

Cork – A WHO Healthy City



www.corkhealthycities.com

Healthy Cities is based on a recognition that population health is not merely a product of health sector activities but largely determined by policies and actions beyond the health sector. Health can be improved or harmed by social policy, transport policy, education policy and the built environment and has a particular impact on vulnerable groups in society. European health policy 'Health2020'; puts increased emphasis on and brings new evidence on the right to health, equity, well-being and health in all policies through whole-of-government and whole of-society approaches.

To this end, Cork City was first designated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in January 2012 as a Healthy City under Phase V of the WHO Healthy Cities programme acknowledging Cork city's commitment and contribution to the WHO European Network of Healthy Cities of which there are 98 cities officially affiliated. In January 2012 Cork was designated a WHO Healthy City.

Cork Healthy Cities Vision: A city that connects to improve the health and well-being of all its people and reduce health inequalities. SUPPORTING, VALIDATING, ENABLING, STRENGTHENING

Directed by an inter-agency steering group Cork has achieved a substantial amount as a WHO Healthy City. In December 2013 Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr. Catherine Clancy wrote to the WHO to express interest in applying for Phase VI of Healthy Cities. Cork is now designated under Phase VI of WHO Healthy Cities and has an Action Plan (2014 – 2018) in line with the four key priority city health areas set out by the WHO

- investing in health through a life-course and empowering people;
- tackling the European Region's major health challenges of infectious and noncommunicable diseases;
- strengthening people-centred systems and public health capacity and emergency preparedness and surveillance; and
- creating resilient communities and supportive environments.

An interagency subgroup of Healthy Cities developed a **Profile of Cork City** which was published in April 2014. Data based on Census 2011, in addition to data routinely collected by the Gardaí, Fire Services, Dept of Education / VEC, City Council, HSE and community sector was included in the profile. Based on the Social Determinants of Health model (Dahlgren & Whitehead); key health and social inclusion data was compiled on each of the 74 electoral districts in the city. This is the first time that an inter-agency group in Cork City have co-operated to produce a joint report on the city. <http://corkhealthycities.com/cork-city-profile-2014/>

Cork Healthy Cities actively supported the Lord Mayor of Cork in hosting an Age Friendly Seminar in Cork City Hall on November 4th 2013. An overwhelming 500 older people residing in Cork city attended the seminar and contributed to the consultation in the afternoon which was facilitated by Cork Healthy Cities Co-ordinator Denise Cahill. Since the seminar further local consultations have been carried out across the city and an Age Friendly Forum has been established in Cork to represent the views of older adults in the city in the development of Cork as an Age Friendly city. An **Age Friendly Alliance** chaired by Chief Executive of the City Ms. Ann Doherty has been established and an **Age Friendly Strategy** for the city is planned for early 2016.

Cork Healthy Cities has also been instrumental in the development of the **Cork Food Policy Council**. Cork Food Policy Council is a partnership between representatives of the community, food retail, farming, fishing, restaurant/catering, education, environmental and health sectors and local authorities. Cork Food Policy Council seeks to influence local food policy to follow best practice in developing a healthy, sustainable, & resilient food system. Supporting new partnerships in Cork between statutory, community and voluntary groups, educational institutions & businesses to promote knowledge, skills & experience around food. Advocating for innovative community food initiatives that seek improvements to the food system improving equitable access to quality food. For more information visit www.CorkFoodPolicyCouncil.com or [www.Facebook.com/CorkFoodPolicyCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/CorkFoodPolicyCouncil)

Cork city is currently undergoing a bid to be recognised by UNESCO as a **Learning City**. Cork Healthy Cities has provided on-going support for the initial bid.

We have discovered in Cork that the WHO Healthy Cities model provides a very practical framework for innovative and creative approaches to the promotion of public health beyond the health sector and our plans for 2016 include:

- A Healthy Cities Conference / Exchange of ideas
- Progress on the implementation of the Action Plan
- Support for the implementation of x3 EcCoWeLL Open Networking seminars
- Support for the Implementation of a Community Cancer Prevention Action Programme for Cork City
- Ensuring Healthy Cities is placed highly on the agenda with all political parties