



Subject:	Reference Group on Older people
Date:	6 th February 2024
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, CNS

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. 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 matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. 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"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

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 12 th December 2023.
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 12 th December 2023.
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>
3.2	The meeting was held on 12 th December 2023 in the City Hall and the main items were as follows.
3.3	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.
3.4	<p>Social Connections</p> <p>Connection hubs will be places across the city where older people can come to access information. G6 and HASP are being consulted on locations for the Connection Hubs. Feedback has identified that there is already a lot of information out there, but that the creation of Hubs would identify location(s) where this could be shared.</p>
3.5	<p>Social Isolation Training</p> <p>Belfast Health and Social Care Trust organised further Isolation and Loneliness training online and in person as part of Positive Ageing month. The training was delivered by the Northern Regional College.</p>
3.6	<p>Positive Ageing Month October 2023</p> <p>Age Friendly Belfast organised 10 different events across the month and the feedback was really positive. At the Age Convention Event on 25th October 130 older people attended and were provided with information from different speakers. Evaluation sheets highlighted a number of people attending for the first time and keen to come back again.</p>

3.7	<p>Volunteer Celebration Event</p> <p>Taking place on Tuesday 12th December 2023 4.30pm- 6.30pm. This year's event will showcase examples of volunteering across Belfast, but more importantly thank the amazing volunteers for their contribution to older people in Belfast.</p>
3.8	<p>2024 Age Friendly Calendars</p> <p>Being delivered out to organisations who support older people and have received requests to post out to individuals. The calendars also contain some useful contact numbers for older people and their carers.</p>
3.9	<p>Winter Planning</p> <p>An update on winter planning for older people including Keep Warm Packs, Fuel Stamps, Belfast Warm & Well project, and Affordable Warmth Project was provided.</p>
3.10	<p>Cost of Living Support</p> <p>The Lead Officer gave an overview of the Cost-of-Living support. Cost of Living Booklets will be distributed to organisations who support older people and the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum as well as advice providers and libraries. Further information will also be available here Cost of living support (belfastcity.gov.uk)</p>
3.11	<p>Overview of support provided by Community Centres to older people.</p> <p>The Community Services Assistant Unit Manager gave an overview of the centre-based programming delivered by staff (including winter activity programmes) in the directly managed community centres across Belfast. She also provided information on the support that Community Development Officers can provide to older people's groups with capacity building needs, the partnership working with a range of agencies and organisations and the types of activities provided by external agencies for older people in the community centres. www.belfastcity.gov.uk/communitycentres</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All events and activities outlined in this report are met within existing resources.</p> <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	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
4.1	<p>Appendix 1 - Minutes of the Reference Group on Older People meeting 12th December 2023</p>