

Reference Group on Older People

Tuesday, 18th September, 2018

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE REFERENCE GROUP ON OLDER PEOPLE

Members present: Alderman Copeland (Chairperson); and
Councillor Groves.

In attendance: Mr. D. Connolly, Environmental Health Manager;
Mrs. G. McEvoy, Senior Environmental Health Officer;
Mrs. E. Greer, Healthy Ageing Coordinator; and
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Alderman L. Patterson.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 12th June, 2018 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Interest were reported.

Update on Age-friendly Belfast

The Environmental Health Manager provided the Reference Group with an update on the draft Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2018-2021, including the Age-friendly Belfast Convention, Positive Ageing Month, the World Health Organisation (W.H.O) Healthy Cities Conference and the Age-friendly Network.

Noted.

Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2018-2021

The Environmental Health Manager reported that feedback from the consultation process had been positive and that 90% of respondents had expressed satisfaction with the actions and priorities contained within the action plan, which was scheduled to be launched in October, 2018.

Noted.

Age-friendly Belfast Convention 2018

The Reference Group was provided with an update on the aforementioned convention, scheduled to take place on Monday, 1st October, 2018. The Environmental Health Manager advised the Reference Group that the convention would be attended by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Copeland, the Commissioner for Older People and the coordinator for the Healthy Ageing Disability and Long Term Care, WHO Regional Office for Europe. The Members were advised also that the convention coincided with the start of Positive Ageing Month.

Noted.

Positive Ageing Month 2018

The Senior Environmental Health Officer provided the Members with an update in regard to the diverse programme of events as part of Positive Ageing Month, 2018. She referred to the objectives of the initiative and the success in dealing with the issues of enhanced well-being and the reduction in social isolation for Older People. She advised the Reference Group that the Council's Community Centres would be undertaking a wide range of events as part of positive ageing month, including a number of local libraries which had signed up to the initiative.

Noted.

W.H.O. Healthy Cities Conference 2018

The Environmental Health Manager referred to the aforementioned Conference at which the Age-friendly Belfast and the Greater Belfast Seniors' Forum would be showcased. He referred also to a site visit to the east Belfast Network Centre at which members of the East Belfast Seniors' Forum would be in attendance.

Noted.

Age-friendly Network

The Reference Group was informed that Age N.I., the Department for Communities and the Public Health Agency were in the process of establishing an Age-friendly network for Northern Ireland which would be launched in November, 2018. Gillian McEvoy, Senior Environmental Health Officer and Elma Greer, Healthy Ageing coordinator have been nominated to represent Belfast on the network.

Noted.

Update on Be Prepared Events

The Senior Environmental Health Officer provided the Reference Group with a list of 'Be Prepared' events which would be held across the city from 30th October, 2018 till 28th January, 2019. She stated that the events would provide useful advice and guidance for older people on how they might improve their daily living.

Noted.

Korber Symposium on Demographic Change

The Senior Environmental Health Officer provided the Reference Group with an Invitation to attend and help deliver a workshop using Belfast as a good practise example at a symposium on demographic change to be held Hamburg, Germany, 14th and 15th November 2018. The event would be of particular interest to those individuals with responsibility for developing policy around the issues of ageing and demography

The Reference Group considered the invitation and agreed that two officers from the Council be nominated to attend the aforementioned Symposium, together with the Chairperson of the Reference Group, subject to the approval of the People and Communities Committee.

Date of Next Meeting

The Reference Group agreed that its next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 12th December at 1.00 p.m.

Chairperson