

<p><b>Title of Report:</b></p> <p><b>Derry and Strabane Healthy City and District – World Health Organisation European Healthy Cities Network</b></p>	<p><b>Presenting: Erin McFeely, Chief Executive, Developing Healthy Communities</b></p> <p><b>Author: Erin McFeely</b></p>
---	--

## **1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations**

- 1.1 To update Members on the work of the World Health Organisation (WHO) European Healthy Cities Network and seek support to maximise the impact of the Healthy Cities designation and brand for Derry City & Strabane District.
- 1.2 To update Members on the designation process to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network Phase VII (2019-2025) and to seek engagement in the same.
- 1.3 To envision and support a role for Derry and Strabane's designation to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network which will add value to our area's approach to 'building forward better' our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.4 To update Members on the new 'Ideas Fund' from the Wellcome Trust which is now available in Derry and Strabane and is being delivered in partnership with the British Science Association, Developing Healthy Communities and the North West Community Network.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 Derry City and Strabane District Council has successfully completed Phase V (2009-2014) and Phase VI (2014-2019) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) European Healthy Cities Network.
- 2.2 Following approval at this Committee the Mayor submitted an Expression of Interest to WHO to join Phase VII of the Network in February 2019. The process to complete the designation process was paused due to COVID-19 however, it is now back underway.
- 2.3 Key benefits of being a member of the Healthy Cities Network include:
  - CONNECTION locally, between elected representatives and statutory, private, community and academic leaders
  - INTERNATIONAL LEARNING through being part of a global network

- SHARING EXPERTISE and best practice, through development of a local network
  - A PLATFORM to showcase local innovation and best practice
  - POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND LEADERSHIP on the issue of tackling health inequalities
- 2.4 The Healthy Cities Phase VII Framework includes six key themes (the 6 Ps) which link the future of health and wellbeing in cities. These are; People, Place, Participation, Planet, Prosperity & Peace. (See diagram 1)
- 2.5 Derry City and Strabane District's designation to Healthy Cities will be aligned to the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan and bring together other local initiatives including; Smart City, Age Friendly City, Learning City, Child Friendly City.
- 2.6 Healthy Cities promotes a cross sectoral and partnership approach to tackling health inequalities.
- 2.7 Healthy Cities is overseen by a Healthy Cities Leadership Group with representation from Derry City and Strabane District Council, the Public Health Agency, the Western Health & Social Care Board, the Housing Executive and representatives from Developing Healthy Communities.
- 2.8 In 2020, a number of online seminars were delivered which connected leaders across sectors on issues which were at the forefront of health and wellbeing concerns in our communities. Seminars included expert speakers and were delivered in partnership with PHA, DCSDC, Ulster University, Office of the Mental Health Champion and others.
- 2.9 These were highly valued by participants from across public, private, community and voluntary and academic sectors. Themes included; future trends in healthcare with Prof. Tony Bjourson (NI Centre for Stratified Medicine); leadership and mental health during the pandemic with Prof. Siobhan O'Neill, Interim Mental Health Champion for NI; learning disabilities and health inequalities with Prof. Owen Barr (Ulster University) and Living Well with the Ongoing Impact of COVID-19 with Paul Cavanagh (HSC Board).

### **3 Key Issues**

#### Creating a holistic approach to health & wellbeing

- 3.1 An holistic approach to health and wellbeing is at the cutting edge of health policy and development and is encapsulated in the Healthy Cities '6 P's' Framework. It will drive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic if integrated into planning processes.
- 3.2 Healthy Cities is a political and values driven movement. Adopting and promoting the Healthy Cities framework and brand offers the opportunity to affirm our local commitment to tackling health inequalities, by working across sectors; community and voluntary; statutory; private and academia.
- 3.3 Derry City and Strabane District Council's Phase VII application will set out priority areas for action as well as examples of good practice. This will be informed by the Council's Strategic Inclusive Growth Plan and specific Health and Wellbeing Outcome Delivery Plan as well as cross sector stakeholder engagement. The aim of the Healthy Cities application is to create an overarching framework which draws on much of the planning and good work already happening within the Council.

### Engagement

- 3.4 Developing Healthy Communities, in partnership with the Council, PHA and other statutory and community partners, will deliver an online Healthy Cities Conference in April 2021 which will gather stakeholder views and build them into the public engagement element of the Phase VII designation process.

### Political Statement

- 3.5 The WHO Healthy Cities Annual Business and Technical Conference took place virtually 8-10 December. The Derry and Strabane delegation included Deputy Mayor Alderman Graham Warke who endorsed the Political Statement 'Declaration of Healthy Cities for Building Forward Better'.
- 3.6 The statement also calls on the global community to adopt an economy of wellbeing and recognises the importance of cities' roles in placemaking and planning, governance, and utilising and building on existing community assets. (See Background Papers for further information)

### New funding source for wellbeing projects

- 3.7 'The Ideas Fund' is a new grants programme run by the British Science Association and funded by Wellcome that enables the UK public to think about, develop and test ideas related to areas of mental wellbeing that are relevant to them. The Fund will help communities tackle the problems that matter to them by connecting

them with research professionals so they can work together to bring their ideas to life. [www.theideasfund.org](http://www.theideasfund.org)

- 3.8 Derry City & Strabane District Council is the only area in Northern Ireland and one of only four in the UK that will benefit from this unique £3.29 million fund. Other areas are the Scottish Highlands and Islands, Oldham and Hull.

#### **4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications**

- 4.1 By maximising the profile of and local engagement with Healthy Cities, DCSDC will get better value for money from its annual contribution to WHO.
- 4.2 Visible promotion of the Healthy Cities brand and engagement in the same will enhance DCSDC's commitment to tackling health inequalities. (See diagram 2)
- 4.3 The Ideas Fund will enable external funding from the Wellcome Trust to support mental wellbeing in our local area.

#### **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 For Council to demonstrate support for the Healthy Cities movement by maximising the visibility and the profile of the Healthy Cities brand, aligning it to local strategies and projects which support the '6 P's' Framework. The brand and the 'build back better' approach could be a useful means for the Council to refocus its plans on health & wellbeing following the COVID crisis.
- 5.2 For Council to promote and support the development of an open, local, cross sector network of people within the city and district who can access the benefits of being part of the WHO Healthy Cities European Network.
- 5.3 Members to receive regular updates on the progress of Healthy Cities and relevant information coming from the WHO Network, including; approval of the Phase VII application and an annual report/presentation.
- 5.4 Members to attend the Healthy Cities online Conference in April 2021.
- 5.5 Members to endorse and promote the 'Ideas Fund' which offers the opportunity for community led research projects linked to improving mental wellbeing, to be delivered in the Derry City and Strabane District Council area.

## Background Papers

The Political Statement 'Declaration of Healthy Cities for Building Forward Better' re-iterates commitment to the [Copenhagen Consensus of Mayors](#) and the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) and aligns with:

- The [WHO manifesto for a green and healthy recovery](#)
- [WHO European Programme of Work \(EPW\) 2020-2025: United Action for Better Health in Europe](#)

Members can receive further information on the work of Healthy Cities and The Ideas Fund by visiting the Developing Healthy Communities website [www.dhcni.com](http://www.dhcni.com) and by following us on Twitter @DHCinfo or our Facebook and Linked In pages 'Developing Healthy Communities'



**Diagram 1 – Healthy Cities Phase VII Framework ‘6 P’s’**



**Diagram 2 – Healthy Cities branding**

