

Appendix 1

APPLICATION FORM FOR CITIES THAT WERE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE WHO EUROPEAN HEALTHY CITIES NETWORK IN PHASE V

Application for designation as a member city of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network in Phase VI (2014–2018)

Assessment will not begin until WHO has received a complete electronic application. The application must be submitted in English. The supporting documents must be submitted by e-mail in their original language with a correct English translation (or a summary in certain cases) or the web site links to the report made available.

Before you complete the form, please read carefully the document outlining the goals and requirements of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network in Phase VI and, in particular, Health 2020: a European policy framework supporting action across government and society for health and well-being in Annex 5.

If you need assistance or have questions while completing this application, please contact: WHO Centre for Urban Health infohcp@euro.who.int

Application for designation as a member city of the Phase VI (2014–2018) WHO European Healthy Cities Network

Applicant city: **BELFAST**

City: Belfast	Country: United Kingdom
City population: 281,000	

Coordinator:

Name: **Joan Devlin/Jonna Monaghan** Title: **Chief Executive/ Healthy City Coordinator**

Address 1: **Belfast Healthy Cities, 22-24 Lombard Street** City: **Belfast**

Country **Northern Ireland, UNK**

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1. Political and partnership commitment

Political leadership

Name of mayor: **Lord Mayor, Cllr Martín O' Muilleoir**

Title: **Right Hon Lord Mayor**

Date elected: **3 June 2102**

Name of politician responsible for the healthy city project: **Cllr Steven Corr**

Title: **Chair, Health & Environmental Services Committee**

Date elected: **3 June 2012**

Name of politician responsible for the healthy city project: **Cllr Colin Keenan**
Title: **Deputy Chair, Health & Environmental Services Committee**
Date elected: **3 June 2012**

Council resolution supporting the participation of the city in Phase VI

Date of council resolution: **4 April 2014**

Please send a signed scanned copy of the council resolution by e-mail

Scanned copy attached by email

A three page Health 2020 situation analysis document, identifying the major gaps in the main domains of Health 2020 at the city level and the priority issues to be taken forward in Phase VI (2014–2018)

Please send a scanned copy of the document by e-mail

Scanned copy attached by email

Letter of commitment from the mayor agreeing to the city participating in Phase VI

Please send a signed scanned copy of the letter of commitment by e-mail

Scanned copy attached by email

The letter should also include explicit commitment to the following:

- agreement to dedicate resources to meet the goals and requirements for Phase VI;
- agreement to actively participate in the WHO European Network and sub network meetings;
- agreement by the mayor to participate in meetings of mayors;
- agreement that the city can be externally monitored and evaluated by WHO; and
- agreement to pay an annual financial contribution for all of Phase VI (2014–2018).

A Health 2020 analysis was conducted, to identify the existing strategic policies and current initiatives in relation to the two overarching goals and the four core themes. The findings of the Health 2020 analysis were presented at a Phase VI workshop held in Belfast City Hall and hosted by the Lord Mayor, Cllr Martín O' Muilleoir, with key public sector organisations (health; Council; housing); government departments (health; planning; transport; regeneration – physical and social) and representatives from the two Universities and the private sector (urban design). The purpose of the workshop was to agree the priority issues within the four core themes to be taken forward during Phase VI. Following submission and successful designation of the application, all sectors including non-governmental and community organizations will be involved in development and delivery of the action plans.

2a. Improving health for all and reducing health inequalities

How will your city take forward the strategic Phase VI goal of improving health for all and reducing health inequalities?

Please outline no more than three actions in less than 250 words.

There is strong commitment in Belfast to reducing health inequalities and improving health for all. During WHO Phase V (2009-2013), as part of the reforms to Health & Social Care in Northern Ireland, the Public Health Agency was established as the agency for health protection, and health and social well-being improvement with a commitment to addressing the causes of and reducing inequalities in health and social well-being. A number of other public agencies, government departments, non-governmental organizations and community have strategic goals and programmes to address inequalities; deprivation and disadvantage. In 2010, the Belfast Strategic Partnership was established with a framework for action to address life inequalities.

The three actions Belfast will take forward during Phase VI will be:

Tool Development: Strengthen work initiated in Phase V on Health Equity in All Policies (HEiAP) and on previous experience in health impact assessment. Develop (health) equity assessment tools to assist sectors and organizations to assess the impact of their policies on health and inequalities.

Capacity Building: Build institutional and community capacity and skills to enable the implementation of HEiAP and strengthen understanding across sectors and communities that health and equity is the outcome of policies pursued in other arenas. Within HEiAP, identify public health principles to be incorporated into policy development generally but that also strongly connects planning with public health.

Delivery/Application: Work collaboratively to apply the health equity lens to a range of policies and emerging plans, including community planning. This will ensure a systematic approach using a strong evidence base. Health equity assessment will take a broad based approach including gender equality

2b. Improving leadership and participatory governance for health

How will your city take forward the strategic Phase VI goal of improving leadership and participatory governance for health and development?

Please outline no more than three actions in less than 250 words.

A number of partnerships exist in Belfast at a community and local government level. There is a sophisticated network of community organisations in Belfast, with a strong track record of innovative practice in working with local communities. There is also a strong non- governmental sector. A range of intersectoral government policies exist and service users are engaged in the development of health policies within the department of health. There is a statutory duty of PPI (patient public involvement). With the reform of local government, Belfast City Council will develop a Community Plan by 2017, with a statutory duty for other statutory organizations to participate in the process. Existing partnerships and practice provide a strong foundation on which to further develop governance for health approaches proposed within this Phase VI goal.

The three actions Belfast will take forward will be:

- Enhance capacity and strengthen understanding with politicians and policy makers that whole of government approaches (local to global, vertical and horizontal); whole of society approaches (the contribution of many sectors and

the active involvement of communities and citizens) are required to improve health for all and reduce inequalities.

- Strengthen leadership and governance for health through the development of ‘health diplomacy’ training to enhance negotiation skills and make governance for health a priority for more than the health sector.
- Provide examples from Europe on how the whole of government, whole of society approaches have been implemented, identifying tools to manage these complex processes. Provide case studies of ‘effective responses’ that improve health for all and reduce inequalities from cities within the WHO European Healthy Cities Network

3. Core themes of Phase VI

Core theme 1: Life-course approach and empowering people (priority issues: early years; older people; vulnerability; and health literacy)

Please describe (in less than 250 words) how you intend to address the core theme of the life-course approach and empowering people overall and which issues you intend to especially emphasize. These should be relevant to the results of your city’s Health 2020 situation analysis report.

The results of the Health 2020 situation analysis exercise highlighted significant programme development and investment in early years and older people in Belfast delivered by statutory, voluntary and community organisations. Specific programmes are also in place to address the burden of ill health experienced by migrants and vulnerable populations. The concept of health literacy is relatively new to the city.

The following priorities will have special emphasis:

Early years: increase understanding of the impact of ‘place’ and environment on the health and wellbeing of children. Extend the existing Child Friendly Belfast group/partnership to develop an intersectoral strategic framework on ‘place’ that will engage children and families and provide ‘place’ as positive early childhood experiences and development for health and wellbeing in later life.

Older People: support the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership, to fully implement the WHO concept of Age Friendly Cities – develop specific programmes to address social isolation and gender differences within this. Develop an interagency age friendly ‘place’ strategy to support mental wellbeing and independent living. Belfast will continue to be a member of the WHO Healthy Cities Healthy Ageing Sub network in Phase VI, represented by HASP, and will identify core cities to exchange knowledge and learning.

Health literacy: establish an interagency group to develop a health literacy strategy that will encompass the following elements: attract and support politicians to lobby on reducing inequalities; empower those experiencing inequalities to lobby to reduce inequalities; consider cultural and contextual factors and support providers to promote health literacy friendliness of settings within which people obtain and use health information; explore the use of social media in promoting health literacy; increase the inclusion and engagement of young people, and promote health literacy in the appropriate use of health facilities.

Core theme 2: Tackling the major public health challenges in the European Region(priority issues: physical activity; diet and obesity; alcohol; tobacco; and mental well-being)
Please describe (in less than 250 words) how you intend to address the core theme of tackling the major public health challenges in the European Region and which issues you intend to especially emphasize. These should be relevant to the results of your city's Health 2020 situation analysis report.

The Health 2020 analysis highlighted that an extensive range of programmes exist in Belfast on the priority issues within this theme. It is acknowledged that whole of government, whole of society integrated approaches with strong political leadership require strengthening to address these major challenges and make a difference to the health and wellbeing of the local population.

The following priorities will have special emphasis:

Mental wellbeing: explore the legacy of the conflict (troubles) and its impact on mental well-being and unemployment with other 'divided cities' in the WHO network; support the Belfast Strategic Partnership's Mental wellbeing group to consider the relationship between transport, social isolation & mental wellbeing and identify the most effective strategies and actions for improved mental wellbeing. (Consider cross links with older people priority in theme 1).

Physical activity, obesity & transport: provide evidence on the impact on health of: physical and social environments design; integrated transport systems that promote walking & cycling; and identify the essential elements of an integrated transport & design strategy to increase physical activity for all.

Tool development: review existing tools, guidance and evidence and apply a health /health equity lens to develop appropriate guidance, tools and indicators to planning and transport policies, with a special emphasis on the emerging Local Developments Plans/Community Plan to increase physical activity, and reduce levels of obesity. (Link to HEiAP action as outlined in strategic goal one) Support the health sector to be proactive in increasing strategic collaboration with planning and identify models of success in other cities.

Priority issues: identify core cities in the WHO Healthy Cities Network to exchange & share learning on the major public health priority issues

Core theme 3: Strengthening people-centred health systems and public health capacity (priority issues: transforming the delivery of city services; and revitalizing and strengthening public health capacity)

Please describe (in less than 250 words) how you intend to address the core theme of strengthening people-centred health systems and public health capacity overall and which issues you intend to especially emphasize. These should be relevant to the results of your city's Health 2020 situation analysis report.

Transforming the delivery of city services: Two key emerging strategic and institutional changes that will take place during Phase VI will create opportunities for transforming local city services in improving health & wellbeing; and in reducing inequalities; Transforming Your Care within health & social care and Community Planning, within new Council powers. The opportunity will arise through local consultation with service users; citizens and representatives of interest groups through the non-governmental organisational sector to ensure services are closer aligned, to user and community needs.

Strengthening public Health Capacity: Establish an interagency working group/s that will develop and monitor a framework for action to strengthen public health capacity across agencies/departments and community organizations/citizens.

Key elements to be considered within the strategy will be:

- assessment of knowledge & identification of need
- awareness, leadership & capacity of politicians
- high level public health principles within policy development
- capacity of policy makers in health & non health agencies/departments to influence policy making
- understanding of co health benefits of collaboration/intersectoral policies
- knowledge on health literacy
- learning from other Healthy Cities
- capacity to deliver the concept of healthy urban planning
- city health diplomacy
- review & update of Northern Ireland public health legislation

This approach will be consistent with the delivery of the two strategic goals and the core themes.

Core theme 4: Creating resilient communities and supportive environments (priority issues: community resilience; healthy settings; healthy urban planning and design; healthy transport; climate change; and housing and regeneration)

Please describe (in less than 250 words) how you intend to address the core theme of creating resilient communities and supportive environments overall and which issues you intend to especially emphasize. These should be relevant to the results of your city's Health 2020 situation analysis report.

Creating resilient communities is a concept that is understood and relevant to all sectors in the city. The Health 2020 analysis identified an essential requirement for improved whole of government whole of society approaches to community resilience, and the opportunity to do so will be presented through the introduction of community planning.

The following priorities have special emphasis:

Healthy urban planning & design

- Through Community Planning develop a strategic vision & strengthen place based approaches within future Local Development Plans, that will embed health, quality of life and wellbeing and reduce inequities. Strengthen strategic linkages between health, planning & urban design.
- Through the institutional reorganisation build the capacity of politicians and officers to understand the concept of healthy urban planning & design
- Support the development of child and age friendly places (cross link to theme 1 and theme 2)
- Provide evidence, learning & new tools to identify effective 'place' solutions from European Healthy Cities & other international practice that will test new approaches to improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities. Identify solutions to 'place' from 'divided cities' within WHO Healthy Cities Network that may be transferable to Belfast.
- Provide input to & influence development of key strategic planning documents to improve health and wellbeing, including the emerging SPPS 1 (Strategic Policy

Planning Statement)

- Build/unlease capacity across public and community sectors to understand, participate in and contribute to the delivery of healthy urban planning and design

The above elements will be considered by the existing Regeneration & Healthy Urban Environments group and intersectoral action plans will be developed with timescales and monitoring frameworks

Climate Change:

- build resilience and enable communities through an asset based approach to improve health and reduce health inequities
- build the capacity of health professionals to understand climate change and identify actions relevant to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change

Healthy Transport:

- jointly develop and support the implementation of an Active Travel Plan for Belfast
- provide evidence, learning & effective responses to active travel from cities within WHO network
- provide evidence on the co benefits of the impact of active travel actions
- present findings from strategies and evidence from ‘place’ actions with children and older people to further influence the development of healthy transport options

4. Capacity-building

How will your city address training and capacity-building for leadership, participatory governance, improving health for all and reducing health inequalities throughout Phase VI?

Please identify no more than three actions in less than 250 words.

An overall capacity building programme will be developed for Phase VI that will be cross referenced and incorporate the priority issues identified in the core themes and the actions in the two strategic goals. In addition to this, the two Universities in Belfast offer academic and professional training in the Phase VI related themes.

5. Networking

What are the particular strengths or experience your city could contribute to the overall work of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network?

Please identify three areas:

Belfast could contribute the following strengths & experiences:

- **working in a ‘divided city’**
- **partnership experience**
- **social housing strategies**
- **community level action**
- **e health**

How does your city expect to gain from the WHO European Network during Phase VI?

- **Exchange learning from other cities within the WHO Network**
- **Access to expertise within WHO Europe on local public health challenging issues**
- **Introduce and apply new concepts, tools and themes to the city that will improve health and reduce inequalities**

Is your city a member of the national healthy cities network in your country?

Belfast is a member of the UK National Healthy Cities Network and an associate member of the Healthy Cities Network Ireland.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

Confirm that:

The city agrees to be externally evaluated by WHO: Yes ✓ No

Have your healthy city activities systematically monitored or evaluated?
Yes ✓ No If yes, describe

Belfast Healthy Cities produce a bi monthly progress report which outlines progress on the annual action plan. This is made available at the bi monthly Board of Directors meeting. In addition to this, separate monitoring reports to two funders are completed monthly/quarterly respectively. The ART (Annual Reporting Template) is submitted to WHO. An independent mid-way review was carried out in 2011/12, under the guidance of a sub group of the Board of Directors. It was presented to the Board of Directors, funders and key stakeholders in 2012 and submitted to WHO in 2012 as a supplement to ART.

Please send a signed scanned copy of any substantial report by e-mail or the web site link to the original

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network in Phase VI

Please print a copy of this page for your records.

See below a checklist of signed scanned or original documents to be submitted by e-mail with the application.

- Council resolution supporting city participation in Phase VI
- Letter of commitment from the city mayor supporting city participation in Phase VI
- The Health 2020 city situation analysis document
- A city statement indicating how the city will benefit from being a member of the Phase VI WHO European Healthy Cities Network
- Optional evaluation report

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Please reference Phase VI application documentation.