



Social isolation affecting older people in rural communities

Project overview

1. Objective

The Commission for Rural Communities has agreed to undertake a project this year relating to social isolation experienced by older people living in rural areas. The project intends to make firm recommendations to Government and other bodies about the services provided to those people at a time of organisational and economic change.

2. Key lines of enquiry

The project will pursue the following key lines of enquiry:

- How are the changing policies of central Government addressing issues of social isolation for older people living in rural areas?
- How are the changing modes of service delivery by sub-national bodies (Local Authorities, NHS bodies etc) addressing issues of social isolation for older people living in rural areas?
- What are the implications of those policies and modes of service delivery, and how are they different in rural areas compared to urban areas?
- What examples of good practice can be identified which seek to address these issues, and which might be transferable to other areas, in particular within the context of the Big Society agenda?

3. Approach

The project will include a review of social isolation, and the policies and services in place that aim to address it. It will include interviews with service providers, those who receive the services, and a range of other stakeholders, and the CRC will also make visits to rural communities to gain a deeper understanding of the issues.

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