

Committee	Dated:
Health and Wellbeing Board	11/02/2019
Subject: Social Wellbeing Strategy – Annual Update	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children’s Services	For information
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Summary

In 2017 the City of London Corporation published the Social Wellbeing Strategy, aimed at reducing loneliness and building communities. The strategy set out different approaches to tackling loneliness and social isolation in the Square Mile. This report and the attached Social Wellbeing Action Plan provide an update on the implementation of the strategy to date. The plan has moved forward since the last update and the majority of actions are now in progress.

Recommendations

Members of the Health and Wellbeing are asked to:

- Note the update on the Social Wellbeing Strategy.

Main Report

Background

1. Reducing social isolation has 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.
2. Reducing social isolation supports Principle 2, Priority 6, Action 1 of the CHSAB Strategic Plan 2017-18. This is:

‘Develop a local “Early Help” protocol and overview of services to support socially isolated individuals who lack support and may be at risk of safeguarding concerns.’
3. The Social Wellbeing Strategy has been developed to reduce social isolation and loneliness in the City, based on the evidence provided by Dr Roger Green of Goldsmiths, University of London, and by the Social Wellbeing Panel.

4. The attached Social Wellbeing Action Plan has been developed to guide the implementation of the strategy. Progress on the Action Plan will be monitored by ASMT and regularly reported to AWP.

Action Plan Summary

5. Overall, 30 actions have now commenced and 5 have not yet started. Of those commenced, 14 have been completed (an increase of 13), 15 are in progress and 1 is experiencing minor problems.
6. Significant developments include the completion of the first pilot group of “Community Builders” in the Golden Lane Estate, the successful running of inclusion groups such as “Out and About in the Barbican”, “the Mansell Street Women’s Group” and the creation of a City Guide.
7. The action encountering minor problems is being managed:
 - a. The creation of a community noticeboard in the Barbican Waitrose store was unfortunately not possible thus placing one in the Tesco Express on Chiswell Street is currently being investigated.

Theme One: Asset-Based Community Development

8. This theme aims to encourage community based responses to loneliness, drawing upon and enhancing the assets, strengths and skills already present within the City of London community.
9. Phase 2 of Community Builders is underway in other City estates and a sustainable model of delivery and training that incorporates the different local contexts but keeps the ethos of Community Builders is being developed.
10. Remembering Yesterday, Celebrating Today was incorporated into the Avondale Community Events Big Picnic on September 1st. The Community Engagement team have been supporting their Poppy Artwork Programme and liaised with the Royal British Legion for fundraising.
11. Aldgate Community Events were a key partner in the delivery of the Aldgate Square Festival. A very thorough outreach programme for the event was implemented, from initial consultation right through to an open call for performances.

Theme Two: Shared Spaces

12. The actions in this theme aim to create and enhance shared spaces where people naturally come together, either through chance encounters or organised community activities.
13. An evaluation of the Dragon Cafe in the City Pilot, which is hosted in Shoe Lane Library on a fortnightly basis found that three quarters of visitors (76%) agreed or

strongly agreed that attending helped to improve their mental wellbeing. The Café is a welcoming space to engage in creative activities to support mental and physical wellbeing.

14. Refurbishment of Golden Lane Community Centre was completed and handed over in July.
15. The Aldgate Square Scheme has seen the combining of the City Play project with the Community Fair in June 2018.

Theme Three: Early Intervention

16. This theme looks at how contact can be made with lonely people sooner, through sustained and consistent communication and by carrying out outreach work using a wider network of partners.
17. A reference guide to resources in the City has been created for City and Hackney's social prescribers.
18. The Over 50s City Guide was distributed in March 2018 with coordinated listings from around 50 groups in and around the City.
19. The FYi directory has been updated.
20. The new carer's assessment in place on Mosaic now has greater emphasis on the needs of the carer (including social and community needs) rather than the person cared for.

Theme Four: Building Skills

21. The actions in this theme aim to develop skills that will enable individuals to form new connections and enhance existing relationships.
22. Currently nine learners are attending English ESOL Conversation class since September 2017.
23. Digital inclusion project commissioned by *Age UK: Only Connect* launched the week commencing 1st October 2018.
24. A shopping service to support food access for residents with limited mobility started for one year on 1st April 2018.

Conclusion

25. The plan has moved forward since the last update in February 2018 and many of the actions are either complete or in progress. A further progress report will be presented to the Board at a future date.

Appendices

- Appendix A – Social Wellbeing Strategy
- Appendix B – Social Wellbeing Action Plan January 2019 Update

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