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## **REGENERATION CAN SUPPORT HEALTHY LIVING**

Belfast Healthy Cities, the World Health Organization (WHO) body in Northern Ireland has begun 2013 with a lecture examining the relationship between regeneration, physical planning and wellbeing. The lecture was the fourth in a series of lectures designed to stimulate debate around health equity issues and to facilitate a sharing of experience among policy makers locally, nationally and internationally.

Belfast Healthy Cities believes that a 'whole of society' approach to improving health and wellbeing goes beyond institutions and requires co-operation across all Government departments and delivery agents. Chief Executive Ms Joan Devlin said,

“Regeneration holds great potential to improve people’s wellbeing, and help reduce inequalities. Physical and economic regeneration can help build hope and confidence and can improve the life opportunities that underpin physical and mental wellbeing. Conversely, healthy people and communities are a resource for regeneration.”

“Sustainable, healthy and holistic regeneration needs to address the future of people alongside places. In Northern Ireland local Government will soon take on responsibility for land use planning and community planning – now is the time to work to ensure that health and wellbeing are a priority within these new revised structures.

Belfast Healthy Cities established a Healthy Urban Planning group a number of years ago to take this work forward. The group involves central and local Government and is chaired by Carol Ramsey from the Department of Social Development.

This lecture will explore the links between the built/natural environment and health as well as provide practical examples from Northern Ireland as well as Glasgow and London of how regeneration and healthy urban planning supports the building of community assets and can address inequalities in health.

Speakers at the lecture were Ms Suzanne Wylie, Belfast City Council, Dr Aideen McGinley former CEO of the ILEX regeneration body, Mr Chris Bailey, Westway Development Trust, and Dr Russell Jones, Glasgow Healthy Cities, a WHO Healthy City. The session was chaired by Dr John McPeake, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Presentations

<http://www.belfasthealthycities.com/25th-anniversary-lecture-series/15-january-2013-planning-and-regeneration-sustainable-and-healthy.html>