



10th May, 2018

WHO Global Network
Age Friendly Cities and Communities

A Chara,

When Kerry County Council signed the Dublin Declaration, it undertook to make a collaborative effort to make County Kerry “age-friendly”. As Cathaoirleach of County Kerry, I am proud that Kerry is now seeking World Health Organisation designation to become an Age Friendly County.

Kerry has led in many initiatives across the Local Authority sector and developed many new responses. We have worked well with our communities on innovative initiatives. This experience provides a solid foundation in our objective of being a national leader in adopting age-friendly principles and policies.

Guided by the good practice in the work undertaken by communities, state agencies such as the HSE, NGOs and others, the Kerry Age Friendly work programme sought to take its lead from and build on this foundation. As a Local Authority, our first response was to ensure that the Age Friendly ethos was firmly embedded in our strategic policies including the County Development Plan, the Local Economic and Community Plan, the Arts Plan and Kerry Local Recreation & Sports Committee plan.

County Kerry is built on the experience of our older residents. Through community involvement and volunteering, by working and being active members of our business community, the essence of what makes Kerry a good place to live is built on their efforts. The role and experience of older people is fully reflected in the work of the Age Friendly Programme.

A core economic driver in County Kerry is Tourism. By becoming a leader in age-friendly practice, we intend to make Kerry not only a great place to live but also a great place to visit. This will bring increased strength to our local communities and businesses.

Under the auspices of the Local Community Development Committee, the Age Friendly Steering Group has developed an Action Plan. This is based on consultation with older people and outlines the course we intend to follow and the structures that have been put in place to ensure implementation.



To date, as a result of shared efforts, Kerry has targeted different grant programmes towards age friendly initiatives, is piloting age friendly Tourism initiatives, is supporting creative and active social participation activities and is working towards varying business initiatives and looking at alternative pathways to employment. Also, training has been provided including in the area of Public Realm design.

However, Age Friendly Kerry's work programme is larger than implementing actions; the challenge is to ensure that people in Kerry live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives and be an integral part of community life, regardless of age. The Age Friendly Programme challenges people to confront prejudices about aging and to become more inclusive in daily life.

As Cathaoirleach, together with the members of Kerry County Council, I fully endorse the Age Friendly work programme and look forward to the positive impact this work will make on the quality of life of all of our citizens.

Mise, le meas,



Cllr. John Sheahan
Cathaoirleach