

<b>PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IN-DEPTH STUDY 2017/18</b>	
<b>TOPIC: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO AVOID ISOLATION</b>	
<b>FRAMEWORK FOR SCRUTINY / SCOPE OF PROJECT:</b>	
<p>The innovative project will focus upon the enabling role of the Council and elected members, working in partnership with the voluntary sector, local volunteers, practitioners and local communities. The central aim is to reduce social exclusion and avoid isolation to increase individuals, families and carer's wellbeing promoting physical and mental health. This will promote opportunities to connect and mobilise both individuals and communities, encouraging positive relationships with a range of diverse organisations to encourage integrated working.</p> <p>The project will be instrumental in building a strong and connected community developing assets within a strengths based approach and learning from communities lived experience. Effective partnerships will be supported by appropriate signposting, professional transparency embracing person centred values to enhance co production and empower people to be actively engaged in 'the life of the town'. Through creating innovative opportunities individuals can take control of their own lives within a safe creative and unique community</p>	
<b>Method:</b> Through project team meetings, witness sessions and possible visits and/or workshops.	<b>Target date:</b> April 2018
<b>MEMBERSHIP:</b>	
<p>Councillor Cheryl Nevin (Chairman), Councillors Margaret Borton, Helen Boyd, Steve Buckley, Mo Butler, Lawrence Davies, Caroline Endersby, David Garston and Chris Walker.</p> <p><b>Officer / partner support</b> – Sharon Houlden, Rob Walters and Fiona Abbott, project coordinator</p>	
<b>SOURCES OF EVIDENCE</b>	
<p>The evidence base will be:</p> <p>Research &amp; evaluation  Community consultation and understanding lived experiences  Case studies, personal narratives  Practitioner experience and judgements  Context &amp; examples (including from other areas)  Information on rally Round, Active Citizens, Inspiring the Future programmes  Stakeholders</p> <p><i>some useful websites –</i>  <a href="http://unitedforallages.com/">http://unitedforallages.com/</a>  <a href="http://www.inspiringthefuture.org/about/">http://www.inspiringthefuture.org/about/</a>  <a href="https://www.skillsforlifefnetwork.com/">https://www.skillsforlifefnetwork.com/</a></p>	

### POTENTIAL FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITIES

It is proposed that we hold 1 witness session for demonstration of interactive map, show casing real life work / case studies then the project team will choose focus of investigations and meet with following:-

- (a) Relevant officers – adult services, public health, community engagement manager
- (b) South Essex Homes
- (c) Voluntary sector – Age Concern, Havens
- (d) Project 49
- (e) Focus group(s) feedback
- (f) Resident’s association meetings.
- (g) Community group consultation
- (h) Service integration (voluntary and statutory)
- (i) Care home sector (provisional)
- (j) Health - District nursing service / health visiting service
- (k) Executive Councillor(s)
- (l) University

*Scrutiny process is structured to add value and is supportive of the challenges already set to be delivered, but has limited resources, which need to be focused on providing the front line service and the priority outcomes for the Council.*

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

To make appropriate recommendations to the Council, which cover the following expected outcomes:

- VFM as Council
- Making a difference in tackling inequalities
- What is the community ‘added value’

Link to Corporate Priorities – to improve quality of life, prosperity and the life chances of people living in Southend

Recommendations will be evidence-informed.