

**TO: OLDER PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD
11 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**NEW EVIDENCE OF NEED RELATING TO OLDER PEOPLE
Chief Officer: Older People and Long-term Conditions**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To ensure an inclusive approach is maintained throughout the life of the Strategy, this report sets out new evidence relating to protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 which has emerged since the preparation of the original Equalities Screening in 2012.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Board:

- **Notes the evidence as incorporated into the revised Equality Screening Record (Appendix A)**
- **Considers actions in the Action plan that may be relevant to Equality Act 2010 ("the Act") protected characteristics and other communities**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 As a Partnership Board created by the Borough Council, the Public Sector Equality Duty 2011 applies.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not to consider impact on protected characteristic groups would be a breach of the Act.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Since the publication of Census 2011 data, a raft of data, information and evidence is beginning to emerge. Examples of new evidence were highlighted at the Board meeting in July and it was agreed that it be presented to the Board for consideration in September.
- 5.2 The Board is asked to note that it would not be feasible to research and analyse all evidence emerging all the time, however, as the action planning process begins, this is a pertinent time to assess new information in areas that were lacking evidence in the original equality screening record.
- 5.3 The evidence is documented in a revised Equality Screening Record set out in Appendix A. Track changes have been used to highlight where changes have been made.

Unrestricted

- 5.4 The source document outlines a You Gov survey of over 2,000 people aged over 55. Whilst commissioned by Stonewall, the report highlights useful information beyond sexual orientation alone, covering marriage and issues relating to carer status and income which has been extrapolated over Borough profile data. This can only give an indication of impact and not an exact assessment without further exploration. The information should therefore be viewed in this light.
- 5.5 The findings are also generally in line with the Relate report, "Who will love me, when I'm 64?" (Harris and Las Casas, June 2013). The report cites good couple, family and social relationships as integral to quality of life. Social and emotional isolation are significant issues for older people, particularly older carers, as relationships are more fluid with long-term cohabitation and less formal relationships which bring familial and financial security. Positive couple (regardless of sexuality), family and social relationships have been repeatedly shown to protect against illness, impact on the progression of illness and reduce the time of recovery from illness. They have a positive role to play in preventative life choices, such as taking more exercise, eating healthily, reducing smoking, drinking less, adhering to medical routines and coping with stress, anxiety and having better mental health. This research has been subsequently underlined by observations from the Retirement Fair 2013 when people aged 50+ were asked about coping with the life change brought about by retirement with large numbers indicating social networks in particular as important when families live away or partners have died. The relate report recommends the embedding of relationship support in local service landscape, and considering the strength of couple, family and social relationships at touch points with health and social services when determining care and support for older people.

Next Steps

- 5.6 The Board is asked to consider the evidence and whether the Strategy or the Action plan needs to address any issues arising from the evidence.

Background Papers

Appendix A – Revised Equality Screening Record

Contact for further information

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