

Increasing social connections for the residents of Hackney

Hackney Health and Wellbeing Strategy

1. Increasing social connectedness was identified as a priority for inclusion in the Hackney Health and Wellbeing strategy via the Health and Wellbeing strategy peer research project (October 2021) and follow up workshops (early 2022).
2. Themes and target groups for this priority were drafted from Health and Wellbeing strategy peer research project (October 2021), as well as follow on stakeholder workshop with input from the Connect Hackney recommendations on reducing loneliness and ONS research on key at risk groups (July 2022).
3. How does this link with national work ([Emerging Together: the Tackling Loneliness Network Action Plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/107222/emerging-together-the-tackling-loneliness-network-action-plan.pdf)) and national objectives
 - Reduce stigma by building the local conversation on loneliness, so that people feel able to talk about loneliness/social isolation and reach out for help
 - Drive a lasting shift so that relationships and loneliness are considered in policy-making and delivery by organisations across society, supporting and amplifying the impact of organisations that are connecting people.
 - Play our part in improving the evidence base on loneliness, making a compelling case for action, and ensuring everyone has the information they need to make informed decisions through challenging times.

Target groups (initial broad list - to be refined)

- Elderly people (particularly widowed older homeowners living alone with long-term health conditions; ONS)
- Unmarried, middle-agers with long-term health conditions or physical disabilities
- Children and young people
- Younger renters with little trust and sense of belonging to their area.
- Recently bereaved people
- Residents who don't engage with health services
- Residents living in the private rental sector and in social housing
- Black and Global Majority residents,

- The traveller community
- Migrants & refugees, and non-English speakers
- LGBTQIA+community

Theme	Action	Outcomes (and for which target group)	Who might be SRO for this theme/outcome? Who involved in delivery	Related work	Would this need extra funding? How could existing funding be reworked to enable this?
Raising awareness in communities	Directory of relevant services to support better knowledge and join up of different services including vol sector services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faith institutions - Food banks - Housing residents associations - Community champions - Including specialised & work with specific communities e.g. LGBTQIA+, refugees & migrants, etc. - Support for those who speak English as a second language 	Engagement of different community and vol sector services Increased awareness in communities of need for social connectedness	Neighbourhood community navigator lead, in conjunction with working group (who would update?)		Yes
	Locate services & communications in everyday locations like supermarkets and local shops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which services? - Use of community halls? To host activities and to share information 		?		Yes?
	All relevant commissioned programmes (NHS, LBH, CoL and others), including community grants, should have increased social connections as an outcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider inclusion of e.g. home visits 		Homerton Primary Care ELFT Healthwatch		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for those who speak English as a second language 		LBH		
Raising awareness in professionals	<p>Training sessions: Connect Hackney (risk factors and protective factors, communities at risk, understanding how structural inequalities impact isolation & work to reduce these using systems change, how to have a conversation about loneliness, signposting to services)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who do we want to be trained? - How do we support organisations/services to identify changes they can make to improve social connectedness? - Use of directory of services above 	<p>Greater knowledge of risks of social isolation</p> <p>Greater use of community navigation</p> <p>More residents signposted to local services</p> <p>Staff feel confident and competent to have discussions about social connections</p>	<p>Connect Hackney and MECC team?</p>		Yes
	<p>Include loneliness and social isolation as elements of local Making Every Contact Count (MECC) programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who should be priority for next round of MECC training? For example, housing officers? 	<p>Less stigma</p>	<p>Public Health and MECC training provider</p>		
	<p>Develop and embed pathways from organisations to VCSE services and local groups for social isolation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - social care (adults and children) - mental health services - CYP and family services - LD services - Community navigation 				
Creating environments for connection	<p>Develop TFL's 'Healthy Streets' indicators https://content.tfl.gov.uk/guide-to-the-healthy-streets-indicators.pdf</p> <p>Check with LBH planning/regeneration team what in place already</p>	<p>Spaces designed to consider social connections</p>			
	<p>'Social connection' is considered as part of area development plans and the built environment</p>		<p>Hackney Council's area regeneration team</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Play streets? - How to design spaces to support social connections - Use of green spaces 				
	Develop set of principles for use of health spaces to maximise social connections and wellbeing e.g. waiting rooms		Public health and planning		
	Work with businesses to improve social interaction e.g. what can restaurant and cafe owners do to facilitate greater social interaction, also role of employers		Business network lead?		
Raising importance of social connectedness as an issue	Development of a tackling loneliness hub (to develop connections/foster relationships/consider funding opportunities etc)		HVCS or neighbourhoods		
Monitoring levels of social connection	Development of system and expectations for measurement of loneliness	Having baseline measures of social connectedness	Pop health hub		
	Screening tool for loneliness and training developed to use the tool Establish expectations for us of this across partners	social connection measured across system routinely Improvement in social connectedness Residents connected to services Staff feel confident and competent to have discussions with residents about loneliness/social connections	Pop health hub		

Increasing social connections for residents	Outreach to people who are not in contact with services to identify those who could benefit from increased social connectedness	Improvement in social connectedness			Yes
	Development of volunteering opportunities for residents to support residents to build social connections	Residents connected to services	LBH, Homerton, ELFT,		
	Consider how libraries, parks and green spaces can be used as venues to promote voluntary and community sector projects, or safe places to meet and connect with others.		LBH		
	Identify whether VCS organisations, community halls, TRAs etc could offer safe meeting spaces for residents in areas of identified need				
	Increasing social connection is embedded within relevant service delivery plans, policies and grant funding specifications.		LBH/NHS/HCVS		
	Offer additional time at the start and end of commissioned services such as physical activity programme for residents to build connections		LBH neighbourhood teams		

