



Community wellbeing

Ageing Well programme

Supporting local authorities to develop good places to grow older

How ageing well can help your local authority

What is the Ageing Well programme?

The Ageing Well programme supports top tier local authorities to promote the independence and well being of older people.

Older people deserve every opportunity to age well, in communities that value their contribution and experience. However, at the same time as we face unprecedented reductions in public sector funding, we have a higher proportion of older people than ever before, and statistics show that this will increase significantly in the future.

Ageing Well is designed to provide sector-led support to assist local authorities to meet this challenging agenda. The programme is delivered by Local Government Improvement and Development.

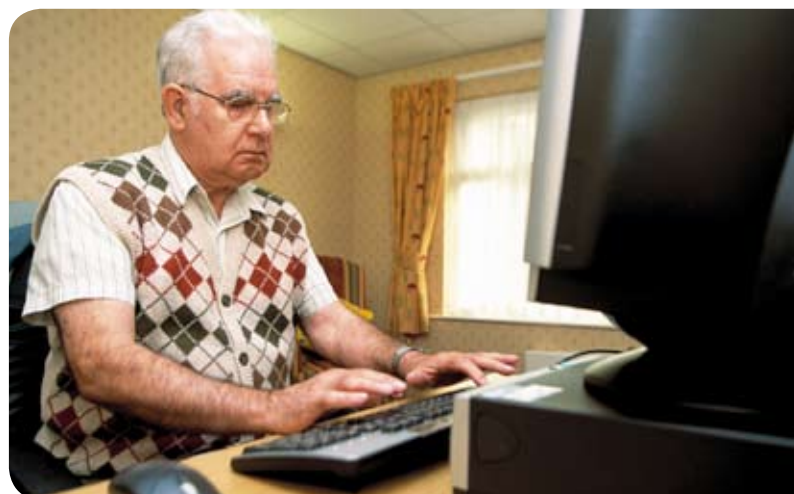
All of the support provided by Ageing Well is available free at the point of delivery.

The Ageing Well programme has four main themes:

- leadership
- strategic approach
- engagement of older people
- joined-up / coordinated commissioning and delivery of services for older people.

The programme works with local authorities and their partners on a number of key activities:

- supporting local political and managerial leadership
- involving older people and communities in discussions about priorities and opportunities for improving their wellbeing
- adopting more strategic approaches to prevention and early intervention
- maximising efficiencies and effectiveness through joined-up and 'place-based' approaches
- developing local solutions that deliver 'a good place to grow older'.



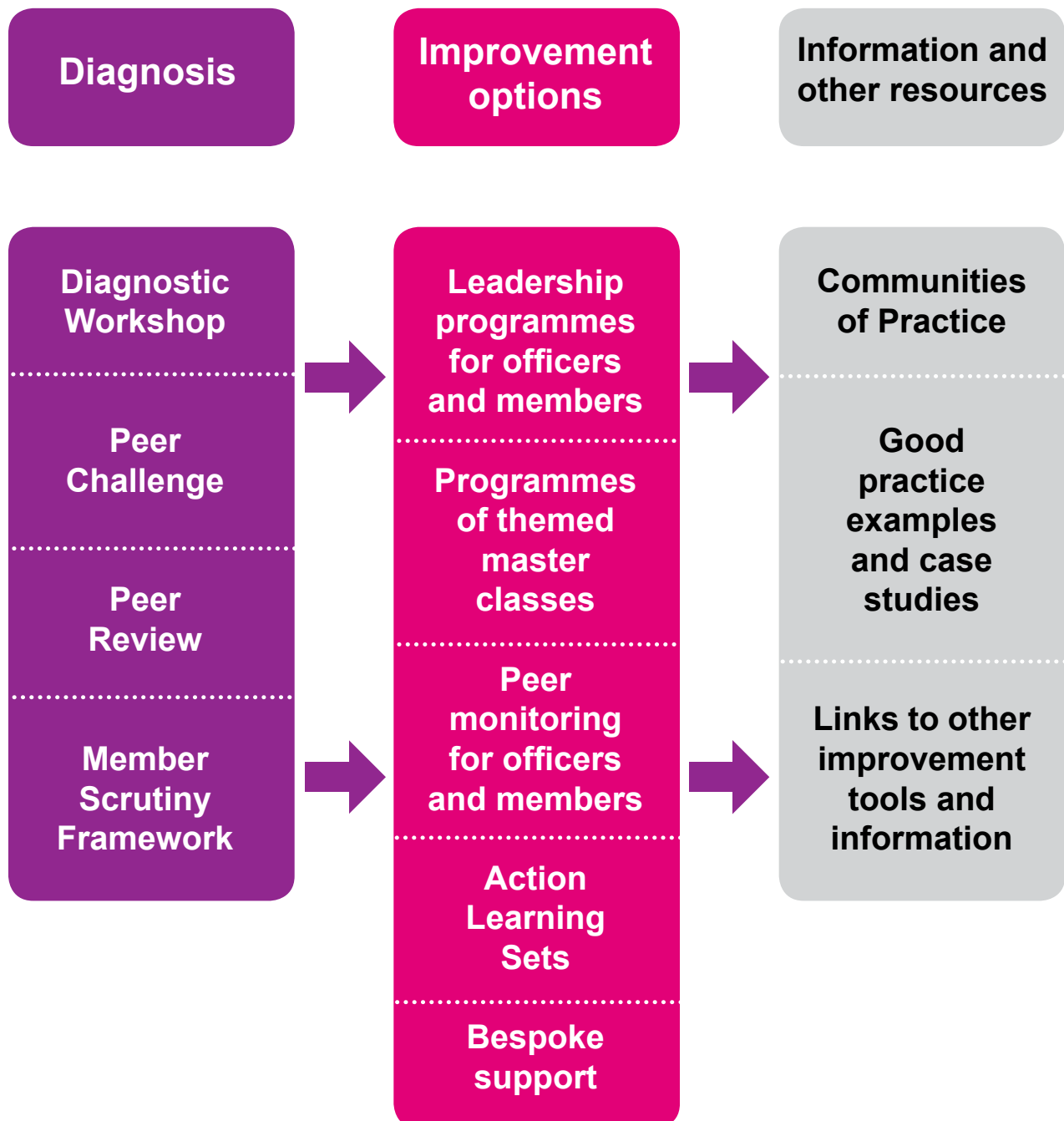
What does the programme offer?

The Ageing Well programme has three main components:

- helping councils diagnose what areas of their work they need to prioritise
- providing a menu of improvement products and opportunities
- collecting and disseminating a wide range of information and good practice.

Taken together, these components combine to provide a flexible programme of support which can be tailored to meet the diverse needs of your local authority.

Intensive work (peer review/challenge and bespoke support) will be available to about four local authorities and two local strategic partnerships in each region.



Diagnostic tools – identifying areas for development

Diagnosis

Ageing Well offers four tools to help your local authority or local strategic partnership to identify areas for development.

Diagnostic workshop

This is a one-day (or half-day) workshop helping local authorities and their partners review what they do well, and identify areas for improvement. In a sense, these workshops are the ‘entry level’ diagnostic offer. Workshops are externally facilitated and the structure of the event enables key staff from your local authority and its partners to establish your development priorities.

Peer review

The Ageing Well peer review is conducted over several days by a small team of experienced peers to generate a comprehensive picture of your authority’s strengths, and areas for improvement.

The peer support team involves people who understand the pressures and challenges of running a local authority and, in particular, the issues involved to meet the needs of older people. The reviews are individually tailored to your needs, and the action planning process will also focus on what works best for your area.

This is not an inspection or external assessment. The purpose is to support your local authority and your partners to accelerate the improvement that you want to make.

Peer challenge

A peer challenge provides a shorter, more focused approach to the peer review. It is not as broad as a peer review and may focus on just one or two areas.

Member scrutiny framework

The framework for member scrutiny can be used by overview and scrutiny committees to understand how well local authorities are preparing for an ageing society. It identifies a number of key areas which need to be addressed if local areas are to respond effectively to older people’s needs.

Bespoke support is available for a number of overview and scrutiny committees who wish to use the framework more intensively.



Improvement options

There is a selection of improvement tools to develop a tailored support programme for your local authority.

Leadership programmes

There are two leadership programmes:

- the leadership academy for elected members
- the leadership challenge for senior managers from your local authority and its partners.

These two leadership programmes mirror one another in content, but have a different approach for members and officers. Both have a balance of high quality speakers and opportunities to network, share ideas and to develop personal and area action plans for improving services. These are professionally facilitated events which run over two days.

Further information contact your Local Government Improvement and Development Improvement Manager.

Master classes

There are five one-day master classes:

- **Planning for real - effective preparation for an ageing population**
Assessing and integrating the financial implications of demographic change in the medium to longer term, into service redesign in the present.
17 November 2010, Birmingham

- **Health and wellbeing - a new agenda for an ageing society**

How local government can make the new architecture for public health and GP commissioning work for older people.

8 December 2010, Manchester

- **Improving outcomes and efficiency**

The benefits of prevention, early intervention and sector-led place-based working.

25 January 2011, London

- **Building social capital – the big society agenda for older people**

Exploring practical options for harnessing the capacity of local communities, particularly within the context of a reducing public sector.

9 February 2011, Newcastle

- **Equal access for older people**

Practical approaches to implementing age equality legal requirements in a challenging financial climate.

15 March 2011, Nottingham

The master classes are facilitated events combining thought provoking input from high quality speakers, group work and local and individual action planning.

Further information contact your Local Government Improvement and Development Improvement Manager.

Action learning sets

Action learning sets, consisting of approximately eight participants from different councils, are initially facilitated by Local Government Improvement and Development managers but are designed to progressively become self-managed and self-sustaining.

The methodology aims to:

- develop an understanding and vision of what improved services should look like and how these can be delivered through improved working methods
- help develop the skills required to deliver the service improvement
- contribute relevant knowledge and information to assist with service improvement.

The action learning sets have been designed for senior local government managers, but can be extended to elected members if required.

The sets can be established on a regional basis, or on a topic theme, for example, leading on from a master class or leadership academy.

Peer mentoring

Annex A

One-to-one mentoring is a development and learning technique aimed at increasing personal capacity, skills and learning. The approach is well-established and involves exploring needs, motivations and capabilities. It encourages and supports people to address the challenges they face.

A limited number of places are available for officers and members.

Bespoke support

Improvement managers, linked to each region, will work individually with you to identify and respond to your priority areas of performance improvement. We also provide support for implementing the new policy context facing local government, with particular emphasis on ensuring that it delivers the best outcomes for older people.



Information and other resources

A range of information and others resources are available.

Ageing Well Community of Practice

The Ageing Well Community of Practice (CoP) provides an online platform for people to share best practice, ideas, knowledge and problems with others members of the community. By providing the facility, and encouraging participation, the CoP can result in rapid access to the information you want.

<http://tinyurl.com/ageingwell>

(new users will need to register).

Links to other resources

There are clear links to good practice, useful web sites and tools for all of the areas for development identified in the self assessment and peer review. These are available through the CoP and the website.

How do we access them?

Your initial point of contact, by region:

Which products are right for us?

Annex A

The wide range of products and services available enable you to put together a tailored programme for your organisation and partners that addresses your needs and local priorities.

The diagnostic tools of self assessment, peer review and scrutiny will help direct you to the relevant products or services that best respond to the areas for development.

Your Ageing Well regional improvement manager will guide you through what is available and help you to develop a programme for your area that will equip you to respond to local challenges.

Cost

All the tools and support offered by this programme are free to participating local authorities/local strategic partnerships.

Further details on the overall programme are available from:

Email: ageingwell@local.gov.uk

Telephone: 0207 296 6857

Website: www.idea.gov.uk/ageingwell

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Local Government Group

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Annex A



**Local
Government
Group**

The Local Government Group is made up of six organisations which support, promote and improve local government.



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We consider requests on an individual basis.

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