

Kirklees Loneliness Steering Group – Summary of Key Achievements 2021-2022.

Making Loneliness Everyone's Business

- The multi-agency Loneliness Steering Group has continued to operate throughout 2021 and 2022.
- The steering group was reviewed as a forum to share good practice, identifying gaps and opportunities for improvement and facilitate joined up action to tackle loneliness.
- Campaigns aimed at raising awareness and combatting stigma such as the 'Great Get Together' and 'Loneliness Awareness Week', 'Mental Health Awareness Week', have been promoted.
- Awareness raising has taken place to develop wider networking partnerships to support action on tackling loneliness via individual relationship building across different services. Examples include presentations and workshops to different teams and forums such as: Care Home Manager Forum, Community Mental Health teams, Mental Health Provider Forum, local Substance misuse services, place based working teams, Young Employee Network, Anti – Stigma event, Post graduate Students at University of Huddersfield.
- The development of a local Connection Coalition has been explored based on the national model. <https://www.connectioncoalition.org.uk/>
- Local partners were brought together to develop a bid to support local transport for people in order help reduce loneliness. Whilst this was not successful, a local partner is pursuing this via other funding routes.

Making the Most of Existing Assets

- Members of the steering group have supported the development of the new Live Well Kirklees site - a resource aimed at bringing information and advice that supports wellbeing in to one place. They have also contributed to the creation of a new pilot community directory, co-produced with 3rd sector partners, which is to be piloted in Batley and Spen, Denby Dale and Kirkburton and Colne and Holme Valley Community Anchor areas. This resource incorporates Adults and as well as Children and Families.
- Libraries, Community Plus team, Everybody Active team, Wellness Service and the new Personalised Care team (offering enhanced social prescribing) continue to offer much needed support activities and signposting to try to reduce loneliness.
- Community Plus Community Investment Fund have funded several projects that contribute to tackling loneliness for older people, younger disabled adults and people experiencing bereavement.

Understanding the Needs of Different Communities

- In response to national intelligence of need in this group, members of the steering group have collated local evidence of young adult's experience of loneliness, resilience factors and barriers to social connection as well as local good practice. Yorkshire Children's Centre (YCC) and Northorpe Hall in particular, have been key partners in this work. In the spirit of partnership working and the importance of a

systems-wide approach, Yorkshire Children's Centre will continue to support this work with a post dedicated to lead on research and development to inform personalised options to support young people to connect, including lived experience and co-production as key features.

- A project has started to understand and respond to the needs of minority communities experiencing mental ill health and/ or loneliness e.g., supporting the Anti-Stigma project in North Kirklees.
- Approaches to tackling loneliness amongst council employees has continued to be explored and is being embedded into the role of Wellbeing Champions.
- Initial analysis of headline data from the Current Living in Kirklees Survey (CLiK) has been carried out.

Personalised Support

- The Covid 19 Befriending Partnership Telephone Support Offer set up in 2020 by Yorkshire Children's Centre (YCC) and Age UK Calderdale and Kirklees has been sustained throughout the pandemic. Following a successful bid to national lottery fund by YCC, this support offer is now integrated into the YCC Community Friends face to face offer and has become a blended offer of face to face and telephone support.
- A review of local befriending support offers from the perspective of providers, volunteers and people receiving befriending was completed in 2021.
- A good practice sharing workshop across local providers, commissioners and wider services was delivered in 2021. An up-to-date list of local befriending offers was created and disseminated in 2021/2022 which has fed into the Live Well Kirklees resource.
- A Virtual Day Opportunities, digital proof of concept project in partnership with Age UK Calderdale and Kirklees and Peopletoo was delivered. This project supported older people attending day care to develop digital skills and test out a new platform for social connection activities.
- A pilot creative programme to reduce loneliness in care homes was delivered in 2021 by Hoot and supported by Clinical Commissioning Group partners. Partners are exploring funding opportunities to extend this work.
- Partners on the steering group advocated for continuity of support for young adults with mental ill health and/ or experiencing loneliness via the Kooth resource, which is now a resource available for 11 -25-year-olds. <https://www.kooth.com/>