

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Community and Children's Services	14 October 2016
<b>Subject:</b> Social Wellbeing Panel	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Adam Johnstone, Strategy Officer	

### Summary

The City of London Corporation has identified the reduction of social isolation and loneliness as a strategic priority. Research from Goldsmiths, University of London, has provided valuable insights into social isolation within the City of London and has also suggested areas where extra investigation could prove beneficial.

In September, this Committee approved the formation of a group tasked with investigating some of these areas further. Clarification was requested around the group's scope, methodology and costs.

A Social Wellbeing Panel will now be brought together to investigate specific issues relevant to social isolation in the City of London. The Panel will hear evidence from a range of contributors, and evidence heard will be used to refine the City Corporation's Social Wellbeing Strategy and its actions.

### Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the clarifications made to the work of the Social Wellbeing Panel.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The City of London Corporation and Healthwatch hosted a series of 'Ageing Well in the City' workshops in 2014. A common theme raised during the events was the need to do more to tackle social isolation and loneliness.
2. Tackling social isolation has subsequently been identified as a priority in the DCCS Business Plan, in the City Corporation's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, in the Mental Health Strategy and by the Adult Advisory Group.
3. The City Corporation commissioned Dr Roger Green of Goldsmiths, University of London, to carry out community ethnographic research into social isolation in the City. In July 2016, this Committee received a presentation on his research. This

research provided valuable insights into the nature of social isolation in the City of London and also suggested specific challenges where extra investigation could prove beneficial.

### **Current Position**

4. Officers have been developing a Social Wellbeing Strategy to take forward this work and to start to address the social isolation issues faced by some residents. A public consultation was held on the draft proposals throughout September.
5. In September, this Committee approved the formation of a Social Wellbeing Panel to examine social isolation in the City in more detail. Officers were asked to report back, clarifying the scope, methodology and cost of the work.

### *Scope*

6. Only issues identified as having a high degree of relevance for City residents will be considered by the Panel. The scope of the Panel will be to make specific recommendations for reducing social isolation in the City of London.

### *Methodology*

7. The Social Wellbeing Panel will examine specific issues drawn from the City of London based research, engagement and consultation undertaken to date. These may be:
  - issues that emerged from Roger Green's research (e.g. highlighting the isolation faced by some older LGBT people in the City);
  - issues that have arisen from the public consultation (e.g. early responses from BAME residents suggest they are unsure the draft strategy does enough to meet their needs);
  - issues raised by Members (e.g. the problems faced by City residents who live away from the main residential estates);
  - particular approaches that have led to reductions in social isolation elsewhere (e.g. innovative uses of new technology).
8. Officers will propose a long list of topics to the Chairman of the Panel who would agree the final programme.
9. A summary report, drawing together the Panel's conclusions and recommendations will be produced.
10. The Panel may identify additional outputs or events during the course of its work. These would be proposed to the Chairman for approval.

### *Panel*

11. Following the last Committee, three members expressed an interest and have agreed to serve on the Panel alongside the Chairman of Community and

Children's Services and the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board. These are Sir Paul Judge, Ms Emma Price and Professor John Lumley.

12. The Panel will hold four evidence sessions, hearing from contributors from other local authorities, innovative projects working in the field, national charities and community representatives.
13. In addition to the Panel sessions, a public workshop with City residents will also be held, to explore their views, experiences and suggestions. A member of the Panel will attend the public workshop and a report capturing the output of the workshop will be presented to the Panel as part of the evidence sessions.
14. The evidence sessions and public workshop would be held between November 2016 and February 2017. The Panel's final report will be published in spring 2017.

### *Costs*

15. The direct costs of the Social Wellbeing Panel are estimated to be £2,500 for the design and print of a summary report and £1,000 for meeting expenses.
16. The project is estimated to require 43 hours of Strategy Officer time. This is within the scope of the core duties outlined in the job description for the post. If this time were not spent facilitating the Panel, an equivalent length of time would need to be spent carrying out alternative work to refine the Social Wellbeing Strategy.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

17. The second priority in the CCS Business Plan 2015–17 is to promote health and wellbeing so that people in the City feel safe, are socially connected and supported, and feel a sense of pride and satisfaction in where they live and in their community. Reducing social isolation and loneliness supports this objective.
18. The sixth priority in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-16 is to enable more people in the City to become socially connected and know where to go for help. Reducing social isolation and loneliness supports this objective.

### **Conclusion**

19. Reducing social isolation and loneliness has been identified as an important way to improve the health and wellbeing of City residents. A Social Wellbeing Panel, tasked with investigating issues of particular relevance to reducing social isolation in the City of London, will make an important contribution towards this.
20. Social isolation is an important public health concern and developing a policy response tailored to the City of London's communities may present an opportunity to contribute to the regional conversation on this issue. This also fits with Policy Objective KPP3 in the City of London Corporate Plan: to engage with

London and national government on key issues of concern to our communities such as transport, housing and public health.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Social Wellbeing Panel Diagram

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