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| Subject: | Reference Group on Older people |
| Date: | 11 th June 2024 |
| Reporting Officer: | Jim Girvan, Operational Director, Neighbourhood Services |
| Contact Officer: | Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS |

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| Restricted Reports | |
| Is this report restricted? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted. | |
| Insert number <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime | |
| If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? | |
| After Committee Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| After Council Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sometime in the future | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| Call-in | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues |
| 1.1 | The purpose of this report is to update committee on the key issues discussed at the Reference Group on Older People Meeting held on 19th March 2024. |
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 | That the People and Communities Committee note the report and approve the minutes from the Reference Group on Older People meeting held on 19th March 2024. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Reference Group on Older People is a working group of the People and Communities Committee which meets on a quarterly basis and consists of an elected member from each of the political parties. The minutes from the Reference Group on Older People are brought before the Committee for approval.</p> <p>The meeting was held on 19th March 2024 in the City Hall and the main items were as follows.</p> <p>3.2 The Age Friendly Coordinator provided the Members with the following updates on key actions that have been delivered in relation to the Age Friendly Belfast Plan 2023-2027.</p> <p>3.3 Infrastructure Age Friendly Design Principles</p> <p>The Age Friendly Coordinator met again with Age Friendly Ireland to get an update on their checklist for Age Friendly design for homes. Each of the Coordinators also met with the planning and building control teams in their retrospective councils to assist in mapping some of the existing checklists and legislation in relation to Age Friendly Housing designs.</p> <p>3.4 Social Connections Connection Hub update</p> <p>At the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership (HASP) meeting in December 2023, a working group was identified to develop the connection hub space for older in 2 Royal Avenue. Through this space, older people will have the opportunity to drop in, meet a friendly volunteer for a chat, which may help combat feeling of loneliness or social isolation.</p> <p>A soft launch was planned for 20th March 11am- 1pm, with invites sent to older people in the different Forums across Belfast to let them know about the space and encourage anyone they know to drop in. The first drop-in session was scheduled for Tuesday 16th April 11am-2pm in 2 Royal Avenue and will be every Tuesday thereafter.</p> <p>3.5 Health and well-being</p> <p>An additional £3k slippage money from the Public Health Agency was used to provide dance and yoga sessions to 15 different groups across Belfast. Volunteer Now and Engage with Age supported the project through identifying older people’s groups who could benefit from</p> |

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| | <p>these sessions in an attempt to increase physical activity during winter months when Older people typically may not be out and about as much.</p> <p><i>Financial security/cost of living</i></p> |
| 3.6 | <p>Through HASP meetings and seasonal planning meetings, it was identified that there was a shortage of winter warm packs for older people. As a result, slippage money within the Age Friendly budget was used to purchase 155 packs and these were delivered to Bryson for distribution whilst carrying out home safety checks. There is continuing support for Cost of Living and the following link provides more details: Cost of living support (belfastcity.gov.uk)</p> |
| 3.7 | <p>All Party Groups on Loneliness and Ageing and Older People</p> <p>On Monday 26th February there was a joint meeting of the All-Party Groups on Loneliness and Ageing and Older People. There were three speakers: Sam Cunningham provided a presentation about the work done by Age NI's First Connect service to prevent and alleviate loneliness; Edel Quinn spoke about her role drafting the 2020 report on loneliness and Ciara McClements from Belfast Health and Social Care Trust provided an overview of the Trust's Networks on a regional basis. There were over 50 stakeholders there to meet the MLAs, the majority of whom were older people. There were calls for a motion of a loneliness strategy and investment in services that provide support to people who are lonely.</p> |
| 3.8 | <p>Internal Officer working group</p> <p>An internal BCC officer working group is being established to ensure that work which will benefit older people is carried out through greater collaboration, sharing of information and resources to ensure the needs of older people are being met.</p> |
| 3.9 | <p>Presentation from Volunteer Now</p> <p>The meeting received a presentation from Volunteer Now which provided members with an overview of the work undertaken by the organisation with older people through the city.</p> |
| 3.10 | <p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Members should note that with the agreement of the Chair, the next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, 17th September, 12.30 p.m.</p> |
| 3.11 | <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All events and activities outlined in this report are met within existing resources.</p> |
| 3.12 | <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>All activity outlined in this report is captured in the Belfast Age Friendly Plan which has been screened for equality, good relations and rural needs implications.</p> |
| 4.0 | Appendices - Documents Attached |
| 4.1 | Appendix 1 - Minutes of the Reference Group on Older People meeting 19th March 2024 |