

Getting Started Delivering an Age-friendly Community





Introduction

This resource aims to guide places beginning their journey towards becoming a member of the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities (UK Network). **An Age-friendly Community is a place that enables people to age well and live a good later life.** Somewhere that people can stay living in their homes, participate in the activities they value, and contribute to their communities, for as long as possible.

The UK Network is a growing movement of over 100 places, with over 30 million people living in an Age-friendly Community. The Centre for Ageing Better works with the UK Network to provide guidance, connect places and offer support to member communities as they work towards making their services and infrastructure more age-friendly.

The UK Network is part of a global movement led by the World Health Organisation (WHO), affiliated to the **Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC).**





Why become an Age-friendly Community?

Our communities need to work for everyone, considering all protected characteristics, including age. In the UK, every year more people turn 50 than 18, and we know that often our needs change as we grow older. Age-friendly Communities ensure that the local environment, services and social networks enable people to age well and support intergenerational relations.

This is more important than ever. There are already more older people living in our communities than ever before and this will continue to grow. In **20 years' time 1 in 4 of us will be over 65.** Communities must take a preventative approach now to make the most of the opportunities and combat the challenges of their ageing population.

The older population is also becoming more diverse – and our **State of Ageing report** shows that ageing is not experienced equally. People's experience of ageing varies depending on their background, identity, income and where they live. This diversity makes it vital that we take a place-based approach to supporting our ageing population.





Impacts of taking the Age-friendly Communities approach

The WHO Age-friendly Communities Framework is an evidence-based, globally recognised approach for creating communities that are better places to age. Our **2025 Impact Report** showed how Age-friendly Communities who are adopting this framework in the UK are creating a multitude of positive impacts on the local systems they represent and the older people that live there as a result.

Impacts for local systems

The Age-friendly Communities approach encourages organisations in local areas to work together, changing and adapting their local systems in ways that improve outcomes of older people across a range of areas with five core impacts.

What is the impact?	What does this mean?
Creating partnerships that drive local action and build in efficiencies	Developing and strengthening partnerships to drive action for priority areas, enable efficient use of resources and avoid duplication.
Supporting evidence-informed decision-making	Gathering and considering local context and national learning to allow evidence-based decision-making and prioritisation.
Enabling meaningful co-production in policymaking	Developing strong mechanisms for engagement and co-production to meet the needs of older people.
Changing policies, mindsets and language	Generating understanding of ageing that changes mindsets and language, and encourages integration of ageing in all policies.
Embedding and enabling a preventive way of working	Encouraging activities that directly and indirectly support prevention, in a lifecourse approach.

Impacts for older people

The Age-friendly Communities approach creates and supports a wide range of benefits and impacts for older people and their communities, ensuring everyone can age well.

What is the impact?	What does this mean?
Expanding older people's access to and use of local spaces	Making local spaces more accessible and improving independence through access to transport, outdoor spaces and buildings.
Expanding older people's access to support and services	Helping improve design of, and communication around, local services to improve accessibility and better meet older people's needs.
Increasing older people's connections to and inclusion in society	Encouraging activities that improve social participation and inclusion, increasing intergenerational and cross-cultural connections.
Enhancing older people's voice, representation and inclusion in decision-making	Creating mechanisms to enhance representation and inclusion of older people in decision-making to shape public life.
Improving older people's health and wellbeing	Developing opportunities and activities that support the health and wellbeing of older people.

Impact of joining the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities

By becoming members of the UK Network, and as an affiliate of the **WHO GNAFCC**, communities are joining a growing movement of places giving them access to contacts, ideas and expertise from the UK and across the globe, all for free.

As part of the creation of the **2025 Impact Report** members told us that the UK Network enables impact in their local community because it:



1/

Connects people via a network of networks



2/

Helps individuals feel part of something bigger



3/

Builds capacity through a tailored, responsive approach



4/

Boosts engagement and change through high-quality resources



5/

Accelerates impact through shared ideas





The Age-friendly Communities framework

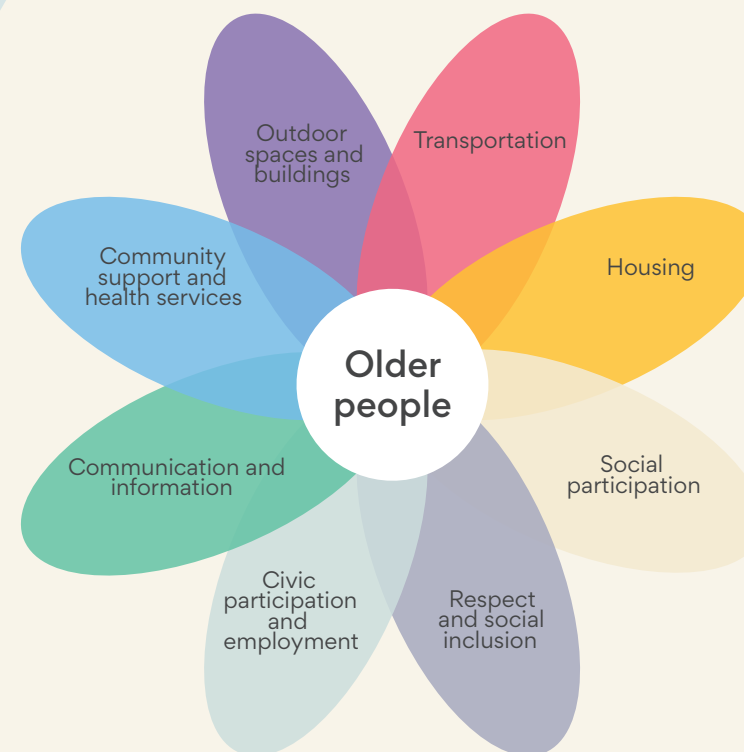
The WHO Age-friendly Communities Framework act as the guide for communities who are working to become more age-friendly. The framework is made up of two models - the 'Eight Domains' and the 'Programme Cycle'.

The WHO's Eight Domains of Age-friendly Communities cover the key components of places that impact on how well people age, including both the built and social environment. The **Age-friendly Communities Handbook** provides detailed descriptions of the eight domains, principles and examples of practice to help guide local policy and action.

In an Age-friendly Community, the framework can be used as a lens to:

- Organise existing initiatives that are already making a community age-friendly.
- Develop new partnerships and projects related to the domains and older people.
- Review broader policies, plans and services that are already in place, now with your ageing population in mind.

Eight Domains – 'the what'



Programme Cycle – ‘the how’

The WHO's Programme Cycle has four steps which guide communities through making continuous improvements to the age-friendliness of their place. Typically, the cycle takes about five years, but becoming a more age-friendly community is a journey, and communities go at their own pace depending on resources.

When communities apply to join the UK Network we expect most to be towards the end of step one.

1. Engage and understand

- Committee/working/steering group
- Participatory assessment
- Create a baseline profile
- Disseminate findings
- Gain political commitment



2. Plan strategically

- Unite partners with common vision
- Analyse strengths and weaknesses
- Develop strategy
- Get approval
- Define responsibilities



3. Act and implement

- Create action plan
- Consult existing plans
- Secure support and resources
- Implement plan
- Scale up successful action



4. Evaluate

- Create partnerships
- Monitor progress
- Make outcome and impact evaluation
- Sustain and improve action
- Exchange (inter) nationally



Step 1: Engage and Understand

The first step is to engage local leaders, stakeholders and older people and work to understand how 'age-friendly' your community currently is, so your activity can respond to current needs and opportunities. This step will include gaining political commitment, establishing a steering group, deciding who will coordinate the work and beginning a baseline assessment.

Step 2: Plan strategically

Next, communities will use all the information gathered in the first step to determine their local priorities for action. This step will involve communities establishing a shared vision, identifying priorities based on local needs and writing an age-friendly strategy.

Step 3: Act and implement

In step 3, Age-friendly Communities will create and deliver on an action plan that achieves their strategic priorities with whatever resource they have. Some communities will combine their strategy and action plan. The action plan will sit across the community with different partners taking responsibility for different actions.

Step 4: Monitor and evaluate

Whilst communities will monitor their progress throughout, in the final step Age-friendly Communities will evaluate their progress in implementing the framework and difference their work has made on local peoples' lives. They will use this learning to begin the cycle again.





Applying to join the UK Network

To join the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities, places must submit an **application form**.

Places can submit an application form on a quarterly basis to the UK Network team (afc.network@ageing-better.org.uk). The UK Network team will review a draft application form and provide feedback to be incorporated before a final application is shared and reviewed by members of the UK Network Steering Group (made up of current UK Network members).

The Steering Group will review all final applications submitted and will be looking to see that political commitment has been secured, sufficient progress has been made and they are confident the work will continue. The Steering Group will use the **reviewing criteria**, to decide if the application has been successful.

The questions on the application form relate to the key foundations each Age-friendly Community needs to have in place to make sustainable changes and progress the work. Applicants are expected to demonstrate progress and sensible plans around all the foundations to apply to join the network.



The key foundations of all Age-friendly Communities are:



1

**Political and strategic
commitment**



2

**Resources
and funding**



3

**Governance
structures**



4

**Involvement of
older people**



5

**Understanding
your current
age-friendliness**



6

**Strategy and
action plan**

Linked here are a series of example applications from other Age-friendly Communities. There is no one right way to complete an application form so please consider these as examples rather than templates for your application.

Town – [Corsham, St Ives](#)

Upper tier county – [Hertfordshire](#)

Lower tier district – [Stevenage, North Norfolk](#)

Unitary authority – [Redcar and Cleveland, London Borough of Brent, Buckinghamshire](#)

Voluntary sector led – [London Borough of Barnet](#) (see Hertfordshire)

Scotland – [Perth and Kinross, South Ayrshire](#)

The six key questions within the application form reflect the foundations listed above. The following section, 'Foundations of your Age-friendly Community', is a breakdown of these areas, explaining why they are important, what we would expect to be included in your application and useful examples and resources.



Foundations of your Age-friendly Community



Political and strategic commitment

Application question: Please briefly describe the level of political and strategic commitment there is to this work locally (200 words or less). (Prompts: What written commitment do you have? Has the work been integrated into workplans and strategies? What Councillors/ departments have been involved? (You may choose to attach minutes of council meetings indicating commitment)).

To become a member of the UK Network you need the political commitment that your place will adopt the WHO Age-friendly Communities approach. Political commitment will enable you to have the ongoing support and resources needed to make changes.

In your application you will attach evidence of **formal political commitment**.

This commitment can be demonstrated in different ways but it could be:

- A signed letter from the Leader of the Council
- An approved cabinet motion
- Approval through an appropriate board to which your age-friendly work will report into e.g. a Health and Wellbeing Board

Any motion must include a commitment to adopting the WHO approach and joining the UK Network, but you may also include programmatic resources which can support the work e.g. asking for a budget or staff time, or commitment to specific actions/ initiatives that have already been identified as a priority.

You may also identify and name a Councillor **to act as an Age-friendly or Older People's Champion**. This role can be a helpful ally to advocate for the needs of older people and enable age-friendly changes in an ongoing way.

It is also beneficial in your application to show where your **age-friendly work sits strategically** within the council. This could be a priority within your whole council plan, or a specific strategy. Having this will help to operationalise the political commitment you have gained.

Examples and useful resources:

- Political commitment letters: [Watford](#) and [Dorset](#)
- Motion of approval from Council Cabinet: [Barnet](#), [Breckland](#), [Islington](#), [Bath and North East Somerset](#)
- Motion of approval from Health and Wellbeing Board: [East Riding](#)

Application checklist – have you included:

- ☒ Evidence of ongoing political commitment to adopting the WHO Age-friendly Communities approach
- ☒ Any key political advocates for Age-friendly Communities
- ☒ Any council strategies age-friendly communities is named in or feeds into



Resources and funding

Application question: Please briefly describe what resource (if any) is available or planned for this work locally (200 words or less). (Prompts: Include time, people/ funding/ organisations/ contributions in kind)

There is no definitive set of costs associated with becoming an Age-friendly Community as it is a commitment to make improvements with whatever resources you have available in your area. The main things to consider when mapping your resourcing and funding needs are:

- who will **coordinate** the work;
- the costs of **delivering** the work, and;
- the **partnerships** that will be required.

In the **lowest resource version** of age-friendly, coordination could be provided by an existing member of staff in the council or a voluntary sector organisation. You could also have no direct project funding costs, instead using staff members' time to influence organisations and bring together and promote existing work in your community.

With resource, communities might fund an age-friendly officer post and provide funding for specific projects - such as delivering age-awareness training or running a take a seat campaign across your community.

Resourcing coordination

A person, or team, will lead the age-friendly programme in a community to understand what is needed, to ensure progress and accountability. Be clear in your application who this individual(s) is, where in the community they sit, how much time they can commit to the age-friendly agenda and for how long they will be able to be in post.

This person or team will generally sit in a local authority or voluntary sector organisation. Within local authorities, the work is typically led by officers in public health, adult social care, communities, or a central strategy/ EDI team but can be from any appropriate department. Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE) organisations such as local Age UKs can also lead Age-friendly Communities, although they must be working in partnership with their local authority, and in some cases will be commissioned by their local authority.

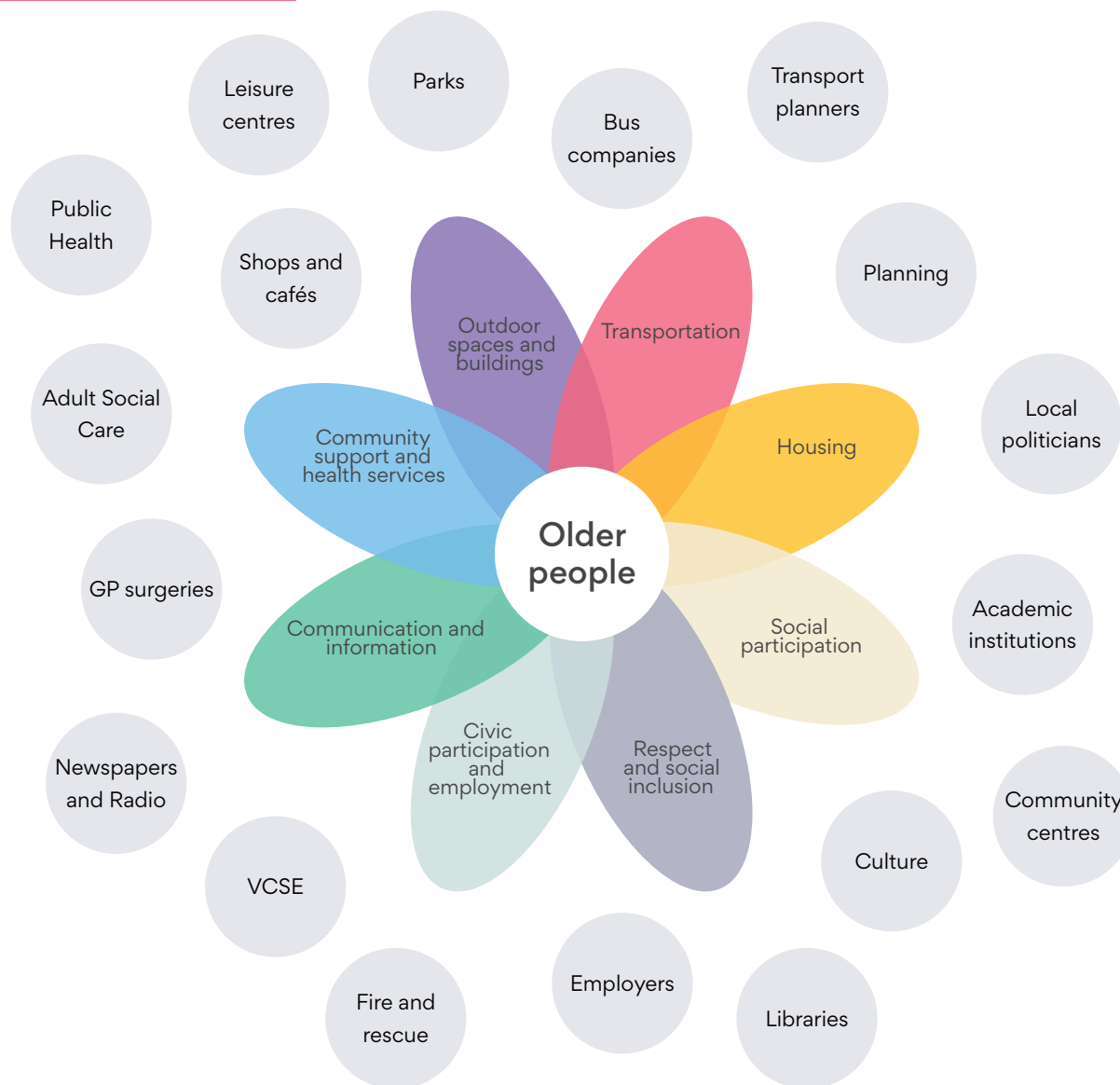
Resourcing delivery

Consider identifying an age-friendly budget which could be used to fund delivery of your action plan. While having a dedicated budget is not mandatory, it can be highly beneficial. Where a small budget is available prioritise resourcing structures and events that enable older people's voice to shape your community like the running of an older person's forum or ambassador programme. If you do have a budget, in your application be explicit about its scope and intended uses; if you do not, outline alternative strategies for securing resources, such as regularly monitoring and applying for relevant funding opportunities or leveraging in-kind support from partners.

Resourcing partnership

You will also need to consider the resources available across your wider network of partners involved in delivering age-friendly work. In your application, list which departments in the local authority or other organisations have committed to work on your Age-friendly Community, and where possible what they have committed to do. Please see the 'Who to involve?' diagram which maps out potential different partners involved in Age-friendly Communities across the eight domains.

Who to involve?



Examples and useful resources:

- Age-friendly Coordinator/Lead job description: [Barnet](#), [Hastings](#), [Buckinghamshire](#), and [Hertfordshire](#)
- [Age-friendly Communities Funding Mapping Full Research Report](#)

Application checklist – have you included:

- ☒ Who will coordinate your Age-friendly Community including role and time commitment
- ☒ Any identified budget or potential future sources of budget
- ☒ Which partners have committed to the work



Governance structures

Application question: Please briefly describe the governance structures in place to oversee the work (200 words or less). (Prompts: *Is a steering/ working group in place? Who sits on this group? To what group, board or other structure will your work be accountable*)

To deliver your age-friendly work, you will need to establish appropriate structures, including governance arrangements. These structures may include:

- Steering or Working Group
- Accountable body
- Older people's leadership structure
- Wider Age-friendly network

Steering or working group

A dedicated steering group is essential to guide the delivery of age-friendly actions. Its composition is up to your community but may include partners such as relevant local authority departments (e.g. public health, adult social care, communities), older people's forums, voluntary and community sector leaders, and health partners. This body is responsible for **setting local priorities, driving forward initiatives, and tracking progress against goals**. It may be newly formed or adapted from an existing group.

This structure may develop over time, for example some communities set up domain-specific working groups once they have identified priority areas for action.

Accountable body

Your Age-friendly Community needs to report into an established structure within the local authority whether or not the programme is coordinated in the local authority or a VCSE organisation. This may be a Health and Wellbeing Board, an Ageing Well Partnership Board, or another senior partnership board. This will ensure ongoing buy-in and align your Age-friendly Community with wider local priorities and strategies.

Older people's leadership structure

Central to any age-friendly approach is the active involvement of older people themselves. This may be achieved through an **older persons' board, advisory panel**, or other formal bodies that can have a direct role in shaping decisions.

Appointing Age-friendly Champions or Ambassadors can further amplify engagement, helping to connect with diverse groups of older residents and ensuring that their experiences and voice shape their environment and the services they use. There is more opportunity to elaborate on this in the following section of the application form.

Wider age-friendly network

In addition to a more formal governance structure, some communities choose to establish an Age-friendly Network involving a wider range of partners and organisations whose work relates to one of the eight domains. Networks like this can act as a collaborative forum where **information is shared, joint initiatives are developed, and good practice is promoted**. Members might include local businesses, health and care providers, housing associations, cultural institutions, local transport companies and community groups.

Examples and useful resources:

- Steering Group Terms of Reference: [Watford](#), [Bournemouth](#), [Christchurch and Poole](#) and [Knowsley](#)
- [Age-friendly Ambassadors Case Study](#) and [how to guide](#)
- Governance structure into a HWB board ([Dorset](#)), ([Redcar and Cleveland Council](#))
- Governance structure for VCS led AFC ([North Tyneside](#))

Application checklist – have you included:

- ☒ An explanation of your age-friendly steering group structure including members
- ☒ Where your Age-friendly Community work will be accountable to
- ☒ How older people will be involved in leadership and decision-making in your Age-friendly Community
- ☒ Any other relevant structures





Involvement of older people

Application question: Please briefly describe how your work will be informed by and involve older people? (200 words or less). (Prompts: How have older voices been included and helped to shape the work so far? What is the ongoing mechanism for doing this – e.g. on steering group, through forums? How have you accessed disadvantaged groups?)

Age-friendly Communities must listen to and involve a diverse range of older people. Having methods in place for co-producing and bringing the voice of older people into your age-friendly work is essential to ensuring that the priorities you set respond to the real desires and needs of the community. The two main ways to involve older people in your work are:

- A structure to ensure ongoing involvement, such as an older person's forum (as above)
- Hearing a wider range of older voices to shape your local priorities

Ongoing older people's involvement structure

A structure such as an **Older People's Forum(s)** or **Ambassador's scheme** will ensure there is ongoing involvement of older people in shaping the direction of your Age-friendly Community as well as leading or contributing to specific initiatives. It is important to be clear in your application how these structures have or will directly influence decision-making, so that older people are not only consulted but are integral to the delivery of age-friendly work. In a smaller authority this may look like ensuring older residents are able to fully participate in existing involvement structures in your authority.

Hearing a wider range of voices

Alongside a more structured approach, at the beginning of your programme it is important to engage a broader range of older residents to understand their experiences of ageing in your community and priorities to be addressed. You may conduct an **Age-friendly Communities survey, focus groups or pop ups** where people in your community go, like libraries or supermarkets. Whatever your approach, **targeted outreach** should be undertaken with underrepresented groups of older residents and activities should be accessible to all, providing **online and offline methods**.

Examples and useful resources:

- [Greater Manchester Older People's Network Terms of Reference](#)
- [Isle of Anglesey Older People's Council Terms of Reference](#)
- Creating an Age-friendly Community Survey [template](#) and guidance
- [Co-production toolkit from Ageing Better](#): this toolkit introduces the concept of co-production and how to use it to involve communities in the design of services that impact them
- [Good Practice Mentors](#): offer support for organisations to increase their engagement with local communities

Application checklist – have you included:

- ☒ Further detail on what structure(s) exist for older residents to have their voices heard in your Age-friendly Community
- ☒ How you have or will engage a wider range of older voices to shape your age-friendly priorities



Understanding your current age-friendliness

Application question: Please briefly describe what (if any) work you have done to understand where your community is starting from in its age-friendly journey, and what is needed or wanted (200 words or less). (Prompts: Have you pulled together any baseline data, conducted focus groups with different stakeholders, mapped your current age-friendly activity?)

Communities will create an age-friendly baseline assessment to understand where your community is starting its age-friendly journey from and to share this with others. Your baseline can be as detailed as your resources allow.

Your baseline may not be all new information and may be formed by existing reports like a Director of Public Health report or Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) on healthy ageing, or analysing responses by age to existing local surveys.

We do not expect you to have conducted a full baseline assessment at the point of submitting an application, but we are looking for evidence that you have started to:

Review what is already happening in your community

Begin by identifying strategies, activities, services, and assets that are already contributing to making your community age-friendly, even if they are not currently labelled as such. This review will help you understand existing good practice and reveal opportunities for building on what is already in place. The Centre for Ageing Better has developed a [Mapping Tool](#) to support this process.

Understand your local data picture

Collating and analysing local data that can help you understand the demographic, social, and health profile of older people in your area, as well as how experiences of the eight domains in your area vary by age. Sources might include national datasets, local datasets, or community surveys.

Bring together perspectives of stakeholders and older people

Understanding the priorities of local stakeholders, groups and residents will help to compliment the above. Communities often will host a workshop near the start of their journey to explain the rationale for becoming an Age-friendly Community and to identify a shared vision and priorities for the programme.

Examples and useful resources:

- [Mapping Tool](#): supports you to capture existing activity in your area
- Using local data on ageing: a collection of guidance and resources including [Developing a Local State of Ageing Guide](#), [Guide to data sources](#) and a [Community Survey Template](#)
- [LG Inform report](#): a template report of local data on ageing where you can compare your authority to neighbours and national averages
- Baseline Assessments: [East Lindsey, Torbay, Barnet, Middlesbrough, Denbighshire, Carlisle and Eden](#) and [Hertfordshire](#)
- Local State of Ageing Reports: [Greater Manchester](#), [Sunderland](#), [Norwich](#) and [Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole](#)
- Director of Public Health Reports on Ageing Well: [Leeds](#), [Cumberland](#), [Suffolk](#) and [Lambeth](#)

Application checklist – have you included:

- ☒ Any existing data-led reports, such as a relevant JSNA you have in your area
- ☒ Any existing work or plans to:
 - Analysis your local ageing data picture
 - Mapping existing age-friendly activity
 - Bring together wider stakeholders to understand their priorities
- ☒ Any emerging priority areas from the above work e.g. any of the eight domains



Strategy and action plan

Application question: Please briefly describe any planning or action planning that has happened to date (200 words or less). (Prompts: Have you developed a strategy around healthy or active ageing, separately or as part of other local plans? Do you have an action plan in place?)

Communities will work towards creating an age-friendly strategy and action plan to respond to the priorities identified in their baseline assessment work. The action plan will include activities and responsibilities for different stakeholders across each of the domains, including timelines.

Communities are not expected to have created an age-friendly strategy or action plan to complete their application form to join the network. Instead, your response in this section may make reference to any existing strategies/plans around ageing that your age-friendly communities action plan will replace, as well as any other relevant strategies or plans where work which will form part of your age-friendly action plan may sit e.g. a housing strategy that includes housing for an ageing population as a priority area.

In your application you will also include the process you aim to go through to create your action plan including who will create it and when you aim for it to be completed.

Examples and useful resources:

- [On-demand training](#) on Step 2 and Step 3: Plan Strategically and Act and Implement ([What is a strategy, developing a vision, identifying priorities, writing your strategy](#))

Example Action Plans and Strategies:

- [Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Action Plan 2023-2025](#)
- [Belfast – Age-friendly Plan 2023-2027](#)
- [Sunderland Ageing Well](#) as a key priority in Sunderland Healthy City Plan 2020-2030
- [Age-friendly Cardiff Action Plan 2024-2028](#)
- [Age-friendly South Tyneside Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2028](#)
- [Age-friendly Mid and East Antrim Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027](#)
- [Bolton's Age-friendly Strategy 2025-2028](#)
- [Greater Manchester Age-friendly Strategy 2024-2034](#)

Application checklist – have you included:

- ☒ Any existing strategies/plans that your age-friendly communities action plan would replace
- ☒ Any relevant strategies/plans where work would form part of your age-friendly action plan
- ☒ The process you aim to go through to create your action plan



Membership and support from the network

Once communities have had their application approved by the Steering Group, places can officially join the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities. The UK Network gives places access to a range of contacts, ideas and expertise from across the UK and internationally, strengthening and amplifying your work through:

- **Peer support, shared learning and resources**, including an invitation to our weekly online peer call, participation in special interest groups and regional networks.
- **Connection to other local areas**, through the **age-friendly map** and bursaries for inquiry visits.
- **Access to events, webinars, and workshops**, including the annual age-friendly communities conference and on demand training on each stage of the WHO programme cycle.
- **Bespoke support from the Centre for Ageing Better** including tailored guidance, recommendations and presentations in your area.

As network members communities are expected to:

- **Stay in touch with the UK Network Team** by updating community contact details, responding to emails or requests, keeping us up to date with what is going on in your area.
- **Share practice and learning** which could include presenting at peer calls, sharing learning with other network members 1:1, and sharing materials in the Knowledge Hub.
- **Collaborate as a network** by participating in campaigns, research projects, and attending events which strengthen the national age-friendly movement.





Resources and tools

Centre for Ageing Better has developed several different public resources to support the delivery of Age-friendly work. These are additional resources beyond those mentioned in the previous sections.

- **The UK Network Impact Report** describes the multitude of positive impacts Age-friendly Communities are having on the local systems they represent and the older people that live there.
- **The Age-friendly Communities Handbook** is a resource which outlines the key features of Age-friendly Communities in the UK and gives examples of practices and policies that can be implemented at a local level. Alongside the handbook is a **mapping tool** for places to use to identify what is already happening in their area, how stakeholders and older residents can be involved, and where there might be gaps or opportunities to do more.
- **Age-friendly map** which lists all the places that have joined the UK Network and the age-friendly leads contact details.
- **Case studies** to showcase the age-friendly initiatives and good practice examples happening across the UK.
- **Age-positive image library** the first free library showing positive and realistic images of over 50s.
- Data and evidence on ageing across England including our flagship **State of Ageing** report and **evidence card infographics**.
- Using local data on age is a collection of guidance and resources including **Developing a Local State of Ageing Guide**, **Guide to data sources** and a **Community Survey Template**.
- **LG inform report** is a template report of local data sources which can be compared to neighbouring authorities and national.
- **Age-friendly Business Framework** is a framework for customer-facing settings in communities on what it means to be an Age-friendly business.



FAQ's

Who can join the network?

Members of the UK Network are towns, cities, districts, regions and counties. As places need to gain political commitment to become members, their geography normally reflects that of a local authority. Multiple tiers of authority in the same place can be members, for example, Greater Manchester region is a member as are a number of boroughs within the region. The same is true of counties, districts and towns. All councils have different powers, but all can make a difference.

Is there an “accreditation” of becoming an Age-friendly Community?

There is no accreditation for communities to say they have achieved “age-friendly status.” Becoming an Age-friendly Community is about commitment to follow the WHO framework and, through this, make improvements at whatever pace you can. Communities can share that they have joined the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities to demonstrate this commitment.

What does it cost to become an Age-friendly Community?

There is no definitive set of costs associated with implementing your action plan to become an age-friendly community and joining the UK Network is free. Becoming an Age-friendly Community is about the commitment to make improvements with whatever resource and partnerships you have available. Often no new money is needed – becoming an Age-friendly Community can simply involve using existing resources better. See resources section above for more guidance on resourcing.

What is the difference between the WHO Global Network and the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities? Which should we join? What is expected of Global Network membership?

The UK Network of Age-friendly Communities is an affiliate of the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC), providing more direct support to communities across the UK.

We encourage all members of the UK Network to work towards becoming a member of GNAFCC. **The application** is very similar to joining the UK Network, with the only major difference being the requirement to show their political commitment through a letter signed by the most senior political leader in their place (i.e. the leader of the council).

Places may choose to join the GNAFCC when they join the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities or afterwards dependant on what makes sense for them locally.

Any places in the UK who are already members of the GNAFCC would automatically be welcomed into the UK Network.

In order to maintain membership of the GNAFCC places must:

- Submit an annual submission of an Age-friendly Practice to the Global Database of Age-friendly Practices.
- Maintain their profile page on the [GNAFCC Age-friendly World site](#), uploading programme documents (e.g. action plan) as they are developed.



The Centre for Ageing Better

The Centre for Ageing Better is pioneering ways to make ageing better a reality for everyone, including challenging ageism and building an Age-friendly Movement, creating Age-friendly Employment and Age-friendly Homes. It is a charitable foundation funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and part of the government's What Works Network.

