



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention & Wellbeing
LEAD OFFICERS:	Director of Public Health
DATE:	Thursday, 10 November 2022

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Public Health Prevention and Wellbeing
WARD/S AFFECTED:	(All Wards);
KEY DECISION:	Y

SUBJECT: Blackburn with Darwen's Positive Ageing Framework

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Positive Ageing Framework is designed to improve and support positive, healthy ageing for the population of Blackburn with Darwen. It aims to promote an 'asset and rights' based approach to ageing rather than the 'needs-based, deficit' approach so often applied to older people and ageing. It also aims to balance and encourage personal responsibility and the need for individuals and families to plan and prepare for older age and adopt healthy practices at all stages of life; and to support a community based response with the development of supportive age-friendly environments and intergenerational harmony and support to make choices that support health and wellbeing.

The Positive Ageing Framework is also intended to be used to influence policy and planning decisions, along with the design, commissioning and delivery of services and support. It aims to promote a whole system approach to supporting healthy, positive and active ageing so that all people have the opportunities to remain physically, cognitively and emotionally active as they age. To be most effective, support and planning needs to start early and be embedded across the whole life course. So whilst this Framework does absolutely advocate and support 'ageing well' for those already in later life, it must also be used to influence planning and delivery across start well and live well priorities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

- Note the key issues and challenges facing the borough with an ageing population and acknowledge the opportunities to support our population to age well through the Positive Ageing Framework.
- Acknowledge and support the need for a collaborative, whole system approach across the life course to support healthy active ageing in Blackburn with Darwen.
- Approve the Positive Ageing Framework.

3. BACKGROUND

According to the 2021 Census Blackburn with Darwen has a population of 154,800 of which 21.3% are aged under 15, 64.3% are aged 15 to 64 and 14.5% are aged 65 and over with 1.7% aged 85 and over. This means that Blackburn with Darwen currently has a population profile with higher numbers of children and lower numbers of older adults than the England average. However, the Census also shows that in the ten years since 2011, Blackburn with Darwen has seen an 18% increase in those aged 65 and over compared to just a 3% increase in both children aged under 15 and adults aged 15 to 64 indicating that the population profile of the Borough is changing, with the 65+ population expected to rise by almost 40% in the next 20 years and the 85+ population by over 80%¹. The older population will also become more ethnically diverse as it grows.

Blackburn with Darwen reports a worse health profile than the England average across a range of indicators, including:

- life expectancy and healthy life expectancy at 65;
- the proportion of people reporting their day to day activities are limited a lot by a health problem or disability; and
- rates of coronary heart disease, stroke, hip fractures due to falls, and dementia².

All of these factors impact on the opportunities to age well and have a positive older age and also have the potential to put significant pressure on local health and care systems. In addition, the Borough was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. The resulting longer term impact on the physical and mental health of older people is well documented and has only served to magnify and highlight the need to think about ageing differently and the importance of physical, cognitive and emotional activity in supporting optimal ageing. The borough also has high levels of health inequalities affecting particular communities and as the older population becomes more diverse, there is a risk of inequalities widening without a targeted response.

Whilst it is absolutely recognised that there will always be people who need to access additional services, care and support and this should be of the highest quality, there is a need to shift the dialogue to have as much focus on how we support people to age better and be healthier longer as there is on how we manage the increasing numbers of older people who need to access services. This conversation is much broader than health and care provision and needs to consider employment, financial security, housing, the local environment and 'place' and community and social connectedness which are all important contributors to health and wellbeing. As the diversity of the older population increases planning and developments also need to take into account the views, needs and assets of different sections of the community and different responses to address these.

In January 2022, Age UK BwD began work on the Positive Ageing Framework, supported by the Public Health Age Well lead. Age UK BwD have engaged with the public and also partners and stakeholders and have developed a Framework based around the following themes:

- Financial Security in Later Life
- Connectedness and Involvement in Community Life
- Physical and Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Environment and Safety

The Framework provides key opportunities (Appendix 1, page 3) for action across all partners and stakeholders and will be used to inform service development and delivery, commissioning and policy and strategy development to support positive ageing in the borough.

¹ JSNA Summary Review 2020

² Age UK Population and Prevalence Report area profile, LG Inform

The Age Well Partnership will seek assurance from partners about the consideration of the Framework's key opportunities and the impact that this had has on their organisation and the communities they support. The Age Well Partnership will also champion any good practice through the appropriate local, regional and national networks.

The Positive Ageing Framework will also support the aims and objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy which is currently being refreshed. Monitoring of the Positive Ageing Framework will include review of the key metrics highlighted in the Framework around employment, pension credit claims, reduction in falls admissions etc and reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board annually.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the health inequalities within our communities in Blackburn with Darwen. Those living in the most deprived areas are more susceptible to the effects of COVID-19 and this further widens the health inequality gap. By championing the Positive Ageing Framework which supports active, healthy ageing, we can improve quality of life for everyone across the borough.

Capacity across the system to engage with and use the Framework continues to be a risk making the importance of senior level buy in and advocating for a culture change across our statutory and voluntary organisations crucial for a sustainable whole system approach.

After comprehensive engagement with residents, partners and stakeholders it is expected that this Framework will have a positive impact on the community. Equality impacts will be continuously assessed as the Framework is implemented.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Framework advocates for a system that supports positive ageing. As part of this system change, a review of all policies and contracts will be required to embed the key considerations across the local authority and other key partners wherever possible. It is expected that this Framework will be used in the early stage of policy and strategy development, commissioning processes and service development and delivery to ensure consideration is given to positive ageing.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications with the Positive Ageing Framework as it is intended to be embedded in business as usual when considering any implications or impacts on health and active ageing in Blackburn with Darwen.

Where there are any additional financial implications, these will be subject to consideration as part of the Council's budget and policy framework.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This proposal will help improve one of the Council's eight corporate priorities (2019-2023) being: "Reducing health inequalities and improving health outcomes".

Any actions relating to the implementation of the Framework must be made in accordance with the constitution.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Blackburn with Darwen Age Well Partnership will provide oversight of the Framework and will

champion its use as described earlier. The Age Well Partnership will also monitor the use of the Positive Ageing Framework as part of their action plan.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA link here*)

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA attachment*)

10. CONSULTATIONS

The Positive Ageing Framework has been presented to a range of Council and health partnership groups between February and September 2022. These groups/meetings include:

- All Blackburn with Darwen Council Senior Policy Team meetings
- Leader of the Council
- Age Well Partnership
- Eat Well Move More Strategic Steering Group

Public engagement was also undertaken via a range of partners including One Voice, BwD Carers and Lancashire LGBT with 249 residents and there were a range of stakeholder discussions across a variety of events and in local places to inform the development of the Framework which can be seen in Appendix 1 of the Positive Ageing Framework.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

VERSION: 1

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DATE:	10 th November 2022
BACKGROUND PAPER:	Appendix 1 - Positive Ageing Framework