

Central Area Office
51/53 Sean McDermott Street
Dublin 1
5th November 2018

To the Chairperson and Members of
The Central Area Committee.

Central Area Age Friendly Report – November 2018

A Summit meeting, involving key Dublin City Age Friendly Programme representatives was held on 27th September, 2018. The purpose of the Summit meeting was to explore three agreed priority areas and to identify a number of practical actions which could be taken in the short term to drive programme progress across these three areas:

1. **Transport and the built environment** with the goal of enhancing ease of access and movement for older people across Dublin City.
2. **Housing + home** with the goal of supporting older people to age comfortably in the communities they belong to.
3. **Communications** with goals to (a) raise awareness of the Dublin Age Friendly Programme and (b) ensure that older people across the City can access more timely and practical information about what is happening in their communities.

The Summit meeting was chaired by Maurice O’Connell with meeting participants including representatives of the administrative area based Older Peoples Councils together with agency based members of the newly formed Dublin City wide Age Friendly Alliance.

Summary of agreed actions

1. Dublin City wide Alliance

- The new city wide Alliance has agreed to adopt the three action areas, as above, for coordinated city wide focus and will support administrative area based programme leaders in the pursuit of shared goals across the three priority areas.
- The Alliance will continue to invest in the development of the baseline profile for Dublin City so as to identify key areas of deficit and inform effective prioritisation across the three agreed priority action areas.
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2. Priority domain area: *Transport and the built environment*

- **Walkability:** Each of the five administrative area Alliances will identify and lead out, with the support of the local Older Peoples Council, on a minimum of one walkability exercise – with a report on findings to be presented by the Alliances across Quarter One, 2019.

A number of relevant walkability routes will be proposed for each of the five areas following engagement with the City Councils 'Roads and Traffic Section'. Factors such as footfall, planned village/street improvement programmes, proximity to essential services will all be considered when selecting the routes.

It was agreed that a standardised methodology, to involve a number of core principles, will be employed for the walkability exercises across each of the five areas. A summary setting out such principles will be provided to the area Alliances.

Each of the area based programmes will report on the walkability exercises using a common reporting template to be provided.

Transport: The city Alliance will continue to engage with the National Transport Authority regarding Bus Connects and plans related to the Dublin Area Bus Network Redesign.

3. Priority domain area: *Housing and home*

- **Housing with supports:** The City Alliance will engage in a programme of dissemination in order to support the sharing of learnings arising from the demonstrator, Inchicore based housing for older adults project. This dissemination programme will focus on building knowledge amongst relevant city based professionals such as architects, planners, engineers, urban renewal teams etc.
- **Housing with supports:** Each of the five area Alliances will, following engagement with the HSE, identify one potential site and associated project concept where a 'housing with support' programme may be relevant within their own administrative area. This process will be informed by the Framework Toolkit 'How to develop a Housing with Support Scheme for Older People' (Dr. Kathy Walsh, April 2018).
- **Downsizing for owner occupiers:** The City Alliance will consider the development of relevant policy and programme related actions, such as the financial contribution scheme for older persons, which could support older owner occupiers who may wish to downsize to more suitable dwellings within the local city community.
- **Exercise programme(s) for older adults:** The City Alliance will support actions to facilitate the scale up, on a consistent and coordinated basis across the five administrative areas, of relevant and successful exercise programmes for older adults – such as the current 12-week exercise programme facilitated at the Mansion House by the Dublin City Age Friendly Programme in partnership with the Lord Mayor and SIEL Bleu Ireland. The Department of Health's upcoming call for funding proposals will be considered in this context. The Alliance will coordinate with the HSE, the City Council's Sports and wellbeing Section and the Department of Health in this context.

4. Priority domain area: *Communications and information*

Supporting integrated approaches to provision of services for older people: The City Alliance will support the hosting of a speed networking/information exchange programme modelled on the successful recent event jointly organised and facilitated by the HSE and Dublin City Council.

- **Access to key services:** The City Alliance will consider the relevance of mapping available programmes and services relevant to the city's older adult population as part of a directory of services or similar.
- **Age Friendly programme communications:** The city wide Alliance will develop a communications plan setting out relevant activities to raise awareness of the Dublin Age Friendly Programme and showcase successful initiatives.

Brian O'Connell

Administrative Office

Central Area