

Kirklees Loneliness Strategy - DRAFT

Vision

Kirklees is a place where people and communities are more connected and support each other to develop meaningful relationships and reduce loneliness

Goals

Making tackling loneliness everyone's business

Making the most of existing assets to tackle loneliness

Understanding the experiences and appropriate responses for different groups and communities

Fostering personalised approaches for those that need extra support to overcome barriers to developing meaningful connections

Actions

- Ensure loneliness is considered in any relevant planning, impact assessments, commissioning, decommissioning and development of services and support
- Ensure stakeholders across Kirklees have a part to play to tackle the underlying risk factors and triggers to loneliness
- Create a culture across Kirklees whereby we design in inclusion and design out loneliness

- Maximise the use of communal and informal 'hang out' space, ensure that they are welcoming and that people are aware of what's available
- Make every contact count so that people, communities and front line services identify loneliness and support, refer and signpost as necessary
- Ensure easy access to information on local groups, activities and support
- Value individual contributions and support people to be proactive in their community including continuing to promote volunteering
- Foster a culture of trust and the importance of people taking time to talk to each other, support each other and develop meaningful relationships
- Learn from, promote and share positive community developments and success stories
- Ensure a presence of community workers/ connectors on the ground to act as catalysts to action in local communities

- Continue to research national and local evidence of people's experience of loneliness and the evidence base for appropriate support or interventions
- Identify any gaps in targeted support needed for particular groups and communities
- Look at how these can be addressed using existing assets and where appropriate look for resource opportunities to fill the gaps.

- Review what's currently available in statutory and voluntary and community sector to provide specific personalised support to overcome barriers to developing meaningful connections
- Identify any gaps or duplications in current offer
- Look at how these can be addressed using existing assets and where appropriate look for resource opportunities to fill the gaps
- Streamline current loneliness support offer to ensure that services work in a more integrated and collaborative way

Principles and Values

- Ongoing reflection/ evaluation of approach and impacts and shared learning
- Influencing approach linked to other agendas
- Non stigmatising approach/ tackling stigma
- Partnership approach that includes organisations as well as communities and citizens (co-production)
- Asset (strengths) based approach
- Empowering communities to tackle loneliness themselves not just formal service responses
- People have choice about how and when they connect
- Realistic approach
- Creative and innovative approaches