

MAYOR OF LONDON

Dr John Beard

Director

Ageing and Life Course Department

World Health Organisation

Avenue Appia 20

1202 Geneva

Date: 14 JUN 2018

Dear Dr Beard,

Application for London to join the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities

I am writing to ask that London is formally recognised by the WHO as an Age-friendly City, through membership of the Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

My vision is for London to be a place where people of all ages can thrive. Older Londoners make a hugely valuable contribution to city life in many ways, including as professionals, volunteers and carers. We must celebrate this contribution and foster a caring society that fully meets the needs of our increasing older population. I want all Londoners to actively participate in community activities and I want everyone to be treated with respect, regardless of their age.

Membership of the Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities will be a catalyst for London to continually improve our approach to making our city a great place to grow older.

We are already collaborating with older people's forums in London because we recognise how important it is that this work is led by older people themselves. The needs and concerns of older Londoners are clearly acknowledged in my recently-published Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) strategy, which was drawn up following a programme of consultation. This included commissioning Positive Ageing in London to consult with older Londoners and their organisations.

The strategy builds on a baseline study conducted by King's College London in 2007 and the review which they carried out in 2015 on the extent to which London is an age-friendly city. These documents and my strategy will provide the basis for an action plan and indicators that will help us to monitor progress.

Key aims I have already set for London include reducing barriers to decent jobs for older workers; reducing digital exclusion; providing more accessible and adaptable homes; making the city safer; making sports and arts more inclusive; and delivering an accessible and inclusive transport system.

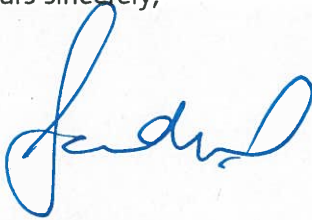
MAYOR OF LONDON

I will shortly be recruiting my Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Group, linked to which will be an older people's stakeholder network. This will be the mechanism through which we will involve older people in our Age-friendly City work going forward.

I look forward to working with other age-friendly cities and communities in the UK network and beyond to share learning and best practice.

I hope the act of joining the network will help us continue to make London a more age-friendly city. I am also confident that this will encourage every community in London to renew their commitment to improve the lives of local older people.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London