

How can we overcome the challenges in meeting wider social needs?

It was recognised that access to adequate and affordable housing was a real priority. So too is access to meaningful work and to affordable transport and sport and cultural facilities. Suggestions, some with significant support, were made and these included:

Housing

- Need to understand who to go to and the questions to ask
- Increase sheltered communities with services available for the elderly
- Lower the age for income support
- Increase the stock of, and access to affordable housing
- Review of threshold for supported accommodation
- Increase supported living to keep islanders at home longer
- Improve home adaptations

Financial independence

- Need to understand who to go to and the questions to ask
- Recognise the value of work and ensure that perverse disincentives to work, such as individuals being penalised for working additional hours, are removed
- Supporting health needs to enable people to work longer
- Increase the living wage and reduce poverty
- Provide more financial support for unpaid carers

Social inclusion

- Address issues of loneliness and individuals feeling that they do not belong. Celebrate and embrace diversity
- Tackle inequality, encourage inclusion
- Changing people's perceptions of others and how people see themselves
- Increase support for those with communication needs

Any other thoughts

- Does the government want to address this topic?
- Improve access to sports and culture activities
- Invest more in the younger population
- Tackle language barriers, making content available to all
- Reconnect with Parishes and reinvigorate their capacity to connect with and support their local communities

- Expand number and range of day centres for the elderly and infirm using the parish halls and other community centres
- Increase access to affordable transport
- Increase support for charitable organisations and encourage greater partnership working between them