

Merton Council

Council

15 April 2015

Supplementary agenda

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COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2015

ITEM 7(c)

LABOUR AMENDMENT TO CONSERVATIVE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE MOTION

This Council notes that loneliness and isolation among older people can be the precursor for more serious illnesses, with recent studies suggesting it can lead to health-related consequences ranging from mild depression to serious mental health issues and also to dementia.

This Council therefore welcomes the activity clubs for older people established some time ago in West Barnes ward, and more recently in Raynes Park and Hillside wards, as well as the longstanding Friends in St Helier (FISH) group and the launch of the new its new expanded service, Friends in Lower Morden, a support group for older people, and FISH's new service in Cannon Hill. In addition there are a number of other excellent activity clubs for older people across the borough, including those run by the borough's rich diversity of faith groups. These clubs help to promote independence by giving older people the freedom to:

- develop for themselves the activities they wish to enjoy locally (usually within ½ mile of their home);
- be able to meet like minded people;
- make new friends; and
- raise their levels of fitness both of body and mind.

Council congratulates the many volunteers who give up their time to help others in their community. Council also welcomes our new Dementia Hub which is pioneering innovative ways of working with people with dementia where loneliness and isolation is a key issue, and our Ageing Well Programme which focuses on prevention by tackling issues including depression and social isolation.

This Council believes that, in order to counter loneliness and isolation among older people in Merton, it is important that they can live as active lives as possible and that their views are listened to and properly taken into account by all those agencies involved in their wellbeing.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- a) request that Merton's Health and Wellbeing Board take positive steps to ensure that the needs of older people are properly assessed before they could become ill in order to achieve savings for both the Council and the local NHS through relevant preventative measures;
- b) ask Cabinet to review the Annual Residents' Survey to ensure that the views and needs of older people are being properly captured and taken into account; and
- c) endorse the contribution of all those involved in the growing number of activity clubs for older people across the borough, including the many older people themselves; and
- d) encourage councillors and residents in every part of the borough to consider innovative ways to promote the wellbeing of older residents in their local

neighbourhoods, including through working in conjunction with the annual Celebrating Age Festival co-ordinated by Age UK Merton.