

# Campaign to End Loneliness

## Constituency campaign pack

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### Media Coverage

*The issue of loneliness often attracts media attention; below are some examples of national and local media coverage on loneliness that MPs have gained in last 12 months, particularly focusing on the research that shows loneliness harms health.*

#### Loneliness is 'major health issue'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-18737560>

**Philippa Roxby** Health reporter, BBC News, 9 July 2012

Some people seek isolation, but few choose to be lonely, primarily because it isn't good for us. Loneliness doesn't just make people unhappy, research shows that it has an effect on mortality too. It is also associated with poor mental health and, more surprisingly, with conditions such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension and dementia....

#### MP warns of loneliness amongst elderly

[http://m.gazetteseries.co.uk/news/9833847.MP\\_warns\\_of\\_loneliness\\_amongst\\_elderly/](http://m.gazetteseries.co.uk/news/9833847.MP_warns_of_loneliness_amongst_elderly/)

24th July 2012

MORE than 5,000 pensioners in South Gloucestershire could be at risk of ill health because they are lonely, new figures have revealed. National statistics compiled by Age UK show one in 10 people aged over 60 live alone and 10 per cent of over 65s saying they are lonely or very lonely.

Research in the US also shows that loneliness can shorten life expectancies by several years, can increase the risk of heart disease and blood clots and lower the chances of surviving breast cancer. In response to the figures, Thornbury and Yate MP Steve Webb has urged South Gloucestershire Council to combat isolation....

### **Loneliness 'affects Devon pensioners' health', MP Nick Harvey says**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-18786126>

11 July 2012

The MP said it was morally right to ensure elderly people were not living in isolation. Loneliness could be causing physical and mental problems for thousands of elderly people in Devon, according to one of the county's MPs. Nick Harvey, the Liberal Democrat MP for North Devon, said it was a major issue which should be taken seriously both locally and nationally. Research, he said, showed 10% of over 65s were lonely - meaning "Devon had 19,000 lonely pensioners". He said it was important to identify those at risk of social isolation.



*By utilizing the template press release included in this campaign pack, and the figures that estimate the number of older people suffering from chronic loneliness in your area, your own release can promote your leadership role in tackling loneliness in your constituency.*