

Developing Age-Friendly Cities – a focus on Liverpool

Highlights from end-of-project stakeholder workshop

Working for a
shared vision of an
age-friendly Liverpool

RESEARCH TEAM

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THE STUDY

From October 2013 – July 2015 researchers from the Universities of Liverpool and Cambridge carried out a study that focused on work in Liverpool in relation to the WHO's Age-Friendly Cities (AFC) initiative. The study was part of the Ageing Well Programme of the School for Public Health Research (SPHR) within the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). Its main aim was to ensure that efforts to make urban settings age-friendly are evidence-informed and evaluated.

The researchers carried out fieldwork in Liverpool that included a focus on falls among older people as a case study within an AFC approach. This formed the basis for the development of an **Evaluation Tool** that can be applied in Liverpool and beyond to assess policies and interventions designed to make urban settings more age-friendly.

In 2012 Liverpool's Mayor signed a pledge to become a WHO Age-Friendly City



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STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

A workshop to discuss the emerging research findings took place in July 2015 in Liverpool. Delegates included older residents and representatives from local agencies including the City Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group, and third sector organisations. Also present were representatives from Public Health England, local authorities and health sector organisations beyond Liverpool.

In-depth discussions highlighted key findings from the study for delegates.

Key findings for delegates

- Leadership arrangements around an age-friendly initiative in Liverpool yet to be firmed up
- High incidence of, and mortality from falls among older people in Liverpool compared to other cities, the North West and nationally
- Gaps in the available falls data stand in the way of taking appropriate action

The workshop discussions also arrived at ways for Liverpool to move forward with an age-friendly agenda in three specific areas. The priorities identified relate to the ten dimensions of the evaluation tool.

1. An overall AFC agenda

- Map relevant formal/informal provision
- Harness skills of older people, provide opportunities for them to take AFC initiative forward
- Pool budgets
- Make economic case for AFC approach, e.g. via a return-on-investment tool
- Clear, consistent leadership
- Cross-sector ownership of AFC initiative, including AFC Champions
- Ensure access for older people to resources that foster social inclusion (e.g. free travel pass; education)
- Policy & practice to reflect that AFC approach requires a focus beyond older people

2. Falls

- Address data gaps, including introduction of a falls register
- Better agency coordination for falls management
- Specific attention to falls as priority issue
- Greater focus on prevention

3. Respect & Social Inclusion

- Diverse opportunities for meaningful engagement of older people
- Positive media coverage reflecting the social & economic contribution of older people
- Ongoing focus on social isolation & loneliness, even as a 'digital transition' is enabling older people to connect with society in different ways
- Improved services & facilities (including attentive staff, better sign-posting), recognised through awards

EVALUATION TOOL

Ten key areas where evidence is required

