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| torbay council logo | **Please reply to:** Cllr Steve Darling |
| Torbay Council |
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| Torquay |
| TQ1 3DR |
| WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities | **My ref:** | SD/LH |
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| **Date**: | 1 May 2021 |

Dear World Health Organisation (WHO)

We are pleased to write to you today to express our interest in pursuing admission into the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities (WHO). Torbay Council, Devon Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Partners and Torbay Community Development Trust (TCDT) in partnership are active members of the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities.

In our career of public service, we have fought to represent the interests of our citizens including the independence of ageing residents and improve the lives of persons 50 years of age and older. Torbay has a long-standing history ensuring the ageing community has access to necessary services, is valued and able to contribute to civic life, and has a suitable environment with strong supports in which they can remain healthy and age safely, with purpose and dignity. Our administration is based on the idea that we must come together and build a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable future for all.

Our administration has developed policies and services designed to deliver a better quality of life for our citizen’s; economic prosperity; enhance the natural and built environment; and improve people’s educational, work and life opportunities. We believe our goals and principles are in line with the goals of WHO's Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. This vision aims to make Torbay one of the healthiest, greenest, and most liveable communities in the United Kingdom.

NHS organisations - Devon Clinical Commissioning Group, Devon Partnership Trust and Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust are committed to providing age appropriate health and wellbeing services to our community, in line with the plans and commitments made by the NHS Long Term Plan and other strategies. Together, these organisations are responsible for commissioning and providing acute and community services in Torbay.

Torbay Community Development Trust is committed to collaborative community development and is currently running a 7 year (2015-2022) Lottery Community Fund programme Ageing Well Torbay working to reduce social isolation and loneliness in people over 50 in Torbay through community development. This has included establishment of an Age-friendly Charter, the Torbay Assembly, a network of Community Builders working with isolated and vulnerable people and developing new community lead partnerships delivering services specific to older people’s needs.

Our Council is committed to establishing an advisory committee and creating an action plan, alongside partners, that advances ageing policy goals within the World Health Organisation's eight established domains: making outdoor spaces and buildings more senior friendly; increasing the accessibility and affordability of transportation and housing; creating jobs to help supplement fixed incomes; ensuring adequate medical and long-term care services and support to help seniors stay healthy and age in place; protecting against abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation; and providing activities to ensure social participation and inclusion in an effort to keep the elderly active and engaged in the community.

In preparing for our growing ageing population we see great value in working with UK Network of Age-friendly Communities and joining the Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities as a contribution to international Age-friendly initiatives. We are proud that Torbay is an Age-Friendly unitary authority in the UK and commit to ensuring that the voices of older people are at the heart of our local decision-making.

Yours sincerely

     

Councillor Steve Darling Councillor Darren Cowell

Leader of the Council Deputy Leader of the Council and
 Cabinet Member for Finance