



Report title: Loneliness & Isolation Deep Dive

Report to: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of meeting: 06/09/2023

Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Cllr Daalat Ali

Report of: Kuiama Thompson

Public or private: Public

Key Decision?: No

Published on the Forward Plan: No

1. Report summary

- 1.1 Loneliness and isolation are significant health and wellbeing issues that affect all ages, and are directly and indirectly associated with early mortality and several poor health and wellbeing outcomes.
- 1.2 The pandemic made isolation and loneliness worse for many of our residents. While some have been able to recover, we know many are still affected by the impact of lockdowns and shielding.
- 1.3 The 2021 census data shows that 30.6% of our residents live alone, with 12.5% of these being over 66. From October 2020 to February 2021, 9.63% of people in Rochdale reported feeling lonely often or all of the time. This is higher than the average for the North West, at 7.84%, and higher than the average for England at 7.26%.
- 1.4 There are a number of positive existing, ongoing and planned activities relating to loneliness across the borough.
- 1.5 More could be done, and existing work lacks strategic coordination, oversight and resourcing.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To take note of the current position and ongoing loneliness related initiatives in the borough
- 2.2 To discuss with the Board requests and suggestions for future work related to loneliness and isolation
- 2.3 To mandate a more coordinated approach to addressing loneliness and isolation

3. Reason for recommendation

- 3.1 Loneliness is a key cause of ill-health and early mortality.

- 3.2 It is a new, but increasing, priority area. A number of initiatives are happening, but often in silos.
- 3.3 Councils, alongside other borough anchor organisations, have a key role in tackling loneliness, using their community knowledge to bring together partners and lead projects. We own, control or have influence over many of the assets where community action can take place, such as parks, libraries and schools.
- 4. Alternatives considered**
 - 4.1 N/A
- 5. Key information**
 - 5.1 Please see the loneliness narrative sent with this report.
- 6. Finance**
 - 6.1 N/A
- 7. Legal**
 - 7.1 N/A
- 8. Human resource**
 - 8.1 N/A
- 9. Sustainability impact**
 - 9.1 N/A
- 10. Other considerations (corporate priorities, risks)**
 - 10.1 N/A

Background Papers: Loneliness Narrative

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