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APPLICATION TO WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION, TO JOIN THE AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES GLOBAL NETWORK

As chair of The Knowsley Health and Wellbeing Board, I am pleased to submit this letter of commitment to the World Health Organisation in support of Knowsley's application to become a member of the Age-friendly Cities and Communities Global Network.

We want to take up the challenge to ensure that our Borough is a great place to grow older. We have a great track record of engaging older people to help us understand their needs, challenges and enable them to age well. We know that continuing to do this will increasingly become even more important with the number of our residents aged over 60 set to increase significantly.

Knowsley has a strong tradition of working jointly with partners on older people's issues, and of involving older residents in projects that affect them. In this way, older people have contributed to the development of Extra Care housing schemes, leisure facilities, parks and green spaces, and other local projects over several years. We have a well-attended engagement group for older people in Knowsley: Knowsley Older People's Voice which celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2023. The Older People's Partnership Board is made up of older citizens, Knowsley Council Representatives, Healthwatch Knowsley, Health Service Colleagues, Mersey Fire and Rescue, Merseytravel, Age UK and other partners. A multi-agency sub-group of the Board has been responsible for identifying and delivering an Older People's Strategy for Knowsley since 2009, and we envisage that this group will evolve to oversee our Age-friendly programme.

We are keen to develop Age-friendly initiatives that have a positive impact on our physical and social environment so that we can promote health and independence for our older citizens for as long as possible. We already work closely with other UK Network members in the Liverpool City Region, aiming to jointly address older people's issues across our shared area, and we both support and learn from these local partners.



Knowsley Council

Knowsley is currently a member of the UK Age-friendly Network, Membership of the World Health Organisation Global Network will enable us to build on this work and achieve our aim of making Knowsley a positive place for Ageing Well. We have a great track record in engagement with older people and we will continue to take our lead from older people in ensuring that our vision for Age-friendly Knowsley becomes a reality.

We look forward to becoming part of the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Communities, sharing good practice with communities around the world and working together to achieve our Age-friendly Vision.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Eddie Connor
Chair of The Knowsley Health and Wellbeing Board