

Rotherham Loneliness Action Plan 2023-2025

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What's working well

- Making Every Contact Count- 119 staff trained since January 2024
- Focus group discussions with some inclusion groups
- Early Intervention and Prevention Fund- 13 grants allocated to VCS
- Refreshed JSNA Loneliness Chapter including focus group feedback
- Rotherham Adult Neurodiversity Support Service (RANSS) supporting clients
- 16 out of 45 Neighbourhood Centres with WIFI, RotherFed working with tenants
- VCS Befriending Providers Forum
- Comms messaging during Christmas/New Year and during Campaign to end Loneliness, June 2024
- Strengths-based approaches – e-learning for council staff
- Humanitarian & Communities Group – has developed an action plan to help tackle cost-of-living related issues. It includes actions to tackle Loneliness & Isolation Establishment of a new Rotherham Creative Health Board.
- Shared research in mental health impacts in children and young people
- Forming partnerships with Public Health to support impact research

What's Working Well

- Stroke Link Worker who sees people referred by Rotherham Hospital Stroke Team and helps to people transition back into independence, also with a focus on tackling loneliness
- Childrens Link worker – This role is early intervention, looking at making sure a child has any help with family issues, mental health and socialisation through groups, interests and hobbies. The focus is purely on the child.
- SYP Hate Crime Coordinator working with partners and organisations across Rotherham to raise awareness of hate crime and how to report it.
- SYP Community Engagement Officer working closely with individuals and communities.
- Open Arms drop-in sessions- VCS delivering a coordinated response to support communities most affected by the cost of living crisis.
- Loneliness is included in the Be Well @ Work standards
- Digital Inclusion support for community groups.

What are we worried about?

- Loneliness remains an issue, with people presenting at services
- Community cohesion- some groups may be feeling more vulnerable and isolated
- The risk of lonely, vulnerable people being exploited for example; online contacts and loan sharks
- Helping clinicians and commissioners to understand the value of creative health and support it through social prescribing
- Funding for the VCS- funding was invested nationally during the pandemic
- Tackling loneliness is a collective responsibility involving all sectors and the public.

What needs to happen next and when?

- Full comms and engagement plan end of September- this will use the findings from the focus groups
- Two further focus groups- September 2024
- Training on use and interpretation of the JSNA- started internally, Partner sessions will take place in the Autumn
- Early Intervention and Prevention Grant- groups delivery from July 2024 to July 2025 with final report due in the Autumn 2025
- Ward priorities- these will be completed by 31st October 2024, then work will progress on implementing these
- Creative health- Clarity on priorities. Not possible to do everything, suggest focus in on mental health in young people as this is where biggest pressure is and evidence base from young people would suggest this is a priority
- Further MECC training sessions will be available in the Autumn
- Opportunity to tackle loneliness through Arts and Health work.