

Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission Report

Social Value Good Practice -
'Leicester Ageing Together' pilot

Lead Member: Cllr Sarah Russell
Strategic Director: Steven Forbes
Date: 17th December 2019

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
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- Report version number: 1

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission with an update on the 12-month Social Value pilot, that is currently being delivered by the Leicester Ageing Together programme.

2. Summary

- 2.1. In November 2018 the Executive supported a 12-month pilot in two areas in the city to use the social value arising from Adult Social Care (ASC) contracts to support the development of community-based services to reduce social isolation and loneliness.
- 2.2. All City Council contracts require organisations providing services to state what additional social value they can provide to the local community free of charge. The majority offer volunteers, free room hire, printing, advice etc. However, this has not always been fully utilised by the Council because of the lack of a delivery mechanism.
- 2.3 Therefore, working in partnership with Leicester Ageing Together (LAT) programme, a 12-month pilot has been created to use the Community Connectors model funded by LAT to use the social value to develop and test innovative ways of tackling social isolation and loneliness and to make the best use of the available resources.
- 2.4 Community Connectors work with local people to support them to develop self-interested groups to come together to provide mutual sustainable support. This approach also underpins the Manifesto Pledge to 'develop a 'Community Connectors' model to tackle isolation through active citizenship and community groups.'
- 2.5 The pilot has been live since July 2019, and progress has been made in both pilot areas and a presentation will be given at the Scrutiny Commission meeting on 17th December, which details the background to the pilot, and outlines the progress made to date, including case studies.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission is recommended to note the report/presentation and provide feedback/comments.

4 Report

- 4.1 Loneliness and social isolation have been identified as a significant risk to people's health and wellbeing and evidence suggests it is as bad for you as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. The risk is twofold, firstly, the psychological impact has a direct impact on physical and mental health, and secondly, a lack of family, social or community connections, means that people are less able to get support when they need it. This has a negative impact because lonely and isolated people are more likely to develop needs, but less able to find sources of support themselves, so will turn to health and social care for support.
- 4.2 The pilot also supports the Manifesto pledges to 'develop a 'Community Connectors' model to tackle isolation through active citizenship and community groups.' If the pilot is successful, then consideration will be given to extending the model across the city.
- 4.3 The pilot is an innovative project that brings together the community connector model and social value, to test out ways of reducing social isolation and loneliness. This includes determining what mechanisms would work to help people find sources of support, and what we can do to make the best use of the assets that are available.
- 4.4 A small grant of £5k has been made available that is administered by LAT to enable them to make small grants of up to £200 to local groups to help them develop support for lonely and isolated people.
- 4.5 The role of the community connectors is to reach out to people who may be lonely or socially isolated and put them in touch with sources of support such as local community groups. In addition, the connectors work with local groups to help them provide support to become self-sustaining, with the use of social value to underpin the additional support that might be needed, such as the use of free room hire provided by the contractors to enable local groups to meet.
- 4.6 The Leicester Ageing Together (LAT) programme was chosen as the organisation to undertake the pilot, because of its success in supporting projects and individuals to build a community connector model and tackle social isolation and loneliness. However, if the pilot is successful then other organisations will have the opportunity to replicate the model, but one of the key factors is the need for the programme to be self-sustaining

- 4.7 The existing Community Connectors are funded by LAT, using their Lottery funding, which has been extended by the Lottery to 2020 to allow more time for the delivery of the programme's learning.
- 4.8 The 12-month pilot is running in two wards: Thurncourt and North Evington. The two wards were chosen following a detailed options appraisal. The key deciding factors were:
- High levels of social isolation and loneliness, as evidenced by the Health & Wellbeing Survey;
 - Allows comparison of 2 wards with contrasting levels of ethnic diversity;
 - Allows comparison of an existing LAT ward (Thurncourt) with a new one (N. Evington);
 - Location of Strength-Based Social local social workers; and
 - North Evington is a neighbouring area to where LAT is currently delivering so existing infrastructure could be extended easily and wouldn't be starting completely from scratch. They can be up and running quickly.
- 4.9 The target audience for the pilot includes adults 18 and over, as there is mounting evidence that loneliness and social isolation is prevalent across all age groups, and that they also pose a risk to the health and wellbeing.
- 4.10 The pilot is jointly managed by LAT and ASC, through the Social Value Pilot Steering Group, chaired by the Head of Commissioning. It works closely with the Leicester Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in order to co-ordinate with the roll out of social prescribing in the new Primary Care Networks (PCN's). The PCN's are part of the national NHS Long-Term Plan and further details are included at paragraph 4.8.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

5.1 There are no direct legal implications associated with this report.

5.2 Legal implications

5.2 There are no direct legal implications associated with this report.

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

5.3 There are no direct climate change implications associated with this report.

5.4 Equalities Implications

5.4 There are no direct implications associated with this report. .

6. Background information and other papers: None

7. Summary of appendices: None

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)? No

8. Is this a “key decision”? No

9.