



Subject:	Update on the Reference Group on Older People
Date:	7th February, 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	The purpose of this report is to report to committee on the key issues discussed at the Reference Group on Older People Meeting held on 19 th Dec 2022.
2.0	Recommendations
	That the People and Communities Committee note the report and approve the minutes from the Reference Group on Older People meeting held on 19 th Dec 2022.
3.0	Main report

Key Issues

The Reference Group on Older People is a working group of the People and Communities Committee which consists of an elected member from each of the political parties.

The minutes from the Reference Group on Older People are brought before the Committee for approval.

The key issues discussed at the 19th December meeting were:

3.1

Update on Age-Friendly Belfast

The draft Age Friendly Belfast 2023 -2026 public consultation has ended, only a few minor adjustments required, it is hoped to be launched March 2023

Members were asked if they could assist in the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum returning to the Conor Room to for their monthly meetings from February 2023, they all agreed it was important that they met in City Hall.

Dr Alan Stout is coming to the January Greater Belfast Seniors Forum meeting and Alderman Copeland is going to join this meeting.

Information on Support for older people over Christmas 2023 was provided to members.

3.2

Update on Extreme Weather and Winter Planning with Older People

The Reference Group were provided with an update on the work of the Age Friendly winter planning group which is now called the Age Friendly Seasonal planning group.

The Pension credit sessions requested by members were delivered by Advice NI via zoom at **5.15pm 12th September and 5.15pm on 6th October 2022.**

Members were updated on the Warm Spaces project in our Community Centres where there are drop in 2 sessions a week in every centre for older people and there will be targeted activities in the new year.

Margaret Higgins updated membered on the Belfast City Council Fuel Hardship Fund.

3.3

Age Friendly Belfast Older Volunteer of the Year Awards

Members where informed of the awards that took place in City Hall on 12th December, hosted by Tim McGarry an attended by The Lord Mayor and Alderman Copeland.

This year's winners were

- Older Volunteer of the Year: Owen Coogan from BraveHEARTs 50+ Men's group
- Longstanding Volunteer: Cooper McClure from Midland Amateur Boxing Club
- Unsung Hero: Robert McClenaghan from Falls Residents Association
- Digital Champion: Mary McCullough from Conway Education Centre
- Team Award: Given the quality of the nominations received the panel decided that 2 teams should be recognised this year for their contribution to the city
Community Projects Volunteers from Volunteer Now

<p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>Belfast East Dream Team from the RNID</p> <p><u>Age Friendly Belfast Staffing and Resources</u></p> <p>Members were informed that Elma Greer, Senior Project Development Officer has retired, and the replacement post is at interview stage.</p> <p>Members thank Elma for all her work and what has been achieved in her time.</p> <p>The new Age Friendly Coordinator post that will be funded by the Public Health Agency is hoped to go to advert soon.</p> <p><u>Dementia Awareness Training</u></p> <p>Cllr Aine McCabe requested Dementia Awareness training for members, this has previously been delivered and officers will organise this for the new year.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All events and activities are met within existing resources.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are currently no equality or good relation implications in relation to this report.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>1. Minutes of Reference Group on Older People Meeting held on 19th December 2022</p>