



HEALTHY CITIES
Belfast

Working together for a healthier Belfast

2010-2011
ANNUAL REVIEW

Belfast Healthy Cities is a citywide partnership working to improve health equity and wellbeing for people living and working in Belfast.

Our focus is on improving social living conditions and prosperity in a healthy way, through intersectoral collaboration and a health in all policies approach.

Belfast is also a leading member of the World Health Organization European Healthy Cities Network, with a strong track record of meeting WHO goals and objectives. Belfast Healthy Cities' office has a staff team dedicated to working with partner organisations to facilitate and support change. The office also acts as the link between the city and WHO, and Belfast currently provides the secretariat to the Network.

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CHAIR'S REPORT



I am very pleased to present this annual review. This is my fourth year as chair of Belfast Healthy Cities and the third year of Phase V of the European Healthy Cities Network. (2009 – 2013)

Belfast is a designated city within the World Health Organisations (WHO) European Healthy Cities Network. This provides us with the wonderful opportunity to bring innovative ideas to Belfast and also to share with other cities across Europe the work and achievements happening here at home. We do this by working in partnership with a wide range of voluntary, social enterprise and statutory organisations, government departments and local politicians. An important part of this work is to ensure the broad based Healthy Cities approach of health and wellbeing in all policies is understood and addressed. One example of this was the development and publication of the Wellbeing Guide for politicians. This work was done in partnership with NILGA and, most importantly, with input from Councillors and the document was launched by the Minister for Health Social Services and Public Safety and the Minister for the Environment in June 2011.

This report provides information about the work of all the Belfast Healthy Cities multisectoral working groups and their progress. The issues covered by these groups include Health Equity in all Policies, Climate Change and Health, Healthy Living and Healthy Urban Environments. This gives a flavour of the breadth of the approach within the Healthy Cities Network and therefore the opportunity to improve the lives of people living and working in Belfast in as holistic a way as possible.

We are now half way through Phase V of the European Healthy Cities Network and in recognition of this a mid term review of progress and successes is underway. This will be completed early in 2012 and the results will be used to refine our work, where needed, as we move forward.

As always in an annual review I wish to acknowledge and pay tribute to the staff in Belfast Healthy Cities' office. The Director, Ms Joan Devlin, and the small team of officers are extremely capable, always working to the highest standard. It is a privilege to be associated with them and the Healthy Cities movement.

The work of the Belfast Healthy Cities would not be possible without the commitment of all our partners. I would like to thank the politicians, permanent secretaries and Chief Executives who provide this ongoing support. Finally my thanks to the Board of Directors for their support to me as Chair.

DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD



There has never been a better time to implement the Healthy Cities approach – locally and across WHO Europe.

At the World Health Organisation European level, national governments are preparing to sign up the new Health 2020 policy that the WHO European Region will formally endorse in September 2012. The development of Health 2020 reflects the whole of government approach to governance for health and health equity and strengthened capacities for ministries of health to lead on intersectoral approaches. As part of the preparation for Health 2020, the Belfast delegation to the annual WHO European Healthy Cities Conference earlier this year, participated in the first local government consultation event on the policy. A number of key note speakers including Sir Michael Marmot and Professor Ilona Kickbusch made presentations as part of their work on governance for health and the review of the health divide in Europe.

Locally, the development of the Belfast Healthy Cities programme is reflected in a number of new programmes this year as outlined in this review. We continue to engage new 'drivers' in health to promote and strengthen coordinated action for health, wellbeing and inequalities and whilst progressing on our role of delivering on the WHO healthy city core themes locally, we will bring our

“We continue to engage new ‘drivers’ in health to promote and strengthen coordinated action for health”

support and vast experience to the new thematic groups and underlying themes areas of the Belfast Strategic Partnership.

It has been a challenging year, combining our local new programme developments with the mid way review process and the WHO Secretariat function to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network. I would like to record my personal thanks particularly to the Chair, Vice Chair and Board of Directors and to all those individuals from partner organisations for their encouragement, inspiration and commitment in developing and delivering actions to make this another year of success. I would like to pay particular tribute to the staff team for their outstanding work, dedication and commitment to delivery.

Joan Devlin

Health Equity In All Policies (HEiAP)

HEiAP is a policy mechanism which can help organisations achieve their objectives in a way that also addresses inequalities. It promotes the use of a 'health lens' approach to look systematically at policies and assess them against the social determinants of health, with a view to identifying health equity issues.

In 2010, Chief Executives from public sector organisations signed a mandate, on behalf of their organisations, making a commitment to pilot HEiAP projects using the Belfast Healthy Cities delivery process.

Three pilots have been initiated in 2011 and are progressing.

- Belfast City Council (BCC) and Public Health Agency (PHA); Growing Communities Strategy: A city wide approach;
- Health & Social Care Board (HSCB) and Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (BHSCT): Children and Young Peoples Plan;
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE): Supporting People Strategy/Housing Related Support Strategy.

Two leaflets have been produced to aid understanding of the approach:

- 'Equity from the Start: Health Equity in all Policies – Health Lens Approach' which outlines the HEiAP process
- 'What do we mean?' – which outlines a number of definitions including intersectoral action, social determinants of health and health inequalities



Two Health Equity in All Policies leaflets were launched in July 2011

Learning from countries that are further advanced on the journey of embedding health equity in policies and actions has been important. Programme staff and key strategic personnel from partner organisations continue to engage with Danny Broderick who pioneered the Health in All Policies (HiAP) model in South Australia.

The learning from this process has been especially helpful in developing practical approaches to making HEiAP a reality at a local level.

Leadership for the Common Good Masterclass Series



Leadership for the Common Good masterclass learning group at Clifton House, Belfast, September 2011

Fifty senior managers from across Northern Ireland representing a variety of statutory, voluntary and community organisations took part in the Leadership for the Common Good Masterclass series. The masterclasses were facilitated by Irene Hewitt, an independent consultant, specialising in leadership and organisational development. Demand for places resulted in a repeat of the programme to facilitate a second group.

Placing the emphasis on skills development, the aim of the series was to build capacity for leadership for health equity across all sectors. There was also a focus on the potential for more effective intersectoral working to improve health and wellbeing outcomes.



Participants in the masterclass series

Feedback from participants has been excellent, comments include:

"Excellent 4 days. Great to have time to reflect on myself and my practice"

"Great to learn from each other in the groups"

"Thanks for a very informative and inspiring course"

"This was an excellent course which has given me a lot to think about and techniques to use"

"I have really enjoyed the whole course. I will definitely use and put this learning into practice"

Climate Change And Health

During 2011, two major pieces of work carried out by the regional Climate Change and Health Group facilitated by Belfast Healthy Cities were:

Sustainable Communities: Making Global Local Conference

In March 2011 the 'Sustainable Communities Conference: Making Global Local' was attended by more than 250 people. It was organised in partnership with Belfast City Council, Business Services Organisation, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, the Department of Health, the Met Office, the Public Health Agency and the University of Ulster.

Speakers included Professor Tim Lang, Professor of Food Policy, City University London and



Participants in the Sustainable Communities: Making Global Local Conference at Belfast City Hall.

Commissioner with the Sustainable Development Commission; Alex Hill, Chief Government Advisor, Met Office, Scotland and Northern Ireland and Tony Juniper, Writer and Sustainability Advisor.

Travel Plans: Improving Health

In October Belfast Healthy Cities launched a new document 'Travel Plans: Improving Health' which outlines the importance of good travel planning in tackling health inequality. The publication details how Health and Social Care organisations can provide an important mechanism for encouraging more active forms of travel such as walking and cycling, as well as promoting increased usage of public transport for both staff and users of healthcare services. This can contribute significantly to reducing both carbon emissions, as well as providing health benefits through improving levels of physical activity and tackling obesity.

The launch event included inputs from Belfast Healthy Cities, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Travelwise NI and a keynote address from international travel planning expert, Leo Kosonen, who has developed a transport model for the Finnish city of Kuopio.

The publication was developed by a sub-group of the Climate Change and Health Group, with support from representatives from four Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Trusts, Public Health Agency and Travelwise/Department for Regional Development.



At the launch of 'Travel Plans: Improving Health' Leo Kosonen, Coordinator of Urban Projects, Kuopio, Finland shared an international perspective.

Guide For Political Representatives

Tackling Inequalities and Promoting Wellbeing



Health Minister Edwin Poots, MLA and Environment Minister Alex Attwood, MLA launched the Guide for Political Representatives.

Belfast Healthy Cities was delighted that Health Minister Edwin Poots, MLA and Environment Minister Alex Attwood, MLA launched a "Guide for Political Representatives: *Tackling Inequalities and Promoting Wellbeing*." The Belfast Healthy Cities publication provides an essential overview of how



council services impact on health and wellbeing. It also highlights the role of elected representatives in developing policy designed to tackle inequalities. The publication has been circulated to councils regionally and has received a very positive response. Belfast Healthy Cities has also facilitated a number of requests to provide information sessions on the document.



Visit From Helsingborg

The Belfast office hosted a study visit from the city of Helsingborg, Sweden from 23 to 25 May 2011. The group which was made up of participants from a leadership programme were welcomed by the Lord Mayor at the City Hall. The group also heard talks from historian Eamon Phoenix; Cllr Tom Hartley; Dr Eddie Rooney, Chief Executive, Public Health Agency, John McMullan, Chief Executive, Bryson Group; Majella McCloskey, Chief Executive CO³ and Dr Leslie Boydell, Associate Medical Director, Belfast HSC Trust. Northern Ireland Housing Executive kindly provided the group with a city tour of social housing schemes in the city.



Councillor Pat Convery, Lord Mayor (2010-2011) welcomes members of the Helsingborg Study Group

Healthy Urban Planning & Design Action Programme



Child Friendly Environments

Child friendly environments are a major theme of the Healthy Urban Environment programme. In 2010-11, the concept was explored through two innovative projects. The Shaping Healthier Neighbourhoods for Children project aimed to give children an opportunity to make their views about their environment heard.

The project engaged 100 children in three primary schools and an after school club in West Belfast, who took photos and created artwork that demonstrates what they like, don't like and what they want to see in their neighbourhood.

Councillor Niall Ó Donnghaile, Belfast Lord Mayor (2011-2012) participated in a tree-planting ceremony to mark the end of the practical work in June 2011.



The public KidsSquare event aimed to explore the creation of child friendly space in the city centre. On European Culture Night 2011 and the following weekend, 23-25 September, KidsSquare transformed St Anne's Square in Belfast city centre into a children's space, with Active Space, Creative Space and Free Space.

During the weekend, over 1,000 children with families visited the event. Participants' views and feedback was collected through a creative evaluation exercise, which highlighted very positive feedback. A report will be available early 2012.



"More than 1000 children and their families visited Kids Square"

Romanian Project: Development Of Human Resources In Rural Areas

Belfast Healthy Cities continues to support Romtens, an independent organisation working in Romania, on an EU funded project on the theme of workplace health and employment. Belfast Healthy Cities' unique role is to support the establishment of intersectoral partnerships, share good practice as well as reinforce the delivery of practical events and training.

A further element of the project is the development of three publications which focus on health inequalities, workplace health and partnership working that will support local coordinators in the delivery of future activities. The Public Health Agency has also kindly provided a staff resource for a number of days.

Active Living

The work on active living focused on active travel and promoting environments that support active lifestyles. Belfast Healthy Cities contributed an equity perspective to the Department of Regional Development

active travel forum, which supported the development of an active travel strategy. Belfast Healthy Cities also helped shape the emerging Active Belfast partnership, working with Belfast Health Development Unit.

Good For Regeneration, Good For Health, Good For Belfast, Indicators For Urban Development

The Good for Regeneration, Good For Health, Good For Belfast, Indicators For Urban Development discussion document was completed and piloted by South and East Belfast Area Partnerships. The project was part funded by the EU through the Urbact II fund, under the Building Healthier Communities Project that engaged ten cities. In June, Belfast Healthy Cities presented the

Healthy Cities concept and experience at a final conference of the EU level project in Brussels. The discussion document will be presented in December 2011.



Influencing Policy

Contributing to consultation processes remains an important area of work and during the year a number of responses were submitted including, the Draft Homelessness Strategy, the Child Poverty Strategy for Northern Ireland and the Revised Regional Transportation Strategy.

In January, Belfast Healthy Cities gave evidence to

the Environment Committee on the Planning Bill. This evidence emphasised that wellbeing and sustainable development should be a core purpose of the planning function. The view was echoed by other non governmental bodies, and the Planning (Northern Ireland) Act 2011 adopted furthering sustainable development and promoting social wellbeing as the purpose of planning.

WHO Secretariat

The Belfast Healthy Cities office continued its role of Secretariat for the WHO European Healthy Cities Networks throughout 2011. Work at a technical and policy level continued to support the WHO regional office, cities and national networks to deliver the three WHO Phase V core themes to meet the overall goal of achieving Health & Health Equity in all Local Policies.

The Belfast office also continues to manage the Annual Reporting Template (ART) process for all Healthy Cities and National Networks, reporting on their activities for the previous 14 months. The Phase V designation process continued with 96 cities currently designated as WHO Healthy Cities.

WHO Annual Business & Technical Conference, Liège 15-18 June 2011

The 3rd WHO European Healthy Cities Networks Business & Technical Conference of Phase V took place in June 2011 in Liège, Belgium with approximately 300 delegates in attendance. Belfast Healthy Cities in its capacity as secretariat, worked closely with Belgian colleagues to facilitate and manage the scientific programme which included parallel sessions, teach-ins and round table consultation sessions.

The Belfast delegation included Mr John McMullan, Bryson Group; Cllr Pat McCarthy and Mr John Corkey, Belfast City Council. Dr Geraint Ellis & Dr Mark Tully, QUB facilitated teach in sessions and

members of the delegation presented five case studies based on work undertaken in Belfast.

This year's conference held an additional day, which was allocated to an initial consultation with local governments on the new health policy for the WHO European Region – Health 2020. The session was supported by inputs on the European Review of Social Determinants of Health and the Health Divide led by Professor Sir Michael Marmot and a study on Governance for Health in the 21st century led by Ilona Kickbusch.





Communication and Information

In June 2011, Belfast Healthy Cities through its development fund appointed a part time Information Officer to support project work and contribute to the delivery of the organisation's communications strategy. Ongoing work includes updating the Belfast Healthy Cities website

www.belfasthealthycities.com and maintaining the electronic library resource which hosts key documents and links to useful websites for all core themes. This post also provides the opportunity to extend and further develop the Belfast Healthy Cities Information Service.

Information Service

Belfast Healthy Cities Information Service forwards relevant press releases from government departments and other useful information relating to core themes by e-mail and currently has 420 subscribers.

The service also publishes an electronic newsletter which is distributed quarterly.

Twitter

Belfast Healthy Cities has recently joined twitter and can be followed @belfasthealthy. Regular tweets, including WHO information, Belfast Healthy Cities publications and invites to events have been tweeted to a growing list of followers.



Belfast Healthy Cities

Board Of Directors 2010-11

Dr Bernadette Cullen, Chair

Consultant in Public Health, Public Health Agency,

Mr John McMullan, Vice Chair/Treasurer

Chief Executive, Bryson Charitable Group

Dr Leslie Boydell

Associate Medical Director, Belfast HSC Trust

Mr Iain Deboys

Commission Lead for Belfast, Health & Social Care Board

Mr Neil Dunlop

Belfast Area Planning Manager, DOE
(co-opted September 2011)

Dr Geraint Ellis

Senior Lecturer, Queen's University Belfast

Mr Maurice Kinkead

Chief Executive, East Belfast Partnership

Ms Mary McDonnell

Senior Officer, Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Mr Nigel McMahon

Chief Environmental Health Officer, DHSS&PS

Ms Siobhan Toland

Head of Environmental Health, Belfast City Council

Belfast Healthy Cities Staff Team

Director

Joan Devlin

Support Officer

Caroline Scott

Operational Manager

Ruth Fleming

Inequalities Officer

Laura McDonald

Support Manager

Maura Ahern

Information Officer

Suzanne Thompson, (appointed June 2011)

Senior Health Development Officer

Jonna Monaghan

Belfast Healthy Cities Project Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Belfast Healthy Cities Project Limited

We have audited the financial statements of Belfast Healthy Cities Project Limited for the year ended 31 March 2011 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein and the requirements of the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 1964. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and auditors

The trustees' responsibilities for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the statement of trustees' responsibilities.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 1964. We also report to you if, in our

opinion, the trustees' report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the charity has not kept proper accounting records, or if we have not received all of the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We read other information contained in the annual report, and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. This other information comprises only the trustees' report. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities, of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2011 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and -the information given in the trustees' report is consistent with the financial statements.



Mr Robert Barr ACA (senior statutory auditor)

Date: 31 August 2011

For and on behalf of Muldoon & Co
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
16 Mount Charles
Belfast, BT7 1NZ

Belfast Healthy Cities Project Limited

(A company limited by guarantee) NI31042

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2011

	Notes	2011		2010	
		€	€	€	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		2,111		3,459
Current assets					
Debtors	12	14,676		28,204	
Cash at bank and in hand		286,975		194,510	
		<u>301,651</u>		<u>222,714</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(94,094)		(55,480)	
Net current assets			207,557		
Net assets			209,668		167,234
Funds	14				170,693
Restricted income funds			-		5,893
Total restricted income funds			-		5,893
Unrestricted income funds:					
General income funds			113,660		104,280
Designated income fund			96,008		60,520
Total unrestricted income funds			209,668		164,800
Total funds			209,668		170,693

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

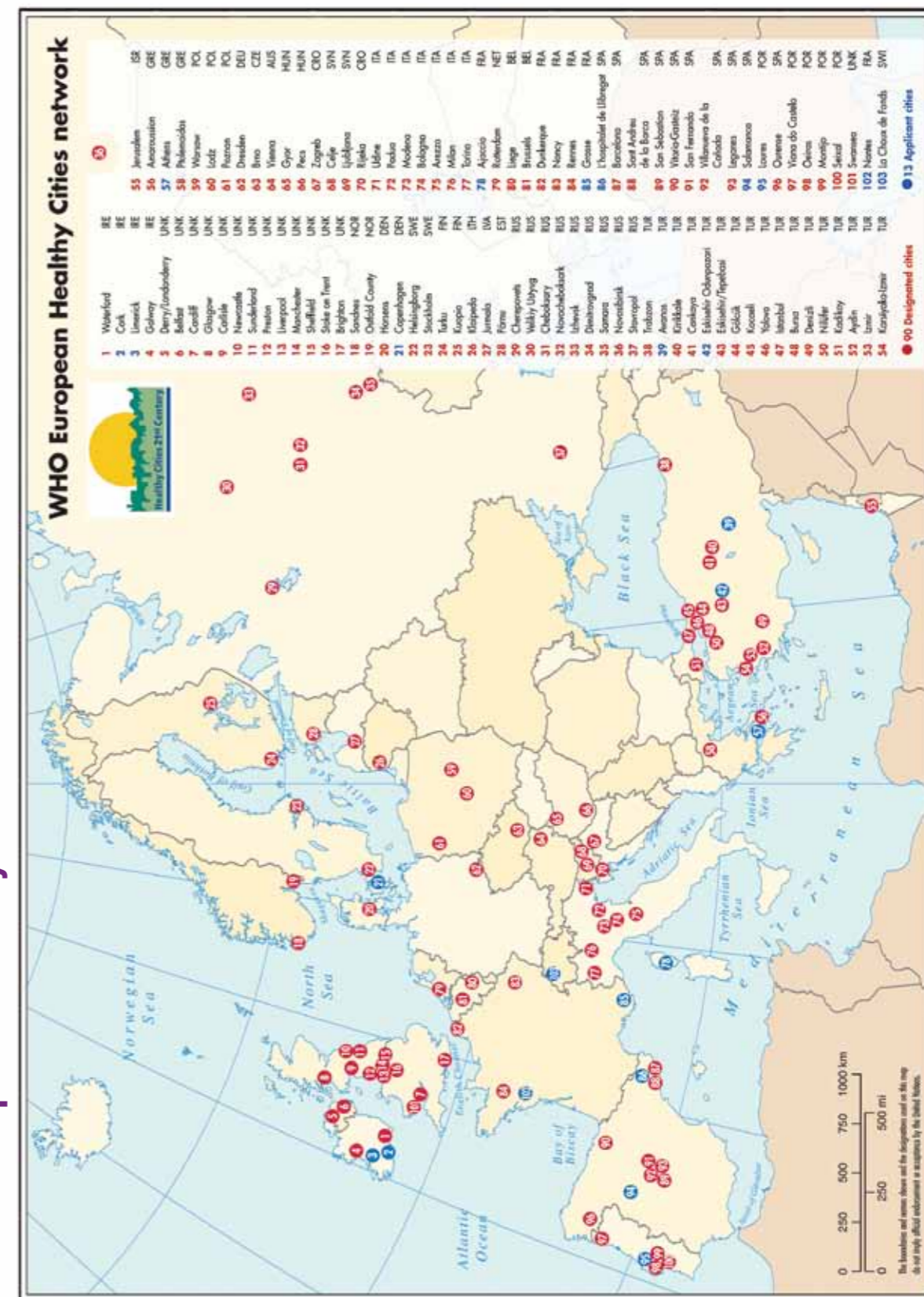

 Dr Bernadette Cullen
 Chair


 Mr John McMullan
 Vice-Chair & Treasurer

31 August 2011
 Date

31 August 2011
 Date

WHO European Healthy Cities Network



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