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Date: 31/08/2017

Dear Member

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2017**

I am now able to enclose, for consideration next Wednesday, 6 September 2017 at the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, the following report that was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

**Agenda Item No**

A5

**Select Committee Work Programme (Pages 3 - 8)**  
**Appendix 2 – Social Isolation Select Committee (Adult Social Care assessment form)**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Lynch', is written over a faint, light-colored signature line.

**John Lynch**  
**Head of Democratic Services**

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## ASSESSMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE TOPIC REVIEW

\* - sections to be filled in by the proposer of the topic

<p><b>*Subject of Proposed Review:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To investigate KCC's current public health and social care provision around social isolation</li> <li>• To report on public health and social care strategy with respect to low level mental ill health and social isolation</li> </ul>
<p><b>*Reason for the Review:-</b> (see Note 1 below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parity of esteem between physical and mental ill health is a national priority and an issue of social isolation brings these together</li> <li>• Social isolation can lead to a variety of problems including mental health issues. Addressing these issues could be a route to reducing pressures on health and care services, reducing or preventing health problems.</li> <li>• Prevention of social isolation could lead to an improvement in the well-being of the people of Kent and a reduction of costs to KCC and NHS.</li> </ul>
<p><b>*Issues to be covered by the Terms of Reference:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish what social isolation is.</li> <li>• Identify who is socially isolated in Kent.</li> <li>• Investigate the extent to which current service provision is effective in dealing with social isolation</li> <li>• Establish if there is a close correlation between social isolation and mental ill health</li> <li>• Investigate the efforts to improve mental well-being at all stages of life</li> </ul>
<p><b>*Scope of the review:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To take statements from witnesses from public health and social care together with Commissioners and Providers. Also, to gain witness statements from the clients and or their representatives who access the services</li> <li>• To produce a report that makes meaningful recommendations pointing towards potential solutions</li> </ul>
<p><b>*Purpose and objectives of the Review:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To identify the strengths and weaknesses of the services on offer to the clients</li> <li>• Assess the scope and nature of social isolation in Kent</li> <li>• Finding ways of addressing social isolation</li> </ul>

**Proposer of the review - (Please print name and sign)**

.....Cllr Ken Pugh (Member).....

Signed.......... Date...30<sup>th</sup> July 2017

## Completed by the Directorate Social Care DMT

### **Are there any reasons why this review should not be put forward for inclusion in the work programme for 2017/18? (see Note 2 below)**

There are no specific evidential reasons why social isolation should not be included in the topic programme, on the contrary there are a number of reasons why the Council could decide to explore this subject in some detail via the topic review.

A number of reported research studies have identify the impact of social isolation on the health and wellbeing of individuals which can have an adverse lasting effect that and erode the economic contribution that people would otherwise make.

The impact of social isolation may indirectly push up demand for some adult social care services, as such; any local insight into how this could be reversed or slowed down is worth investigating.

All the same, the council should be open to the possibility of needing to put more investment, not less, into this area at the very time that there is so much pressure on resources.

### **How will the review contribute to corporate objectives and priorities?**

KCC's strategic outcome "older people and vulnerable residents are safe and supported with choices to live independently" has a number of supporting outcomes one of which states "older people and vulnerable residents feel socially included". This topic review therefore could add to the knowledge of effective actions that the Council, in partnership with other organisations, could take to address social isolation so that people do really feel socially included wherever they may live.

The Care Act 2014 has placed a number of general obligations on the Council as the authority with adult social care responsibilities which are closely associated with addressing social isolation, in particular the prevention duties as set out in section 2 of the Care Act 2014.

The County Council endorsed the Your life, your well-being a vision and strategy for adult social care 2016-2021, which frames the approach of adult social care in Kent. The promoting wellbeing priorities and the underpinning principles are key drivers for how services are being developed.

### **How will this review have an impact on KCC policy development and/or help to influence national policy?**

<p>Depending on when the review report would be published there is a potential that the insight could inform the Council's response to a national review. It is anticipated that a green paper on adult social care would be published by the government in due course. In line with the normal routine, Kent would respond to the green paper and thus the ability to shape national thinking may arise.</p> <p>The Council may also inform future development plans for the Kent and Medway STP.</p> <p>Additionally, the review may have regard to the development of towns and cities such as the Ebbsfleet development and test the extent to which such developments can address social isolation and not make the challenges associated with it worse.</p>	
<p><b>How will this review add value to the County Council and residents of Kent?</b></p> <p>As stated above the review may contribute to actions which would improve the health and wellbeing of local residents.</p> <p>Shape market and community and voluntary sector response and encourage more joined up approaches by relevant divisions across the Council.</p>	
<p><b>Does the review need to be completed within a specific timeframe? If yes, please give details:</b></p> <p>The directorate is not aware of the necessity for the review to be completed by a certain date.</p>	
<p><b>Any additional comments from the Portfolio Holder/Corporate Director:-</b></p> <p><b>Portfolio Holder's Signature:-</b></p> <p><b>Corporate Director's Signature:-</b></p>	
<p><b>Contact Officers:-</b> Michael Thomas-Sam or Lesley Standing</p>	<p><b>Date:-</b> 25 August 2017</p>

## Notes

### Note 1 - Possible reasons for the review

1. Key public issue, identified by

- Member contact with constituents/member surgeries
  - Contact with key representative bodies/forums
  - Media coverage – Public interest issue covered in local media
  - Focus groups/citizens panels
2. Issue highlighted via previous reviews
  3. Issue recommended to another body e.g. Cabinet, Scrutiny Committee, a Cabinet Committee, Directorate or an external body.
  4. Poor performing service i.e.:-
    - High level of complaints/dissatisfaction with service
    - Performance standards poor/below target – (evidence from PI's or benchmarking)
    - Identified through external review/inspection (OFSTED/Audit etc)
    - Budgetary overspends
  5. Key reports or new evidence published
  6. County Council priority
  7. Central Government priority/New Government guidance or legislation published

**Note 2 - Possible reasons why a review should not be added to the work programme.**

1. Issue being examined by
  - Cabinet
  - Scrutiny
  - Officer Group
  - another internal body
  - an external body
2. It has been the subject of a topic review by other Councils from which details of best practice can be obtained.
3. New legislation or guidance expected.
4. **NB:** Before suggesting that a review should not be included in the work programme the following should be considered:-

Could consideration of this issue 'add value' without causing unnecessary duplication, for instance by:

- i) Looking at this issue in conjunction with another group,
- ii) Through appropriate timing of the topic review,
- iii) Through considering another group's findings rather than duplicating the same/or similar activity.

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