Policy Screening Form

Policy Scoping

Policy Title: ABC Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan

Brief Description of Policy (please attach copy if available). Please state if it is a new, existing or amended policy.

This is the first ABC Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan developed in response to our ageing population to promote physical and social environments that support healthy and active ageing and a good quality of life for older people in the Borough.

Intended aims/outcomes. What is the policy trying to achieve?

Vision:
People in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area are valued regardless of age and are supported to age well and with confidence

Outcomes	How we might achieve this
Outcome 1: As we get older, we enjoy good physical and mental health	Scope, and collaborate to promote, physical activity
	Scope and collaborate to promote good mental health and wellbeing
	Promote opportunities among Alliance members and allied organisations for accessing funds, training and support to deliver projects and activities which meet the needs of older people
Outcome 2: As we get older, we participate meaningfully in community life	Map existing activities and services and activities (by WHO age-friendly domains) and Co-design a mechanism/s to publish and maintain the information, learning from other areas' experiences.
	Identify gaps in activities, services and communication channels and work together to improve
	Work to ensure that individuals know where to go to get advice, and information on social activities and training and learning opportunities
	Establish a sustainable network of providers and community navigators, social prescribers and similar individuals to enable referrals and partnership working in the delivery of a range of services.
	Support and promote the work of the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Loneliness Network, to encourage people to connect with each other
	Support and promote the work of the ABC Intergenerational Network to help increase capacity and raise awareness of the benefits of intergenerational practice
	Improve the experience of accessing services by those who are older by promoting dementia-awareness training for all front-of-house staff in Alliance partners
	Build understanding and commitment to provide age-friendly environments and services among providers such as banks, dentists and shops.

	Build understanding and commitment among care homes and their local communities to enable residents to continue to participate in community life
Outcome 3: As we get older, we are heard, valued and respected	Identify and apply suitable good practice guidelines for engagement of older people to ensure they are encouraged and enabled to influence decision-making and to receive feedback on their contributions.
	Connect older people to influencing structures they can join and the decisions they can influence, eg. Older peoples Networks, Patient & Client Council, Pensioners Parliament
	Consider use of Participatory Budgeting initiative to support engagement activities
	Carry out an age-friendly survey every 3 years and share results widely including with targeted dissemination for older residents
	Explore options for a reference forum of people over 50 to be engaged in dialogue and consulted on plans, policies and strategies that affect them
	Ensure that the needs and aspirations of older people are consistently considered by identifying (and training where appropriate) champions for older people
	Secure commitment of Alliance partners to assess the age-friendliness of their facilities, public spaces such as parks, town centres and community and leisure centres, assessing their walkability and amenities such as seats and toilets. Where appropriate, work in partnership to take action to address issues.
	Support and build capacity of ABC Seniors Network to help the group represent the voice of older people in the Borough.
Outcome 4: As we get older, we are independent and involved in decisions that affect us	Connect our older people to services that will enable them to live independently for longer in their own homes
	Connect our older people to NIHE and Housing Associations to influence the development of appropriate housing options for different ages and needs
	Explore partnership initiatives to expose and support older people to access public and community transport
	Connect older people and prospective volunteers to training and support to improve digital inclusion of older people
Outcome 5: As we get older, we are well informed about things that matter to us	Agree a communications plan for Age-friendly Alliance members and supporters to publicly demonstrate their commitment to age friendly and to enable promotion of actions under outcomes 1 to 4
	Develop a mechanism to access a variety of communications platforms to disseminate agreed health and wellbeing and other relevant messages on behalf of the Age-friendly Alliance
	Develop a communications campaign which challenges the stereotypes of growing older

Cross-cutting themes:
- Inclusive and accessible - We are all growing older, but for some people, this will be more challenging. We will consider the different wants, needs and abilities of all our residents as they get older. And we will take practical steps to ensure that those most at risk of missing out can benefit in full.
- Collaborative - Age-friendly is about partnership or working better together. We will pool the collective influence, resources and expertise of the Age-friendly Alliance so that our work has a bigger impact for the people we want to benefit.

- Proactive - We will work together to identify new issues – and opportunities – and come up with solutions.
- Meaningful engagement -The Age-friendly strategy and action plan is based on what local people told us matters most in their lives. We are committed to continuing to engage with people in a meaningful way so that what they say helps shape how we deliver the actions in this action plan.

Policy Framework

Has the policy been developed in response to statutory requirements, legal advice or on the basis of any other professional advice? Does this affect the discretion available to Council to amend the policy?

The Public Health Agency is committed, through the Department for Communities (DfC) Active Ageing Strategy to lead on the development of Age Friendly Communities, working towards the longer term goal of making Northern Ireland an Age Friendly Region," (Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2022). PHA are funding each council to adopt the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities framework.
The Public Health Agency fund Council not only to embed an Age Friendly approach into their structures, but also to support and build capacity through partnership working in an Age Friendly Alliance. The Alliance has led on the development of an Age Friendly Strategy for the Borough, utilising a co-production approach and engaging a range of representatives from public, community and voluntary sectors including older people.

The Age Friendly Alliance was formed in March 21 which consists of 25 members to include a wide range of CVS organisations and older people. This group will work together to meet the outcomes of the community plan in relation to Age Friendly and promote the best possible health and wellbeing, safety and quality of life outcomes for older adults living in the council district. Following the framework as set out by the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities, this group will develop and oversee implementation and evaluation of an Age Friendly Strategy and 3 year Action Plan for the Borough that complements the WHO eight interconnected domains that help to identify and address barriers to the well-being and participation of older people.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the policy? If so, please outline.

All Section 75 groups should benefit from the ABC Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan which demonstrates the partners' collective commitment to improve quality of life for all people aged 50+ who live, visit and work in the district. Categories which will see the greatest benefit are:
- Older people
- People with a disability
- Carers

Who initiated or wrote the policy (if Council decision, please state). Who is responsible for implementing the policy?

Who initiated or wrote policy?	Who is responsible for implementation?

ABC Age Friendly Alliance developed the strategy and action plan facilitated by EOS Community Consulting CIC and JMS Consulting	Council is designated as the lead but all Age Friendly Alliance partners will be responsible for Implementation.

Are there any factors which might contribute to or detract from the implementation of the policy (e.g. financial, legislative, other)?

The success of the Action Plan will be dependent on buy in, commitment and resources of all ABC Age Friendly Alliance Members.

Main stakeholders in relation to the policy

Please list main stakeholders affected by the policy (e.g. staff, service users, other statutory bodies, community or voluntary sector, private sector)

- Residents aged 50+
- Service users
- ABC Age Friendly Alliance
- Community Planning Partners
- Community & Voluntary Sector
- Business Sector
- Elected Members

Are there any other policies with a bearing on this policy?   If so, please identify them and how they impact on this policy.

Connected Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2017-2030

Active Ageing Strategy 2016–22

Other Government strategies and policies that have a bearing on this project include:
- NI Programme for Government (draft)
- Mental Health Strategy 2021–31
- Transforming your Care, A Review of Health and Social Care, 2011
- Southern Local Commissioning Group – Local Population Plan 2012-15
- Making Life Better 2013–23
- Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation 2016
- Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (draft for consultation 2021)
- Get Moving ABC Framework (2020 – 2030)
- NI Housing Executive Older Peoples Housing Strategy 2021/22 to 2026/27
- Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Local Transport Study 2021
- Public Realm/Environmental Improvement (Department for Communities)

Council should ensure that its screening decisions are informed by relevant data. What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

Section 75 category	Evidence
Religious belief	The 2011 Census showed that 43% of the population in the Borough were either Catholic or brought up as Catholic and 52% belonged to or were brought up in Protestant, other Christian or Christian-related denominations. A further 1% belonged to or had been brought up in other religions, while 5% neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in, a religion.
Political opinion	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council has 41 elected members. A breakdown of results of the Local Government Election in May 2019 for the borough are as follows: • Democratic Unionist Party – 11 • Ulster Unionist Party – 10 • Sinn Fein – 10 • Social Democratic and Labour Party – 6 • Alliance – 3 • Independent – 1 A total of 79,309 votes were polled in the borough from an eligible electorate of 147,977 giving a turnout of 53.6%. This breakdown is taken as an approximate representation of the political opinion of people within the borough.
Racial group	The 2011 Census showed that: • 98.5% of the usually resident population of the Borough were White and 1.5% were from minority ethnic groups. The main ethnic minorities were Mixed (605 individuals), Chinese (528 individuals) and Other Asian (463 individuals). • 89.0% of residents in the Borough were born in Northern Ireland. The Borough had 5.4% of residents or 10,846 individuals who were born outside the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland. 4.1% of residents aged 3+ years or (7,896 individuals) spoke a language other than English or Irish as their main language. Apart from English and Irish, the most common other main languages were Polish (2,919 residents aged 3+ years), Lithuanian (1,736) and Portuguese (834). Of those whose main language is not English or Irish, 34% cannot speak English or cannot speak it well (based on the three legacy council areas).

	Consultation A focus group was help with the Wah Hep Chinese Community Association to gain their views regarding: • Where they live • Getting out and about • Healthy, active living • Working and volunteering • Access to information
Age	The population of the Borough was estimated to be 216,205 at 30 June 2019. The profile by age group is: • 0-15 years - 23% • 16-39 years - 30% • 40-64 years - 32% • 65+ years - 16% In our borough there are 33,530 people aged 65+ and this number is projected to grow by 65.6% in the next 23 years. The number of residents aged 85+ is projected to rise by 125.8% by 2043, when they will make up 3.5% of the population in the borough, compared to 1.8% in 2019. There are also growing numbers of older people are living with dementia, multiple long term health conditions and in social isolation. **Respondents taking part in the Age Friendly Survey:** What age are you? (584 responses) Age table below
Marital status	The 2011 Census provides information on the marital status profile of those aged 16 and over in the Borough: • Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership) - 34% • Married - 51% • In a registered same-sex civil partnership - 0.1% • Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership) - 4% • Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved - 5% Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership - 7%

Option	Total	Percent
50-54	62	10.46%
55-59	59	9.95%
60-64	84	14.17%
65-74	203	34.23%
75-84	139	23.44%
85 or over	34	5.73%
Prefer not to say	3	0.51%
Not Answered	9	1.52%

	Respondents taking part in the Age Friendly Survey: Who do you live with? (594 responses)		
	Option	**Total**	**Percent**
	Alone	220	37.10%
	With others	358	60.37%
	In a communal accommodation (such as a residential home or assisted living accommodation	10	1.69%
	Not Answered	9	1.52%
Sexual orientation	The 2011 Census did not include a question on sexual identity. The Continuous Household Survey provides results on the sexual identity of persons aged 16 and over. For the combined years of 2016/17 – 2018/19, in the borough 98% of respondents to the survey identified as Heterosexual/Straight, 1% as Bisexual and less than 0.5% for each of Gay/Lesbian and Other. Less than 0.5% also responded don't know/refusal. (Note figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding). Results from the 2019 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey showed for adults ages 18 and over in Northern Ireland overall: • I am 'gay' or 'lesbian – 2% • I am heterosexual or 'straight' – 90% • I am bi-sexual – 1% • Other answer – 1% • I do not wish to answer this question – 7% (Note figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding).		
Men and women generally	The 2011 Census showed that in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 49% (98,713) of usual residents were males and 51% (100,980) were females. Population estimates for 2019 show the borough is made up of 107,540 (49.7%) males and 108,665 (50.3%) females. **Respondents taking part in the Age Friendly Survey:** What gender are you? (582 responses)		
Disability	In 2011, one fifth (20%) of people (or 39,861 individuals) in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough had a		

Within the "Men and women generally" section:

Option	Total	Percent
Male	177	29.85%
Female	404	68.13%
Other	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	1	0.17%
Not Answered	11	1.85%

	long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities. The Family Resources Survey showed, using data for 2015/16 to 2017/18, 19% of individuals in the Borough were disabled, similar to the level in NI overall (21%). Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities showed as of May 2020 there were: • 2,120 or 4.4% of under 16 population and 6,070 or 18.1% of 65 and over population claiming Disability Living Allowance • 5,550 or 16.6% of 65 and over population claiming Attendance Allowance 15,130 Personal Independence Payment claims in payment (experimental statistics). **Respondents taking part in the Age Friendly Survey:** Do you have a care package? (542 responses)

Do you have a care package? (542 responses)

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	21	3.54%
No	512	86.34%
Not sure	9	1.52%
Not Answered	51	8.60%

Dependants	The 2011 Census showed: 36% or 27,287 households in the Borough contained dependent children. 12% of the population (or 23,101 individuals) provided unpaid care. Of those who provided unpaid support: • 58% provided 1-19 hours per week, • 17% provided 20-49 hours per week, and • 25% provided 50+ hours per week. Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities show that at May 2020, there were 7,940 claimants or 4.7% of 16 and over population claiming Carer's Allowance in the Borough. **Respondents taking part in the Age Friendly Survey:** I have caring responsibilities for someone (552 responses)

I have caring responsibilities for someone (552 responses)

Option	Total	Percent
Agree	153	25.80%
Disagree	213	35.92%
Not sure	4	0.67%
Not applicable	182	30.69%
Not Answered	41	6.91%

Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information gathered above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories in relation to this particular policy/decision?

Section 75 category	Needs, experiences and priorities
Religious belief	The proposed strategy and action plan will have a positive impact on all section 75 categories but in particular the following:
Political opinion	
Racial group	
Age	People aged 50+
Marital status	People with a disability
Sexual orientation	Carers
Men and women generally	**Comments taken from the Age Friendly Survey indicate that respondents want:**
Disability	
Dependants	• More housing options and the ability to downsize in a suitable community
	• Loneliness and social isolation is an issue with 27% of respondents feeling lonely most of the time and 41% feeling lonely some of the time
	• Digital inclusion - 32% of respondents would like support to start using the internet or to improve their internet skills
	• Information needs to be made widely available and more accessible
	• More community based hubs, clubs and activities

Screening Questions

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy for each of the Section 75 categories?

Category	Policy Impact	Level of impact (Major/minor/none)
Religious belief		
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age	Positive	Minor
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		
Disability	Positive	Minor
Dependents	Positive	Minor

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 categories?

Category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief		
Political opinion		
Racial group		

Age	Opportunities may arise as the 3 year action plan is implemented and monitored	
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		
Disability	Opportunities may arise as the 3 year action plan is implemented and monitored	
Dependents	Opportunities may arise as the 3 year action plan is implemented and monitored	

3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion, or racial group?		
Category	Details of Policy Impact	Level of impact (major/minor/none)
Religious belief	None	None
Political opinion	None	None
Racial group	None	None

4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
Category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief		No
Political opinion		No
Racial group		No

Multiple Identity

Generally speaking, people fall into more than one Section 75 category (for example: disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; young lesbian, gay and bisexual people). Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant s75 categories concerned.

The proposed project will have a positive impact on a range of section 75 categories as well as those with multiple identities

Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006

Is there an opportunity for the policy to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?

In the Action Plan - Outcome 5: As we grow older, we are well informed about things that matter to us One of the outcomes in the action plan is to develop a communications campaign which challenges the stereotypes of growing older which should promote positive actions

Is there an opportunity for the policy to encourage participation by disabled people in public life?

In the Action Plan - Outcome 3: As we get older, we are heard, valued and respected
Outcomes in the action plan
- Explore options for a reference forum of people over 50 for dialogue and consultation on plans, policies and strategies that affect them
- Connect older people to influencing structures they can join and the decisions they can influence, eg. Older peoples Networks, Patient & Client Council, Pensioners Parliament

Screening Decision

A: NO IMPACT IDENTIFIED ON ANY CATEGORY – EQIA UNNECESSARY

Please identify reasons for this below

B: MINOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA NOT CONSIDERED NECESSARY AS IMPACT CAN BE ELIMINATED OR MITIGATED

Where the impact is likely to be minor, you should consider if the policy can be mitigated or an alternative policy introduced. If so, an EQIA may not be considered necessary. You must indicate the reasons for this decision below, together with details of measures to mitigate the adverse impact or the alternative policy proposed.

Implementation of the action plan should mitigate issues

C: MAJOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA REQUIRED

If the decision is to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

Timetabling and Prioritising

If the policy has been screened in for equality impact assessment, please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

On a scale of 1-3 with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	

The total rating score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the council in timetabling its EQIAs.

Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? If yes, please give details.

Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help the authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy. It is recommended that where a policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced to mitigate adverse impact, monitoring be undertaken on a broader basis to identify any impact (positive or adverse).

Further information on monitoring is available in the Equality Commission's guidance on monitoring (www.equalityni.org).

Identify how the impact of the policy is to be monitored

The strategy and action plan will be reviewed and revised annually by the Alliance to consider what has worked well and less well over the previous year and new challenges and opportunities. Anticipated timescales for the completion of actions will also be reviewed and revised annually, as necessary. The strategy and action plan will also be included in the review processes for the Borough's Community Planning Strategic Partnership.

Approval and Authorisation

A copy of the screening form for each policy screened should be signed off by the senior manager responsible for that policy. The screening recommendation should be reported to the relevant Committee/Council when the policy is submitted for approval.

Screened by	Position/Job title	Date
Stephanie Rock	Age Friendly Officer	23/3/22
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date

Please forward a copy of the completed policy and form to:

mary.hanna@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

who will ensure these are made available on the Council's website.

The above officer is also responsible for issuing reports on a quarterly basis on those policies "screened out for EQIA". This allows stakeholders who disagree with this recommendation to submit their views. In the event of any stakeholder disagreeing with the decision to screen out any policy, the screening exercise will be reviewed.