

Loneliness and Social Isolation Select Committee

Hearing 11

Monday 24th September 2018

Witness Guide for Members

Below are suggested themes and questions. They have been provided in advance to the witnesses to allow them to prepare for the types of issues that Members may be interested to explore. All Members are welcome to ask these questions or pose additional ones to the witnesses via the Committee Chairman.

Themes and Questions

Diane Aslett, Development Officer, Age UK and Age Concern in Kent Consortium

- Please introduce yourself and offer an outline of Age UK and its role in relation to loneliness and social isolation.
- In your experience, what is the extent of social isolation and loneliness in the UK and, more locally, Kent? What impact does this have on the population?
- Are there differences between rural and urban social isolation? In what ways can each lead to loneliness?
- What strategies and interventions has Age UK put in place to help prevent or reduce the impact of social isolation and loneliness in Kent?
- A report produced by Age UK - Promising Approaches - discusses a number of case studies aimed at tackling loneliness and social isolation. In your view, what have the most effective strategies been, both financially and non-financially?
- What is the *Loneliness Watch* initiative? What are its objectives?
- What more could KCC do to help reduce the effects of social isolation and loneliness on Kent's older residents?
- Are there any other issues, in relation to the review, that you wish to raise with the Committee?