

Report on	Age Friendly Framework
Date of Meeting	8 th December 2020
Reporting Officer	Fiona McClements, Head of Environmental Health

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform Members of the ongoing work around Age Friendly Communities and Network across the Mid Ulster District Council Area and advise on the appointment of an Age Friendly Co-ordinator post for MUDC.
2.0	Background
2.1	In Northern Ireland, the Active Ageing Strategy is one of the Northern Ireland Executive's key strategies to address the ageing of our population. It's vision is one of Northern Ireland being an Age Friendly region in which people, as they get older, are valued and supported to live actively to their fullest potential; with their rights respected and their dignity protected'.
2.2	<p>"Age Friendly" is a framework developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to enable the development of Age Friendly communities. An Age-Friendly world enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities and treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age. It is a place that makes it easy for older people to stay connected to people and things which are important to them. It also helps people stay healthy and active even at the oldest ages. The framework outlines 8 thematic areas which should be considered. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Participation & Employment; • Communication & Information; • Social Participation; • Outdoor Space & Buildings; • Transportation; • Respect & Social Inclusion; • Housing; • Community Support & Health Services.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Health and Wellbeing Thematic Subgroup has identified an "Ageing Well" initiative as one of its outcomes within Mid Ulster Community Plan. In addition, Mid Ulster District Council is represented at the NI Age Friendly Network which aims to promote and share best practice in order to support Councils to progress towards an Age Friendly status based on the WHO guidelines. A web based communications mechanism has been set up to

share information and support a buddying arrangement with other Councils. The Age Friendly network was launched on 22nd November 2019 in Belfast City Hall, with a range of senior citizens, community groups and organisations representing Mid Ulster District Council area in attendance.

3.2 Elected Members will also be aware of the Age NI Friendly Champion pledge cards circulated to Members prior to the 2019 election by Age NI.

3.3 As agreed at a previous Committee meeting, the PHA have made an offer for a fully funded full-time Age Friendly Co-ordinator post with associated programme monies to be put in place in the Mid Ulster area. A recruitment exercise took place on 20th October 2020 and an Age Friendly Co-ordinator has been appointed and has commenced the role. Council is receiving support for in-year targets up until the end of March 2021 and a commitment has been given by the funders for funding for a further 12 months up until the end of March 2022.

3.4 In order to develop an Age Friendly Charter for the District (consideration to be given to linking with other charters being developed under the Community Plan) and in line with the targets set out by the PHA, the Age Friendly Co-ordinator must submit an application to join the WHO Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities.

3.5 To join the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities cities must:

- Complete an online application form which is attached at Appendix 1 https://www.who.int/ageing/application_form/en/
- Attach to this application form a letter from the Mayor and municipal administration indicating their commitment to the Network cycle of continual improvement.
- Commence the Network cycle of four steps outlined below:
 - i. Establishment of mechanisms to involve older people throughout the Age-friendly Cities and Communities cycle
 - ii. Development of a baseline assessment of the age-friendliness of the city/community
 - iii. Development of a 3-year city-wide action plan based on the findings of this assessment
 - iv. Identification of indicators to monitor progress against this plan.

3.6 Members will note that the funding for the Age Friendly Co-ordinator post is confirmed until March 2022 and the application for the WHO status involves a 3-year action plan.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: PHA funding of £45,000 p.a. which would include programme costs.
	Human: Management time.
	Risk Management: Members will note that the funding for the Age Friendly co-ordinator post is confirmed until March 2022 and the application for the WHO status involves a 3-year action plan.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/a
	Rural Needs Implications: N/a
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the Age Friendly work being progressed within Mid Ulster District Council area.
5.2	Committee to consider the request for the Age-Friendly Co-ordinator to prepare an application to join the WHO Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Application form for the WHO Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities.