

Social Connection Project Overview Notes

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NAPIER CONNECTS
TOOLKIT

The attached matrix is a culmination of the discussion at the first meeting about social isolation (initiated by Hon Jo Goodhew) and subsequent discussions with the Minister, Mayor Barbara Arnott and some attendees from the first meeting.

The matrix is intended as a discussion starter when thinking about project options taking the current landscape into consideration at the meeting on 1 August.

The matrix is split into two stages:

- Engaging- individuals at various stages of engagement with services and the community
- Volunteering- individuals contributing through volunteering

Individuals may not be able to be placed in a 'box', the boxes are indications only.

Assumptions:

- A focus on utilising existing services and resources first
- Low engagement is not a negative for all older people
- Success is providing the opportunity and support for people to engage to the level that is appropriate for them
- Our community is willing to support this concept

Connection and Wellness

Rather than focussing on age per se, levels of connection to the community and wellness of the individual are used as a better reflection of indicators of engagement and support

requirements. At one end of the connection scale, an individual may not engage with the wider community and may or may not receive services in their home (such as home help, Meals on Wheels etc). At the other end of the scale, an individual may be a high functioning (busy) volunteer with strong interconnecting networks. This 'community connector' or the community contributors could be utilised to move individuals along the scale from the low engagement end.

Possible Solutions

Some specific ideas to support people at each stage to participate, contribute or access the community have been suggested. For example, in order to support people at the lower end of the scale, we could provide a resource to people who already engage with them (e.g. Meals on Wheels, accredited visitor, Neighbourhood Support Group Coordinator) that could begin a conversation about accessing already available services.

Proposed Actions

Suggested ways to resource the different aspects identified have been made. Again it is intended that we utilise existing support mechanisms and funding. Some of the ideas will require additional resourcing.

Next Steps

1. Develop and confirm the matrix
2. Gain feedback from target groups
3. Develop 'project' ideas, including gaining agreement from contributing groups and agencies and seeking resources
4. Propose concept to Hon Jo Goodhew