

World Health Organization Awards to Recognise Excellence in Belfast

Belfast Healthy Cities, the World Health Organization project in Northern Ireland has launched the 'Healthy City' 2016 awards which recognise the work undertaken by organisations from all sectors towards improving the health and wellbeing of the people of Belfast.

This is the fourth year of the awards which are open to all sectors, including statutory, voluntary, academic, community and private sector organisations. The winners will be announced at an event in December.

Belfast Healthy Cities has encouraged any organisation working in areas which promote health and address health inequality to apply for the 2016 awards.

Joan Devlin, Chief Executive of Belfast Healthy Cities said today,

'We want to celebrate and highlight the work which is being carried out by a whole range of organisations large and small, across Belfast who work hard to make life healthier and fairer for our communities. The interest and participation in the awards has increased in each of the last 4 years and I would encourage any organisation, whether it is a large public body or a small community initiative, to consider making an application.'

Brid Ruddy from College Park Avenue Residents Association who won the Healthy Places Award last year explained the significance of the awards.

"We have received a number of awards in the past but this meant a lot to us because of the focus on health and healthy places. Some of our residents are experiencing ill health and have really been boosted by participating in the project and in addition they have experienced the health benefits of Wildflower Alley having somewhere beautiful to spend time in and enjoy. It has boosted their whole health and wellbeing. The Award has given our achievements further recognition and Wildflower Alley is becoming well known as a successful model for other people."

There are four award categories, Promoting Health Equity; Healthy Places; Healthy Living and Engaging for Change.

The call for entry is open until 21st October. Further information and an application pack is available from www.belfasthealthycities.com . The awards will be presented at high profile ceremony in Belfast on December 7th.

Notes

This will be the fourth year in which the World Health Organization (WHO) Healthy Cities Awards have been presented.

The awards categories are

Promoting Health Equity

This award will highlight programmes and activities that aim to tackle inequalities in the city including addressing issues such as: socio-economic deprivation; fuel poverty; food poverty the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups; health promotion initiatives and tackling age or life-style related inequalities.

Healthy Places

This award will be presented to a programme or initiative that has significantly contributed to supporting good health through creating supportive and healthy places for people. Healthy Places focuses on how planning, transport and regeneration affect people's lives, their health and wellbeing and how this shapes disadvantage and inequalities.

Healthy Living

This award will recognise achievement in healthy living; leisure and sporting activities including dance; active and healthy travel including cycling and walking initiatives; volunteering; and heritage and environmental programmes. Healthy Living focuses on initiatives that encourage and enable people of all ages to live healthier lives and actively participate in society.

Engaging for Change

This award will focus on projects or initiatives that work directly with people to empower them to take control of improving their own health and wellbeing. Initiatives will demonstrate the application of active engagement processes to involve and retain participants. They will show how they make use of the assets that exist to improve health within the community and are likely to have involved collaboration or partnership approaches.