

BELFAST HEALTHY CITIES

Minutes of the Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC) Annual General Meeting held on Friday 12 December 2014 in the Mount Business Centre, Belfast.

PRESENT:

Maura	Ahern	Belfast Healthy Cities
Méabh	Austin	Fareshare Ireland
Robbie	Barr	Muldoon & Co
Seamus	Camplisson	DHSSPS
Karen	Casson	Ulster University
Bernadette	Cullen	Independent BHC Board Member
Justine	Daly	Turley Associates
Joan	Devlin	Chief Executive, Belfast Healthy Cities
Neil	Dunlop	Independent BHC Board Member
Geraint	Ellis	QUB
Anne	McCusker	Belfast Healthy Cities
Laura	McDonald	Belfast Healthy Cities
Nigel	McMahon	Chair, Belfast Healthy Cities
John	McMullan	Bryson Group
Anne	McNally	DHSSPS
Catherine	McNicholl	Belfast HSCT
Suzanne	Miller	Belfast Healthy Cities
Jonna	Monaghan	Belfast Healthy Cities
Brian	Mullan	Mater Hospital Community Forum
Bryan	Nelson	Belfast HSCT
Mary	O'Hagan	CDHN
Caroline	Scott	Belfast Healthy Cities

APOLOGIES

MA advised that a number of apologies had been received and noted.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 30 January 2014 having previously been circulated were agreed. This was proposed by Mary O'Hagan and seconded by Dr Bernadette Cullen.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

Nigel McMahon, who took up the role as Chair following the previous AGM welcomed those present and commenced by paying tribute to the previous Chair, Dr Bernadette Cullen for her excellent leadership through a period of significant change within health and social care.

He stated that the year had been both exciting and productive with the launch of Phase VI (2014-18) and highlighted that Healthy Cities' stakeholders had contributed to the identification of priorities for Belfast's application for membership of the WHO Phase VI Network at the Phase VI Workshop in January. This event was hosted by the Lord Mayor, Cllr Martin O Muilleoir who submitted the application jointly with Dr Eddie Rooney, Chief Executive, Public Health Agency. He added that designation was confirmed in September.

He advised that Belfast had been honoured at the 2014 International Healthy Cities Conference by the presentation of two WHO certificates recognising the successful completion of Phase V and also for achieving 25 years as a member of the Healthy Cities movement. He added that Belfast's central role as secretariat to the network presents opportunities to access other European cities directly.

The Chair expressed his thanks to Departmental Ministers, Council elected members, Chief Executives and Permanent Secretaries of partner organisations as well as the Board of Directors who have contributed to the work of Belfast Healthy Cities over the past year. He concluded by thanking the staff team and Chief Executive Joan Devlin stating that without their hard work and dedication it would be impossible to play such a key role at European level and make a difference in Belfast.

3. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REVIEW 2013/14

Joan Devlin, Chief Executive presented the 2013/14 Annual Report and reflected on the new work areas encompassed in Phase VI.

Key work areas included:

- **Healthy Urban Environments**

This programme continued to be led by Jonna Monaghan and supported by Laura McDonald. She highlighted the Shaping Healthier Neighbourhoods project which aims to give children an opportunity to make their views about their environment heard. Working with a number of schools across Belfast a range of classroom and outdoor workshops encouraged children to think about their home and school environments. BHC was delighted that a questionnaire circulated through BELB attracted more than 1200 responses, providing valuable information which will hopefully influence community planning. The KidsSpace programme continued throughout the year with a number of events held throughout the city. As part of the Royal Town & Planning Institute centenary celebrations BHC also took part in a week-long event at the Ulster Museum in partnership with Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University.

- **Capacity Building**

The Creating Healthy Communities Capacity Building Seminar Series commenced with celebrating Belfast's 25 years as a WHO European Healthy City, the seminars provided an opportunity to share European experiences with the local audience and facilitate information meetings between keynote speakers and partner organisations.

- **Active Travel**

Work continued on this theme and the Regional Development Minister opened the Active Travel Seminar which compared the situation in Belfast with that of other major European cities as well as sharing best practice from leading active travel cities.

- **Age Friendly Neighbourhoods**

As part of this initiative BHC work centred on contributing to the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership (HASP) by piloting a Walkability tool to assess how older people use their environment. The exercise focused on areas in central, north and east Belfast and was facilitated by Anne McCusker.

- **Belfast Healthy Cities Awards**

Following the success of the BHC 25th Anniversary Awards 2013 it was agreed to hold an annual awards event with three categories which included Healthy Places, Healthy Living and Promoting Health Equity. The awards were presented at the Reuniting Planning and Health conference in November 2014. BHC was delighted to welcome Dr Gabriel Scally as Honorary Chair of the awards judging panel. Suzanne Miller and Maura Ahern were responsible for managing the awards process.

- **Communications**

The CEO drew attention to the redeveloped website which has been updated with a fresh new look and improved navigation. She highlighted the availability of WHO Annual Conference abstracts which were added to the website.

- **WHO Secretariat**

BHC continued in its role as WHO Secretariat to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network. The CEO commended Caroline Scott for her excellent facilitation of secretariat work.

The CEO thanked the Board of Directors, partner organisations, working group members and the new Chair Nigel McMahon. She then paid tribute to the staff team for their hard work and commitment over the past year.

The annual review was proposed for acceptance by Bernadette Cullen and seconded by Bryan Nelson.

4. AUDITED ACCOUNTS

Robbie Barr, Muldoon & Co Accountants presented the audited accounts for the financial year 2013/14. He stated there were no outstanding issues arising from the audit. He recommended that reserve figure be increased to six months in the interests of good governance. Mr Barr concluded by expressing his gratitude to the Chief Executive and the Corporate Services Manager for their co-operation and assistance in carrying out the audit.

The accounts were proposed for acceptance by Geraint Ellis and seconded by Elizabeth Mitchell.

5. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

In line with the requirements of Article 35 of the Belfast Healthy Cities Articles of Association, the following individuals were nominated for election to the Board of Directors:

- Bernadette Cullen
- Neil Dunlop
- John McMullan
- Sharon McNicholl
- Elizabeth Mitchell

The nominations were proposed by Justine Daly and seconded by Karen Casson.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 12:30pm.