



LEEDS OPEN CALL

Social isolation, loneliness and transport



OVERALL CHALLENGE

We want to support older adults to connect more with their local communities as a means of reducing social isolation, promoting independence, and supporting older adults to stay and live happily in the place they call home, for longer.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

Through the Leeds testbed, we hope to identify viable solutions that have a positive impact in reducing the levels of social isolation and loneliness, thus increasing health and wellbeing, and supporting independence in older people.

HOW MIGHT WE?

How might we...better connect older adults to their communities, local amenities and neighbours in order to reduce social isolation and support them to remain independent for longer?

Feeling settled and connected to your local community increases the number of opportunities for social contact each day and provides more opportunities to create local meaningful relationships.

How might we...support older adults to take part in more physical activity, in order to reduce social isolation and support them to remain independent for longer?

Keeping active can improve physical and mental health, whilst also increasing opportunities for social interaction and the creation of meaningful friendships.

How might we...make it easier for older adults to access public transport in Leeds, in order to reduce social isolation and support them to remain independent for longer?

Better access to public transport increases independence, improves confidence, and supports healthy ageing by enabling older adults to access more opportunities to lead a fulfilling and social life.

IMPORTANCE FOR SMES

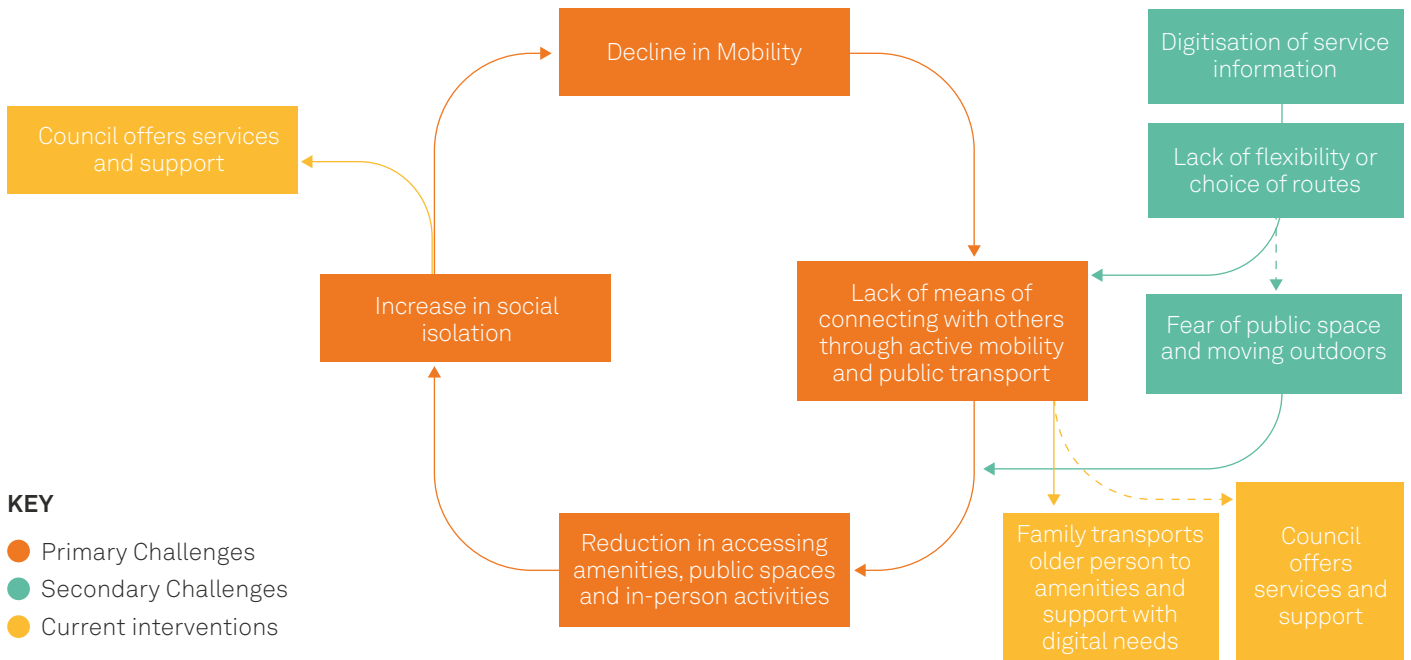
Almost 40,000 older people in Leeds are socially isolated, with no solid social network. Due to the clear and recognized link between loneliness and poor health, especially in older people, we want to work with SMEs who can offer a new perspective and new innovative solutions, that can complement and add to existing approaches and strategies that are already in place.

FURTHER CONTEXT

Leeds City Council has an extensive network of community connections and strategic partnerships who are working to address the challenge of social isolation and loneliness. Although positive progress has been made, social isolation remains a significant challenge across the city which has been exacerbated by the pandemic.

It is an opportunity for SMEs to help address a key issue in the city and contribute towards an upturn in health and wellbeing in Leeds residents for years to come. SMEs will be connected with and collaborate with our consortium partners which includes University of Leeds and a network of third sector organizations. Consortium members will also provide SMEs with a range of training opportunities, as well as support with testbed approaches and deployment.

The diagram provides a high-level snapshot of the challenges within the Leeds related to social isolation, loneliness, and transport



LOCATION TESTBED OFFER

Leeds City Council has an extensive network of partners and strategic partnerships across the NHS, Third Sector, Public and Private sector, connecting us with local residents and communities from across the city.

Having such an extensive network of collaborative partnerships and relationships built on principles such as co-production and asset based community development means that we can access a huge range of potential testing environments and contexts through which solutions could be tested. Working closely with our partners, we can also connect and engage with residents from a wide range of backgrounds across all areas of the city, depending on the testing requirements of the potential solutions.



All testers will be Leeds residents, 65 and over, who are also from the following cohorts*:

- Informal /unpaid carers
- Older Adults with poor or low mobility
- Live alone
- From BAME and other minority communities
- Isolated or at risk of becoming isolated
- Have mild to extensive mobility issues
- Have a long-term health condition which reduces their ability to leave the house
- Are struggling with bereavement
- Are currently physically fit and independent
- Sensory impairment
- Rely solely on public transport travel



Potential environments/ contexts where the experiment could take place*:

- People's Homes
- Local Community Centres
- City Centre/High Street
- Something wearable by an Adult over 65
- Local parks
- Care Homes and Day Centres