



3rd September 2018

Dear Mr Anthony Tohill CEO

We are writing to tell you about an opportunity which could help your council area to be a great place to grow older and become Age Friendly.

Age Friendly is a World Health Organisation initiative to promote measures to make life better for all as we age. An age-friendly world enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities and treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age. 6 councils in Northern Ireland have already signed up to be Age Friendly areas. Further information about Age Friendly can be found online at:

<http://www.who.int/ageing/age-friendly-world/en/> and <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/our-impact/politics-and-government/age-friendly-places/>

Age NI, the Department for Communities (DfC) and the Public Health Agency (PHA) brought together a wide range of people in November 2017 to discuss establishing an Age Friendly Network for Northern Ireland. There was a great deal of support for the idea, particularly from those delivering services and promoting the wellbeing of older people in local areas. A follow-up event in May 2018 was used to examine the question of what form the network would take. I have attached the aims, outputs and outcomes of the Age Friendly Network to this letter.

Age NI, PHA and DfC now plan to launch the Age Friendly Network in the autumn. The Network will bring together representatives from each council area, including representatives from the council, age sector networks and groups, along with regional representatives. The Network will meet quarterly to discuss and take forward actions to make Northern Ireland a great place to grow older.

The launch of the Age Friendly Network presents an opportunity to invite your council to consider signing up to being Age Friendly. Through the Age Friendly Network, members who have been engaged with Age Friendly for longer can support those who are considering becoming Age Friendly or are at the start of the process.

To participate in the Age Friendly Network, we would appreciate if you could nominate two representatives from your area by 28 September 2018. Please forward contact details of your nominees to Michele Young, Age NI by email: michele.young@ageni.org

You may nominate members to the Age Friendly Network before your council is signed up to the wider Age Friendly initiative and it could be a useful way of exploring the value of Age Friendly with representatives from council areas which are already involved with the initiative.

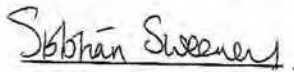
Nominees might be council staff but this is not a requirement and where one nominee is a council employee we would recommend the other is not. The expectation is that nominees will be involved currently in developing or delivering services to older people or the wider community. For example, they might be the coordinator of your local Age Sector Network, be involved in community planning or development, or a community navigator focused on older people or intergenerational work in your area. A role description for Age Friendly Network Member Nominee has also been attached.

Neighbouring councils may choose to share nominees if they wish provided that the nominees have knowledge of organisations and networks involved with supporting or delivering older peoples' services age in both areas.

Participation is, of course, entirely voluntary but this is a low cost initiative by PHA, Age NI and DfC designed to support councils in their community planning and development and to potentially deliver regional Age Friendly projects of scale. We are not seeking a financial contribution from councils towards the Age Friendly Network. PHA, DfC and Age NI have agreed to provide the administration for the Network and cover the associated costs.

The founding organisations are also keen that the Age Friendly Network meets across Northern Ireland on a rotating basis. If your council is willing to allow council premises to be used as a venue for future Network meetings (approximately 30 people) could you please let us know? Hosting the Network could be a useful opportunity to promote your council's commitment to inclusivity, preparing for our ageing society and respect for people of all ages.

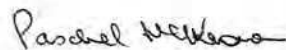
Yours sincerely



Siobhan Sweeney
Health Improvement & Social Wellbeing Manager



Bernie Rooney
Director, Social Inclusion and Policy Division, Department for Communities



Paschal McKeown
Charity Director, Age NI

Age Friendly Network and Assembly Aims, Outcomes and Objectives

Aims

1. Promote good Age Friendly practice and planning and support practitioners in their work advancing Age Friendly planning and practices
2. Have all 11 councils sign up to be Age Friendly, securing councils' commitment to embedding Age Friendly partnerships and practices in their community planning processes.
3. Respect the principle of "Nothing about us without us" by ensuring views from engagement with older people are reflected in the network. Consider how to drive wider engagement and coproduction with older people outside the network
4. Enable a framework for projects of scale to be delivered across Northern Ireland according to local needs.
5. Encourage Age Friendly partnerships to explore evidence-based intergenerational approaches to creating great places to grow older for everyone.

Outputs

1. There will be an Age Friendly Network of practitioners drawn from each of the 11 council areas and regional organisations.
2. There will be an Age Friendly Assembly held annually, open to all.

Outcomes

1. An awareness of Age Friendly in all 11 council areas.
2. Age Friendly practitioners feel supported in their work and benefit from examples of best practice from within the Network and elsewhere.
3. People with an interest in Age Friendly will have an opportunity to raise and discuss important issues in an inclusive Age Friendly Assembly.

Age Friendly Network Member Nominee's Role Description

The Age Friendly Network to be established in autumn 2018 aims to:

1. Promote good Age Friendly practice and planning and support practitioners in their work advancing Age Friendly planning and practices.
2. Have all 11 councils sign up to be Age Friendly, securing councils' commitment to embedding Age Friendly partnerships and practices in their community planning processes.
3. Respect the principle of "Nothing about us without us" by ensuring views from engagement with older people are reflected in the network. Consider how to drive wider engagement and coproduction with older people outside the network
4. Enable a framework for projects of scale to be delivered across Northern Ireland according to local needs.
5. Encourage Age Friendly partnerships to explore evidence-based intergenerational approaches to creating great places to grow older for everyone.

It will produce the following outputs and outcomes:

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Nominees will be expected to attend 3 or 4 meetings per year to share best practice and learning and drive forward issues of importance to the delivery of Age Friendly. The meetings will discuss issues and take forward agreed actions. Members will benefit from the creativity, insight and experience of others. Membership of the Age Friendly Network will be for 2 years, with an opportunity to be nominated again for membership.

Nominee Specification

The nominee will have:

- a role in the planning or delivery of services for older people or for the wider community.
- a commitment to the promotion and delivery of Age Friendly according to the World Health Organisation model.
- knowledge or experience of co-design or co-production principles in community development.
- a commitment to the participation and engagement of older people in the development of Age Friendly
- excellent communication skills.

Improving Your Health and Wellbeing