

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Information Briefing**

Committee/Panel:	Health and Wellbeing Board
Date:	25 June 2015
Title:	Social Isolation Pilot Scheme
Reference:	6753
Report From:	Director of Adult Services

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1. Introduction and context

- 1.1 Hampshire's over 75s population is growing by 1,000 people each year, and while this increased longer life is welcome, many are living in poor health, with growing numbers feeling isolated in their communities.
- 1.2 The impact of social isolation on an individual's health and wellbeing has been shown to be significant, with a demonstrable effect on mortality. In Hampshire, 20 per cent of the over 65 population are estimated to be 'mildly lonely' (48,674 people), with 8-10 per cent estimated to be 'intensely lonely' (19,470-24,337 people). While there are a number of population groups that are vulnerable to social isolation and loneliness, (e.g. young care-leavers, refugees and those with mental health problems), it is widely-recognised that older people (as individuals, as well as carers) often living in rural areas, have specific vulnerabilities owing to loss of friends and family, loss of mobility or loss of income.
- 1.3 The £100k of funding for this pilot was provided from the Hampshire County Council Rural Development Fund and covers the design, roll out and evaluation of the pilot over a 12-month period, including the supply and maintenance of all of the technology that will be provided to participants.

2. Update on progress

- 2.1 The County Council and its [telecare](#) partner, Argenti are launching three trial schemes this summer using the latest technology to help tackle this growing issue and help improve engagement with the local community.
- 2.2 **Stockbridge, Hayling Island and Netley Abbey** will be the testing ground for a new approach working with people who are currently most at risk from the impact of social isolation. The three areas have been identified based on population age profile, numbers living alone, and vehicle ownership. Each pilot will trial a different technology and/or service approach:

- **Stockbridge** – providing a tablet computer with a simple user interface designed for seniors and those less familiar with technology. Residents will each receive a tablet for use in their own home and in the community where WiFi is available. Working in conjunction with a local Village Agent and Stockbridge Market IT Help Desk, also looking for additional digital volunteers.
- **Hayling Island** - working with the Hayling Island library and home library volunteers, as well as the Village Agents, to provide a tablet computer on a loaned basis to residents. Support to build digital confidence will be provided by either existing Library volunteers and/or additional digital volunteers.
- **Netley Abbey** – seeking to use technology that uses televisions to allow videoconferencing between health and/or social care professionals and the resident, also between a resident and their friends and family. Technology designed specifically for older people with simple remote control and interface, but also built to work within the NHS N3 network to ensure secure communications.

2.3 Those taking part in the pilot will be identified through working with the local health and social care system. The pilot will be evaluated over a year and is expected to involve around 30 residents in each trial. Health and social care professionals will be involved as well as volunteers such as the County Council supported Villages Agents www.ageconcernhampshire.org.uk/our-services/village-agent.html

3. Recommendation

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- Note the progress being made towards the launch of this pilot project.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None