

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE AUGUST 13, 2019
FROM:	LYNNE LIVINGSTONE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER AND ACTING MANAGING DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN AND FIRE SERVICES
SUBJECT:	AGE FRIENDLY LONDON PROGRESS REPORT 2019

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager and Acting Managing Director of Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services, this report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

- Presentation to the Community and Protective Services Committee, The Age Friendly London Network (February 18, 2015)
- Report to the Community and Protective Services Committee, Age Friendly London Year Two Progress Report (October 20, 2015)
- Report to the Community and Protective Services Committee, Age Friendly London Year Three Progress Report and Impact Assessment (November 15, 2016)
- Report to the Community and Protective Services Committee, Age Friendly London Action Plan 2017-2020 (June 20, 2017)
- Report to the Community and Protective Services Committee, Age Friendly London Progress Report 2018 (August 14, 2018)

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CITY OF LONDON

The Age Friendly London (AFL) initiative contributes to the strategic area of focus “Strengthening our Community”. The implementation of the AFL Action Plan supports the outcome that Londoners have access to the supports they need to be successful, as identified in the Strategic Plan for the City of London 2019-2023. Specifically, AFL Action Plan contributes to the strategy to work collectively with community partners to improve outcomes and integrated responses for children, youth, families, and older adults.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Age Friendly London Progress Report 2019. In June 2019, the AFL Network celebrated the completion of Year Two implementation of the AFL Action Plan. The Progress Report outlines the accomplishments of the AFL Network working groups over the past year.

The Age Friendly London Network

The AFL Network is a community-based group of volunteers responsible for implementing the Age Friendly London Three Year Action Plan. The AFL Network is comprised of eight working groups:

1. Outdoor Spaces & Buildings
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Social Participation
5. Respect & Social Inclusion
6. Employment & Volunteerism
7. Communication & Information
8. Community Supports & Health Services

The City of London provides support to the AFL Network, which includes day-to-day management and administrative support. The AFL Network has 130 working group members including older adults, organizations, agencies, businesses, and other interested Londoners.

The AFL Action Plan 2017 – 2020

The current AFL Action Plan was endorsed by City Council on June 20, 2017 and implementation began in June 2017. AFL Action Plan Implementation Years run from June to June.

Year 1: June 2017 – June 2018

Year 2: June 2018 – June 2019

Year 3: June 2019 – June 2020

Network Strategy Accomplishments

The AFL Action Plan 2017 – 2020 contains five overarching Network strategies. These strategies reflect the principles that strengthen the Network, engage older adults from diverse backgrounds, and encourage collaborations among organizations. Highlights include:

1. Strengthen The Age Friendly London Network
 - Shared information with 400 older adults and 50 organizations at the annual Age Friendly London Conference and over 350 individuals and organizations through the AFL Network email list.
 - Provided leadership and facilitation training to working group members and Co-Chairs.
2. Engage And Empower ALL Older Adults
 - Connected with approximately 1,000 older adults and service providers through over 20 presentations and seniors' events in the community.
 - Established new connections with the Chinese Canadian National Council and the London Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership to improve outreach to older adult newcomers.
3. Work Together To Improve Age Friendliness
 - Identified key partner organizations for each Action Plan strategy in AFL working group Implementation Plans.
 - Shared information with neighbourhood associations to improve awareness of programs and supports for older adults.
4. Use Research To Create Impact
 - Completed five research projects related to Action Plan strategies in partnership with Western University and Fanshawe College including:
 - Winter Walking and Pedestrian Safety for Older Adults (Western University, Environmental Health Promotion);
 - Cycling Without Age (Western University, Gerontology in Practice);
 - Oasis Seniors Supportive Living: A Model for Active Aging-In-Place (Western University);
 - Ease Into Leisure: Lending Library of Assistive Devices (Fanshawe College, Gerontology InterProfessional Practice Program); and,
 - Intergenerational Programs and Best Practices (Fanshawe College, Gerontology InterProfessional Practice Program).
5. Capture Emergent Opportunities
 - Leveraged community partnerships and secured grant funding through the Ontario Sport and Recreation Community Fund and the New Horizons for Seniors Grant Program to support the implementation of two Action Plan strategies including the Age Friendly Leisure Buddy Program and connecting low income seniors to community programs and services.

Working Group Accomplishments

The eight working groups of the AFL Network are responsible for implementing the strategies in each corresponding section of the Action Plan. Below are Year Two highlights from each of the eight groups.

Highlights include:

- 20 new benches installed within London's parks system, based on working group recommendations.
- Developed and promoted winter walking resources, a pedestrian safety awareness campaign, and information on indoor and outdoor walking programs.
- Educated older adults on transportation options through workshops, conferences, and presentations in seniors' apartment buildings.
- Held workshop on home modifications and accessibility, in partnership with March of Dimes.
- Shared and promoted information with older adults about grassroots home-sharing groups.
- Created "Ease into Leisure" kits of assistive devices for recreation, in partnership with London Public Library. Equipment for gardening, arts and crafts, and games are available to borrow for free through the Library.
- Implemented "Every Day Hero" campaign to acknowledge and celebrate the daily contributions that older adults make in the community. Recognized 48 Every Day Heroes in 2019.
- Created intergenerational programs in Family Centres in partnership with the Child and Youth Network. 26 children and 23 older adults participated in intergenerational program at Family Centre

Fanshawe between January 1 - May 31 2019.

- Held a Lunch and Learn on supporting mature workers with 15 members of the Employment Sector Council.
- Organized and hosted the second annual Older Adult Volunteer Fair at Cherryhill Mall, with 30 organizations participating.
- Shared age friendly resources through Healthline.ca Information Network, seniors resources webpage, 211, social media, and community events.
- Connected with isolated and at-risk individuals using the Community Connector Bags that contain information about community support services and other services for older adults. Distributed 500 Community Connector Bags to Londoners in January 2019. To date, over 1,000 bags have been distributed through 11 different organizations.

Please see [Appendix A](#) for the complete Age Friendly London Progress Report 2019. For more information about the AFL Network and to view the Implementation Plans for all working groups, please visit www.london.ca/agefriendly.

NEXT STEPS

The AFL Network will continue to implement the AFL Action Plan 2017 – 2020 with Year Three of implementation being June 2019 – June 2020. Civic Administration will continue to support the AFL Network and the Action Plan implementation for each of the eight working groups as well as provide the backbone support for the Network. The AFL Network and its eight working groups will continue to meet regularly and provide updates to the community on progress.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The strategies in the AFL Action Plan are implemented within existing resources and rely on the in-kind contributions of time, resources, and expertise from Network members. The City of London provides backbone support to the Network through existing staff resources. The Network also seeks funding for specific projects through grants and leverages funding and in-kind contributions from Network members, community partners, and other sources.

CONCLUSION

The Age Friendly London Action Plan 2017 - 2020 continues to support the community vision of an Age Friendly London: a diverse, vibrant, caring, and healthy community, which empowers all individuals to age well and have opportunities to achieve their full potential.

This report acknowledges and thanks the members of the AFL Network for their hard work and dedication in making London a great city for all.

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APPENDIX A – AGE FRIENDLY LONDON PROGRESS REPORT 2019