



Buckingham & Villages Community Board agenda

Date: Thursday 8 February 2024

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: via MS Teams

BC Councillors:

H Mordue (Chairman), P Fealey (Vice-Chairman), J Chilver, C Cornell, J Jordan, A Macpherson, F Mahon, A Osibogun, M Rand, R Stuchbury and A Schaefer

Town/Parish Councils and other organisations:

J Harvey (Buckingham Town Council), M Taylor (Thornborough Parish Council), Gittens (Calvert Green Parish Council), P Wright (East Claydon Parish Council), J Riches (Middle Claydon Parish Council), T Lightfoot (Tingewick Parish Council), R Scott (Foscote Parish Meeting), P Hardcastle (Maids Moreton Parish Council), R Marshall (Water Stratford Parish Meeting), M White (Radclive-Cum-Chackmore Parish Council), S Holland (Akeley Parish Council), S Boulet (Stowe Parish Council) and T Cavendar (Buckingham Canal Society)

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Alice Willams (Community Board Manager) on , email bvcb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

Item No	Item	Time	Page No
1	Chairman's Welcome To be presented by Howard Mordue, Buckingham & Villages Community Board Chairman		
2	Apologies for Absence To be noted by Alice Williams, Buckingham & Villages Community Board Manager		

3	Declarations of Interest Declarations of interest related to items on the agenda to be noted by Alice Williams, Buckingham & Villages Community Board Manager.		
4	Notes/Actions from Previous Meeting Updates on actions to be noted by Alice Williams, Buckingham & Villages Community Board Manager Notes of the previous meeting to be AGREED by the board		5 - 10
5	Buckinghamshire Council Update To be presented by Sara Turnbull, Service Director for Strategy, Improvement and Governance		11 - 14
6	Buckingham Banking Hub Question and answer session with Melissa Whittaker, Community Engagement Manager, Cash Access UK		15 - 20
7	Healthy Ageing Presentation from Lucie Smith, Public Health Principal on Healthy Ageing and how the Community Board can support this on a community level.		21 - 30
8	Community Board Project Update – Buckingham Primary School Playground Project presentation from Sue Fish, Buckingham Primary School PTA		31 - 42
9	Flooding Discussion around support for households and communities affected by flooding		
10	Community Board Updates To be presented by Alice Williams, Buckingham & Villages Community Board Manager · Funding report for 2023/24 · Summary of Community Board Activity and projects 2023/24 · Priority setting for 2024/25		43 - 54
11	Community Matters Opportunity for members of the public and the board to raise questions and matters of interest to the local community.		

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Date of Next Meeting

Dates for meetings in 2024-25 to be finalised in due course.

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Buckingham & Villages Community Board minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Buckingham & Villages Community Board held on Thursday 12 October 2023 in MS Teams, commencing at 7pm and concluding at 8:06pm.

BC Councillors present

H Mordue (Chairman), C Cornell, J Jordan, A Macpherson, F Mahon, A Osibogun and R Stuchbury

Town/Parish Councils and other organisations present

T Cavender, C Drake, I Haest (Steeple Claydon), P Hardcastle (Maids Moreton), J Harvey (Buckingham Town Council), C Knott (Westbury), J Riches (Middle Claydon), N Surman, J Taylor (Leckhampstead), M Taylor, S Turnbull

Others in attendance

C Martin, A Williams

Agenda Item

1 Chairman's Welcome

The Buckingham & Villages Community Board Chairman, Howard Mordue, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received by Gawcott Parish Council, Michael Rand and Patrick Fealey.

3 Declarations of Interest

None.

4 Minutes/Actions from Previous Meeting

Alice Williams, Community Board Manager highlighted the actions of the previous meeting on 6 July 2023, each had been completed.

RESOLVED: The notes of the previous meeting were AGREED as an accurate record.

5 Corporate Update

Sara Turnbull, Service Director for Adult Social Care Operations noted the corporate update circulated with the agenda and highlighted the following key points:

- Community Safety Survey – asking for residents views on crime and anti social behaviour in the local community.
- Cost of Living – A lot of work happening about Community Food Chain Campaign and lots of info about how people can get involved in their community such as Community Fridges. Welcoming Spaces – continuing this year, further information available in the update.
- Better Points Buckinghamshire – an app with the aim to get people more active in return for points that can spent or donated.

ACTION: Alice Williams to circulate link to the Better Points Bucks website in action notes.

[BetterPoints Bucks](#)

Proposal to move Furzedown School Sixth Form to the Buckingham Opportunity Centre:

The next step is a formal consultation and a public notice has been published in the local newspaper with a four week period. Before the end of the year there will be a formal decision taken by Buckinghamshire Council on the approach, with the aim of changes implemented by September 2024.

[Statutory notice for the proposal to move Furze Down School sixth form - Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space](#)

ACTION: Alice Williams to liaise with Buckinghamshire Council's Communications Team regarding the.

Jon Harvey, Buckingham Town Council highlighted the planning proposal for a solar farm to be installed on the Claydons Estate. It was confirmed by the Chairman that this was a planning application and therefore was outside the remit of the community board, however the community board manager can ensure that any public consultations or information is shared with the wider board.

6 Update from the National Trust

Christopher Drake, Senior Volunteering and Community Officer, National Trust, delivered an update for the community board and highlighted the following key points:

- The National Trust had agreed to partner with the community board on the Buckingham Youth Café project and offer Chantry Chapel as a venue free of charge. It is currently being used as a book shop and they have plans to implement café facilities in the next few months. It was also emphasised that this venue is available for use from community groups and they would like Chantry Chapel to be utilised as a community space.

- The National Trust are wanting to provide further opportunities for young people specifically to develop their skills through a range of volunteering positions. The most suitable for young people would be gardening. It was confirmed that they would be interested in working with young people with additional needs.
- Stowe House were opening a themed art exhibition in the gardens for Remembrance Day, to commemorate those who were lost in the Normandy Landings. Christopher invited members of the community board to attend the installation and encouraged veterans or serving military who would like to attend for a private visit. Christopher had already been in touch with the Royal British Legion to promote the exhibition.

ACTION: Alice Williams to provide contact details for Jack Pearce, Senior External Affairs Officer to make connections with the Buckinghamshire Civilian Military Partnership Board members.

7 Silver Sunday

Cathy Knott, Clerk, Westbury Parish Council gave the community board an overview of the event that they held in Westbury Village Hall on Sunday 1st October as part of “Silver Sunday.” [Silver Sunday | The National Day for Older People, 1st October 2023](#)

- Westbury Parish Council had been made aware of the national initiative by the community board manager, who advised that local groups and organisations could organise their own events supported by the community board under the “Health & Wellbeing” priority.
- The event was held in Westbury Village Hall, who provided the space for the event for free.
- Refreshments were supplied by the village coffee shop and local primary school.
- Entertainment was provided by a local Tai-Chi group who held a 20 minute demonstration / workshop and the local primary school choir who held a 45 minute singing class / performance.
- The only costs incurred for the event were the raffle prizes which came to £11.50.
- Local residents provided transport to their neighbours who couldn’t travel and helped the event team with the set up and clean up for the event.

The Chairman and Community Board Manager had attended the event and gave testimony to the fact that it was a very well done event and had been enjoyed thoroughly by all who attended. It was highlighted that events such as Silver Sunday could act as a catalyst for regular intergenerational interaction and activities based on social isolation prevention.

The Community Board Manager encouraged more organisations to come forwards to host an event in 2024. The community board could provide support in the form of promotion and financial support through a small grant. This would be picked up

in the next financial year.

8 Community Board Updates

Alice Williams, Community Board Manager provided an update on the activity of the community board since the previous meeting.

Community Board Priorities

Youth

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Youth Café

Alice had been working along side the Buckinghamshire Council Youth team to progress the Youth Café Project. The National Trust had offered Chantry Chapel in Buckingham Town Centre free of charge. Buckinghamshire Council's Youth team were in the process of reaching out to youth organisations that would be willing to take the project on, including Buckingham Youth Centre and Project Street Life. A project group would be formed with pupils as the goal was for local young people to have a sense of ownership over the project.

Cookery Courses

The board was in the early planning stages of collaborating with Jedidiah to deliver some cookery courses to local young people.

Economic Regeneration

Town Centre Regeneration

Buckingham Town Council had been allocated funding to contract a consultant to carry out Last year allocated Buckingham TC some funding to complete a survey which went out to residents and local businesses, which has had a great response rate which will help the consultant to make a plan.

Repair Café

The board was in the early planning stages of supporting the set up of an ongoing monthly repair café. The aim of the repair café would be to provide social / volunteering opportunities, reduce waste and encourage local residents to repair their items instead of buying new. The Centre on Verney Close had agreed to act as a venue for the café and Alice was in the process of putting together a project group.

Road Safety

-

The Buckinghamshire Highways community toolkit was live. Members of the community board were encourage to read the toolkit to familiarise themselves with the new process and ways of working: [Buckinghamshire Highways' Community Board Guidance Document | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

Health & Wellbeing

Following the completion of Silver Sunday, members of the board were encouraged to put ideas forward around community projects themed around health and wellbeing. Alice would follow up with Christopher Drake around how the community board could support volunteering opportunities with the national trust.

General Community Board Activity

- Informal town and parish council drop ins had now been scheduled, with a view to making the community board more accessible/ inclusive and an opportunity for colleagues to share knowledge and best practise.
- Newsletter had been launched and this would be issued twice a year. Any feedback or suggestions for items for the next newsletter was welcome.
- Alice works “on the patch” where possible – Molly’s Community Café, Steeple Claydon on Wednesday mornings and Buckingham Library on Thursday mornings. Members of the board were encouraged to email / phone Alice if they wanted to drop in to ensure that she’s there and visit isn’t wasted.
- Members of the board were encouraged to reach out to Alice directly if they wanted to schedule a 1-1 visit.

ACTION: Following a request from the member of the board, it was AGREED that going forwards the slides containing community board updates would be shared with the board in advance of the meetings.

9 Community Matters

The Buckinghamshire Council Archives Team had offered to provide support to any local groups who wanted to deliver events as part of Heritage Month in November 2023. Any events or groups interested in holding events could contact archives directly: archives@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

It was raised that Buckingham Men in Sheds were experiencing difficulties in securing a new suitable venue. The Chairman and Community Board Manager were in conversation with Men In Sheds to see if there was any support that the board could provide.

Questions were raised around the recent funding application allocated funding from the community board, 7RoadLight Youth Development Workshops. Members of the board asked if due diligence had been done on the application / organisation and whether there was assurance that the work would be delivered locally. It was clarified that there is a set due diligence process for the community board funding and that checks are carried out on each funding application in line with the process. It was also clarified that the project had been developed in partnership with the Buckinghamshire Council Community Safety team and the Buckingham School, who had already identified the individuals who would receive the support.

It was commented by a member of the board that the time window for local

businesses to completed the town centre regeneration survey was short. This was acknowledged, however the response rate for the survey had been high.

The Buckingham Canal Society had opened 100 metres of canal. The organisation had been working with highways to make further developments, with a fully costed solution awaiting a decision at the end of November 2024.

The University of Buckingham offered a paid internship where students could work up to 40 hours a week for six weeks. This could be utilised by local businesses and organisations. The Buckingham Canal Society were using the scheme to recruit an intern to deliver a piece of work around engaging with people under the age of 50.

10 Date of Next Meeting

8th February 2024

Community Boards – Buckinghamshire Council Update – January 2024

Could you or someone you know foster?

With a national and local shortage of Foster Carers, coupled with an increase in demand, Buckinghamshire Council has set up a dedicated task force to look into how we can improve our support to Foster Carers as well as review our processes and procedures to increase the number of people applying, being approved and staying as a Buckinghamshire Council Foster Carer.

The task force are looking into all options and are working on a package of incentives which will make fostering for Buckinghamshire Council a unique and favourable option in a very competitive market. Following feedback from our current Foster Carers one quick win before Christmas was the issuing of larger size wheely bins to all current foster carers which was a welcomed support for fostering families.

We will also be reaching out to our local community partners and would welcome your insight and help too, to ensure we are reaching more of the right people who could care for our children.

With over 500 Buckinghamshire children needing; caring, supportive and loving homes on long and short term basis we're committed to building our fostering community and taking good care of our fostering families. As our unique offer is developed we will keep you updated and seek your support in reaching your local residents and communities.

If you, or someone you know would like to find out more about Fostering, please visit: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/foster

Regeneration framework – what it means for our towns

Our regeneration framework sets out an over-arching approach to deliver our vision to create places where people want to be, driving local revitalisation and creating vibrant, thriving spaces for people to live and work across the county. It sets out the opportunities to build on our strengths as well as the economic and social challenges we need to respond to.

As well as setting out our vision for three town centres – Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Chesham – the regeneration framework provides a toolkit to enable areas to develop and progress their own plans for renewal.

[Buckinghamshire Regeneration Framework guidance](#)

In addition to the Regeneration Framework we set out we have set out more detailed regeneration strategies for our three biggest towns:

View the [Aylesbury Regeneration Strategy](#) (PDF, 11.6 MB)

View the [Chesham Regeneration Strategy](#) (PDF, 8.41 MB)

View the [High Wycombe Regeneration Strategy](#) (PDF 7.87 MB)

Our Local Plan: what, why and how

Local plans are at the heart of the planning system and are the main consideration used in deciding planning applications. A local plan sets out the long-term vision and framework for future development of an area – the Local Plan for Buckinghamshire will go up to 2045.

It will look at future needs for housing and employment across the county, identifying where development should take place and protected places where it needs to be carefully controlled.

The Local Plan is our opportunity to set out how we intend to manage and accommodate future growth, meet our local social, economic and environmental needs and get the right infrastructure in place. We have already started preparatory work with two recent public consultations covering an [Attitudes Survey](#) and our [draft vision and objectives](#).

Our next consultation will invite people to have their say on a selection of different strategic growth scenarios for how we can accommodate new homes and jobs throughout Buckinghamshire. This will help establish the guiding principles which will help to shape where and how we will plan to deliver new housing in the next Local Plan.

This is likely to take place in spring this year.

[The Local Plan for Buckinghamshire | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

Housing Strategy – vision for future housing supply

We have recently completed a public consultation on our first Housing Strategy. The strategy sets out how all the partners involved in delivering housing in Buckinghamshire will work together to ensure that the housing offer delivers the housing our residents need. It focuses on three main priorities:

- Responding to the needs of our diverse population
- Better homes which are good quality, sustainable and matched to need
- New homes which are affordable, accessible and appropriate

It sets out the challenges we face, the opportunities we can use and how we are responding to these.

Buckinghamshire all-age autism strategy

Buckinghamshire Council is launching its first autism strategy, bringing together an all-age plan of lifelong support for autistic people in Buckinghamshire. The strategy has been co-produced with autistic people, their families and professionals in Health and Social Care.

Our vision is to help autistic people live as independently as possible and have the same life opportunities and experiences as everyone else. We want to ensure autistic people can access the right support whenever they need it and contribute to shaping how the council works.

The all-age autism strategy focuses on the following areas:

- Improving awareness and understanding of autism
- Tackling health and social care inequalities
- Developing a needs-based approach so that autistic children and young people get the best start in life
- Developing better support for employment and meaningful activities
- Ensuring more adults with autism maintain their independence

The strategy has been consulted on and is looking to be adopted in March – subject to Cabinet approval.

Consultations

Happening soon

Activity name	Start date	End date	Community Board
RAF Halton SPD	Monday 22 January	Monday 4 March	Wendover
Penn Neighbourhood Plan	Thursday 25 January	Thursday 7 March	Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye
All Age Carers Strategy engagement	End of Jan/ Early Feb	TBC	County-wide
High Wycombe Community Governance Review	Monday 12 February	Sunday 7 April	High Wycombe

Looking ahead

We have a number of county-wide activities currently scheduled for Spring/Summer 2024:

- Local Plan growth scenarios
- Local Transport Plan 5
- Buckinghamshire Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan
- Housing Allocations Policy
- Leisure Strategy
- Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy
- Street Trading Policy

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**Cash
Access
UK**

Welcome to Buckingham Banking Hub



About Cash Access UK



Cash is still important to millions of people in the UK. Between 5 and 6 million adults say they rely on cash in their day-to-day lives and digital or online solutions don't yet work for everyone all the time.

With these needs in mind, Cash Access UK was set up in early 2023 by Bank of Ireland UK, Barclays, Danske Bank, HSBC UK, Lloyds Banking Group, NatWest Group, Santander, TSB and Virgin Money.

Although we're owned and funded by these banks, we're a not-for-profit company here to bring shared cash and banking services to communities across the UK. The Banking Hubs we've opened so far are making a real difference to individuals, businesses and the wider community.

Find out more about our work at www.cashaccess.co.uk

Banking Hubs explained



Banking Hubs offer easy access to face-to-face cash and banking services. Each Hub has a counter service available to all customers, Monday to Friday, where they can:

- pay in cash and cheques
- withdraw cash
- check your balance
- pay utility bills
- top up your gas and electricity
- access change-giving services (for small businesses)



The counter service is operated by the Post Office and the Banking Hub Operator for Buckingham is Richard Fleetwood.

Banking Hubs are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Community Banker Schedule Buckingham



Customers can also talk face-to-face to their own bank about more complicated banking enquiries like payments and transfers, managing their account, and how to use online banking. Community Bankers take it in turns to visit the Hub so you will find a different bank available on each day of the week. Community Bankers are usually provided by the banks with the most customers in the community.

Buckingham Banking Hub- Community Banker Schedule -

Monday- Santander

Tuesday- NatWest

Wednesday- HSBC

Thursday- Lloyds

Friday- Barclays

Buckingham Banking Hub- officially opened 14th December 2023



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Social Isolation and Loneliness Guide



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Introduction

Social isolation has a significant impact on the health of the local population, and it is agreed that it needs to be a system-wide priority.

This guide aims to help you to understand social isolation and loneliness and how they can present. Wherever you work or volunteer, or if you want to support your friends, family or neighbours, this guide offers you support in identifying what social isolation and loneliness look like; ways to prevent it; how to have strength-based conversations; and guidance on where you can signpost people for further support.

We set out with the aim of writing guidance on social isolation. Following in-depth research and consultation with stakeholders, it has become clear that social isolation and loneliness are often interchangeable concepts. We have therefore expanded the scope of this guide to include both.

About Social Isolation and Loneliness

Social isolation and loneliness are different but related concepts. They are often referred to interchangeably.

Social isolation is an objective state of having inadequate social relationships, both in terms of the quality and quantity of these interactions.

Loneliness is a subjective experience from a sense of not having the desired level or the right quality of social contacts or relationships. Loneliness is never desired and lessening these feelings can take a long time.

Social isolation can lead to loneliness and loneliness can lead to social isolation. Both may also occur at the same time.

Risk Factors

Anyone, at any age, can experience social isolation and loneliness. Some individuals or groups are more vulnerable than others because of many influencing and often interrelating factors including physical and mental health, age or life-stage, migrant status, socio-economic status, ethnicity, and gender. These factors shape an individual's experience about the nature of their social networks and their ability to build and sustain adequate social networks.



Source : [A Connected Society: A strategy for Tackling Loneliness 2018](#)

The image above highlights a number of life events that can lead to loneliness, but they also reflect the risk factors for social isolation.¹

People can experience different levels of social isolation and loneliness over their lifetime moving in and out of these states at different life stages, life events, and as their personal circumstances change.

One of the highest risk factors for experiencing social isolation and loneliness is age. Age UK has published data on the Risk of Loneliness. This information shows potential loneliness hot spots and is available in the [Buckinghamshire Community Board Profiles](#).

In terms of social isolation and loneliness, the pandemic has had a direct impact on all groups. It is also likely to have exacerbated the problems faced by those who were previously most at risk and amongst groups facing exclusion, including because of ethnicity, sexuality, disability, or other factors.

It is vital that we remain alert to the risk factors and that we support people who may be living with social isolation and loneliness.

Further information about risk factors can be found in the following publications:



[“Loneliness – Is your council actively tackling loneliness?”](#)



INSTITUTE of HEALTH EQUITY



[“Reducing social isolation across the life course”loneliness?”](#)

Impact of Social Isolation and Loneliness

There is a growing body of research showing that social isolation and loneliness are serious conditions that can have a harmful effect on physical and mental health, as well as bringing costs to public finance, particularly health and social care, and to the economy.

Social isolation and loneliness can affect all members of society but may not be obvious, particularly when people first present to services.

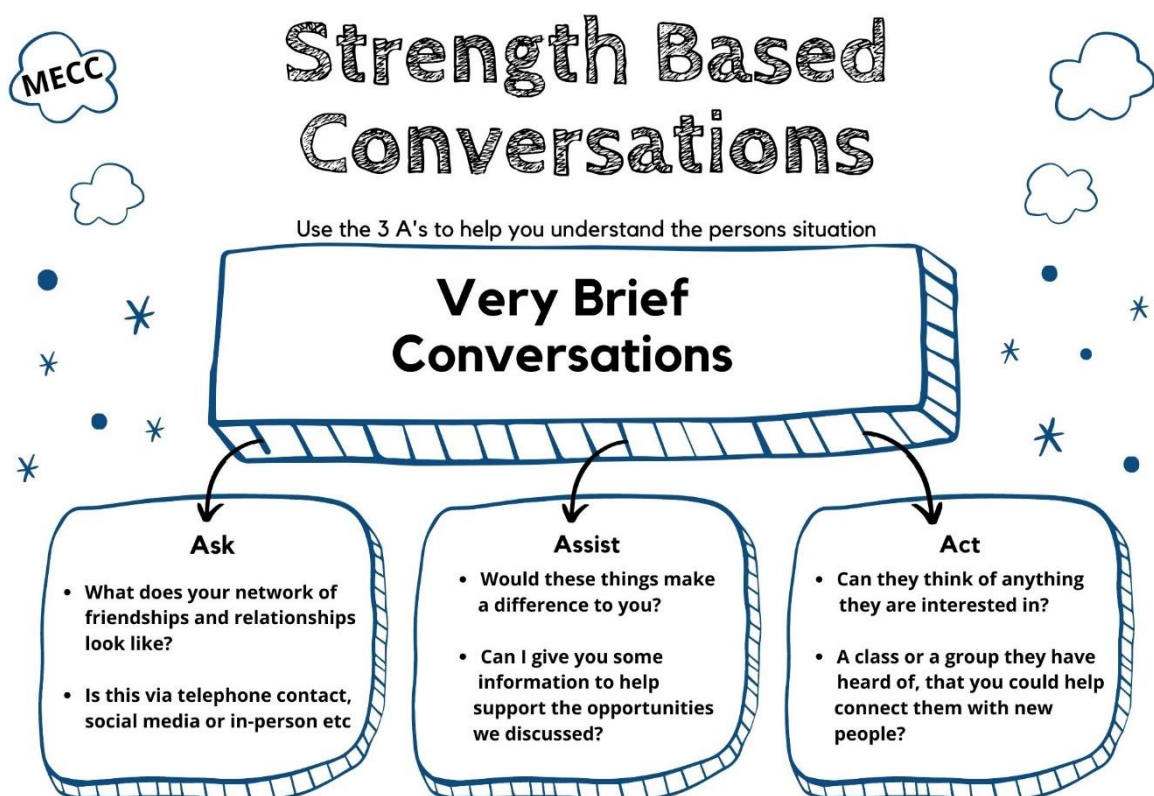
People who experience social isolation and loneliness are more likely to experience depression and anxiety, be physically inactive, smoke and drink alcohol, have an increased risk of heart disease and dementia, and die prematurely.

Lonely and/or socially isolated individuals are more likely to visit their GP and hospital emergency departments. Three-quarters of GPs say that up to five of their patients each day attend mainly because they are lonely. People who are lonely also have a higher incidence of falls and are at increased risk of needing long-term care, including residential and nursing home care. This results in significant and potentially avoidable costs to public services.

How Can We Support Someone Experiencing Social Isolation or Loneliness?

We can support someone at risk of or experiencing social isolation or loneliness by asking the right questions to understand the person's needs and their individual situation. Once we understand this the appropriate support can be identified. For example, a befriending service may not be suitable for someone who has withdrawn from their social contacts due to financial difficulties. In this situation support to review the person's finances may be more impactful. It's important to match the approach to the personal situation and preferences of the individual

Strength-based conversations can help to empower people to take control of their needs and make informed decisions about their own health and wellbeing.



Making Every Contact Count (MECC) is a strength-based approach to behaviour change that uses the millions of day-to-day interactions that organisations and people have with other people to support them in making positive changes to their physical and mental health and wellbeing. MECC focuses on the strengths and abilities of the person.

MECC training provides the tools, skills, and confidence to have a strength-based conversation. It's not about telling people what they should do or about being an expert.

A MECC interaction takes a matter of minutes and is not intended to add to busy workloads, rather it is structured to fit into and complement existing conversations and contacts.

MECC training is available online from Buckinghamshire Council and is open to anyone working or volunteering in the voluntary and community sector, council, and health care partners in Buckinghamshire.

You can book on to the training here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-mecc-course-tickets-190219791517>

We also offer bespoke MECC training to suit your services or client base on request, please forward all queries to MECC@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk

By having a strength-based conversation you should have a better understanding of the person's needs and be able to:

Help them to identify their own solutions and develop a plan for themselves.

Give the person space to think about and voice out loud their situation and consider their options.

Watch this short video about [Making Every Contact Count in Buckinghamshire](#)



Signposting to Further Information and Support

The following list provides some useful resources for you, or for people you may be supporting.

Bucks Online Directory (BOD) Link: https://directory.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/	Find activities, groups, and services near you
Bucks Family Information Service (BFIS) Link: https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/	Information, support, childcare, and things to do for families, children and young people aged from birth to 19 years (up to 25 years with a disability/additional need)
Prevention Matters Bucks Link: https://www.connectionsupport.org.uk/services/prevention-matters/	Prevention Matters supports people over the age of 18 to maintain their independence and confidence
Befriending Services Age UK Buckinghamshire - Link: https://www.ageuk.org.uk/buckinghamshire/our-services/befriending-plus/ Bucks Mind - Link: https://www.bucksmind.org.uk/services/befriending/	Short term support for adults who are lonely or isolated
Citizens Advice Bucks (CAB) Link: https://citizensadvicebucks.org.uk/	Free independent, confidential, impartial advice: Financial, debt, housing, employment, consumer, and immigration
Social Prescribing Contact GP for details	Social prescribing is a way of linking patients with sources of support within the community. It provides a non-medical option to help improve health and wellbeing
Live Well Stay Well Bucks Link: https://www.livewellstaywellbucks.co.uk/	Live Well Stay Well can offer support and motivation to find the best service to help people improve their feelings of wellbeing.
Community Transport Hub Link: https://communityimpactbucks.org.uk/projects/community-transport/#community-transport-hub	The community transport hub provides information on community transport across the county, which is vital to connect people to services and social opportunities

A range of services provided by the public, private, community and voluntary sectors may have the potential to impact social isolation, even if this is not their primary aim.

Projects that are focussed on activities that can be shared, bringing people together naturally in a way that's appropriate to their needs, can help to prevent or reduce social isolation and loneliness.

Is your organisation providing services that are helping to reduce social isolation and loneliness? Take a look at the 'Case Studies' section [page 10] below for more information on a range of interventions you may want to consider, and how to provide information on your existing projects and activities.

Measuring Loneliness and Social Isolation

As mentioned elsewhere in this document it is important to note that social isolation and loneliness are different concepts and require different approaches to measurement.

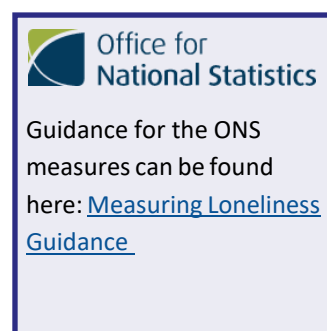
Nationally, social isolation is reported through the [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#) where the measures draw on self-reported levels of social isolation for users of social care and carers (using social contact as a proxy). Local statistics for Buckinghamshire can be found at the above link.

As a result of the National Loneliness Strategy, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has developed recommended measures of loneliness for adults and children. The measures use four questions and these have been included in national surveys, including the Active Lives Survey 2021.

Recommended Measures of Loneliness for Adults		
Question		Response Categories
1	How often do you feel that you lack companionship?	Hardly ever or never Some of the time Often
2	How often do you feel left out?	Hardly ever or never Some of the time Often
3	How often do you feel isolated from others?	Hardly ever or never Some of the time Often
4	How often do you feel lonely?	Never Hardly ever Occasionally Some of the time Often/always

Source: Office for National Statistics

The questions shown above are often also used as an indicator for social isolation as they include a question about how isolated people feel. Use them (and the ones developed for children and young people) as part of local surveys, or to evaluate the impact of local projects. For example, by including the questions in registration forms at the start of a 12-week project/intervention, and again as part of the evaluation at the end of the project it is possible to see if the project has had an impact on loneliness. Social isolation and loneliness can often be reduced as a 'by product' from a range of activities, including physical activity – for example, a [Walking Netball project \(2018-2020\)](#) recorded a 2% reduction in loneliness.



NB: The questions were designed for use on surveys and are not intended to be used as a tool for diagnosing loneliness in individuals.

Professionals may wish to use the questions as part of an individual assessment and to measure progress by repeating them after an agreed period of time.

It is important to remember that although the person may recognise that they feel isolated or lonely they may not be ready to address this. This is where strength-based conversations can give the person the opportunity to consider their options.

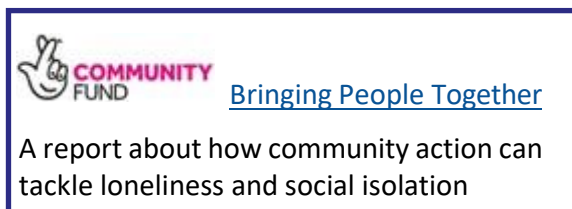
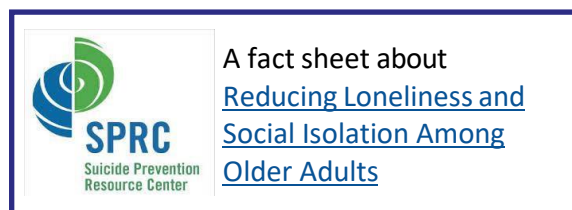
Next Steps

We would like to keep this guide useful and current and ask that you:

- Share the guide with your colleagues and talk about how you recognise and support your clients/patients/service users who may be at risk of or experiencing social isolation or loneliness
- Use the guide to start conversations about social isolation and loneliness with other organisations you work with
- Consider what interventions/projects you could set up or fund to address social isolation
- Consider how your services could start to monitor their impact on social isolation and loneliness by using the ONS loneliness measures as part of your project evaluation
- Consider Making Every Contact Count (MECC) training for you and your colleagues
- Give us feedback about this Guide and share any new information or useful links that we could add to it.

Links to Further Information

Additional reading



[Reducing social isolation across the life course](#)

A resource to inform effective strategies to prevent and reduce social isolation – including information on the risk factors for social isolation

Case Studies and Learning


- ◆ [Reducing social isolation across the life course](#) provides information about a range of interventions that reduce social isolation at different stages of the life course.
- ◆ Article on physical activity and addressing social isolation - [WI England Netball - Walking Netball & Tackling Social Isolation](#)
- ◆ Learning Snapshot: Age-Friendly Communities - The Ageing Better Project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund uses a useful 'learning snapshot' tool. An example can be found here: [Learning Snapshot: Age-Friendly Communities](#)

A case study template to capture and share examples of projects and interventions which address loneliness and social isolation is available to download from the link below

<https://www.healthandwellbeingbucks.org/resources/Councils/bucks-public-health/downloads/community/CaseStudyTemplate.docx>

We are compiling a portfolio of case studies about projects which address social isolation so please complete this template and share it with phadmin@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Learning



Loneliness and Social Isolation


Tackling Loneliness webinar

<https://www.nhs.uk/health-education-england/tackling-loneliness-and-social-isolation/>

NHS
Health Education England

Health Education England

[Loneliness and Social Isolation Webinar](#)



Tackling Loneliness and Social Isolation

Health Education England

[Tackling Loneliness and Social Isolation programme](#)

Highlights how we can recognise the risk factors and apply simple interventions

Dates for Your Diary

- ◆ [Mental Health Awareness Week 9-15 May](#)
- ◆ [Loneliness Awareness Week 13-17 June](#)
- ◆ [Samaritans Awareness Day 24 July](#)
- ◆ [World Mental Health Day 10 October](#)

This guidance was produced by the Public Health team, for more information please contact: publichealth@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Published May 2022



BUCKINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Believe, Persevere, Succeed

Buckingham Primary School PTA Playground Equipment Project

2023

The project

- Outdoor play equipment for both KS1 and KS2 has been on the school wish list for many years, but the figures required were beyond anything either the school could fund, or the PTA had the confidence it could raise historically.
- BPS PTA in its current guise was formed in 2018, after a period with no PTA. It gained charity and Gift Aid status, and at the point it decided to consider this project, had delivered a number of successful, significant projects, although this was the next level.
- Total quote for the full project was £100k. However Creative Waste agreed to remove and dispose of all the old equipment and flooring FOC, saving us £22k in total, £11k in the KS1 Phase.
- We then decided to divide the project into Phases, focussing firstly on the KS1 equipment, as this now had areas that were cordoned off and was in a desperate state.

The project



PROPOSED PLAY AREA – KEY STAGE ONE – AREA TWO

@CreativePlayUK
 /CreativePlayUK



After obtaining 3 quotes, we selected Creative Play to undertake the work



PROPOSED PLAY AREA – KEY STAGE ONE – AREA ONE

@CreativePlayUK
 /CreativePlayUK
 /Creative-Play-UK

The Buckingham and Villages Community Board funded the main equipment in Area 2

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Where we started



In progress



Creative Waste in action. The old equipment was so rotten it fell over when they went to dismantle it. Paragon also leant their equipment FOC





The official opening, 4th May 2023!



Buckingham Primary School & Nursery

4 May 2023 · 🌐

The day has arrived...

The children and staff could not be more excited to use our amazing new playground equipment!

We want to say a huge thank you to Creative waste for helping to remove the old flooring and Creative Play for installing the wonderful equipment!

Finally we must say the biggest thank you to the PTA and all the parents for fundraising. We could not have done it without you!



👍❤️ 57

1 share

Page 37
What we achieved



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Who has benefited

- This project has benefited many children, and will continue to do so for many years to come.
- In the core school community, there are 450 children at the school, with the latest cohort of children in F2 (Reception) joining in September and benefiting from this equipment from the start of their school lives.
- It is also available to use by the external groups who use the school facilities, including the Rainbows, Brownies, and Sports4All who run holiday clubs and sports sessions at the school.



"We could not be more thankful for the grant that has helped us achieve our goal.

The children's excitement and joy over the last few months seeing their equipment being built has been wonderful. The anticipation has filled the playgrounds with smiles.

From the moment the equipment was opened, the children have been exploring every centimetre of the equipment.

It has been wonderful to see the beaming smiles and joyful sounds of the children playing."

Mrs Kelly Brookes, Assistant Headteacher, KS1



What went well

- We have now gone on to complete Phase 2 as well. Undertaking the work in two phases was definitely the right approach. Phase 1 inspired our community to continue supporting our fundraising over a long period, as we delivered something tangible, and very exciting.
- Creative Play were an excellent supplier. They were reliable, friendly and their work was to a high standard, so we were happy to award Phase 2 to them too.

What would we have done differently

- Bringing to life the scale of the fundraising project to our community, and the efforts that go on behind the scenes driven by volunteers is hard. Everyone loves the new equipment, but few probably appreciate how these things can't be covered by school budgets.

Thank you

A HUGE
thank you on behalf of
Buckingham Primary
School PTA

- Brief:
- what you wanted to achieve from the project,
- what the outcomes have been,
- who has benefited in the local community,
- what went well,
- what you might do differently
- what was covered by the community board funding



**Buckingham & Villages Community Board
Funding Report
08 February 2024**

Buckingham & Villages Community Board Budget 2023	Budget Allocated To Date – 08 February 2024
£111,175.00	£11,796.50

Projects Funded:

Ref Number	Project	Organisation	Total Project Cost	Match Funding	Community Board Funding
SGAF477875755	3 Bs Radio Advertising Material	3 Bs Radio CIC	£319.00	N/A	£319.00
SGAF480886102	General Cleaning Equipment and Security Box	The Film Place	£450.00	N/A	£450.00
SGAF478632845	University Student Wellbeing Programme	Friends of University of Buckingham	£868.00	N/A	£868.00



**Buckingham & Villages Community Board
Funding Report
08 February 2024**

SGAF527456412	Bucks FYFC Training Equipment	Bucks Federation of Young Farmers Clubs	£975.00	N/A	£975.00
CB509880943	Youth Development Project	7 Roadlight	£4,800.00	£2,400.00	£2,400.00
SGAF543141583	Pond Ecology Appraisal	Thornborough Parish Council	£946.00	N/A	£946.00
SGAF555103942	Gawcott Flooding Equipment	Gawcott Parish Council	£922.50	N/A	£922.50
SGAF556504330	Leckhampstead Village Banner	Leckhampstead Parish Council	£472.00	N/A	£472.00
CB553879109	Vicarage Orchard	Steeple Claydon Parish Council	£3,720.00	£1,860.00	£1,860.00
CB560457369	Gawcott MVAS	Gawcott Parish Council	£5,168.00	£2,584.00	£2,584.00



Buckingham & Villages Community Board
Funding Report
08 February 2024

Funding Applications Received – Awaiting Board Decision

Ref Number	Project	Organisation	Total Project Cost	Match Funding	CB Funding
CB567514022	Buckingham Repair Cafe	Buckingham Repair Cafe	£4,546.00	£2,122.00	£2,424.00
CB570896651	Gawcott Pavilion Refurbishment	Gawcott Parish Council	£12,762.00	£6,762.00	£6,000.00
CB571422460	Claydon Village Hall Kitchen Refurb	East & Boltoph Claydon Hall Committee	£17,217.00	£8,717.00	£8,500.00
SGAF571276231	Buckingham Canal Society Gazebo	Buckingham Canal Society	£900.00	£900.00	£900.00
	Buckingham Youth Cafe	Buckingham Youth Cafe	£19,101.00	£4,533.00	£15,000.00
CB574689695	Maids Moreton Mound Story Board	Maids Moreton Parish Council	£1,130.00	£130.00	£1,000.00

Anticipated total project allocation for 2023-24:

£45,620.50

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Community Board
Buckingham and Villages

Buckingham & Villages Community Board – Summary of Activity 2023-24

Engagement

Buckingham & Villages Community Board Engagement & Partnerships Event



- ❖ Held on 4 May in the University of Buckingham
- ❖ Partner organisations were invited to hold their own stalls
- ❖ Attendees had the opportunity to vote on the Community Board Priorities for 2023-24 via ballot box
- ❖ Proud of Bucks Awards 2022 presentation





Buckingham & Villages Community Board – Summary of Activity 2023-24

Events Attended / Supported

- ❖ Launch of Steeple Claydon Recreation Ground Smoke Free Playground – 21 April 2023
- ❖ Official opening of Maids Moreton Playground – 4 August 2023
- ❖ Bucks County Show – 31 August 2023
- ❖ Heritage Open Day, Stowe Gardens – 17 September 2023
- ❖ Silver Sunday, Westbury Village Hall – 1 October 2023
- ❖ Head Gardener Event, Buckingham Library – 21 February (Upcoming)





Buckingham & Villages Community Board – Summary of Activity 2023-24

Community Board Led Projects

Buckingham Youth Café



The project idea was originally suggested by local young resident Hannah. She approached the community board as she felt there was a gap in services for young people for people to spend time in a casual environment directly after school. She felt that young people could only visit local shops or cafes in the town centre if they had disposable income to spend, which many of them do not. As a result, young people were congregating outside Mcdonalds and in other public spaces after school leading to an increase in anti-social behaviour incidences.

Over the last eighteen months, the community board has partnered with Youth engagement officers in Buckinghamshire Council to carry out engagement sessions with students from the Royal Latin and Buckingham Schools, to find out if there was a wider appetite for the provision of a free space specifically for secondary aged pupils where they could spend time without necessarily having to engage in organised activities. The feedback we received from the pupils was positive, with all of them enthusiastic about the idea of a designated “Youth Cafe.” They felt that they weren’t always welcome in the town centre due to the stigma surrounding teenagers and that they couldn’t spend time in local cafes unless they were in a position to spend money. They agreed that it would be most appealing for teenagers to establish a space where they could feel like young adults as opposed to children and where they could “hang out” together without feeling pressure to spend money.



Buckingham & Villages Community Board – Summary of Activity 2023-24

The last few months have been focused on securing our delivery partners for the project. Buckingham Youth Club have agreed to take on the operations of the youth cafe, and will act as the main delivery partner, taking over the project facilitation on an ongoing basis after the cafe has been established. We have also partnered with the National Trust on the project, who have offered the Chantry Chapel as the venue for the youth cafe free of charge. An application has been submitted to the Buckingham & Villages Community Board for funding to cover the initial set up costs and running costs for the first year of the project. The next steps for the project over the next few months will commence upon securing the funding, with the Community Board Manager, Krissie Hutton, Youth Engagement Officer and Buckingham Youth Club will set up a regular working group made up of students from both secondary schools to oversee the set - up of the youth cafe with the aim of opening in Spring / Summer 2024. Our vision for the Buckingham Youth Cafe is very much focused on setting up a space “designed by young people for young people” with involvement from our target demographic along the way. Please see our blog for regular updates:

[Setting up a Youth Café for Buckingham - Youth Voice Bucks](#)

Buckingham Repair Café

Fix it, Don't Bin it
...and have a drink while you wait

BUCKINGHAM
REPAIR CAFE

When: 2nd Saturday each month, from 10am - 1pm
Where: The Centre, Verney Close, Buckingham,
MK18 1JP

Visit us on Facebook and at: www.buckinghamrepaircafe.org

The aim of a Repair Cafe is to serve as community space where members of the public can take broken items to be repaired by volunteers, as a way of providing volunteering opportunities, reducing waste and learning new skills. The idea for the Buckingham Repair



Buckingham & Villages Community Board – Summary of Activity 2023-24

Cafe was initially suggested by our Waste Strategy Team, as the concept had proven to be very popular in surrounding areas, and the opinion was that Buckingham would be an ideal location, with an opportunity to attract residents to the town centre.

The Buckingham & Villages Community Board approached Buckingham Men In Sheds to see if they would be interested in helping us to coordinate the cafe as well as utilising their skills and volunteering to do repairs. Chris Gardener agreed to take a leading role in the set up and establishment of the Buckingham Repair Cafe and has successfully recruited a coordination team and a small group of volunteers to carry out the repairs.

The Buckingham Repair Cafe will operate in the Centre on Verney Close, on the second Saturday of the month from 10am-1pm, starting on Saturday 10th February. The Buckingham Women's Institute will be supplying and operating the refreshments. There will be no charge for the repairs, but users will be invited to make donations for items repaired. The set up costs have been funded by the Buckinghamshire Council Waste Management team and the Buckingham Repair Cafe have applied to the Buckingham & Villages Community Board for funding to cover the remainder of the costs for year one. Based on other repair cafe models, the cafe should become self-sustaining after this time through donations. [Home \(buckinghamrepaircafe.org\)](http://buckinghamrepaircafe.org)

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Community Board
Buckingham and
Villages

Buckingham & Villages Community Board – Priority Setting 2024-25

Author: Alice Williams, Community Board Manager

Date: 26/01/2024

The Buckingham & Villages Community Board priorities govern the direction of the work that the community board carries out over the course of a financial year. Overseen by the Community Board Manager, Chairman, Vice Chairman and wider board members, the priorities will determine the type of projects delivered by the community board as well as the external applications considered for community board funding. Every project will need to evidence that it meets at least one community board priority. Each financial year, the community board will review the priorities in order to ensure that these continue to serve a purpose in the local community. Members of the community board have the opportunity to agree these priorities ahead of each year.

For 2023-24, the Buckingham & Villages Community Board priorities were:

- Youth
- Health and Wellbeing
- Road Safety
- Economic Regeneration

The above priorities were agreed by the community board following an exercise at our Community Engagement and Partnerships Event in May 2023, where attendees were asked to select their preference for areas of need in the local community via ballot box.

While the “Youth” and “Health & Wellbeing” priorities have been active, with multiple applications and work driven through the community board meeting addressing these areas, “Economic Regeneration” and “Road Safety” have been less active, with only one community project generated for each. With this in mind, my recommendation is that the community board review the priorities for 2024-25, with a new priority added in around communities, which could also encompass road safety and economic regeneration projects.

As Community Board Manager, my recommendations for the Buckingham & Villages Priorities for 2024-25 are:

- Enhancing the local community
- Championing young people
- Enriching health and wellbeing



Buckingham & Villages Community Board – Priority Setting 2024-25

Author: Alice Williams, Community Board Manager

Date: 26/01/2024

Criteria for each priority

(please note that the lists of project suggestions are for guidance and are not exhaustive)

Enhancing the local community

Community projects that aim to improve or strengthen community spaces or provide opportunities in the local community that are not met through existing or statutory services. This could include:

- Renovations of community buildings
- Environmental projects
- Enhancement of green / outdoor spaces
- Road safety schemes such as MVAS cameras or community speed watch equipment
- The establishment of a new community group or activity that is not a statutory service
- Community safety projects
- New equipment to enable community groups to broaden or enhance their services

Championing young people

Community projects that aim to improve or strengthen opportunities for young people in the local area that are not met through existing services. This could include:

- The establishment of a new community group or activity for young people that is not a statutory service
- Volunteering opportunities for young people
- Support to get young people into employment, i.e skills development, work experience opportunities
- Projects that support the development of life skills

Enriching health and wellbeing

Community projects that aim to promote and champion healthy living in the local area. This could include community groups or activities that aim to provide support or information that are not already provided through existing or statutory services. This could include:

- Healthy living
- Grow and cook schemes
- Projects or schemes aimed at prevention, i.e social isolation prevention
- Information events
- Support groups
- Physical activity groups
- Projects aimed at supporting and addressing mental health and wellbeing
- Smoke free playgrounds