



Subject:	Update on the Reference Group on Older People
Date:	13 June 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or 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 21 st March 2023.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the report and approve the minutes from the Reference Group on Older People meeting held on 21st March 2023.• Approve the request that the next meeting of the Older People's Reference Group on 19th September will be held as a joint meeting with the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum in the Conor Room, City Hall.

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p data-bbox="272 264 421 293"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 315 1461 495">The Reference Group on Older People is a working group of the People and Communities Committee which 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 data-bbox="272 562 1027 591">The key issues discussed at the 21st March meeting were:</p>
3.2	<p data-bbox="272 667 715 696">Update on Age-Friendly Belfast</p> <p data-bbox="272 719 1305 748">The final key priority areas and actions were presented and agreed. These are;</p> <ul data-bbox="323 819 1442 1509" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="323 819 1442 949">• Infrastructure, helping people to get out and about: - ensuring age friendly design and consultation with older people on new developments to ensure that amenities and services are accessible. <li data-bbox="323 1021 1442 1151">• Social inclusion, promoting connections: - providing opportunities to meet up with other people and get involved. This will be promoted through various programmes all over the city including events, courses, groups and volunteering opportunities. <li data-bbox="323 1223 1442 1308">• Health and wellbeing: - supporting older people to be active in order to stay fit and healthy. <li data-bbox="323 1379 1442 1509">• Financial security and supporting people to manage the increasing costs of living: - linking older people to more employment opportunities, better access to benefits and entitlements and better protection from frauds or scams.
3.3	<p data-bbox="272 1581 1401 1659">The 3rd Age Friendly Plan was launched in May following extensive consultation and is attached for information. It will cover the period 2023 -2027.</p>
3.4	<p data-bbox="272 1731 619 1760">Isolation and Loneliness</p> <p data-bbox="272 1783 1461 1962">Members were updated on loneliness research currently being carried out to identify key issues and ways to support 600-800 older people (most in need) to improve their mobility levels and to feel more connected and less lonely. This is linked to an identified need in the emerging Belfast Agenda under the Older people priority.</p>

3.5	Members were also informed of loneliness training organised by The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and Northern Regional College.
3.6	<p>Age Friendly Network NI</p> <p>Members were advised that two actions in The Age Friendly Belfast Plan that require regional co-ordination have been agreed in the Age Friendly Network NI work plan. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop age friendly design principles, which can be used to inform new infrastructure developments - Belfast will lead on this area of work. • Work to normalise and reduce the stigma of older people accessing financial entitlements and addressing debt – this will be delivered as part of the Communications Plan for the network. <p><u>Roselawn Bus Service</u></p>
3.7	Members were reminded of the free Roselawn Bus service.
3.8	<p><u>Age Friendly Belfast Staffing and Resources</u></p> <p>Members were advised that the new Age Friendly Coordinator post within Belfast City Council that is funded by the Public Health Agency was at recruitment stage. This post holder will lead on Age Friendly work within the Council area.</p>
3.9	Members may wish to note that the post has now been filled and the new Co-ordinator is Joanna Holland. Gillian Mc Evoy who has supported Age Friendly work for a number of years will return to her substantive post as a Senior Environmental Health Officer at the end of June 2023.
3.10	<p><u>Request by Greater Belfast Seniors Forum to attend September Meeting</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting on 19th September would be a joint meeting with the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum, in the Conor Room, City Hall, subject to the approval of the People and Communities Committee.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All events and activities are met within existing resources.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are currently no equality or good relation implications in relation to this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached

	Appendix 1 - Minutes of Reference Group on Older People Meeting held on 23 rd March 2023
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	Appendix 2 - The Age Friendly Belfast Plan 2023 - 2027
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