

## **The Reverend Canon Eleanor Robertshaw (Commission Member)**

### **Catch Up 01/03/23**

- Key issues are access to services and social isolation

#### **Access to services**

- Difficulty registering with and accessing GP services
- Lack of Doctors in deprived areas
- Frustration with punctuality of carers and level of support received
- Greater need for healthcare support in Doncaster, elderly tend to develop more complex health issues at a younger age
- Retraction of local community services and bank branches, people have to go into the centre now to access services

#### **Social Isolation**

- Dependence on others to get out and about and accessing services
- Younger people are moving out of the area so less able to provide care for elderly relatives  
→ greater reliance on formal care and social services.
- Greater risk of isolation amongst widows
- Less sense of community than there used to be – loss of community wardens, libraries and other community spaces.
- Churches are some of the only community spaces left in some areas
- Covid has affected people's confidence to do things
- Less incentive to leave the house once people have retired from work
- Elderly people can miss out on things through not being online, organisations are used to promoting events as digital by default – easier and cheaper
- Don't always have motivation to be online due to pride/lack of incentive

#### **Transport**

- Struggle in NE Doncaster to access regular and reliable transport particularly to DRI to support healthcare access, access to services and address social isolation

#### **Cost of living**

- Some older people are not putting heating on even if they may be able to afford it due to the worry of falling into arrears.
- Concern around the health issues this may lead to/exacerbate
- Price of staples have increased, affecting not only elderly people but the VCFS orgs which support them
- Donations have been decreasing and haven't been going as far as they used to at a time where demand is increasing.

#### **ASB and Crime**

- Feelings of fear in the City Centre, people won't go out after dark
- Concerns around motorbikes speeding and road safety
- Recent burglary in Church in Stainforth

#### **What can the council and its partners do?**

- Speaking to leaders in communities which have local knowledge such as church leaders
- Utilising local assets to deliver services and engage communities
- Need for more proactive/outreach approach to support, some older people do not want to admit when they need help
- Signposting around local areas, not just on a ward level, wards don't always make sense on the ground and people don't hear about things happening locally