

## Age Friendly Belfast

An Age-friendly City *is an inclusive and accessible urban environment that promotes active ageing*. It provides an exciting opportunity to promote a positive picture of ageing and the diversity of active citizenship in the City.

## Age-friendly Belfast



The World Health Organisation (WHO) has established a global network of Age Friendly Cities that encourage active ageing by optimising opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people grow older. The WHO has produced a [guide and checklist](#) to help cities assess themselves in eight areas from the perspective of older people and identify how they can become more age friendly. If a city meets this list of criteria and makes an application to the WHO it can be awarded "Age Friendly" status.

This page provides key statistics on the age-friendliness of **Belfast** Local Government District (LGD).

Click on theme titles below to obtain an area profile for that subject. The datasets used are shown below each section (where available on NINIS).

- [Demography](#)
- [Deprivation](#)
- [Outdoor Spaces and Buildings](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Social Participation](#)
- [Respect and Social Inclusion](#)
- [Civic Participation and Employment](#)
- [Communication and Information](#)
- [Community and Health Services](#)

### Demography

On Census Day (27 March 2011) the usually resident population of **Belfast** LGD was **280,962** accounting for **16%** of the NI total.

**19% (53,530 people)** of the usually resident population were aged 60+.

Of those aged 60+, **42% (22,672 people)** were male and **58% (30,858 people)** were female.

In **Belfast** LGD, life expectancy for males is **73.9** years and **79.8** years for females. (Calculated using information aggregated from 2008 to 2010).

The Mid-Year Estimates (MYE) of Population time series is the recommended source to examine population change over time. A new MYE time series, incorporating the 2011 Census, will be published shortly by NISRA.

A [population pyramid for Belfast](#) is available to view on NINIS.

Sources/Datasets used: [Usually Resident Population by single year of age and sex \(administrative geographies\)](#), NISRA Census Office; [Life Expectancy and UK Rank Comparisons \(administrative geographies\)](#), Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety; [Population Estimates - Census Comparator](#), NISRA Census Office

[Top of Page](#)

## Deprivation

### ***Deprivation - NIMDM 2010***

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 (NIMDM 2010) report was published in May 2010. The report identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Northern Ireland. The results for **Belfast** LGD are shown below.

**Belfast** LGD has an Extent of **46%**, this means that **46%** of the **Belfast** population live in the most deprived Super Output Areas in Northern Ireland.

Within **Belfast** LGD the most deprived Super Output Area (SOA) is **Whiterock 2 (ranked 1 out of 890 in NI)** and the least deprived Super Output Area is **Stormont 2 (ranked 889 out of 890 in NI)**. An interactive map of [SOAs within Belfast LGD](#) is available to view on NINIS.

### ***Income and Employment Deprivation***

The Income Scale shows that there are **93,511** people in **Belfast** LGD experiencing Income Deprivation, while the Employment Scale shows that a total of **26,095** people in **Belfast** LGD experience employment deprivation. **Belfast** LGD is ranked **1st** (most deprived) out of 26 LGDs in terms of the number of people who are income deprived and **1st** (most deprived) out of 26 LGDs in terms of the number people who are employment deprived.

Both of these measures are also presented as rates of the relevant population. The percentage of the total population identified as income deprived in **Belfast** LGD is **35%**. This compares to NI as a whole where **25%** of the population were identified as income deprived. **Belfast** LGD is ranked **3rd** most deprived out of 26 LGDs in terms of the percentage of people who are income deprived.

The percentage of the working age population identified as employment deprived in **Belfast** LGD is **16%**. This compares to NI as a whole where **13%** of the working age population were identified as employment deprived. **Belfast** LGD is ranked **3rd** most deprived out of 26 LGDs in terms of the percentage of the working age population who are employment deprived.

The Income Deprivation Affecting Older People (IDAOP) counts those aged 60+ living in income deprived households. Within **Belfast** LGD the most deprived Super Output Area based on the IDAOP measure is **Ardoyne 3 (ranked 2 out of 890 in NI)** and the least deprived Super Output Area is **Upper Malone 1 (ranked 888 out of 890 in NI)**.

<b>NIMDM 2010</b>	<b>LGD Score</b>	<b>LGD Rank</b>
Extent (%)	46	1
Income Scale	93,511	1
Employment Scale	26,095	1
Percentage of total population income deprived (%)	35	3
Percentage of working age population employment deprived	16	3

[Ranks range from 1 (most deprived LGD) to 26 (least deprived LGD)]

Sources/Datasets used: [Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 Summary Measures \(administrative geographies\)](#), [Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 \(statistical geographies\)](#); [SOA Deprivation Interactive Map](#), NISRA Demography

**Top of Page**

## **Outdoor Spaces and Buildings**

The outside environment and public buildings have a major impact on the mobility, independence and quality of life of older people.

### ***Outdoor Spaces***

The Belfast City Council website enables users to find their nearest park/open space. Information on parks and open spaces is also available on the website.

Locational data including [credit unions](#), [dental surgeries](#), [indoor bowling](#), [pharmacies](#) and [shopping centres](#) are available to view on NINIS.

The Belfast City Council website includes measures the council are taking to make sure [services](#), [facilities](#) and [venues](#) are accessible to everyone.

There are currently **15** public toilets in **Belfast**. The council is also working on a [public toilet strategy](#) aimed at improving provision for the city both public and private.

### ***Outdoor Safety***

Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) aim to make our [community safer](#) by focusing on the policing and community safety issues that matter most in each local council area. Recorded Crime statistics are available on NINIS and show there were **30,036** recorded crime offences in **Belfast** LGD during 2011/12 – this equates to **1,069 offences per 10,000** and is the highest rate among all LGDs in NI. An interactive map showing [Recorded Crime](#) is available to view on NINIS.

In 2011/12, there were **1,550** victims aged 60+ of recorded crime in **Belfast** LGD, compared to **7,290** for NI.

The [Seniors Info Directory](#) includes information on preventing crime.

Belfast is becoming increasingly cycle-friendly. In Belfast, you can plan your cycle journey using the '[Belfast by Bike](#)' map. It shows cycle lanes, cycle tracks, cyclists toucan crossings, targets traffic calming zones and generally shows you how to cycle safely in the city.

Sources/Datasets used: [Find my nearest..](#); [A to Z of Parks](#); [Open Spaces](#); Belfast City Council; [Credit Unions](#), Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment; [Dental Surgeries](#), Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety; [Indoor Bowling](#), SportNI; [Pharmacies](#), Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety; [Shopping Centres](#), Northern Ireland Tourist Board; [Public Toilet Strategy](#), Belfast City Council; [Community Safety](#), NIDirect; [Recorded Crime \(administrative geographies\)](#); [Crime Interactive Map](#); [Police Recorded Crime in NI](#), PSNI; [Seniors Info Directory](#); [Cycling](#), Belfast City Council

**Top of Page**

## **Transportation**

Transportation, including accessible and affordable public transport, is a key factor influencing active ageing. It is a theme running through many other age-friendly topics. In particular, being able to move about the city determines social and civic participation and access to community and health services.

### ***Public Transport***

The [Seniors Info Directory](#) includes information on public transport in and around Belfast.

Concessionary fare scheme – SmartPass - Free travel is available to all senior citizens who are 65 years of age or over and who are resident in Northern Ireland. You can travel anywhere in Northern Ireland on any Translink bus or rail service completely free of charge. You can also enjoy free cross border rail travel. The total number of new passes issued to Northern Ireland residents in 2012 was **18,365** (**14,595** to 60-64 year olds, **3,770** to 65+ year olds).

Locational data for [bus](#) and [rail](#) stations can be accessed via the [People and Places](#) theme on NINIS.

## Road Safety

The total number of reported road traffic collision casualties involving persons aged 60+ in **Belfast** LGD in 2011 was **175**.

Sources/Datasets used: [Seniors Info Directory](#), Belfast City Council; [Bus Stations](#), Translink; [Train Stations](#), Translink; [People and Places](#), NINIS; [Reported Road Traffic Casualties aged 60 and over](#), PSNI

[Top of Page](#)

## Housing

Housing is essential to safety and well-being. There is a link between appropriate housing and access to community and social services in influencing the independence and quality of life of older people.

### Households in Belfast

On Census day 2011, **14,555** households in **Belfast (12% of all households in Belfast)** were one person households where the resident was aged 65+. **6,375 (5% of all households)** households were one family houses where all people were aged 65+ and **615** households **(1%)** were other household types where all residents were aged 65+. Equivalent Census 2011 data for those aged 60+ is currently unavailable.

### Sufficient/Adequate Housing

Data from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) show that approximately **6,200** applicants aged 60+ are on the waiting list for housing in NI and of these almost **3,650 (59%)** are in housing stress. In **Belfast** there are almost **1,300** applicants aged 60+ on the housing waiting list of which **64%** are in housing stress.

In 2011/12, **1,972** applicants in NI aged 60+ presented as homeless of which **492** presented as homeless in **Belfast**.

A key objective of the [NIHE House Condition Survey \(HCS\) 2011](#) was to provide a comprehensive picture of the dwelling stock and its condition in 2011 for NI and each of the 26 District Councils. This survey estimated that **42%** of households in NI were in fuel poverty. The corresponding figure for **Belfast** was **41%**. For households where the Household Reference Person (HRP) was aged 60+, **53%** of households in **Belfast** were in fuel poverty compared to **57%** for NI.

*Note: The definition of a fuel poor household is one needing to spend in excess of 10 per cent of its household income on all fuel use to achieve a satisfactory standard of warmth (21oC in the main living area and 18oC in other occupied rooms; World Health Organisation). Fuel Poverty assesses the ability to meet all domestic energy costs including space and water heating, cooking, lights and appliances.*

## ***Affordable Housing***

The median Sale Price (i.e. the price below/above which half of properties are sold) of Residential Properties Sold between January 2012 and December 2012 for **Belfast** LGD was **£87,000**. The median sale price ranged from **£71,500** in Craigavon district to **£124,000** in Castlereagh. An interactive map of [Median Sale Price of Residential Properties](#) is available to view on NINIS.

In 2012, the [Disabled Facilities Grant](#), to improve the home of a person with a disability, was approved for **140** applicants in **Belfast** and **90** of these were aged 60 or over.

*Note: This grant is to help to improve the home of a person with a disability, and may be based on the recommendation of an occupational therapist.*

There were **8,440** Housing Benefit claimants aged 65+ in **Belfast** LGD in 2012. An interactive map of [Housing Benefit](#) is available to view on NINIS.

The [Seniors Info Directory](#) includes information on a range of housing options, the upkeep of your home and housing rights and benefits as well as Help and advice for heating your home, paying heating bills and renewable energy sources and safety in the home.

Sources/Datasets used: [Household Composition: KS105NI \(administrative geographies\)](#), NISRA Census Office; Northern Ireland Housing Executive; [House Conditions Survey 2011](#), NI Housing Executive; [Median Sale Price of Residential Properties Interactive Map](#), [House Price Index](#); Land and Property Services; [Disabled Facilities Grant](#), NI Housing Executive; [Housing Benefit Claimants \(administrative geographies\)](#), [Housing Benefits Interactive Map](#), Department for Social Development; [Seniors Info Directory](#), Belfast City Council

**Top of Page**

## **Social Participation**

Social participation and social support are strongly connected to good health and well-being throughout life. Participating in leisure, social, cultural and spiritual activities in the community, as well as with the family, allows older people to continue to exercise their competence, to enjoy respect and esteem, and to maintain or establish supportive and caring relationships.

### ***Events and Activities***

The Belfast City Council website includes details of [events for seniors taking place in Belfast](#). This includes activities in leisure centres, community centres and theatres. A number of events and classes take place in leisure centres especially for seniors. Locational data on [leisure centres](#), [libraries](#) and [visitor attractions](#) is available to view on NINIS.

Belfast City Centre Management and Age NI offer residents over 50 a 'Be Respected' [discount card](#), giving discounts and offers in 73 shops.

**1,352** males were married in **Belfast** LGD in 2011, as were **1,352** females. Males aged 60+ accounted for **29** of the marriages that took place in Belfast LGD, whilst females aged 60+ accounted for **9** of the Belfast LGD marriages. An interactive map of [Marriages by age and sex](#) is available to view on NINIS.

In 2012 more than 4,000 tickets were purchased for tea dances in the Ulster Hall. There are currently more than 60 activities in community centres in Belfast aimed at the older section of our population. Activities range from arts and crafts to line dancing!

Belfast's Boost leisure membership scheme offers you unlimited use of the fitness suites, swimming pools, and all council run fitness classes at any of their ten leisure centres throughout Belfast. Between November 2012 and March 2013 there were **131** members aged over 60. Also those aged over 60, can enjoy free access to all Council leisure centres until 11am, Monday to Friday. Boost cards are not necessary and to take advantage of this service. Those aged 60 and over also receive discounts on a wide range of classes and activities.

### **Outreach**

The [Seniors Info Directory](#) provides up-to-date information on a variety of topics. Belfast City Council now provide training to help senior citizens and those working with older people to use Seniors Info more effectively.

The [Good Morning Project](#) is for an older person who feels isolated and vulnerable. This special scheme helps seniors stay connected to their community through daily phone calls. This allows officers to check a person's health and helps seniors to become more involved in their local area. It also helps to build better relationships between young and old and encourages residents to find out more about staying safe and preventing crime.

Sources/Datasets used: [Events for Seniors](#), Belfast City Council; [Fitness Locations](#), SportNI; [Library Locations](#), LibrariesNI; [Visitor Attractions](#), Northern Ireland Tourist Board; [Belfast Respected](#), Belfast City Centre Management/AgeNI; [Marriages by age and sex \(administrative geographies\)](#), [Marriages by age and sex Interactive Map](#), NISRA Demography; [Seniors Info Directory](#); [Good Morning Project](#), Belfast City Council

**Top of Page**

## **Respect and Social Inclusion**

The respect and social inclusion of older people depend on more than societal change: factors such as culture, gender, health status and economic status play a large role. The extent to which older people participate in the social, civic and economic life of the city is also closely linked to their experience of inclusion.

Belfast City Council offer a range of activities and services to suit varying needs. The council cater for older residents through a series of facilities and schemes such as a free assisted [bin lift service](#).

[Home safety checks](#) are offered by Belfast City Council to those aged 65+.

Belfast City Council also run lots of projects which people of all ages can become involved in as a [volunteer](#).

Sources/Datasets used: [Bin Lift Service](#); [Home Safety Checks](#); [Getting Involved in your Community](#), Belfast City Council

**Top of Page**

## Civic Participation and Employment

Older people do not stop contributing to their communities on retirement. Many continue to provide unpaid and voluntary work for their families and communities. In some areas, economic circumstances force older people to take paid work long after they should have retired. An age-friendly community provides options for older people to continue to contribute to their communities, through paid employment or voluntary work if they so choose, and to be engaged in the political process.

### ***Training and Employment***

In the 2011/12 academic year, there were **375** enrolments aged over 60 from **Belfast** LGD at UK Higher Education Institutions. In the same year, there were **1,010** enrolments for those aged 60+ from **Belfast** LGD on a vocational course in Northern Ireland Further Education Institutions.

There were a total of **50** starts on the Steps to Work employment programme in 2012 for participants aged 60+ in **Belfast** LGD and there were **20** people aged 60+ in **Belfast** on the programme in December 2012. The claimant count (for unemployment related benefits) for those aged over 60 in **Belfast** District Council Area in February 2012 was **135**. This highlights people aged 60 and over are seeking employment.

Of the **1,256** NICS staff (representing **5%** of NICS workforce) who were aged 60+, **155 (12%)** had a home address of **Belfast** and **568 (45%)** worked in a **Belfast** location.

*Note: The statistics reflect the NICS workforce on 1 April 2012 only, and do not include staff on a career break.*

Belfast City Council employs **177** people aged 60 and over, **6%** of the total number of employees (**2,927**).

### ***Civic Participation***

Belfast City Council host an annual [Senior Citizens' Convention](#). The annual event aims to encourage older people to participate in civic life and how they can influence decisions that affect the areas they live in and their lives.

Almost **6,000** people aged 50+, of which **2,980** are aged 65+, claimed Carers Allowance in 2012. Carer's Allowance is a benefit for people who care for someone with a severe disability.

There are currently **10** Belfast City Councillors aged over 60.

Sources/Datasets used: Higher Education Statistics Agency; [Further Education Enrolments \(administrative geographies\)](#); [Steps to Work](#), Department for Employment and Learning; [Personnel Statistics for the NISCS](#), HRCSB NISRA; [Senior Citizens' Convention](#), Belfast City Council; [Carers Allowance Claimants](#), Department for Social Development



## Communication and Information

Staying connected with events and people and getting timely, practical information to manage life and meet personal needs is vital for active ageing.

### ***Distribution of Information***

City Matters is [Belfast City's residents' magazine](#), sent out to more than **130,000** households throughout **Belfast** a number of times a year. It has useful telephone numbers for contacting Belfast City Council, an events section, a competition and stories about what Belfast City Council are doing to improve Belfast.

The [Seniors Info Directory](#) includes information on a range of topics including housing, transport and benefits.

### ***Access to the Internet***

Libraries have access to computers and the Internet for free or at very cheap rates. Locational information on [libraries](#) is available to view on NINIS. LibrariesNI, in partnership with Business in the Community, NI Direct Digital Inclusion Unit of the Department of Finance and Personnel, hold free annual IT taster sessions for the over 50s in a number of selected libraries across Northern Ireland on [Silver Surfers' Day](#). This covers creating an e-mail account, using e-mail and browsing the internet.

Superfast broadband - **Belfast** has successfully bid for funding to become a 'Super Connected City' with extended broadband access and extensive high-speed wireless connectivity. **Belfast** is one of ten UK cities to receive funding, made available by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. By 2015 Belfast City Council will provide:

- access to next-generation fibre broadband across the entire city
- affordable ultrafast broadband to businesses that require it
- wi-fi access in areas of high footfall
- work to make access to broadband more affordable for small businesses.

Find out more about how Belfast City Council will deliver these strands of the [Super-connected programme](#).

Sources/Datasets used: [City Matters](#), Belfast City Council; [Seniors Info Directory](#), Belfast City Council; [Library Locations](#), LibrariesNI; [Silver Surfers](#), Belfast in the Community; [Silver Surfers](#), LibrariesNI; [Super-connected programme](#), Belfast City Council

**Top of Page**

## Community and Health Services

Health and support services are vital to maintaining health and independence in the community.

## Community Care

In **Belfast** Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT), **637** people aged 65+ received meals on wheels service during 2011/12.

There were **45** residential homes in **Belfast** HSCT (does not include nursing homes) and on average there were **1,294** places available.

There were **862** Persons without Material Disablement aged 65+ registered at a Day Centre in **Belfast** HSCT.

The number of clients receiving intensive domiciliary care in the **Belfast** HSCT in 2012 was **1,572**.

*Note: Intensive domiciliary is defined as 6 or more visits and more than 10 contact hours, as recorded during the survey week.*

## Health Services

Locational data on [fitness centres](#) is available to view on NINIS.

The Northern Ireland Deprivation Measure 2010 Proximity to Services Domain - the purpose of this domain is to measure the extent to which people have poor geographical access to key services, including statutory and general services. The average time in minutes to travel to a service from a given Output Area was calculated and results are available on NINIS. The summary table below shows that the maximum time to travel to a service from an Output Area was between three and 10 minutes for key health services.

Within **Belfast** LGD the most deprived Output Area based on the proximity to services domain measure is **(95GG420019) within Stranmillis 1 (ranked 1,282 out of 5,022 in NI)** and the least deprived Output Area is **(95GG190004) within Crumlin 1 (Belfast) (ranked 5,021 out of 5,022 in NI)**.

Travel Time to:	Max travel time for Output Areas within Belfast (minutes)	Min travel time for Output Areas within Belfast (minutes)
GP premises	3.86	0.10
Accident and Emergency hospital	9.91	0.16
Dentist	3.58	0.10
Pharmacist	3.29	0.09
Optician	8.23	0.09

## ***Economic Support***

There were **16,250** males aged 65+ claiming a Retirement Pension in **Belfast** LGD in 2012, whilst the figure for females was **23,350**. An interactive map showing [Retirement Pension](#) data is available to view on NINIS.

There were **9,000** Attendance Allowance recipients aged 65+ in **Belfast** LGD in 2012. Attendance Allowance is a tax-free benefit paid to people, aged 65 or over, who need help with their personal care because of an illness or disability. An interactive map showing [Attendance Allowance](#) data is available to view on NINIS.

There were **11,440** recipients of Disability Living Allowance aged 65+ in **Belfast** LGD in 2012. An interactive map showing [Disability Living Allowance](#) data is available to view on NINIS.

Sources/Datasets used: [Statistics on Community Care for Adults in NI \(Section 2\)](#); [Meals Service \(administrative geographies\)](#); [Domiciliary Care - Intensive \(administrative geographies\)](#), DHSSPS; [Fitness Locations](#), SportNI; [Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 Output Areas](#), NISRA Demography; [Retirement Pension Claimants \(administrative geographies\)](#); [Retirement Pension Interactive Map](#); [Attendance Allowance Recipients \(administrative geographies\)](#); [Attendance Allowance Interactive Map](#); [Disability Living Allowance Recipients \(administrative geographies\)](#); [Disability Living Allowance Interactive Map](#), Department for Social Development

**Top of Page**

*Profile last updated June 2013*