

**EXPLAIN, USING SOCIAL AND/OR
PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORIES, THE
IMPACT OF ISOLATION ON
INDIVIDUALS WITHIN A SOCIAL CARE
SETTING.**

SJSS 4002 (Ass 2)

Niamh Macphail

Student Number : I804346

Issues of Isolation in Society

**"Social
Isolation, Not
Just Feeling
Lonely, May
Shorten Lives"
-Time (2013)**

WHAT IS SOCIAL ISOLATION?

noun Sociology.

a state or process in which persons, groups, or cultures lose or do not have communication or cooperation with one another, often resulting in open conflict.

HOW DOES WALES VIEW ISOLATION?

"There is a need for evidence on good practice in addressing loneliness and isolation, identifying what does and doesn't work and how best to use existing and additional resources most effectively."

National Assembly of Wales (n.d.)

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF
SOCIAL ISOLATION IN WALES?

“Tackling loneliness and isolation in Wales is a national priority” – Huw Irranca-Davies (2018)

WHY DOES SOCIAL ISOLATION HAPPEN?

Sociological Theories

Social Cohesion

"...the bonds, or "glue," that holds a society together, often through common values, beliefs, and behaviors." - WiseGeek (n.d.)

Social Capital

"Social capital is defined by the conjunction of its two terms. 'Social' refers to institutions, organizations, and networks through which individuals interact to achieve common goals."- Credo (n.d.)

Social Cohesion

"...ways in which individuals may become cut off from full involvement in the wider society." - Sociology Guide (n.d.)

SOCIAL ALIENATION THEORY

Marx and Seeman

Powerlessness: When individuals are socially alienated they believe that what happens in their lives is outside of their control and that what they do ultimately does not matter. They believe they are powerless to shape their life course.

Meaninglessness: When an individual does not derive meaning from the things in which he or she is engaged, or at least not the same common or normative meaning that others derive from it.

Social Isolation: When a person feels that they are not meaningfully connected to their community through shared values, beliefs, and practices, and/or when they do not have meaningful social relationships with other people.

Self-Estrangement: When a person experiences social alienation they may deny their own personal interests and desires in order to satisfy demands placed by others and/or by social norms.

Seeman (1959)

THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL
ISOLATION ON THE ELDERLY

"...social isolation in older people was associated with increased risk of death from any cause in the UK." - NHS (2013)

THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL ISOLATION WITHIN A CARE SETTING

Elderly People and Care Homes

- Thousands of elderly in care homes 'socially isolated' - BBC (2010)
- "...she emphasised that the worst aspect of aging was not loss of physical health, but the boredom and isolation that came with losing her identity." - Campaign to End Loneliness (2014)
- "It is associated with poor mental health and conditions such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension and dementia." - Ageing Well in Wales (n.d.)

ARE THERE ANY
DEVELOPMENTS IN WALES?

Ways of addressing loneliness and isolation

- Implementation of Talk to Me 2
- Loneliness Mapping
- Community and Outreach Groups

Ageing Well in Wales (n.d.) *Loneliness & Isolation*

<http://www.ageingwellinwales.com/en/themes/loneliness-and-isolation>

BBC (2010) *Thousands of elderly in care homes 'socially isolated'*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-11726691>

Campaign To End Loneliness (2014) *Loneliness in Care Homes*

<https://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/blog/loneliness-in-care-homes/>

Credo (n.d.) *Social Capital Sociology*

https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/social_capital_sociology

Dictionary.com (n.d.) *Social Isolation Definition*

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/social-isolation>

National Assembly of Wales (n.d.) *Inquiry into loneliness and isolation*

<http://senedd.assembly.wales/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=16359&Opt=0>

NHS (2013) *Social isolation increases death risk in older people*

<https://www.nhs.uk/news/older-people/social-isolation-increases-death-risk-in-older-people/>

Samaritans (2017) *National Assembly for Wales: Inquiry into Loneliness and Isolation*

<https://www.samaritans.org/news/national-assembly-wales-inquiry-loneliness-and-isolation>

Seeman, M (1959) *Alienation Theory*

<https://www.thoughtco.com/alienation-definition-3026048>

Sociology Guide (n.d.) *Social Exclusion*

http://www.sociologyguide.com/social_inequality_exclusion/social_exclusion.php

Time (2013) *Social Isolation, Not Just Feeling Lonely, May Shorten Lives*

<http://healthland.time.com/2013/03/26/social-isolation-not-just-feeling-lonely-may-shorten-lives/>

Welsh Government (2018) *“Tackling loneliness and isolation in Wales is a national priority”* – Huw Irranca-Davies

<https://gov.wales/newsroom/health-and-social-services/2018/isolation/?lang=en>

Wise Geek (n.d.) *What is Social Cohesion?*

<https://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-social-cohesion.htm>