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## A CITY FOR ALL AGES EDINBURGH

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### What are the objectives of the project?

'A city for all ages' is Edinburgh's long-term strategy for older people.

- make Edinburgh a better place for older citizens
- tackle the issues which concern older people
- increase opportunities to take part and to use general services
- promote better health in older age
- enable more disabled people to remain at home longer
- ensure the welfare of very vulnerable people.

### Timeline

The strategy was implemented over a ten year period between 2000-2010. It was divided into two phases: 2000-2005 and 2007-2010. Action plans were set out in Edinburgh's Plan for Older People.

An evaluation report of the project was commissioned in 2010, and a progress report was made in mid-2012.

It is an on-going strategy.

### Background

Edinburgh Council reviewed all services for older people in 1999. From this, a 10 Year 'vision' was developed. The strategy for 'a city for all ages' was developed by the city in conjunction with a number of other partners (see above) including older people, the NHS, and the public, voluntary and commercial sectors. The policy was agreed by the council in March 2000 & by the National Health Service (NHS) in 2000.



'A city for all ages' aims to make Edinburgh a better place to live for older people; to remove discrimination; and to remove challenges faced by older people.

It supports the lives of older people in mainstream society, effectively addresses the challenges encountered by older people - such as transport, income, housing and local environment - and ensures the continued wellbeing and social inclusion of those living in nursing homes, whilst ensuring that older people can live at home for as long as possible with the adequate support.

## **Who is responsible for the project's implementation?**

The project is implemented by the city of Edinburgh in conjunction with a number of partners, including the public, voluntary and commercial sectors, the NHS, and the city council. It is part of the city's overall strategy for older people.

## **How does the project work?**

A key theme of A City for All Ages is the involvement of older people in the development of Edinburgh's plans and strategies, to share information and to encourage older people to take responsibility in planning for their own future. The A City for All Ages Advisory Group includes individual older volunteers who support the development of A City for All Ages and representatives (volunteer or staff members) from groups and organisations that represent older people on issues of health and support.

## **What are the challenges that had to be dealt with?**

The holistic plan addresses a number of challenges that include;

- creating more opportunities for older people to continue working
- staying healthy longer and continue to contribute to society in other ways, for example through volunteering
- tackling poverty
- promoting learning and knowledge
- dealing with mobility and transport
- reshaping care and support services
- engaging with older people as valued citizens
- providing support to older carers
- addressing equalities.

## **Was the project evaluated and were there any follow-up activities?**

The action plans were reviewed and evaluated in 2003, 2006 with a final evaluation in 2010/11 (see above). The Advisory Group of Older People, including people from the equality groups influence public service policy and service developments at city, national and international levels. 'Get up and go', a brochure of activities and opportunities for older people is produced annually, as well as the annual 'Get up and go' awards for older people and others who promote active aging and challenge discrimination.

The evaluation found that A City For All Ages (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.

An independent evaluation was undertaken of Edinburgh's Plan for Older People and the results reported to the Council and its partners in 2011.

The evaluation evidence shows that A City for All Ages 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.

## What lessons did you learn?

Including older people in the development, monitoring and evaluation of Edinburgh's Plan for Older People is vital.

Integrating and embedding of this approach must also sustain the profile achieved by A City for All Ages 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. A further progress report on mainstreaming will be presented to the council in April 2012.

Evidence to be found at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/acfaa](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/acfaa).

## How is the project funded and what resources (financial and human) are dedicated to its delivery?

Staff included a full time strategy manager and a part time policy assistant. There is no dedicated budget. Financial resources were to be found through existing mechanisms.

## Who is the contact person for the project?

Glenda Watt, Strategy Manager, Edinburgh's Joint Plan for Older People, City of Edinburgh.

## Website

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/acfaa](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/acfaa)

If you have an example of a good practice that you would like to include in the database, please send an email to [caroline.greene@eurocities.eu](mailto:caroline.greene@eurocities.eu).



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