

Appendix 6. EQIA Feedback.

From: Claire Duffield-Townsend <claire@lgbtsand.com>
Sent: 22 October 2020 15:58
To: James Bainbridge <james.bainbridge@shropshirefire.gov.uk>
Subject: IRMP Follow Up

Hello James

Many thanks for facilitating this afternoon's meeting. It was very informative. As requested, I have quickly put together some wording that hopefully captures the statement that I made in relation to the final point raised. I hope that it makes sense.

Please do let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Many thanks
Claire

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Please note that I work irregular hours and therefore, there may be a delay in responding to your email.



Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service
IRMP – October 2020

Current wording:

Over the next five years it is predicted that there will be a substantial increase of residents over the age of 65 in rural areas.

The increase in age and age-related illnesses, coupled with travel distances from some stations, increases the vulnerability of some residents.

Comment:

With the changes that Covid have brought to our working lives, many of us now find ourselves working from home. For those whose only contact with others was whilst attending a place of work, the changes will result in more incidence of isolation. Perhaps this is something that could be captured in the above, recognizing that isolation can also lead to vulnerability; that it is not merely as a result of age or age-related illness amongst those within the community. Further, with the older population being more likely to live alone, the need to isolate and shield adds an additional layer of concern as people are not able to engage with neighbours, friends or family living further afield. This also contributes to a person's vulnerability as a result of enforced isolation.

New wording:

Over the next five years it is predicted that there will be a substantial increase of residents over the age of 65 in rural areas.

The increase in age and age-related illnesses, coupled with travel distances from some stations, increases the vulnerability of some residents.

Further, as a result of COVID 19, many people now find themselves working from home contributing to levels of isolation as interactions with others decreases.

In addition, with many over the age of 65 living alone, their vulnerability is increased as they are required to shield or self isolate. Without visits from others, those living in rural areas are at a greater risk of accident and incident as risk goes unrecognized.