

Maidstone Borough Council

**Community, Environment and Housing
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Tuesday 10 February 2015

**Update Report on Tackling Social Isolation and Loneliness Faced by
Older People**

Report of: Sarah Robson, Sarah Shearsmith, Housing and Community Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Follow up to Community, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CEH OSC) held on 13 January 2015.

2. AGREED NEXT STEPS

- 2.1 Outlined in SCRAIP (reference CEH.141111.46.4). Sarah Shearsmith to provide an update at the proposed CEH OSC meeting being held on 10 February 2014. However, key areas of focus will be;
- Understand older people's needs around social isolation and loneliness
Action: Undertake a Borough-wide survey of older people's needs in partnership with Kent Public Health, making use of local links e.g. KALC, KFRS, GPs, local services e.g. Hairdressers, Libraries, Pharmacies/Healthy Living Pharmacies with a focus on (with a focus on engaging those with a Long Term Condition or on a repeat prescription).
 - Explore a range of services and models to tackle social isolation, understanding the services and strengths already in place and gaps that should be addressed;
Action: Map and promote existing local support services.
Action: Promotion of the Silverline helpline, Age Action Alliance and Depression Alliance.

Action: Develop a bereavement pack for the Maidstone Crematorium and Private Funeral Directors to provide guidance and signpost to local services and activities.
 - Consider the role of council services in alleviating loneliness and isolation by making best use of resources available.
Action: Nominate a Maidstone Older People's Champion (with links to Older Person's Forum).