

## **Older People Task and Finish Group**

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>15 October 2020</b>
<b>Purpose of the Report:</b>	<b>Information paper – update on Older Peoples Project</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Sarah Jewell, C&amp;E Services Support Officer</b>

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- 1. Information paper setting out what the next steps are for progressing this project.**
- 2. External organisations invited to share thoughts**
  - 2.2 Community Action Bedfordshire.  
Community Wellbeing Champion (Social Prescribing)  
Carers in Bedfordshire  
  
Questions posed to our guests:
    - What gaps in provision to older beneficiaries do you see in Leighton Buzzard?
    - Do you feel there are issues among older beneficiaries with ‘connecting’ (be it to friends, family, service providers etc.)
    - Do you think digital inclusion (access to digital devices) could help with this?
    - Do you feel community members can easily find out information about services and activities for older people? Do you have suggestions for a better way of doing this?
    - Is there anything preventing your organisation/group expanding what is on offer to older people? (e.g. money for groups, human capacity to run groups)
- 3. Key areas highlighted at last meeting**
  - a) Lack of digital inclusion for older people.
  - b) Gap in groups being accessed by men causing loneliness and isolation.
  - c) Need of a ‘central hub’ be it physical or online for older people to access information about activities and services available to them.
  - d) Influence of Covid-19 on any delivery options and plans (short, medium and long term).
  - e) Connectivity – the importance of creating opportunity/ability for connections among older people and the community to reduce loneliness.
- 4. Update on next steps from last meeting**
  - a) Digital inclusion and how equipment would be funded or provided for

- beneficiaries.
- b) Organisations attend this meeting.
  - c) Questions agreed prior to meeting.
  - d) Possible provision of webpage on Town Council Website for a directory. of activities and services for older people.

<b>Project Activation (time frame)</b>			
<b>Area of focus</b>	<b>Short term</b>	<b>Medium term</b>	<b>Long term</b>
<b>Digital Inclusion</b>	Run technology workshops, via telephone	Run technology workshops face to face – in community centres, the library and with befrienders in people's homes.	
		Tablet loan scheme in partnership with libraries and other local companies and community organisations.	
<b>Directory/Hub of activities &amp; services for older people</b>	Town Council webpage listing known activities & services	An interactive 'searchable' online directory that organisations and individuals can have password access to for updating their activities/services directly.	

**5. Update on areas of focus and suggested time frame**

**6. Other issues and points of interest**

- 6.1 Relevant groups for **older men** - There is still a needs gap for groups tailored to older men to help reduce loneliness.
- 6.2 **Personnel capacity** issues in organisations - None of the groups spoken to were in a position to be able to run more activities/groups (even with funding) yet identified a need for more 'groups/activities'.
- 6.3 **Grant funding** - This is still an option. Councillors to bear in mind that feedback from many groups has been the funding access is not the main issue, it is the personnel capacity to run anything new, often this refers to funding a co-ordinator/support role.

**7. Next steps**

- 7.1 What elements of the above table do Councillors wish to pursue for presentation to the Cultural & Economic Committee Meeting?
- 7.2 What elements of 'other issues' do Councillors wish to pursue/consider?