



Subject:	Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing Benches in BCC Parks
Date:	4 th April 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director Neighbourhood Services, CNS
Contact Officer:	Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Jim Morgan, Senior Project Development Officer, BHDU

Restricted Reports		
Is this report restricted?	Yes No	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?		
After Committee Decision		
After Council Decision		
Some time in the future		
Never		

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes X No

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To update Committee on the installation of sixteen 'Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing' benches
	across Belfast City Council (BCC) parks.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The committee is asked to:
	Note the content of the report.
3.0	Main report
	Key Issues
	Background
3.1	The Public Health Agency have adopted the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing messages as a key
	component in their work supporting positive mental health and emotional wellbeing. Take 5
	Steps to Wellbeing is a set of evidence-based public health messages aimed at improving
	the wellbeing of the whole population.

3.2 The 5 steps are; 'Connect, Be active, Take notice, Keep learning and Give' – please refer to the leaflet in Appendix 1 for more information or visit: https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/take-5-steps-wellbeing-english-and-11-translations to access downloadable PDFs. Evidence indicates individuals who practice all '5 steps' have the highest level of wellbeing regardless of circumstances. 3.3 In June 2022, Council agreed to the installation of sixteen 'Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing' benches across Belfast City Council (BCC) parks. It was agreed that locations would be identified in consultation with staff in Open Space and Streetscene (OSS) and Property Maintenance. 3.4 Property Maintenance colleagues began the work in October 22, and 16 existing benches in parks across the city have now been rebranded as 'Take 5 benches', as such they have been painted in bright colours and incorporate the 'Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing' messaging, along with a QR code linking to the PHA's Minding Your Head website. The benches are located in the following parks with coverage across all four geographic areas. 3.5 West Belfast South Belfast Dunville Park **Blythfield Play Park** Falls Park Ormeau Park Springfield Dam **Botanic Gardens** Suffolk Play Park **Cherryvale Pitches** 3.6 North Belfast East Belfast **Glencairn Park** Lagans Land East Ligoniel Park **Orangefield Park** Woodvale Park Victoria Park Waterworks **Belmont Park** 3.7 The work was completed on 17th March 2023, when the final bench was put into Dunville Park. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Christina Black, officially launched the Take 5 benches by cutting the ribbon at the bench in Dunville Park (image included in Appendix 1). 3.8 Three of the benches could not be painted (as made of composite plastic and stainless steel – paint does not adhere) and so only had the Take 5 plaque put onto them. The

	location of these three benches are Springfield Dam, Victoria Park, and Lagan Lands End (image included in Appendix 1).
3.9	Financial & Resource Implications There are no financial or resource implications to the recommendations/actions outlined above. The required financial resource (£5,000) was allocated to the Belfast Heath Development Unit via the Public Health Agency and the work was carried out by BHDU staff with assistance from colleagues in other teams.
3.10	Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications to the recommendations outlined above.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Images of Take 5 benches