**Aim:**
The Walkability Assessment for Healthy Ageing tool was developed to engage older people in gathering qualitative evidence on barriers to walkability in their local area.

**Context:**
The Knowledge Exchange, Spatial Analysis and Healthy Urban Environments (KESUE) Project at Queens University Belfast mapped a Real Walkable Route of all paths in Belfast. Using available NINIS data maps were produced to identify age-vulnerable areas of Belfast. An Age Vulnerability Index was developed identifying households in an area which comprised of single pensioner households with no access to a car, long term poor health and % age over 60 or 75. An atlas of maps were produced depicting age-vulnerable areas across Belfast.

**Process:**
An assessment tool was developed and informed by WHO Checklist of Essential Features of Age-friendly Cities and existing walkability tools. Using the KESUE age-vulnerable maps an area of east Belfast and Belfast City Council parks were identified to pilot the tool. Groups were identified through the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership and East Belfast Seniors Forum. A bottom-up participatory approach was used to engage participants, as recommended by the United Nations as a successful way of engaging older people.

The project highlights that creating a supportive environment can be achieved with relatively minor adjustments.

**Recommendations:**
- Promote high quality and well maintained pavements, free of obstructions.
- Consistent provision and standard of public toilets.
- Engage older people in design and planning provision of public seating.
- Awareness on fear of being out alone both during the day and at night. Suggestions such as better street lighting, greater awareness to promote personal safety of older people.
- Engage with key agencies to ensure appropriate signage in parks.
- Identify opportunities to review placement of pedestrian crossings and crossing times.
- Promote consistent provision of dropped kerbs and tactile paving.

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