



Background:

The aim of the research is broadly to understand the way that adult care services and interventions assist older adults living in the community who are generally frail with a particular emphasis on coping with loneliness and isolation. The research should also consider the impact that connecting people with less formal community-based activity has on their lives and engagement with their communities. This will be undertaken using a methodology of gaining a better understanding of people's experiences of health and care services.

Health and Social Care Services are subject to increasing demand through a mixture of fostered dependency, advances in medical care and demographics - we are living longer lives but not necessarily healthier ones.

Legislation (Joint Working, Scotland Act 2014) directs that the NHS and Council need to work together to provide adult care services in partnership with local communities. Clackmannanshire Council, Stirling Council & NHS Forth Valley are now in the Health and Social Care Partnership.

More on the role:

The Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health & Social Care Partnership has planned outcomes to improve adult services which are laid out through the Strategic Needs Assessment 2016-2019.

The outcomes are:

- Self-Management – People are able to look after their health, care and wellbeing.
- Community Supports – People can live well at home or in a home they like in their community, for as long as possible.
- Safety – People are safe and live well for longer.
- Choice – People make choices about their care.
- Feelings – People are happy with the care they get.

The Clackmannanshire and Stirling Strategic Needs assessment also sets out the key objectives to be delivered over the next 3 years to make sure people get the best care.

In order to be able to meet the needs of our population within the available resources, we need to understand how services can meet outcomes for older adults.

There is a need for services to re-focus and redesign around supporting people to live well in communities and to manage their own health and well-being better - while ensuring that people who do have higher levels of need have this met in a proactive way to, as far as possible, avert crisis. Loneliness and isolation whilst not direct health conditions, have an impact on health, well-being and social functioning. The Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership would like to undertake a piece of research which would help us to better understand people's experiences of using our services particularly to address loneliness and isolation and the impact of the lower level, community-based services which offer support for loneliness and isolation, which are increasing features as the population ages.