

# **Improving Social Connection and Tackling Loneliness Steering Group**

**Updated Terms of Reference  
August 2022**

# Role

## 1. Owning and driving forward the Kirklees Partnership Social Connection and Tackling Loneliness Strategy across the life course

### What this means:

- Taking a proactive approach to early intervention and prevention via awareness raising, influencing and identifying opportunities that help reduce loneliness and promote meaningful connection – including funding opportunities.
- Championing the strategy locally and nationally
- Offering mutual support as well as celebrating good practice across the steering group
- Supporting flexibility of the strategy to be responsive to emerging issues – e.g. COVID Response, recovery and learning
- Ensuring links with national developments and that work is in line with national strategy

## 2. Understanding local needs, identifying opportunities for development and setting priorities for action

### What this means:

- Working together to make use of the best available intelligence to understand the local picture in Kirklees
- Using intelligence to set priority actions and to identify any gaps or opportunities for developments

# Role

## 3. Making tackling loneliness/ meaningful social connection everyone's business

### What this means:

- Influencing citizens, communities, frontline workers, planners and systems leaders to 'Make Loneliness Everyone's Business'
- Promoting wider partnership working, networking opportunities and the sharing of good practice

## 6. Keeping 'watchful eye' on progress and helping to unblock barriers to progress

### What this means:

- Monitoring outputs / outcomes of specific projects and overall long term impact on loneliness (e.g. via Clik Survey)
- Offering support to overcome barriers
- Ensuring that there are sufficient resources allocated to maintain progress
- [Reporting progress as required to Kirklees Health and Wellbeing board/ Kirklees Integrated Health and Care Partnership/ Frailty Oversight Group. Also providing updates as required to relevant boards/ groups such as Children and Families and Adults Social Care Senior Management teams as required]

**NB** Further discussion to be held - The draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy has loneliness embedded in the Mental Wellbeing Theme - so this may lend it self to a slightly different governance route].

# Working Together Approach – Our aspirations

- Have **deputies in place on the steering group**, in order to keep things moving.
- Working with group members to find the best available slots for meetings and where possible avoiding clashes with other Council meetings. Also accepting that diary pressures can be significant and changing and there is sometimes no ideal slot that meets everyone's needs. Where possible, plenty of notice when meetings are postponed or cancelled.
- Being supportive and patient to colleagues and partners, trusting that all members of the steering group are doing their best to support and deliver work within limited resource, with competing priorities on their time.
- Online quarterly meetings – with at least one face to face meeting per year
- Wider partnership networking event once a year
- Continuing to monitor and review the steering group role and function to keep it a valuable partnership.

# What we said was important...

- wide skills, knowledge, experience and passion in the group
- honesty
- clarity and focus
- keeping a local overview
- concise information
- true collaboration
- collective wisdom
- supporting ACTION
- bringing personal lived experience (we are all part of community)
- asset based community development
- avoiding duplication
- enablers of joined up thinking
- strengths-based with communities in driving seat
- evaluating impact
- putting Kirklees on the map
- more men's voice on the group needed
- 'loneliness is neither a scar nor a badge'
- proactively keeping the momentum going
- highlighting best practice/innovative ideas
- making the best use of opportunities to identify social isolation and loneliness

# Principles and Values (for the Strategy)

- Learning from evidence
- Sharing good practice
- Commitment to influencing
- Tackling stigma
- Commitment to partnership working and building relationships
- Co-productive approach in line with Kirklees Council Co-production statement “Our vision is about people as active and equal partners in how we work together to co-produce; co-design; co-deliver; and co-evaluate services in Kirklees
- Assets and strengths based
- Empowering communities to tackle loneliness themselves
- No ‘one size fits all’ – personalised approach
- Supporting creative and innovative approaches
- Proactively reaching out to ensure that all voices are heard and taking an inclusive communities approach
- Holistic approach to wellbeing
- Promoting an appropriate focus on safeguarding awareness

# Proposed Membership Representation

- Kirklees Council Local Integrated Partnerships including Local Area Co-ordination and Public Health
- Kirklees Council Children and Families Services
- Northorpe Hall Child and Family Trust
- Jo Cox Foundation
- Befriending Partnership (Yorkshire Children's Centre, Locala, Age UK Calderdale and Kirklees, The Kirkwood, RVS)
- Community Anchor
- Kirklees Integrated Care Partnership
- Third Sector Leaders
- Partnership Mental Health Commissioning Manager
- Locala
- Citizen representative(s) with professional, volunteer and lived experience.
- Housing
- Social Care
- Strategic Refuge and Asylum Seekers
- Active Citizens and Democracy
- Huddersfield Town Foundation