



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Age-friendly Belfast Consultation Response
Date:	21 st February, 2014
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Head of Environmental Health ext 3281
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1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>In Belfast 19% of the population is over 60 and this is expected to rise to 36% by 2050. Whilst population aging is seen as major success of the 20th century it is also recognised as one of our greatest challenges. We must continue to improve our City's services and structures to ensure the City is accessible to all and to meet the needs of a growing population of older people with a wide range of abilities.</p>
1.2	<p>The Council has identified older people as a priority within its current corporate plan and in March 2012 the Lord Mayor signed a declaration formally committing Belfast to become a World Health Organisation (WHO) Age-friendly City. This effectively commits the City to a continuous improvement cycle, involving older people, of planning, implementation and evaluation to better meet the needs of an aging population. A three year action plan and progress report must be submitted to WHO for review at the start and end of the process respectively.</p>
1.3	<p>Since then the Council has been working collaboratively within the Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP) and specifically it's Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership (HASP) to honour that commitment and has produced a draft 3 year plan</p>
1.4	<p>The Council's All Party Reference Group on Older People, currently chaired by Councillor Bernie Kelly, directs and oversees this work programme on behalf of the council.</p>

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Over the last 18 months, Council officers under the direction of the All Party Reference Group on Older People have worked collaboratively within BSP and HASP to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. See Belfast become the first city in Northern Ireland to join into the World Health Organisation's Global Network of Age-friendly Cities. 2. Establish mechanisms to involve older people throughout the Age-friendly process and carry out extensive consultations with a wide range of older people to establish how age friendly they perceive the city to be and what they would like to see improved under the eight Age Friendly domains; 3. Compile key statistical data and create an Age-friendly Belfast profile which is easily available on the NINIS website http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Home.aspx. 4. Hold a number of joint workshops with older people, service providers and key stakeholders, using the baseline assessment of older people's perceptions and the statistical data, to develop a vision for Age Friendly Belfast, key priorities for improvement and actions planned over the next three years.
2.2	<p>The Draft 3 Year Age-friendly Belfast Plan (attached Appendix 1) was issued by BSP for consultation on 8th January 2014. The proposed vision is that "Belfast will be a city where older people live life to the full"</p>
2.3	<p>The plans builds on the wide range of projects the Council already delivers targeted at older people to reduce isolation and encourage healthy, active ageing. Examples include, four Winter Warmth Clinics, Older Peoples Arts Festival in the Waterfront Hall, tea dances in the Ulster Hall, the Senior Citizens Convention in City Hall, a range of active aging events in leisure centres and parks across the City.</p>
2.4	<p>There were 3 Key themes that emerged during the process that shape the plan;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age-friendly Image - creating a positive view of ageing • Age-friendly Lives – reducing life inequalities and isolation • Age-friendly Neighbourhoods - creating friendly places to live in
2.5	<p>For each theme commitment has been secured, from key stakeholders, to deliver specific projects to improve the age-friendliness of Belfast.</p>
2.6	<p>The draft Age-friendly Action plan includes the following commitments from the Council;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast City Council, with the support of Belfast Strategic Partnership, will co-ordinate and lead on the development of a positive ageing campaign through the development of positive and diverse images, a community awareness campaign and a yearly calendar of events promoting positive ageing • Belfast City Council and Belfast Police and Community Safety Partnership will

champion and deliver intergenerational relationships through a city wide project between Belfast City Council Youth Forum and Greater Belfast Seniors Forum;

- To develop a toolkit to reduce the impact of poverty in Belfast (focusing on benefits, nutrition and fuel poverty) led by the Belfast Health Development Unit, Belfast City Council and the Public Health Agency, to be age-proofed and its use promoted with older people;
- The Belfast Strategic Partnership together with Belfast City Council will host an annual Age-friendly Convention and HASP will circulate a quarterly Age-friendly Belfast Update for older people and other stakeholders.
- Belfast City Council will develop an annual Older People's Art Festival connecting with the Public Health Agency's regional Arts and Older Peoples' Programme delivered through Arts Care and the Arts Council
- Belfast City Council, with the support of Volunteer Now, will deliver a comprehensive Age-friendly Older Volunteer Awards programme;
- Belfast City Council will work to increase older peoples usage of parks by improving the facilities, management and activities available in their parks;
- Belfast City Council will ensure that older people are involved in community planning in their local areas;
- The Policing and Community Safety Partnership will build on work taking place to improve perceptions of safety and intergenerational relationships in local neighbourhoods.

2.7 Appendix 1 contains a draft Council response to the proposed Age-friendly Plan. The draft response agrees with the proposed vision, aims and actions to make the City more Age-friendly and commits the Council to implementing key actions. The response also includes the following recommendations:

- The plan should reference the positive impact many of the initiatives shall have in promoting good relations in the city;
- The plan should reflect the roles of Belfast City Council and the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership in championing intergenerational work and delivering a coordinated city wide approach .

2.8 The following additions will also be included to highlight some key work already delivered by the Council:

1. Belfast City Council provides free home safety check scheme for older people.
2. Belfast City Council through its Investment Programme 2012-2015 is committed to providing placement opportunities over the three year programme and the potential to work in partnership with older people's groups to assist with employability initiatives.
3. Belfast City Council, through its Investment Programme, has committed over £250 million during 2012 -2015 to help improve the city. This programme includes physical investments, health and well being programmes and the Active Belfast

2.9	<p>initiative which will improve quality of life for all citizens including older people.</p> <p>4. Belfast City Council's "Leisure Transformation" programme represents a significant investment in leisure provision and centres across the city and will help to improve health and well-being; including for older people</p> <p>5. Investment in Belfast City Council Community Centre IT suites will support older people.</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is expected that following the consultation HASP will produce the final 3 year Action Plan and submit to World Health Organisation in April for approval. • Following approval the plan will be implemented by HASP reporting progress to BSP. • Councillors will be kept updated on progress with the action plan.
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p>HR Implications None</p>
3.2	<p>Financial implications The Council's commitments under the Age-friendly Belfast Plan can be carried out within the Councils Revenue Estimates.</p>
3.3	<p>Equipment Implications None</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	Equality screening has been carried out.

5	Recommendation and decision
5.1	Members are asked to consider the Age-friendly Belfast Plan and agree our response to the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	Belfast City Council response will be forwarded Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership and members will receive copies of final Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2014-2017.

Key to abbreviations	
World Health Organisation (WHO) Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP) Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership (HASP)	
Documents attached	
Appendix 1: Draft Age-friendly Belfast Plan Appendix 2 : Consultation feedback	