

**This briefing note suggests how health and wellbeing boards might gather information on local services that prevent and alleviate loneliness. Gaps in provision can then be identified.**

There are a number of sources which might be used to gather information about local services.

1. A survey may already have been conducted producing an on-line or hard copy directory of voluntary sector services. Ask your local Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) or Rural Community Council (RCC) if such work has been done.
2. Libraries, community centres or other community premises where local groups may advertise their work are good sources of information about services.
3. You might also ask the local experts:
  - particularly older people themselves, there may be an older people's forum or fora or other consultation mechanisms for older people in your area;
  - local voluntary organisations working with older people (examples include, Alzheimer's Society, Age UK local partners, Arts in Health, Carers Support services, Contact the Elderly, Friends of the Elderly, MIND, NBFA, Older Peoples' Fora/50+ Networks, WRVS and church or faith groups);
  - CVS, RCCs and other local support groups for the voluntary sector (these may cover specific areas of interest such as health and social care or particular communities for example, BME communities);
  - local public sector staff working on older people's policy and at the front line.

Other excellent sources of local information are neighbourhood wardens, community organisers and parish councils.