



Charter for an Age Friendly Community



Age Friendly
CAUSEWAY



Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council



Public Health
Agency

Foreword

I am delighted on behalf of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to introduce the first Charter for an Age Friendly Community in our area.



Our community plan, 'A Better Future Together' outlines a long term vision and plan for the Causeway Coast and Glens area and all its citizens based on three main aims: A Sustainable Environment, A Thriving Economy and A Healthy Safe Community. The introduction of this Charter is part of the process of making sure older people are integral to achieving these aims.

The 8 visions detailed in this Charter are cross cutting with the key aims in our community plan. The visions were informed through a Borough wide survey with representation of all areas of Causeway Coast and Glens and they detail the aspirations for how life should be for all older people in our community. I am very grateful to all those who participated and shared their thoughts, concerns and expectations for older people living here. This approach will be maintained in the next stages of the programme when we develop our Strategy and Action Plan. The thoughts and opinions of older people will be intrinsic when developing plans for their lives.

Councillor Richard Holmes
Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Introduction

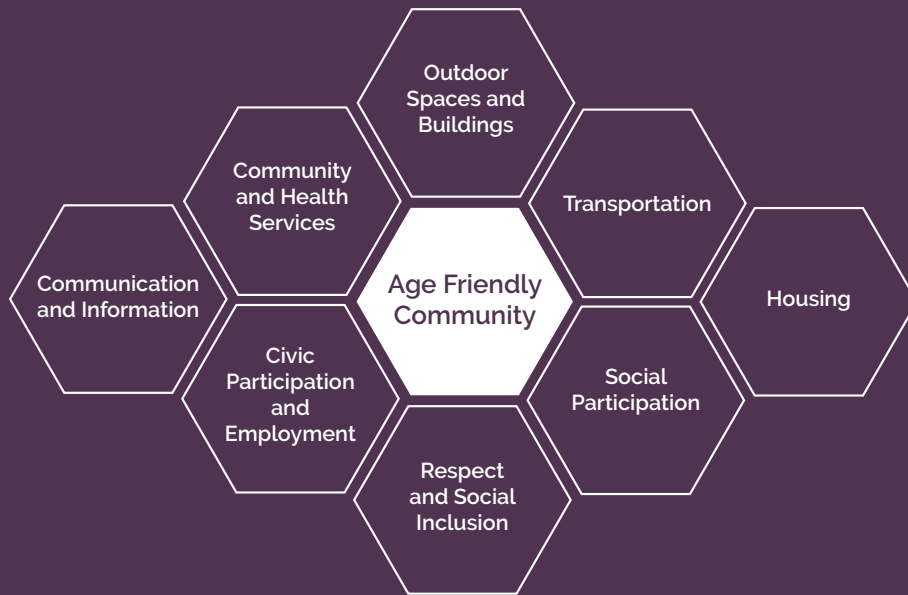
The production of this Charter is a key step to insuring that Causeway Coast and Glens is a designated Age Friendly Community.

33,015 people in Causeway Coast and Glens are aged 60+. This is expected to rise to 51,078 by 2039. This substantial increase outlines why impetus is required for ensuring we become an Age Friendly Community.

The visions detailed in this document derive from the opinions and thoughts of older people in this area but also aligns with the strategic aims of the World Health Organization, the Northern Ireland Executive's Active Ageing Strategy, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Community Plan and the United Nations Principles for Older Persons.

The Age Friendly programme aims to engrain the inclusion of older people in all aspects of community life, remove barriers to participation, ensure access to required services and make sure Causeway Coast and Glens is an enjoyable place for older people to live.

The next steps in the programme will be the creation of an Age Friendly Alliance. The Alliance will oversee the production of an Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan. The strategy will further enhance our commitment to the creation of an Age Friendly Community.



The publication of this Charter outlines the pathway for the creation of a sustainable Age Friendly Community. It outlines the opportunity to improve the lives of older people in this area through collaborative working and placing older people at the heart of all aspects of our society.

The Charter details how our communities can be improved by being truly inclusive and recognising the valuable resource that older people can be in our area.

What is the Charter?

Following our Borough wide Age Friendly survey which closed at the end of February 2021, we have identified visions that will make Causeway Coast and Glens an Age Friendly Community. We will need to make long-term commitments in order to achieve these visions.

How does it work?

The charter sets out these visions and shares opinions and common issues faced by older people gathered via the Borough-wide survey.

The survey questions followed the themes set by World Health Organization, transport; social participation; housing; respect & social inclusion; outdoor spaces & buildings; communication & information; community support & health services; civic participation & employment.

The visions in this charter have been based on these themes. They were formed from information gathered from older people in Causeway Coast and Glens.



Our visions for an Age Friendly Causeway Coast and Glens Community

- Older people in the Borough have access to safe outdoor spaces and buildings with suitable facilities.
- Older people in the Borough have access to suitable forms of transport.
- Older people in the Borough have sufficient access to affordable home maintenance services to improve home efficiency and safety.
- Older people in the Borough feel part of their local community and not isolated.
- Older people in the Borough feel heard and have a say in decision making on things that affect their lives.
- Older people in the Borough can access work and volunteering opportunities that they want.
- Older people in the Borough are able to stay connected via an effective communication system.
- Older people in the Borough have opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing and have access to appropriate health, social care and wellbeing services.

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

Older people in the Borough have access to safe outdoor spaces and buildings with suitable facilities.

What you said:

"The CCG area needs more outdoor walking spaces and good footpaths, better cycle route and more public toilets"

"Seating scheme planned and carried out in consultation with local groups who use the areas and taking account of Section 75 groups"

"More seated areas in towns and any green spaces to encourage people to sit out"

"Very poor toilet provision. Some suitable walking areas require seating areas"

"Not enough use made of public spaces to create safe public walkways & cycle lanes ... Many walks all alongside busy roads"

27.42% of respondents agree there is enough toilets / seating areas in the outside areas they visit

Transportation

Older people in the Borough have access to suitable forms of transport.

What you said:

"The reason I do not use public transport is that it is very poor in rural areas"

"No bus shelters within half a mile, it is too dangerous to stand at the side of the road waiting for a bus"

"More community transport options"

"I think that the information is there when I need to access it"

"Rural transport is always an issue"

88.75% of respondents drive and use own car for transport

14.52 % of respondents agree Shelters / Timetable / Waiting area / Drivers / Seats / Location / Accessibility and Route choices are adequate



Housing

Older people in the Borough have sufficient access to affordable home maintenance services to improve home efficiency and safety.

What you said:

“More should be done to encourage environmentally friendly measures in houses”

“People living alone & over 65 should get more advice & help with making their home more safe & comfortable”

“More widely available grants”

“I had a visit from COAST for home security advice which was helpful”

“Lack of support for green energy”

37.1% of respondents said they live alone

24.19 % of respondents agree there are sufficient & affordable home maintenance support services available

Social Participation

Older people in the Borough feel part of their local community and not isolated.

What you said:

"Covid has had a big impact"

"It takes a big effort to be involved. Our community group reach out admirably"

More investment in arts. Insufficient cultural events (classical music, plays etc.)

"More investment in community transport"

"Being part of our local cultural group is a great benefit to many"

"Transport can be a big issue for those who do not drive / own a car"

19.35% of respondents feel isolated & disconnected from their community

29.03% of respondents do not take part in social activities

Respect and Social Inclusion

Older people in the Borough feel heard and have a say in decision making on things that affect their lives.

What you said:

"More regular inter-generational activities"

"Social isolation is common"

"Older people love going out together, a bus run, walk in the park or going to their local community centre. Even simple connections with neighbours help"

"Most people in our communities respect and care about those who are older"

"We should find more ways to encourage people to connect and look out for their neighbours"

25.81% of respondents agree that older people are consulted by public, voluntary & private organisations on ways to serve them better

35.48% of respondents agree that facilities have helpful & courteous staff trained to respond to older people



Civic Participation and Employment

Older people in the Borough can access work and volunteering opportunities that they want.

What you said:

"Retraining opportunities ... such as in new technologies"

"Networks and organisations should be available for everyone to find easily."

70.97% of respondents feel that they have time and can make a difference

6.45% of respondents agree that there is good employment support available for older workers

Communication and Information

Older people in the Borough are able to stay connected via an effective communication system.

What you said:

"Many over 65's do not have a computer or smart phone"

"Poor rural broadband is a major issue for a lot of people"

"Due to my participation in community groups I receive useful information which I use to help my neighbours"

"Information is there ... although in different places"

25.58% of respondents agree that there is an effective communication system that reaches community residents

69.36% of respondents agree that a coordinated group approach to signposting to services is needed

Community and Health Services

Older people in the Borough have opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing and have access to appropriate health, social care and wellbeing services.

What you said:

"More communication about services available"

"Public transport can be difficult in rural areas"

"There are many elderly who suffer from loneliness & depression"

"Hard for older people without their own transport to access facilities"

"Give funding to established groups who are making a difference in the areas most needed"

35.48% of respondents agree that health and community service facilities are safe and fully accessible for older people

75.81% of respondents take good care of themselves and rate their health and well-being as good



An Age-friendly world is a place that enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities. It is a place that treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age. It is a place that makes it easy to stay connected to those around you and those you love. It is a place that helps people stay healthy and active even at the oldest ages. It is a place that helps those who can no longer look after themselves to live with dignity and enjoyment. Many cities and communities are already taking active steps towards becoming more age-friendly'.

(World Health Organization)

Have your say:

To ensure we are inclusive in developing the Age Friendly Programme we want to get your thoughts.

Contact us on:

Age.friendly@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk



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