

CABINET MEETING: 14 OCTOBER 2021

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION: AGE FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & WELLBEING (COUNCILLOR SUSAN ELSMORE)

AGENDA ITEM: 7

Reason for this Report

1. To seek approval for Cardiff's submission to the World Health Organisation to join the global network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities.
2. To commit to an Age Friendly promise to the people of Cardiff.

Background

3. By 2050, the world's urban population is expected to nearly double. Fifty-seven per cent of people 60 years and older live in towns and cities. Globally, the total number of people over 60 is set to double by 2050, rising from 1 billion to 2 billion.
4. While most people can expect to live to 60 years and beyond, there is little evidence to suggest that these extra years are spent in good health. Cities and other human settlements can affect health directly, or through barriers or incentives that affect opportunities, decisions and behaviour.
5. Between 2005 and 2015 Cardiff's population grew by 11.1%. This is a bigger percentage increase in population than any of the 'Core Cities' apart from Manchester and Nottingham. This growth is set to continue with projected growth of over 20% by 2035, making Cardiff the fastest growing core city in percentage terms.
6. A closer look at our growing population shows that Cardiff's rapid growth will not be evenly spread across age-groups. There will be significantly more people between the age of 30 and 50, more school children and more people over 65 years old. These changes in the make-up of Cardiff's population will put pressure on services because it is well known that certain age-groups are more likely to rely on public services.

7. The number of citizens in Cardiff aged between 65 and 84 is projected to rise by 44% over the next 20 years, and the number over 85 years old is expected to nearly double.
8. Older people, particularly those over 85 years, are far more likely to need health and care services to help them live independent lives. So, whilst population growth is a sign of the success of the city, there are challenges to be managed.
9. The number of people living with dementia is also projected to rise significantly. There is evidence that the risk of developing dementia at any given age is actually starting to fall, but this decline does not sufficiently offset the rise in the population size. As with diabetes, there are thought to be many people currently living with dementia whose condition has not yet been diagnosed.
10. Cardiff, together with other European cities, committed to Age Friendly action in 2013 by signing The Dublin Declaration on Age-Friendly Cities and Communities in Europe. This took place during the EU Summit on Active and Healthy Ageing.
11. Published in March 2017, Cardiff's Local Well-being Assessment and Action plan already set out commitments to older people. The Assessment provides an analysis of Cardiff's social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being and identified the key opportunities and challenges facing Cardiff as the city grows. While the Wellbeing plan sets out the priorities of the Public Services Board and focuses on areas of public service delivery that require partnership working. Actions related to Older People are encapsulated within Wellbeing objective 6 – Cardiff is a great place to grow older.

Issues

World Health Organisation Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities

12. The WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities was established in 2010 to connect cities, communities and organizations worldwide, with the common vision of making their community a great place to grow older and aspire to:-
 - inspire change by showing what can be done and how it can be done.
 - connect cities and communities worldwide to facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge and experience; and
 - support cities and communities to find appropriate innovative and evidence-based solutions

13. Currently there are 1114 cities and communities in 44 countries, covering over 262 million people worldwide within the WHO network. UK membership does not currently include any cities or communities in Wales.

14. Membership of the Network will demonstrate a commitment to the development and sustenance of Age Friendly Environments

“Age-friendly environments foster healthy and active ageing . In practical terms, age-friendly environments are free from physical and social barriers, and are supported by policies, systems, services, products, and technologies that:

- *promote health, and build and maintain physical and mental capacity throughout people’s lives*
- *enable people, even when experiencing capacity loss, to continue to do the things they value.*
- *recognize the wide range of capacities and resources among older people*
- *anticipate and respond flexibly to ageing related needs and preferences*
- *respect older people’s decisions and lifestyle choices*
- *reduce inequities*
- *protect those who are most vulnerable; and*
- *promote older people’s inclusion in and contribution to all areas of community life” - **World Health Organisation***

15. Welsh Government’s Age Friendly Wales: Our strategy for an Aging Society will launch shortly and include an aspiration for all councils in Wales to apply to join the Network.

16. The Older People’s Commissioner of Wales approached Cardiff Council pre-pandemic to outline the opportunities that membership of the network represents.

17. Although this work was somewhat curtailed by the challenges that the Pandemic represented, liaison has been taking place with the Older Person’s Commission for Wales to progress the work required to initiate the application process.

Cardiff, working towards an Age Friendly City - Action Plan

18. A core element of the process is the collating of a Cardiff ‘Working Towards an Age Friendly City Action plan. There are a number of current older person strategies and plans that have been developed across the Public Service Partnership and beyond. Each individual strategy was co-produced with older people fully involved in the process. These strategies have been brought together into a combined action plan detailing work in progress and aspirations to make Cardiff a better place to live for Older

People. This plan “Cardiff, working towards an Age Friendly City” is set out at appendix 1.

Cardiff's We Will Commitments

19. The Action Plan sets out a number of commitments to the Older people of Cardiff, these commitments are fully aligned with existing strategies and plans, are set out below:

We will:

- Ensure that our citizens can live independently, and are connected to their communities, taking into account what matters to them
- Create resilient communities and develop strong community networks that can support older people to live well
- Deliver services in a locality setting, close to citizens homes as a foundation for the provision of seamless, person-centred services
- Work towards a Dementia Friendly City which helps people living with dementia and their families to thrive
- Ensure that older people are able to enjoy all aspects of city life and are provided with opportunities to participate in activities and events to improve wellbeing and enrich their lives
- Deliver a city that is open and accessible to all, and work towards a transport system that everyone has the confidence to use
- Deliver the best housing outcomes for all older people in Cardiff
- Collaborate with older people, their carers, support workers and families to improve assessment, diagnosis and care planning practices so that their plan reflects what is important to them and achieves the outcomes they seek

Age Friendly Domains

20. The World Health Organisation have set out 8 domains to describe age friendly cities, these domains have been used as a framework for the development of the plan. Examples of the content under each domain is set out below:

Outdoor space and public buildings

- Age Friendly focus in developing our Replacement Local Development Plan 2021-2036
- Age Friendly design in public buildings (Grand Avenue Day Centre)
- Cardiff's Parks in an Age Friendly City
- Age Friendly Community Hubs

Housing

- Older Persons Housing Strategy & Developments
- Rehousing Solutions for Older People
- Care & Repair – supporting older people to repair, adapt and maintain their homes

Transport

- Cardiff Transport White Paper – supporting improvements that will facilitate better access

Community Support & Health

- Regional Partnership Board (Aging Well) – improving outcomes for older people
- Cardiff and the Vale Health Board – Re-imagining Aging into the Future
- Public Health Wales – Improving health outcomes for older people
- Dementia Friendly Cardiff – working towards a Dementia Friendly city
- Dementia Learning & Development Team – Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board
- Independent Living Service (Community Re-ablement Team) – supporting older people to live independently
- Hub Services including the Wellbeing Support Service – bespoke advice and support services for older people
- Fire Service – targeted support for older citizens
- Police Service – The Herbert Protocol
- Cardiff University – focus on research to make a difference to the lives of older people
- Cardiff Metropolitan University – developing innovative devices to improve the lives of people living with late stage dementia

Communication & Information

- DEWIS – providing access to information that help people with their wellbeing
- Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale – supporting older people to be connected and engaged in their community
- Dementia Friendly Cardiff Website – providing information on services available to people living with dementia and their families
- Age Friendly Cardiff Website – a digital platform to be developed as part of the Age Friendly City initiative providing information and links to the Age Friendly services available across the City

Civic Participation & Employment

- 50+ Forum – enabling older people to have a voice in issues that affect them
- ASK Cardiff annual survey – capturing feedback from citizens on public services
- Citizen Panel – Shaping local decision making (strong representation from older people 35% of panel are aged 55+)
- Into Work – targeted employment events and training aimed at the older job seeker

Social Participation

- Goldies – singing groups for older people
- Friends and Neighbours groups – bringing people together
- Community Hub Activities – older people's events programme

Respect & Social Inclusion

- Social Care/Schools Pen pal Scheme – creating penpal schemes within Care Homes and Schools
- Stay Steady Schools – training young people to work with older people to raise awareness of and reduce the risk of falling
- Love Where you Live – a growing network of volunteers across Cardiff tackling litter and making a difference to their communities (36% are aged 55+)
- Arts in Health initiatives – supporting older people to share their experiences

Toilet Strategy

21. The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 requires Local Authorities including Cardiff Council to assess local needs and facilities, and to publish a local toilets strategy. This regulatory requirement also includes planning to meet those needs in collaboration with partners within the city. It is evident, from preliminary consultation related to the Age Friendly City initiative, that public toilet availability is key to older people's ability to play a full part in community life. This work will therefore be progressed alongside the Age Friendly City and Dementia Friendly Cardiff commitments within the Social Care, Health & Wellbeing portfolio.

Age Friendly Website

22. A dedicated website will be created that will detail the commitment to become an age-friendly community and demonstrate the work of the Public Services Partnership to create and sustain an Age Friendly City. This will support partnership collaboration as well as raising awareness of services available for older people within the City to the citizens of Cardiff.

Application Process

23. Applications to the network are submitted through The Centre for Ageing Better who host the UK Network of Age-Friendly Communities, they will undertake initial assessment then submit to WHO. The Older People's Commissioner for Wales is currently potentially applying for affiliate membership which could speed up this process.
24. WHO Network Application assessments do not take place immediately on receipt and the decision timeframe is therefore not evident at this stage.

Consultation and Equality Impact Assessment

25. Consultation took place with members of the 50+ Forum and service users of the Independent living service on 10th September in two digital and face to face events at Central Library Hub which were attended by the Cabinet member. Participants gave feedback on the Age Friendly communities

domains and highlighted areas of potential action. The consultation exercise will be shared with the wider membership of the 50+ Forum. Initial responses reveal an appetite for an inclusive welcoming environment within the City which is friendly for all ages and the group are keen to see cultural changes to achieve this. Some members were already aware of Age Friendly Manchester who are already members of the WHO network and the positive impact that this has had within that City. Further work will take place with the group to explore other potential areas of action for consideration

26. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on the application; no significant issues were identified.

Reason for Recommendations

27. To capitalise on the support available via the global network to make Cardiff more age friendly. This includes the following incentives and benefits:-

- Inspiring change by showing what can be done and how it can be done.
- Connecting cities and communities worldwide to facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge and experiences.
- Supporting cities and communities to find appropriate innovative and evidence based solutions.
- Support from a global network of affiliates, practitioners, researchers, experts and advocates committed to fostering age-friendly environments
- Recognition and visibility in the Networks Activities and WHO's dedicated website – Age Friendly World.
- Opportunities for local and global collaboration such as international research projects, joint publications, networking and sharing amongst each other etc.
- To build awareness of Age Friendly services and developments across the city's partners and citizens.

Financial Implications

28. Whilst there are no additional identified financial implications at this stage, reference is made to potential costs including website creation and maintenance.
29. Ongoing funding requirements and available budgets in relation to the network membership are still to be established. Terms and conditions of any funding sources will need to be met and any expenditure managed within confirmed funding.

30. Any projects that may be implemented as part of any approved action plan will need to be met from existing resources or considered amongst other priorities when determining future budget frameworks.

Legal Implications

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

31. The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('the Act') places a 'well-being duty' on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 national well-being goals for Wales - a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, has cohesive communities, a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, and is globally responsible. In discharging its duties under the Act, the Council has set and published wellbeing objectives designed to maximise its contribution to achieving the national wellbeing goals. The wellbeing objectives are set out in Cardiff's Corporate Plan 2021 -24.
32. When exercising its functions, the Council is required to take all reasonable steps to meet its wellbeing objectives. This means that the decision makers should consider how the proposed decision will contribute towards meeting the wellbeing objectives and must be satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to meet those objectives.
33. The wellbeing duty also requires the Council to act in accordance with a 'sustainable development principle'. This principle requires the Council to act in a way which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Put simply, this means that Council decision makers must take account of the impact of their decisions on people living their lives in Wales in the future. In doing so, the Council must:
- Look to the long term
 - Focus on prevention by understanding the root causes of problems
 - Deliver an integrated approach to achieving the 7 national well-being goals
 - Work in collaboration with others to find shared sustainable solutions
 - Involve people from all sections of the community in the decisions which affect them
34. The decision maker must be satisfied that the proposed decision accords with the principles above; and due regard must be given to the Statutory Guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers, which is accessible on line using the link below: <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/statutory-guidance/?lang=en>
35. In considering this matter, the Council must have regard to its public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). This means the Council must give due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are: age, gender reassignment, sex, race –

including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality, disability, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, religion or belief – including lack of belief.

36. When taking strategic decisions, the Council also has a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage ('the Socio-Economic Duty' imposed under section 1 of the Equality Act 2010). In considering this, the Council must take into account the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers ([WG42004 A More Equal Wales The Socio-economic Duty Equality Act 2010 \(gov.wales\)](#)) and must be able to demonstrate how it has discharged its duty.
37. An Equalities Impact Assessment aims to identify the equalities implications of the proposed decision, including inequalities arising from socio-economic disadvantage, and due regard should be given to the outcomes of the Equalities Impact Assessment (**Appendix 2**).

HR Implications

38. There are no HR implications arising from an application to join the network

Property Implications

39. There are no property implications

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to approve the application to the World Health Organisation to join the global network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities and commit to an Age Friendly promise to the people of Cardiff.

SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Jane Thomas
	Director Adults, Housing and Communities
	8 October 2021

The following appendices are attached:

- Appendix 1 Cardiff Working Towards an Age Friendly City Action Plan
Appendix 2 Equality Impact Assessment