

World Health Organization Belfast Healthy City Awards 2020

Healthy
Transport &
Active Travel

Community
Prosperity

Greening
the City

Mental
Wellbeing

Has your organisation been working towards improving the health and wellbeing of the people of Belfast in response to the COVID 19 Crisis and to help build community recovery from the pandemic.

The World Health Organization (WHO) Belfast Healthy City Awards 2020 will recognise excellence in improving the health and wellbeing of the people of Belfast. This is a significant opportunity for your organisation to gain recognition for its hard work during the COVID 19 pandemic.

The awards will be made in four categories and are open to the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors. More information about each category is below.

Full terms and conditions and an application pack are available by emailing awards@belfasthealthycities.com or calling Caroline Scott on 028 9032 8811

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



Closing Date

5.00pm Friday 6 November 2020

The World Health Organization Healthy Cities Programme has now moved into Phase VII, with new priorities and goals, and this year the Healthy Cities Awards will have a new range of categories to reflect these priorities and to recognise the significant work undertaken in response to the Covid Crisis.

WHO Belfast Healthy City Awards 2020 Categories

Healthy Transport & Active Travel

How we move around the city is changing and reducing the volume of traffic brings huge advantages for us all. COVID-19 has had a considerable impact on our daily travel, including improvements such as better air quality due to reduced pollution from vehicles.

Many cities are making positive choices to develop healthier, safer communities, where urban infrastructure is improved to support a higher quality of life for the growing populations.

This award will shine a light on the important work undertaken across Belfast to help change how we move around our communities and our city, demonstrating the health and wellbeing benefits which come from active travel - walking, cycling, running - and reducing reliance on cars.

Applications for the Healthy Transport category should aim to show how their work has helped promote community active travel, improve the local community for pedestrians, change car use habit or encourage walking, cycling and running to improve physical and mental well-being for the community.

Community Prosperity

The impact COVID-19 has had on all aspects of our lives is huge. Essential services have been interrupted, placing additional stress and worry on the people who rely on them.

But one of the most positive impacts of the pandemic has been the community response, where local groups, sports organisations, charities, businesses and individuals have worked co-operatively to help support their communities.

From food packages for the vulnerable to community wellbeing programmes, and education projects for school kids to art competitions as expressive and therapeutic outlets, this work has helped build community cohesion and build prosperity in the face of adversity.

Shared prosperity increases healthy life expectancy, increases resilience, enhances wellbeing and generates community prosperity within 'left behind' or excluded communities.

The Community Prosperity award will celebrate projects which have shown community leadership to build resilience, enhance wellbeing and ensure that hard to reach sections of the community are supported.

Greening the City

The Climate Crisis is destroying our planet. Protecting the planet is one of the world's greatest challenges and we all have a role to play locally in protecting and sustaining our natural environment.

Green and blue space is an integral part of the infrastructure of Belfast and opportunities now exist to consider how smaller green spaces can be integrated across the city. Careful planning

has a key role to play in protecting and promoting health and wellbeing, making urban planners part of the public health community.

This award is designed to recognise projects which have improved the green and blue space in urban areas across the city, from planting programmes to reimagining urban space for people. A demonstration of health, wellbeing and environmental outcomes as a result of these projects is key.

Mental Wellbeing

For too long the importance of mental wellbeing has been overlooked as part of the overall health of our citizens. Much work has been done in recent years to tackle the stigma surrounding mental health, but the impact of lockdown and COVID-19 has shown how many people continue to struggle.

Strong community settings can have a positive impact on the mental wellbeing of individuals. From open spaces and clean environments, to community engagement programmes and social interaction - the local area and support network are key to helping many who may struggle with mental ill health. Addressing issues related to mental wellbeing is an essential element of community health.

This category will look for projects which have brought about better mental wellbeing outcomes. We are looking for programmes which have developed physical and social activities that have worked across the community to engage and improve moral and wellbeing, particularly for hard to reach groups such as the elderly, where social isolation can have a disproportional impact, and children and young people.

Email entries to: awards@belfasthealthycities.com

Closing Date: 5.00pm Friday 6 November 2020

Awards will be presented in line with coronavirus regulations on Friday 11 December 2020