

Report

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	1 February 2023
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Developing an Age Friendly South Lanarkshire
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ◆ provide summary information on developing an Age Friendly Community and the stages required to achieve this status
- ◆ advise on the role of the Council in supporting this development should it wish to go ahead in South Lanarkshire with this initiative
- ◆ provide an update on the work already undertaken by Seniors Together in South Lanarkshire with this programme and connections made with officers in other Age Friendly Communities and supporting UK organisations
- ◆ advise on the actions required by the Council to assist the process move forward

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s): -

- (1) that the Council makes a formal written commitment to making South Lanarkshire an Age-Friendly Community – ‘a great place to grow older’
- (2) that the Council works with interested partners to develop an Age Friendly action plan
- (3) that the voice of older people is represented in the Community Planning Partnership, via Seniors Together

3. Background

3.1. An Age-Friendly Community is one in which people of all ages can actively participate in activities and where everyone is treated with respect, regardless of their age. It is a place that makes it easy for older people to stay connected to people that are important to them and it helps people stay healthy and active even at the oldest ages and provides appropriate support to those who can no longer look after themselves.

Ageism is the most prevalent form of discrimination in the UK and the development of an Age Friendly Community would go a long way to remove this discrimination in South Lanarkshire.

Being an Age-Friendly Community is about taking the decision to make improvements to your place at whatever pace you can. Being Age-Friendly means designing services and facilities with older people, not for them. The World Health Organisation's Age Friendly Communities framework acts as a guide for communities to achieve this goal.

3.2. There are eight domains that make an Age Friendly Community. They are:-

- ◆ Community and Health Care
- ◆ Transport
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Social participation
- ◆ Outdoor spaces and buildings
- ◆ Respect and social inclusion
- ◆ Civic participation and employment
- ◆ Communication and information

4. Current Position

4.1. Many residents had adjustments to make during lockdown, such as reducing car journeys to work, meeting friends in outdoor public spaces, and spending extended periods of time at home. Those have made people of all ages more aware of the restrictions and difficulties that an 'age-hostile' environment can create for people in later life.

Ideas such as 'liveable neighbourhoods' – limiting traffic and creating more spaces for neighbours to sit and children to play, and 'fifteen-minute neighbourhoods' – ensuring residents can access daily needs within a safe short walk, benefit people of all ages. They also align with the World Health Organisation's identified features of age-friendly cities.

Seniors Together is currently liaising with the Centre for Ageing Better and the Scottish Older People's Assembly (SOPA), who have been providing support and guidance to assist them in developing their knowledge and understanding of the process required to develop an age friendly South Lanarkshire.

They have access to resources and templates that have helped them in their engagement and research so far, and they have undertaken an audit of initiatives and services to identify their own age friendly activities that are currently delivered by the project.

4.2. SOPA has received funding, for one year, to employ a project lead who will assist the development of Age Friendly Communities in Scotland. This lead officer is currently working with Seniors Together and has set up a national steering group that Seniors Together are represented on. The aim is to work with local authorities who are in the development stage and assist them through the process. The project lead will work with these new Age Friendly Communities to form a network in Scotland and that will link to the National Age Friendly Communities Network and the Centre for Ageing Better.

5. Proposals

5.1. Providing a place to a representative from Seniors Together, on the Community Planning Partnership Board as a voice for older people, would assist the Council to take this work forward in the manner that other Age Friendly communities across the UK have delivered their action plans. This would also ensure that older people's voices are represented. The knowledge and learning they have gained would assist in developing the action plan and taking the process forward.

- 5.2. Case studies developed by Seniors Together are available to demonstrate what an age friendly activity looks like. The South Lanarkshire Men's Shed Project would be an example of one that is commonly known.
- 5.3. It is likely that in South Lanarkshire, our programmes for older people will take us quite a bit along the journey that is required to develop an Age Friendly Community and an audit of our age friendly activity across our services might highlight just how far we already are and what still needs to be done.
- 5.4. Making a strategic plan where all stakeholders develop a shared vision to determine the priorities for action and to plan and resource how South Lanarkshire will achieve its age-friendly outcomes will mean that the Community Planning Partnership will be the co-ordinating group best placed to drive forward the delivery of the age friendly community. The audit, mentioned at 4.1 above, would assist with the development of the strategic plan. Seniors Together have learned from their research that this is the format followed by other local authorities who are members of the UK Centre for ageing better.
- 5.5. From the information available, implementing an age-friendly action plan is at the heart of creating an Age-Friendly Community. Our next steps as a Council would be:-
 1. Letter of Commitment to World Health Organisation (WHO) from Leader of the Council.
 2. South Lanarkshire Council forms an Action Planning Group, supported by Seniors Together, made up of representatives of our Community Planning Partnership. This Action Plan would develop tasks and actions relating to the 8 domains outlined in 3.2.
 3. Reports on progress would be made to the Community Partnership Planning Board

6 Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no employee implications from this report,

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1. There are no financial implications at this stage,

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. There are no Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications arising from the information presented in this report

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. There are no risk implications in terms of the information contained within this report.

10 Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. Initial consultation has taken place with members of Seniors Together and associated representative groups in South Lanarkshire

Paul Manning
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

11 January 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable
- ◆ Improve life and prospects for everyone
- ◆ Ensuring inclusion, equity and equality
- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Working with and respecting others

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Building a city for all ages: A Strategy for an Age Friendly Bristol 2022

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/bp-assets/globalassets/bristol/services/age-friendly/final-age-friendly-bristol-strategy.pdf>

Contact for Further Information

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