

	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive	Equality Forum	5 July 2012

UPDATE ON SOCIAL ISOLATION TASK AND FINISH GROUP

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To update the Equality Forum on the progress of the Social Isolation Task and Finish Group

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- The Forum is asked to note the contents of this report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- This project was suggested at the workshop for Councillors held in 2010 as well as being raised as an important issue by the Equality Forum. A task and finish group was established with cross cutting representation of local groups, meeting in March and May 2012. Meetings followed an open discussion format, raising questions and establishing key issues which have been translated into recommendations and an action plan. The final report will be made available following the approval of the task and finish group members.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Strong Family Support	X	Education and Jobs	
Being Healthy	X	Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Neighbourhoods	
Safe Communities	X	Quality Community Services and Spaces	X
Vibrant Local Economy		Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages	X
A Council that is a consistently Top Performing Organisation			

BACKGROUND

5. Social isolation was identified as a key issue at the workshop for Councillors held in 2010 as well as being raised by the Equality Forum with a focus on the following broad objectives:
 1. To establish the reasons for social isolation in Chorley
 2. To map the current provision to alleviate social isolation in Chorley
 3. To identify gaps in provision for social isolation
 4. To look at publicity of current provision
 5. To draft an action plan

FORMAT OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

6. An open invitation was given for participants of the task and finish group which included representation from Age UK, Lancashire County Council Adult Services Commissioning, LGBT groups, Cross Roads Care, Lancashire Fire and Rescue, Disability Equality North West, local Parish Council's. The Youth Council also provided feedback.
7. Meetings took place in March and May 2012, following an open discussion format, raising questions and establishing key issues which have been translated into recommendations and an action plan.
8. An initial profile of social isolation in Chorley was also created as part of this project including maps and population profiling which helped to identify key issues, 'at risk' groups and target geographical areas. This information has informed the findings of the project and can be made available as a separate report on request.

FINDINGS

9. Findings suggested that older people, vulnerable families, members of an equality group and carer's are considered to be most at risk of social isolation and whilst there is currently a good provision of services, the key issue was considered to be identifying those who may be at risk and linking them with appropriate services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. Recommendations from the project are as follows:

1. Communicate findings with key partners to raise awareness and further develop local insight
2. Coordinate community activity, outreach and volunteering work to target those at risk of social isolation
3. Work with partners to develop a more joined up approach including a single point of contact
4. Influence future service commissioning and design to take a preventative approach
5. Develop a package of future work on vulnerable families to identify and better understand the economic causes of social isolation and assess support.

11. An action plan has been developed based on the recommendations.

12. The final report and associated action plan will be made available following approval by the task and finish group members

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

13. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	x
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	x

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

14. No comment.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

15. No comment.

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Vicky Willett	5348	5.7.2012	Equality Forum Social Isolation Update