Cheshire West & Chester Council

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<u>APPLICATION TO WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION, TO JOIN THE AGE</u> FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES GLOBAL NETWORK

I am pleased to offer my support for Cheshire West and Chester Council's application to be part of the Age Friendly Cities and Communities Global Network on behalf of the borough.

The Council and its partners play a key role in supporting the health, wellbeing and independence of local residents through its services. We have an ageing population which is above the national average. We know that the number of residents over the age of 65 is expected to increase significantly by 2035 and the number of people aged over 85 will double. The numbers of people over 85 living alone is also set to double. The fact that our residents are living longer is great news and brings opportunities but it can also bring its challenges for our older people and services.

Ensuring our older people and vulnerable adults are compassionately supported to lead fulfilled and independent lives is a priority for the Council, our partners and our residents. Our older people are a valued part of our communities and our 'Ageing Well' programme ensures that they are able to live active, healthier and independent lives for as long as possible. To feel supported, have the best possible quality of life, and ensure that quality care and support is available, if and when it is needed.

It is our joint aspiration, to promote an Age-friendly culture and a citizen-based approach to ageing. The World Health Organisation Age Friendly Cities and Communities initiative supports our aims to improve the quality of life for our older people. It provides a positive focus for unifying our; teams, services, third sector organisations and local businesses to create a borough that is more friendly, understanding, compassionate and inclusive for people of all ages. It also provides an





excellent opportunity to connect and build on the positive work already taking place across the borough to make Cheshire West and Chester a great place to grow older.

The global network provides an opportunity to develop connections with other Agefriendly cities and communities within the global network to; share information, learn from others, develop best practice and bring about change.

We look forward to becoming part of the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly, to working together and playing our part in creating an Age-friendly world.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Dixon

Samantha Dixon

Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council