p>4: That the Council should encourage and prioritise targeted outreach work to BAME communities that can help to mitigate language and cultural barriers, including amongst older people who may be at risk of isolation.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>All service areas have an ongoing responsibility to make their services accessible to all of the community, including older and isolated people of all ethnicities. Services should continually seek to engage with all communities and seek to mitigate language and cultural barriers.</p> <p>Our Communities Team work with BAME community organisations across the city such as AfiUK and the Asian Cultural Association and will seek to work with them to identify new opportunities to prevent isolation, develop their capacity to support older people in their communities and to develop Council services to be more accessible.</p>
<p>5: That the Council seeks to ensure that 'fair share' of OCCG funding is directed towards projects and services in the city, including where such resources could be focused on preventing elderly isolation.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>We will ask OCCG to explain how funding is directed across the county.</p>