

Engagement of Older People in Development of Age Friendly Communities

Introduction

1. This is a criteria framework for engaging older people in applications for recognition and subsequent development of Age Friendly Communities (AFCs) in Wales. It has been prepared by Cymru Older People's Alliance Board of Trustees and Forum Representatives (Voting Members).
2. The Framework is intended:
 - to promote sound principles and fair expectations about how older people are engaged in AFC recognition and development;
 - to provide a broad basis for Councils and older people to collaborate on AFCs.
3. The Framework acknowledges that flexibility and local circumstances need to be reflected in the journey towards age friendly communities. It is not intended to create any "national" rules or procedures to follow but to establish some consistency in the approach taken to engaging older people, which is required by the World Health Organisation (WHO) AFC guidance.

The Framework

4. The Framework is at Annex A and sets out five criteria for engagement, all of which have a series of quality statements to provide clarification about what we think is needed. The criteria have been compiled with reference to the WHO "Age-friendly environments in Europe- A handbook of domains for policy action", the Commissioner for Older People's "Best Practice Guidance for Engagement and Consultation with Older People on Changes to Community Services in Wales (2014) and also published research on AFCs*. The Framework, produced by older people, is intended to provide general guidance for public bodies to improve their engagement with older people.

Next Steps

5. We want to see a collaborative approach in Wales about how older people are to be engaged in the recognition and development of AFCs. This criteria Framework provides a starting point. Following dialogue with the office of the Older Peoples Commissioner, this Framework is now published for use in creating an Age friendly Wales.

Cymru Older Peoples Alliance, October 2022

- Developing Age-Friendly Cities and Communities: Eleven Case Studies from Around the World; Remillard- Boilard, Buffel and Phillipson (2021): Int.J. Environ.Res Public Health 2021

Annex A – Criteria Framework for Engagement of Older People in Development of Age Friendly Communities

Criteria – Action	Quality Statements
<p>1. Involving older people in the design and delivery of AFCs and services that affect their lives on the basis of co-production and equal partnership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-production and collaboration - decisions made together and from the outset - Sharing and use of good practice on an evidence-based approach - Transparency and full information sharing - Evidence based development of engagement and responses to WHO Framework;
<p>2. Empowering older people to have a voice and take an active role in local decision-making about AFCs, utilising structures and processes they have agreed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a clear basis with a variety of methodologies for engagement of older people that has been consulted on fully - Fair rationale for membership of older people on local AFC Steering Group - A Terms of Reference and agreed way of operating for the local Steering Groups - Follow principles of inclusivity and diversity. - Engagement with 50+ Forums on an “equals” basis but also with other groups of older people - Inclusion of a range of individuals from all parts of the community including those vulnerable/excluded - a “tick box” proof of engagement would not be acceptable
<p>3. In developing local AFCs increase multi and intergenerational contact, understanding and exchange of values, skills and experiences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wider age and diversity of representation including inter-generational

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work across the ageing spectrum but with no use of “deficit model of older people” - recognition of the phases of ageing and the “life course” perspective.
<p>4. Maintain strategic direction and momentum in application for and developing AFCs by engaging with older people through on-going dialogue and involvement transparently</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure a “cross cutting approach to AFCs is taken across all Council responsibilities but with prioritisation and budget allocation - Scrutiny, monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment should be integral factors - embracing the need for change but building on current strengths and “what has worked well”; - More joining up locally, county wide and regionally - Avoid duplication and dilution of effort
<p>5. Engage with older people to combat ageism and promote a positive image of ageing and increasing awareness of ageing issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involve older people so as to strengthen community cohesion and links - Independent “self-determined” voice of older people heard and acted on and structures to achieve that supported on a rights basis; - enable effective representation through advice/training/mentoring