

AGE FRIENDLY CITIES

Report of the Executive Director of People Services, Sunderland City Council and the Director of Age UK, Sunderland

1.0. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise the Board about partners plans to progress Sunderland's application to become an Age Friendly City.

2.0. Background

- 2.1 The World Health Organisation (WHO) co-ordinates an Age Friendly Cities programme which aims to engage cities to become more age-friendly in order to tap the potential that older people represent.
- 2.2 The WHO estimates that by 2030 around 3 out of every 5 people will live in an urban area. At the same time, as cities around the world are growing, their residents are growing older. The proportion of the global population aged 60 will double from 11% in 2006 to 22% by 2050. In Sunderland the population aged over 60 is projected to increase from 24% in 2012 to 31.2% in 2037.
- 2.3 As Sunderland's population becomes increasingly aged then age related health problems are likely to become of increasing concern, with likely increases in Dementia, limiting long-term illness and hospital admissions.
- 2.4 Given these anticipated changes to the city's demographics it is important for partners to take steps to meet the challenge these represent.

3.0 The WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities

- 3.1 The WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities was established to foster the exchange of experience and mutual learning between cities and communities worldwide. UK members of the network are Belfast, Brighton & Hove, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Stoke-on-Trent and Liverpool. The Network provides partners with the opportunity to prepare an effective local policy approach for responding to population ageing.
- 3.2 The physical and social environments are key determinants of whether people can remain healthy, independent and autonomous long into their old age. The WHO Age-friendly Cities Guide highlights eight domains that cities and communities can address to better adapt their structures and services to the needs of older people – these are: the built environment, transport, housing,

social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication, and community support and health services.

- 3.3 In the past partners have combined their expertise, knowledge and experience to baseline the activity taking place in Sunderland that contributes to the eight Age-friendly City domains as well as the city's 50+ Strategy - this information was then used to baseline the city's position in relation to the domains. Work is currently on-going to refresh this baseline data in order that the Council can submit an application to the WHO on behalf of partners, for the Sunderland to be given Age Friendly status.
- 3.4 Applying to be part of the Network is straightforward and requires the Council to indicate its commitment to the Network cycle of continual improvement as well as commence the Network cycle of four steps outlined below:
1. Establish a mechanism to involve older people throughout the Age-friendly Cities and Communities cycle
 2. Develop a baseline assessment of the age-friendliness of the city/community (covering the eight domains as a minimum)
 3. Development of a 3-year city-wide action plan based on the findings of this assessment
 4. Identification of indicators to monitor progress against this plan.

4.0 Sunderland as an All Age Friendly City

- 4.1 Though it is important for the partners to meet the challenges that an ageing population presents, it is equally important to ensure that everyone in Sunderland is considered when plans are made to address the eight domains. The built environment, transport and housing etc, are integral to everyone's lives and daily routine, consequently it is important that when these issues are addressed they consider the needs of everyone. This approach links neatly with the Council's Accessible Sunderland programme which aims to make the city as accessible as possible for local people, visitors and businesses.
- 4.2 A co-ordinated approach to tackling the WHO domains across all age groups (where it is appropriate), will support the city's economic growth and related skills and health issues and contribute to making Sunderland an enjoyable place to live, visit and do business.

5.0 Next Steps

- 5.1 Age UK Sunderland and the Council will continue to lead the work to become an All Age Friendly City and this will be monitored by the Adults Partnership Board. The Council, with the support of partners, will apply to the WHO for Age Friendly City status and commence the Network cycle of continual improvement.
- 5.2 Age UK Sunderland and the Council will be inviting partners to baseline their contribution to becoming an All Age Friendly City and will be encouraged to make action plan pledges and identify good practice case studies. To help

with this, partners will be asked to identify a key contact within their organisation that will be able to collate this information and act as their organisations contact in respect of other Age Friendly work that may arise.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 That the Board supports the intention to pursue Age Friendly City status and agree the next steps as set out in section 5 of the report.

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