

Item No. 7	Classification: Open	Date: 15 June 2015	Meeting Name: Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Report title:		Age Friendly Borough	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Head of Community Engagement	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Overview & Scrutiny Committee notes the progress with the commitment for Southwark to become an age-friendly borough.
2. That Overview & Scrutiny Committee notes the successful outcome of the council's application to join the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Network of age-friendly cities and communities was successful. Southwark is the first borough in London to have been officially recognized by WHO under their new application process.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

World Health Organisation age-friendly cities programme

3. The World Health Organisation (WHO) released its policy framework on Active Ageing in 2002. This formed the basis of its age-friendly cities programme. The WHO defines an age friendly community as one where "policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environment are designed to support and enable older people to 'age actively', that is, to live in security, enjoy good health, and continue to participate fully in society'.
4. The WHO has produced a checklist of essential features of age-friendly cities to assist cities in becoming more age-friendly. It consists of eight key areas, or 'domains' as they are described, as follows:
 - Outdoor spaces and buildings
 - Transport
 - Housing
 - Social participation
 - Respect and social inclusion
 - Civic participation and employment
 - Communication and information
 - Community and health services.
5. It should be noted that the Council does not have direct control over all of the

areas described within all of the domains, as some of them fall to other bodies, such as the NHS, the Mayor of London, or private sector organisations such as cinemas, small business owners, or public companies. However there may still be scope for the Council to use its influence over some of these organisations to promote age-friendliness.

6. Following agreement by cabinet on 17 March 2015 Southwark applied to join the WHO global network of age-friendly cities. To join the WHO network of age friendly cities and communities cities must:
 - Complete an online application form
 - Attach a letter from the Mayor/administration indicating their commitment to the network's cycle of continuous improvement
 - Commence the network cycle of four steps as outlined below:
 1. Establishment of mechanisms for involving older people throughout the Age-friendly Cities and Communities cycle
 2. Development of a baseline assessment of age-friendliness of the city
 3. Development of a 3-year city-wide action plan based on the findings of this assessment
 4. Identification of indicators to monitor progress against this action plan.
7. Applications to the network are processed quarterly in February, May, August and November.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

8. It is one of the Council's Fairer Future promises to become an age-friendly borough. The promise is as follows:

We want you to get the best out of Southwark whatever your age so we will become an age friendly borough including the delivery of an Ethical Care Charter and an older people's centre of excellence.
9. On 17 March 2015 Cabinet agreed to:
 - hold a borough-wide community conversation on making Southwark an age-friendly borough and supporting residents to age well;
 - approve Southwark's letter of application to become part of the World Health Organisation's network of age-friendly cities.
10. On 19 May 2015 the council was notified that our application to join the World Health Organisation Global Network of age-friendly cities and communities was successful.
11. The application to WHO emphasised the council's age friendly activities to date including those set out in paragraphs 12 -14.
12. Southwark is committed to becoming an age-friendly borough where people lead healthy, active lives in a strong local economy and community. As part of this commitment we implemented a new Southwark ethical care charter for its main home care contracts in August 2014 and through the re-commissioning of all home care services later this year, we will fully deliver the charter by the end of

2015. In November 2014, we also agreed to work towards becoming a dementia-friendly borough and became a member of the newly formed Southwark Dementia Action Alliance. In February 2015 Council Assembly endorsed our Council plan and with it our promise to become an age-friendly borough.

13. Some of the services we have in place or are introducing for our older residents to enable them to maintain or improve their health and wellbeing include:
 - Provision of free ‘Silver Surfer’ IT sessions at our main libraries.
 - Delivering our Southwark home library service to over 300 residents each month, many of whom are housebound due to age.
 - Free “Silver” swim and gym sessions for over 60’s from May 2015.
 - Commissioned targeted employment support to those aged over 50 who face barriers to the labour market as part of our borough-wide programme of delivery
 - Provision of free assistive technology to all of those aged over 85, or who have a diagnosis of dementia.
 - Development of additional ‘extra care’ sheltered housing for older people as an alternative to residential care.
 - Together with Lambeth Council, Age UK Lewisham and Southwark we have teamed up to deliver our Winter Wellbeing programme, helping more vulnerable and older residents stay safe and well in their own homes and reducing re-admissions to hospital.
 - Provision of a ‘Healthy Homes Handyperson’ service to carry out small jobs and minor adaptations, such as moving furniture, hanging curtains or putting up shelves, for council, private tenants and home owners aged 60 and over, enabling them to remain safe and independent in their own homes. There is a small charge for this service, although in some circumstances it is free.
 - Working with National Health Service (NHS) partners through both the Better Care Fund and the local Southwark and Lambeth Integrated Care Programme to deliver services that will benefit older people who are physically or mentally frail.
 - Continued commitment to fund our voluntary sector partners to provide advice, befriending and wellbeing planning for our older residents.

14. The application also stressed that in addition to the council plan the council’s key strategies reflect the commitment to age-friendliness as follows:
 - The housing strategy agreed in January 2015 was designed to be age-friendly
 - The economic wellbeing strategy includes commissioning of targeted support to those over 50 who face barriers to the labour market
 - The health & wellbeing strategy includes support for people with existing long term health conditions to remain healthier and live longer lives by improving detection and management of health condition including self-management and support,.]

Community conversation

15. We already have mechanisms in place to engage with residents and these include the Older People’s Partnership Board. The ambition is that we hold as broad a conversation as possible with our communities and with our statutory and non statutory partners, other service providers, businesses, the voluntary and community sector and faith groups.

16. Over summer 2015 we will be holding a 'community conversation' with residents and partners about how we make our borough a place where ageing is positively celebrated and embraced. Together with residents we will come up with clear actions where we need to do more together to help our residents to age well, and identify how we encourage others- service providers, local employers, community organisations, faith groups- to participate with us to achieve this ambition.
17. The development of the community conversation on becoming an age-friendly borough was steered by a stakeholder group consisting of representatives from the Consortium of Older People's Organisations in Southwark (COPSINS), Southwark Pensioners' Forum and Healthwatch Southwark. This group will continue to have a role in helping to steer the project.
18. All residents living in Southwark will have an opportunity to contribute to the conversation about becoming an age-friendly borough and how we positively celebrate ageing. A key focus of this consultation will be those residents who are over 40, carers, service providers for this age group and community organisations that offer support to and involve older residents. We will target sheltered housing residents in both council and housing association accommodation and identify older council residents through our area housing forums, and tenants and residents associations. We will also engage with older people through our existing consultative forums.
19. We will recruit age-friendly champions to engage residents, and adopt a peer to peer approach to fostering discussions. We will also use this process to identify a group of older residents that we can continue to work with on our action plans on a long-term basis.
20. To kick-start the consultation we will be commissioning the Centre for Policy on Ageing to deliver a 'co-design' workshop with our key partners, older residents and national experts. The workshop will identify the questions we need to talk to people about. This is so we develop the best possible programme for the conversation.
21. The community conversation is designed to be as wide and inclusive as possible and to inform the development of the baseline assessment and action plan for the council and partners.

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Age friendly Southwark cabinet report 17 March 2015 http://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s52516/Report%20Age-friendly%20Southwark.pdf	Housing & Community Services, 160 Tooley Street	Stephen Douglass 020 7525 0886

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Head of Community Engagement	
Report Author	Stephen Douglass, Head of Community Engagement	
Version	Final	
Dated	12 June 2015	
Key Decision?	Yes/No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
List other officers here		
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team/Community Council/Scrutiny Team	12 June 2015	