

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Director of Health and Social Care
to Cabinet
of 25 April 2023**

Subject: Age Friendly Communities

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet of the process to become a member of the Age-Friendly Communities Network.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:

2.1.1 agrees completion of the application process to become part of the network of Age-Friendly Communities; and

2.1.2 agrees that monitoring takes place via the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Scottish Older People's Assembly (SOPA) has secured funding to develop [Age-friendly Communities across Scotland](#). The Age-friendly Communities Development Lead is leading on this work to stimulate local and national action to achieve better outcomes for people in and approaching later life, using the [World Health Organisation \(WHO\) Age-friendly Communities Framework](#).

- 3.2 SOPA is keen to work with national and local partners, to learn from other part of the United Kingdom and develop this agenda across Scotland. An Age-Friendly community has been defined as:

'somewhere where local people come together to make life better for the people who live there, particularly as they age. These places make it possible for people to continue to stay living in their homes, participate in the activities that they value, and contribute to their communities, for as long as possible. Being Age-friendly means designing services and facilities with older people, not for them.'

- 3.3 As previously highlighted, the development of an age-friendly community takes place using the WHO Age-friendly Communities Framework (asset-based approach) which identifies eight essential features of an Age-friendly Community with older people clearly at the centre. The framework has been built on the evidence of what supports healthy and active ageing in a place. This framework is used throughout the world and extensively within England but with low sign up in Scotland.

- 3.4 As is well rehearsed, South Ayrshire has an old and ageing population, with the population of over 75s, already 11.9% of the population, projected to rise to 20% in the next 20 years. This creates real collective challenges for all Community Planning Partners although there are also real associated opportunities.
- 3.5 There is the intention to develop an Ageing Well strategy under the leadership of the Community Planning Partnership led by the Health and Social Care Partnership. The Age Friendly Community framework will be a useful approach that supports this wider 'Ageing Well' strategic work.
- 3.6 Essentially the Age Friendly Community approach considers 8 fields or themes that impact upon older people's lives and seeks to build a shared approach (including working with older people themselves) to create the best possible outcomes for the population. This builds upon older people's assets and strengths and all they contribute to the local economy and community.
- 3.7 These 'fields' include Housing; Transportation; Outdoor Spaces and Buildings; Communities and Health Care; Social Participation; Respect and Social Inclusion; Civic Participation and employment; Communication and Information.
- 3.8 Because of the diverse nature of these themes the development work appropriately fits into a 'Community Planning' approach with the 'signaturee' being the most representative legal body – the Council.
- 3.9. At the Council meeting in March 2023, the Council added both SOPA and Age Concern Scotland to the list of approved outside bodies and appointed the Depute Provost, Councillor Mary Kilpatrick, as Older Person's Champion.

4. Proposals

- 4.1 South Ayrshire has expressed an interest to become part of the UK network of Age-friendly Communities. This would be led by South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership and Voluntary Action South Ayrshire with support from South Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership.
- 4.2 In order to take this expression of interest forward and to become a network member, agreement would be required by Cabinet to proceed with the application process at UK level.
- 4.3 Progress will be regularly reported to the Community Planning Board via the Communities and Population Health Strategic Delivery Partnership.

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. Human Resources Implications

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Risk

8.1 *Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations*

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

8.2 *Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations*

8.2.1 Rejecting the recommendations may impact on the reputation of the Council.

9. Equalities

9.1 A basic Equalities scoping exercise has been carried out on the proposals contained in this report, with the expectation that, if this approach is agreed by SAC, and if our submission is accepted at UK Age Friendly Community level, there would subsequently be a more comprehensive EQIA carried out.

10. Sustainable Development Implications

10.1 ***Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)*** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

11. Options Appraisal

11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

12. Link to Council Plan

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Priorities 1, 2 and 3 of the Council Plan: Spaces and Places/ Play, Sport and Recreation (Outcome 2); Live, Work, Learn/ Education and lifelong learning (Outcome 1); and Civic and Community Pride/ Community Engagement (Outcome 2); and also with specific reference to one of the key cross-cutting issues – our Ageing Population.

13. Results of Consultation

13.1 There has been no public consultation on the contents of this report.

13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Martin Dowe, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic, and Councillor Lee Lyons, Portfolio Holder for Health and Social Care, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

13.3 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Mary Kirkpatrick, Depute Provost and Older People's Champion, regarding this proposed approach, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

13.4 Consultation has taken place with South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (Communities and Population Health Strategic Delivery Partnership) and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

14. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

14.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Director of Health and Social Care will ensure that all necessary steps are taken to ensure full implementation of the decision within the following timescales, with the completion status reported to the Cabinet in the 'Council and Cabinet Decision Log' at each of its meetings until such time as the decision is fully implemented:

<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Managed by</i>
Progress to be reported to the Community Planning Board	September 2023	Service Lead – Policy Performance and Community Planning

Background Papers [Age-friendly Communities across Scotland](#)

[World Health Organisation \(WHO\) Age-friendly Communities Framework](#)

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