Loneliness in older people

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Current Reality (strength/weaknesses)

- Third Sector working with older people in communities
- Different befriending models
- Local community groups supporting older people
- Help Direct – statutory organisations funding older people services
- Varied choice and provision
- Lots of good practice and innovation across the county

- Sharing information between agencies - referral
- Sharing information between intervention service providers
- Duplication and gaps of services
- Not enough good practice sharing across the county
- Not being able to find small amount of resources to get on with projects (sustainability)
- Being clear about what is happening in local areas for lonely older people - for frontline staff to refer
- Lack of holistic approach to health & wellbeing (including loneliness)
- Inconsistent approach to integrating interventions to address loneliness into care pathways

Desired Outcomes

- Identifying lonely older people by raising awareness amongst all agencies and communities who touch older people, identify those who may be vulnerable to loneliness.

- A simple but effective referral process that has capacity and can be monitored and measured for success.

- Local services which meet the need of older people, without them needing to travel far and therefore accessible on the door step or in the home.

Suggested Workstreams

- Awareness plan for those at risk and for those who know others are at risk

- Consider Help Direct as first point of call, identify the grit in referral process

- Bring together a range of evidence (JSNA) to support us in identifying who/where

- Effective local directory

- Need to link referral with outcome