

## **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:**           **CABINET**

**DATE:**               **TUESDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

**REPORT BY:**       **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**SUBJECT:**           **THE DUBLIN DECLARATION ON AGE FRIENDLY  
CITIES AND COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE 2013**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.01 To provide background information on the Dublin Declaration on Age Friendly Cities and Communities in Europe 2013, and the invitation from WLGA to every Council in Wales to sign the Declaration (please see Appendix 1, WLGA Briefing 'Age Friendly Cities and Communities').
- 1.02 To recommend that the Council signs the Dublin Declaration (please see Appendix 2, Template Letter for Endorsement).

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

- 2.01 An opportunity has arisen for public sector organisations, and specifically for local authorities in Wales, to join with other parts of the UK and regions within Europe, to collaborate on developing policy and practice to create Age Friendly Cities and Communities by 2020.
- 2.02 The Ageing Well In Wales Programme, of which local authorities are key strategic partners, is linking with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and with European networks to ensure that Wales has the opportunity to participate and collaborate with the Age Friendly Communities initiative.
- 2.03 All Councils in Wales are being invited to make a public declaration of intent to creating Age Friendly Communities, by becoming signatories to the common set of principles and actions known as the Dublin Declaration.
- 2.04 The Dublin Declaration reaffirms commitment to adopt best practice, to collaborate with regional and international stakeholders, and to communicate through local and regional channels to stimulate and promote equal rights and opportunities for older people living within communities.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.01 The Dublin Declaration does not constitute a legally binding contract, however by becoming a signatory, the Council will be pledging a commitment to the aspirations and principles referred to in the Declaration.
- 3.02 The principles and the commitment proposed within the Dublin Declaration align with existing Welsh policy and local plans to implement the Older People's Strategy in Wales. There are also strong links specifically with the aims and objectives within Phase Three of the Older People's Strategy (2013-2023) for the creation of Age Friendly Communities.
- 3.03 The benefits for Flintshire County Council of signing the Dublin Declaration are as follows :
- signing will provide further confirmation of dedication to ongoing work and policy
  - signing will give recognition on an international stage of the Councils' leadership
  - signing will enable the Council to participate in a co-ordinated network across Wales which will work to adapt the guidelines of the WHO to best fit with Welsh communities.
- 3.04 Signatories to the Declaration will conduct a process of self-assessment and each community will set its own goals and mark its own progress.
- 3.05 To date, eleven Councils in Wales have signed the Dublin Declaration, and the majority of Councils are taking the proposal through due process.
- 3.06 A Welsh National Thematic Network will be established when the process of gathering signatures is complete, facilitated by Ageing Well in Wales (WLGA). Membership of the network will give access to information, project news, guidance on developing age friendly approaches, new partnerships, and participation in discussions on best practice and problem solving.

### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 For Flintshire County Council to become a signatory to the Dublin Declaration.

### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 The WLGA and the WHO do not ask for specific resources to be declared. A statement of intent supported by local action plans approved by individual agencies is sufficient.

5.02 Becoming a signatory to the Dublin Declaration does not automatically attract funding but will place the Authority within a global and European network that will be working to devise high quality bids for funding when these come on stream from various sources.

5.03 Age Platform Europe is currently submitting a bid for EC funding to underwrite the participation of Councils in a European wide Age Friendly Network which will be open to politicians and senior officers embarking on age friendly implementation. This bid is supported by Welsh Government.

## **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 There is no direct impact resulting from the commitment to sign the Declaration, however in planning and developing age-friendly communities and increasing participation in community life, there is the potential to contribute to the anti-poverty agenda.

## **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 There is no direct impact resulting from the commitment to sign the Declaration, but any environmental impact of proposals will be given due consideration.

## **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 Age is defined under the Equality Act 2010 as a protected characteristic. Becoming a signatory to the Dublin Declaration will indicate the commitment of the Council to the Public Sector Equality Duty which emanates from the Equality Act 2000.

8.02 There is likely to be significant positive impact on older people from developing age-friendly communities, and within that protected group there will be other protected characteristics which will need to be given proper consideration.

8.03 Due consideration will need to be given to ensure that in pursuing this agenda there is a balance with the needs of citizens in other age groups.

## **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None as a result of signing the Declaration.

## **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 None required – this is an internal decision for the local authority.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 None.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix 1 - WLGA Briefing 'Age Friendly Cities and Communities',  
April 2013

12.02 Appendix 2 - Template Letter for Endorsement

**Contact Officer: Eileen Spencer, Older People's Strategy  
Co-ordinator  
Telephone: 01352 702537  
Email: [eileen.spencer@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:eileen.spencer@flintshire.gov.uk)**