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**AGE FRIENDLY NEWS & UPDATES**

**Edition 21 – 16/06/2023**

* **DFI Focus Group on Proposed Changes to Concessionary Fares**

DFI are holding a Focus Group on Proposed Changes to Concessionary Fares as part of their Public Consultation and regional engagement.  This will be held on Friday 23rd June from 2-3.30pm in Harbour House, Derry. Places are limited and the focus group is aimed at individuals rather than organisations.  Tea and Coffee is available and to register please contact Alexandra Wallace on 028 7125 3253 or email [Alexandra.wallace@derrystrabane.com](mailto:Alexandra.wallace@derrystrabane.com) Further details of the Concessionary Fares consultation can be accessed from the following link [Consultation on Northern Ireland Concessionary Fares Scheme launched | Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/consultation-northern-ireland-concessionary-fares-scheme-launched)



* **Interested in joining the Older Persons Reference Panel?**

As part of developing the Age Friendly structures locally, DCSDC are inviting persons aged 50+ years from across the council area to get involved with the Older Persons Reference Panel. Demographically and geographically representative of older people across all council areas, the group members will also be reflective of the World Health Organisations eight domains for creating age friendly cities and communities.

This group will be co-designed by older people, including its function, name, frequency of how often it meets. The group should also design regular events to share and review progress and make sure that older voices continue to be heard throughout the Age Friendly programme journey.

Please see attached Expression of Interest Form and these should be returned by 1st September 2023, as it is envisaged the first meeting will be held in October, during Positive Ageing Month. Further hard copies are available by contacting Alexandra Wallace at DCSDC on 028 7125 3253 or by emailing [Alexandra.wallace@derrystrabane.com](mailto:Alexandra.wallace@derrystrabane.com)



* **Lived Experience Survey 2023**

The Lived Experience 2023 survey will help Age NI to highlight the issues that matter most to older people and raise these with our elected representatives, policy makers and decision takers. Please help us to promote this survey with older people. The survey should be returned to Age NI by 14 July 2023.   If you would like some hard copies with pre-paid envelopes contact [michele.young@ageni.org](mailto:michele.young@ageni.org) Here’s how you can help:

•         Invite older people to complete the survey.  Here’s the link for those who can access the survey online:

[https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LivedExperience23External-other](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/Duy2Cnrx1i7MW5Zu9dUsO?domain=surveymonkey.co.uk)

•         Distribute hard copies of the survey with pre-paid envelopes (contact [michele.young@ageni.org](mailto:michele.young@ageni.org))

•         Offer to support them to complete the survey if that’s appropriate

•         Promote our survey on your own social media – I’ve attached some images and copies for posts and social media content.

Thank you in advance for helping us to reach and hear the views of older people. If you have any questions, please contact: [paschal.mckeown@ageni.org](mailto:paschal.mckeown@ageni.org)



## Rapid Rundown 2023 has gone regional!

### The Age Friendly Network NI and the Age Sector Networks jointly hosted a Rapid Rundown event on Tuesday 6th June 2023 as a platform for 20 regional organisations to showcase the support and services they provide for Older People. Each organisation had just two minutes to present, and the session was jam packed with information and advice on how we can support our Older People as we look towards a future where the region is an age friendly place to live and thrive. To view the recordings and to learn more about what organisations are providing services please visit <https://www.meaap.co.uk/rapidrundown/>

* **Positive Ageing Month Grants Evaluation**

Last year the WHSCT administered a small grants programme across the WHSCT funded by the PHA. Please see the details of the Outcomes Based Accountability evaluation of the grants programme.



* **NWCN E-bulletin 14th June 2023**

Please see below link for the latest e-bulletin newsletter from NWCN

<http://www.nwcn.org/content/nwcn-ebulletin-14-june-2023>

* **Workshop on Community Led Housing**

Development Trusts NI and Rural Community Network invite you to a workshop on Community Led Housing in The Junction, Dungannon on Thursday 22nd June 10am -12.30pm. The workshop will present findings and recommendations from research into Community Led Housing undertaken by DTNI and Queen’s University Belfast. Hear from people involved in Community Led Housing Projects and discuss the potential for further community led housing projects here. To register click here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/workshop-on-community-led-housing-in-northern-ireland-tickets-647065188397> or for further Information contact [kelly@ruralcommunitynetwork.org](mailto:kelly@ruralcommunitynetwork.org)

* **Positive Ageing Month Planning Group – 3rd July 2-3.30pm**

DCSDC in partnership with the WHSCT are organising a second planning meeting to develop this Octobers Positive Ageing Month campaign and to mark International Day of Older People on 1st October. This is open to stakeholders and organisation’s interested in getting involved with developing Positive Ageing Month. This will be held on Monday 3rd July from 2-3.30pm online. If you are interested in attending, please register by contacting 028 7125 3253 or email [agefriendly@derrystrabane.com](mailto:agefriendly@derrystrabane.com)

* **Expanding the CHOICE coalition**

Challenging Health Outcomes - Integrating Care Environments (CHOICE) is a consortium to tackle health disparities for people living with mental illness. The CHOICE project was funded as part of the second phase of the £26 million, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Mobilising Community Assets to Tackle Health Inequalities Investment. CHOICE was the only project in Northern Ireland (NI) to get an award.

CHOICE is building a network of people and organisations – a community coalition – to tackle the issues of social exclusion and poor physical health among people living with severe and enduring mental health problems. This requires a whole-systems approach that engages key public, private and voluntary stakeholders while placing people living with mental health illness at the centre of co-design activities and ideas.

We use participatory and arts-based activities to assist this programme. Working closely with all the relevant stakeholders we are developing an action plan to improve the health and wellbeing of people with mental health problems. If you or your organisation would like to know more about what we are doing or join the growing CHOICE community coalition, please contact:

Prof. Gerard Leavey, Director of the Bamford Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing in Ulster University by visiting their website CHOICE or email to [g.leavey@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:g.leavey@ulster.ac.uk)

* **State of Caring Survey 2023**

This year’s survey focuses on several areas including health, employment and finances. Your responses will enable us to be more focused in our work and to communicate to decision makers what really matters to you.

This survey is the most extensive survey into carers’ experiences in the UK, so it may take around 20-30 minutes to complete. The more information you give us, the better we can build a comprehensive picture of how caring affects different people. We are really keen to hear about your experiences – good or bad – in as much detail as possible as this helps us understand what it is like to be a carer in 2023. Please complete using the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LVC88WF>

* **DfC Consultation People and Place Review**

Age NI have asked to share this save this date and invite individual older people to this consultation meeting in relation to DfC’s People and Place Review. Further details and agenda to follow from Dfc. This will be held on 19th June online from 2.30pm-3.30pm meeting – for individual older people and between 4pm -5pm for ASN’s leaders .

Please see below log in details for the meeting which will be held on Zoom between 2.30pm – 3.30pm for individuals. Please log in using  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82532816839](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/xtCkCW7LVu5l2Yzu6ZJz0?domain=us02web.zoom.us) and Meeting ID: 825 3281 6839

**Background information**

The Department for Communities is reviewing the People and Place Strategy for Northern Ireland, otherwise known as Neighbourhood Renewal. People and Place has been in operation since 2003 and as such is now 20 years old.   In February 2020, Minister Hargey publicly committed to a comprehensive and strategic review of the Strategy with a focus on both urban and rural areas of disadvantage.  Much has changed in the last 20 years and there is a need to refresh the approach to better meet the needs of local people.  The review is being developed through a process of co-design with a wide range of stakeholders. As part of this process the Department, among other things, is engaging with representatives of the community and voluntary sector and local and central government with a view to seeing how a more effective interdepartmental and intersectoral approach can be achieved in addressing disadvantage in local areas.

One of the most important aspects of the co-design process is hearing the views and lived experiences of people and communities in local areas.  We wish to hear from those who live in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas, as well as those from specific Section 75 target groups such as older people These small focus groups (6 to 8 people per focus group) will help us to understand more fully the challenges different groups of people face living in more disadvantaged areas, how these could be overcome and how opportunities are best realised through a more integrated approach to public service delivery.  The focus group will last for about an hour to an hour and a half.  The findings from the focus group will inform the strategy review process.  We have pulled together a few questions which would like to explore with you.

Note

•             There is no right or wrong answer.

•             Participants are the experts. The views of each participant count.

•             If you think you have a different opinion/experience than others in the room, don’t be shy and say it. It could reflect the opinion of people who are not in the room today.

•             We will end the focus group on time.

In the context of tackling poverty and disadvantage and thinking about older people

Q1: As an older person what is it like to live where you live…what is good and what could be better?

Q2: As an older person, how would you describe your experience of accessing the services you need to support you and those for whom you care in your daily life here?

Q3: From your perspective or that of other older people in your community, what types of challenges/ barriers do you or others face in accessing public services you need?

Q4: What top five things need to be undertaken to make designing and accessing the public services you need easier for older people?

Q5: In five years’ time, how would you like to describe the delivery of the public services needed to support older people in your area?  What difference could this make?  What does good look like?

Q6: What types of projects or initiatives do you think need to be developed that could make public service delivery better, more coordinated and more responsive to your needs?

Q7: What type of community development supports do you think need to be made available to improve service delivery or uptake by older people in your area?

* **PEACEPLUS Programme Invites Applications for Funding Calls**

**PEACEPLUS Programme Invites Applications for Seven Funding Calls**. Managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), PEACEPLUS is a European Union funding programme designed to support peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, building upon the work of the previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes.

The Programme's strategy is to continue to take the opportunities and address the needs arising from the peace process in order to boost economic growth and stimulate social and economic regeneration, and to promote social inclusion, particularly for those at the margins of economic and social life.

The total budget for the Programme is €1.1 billion, allocated across six key thematic areas:

1. Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities: €250 million.
2. Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation: €170 million.
3. Empowering and Investing in Our Young People: €123 million.
4. Healthy and Inclusive Communities: €172 million.
5. Supporting a Sustainable and Better-Connected Future: €303 million.
6. Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration: €52 million.

The Programme has launched the first of its funding calls, with deadlines for applications in seven Investment Areas as follows:

* 10 August 2023 (5pm) for IA 3.2 PEACEPLUS Youth Programme
* 7 September 2023 (5pm) for IA 1.4 Re-Imaging Communities
* 7 September 2023 (5pm) for IA 3.1 Shared Learning Together Education in Formal Settings
* 7 September 2023 (5pm) for IA 3.1 Shared Learning Together Education in Non Formal Settings
* 7 September 2023 (5pm) for IA 3.2 Quality and Impact Body for the PEACEPLUS Youth Programme
* 7 September 2023 (5pm) for IA 4.3 Victims and Survivors
* 14 December 2023 (5pm) for IA 1.1 Co-designed Local PEACEPLUS Action Plans

Eligibility criteria vary by funding call. Depending on the focus Investment Area, applicants may include public bodies, local authorities, transport authorities, higher or further education institutions, government departments and agencies, voluntary sector organisations, charities or companies limited by guarantee, either applying on their own or as part of a partnership of such organisations.

Funding levels also vary between individual funding calls.

**Guidance notes for each PEACEPLUS funding call and the online JEMS application portal can be accessed from the SEUPB website.**

* **Interested in training to learn how to DJ?**

The Millennium Forum offers a Memory Train Project and they can train older people to learn how to DJ. Anyone interested should email [lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk](mailto:lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk)

* **AllState Cyber Safety for Older Adults**

Allstate are offering a range of support to help support older people from Cyber Safety. Please see below email with further details



* **Apps to help support people and carers living with Dementia**

The Clear app was designed by Dr Frances Duffy and NHSCT as part of a dementia care initiative. Further information is available by visiting <https://www.northerntrust.hscni.net/services/dementia-services/clear/clear-dementia-care-app/>