

# A City for All Ages – Edinburgh’s Strategy for Older People: Evaluation Report

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## Policy and Strategy Committee

17 May 2011

### 1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report gives the results of the full evaluation of A City for All Ages (ACFAA), and proposes to continue its key assets through mainstreaming with Partnership, Council and partner strategies and service plans in the city.

### 2 Summary

- 2.1 A City for All Ages (ACFAA) is Edinburgh’s long term strategy to reduce discrimination and provide better opportunities and services for older people in the city. Its implementation by community planning partners through two action plans from 2000 has been externally evaluated at the five and ten year points.
- 2.2 The 2010 study finds that ACFAA has been a significant asset for the city and for its older population, complementing policy making and planning systems and integrating the views of older people in ways which have improved their quality of life. The concept of “a city for all ages” remains positive and challenging and continuing development is needed to meet the changing expectations of the increasing older population.
- 2.3 The evaluation recommends that ACFAA continues into a new phase as a separate strategy and reporting process, building on its strong partnership links and participation of older people. The report accepts the continuing need to focus on important outcomes for older people and to retain the key assets of ACFAA. An alternative approach is recommended to reduce the potential confusion with service planning and other long term strategies. This is to mainstream the key objectives for older people across the range of city strategies, with a continuing process of support for implementing priorities, measuring and reporting effectiveness.
- 2.4 The report includes a practical action plan for this approach and recommends referral to the Edinburgh Partnership, Edinburgh Community Health Partnership and to Neighbourhood Partnerships as these are important “owners” of the current strategy.

### **3 Main Report**

- 3.1 The Committee will recall the progress towards A city for all ages (ACFAA), which has been regularly reported since 2000. ACFAA is the city's long term strategy to improve the quality of life for older people (aged 50+) through better opportunities and services to meet their needs, and reducing the discrimination and barriers which they face. The strategy is "holistic", looking at all aspects of older people's lives. It focuses on "active ageing" and other ways to prevent problems in older age, starting with people between the age of 50 and retirement. The strategy has addressed all the assets, including public services, which can help to make the city as inclusive as possible for the growing numbers of older people.
- 3.2 Six overall aims have been implemented through action plans for 2000-2005 and 2007-10, co-ordinated through community planning and acted upon by all city partners. Progress has been regularly reported to the Council, partnerships, partner agencies and stakeholders. The mid-term evaluation after 5 years showed positive results and reshaped the work for 2007-10 through a strong association with the Scottish Government's strategy *All our futures; Planning for a Scotland with an Ageing Population*.
- 3.3 ACFAA has been widely recognised as a pioneering, cross-cutting approach which facilitates joint policy, planning and practical work for older people. The focus of the evaluation has been on measuring changes in perceptions, and levels of participation and influence by older people. Less emphasis has been placed on statistics on service impacts, which are based on the wider partners' direct service plans and implementation.
- 3.4 The evaluation of ACFAA was managed by an inter-agency Checkpoint Group with consultancy support from Halcrow Group Limited. This structure provided technical advice on the objectives, methodology, implementation and report writing of the evaluation. Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (EVOC) was commissioned to analyse the extensive evidence assembled by the Checkpoint Group and to produce the evaluation report. An Executive Summary is at Appendix 1 and the recommendations form its final section 6. The full evaluation can be found in the Members Library or at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/acfaa](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/acfaa).

#### **Evaluation findings**

- 3.5 The evaluation finds that ACFAA has been a significant asset for the city and for its older population, complementing policy making and planning and integrating the views of older people in ways which have given them opportunities and improved their quality of life. ACFAA has recognised the positive social and economic contribution of older citizens as well as supporting partners' service planning to ensure that needs for care and support are addressed. The study records significant progress on all of the six original aims of the strategy. This reflects the views of older people through direct participation and consistent engagement, and evaluation work during ACFAA's period of implementation.

- 3.6 The findings must be seen alongside changing needs. The proportion of people above retirement age in Edinburgh will continue to increase, particularly in the oldest age groups. The OPCS projections to 2020 show a 20% rise (4,400 people) in the population over 75 and a 33% rise (3,500 people) for those over 85 years, while social and economic changes suggest even greater challenges to their quality of life in the future.
- 3.7 The broad age range from retirement upwards includes people who provide important resources for the city, such as their considerable voluntary effort and essential care for family and friends. The increasing numbers of people in the oldest age groups are likely to have more long term disabilities and special needs, and the younger retirement-age groups are a critical resource in providing for these. Family carers continue to provide the majority of care even at relatively high levels of need.
- 3.8 The evaluation concludes that ACFAA has produced important achievements which have established Edinburgh as a leading city in addressing the inclusion of older citizens in the national and European contexts. The concept of “a city for all ages” remains positive and challenging and continuing development is sought to meet the changing expectations for this increasing older population.

## **4 Moving Forward**

### **Evaluation Study Recommendations**

- 4.1 The evaluation makes six recommendations in Section 6 of Appendix 1. These propose that the principal features of A City for All Ages should continue to complement the current policy and partnership landscape and its shared outcomes. The first and most significant evaluation recommendation is to achieve a new phase of A City for All Ages, building on its successful joint and participative work in the city. The further recommendations make clear the key assets to be continued. These include long term objectives set and implemented jointly by city partners with the older population themselves, excellent communication, and thorough evaluation and reporting.
- 4.2 The diagram at Appendix 2 maps the areas of active ageing and the preventative agenda for attention. These are set out in the evaluation recommendations to complement mainstream service planning, particularly addressing strategic and long term aims (recommendation 4) and the risks of social exclusion (recommendation 5).

### **Options for Future Direction**

- 4.3 The prominent and important work of the ACFAA strategy over the last 10 years is acknowledged. For the next phase there is a decision to be taken on how the separate strategy and reporting process for achieving a city for all ages should be sustained.
- 4.4 The first option is set out in the evaluation recommendations to continue partnership support led by the Council for a refreshed, shared strategy to make Edinburgh a city for all ages. The second is to harness the experience and impact of the strategy, and to continue its best practice by applying key

objectives through existing strategies. In both models, continuing tangible achievements and a positive profile for the policy depend on proactive effort to ensure integration in partnership and partner structures and systems in the city.

4.5 In evaluating these alternatives, the Council Management Team considered the following factors:-

- a) ACFAA's influence has been highly relevant to improved service planning and engagement of older people in service change with a particular emphasis on preventative actions, and this should not be lost;
- b) important areas of influence have been established in strategic activity such as transport, intergenerational activity and employability. Although there are limits to what can be achieved on national issues such as pensions income and welfare benefits, local action on uptake and inclusive planning will have a significant impact;
- c) further need for improved service responses to deal with isolation and the social exclusion of older people should be addressed;
- d) ACFAA has raised the profile of Edinburgh nationally and internationally as a city with progressive policies for older people, and positive outcomes for city promotion and links to key initiatives should be maintained;
- e) the marginal cost of the ACFAA approach to date is limited to the post of Strategy Manager and part time support, with main actions undertaken through existing resources, co-ordinated through the action plans;
- f) some important partner contributions toward a city for all ages are being addressed in the new pattern of partner agency strategies and the Council's own approach to service re-design. Examples are re-ablement, commissioning work and reshaping care services to improve the way hospital admission and discharge is managed for older people.
- g) some important contributions toward a city for all ages need continued effort and staff resources. Examples are developing employment, enterprise and innovation for older people, research, intergenerational work, and age management policies including the preventive active ageing approach;
- h) throughout the strategy period, the action plans have focussed on integrating work towards a city for all ages in existing and emerging partnerships and strategies, and this approach should be maintained;
- i) A city for all ages sees older citizens rather than a client group, recognising the variety of personal circumstances, and valuing the significant contributions by the older population. It is notable that in Edinburgh there are major differences in household income, health and welfare amongst older people;
- j) as promoted by ACFAA, service character is changing to a more customer-centric approach, with a personalised service response being more appropriate than universal approaches for a single client group.

## **Proposed direction**

- 4.6 In balancing these issues alongside the inevitable resource limits on continuing strategic development, it is proposed that A City for All Ages and its best practice elements continue to be proactively taken into existing corporate and partnership structures. The strategy ethos identified in the evaluation recommendations as “branding” can be maintained. This responsibility can be undertaken through the Edinburgh Partnership’s links to the Compact (see Appendix 3) as the “social and community” partnership in community planning, covering issues such as health, poverty and disadvantage, economic prospects and safety for older people.
- 4.7 An appropriate monitoring framework should be established and designed in consultation with older people. It will be reflected in the current Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and its successors. A strong basis for this is the Equality Measurement Framework from the Equality and Human Rights Commission. This will guide the Council’s Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Framework and link to the developing SOA.
- 4.8 The service development gap identified in community capacity is to further enhance volunteering and connections within communities, particularly for isolated and vulnerable older people. A notional allocation of the Government’s Change Fund proposals, recently agreed by this Committee and the Edinburgh partners, will provide a phased investment of up to £1.2m for community capacity programmes linked to modern service improvement objectives for older people, dependent upon detailed proposals developed with partners in Edinburgh. This funding will of course focus on the needs of people in the older age groups of 65+ and 75+, where health and care needs and risks of emergency hospital admission are higher.
- 4.9 It is important to retain the wider coverage of ACFAA in terms of age groups and issues including employment, transport, intergenerational activity, which affect all older citizens. Joint work with relevant services and partnerships can ensure that areas where ACFAA has made a particular contribution are mainstreamed and maintained effectively. Table 1 in this report (3.13 below) is a plan to cover the priorities for mainstreaming from Appendix 2.
- 4.10 The joint “ownership” of the strategy through community planning is a strength, and effective links to NHS Lothian and the Edinburgh Community Health Partnership are particularly important. Joint actions through the Health and Social Care service and progress reporting through the NHS structures have been maintained. For example, members of the Older People’s Advisory Group are integrated into the NHS redevelopments concerning older people at the Royal Victoria Hospital, the Royal Edinburgh Hospital and the local health partnerships. It is proposed that exploratory discussion considers how to strengthen joint action and reporting in the existing agencies and partnerships.
- 4.11 A vital element is the direct involvement of older people in policy, service planning and evaluation, a key contribution identified in the evaluation and addressed in recommendation 3. This commitment will continue through relevant policies and plans as indicated above, and be carried forward and co-ordinated with the support of the Strategy Manager.

## Integration of ACFAA

- 4.12 This approach must also sustain the profile achieved by ACFAA for the city and its older people on the local, national and international levels, as part of integration so that priorities for older people are prominent in city strategies. Edinburgh's service quality in this area is promoted in a variety of ways through press and media, local engagement and community planning structures. An implementation plan is outlined as an in Table 1.

**Table 1 ACFAA work to be mainstreamed**

Area of work for mainstreaming	Lead Partnerships and Council Departments	Action
Preventive work with people aged 50+	Community Health and Community Safety Partnerships; Edinburgh Compact; Corporate Services; Health and Social Care; Services for Communities	Integrate with and report through:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SOA or successor via Reshaping Care for Older People and Change Fund for Older People's Services.</li> <li>▪ Health Inequality Strategy Group</li> <li>▪ Libraries and Information Service</li> <li>▪ The City Strategy on Volunteering</li> <li>▪ Neighbourhood Partnerships</li> </ul>
Engagement network of older people to facilitate participation	Compact Partnership; Corporate Services; Health and Social Care	Integrate with and report through:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Council's Equality Scheme</li> <li>▪ Reshaping Care for Older People and Change Fund for Older People's Services</li> <li>▪ Neighbourhood Partnerships</li> </ul>
Equalities	Equalities, Diversity and Human Rights within the Council and partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure recognition, integration and service accessibility of older people from the following communities for BME, LGBT, Disability and Interfaith.</li> <li>▪ Report through the Equality Measurement Framework</li> </ul>
Promotion of the city nationally and internationally	Corporate Services; City Development	Continue to build upon and utilise the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and the European Age Platform.
Intergenerational work	Compact Partnership; Community Health Partnership; Children and Families; Corporate Services; Health and Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to build the links and utilise the Scottish Centre for Intergenerational Practice and its successor.</li> <li>▪ Reshaping Care for Older People and Change Fund for Older People's Services</li> </ul>
ACFAA issues inc employment, knowledge and wellbeing, transport, housing, safety	Strategic Partnerships for Health and Social Care, Economic Development; City Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Labour market and older people issues are integrated into Joined up for Jobs and Edinburgh's Employment Strategy.</li> <li>▪ Services and goods sensitive to the needs of older people are developed in line with the Council's EDHR work and The Equality Act 2010.</li> </ul>

## **Staff and Resource Requirements**

- 4.13 Changing demands, and pressures on budgets, staffing and service levels, can all reduce the focus on objectives which support quality of life for older people. It is crucial to have resources in place to ensure that strategic objectives remain relevant for older people, to co-ordinate mainstream actions, and to monitor them individually and as a whole. These corporate and partnership functions have been maintained successfully with a low staffing overhead for the ACFAA strategy to date.
- 4.14 The existing ACFAA strategy manager's post is located in the PSP Division in Corporate Services, but the recent budget savings agreed for Health and Social Care include the withdrawal of funding for the post from 2012/13. It is intended to sustain the manager's role for a further year to actively support the co-ordination and integration of ACFAA in other structures, including the engagement, monitoring and reporting arrangements proposed, and to advise on the Change Fund projects and other developments which will continue ACFAA's activity. The post in these circumstances will be funded on a joint basis by Corporate Services and Health and Social Care in 2011/12.
- 4.15 Thereafter the post will be considered positively as part of the review of all service activity and employee cost saving requirements in PSP. A Divisional Service Review is underway at present.

## **5. Conclusions**

- 5.1 The ACFAA Strategy has gained international recognition in demonstrating pioneering action in developing services for older people in the city. While its 10 year evaluation is extremely positive, it is considered prudent to implement some of the evaluation report's recommendations but not sustain a further period of fresh strategy development.
- 5.2 Instead, the most effective areas of best practice are proposed for continued active integration with existing corporate and partner activity. In addition, specific new work is identified on community responses to local needs for older people, maintaining a monitoring framework for service improvement objectives, and the guaranteed involvement of older people in service planning and implementation. Appropriate communication and awareness raising is also considered to keep the city's prominent place as a "City for All Ages" alive.
- 5.3 Added value can be gained through integrating and co-ordinating vital strategies at international, national and city levels which affect older people. The linkages between developing themes on health and social care, housing, transport, accessible environments, intergenerational activity, community safety, tackling poverty and health inequality, have been identified in current work mapped in [Appendix 2](#).

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. Staff support arrangements can be met from existing budgets within saving commitments.

## 7. Environmental Impacts

7.1 There is no adverse environmental impact arising from this report.

## 8. Equalities and Human Rights Impacts

8.1 The continuation of ACFAA best practice will contribute to the delivery of the general duties of the Equality Act, namely, eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advancing equality and fostering good relations.

## 9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Policy and Strategy Committee:

- a) notes the evaluation and significant achievements from the programme to date and the identified options for the future;
- b) agrees the proposed actions in 4.6 to 4.15 of this report to integrate ACFAA into existing structures and action planning; and
- c) provides this report to the Edinburgh Partnership and the Edinburgh Community Health Partnership for their agreement and the Neighbourhood Partnerships for information.

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Appendices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Executive Summary of the Evaluation of A City for All Ages</li><li>2 Priority areas for revised Joint Strategy for Older People in Edinburgh with links to national and city strategies</li><li>3 Edinburgh Partnership Network</li></ol>
Contact/tel/Email	Glenda Watt, Strategy Manager, PSP, Corporate Services, <a href="mailto:glenda.watt@edinburgh.gov.uk">glenda.watt@edinburgh.gov.uk</a> Tel: 0131 469 3806
Wards affected	All
Single Outcome Agreement	<b>National Outcome 6</b> -We live longer healthier lives <b>National Outcome 7</b> - We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish Society
Background Papers	A link to all ACFAA reports can be found on <a href="http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/acfaa">www.edinburgh.gov.uk/acfaa</a>

**THE EVALUATION  
OF  
A CITY FOR ALL AGES  
Edinburgh's Joint Plan for Older People**

**Executive Summary**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report is on the evaluation of A City for All Ages, Edinburgh's overarching strategy and plan for older people. The evaluation follows ten years of activity based on the strategy and two detailed action plans covering the period 2000 to 2010.

**2. OVERVIEW OF A CITY FOR ALL AGES**

- 2.1 A City for All Ages (ACFAA) is an overarching and long term strategy for the social and economic inclusion of older people in Edinburgh. It resulted from a major review of services in response to increasing levels of demand, budget issues and projections of a growing population of older people. The strategy is the agreed approach for all the partners in the Edinburgh Partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council as the lead partner. The plan has six overall aims (see 2.10 below) implemented through action plans for 2000-2005 and 2007-10, utilising existing structures and mechanisms (e.g. joint planning arrangements). Progress on which has been regularly reported to the Council, partners and stakeholders.
- 2.2 The key commitment to a partnership with older citizens led to establishing a Forum for Older People, which facilitated older people contributing to planning and to reviewing policies and services alongside the city's other equality forums. Since 2008 this role has been sustained by the ACFAA Advisory Group whose membership is drawn from older people and organisations working in their interests.

**3. METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The evaluation methodology was created through a checkpoint group representing stakeholders and guided by independent professional advice. The aim of the evaluation was to capture information to show how successfully the six original aims in the A City for All Ages strategy, listed in section 3.2 of this report have been implemented and to answer the research questions listed under the same section.
- 3.2 Material gathered has included results of surveys for the evaluation, reports from discussion groups and interviews, plans and reports, strategy documents and statistical information. Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC)

was commissioned to synthesise and analyse the evidence gathered and to construct this report of the evaluation, including recommendations.

#### **4. FINDINGS**

- 4.1 Population trends projected for the period to 2020 show continuing and significant growth in the older population with the older age groups facing greater disability levels. Older households tend to have lower incomes and less access to private transport. Economic problems and resource constraints face the increasing older population, possibly reducing their own income and assets in the future. These factors indicate that continuing attention and effort is required to reach the aspiration for Edinburgh to be “a city for all ages”.
- 4.2 Evidence on the economic impact of older people highlights the contribution of older age groups in terms of care, volunteering and continuing employment. However, the city still faces significant levels of inequality, with over 14% of people aged over 60 on Guaranteed Pension Credit. (SNS 2009) People close to retirement ages have higher levels of unemployment, though national policy is changing to postpone statutory retirement ages.
- 4.3 Other UK cities and local authority areas with similarities to Edinburgh and strategies for older people were sampled, demonstrating that ACFAA is comparable in terms of the vision, timescales and techniques to improve joint working. This work gives Edinburgh an integrated and strategic approach to the issues of the increasing age balance of the population comparable to the best practice seen in other authorities. Some comparable strategies had achieved more detailed performance measurement than ACFAA, though this tended to be related to directly funded strategies with higher staffing levels.

#### **Achievements against ACFAA Aims**

##### **Aim 1: Make Edinburgh a place where older people can live positive, contributing lives as valued citizens.**

- 4.4 Engagement of older people in defining and working towards a city for all ages is the essence of the strategy. The evaluation has measured progress through a range of evidence and identifies success as a catalyst for older people's engagement. This is illustrated by many notable examples of engagement in strategic social issues and topics, and on local concerns. The Reviewers identified compatibility to the latest standards for community engagement. A continuing issue for any citizen engagement is that voluntary participation is at risk of not being representative, but clear and continuing efforts have been made to ensure that this has not been the case with ACFAA.
- 4.5 The evaluation evidence shows that ACFAA has increased the recognition of the contribution older people are making to the life of the city. The strategy has increased their opportunities through continued employment up to retirement ages, extensive contributions as unpaid carers, and increasingly through volunteering and intergenerational activity. Stakeholders from national and

local bodies were highly positive about what has been achieved for the city, providing evidence that the Strategy Manager has made significant progress and achieved recognition of ACFAA's contribution to national and international initiatives.

**Aim 2: Ensure that the city has a positive approach to older people in all its services and functions.**

- 4.6 Through ACFAA and the involvement of older people in planning and other networks, an improved approach to older people in services and facilities, and a wide range of opportunities designed and delivered for older people are clearly evidenced in the evaluation of ACFAA. The assessment shows there is increased joined up action and the profile of the needs and contributions of older people has increased.

**Aim 3: Enable as many older people as possible to participate in mainstream activities.**

- 4.7 The evaluation identified numerous actions to promote participation by older people in mainstream activities, contributing directly to their quality of life, wellbeing and inclusion in the city. A notable example is Get up and go. A very high proportion of respondents to the ACFAA evaluation survey agreed there was significant progress towards a city for all ages, and general population surveys indicate high satisfaction among older people. It should be noted that Acfaa was not able to fund or contribute financially to developments so this progress is due to city partners' efforts. The reviewers express concern that these gains may be vulnerable in the context of sharply reducing public expenditure.

**Aim 4: Address effectively the wider issues most commonly cited by older people as problematic.**

- 4.8 The holistic and detailed actions agreed and taken by partners through both ACFAA Action Plans were set to address the issues identified by older people. These were updated through a systematic evaluation after 5 years and matched to national priorities. ACFAA has sustained attention to these actions by stakeholders and demonstrated progress in the city. Individual achievements by council departments or partner agencies are not claimed by the strategy but it is clear that the strategy has been an important influence towards integrated progress, recognition and satisfaction levels which can be demonstrated in the city.

**Aim 5: Enable vulnerable older people to remain supported in their own homes.**

- 4.9 The evaluation highlights a wide ranging set of activities to deliver this aim. These include improved information on support, care and accommodation options available, the introduction of new technical solutions, and major service developments. The strategy does not have dedicated resources and does not claim credit for the intensive efforts which have achieved many service improvements in Health and Social Care and Services for Communities. There is evidence that these are supported and enhanced by the strategic ACFAA

approach and its empowerment of older people, which also brings international recognition of the achievements. Again, the reviewers' stress that resource pressures may threaten recent achievements and positive future developments.

**Aim 6: Ensure the welfare and continuing social inclusion of older people in nursing and residential homes.**

- 4.10 The evidence shows that ACFAA's clear priority to engagement and practical help with specific initiatives has contributed to a high level of engagement by older people in the significant service developments in recent years and in customer involvement in these services.

**5. CONCLUSIONS**

**Have partners in the A City for All Ages plan achieved their stated objectives over the ten year period?**

- 5.1 The reviewers found clear evidence of achievement against a structured and accountable planning process which has engaged effectively with older people in the city. Actions had been advanced against all objectives with evidence of measurable improvement, though many of the strategic aims require continuing effort rather than being permanently achieved.

**Have actions on the current plan's five stated priorities been achieved?**

- 5.2 The reviewers found that the Action Plan is regularly reported to partners and to the city's formal Partnerships and provides clear evidence that stated priorities have been analysed with key actions identified and allocated to the relevant partners and stakeholders. They have been effectively implemented within resource limits, though not all objectives have been reached.

**Is Edinburgh becoming a "city for all ages", with improved quality of life for its older citizens?**

- 5.3 Feedback from strategy partners, older people and other stakeholders indicates significant progress through meeting significant challenges over the last 10 years. For example, progress was documented in the areas of transport and accessibility, employment, health and wellbeing and opportunities for learning and keeping active. The concept of maintaining "a city for all ages" remains challenging and action will continue to be required so that changing expectations can be met for an increasing ageing population with more long term disabilities.

**Has the plan added value to work with and for older people in Edinburgh?**

- 5.4 The reviewers found that the ACFAA approach of working through existing planning and partnership structures means that the real gains toward an inclusive experience for older people are rightly attributed to these processes. Added value through the strategy is evidenced by awards, positive comments from partners and stakeholders, international recognition, and in the continuous progress demonstrated through reporting to partner bodies and partnerships. The strategy itself has limited resources but has built strong and

comprehensive links which have created added value for older people, particularly in opportunities for older people themselves to contribute both to policy and practical service planning.

### **What have been the international, national and other local influences on the lives of older people over the ten year period?**

- 5.5 The reviewers' state that during its ten year lifespan ACFAA has inevitably been subject to a wide range of new influences and that the strategy itself has been influential at many levels. National influences include the impact of equalities legislation, and guidance such as the Age Positive guides produced by the Department of Work and Pensions for the UK, the introduction of free personal care in Scotland, and of free bus travel across Scotland. These examples of how national issues have impacted on the wellbeing of older people have all been responded to through the strategy and action plans, and in some cases have been influenced by the strategy in the capital city.
- 5.6 Local influences have built on these through the development of partnership structures including links with academic research establishments, which produce local strategies to influence services such as care and support, the implementation of re-ablement approaches, improved delivery of services such as public transport, and opportunities for engagement in the social fabric of the city through activities such as volunteering. The findings showed ACFAA links and facilitating activities in all these areas.
- 5.7 Older people in Edinburgh have benefited from a number of international influences in the form of transnational initiatives and legislation. Examples of this include the World Health Organisation Friendly Cities Initiative, and the European Commission's work on active ageing.

### **Is there a need for a further overarching joint plan for older people in the city from 2010?**

- 5.8 The Reviewers concluded that ACFAA has been a significant asset for the city and for its older population, complementing policy making and planning systems and integrating the views of older people in ways which have genuinely improved their quality of life. In particular, the strategy moves the focus to the positive social and economic contribution of older citizens as well as ensuring that needs for care and support are addressed. The findings confirm that the proportion of older people in Edinburgh will continue to increase, particularly in the older groups, while social and economic changes suggest even greater challenges to their quality of life in future.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following recommendations are made for future action to meet the challenges and opportunities for older people in Edinburgh, supported by the analysis of what has been achieved in the **Findings**, and the **Conclusions** drawn in the last section.

### **Recommendation One - New overarching strategy**

- 6.1 The Reviewers recommend that there is a need for a new overarching strategy for older people in Edinburgh, to develop successful joint and participative work towards shared outcomes over a 7 to 10 year period. The new strategy should be in place by the end of 2011, and should be developed by a resourced steering group of stakeholders from early in 2011.

### **Recommendation Two - Engagement**

- 6.2 The Reviewers recommend that a renewed strategy and action plans continues the strong focus on the engagement and empowerment of older people, the agencies and bodies which have interests and responsibilities for older people, and the services that they will require in working together.

### **Recommendation Three – Review of engagement**

- 6.3 The Reviewers recommend a review of the dedicated participation structure which provides practical help and support for the participation of older citizens in their city, with the objective of developing it to continue as a robust and well publicised asset for older people and for the city.

### **Recommendation Four – Strategic long term aims**

- 6.4 The Reviewers recommend that the continuing strategy should focus on long term aims of progressing the economic, health and social wellbeing of older people, implemented through specific shared action plans for the city

### **Recommendation Five – Combating risk to social inclusion**

- 6.5 The Reviewers recommend that a new strategy addresses the risks to social inclusion of older citizens from the challenging economic environment, with a key role of influencing choices on the use of scarce public resources through establishing shared evidence of needs and a joined up approach.

### **Recommendation Six – Strengthen communication**

- 6.6 The Reviewers recommend that key factors which have made the ACFAA approach successful in communicating with older people and more broadly with the population of the city and others are retained and strengthened. Effective “branding” and its location centrally within the community planning system and Single Outcome Agreement, and the City of Edinburgh Council are seen as critical to its success

Reshaping Care for Older People applied to Live Well in Later Life

*World Health Organisation  
Global Age-Friendly Cities  
All Our Futures: Planning for a  
Scotland with an Ageing Population  
Applied to A City for All Ages:  
Social Inclusion Elements*



