

Report of the Chair of the Ageing Well Partnership

## **Report from the Ageing Well Partnership**

### **Summary**

1. This report asks the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) to endorse the recommendation of the Ageing Well Partnership to apply to become a member of the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities.

### **Background**

2. The [joint health and wellbeing strategy for 2017-22](#) identifies four principal themes to be addressed. One of these themes is ageing well, with the key priority for that theme being: to reduce loneliness and social isolation for older people.
3. Other aims in the joint health and wellbeing strategy in relation to ageing well are:
  - continue work on delayed discharges from hospital
  - celebrate the role that older people play and use their talents
  - enable people to recover faster
  - support the vital contribution of York's carers
  - increase the use of social prescribing
  - enable people to die well in their place of choice

### **Context**

4. The ageing well part of the joint health and wellbeing strategy covers the so-called 'third age' roughly from 66 onwards, including the end of life. We know that between 2020 and 2035 the number

of people over 65 years of age in York will rise from 39,700 to 52,100 and those aged over 75 from 19,100 to 27,600.

5. When developing the board's joint health and wellbeing strategy 2017-2022, people said they particularly wanted the board to tackle isolation and loneliness and to ensure that in York, no one ever dies alone; hence the board's top priority in the ageing well theme of the strategy is to reduce loneliness and social isolation in older people.
6. Additionally the findings from the [2017 Older People's Survey](#) identified that although the experiences of older people living in York contain much that is positive – they generally feel safe, they are fairly sociable and are in good health – they tell us that there is a lot more that could be improved in the city: things such as providing seating in the city centre; making public transport more accessible and making information and advice more easily available. The survey findings, therefore, led to a number of recommendations for partner agencies. The Ageing Well Partnership will look at how best to take these forward.

### **Next steps**

7. At their most recent meeting in February the Ageing Well Partnership considered a number of items in relation to reducing social isolation and loneliness, these set out some of the positive work that is already happening in the city. Additionally the partnership considered how they might progress the top priority further along with progressing some of the other priorities in the joint health and wellbeing strategy and the older people's survey.
8. They agreed that using a robust nationally recognized framework could be an appropriate way forward and considered that working toward becoming an Age Friendly Community/City could help the city move forward on many of the Health and Wellbeing Board's aspirations for older people. In an Age Friendly Community services, local groups, businesses and residents all work together to identify and make the changes in both the physical environment (e.g. transport, housing, outdoor spaces) and social environment (e.g. volunteering, leisure, employment and services) that are relevant to their own local context and enable people to lead healthy and active later lives. More details are attached at **Annex A**.

9. The partnership also considered the eight domains of Age Friendly Cities/Communities (**Annex A refers**):
  - i. Outdoor spaces and buildings
  - ii. Transportation
  - iii. Housing
  - iv. Social participation
  - v. Respect and social inclusion
  - vi. Civic participation and employment
  - vii. Communication and information
  - viii. Community and health services
10. Additionally the partnership considered the benefits of becoming a member of the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities, currently including 30 cities. The UK network is affiliated to the WHO global network, which has over 700 members worldwide. The Centre for Ageing Better works with the network to share learning about what kinds of approaches work, both in the UK and internationally. They share examples and provide guidance, connect places together and offer support to member communicates in their efforts to become more age friendly.
11. After careful consideration the partnership agreed that an application to become a member of the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities could be progressed. The [Centre for Ageing Better](#) would then help develop York's wider application to become a member of the WHO Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities.

### **Consultation**

12. Consultation with a wide audience took place when developing both the joint health and wellbeing strategy and the older people's survey.
13. Additionally the concept of becoming an Age Friendly City/Community was discussed at the Ageing Well focused Health and Wellbeing Board workshop in November 2018 and also at the

CVS Ageing Well Forum in February 2019, where it was fully supported.

### **Options**

14. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to endorse the recommendation of the Ageing Well Partnership to apply to become a member of the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities.

### **Analysis**

15. The approach to making York an Age Friendly City should be an active citizenship approach, applying to the entire population to complement York's 'asset based place' programmes of work. The framework to deliver this is through the eight domains as detailed in paragraph 9.
16. Membership of the UK Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities is not solely about helping us to identify ways of reducing loneliness and social isolation; but it will provide a robust framework to help us deliver against *all* the priorities in the joint health and wellbeing strategy 2017-2022 and the recommendations in the older people's survey.
17. Joining the network will raise the profile of the older people's agenda complementing the findings of the older people's survey and the aspirations in the joint health and wellbeing strategy 2017-2022. It will recognize our desire to be a great place for people to grow old in.

### **Implications**

18. **Financial:** Membership is free and there are no definitive costs associated with implementing local action plans to become age friendly.

### **Risks**

19. Currently, whilst there is much work happening on the ageing well agenda, there is no strategic framework to support this and ensure that work programmes are joined up. The framework provided through the network will enable this to happen reflecting the domains of age friendly communities

## Recommendations

20. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to endorse the recommendation of the Ageing Well Partnership to apply to become a member of the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities.

Reason: To progress delivery of the ageing well theme in the joint health and wellbeing strategy 2017-2022 and the recommendations in the older people's survey.

## Contact Details

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### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Sharon Stoltz  
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City of York

**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 25.02.2019

### Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

### Wards Affected:

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

## Annexes

**Annex A** – Becoming an Age Friendly Community