



Subject:	Reference Group on Older people
Date:	10 th October 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, CNS

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update committee on the key issues discussed at the

	Reference Group on Older People Meeting held on 19 th September 2023.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note the report and approve the minutes from the Reference Group on Older People meeting held on 19th September 2023.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Reference Group on Older People is a working group of the People and Communities Committee which meets on a quarterly basis and 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.
3.2	The meeting on the 19 th September was a joint meeting with the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum (G6), which was held in City Hall, the main items were as follows;
3.3	<p>Update on Smartpass 60+ consultation</p> <p>Those in attendance highlighted the significant role played by the G6 in galvanising a response to the consultation document on the 60 plus smart pass scheme to extend its qualifying period from sixty to sixty-five years of age. The G6 undertook to submit individual responses to the consultation document and to coordinate action with the other national forums located throughout the city, including use made of social media and marketing campaigns.</p> <p>The meeting noted the significant impacts that any change to the current scheme would have not only on older people but to a range of other individuals and issues.</p>
3.4	<p>Update from G6 on their action plan</p> <p>The group provided an update on their plan and highlighted the need for continued work to address cost of living pressures and to support older people's groups to access funding. Council officers will progress the issues raised.</p> <p>The absence of Age Discrimination legislation in Northern Ireland was noted as a priority for the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum. It was agreed that an update would be provided on regional activity to progress this issue and that the Chair would seek to support from a Belfast City Council perspective through a possible future Notice of Motion.</p>

3.5	<p>Update on Age Friendly Belfast Plan</p> <p>The Age Friendly Coordinator provided the Members with the following updates on key actions that have been delivered in relation to the Age Friendly Belfast Plan 2023-2027.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure, helping people to get out and about: Working with Age Friendly Ireland to develop Age Friendly design principles. • Social inclusion, promoting connections: research to identify barriers that adversely impact on older people and which impact negatively on their ability to engage socially with their community has been completed and this will inform the identification and development of approaches which recognise the different needs of older people. <p>Training on the signs and impact of loneliness and isolation has been delivered and evaluated very positively. Further training will be delivered through Positive Ageing Month.</p>
3.6	<p>Update on Positive Ageing Month</p> <p>Sunday 1st October 2023 is the International Day of Older Persons, which acknowledges the contribution that older people make to society. Now in its eight-year, Positive Ageing Month is back with a full programme of activities and events delivered by partners across the city of Belfast. Details on events can be found in the Positive Ageing Month Booklet. (Copies of this booklet will be made available at the committee meeting). The programme can also be accessed at https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/Events/Positive-Ageing-Month</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All events and activities outlined in this report are met within existing resources.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessments</u></p> <p>There are currently no equality or good relation implications in relation to this report.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Minutes of the Reference Group on Older People meeting 19th September 2023</p>