

Celebrating years

Global issues: a Belfast response





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Preface from the World Health Organization Europe



The World Health Organization (WHO) Healthy Cities programme engages local governments in health development through a process of political commitment, institutional change, capacity building, partnership-based planning and innovative projects. It promotes comprehensive and systematic policy and planning with a special emphasis on health inequalities and urban poverty, the needs of vulnerable groups and the social, economic and environmental determinants of health. It also strives to include health considerations in economic, regeneration and urban development efforts.

Healthy Cities is a global movement. Over 1200 cities and towns from over thirty countries in the WHO European region are healthy cities. Belfast has been an active and lead member of

the WHO European Healthy Cities Network from the establishment of the network in 1988. As a city, Belfast has demonstrated successful implementation of the Healthy Cities approach; of the qualities of a healthy city and of the core themes during each of the four five year phases to date. Working with Belfast has been an inspiration to WHO and to European cities and colleagues. The Belfast Healthy Cities partnership has been creative, vibrant and innovative, seeking to put health high on the political and social agenda of the city; building a strong movement for public health at the local level and demonstrating leadership by a range of partners within the city. The city has displayed exemplary qualities of political and professional commitment to achieve 'a health city' status and alongside this has also contributed extensively to the WHO European Network.

WHO was pleased to host the highly successful third International Healthy Cities Conference in Belfast in 2003. Belfast was the lead city of Health Impact Assessment sub network within the European network during Phase IV (2003-2008) and the Belfast Director was chair of the WHO European Healthy Cities Advisory Committee during this period.

The high level commitment and consistency within Belfast endorses its position as current Secretariat of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network.

This publication highlights some of the successes that Belfast has delivered during the past 21 years. I would like to extend my personal congratulations to everyone in the city and beyond for their strength and determination - sometimes during challenging local circumstances - in working towards achieving healthy city status. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the city for their active participation and contribution to the European Network. The city has taken significant steps forward in recent years. I know that many challenges remain but continuing to work collaboratively within the network provides the opportunity to respond to the emerging public health issues and health inequities of the future. I look forward to continuing that work with colleagues in Belfast during the next five year phase.

Dr Agis Tsouros

Head of Healthy Cities & Urban Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Foreword



I am very pleased to present Belfast Healthy Cities' 21st anniversary publication and I would like to congratulate all those who have worked in the Belfast Healthy Cities' partnership and in the office over this period. The influence and achievements of the partnership on policy, on ways of working and on practice for health and well being across the city and regionally has been substantial.

In the late 1980's Belfast was looking to find new approaches to address inequalities in health in the city - the concept of 'a healthy city' was being generated within WHO Europe and the opportunity arose for Belfast to become a member of the WHO Healthy Cities Network . We are proud to have been a member of this innovative and dynamic movement

right from the beginning – it has brought with it many benefits to the city.

Belfast Healthy Cities has introduced a range of new concepts city wide and regionally – many of which are now mainstreamed; some which remain a challenge to all sectors. Partnership working; integrated planning for health; understanding the social determinants of health; health impacts and inequalities in health are mainstream language but the challenge for the future in Belfast and across Northern Ireland is to redress the limited change in inequalities in health over the past decade. The evidence is clear but effective interventions across all sectors and assessing the health and health equity impact of all policy is required to make the desired change.

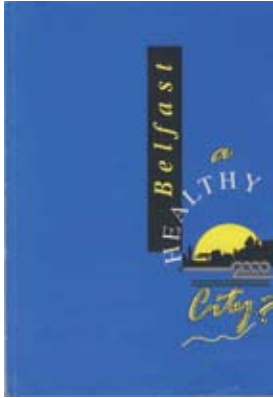
Eastern Health & Social Services Board and Belfast City Council have been the lead partners for Belfast Healthy Cities partnership over the past 21 years – the new Public Health Agency and the proposed joint arrangements for health in the city between Belfast City Council and the Public Health Agency create and strengthen the opportunity to invigorate the importance of tackling

inequalities in health in the city. With other partners from the public sector - housing, health, environment, policing, transport, planning, education and regeneration – and from the political, private, university, voluntary and community sectors, as a city we can work together to make a fundamental difference in the lives of the citizens that experience poorest health.

The city has changed significantly in the past twenty one years and with it the citizens' health and well being. Working together collectively we can continue to make that positive change in the years ahead.

Finally I would like to express my sincere thanks to the many individuals and organisations; past and present chairs, lead politicians and staff of Belfast Healthy Cities who have worked in the city to accomplish so much, aspiring to the ultimate goal of achieving a healthy city.

Councillor Naomi Long
Lord Mayor



1.

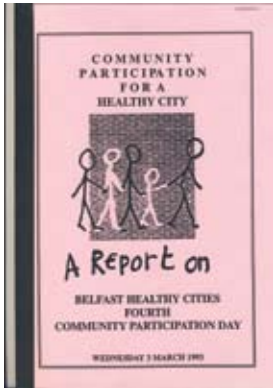
Phase I (1988-1992): Catalyst for change

The first partnership in the city

Belfast Healthy Cities, established in 1988, was the first strategic partnership in the city. Belfast also joined the WHO European Healthy Cities Network that year, among the initial 15 cities to be formally designated as WHO Healthy Cities.

Systematic community engagement

Community participation in decision making has always been a cornerstone of Belfast Healthy Cities' work. In Phase I (1988-1992), annual community participation days were held to enable local people and organizations to identify their own health needs, which could in turn inform the partnership's Action Plan. In this way the partnership was also able to work with local communities and support participation by all residents. In Phase I, two of the issues raised at community participation days were traffic calming and home safety.



2.

Healthy Cities introduced an entirely new approach to addressing health inequalities within the city, and the Healthy Cities partnership was created as a formal structure to support this. Its appeal was its focus on health being the responsibility of all sectors, which was considered key to addressing the social determinants of health and inequalities in health.

In 1989, a co-ordinator was appointed by EHSSB, with project funding from Belfast City Council.

1. Published in 1990, Belfast – a Healthy City? provided an outline of the new intersectoral approach to health.



3.

By 2009, the WHO European Healthy Cities Network has extended to a membership of over 80 cities. The application to be a WHO European Healthy City is made at the highest political level in the city.

2/3. Community engagement was a major focus of Phase I.

Research on traffic calming

The research involved traffic counts by local residents and discussions with them on traffic calming measures for their areas. It was initiated by the Environmental issue group in 1992 and focused on the Markets, Clonard and Blackstaff areas. The research informed a guide on traffic calming measures for community groups published in 1998.

First home safety check scheme in Northern Ireland

The home safety check scheme was launched as a free service, aimed at reducing risk of injury by checking electrical appliances and carrying out minor repairs, such as changing plugs. Belfast Healthy Cities played a key role in negotiating funding for the service, which was adopted and mainstreamed by Belfast City Council in 1991. The original scheme was also intended to tackle youth unemployment and trained previously unemployed young people to carry out the checks.

First intersectoral play policy for children

Adopted in 1994 by the then Belfast Healthy Cities' Steering Group, the play policy set out roles and responsibilities for different sectors in providing, supporting and safeguarding play. The policy took a rights based approach, and emphasized the importance of play for children's development. As a key measure, it proposed a Belfast Play Committee, with dedicated staff to co-ordinate intersectoral efforts to improve play opportunities for children in Belfast.



1998: The guide was launched by pupils from Harberton Special School in Belfast.



Phase II (1993-1997): Local government for health development

Healthy Buildings Award

The Healthy Buildings Award was designed to encourage builders, architects and developers produce buildings that were constructed using sustainable materials, provided healthy and safe indoor environments, and paid attention to how buildings influence the local community. The competition was organized in 1992, 1994 and 1998 and helped promote the concept of healthy buildings.

Winners were:

- 1992: Meadowlands Geriatric Unit, Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast
- 1994: Health Promotion Agency, former Ormeau Baths, Ormeau Avenue, Belfast
- 1996: Oakwood Nursery School and Assessment Centre, Belfast
- 1998: Habinteg Housing Association, Johnston Way dwellings for the disabled, Lisburn

1. 1997: High Sheriff, Councillor Nelson McCausland, Ken Ewart of Disability Action and Belfast Healthy Cities Executive Chairman, Dr Pat Kinder take the pulse on the 1996 Award winner.

2. 1998: Habinteg Housing Association receives the Healthy Buildings Award.



Focusing on the health needs of women

A draft health policy for women in Belfast was published by the Women's Health Issue Group in 1995. The policy aimed to improve consideration of women in policy and service provision and develop a common framework of action on women's health. A directory of services for women in Belfast was published in 1998 with a socioeconomic profile of women's health.



1.



2.

Production of 'Towards a City Health' plan:

The city health planning process set the scene for the city health development plan 'Planning for a Healthy City'. The early process laid the foundations for integrating planning for health and partnerships for health. It also helped develop a common understanding of the impacts of different sectors on health and wellbeing and their role in improving this. Findings were published in a suite of documents in May 1998:

- *People's Views*: A summary of a review of research on seven population groups to establish key health issues, which also outlined case studies of good practice in the city
- *A Statistical Profile*: the first health profile for Belfast, which set a model for profiling the social determinants of health and provided the first comprehensive baseline of health inequalities
- *A Discussion Document*: a summary of priorities of each area of responsibility within the city and administrative sector and their impact on health

1. 1998: Health Minister Tony Worthington launched the documents, here greeted by Belfast Healthy Cities Executive Chairman, Dr Pat Kinder, and Director Joan Devlin.

2. 1999: An arts competition was arranged to consult with young people on priorities for a city health development plan.

3. The framework for city health plans and city health development plans incorporates all sectors.



3.

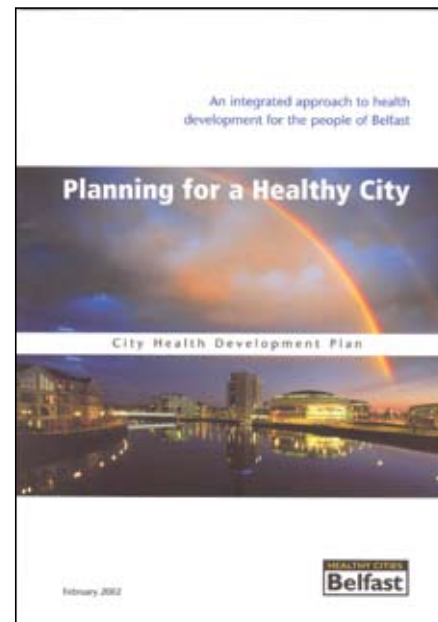
Phase III (1998-2002): Action on inequalities in health in Europe

Planning for a Healthy City: a city health development plan

Planning for a Healthy City was the first intersectoral health development plan for Belfast and was later used as an example for Health Improvement Plans developed across Northern Ireland under the Investing for Health partnerships.

The Plan was launched in the City Hall in February 2002, by Dr Agis Tsouros, then Head of the Healthy Cities and Urban Governance programme at WHO Europe. It was based on the Towards a City Health Plan process and extensive, citywide consultation, which identified four overarching themes as priorities: transport, environment, planning and housing; integrated information; lifelong learning and mental wellbeing of young people.

The plan was developed using intersectoral Strategic Planning Groups, a novel approach for the city, and consisted of separate and intersectoral action plans for each of the themes. All key public sector organizations signed up to a Charter of Commitment to implement the plan.



1. 2002: *The Plan* was launched by Dr Agis Tsouros, Head of Healthy Cities and Urban Governance at WHO Europe (front right), pictured here with the signatories to the Healthy City Charter of Commitment and Dr David Stewart, vice chair of Belfast Healthy Cities (front left) and Councillor Peter O'Reilly, Chair of the Environmental Health Committee and lead politician for Healthy Cities (right).

2. Lord Mayor Jim Rodgers hosted the launch of the plan by Dr Agis Tsouros, pictured here with Gerry Carson, Public Relations Manager at Royal Group of Hospitals (left) and Councillor Peter O'Reilly (right).

Quality of Life Matrix

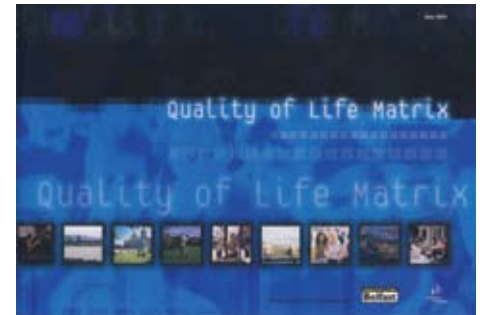
This was a practical tool for planners, aimed at helping them assess environmental, social and economic health impacts of their plans. It was submitted to the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan team in January 2003 and was also noted internationally; Milan Healthy City and the Russian Healthy Cities Network translated and adapted it for Italian and Russian planners, respectively.

Contacts for Older People

Aimed at providing a one-stop-shop of key contacts for older people across sectors, this directory was the first of its kind in Belfast when published in June 2003. It was later replicated in Lisburn.

Positive Minds

A prospectus of training related to personal development, Positive Minds was aimed primarily as a signposting tool for youth workers, intended to help them in supporting young people take control of their mental wellbeing. The prospectus covered the academic year 2003-04 and was launched in October 2003.



3. Contacts for older people launch: 2003: The online version of the directory was launched by Billy Hobson (left) and Gerry Potts.

2003 International Healthy Cities Conference, Belfast Declaration

The Belfast Declaration set out the agenda for the WHO European Healthy Cities Network in Phase IV (2003-2008). It was signed by political representatives from 34 cities and was the culmination of the 2003 International Healthy Cities Conference, held at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast in October 2003. The conference, which attracted over 800 delegates from across the globe, was the first WHO event organized on the island of Ireland, and highlighted international esteem for the work achieved in Belfast.

The conference had four key themes: building strong partnerships, alliances and networks; designing supportive environments to meet the needs of all citizens; tackling the wider determinants of health and creating effective policies and strategies for action. Keynote addresses featured leading experts in these fields, including Professor Sir Michael Marmot of University College London and Dr Pekka Puska, then Director of Non Communicable Disease and Health Promotion at WHO. The programme also included a series of site visits around the city and a reception hosted by the then Lord Mayor, Martin Morgan. The conference was described by WHO as the most successful International Healthy Cities arranged by that date.





6.



8.



7.



9.

1. A welcome reception for delegates was held in Belfast City Hall.

2. Lord Mayor Martin Morgan signed the Belfast Declaration for the city, here pictured with Dr Agis Tsouros, Head of the Centre for Healthy Cities and Urban Governance, WHO Europe.

3. The opening ceremony in the Waterfront Hall.

4. Minister Angela Smith and WHO Europe Regional Director, Dr Marc Danzon, with Dr Paula Kilbane, Chief Executive of EHSSB and Dr David Stewart, Director of Public Health at

EHSSB and Chair of the conference steering group.

5. Artscore was among the performers that opened each conference day.

6. Professor Sir Michael Marmot of University College London (second from right) was a keynote speaker; here pictured with Richard Black, Chief Executive of North and West Belfast Trust, Dr Agis Tsouros, Joan Devlin and Andrew Hassard, Head of Environmental Health at Belfast City Council and Chair of Belfast Healthy Cities.

7. Angela Smith, Minister responsible for health and social services gave a welcome address to delegates.

8. St George's Market was used for poster presentations and exhibition space.

9. The Milanese delegation including Emilio Cazzani, Chief Planner of the Municipality of Milan (now late; centre), with Lord Mayor Martin Morgan and the Lady Mayoress.

Phase IV (2003-2008):

Designing healthier and safer cities: the challenge of healthy urban places

Pioneering Health Impact Assessment

Focused on evidence based integration of health into policy, Belfast Healthy Cities has been at the forefront of introducing Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to Northern Ireland. Belfast Healthy Cities was the first organization to complete a HIA in Northern Ireland, and has included training on HIA in capacity building programmes from 2002. HIA has been developed as a key method for integrating health into planning, especially spatial planning, and experience from completed HIAs indicates it has helped widen understanding of health impacts of proposals.

HIAs completed in 2005-08 include:

- Belfast Air Quality Action Plan (commissioned by Belfast City Council),
- Houses in Multiple Occupation policy for Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan,
- Green travel plan for Eastern Health and Social Services Board
- Lower Shankill Regeneration (commissioned by Northern Ireland Housing Executive),
- Connswater Community Greenway bid, supporting East Belfast Partnership

1. The HIA included an arts competition at Malvern Primary School, pupils here pictured (left-right) with John Montgomery, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Caroline Scott, Belfast Healthy Cities, Mrs Foreman, Principal of Malvern Primary School, Máire McCotter, Belfast Healthy Cities and Gordon O'Reilly, District Manager, NIHE.

2. 2005: Pictured at the Belfast Air Quality Action Plan HIA workshop are (left-right) Joan Devlin, Director of Belfast Healthy Cities, Erica Ison, HIA practitioner and Siobhan Toland, Environmental Health Manager, Belfast City Council.



Community Health Impact Assessment

The concept of CHIA combines HIA and community development into a community led model, and was developed by Belfast Healthy Cities. It was piloted in Ballybeen and four wards on the Ards peninsula between June 2003-May 2004. In the process, local communities and professionals across a range of sectors were trained in HIA and supported to decide on local proposal with important health impacts that would benefit from HIA. A rapid HIA was then completed on the new village centre (Enler site) in Ballybeen and water reform in Ards.

Recommendations were presented to the organizations developing each proposal, which were very positive about the input.

The pilots built local capacity for participating in decision making and acted as catalyst for community dialogue, especially in Ballybeen. The extensive community profiles developed as part of the process were welcomed as useful longer term resources for each area; Ballybeen utilised the information at an early stage to support a bid to be designated as a Neighbourhood Renewal Area.



2004: Open evening at Brooklands Primary School in Ballybeen.

World Health Organisation HIA sub network

The experience of Belfast in HIA was recognized internationally by WHO, as Belfast has been lead city for the WHO HIA sub network since 2005, with Belfast Healthy Cities and the Institute of Public Health in Ireland as co-chairs. The sub network has focused on training, and also developed practical guidance tools on HIA.



2007: Joan Devlin, Programme Director of Belfast Healthy Cities at the HIA sub network meeting in Belfast, with Henrik Norgaard (Horsens, Denmark) Erica Ison, HIA practitioner, Emanuela Pipitone (Bologna, Italy) on the left (back-front) and Elisabeth Bengtsson (Helsingborg, Sweden), Máire McCotter, Belfast Healthy Cities and Nicola Cantoreggi (Geneva, Switzerland) on the right (front-back).

Healthy Urban Planning: integrating health into spatial planning policy

Developed within the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, the concept of healthy urban planning was introduced to Northern Ireland by Belfast Healthy Cities. The programme focuses on increasing understanding of health impacts and building capacity to prioritise health among spatial planners. HIA has been highlighted and utilised as a tool to generate systematic evidence, strengthen understanding and support community engagement.

The HUP programme also catalysed the development of a module on healthy urban planning, as a first in

Northern Ireland. The module was piloted in Queen's University of Belfast, with second year planning and medicine students in 2006-07 and 2007-08, and focused on developing understanding of HIA. It attracted academic interest, as a way of supporting early understanding of issues as well as interprofessional collaboration.

To support local professionals integrate health in their work, a capacity building programme on healthy urban planning was held in spring 2009, focusing on themes from sustainable communities to regeneration. The programme included practical site visits as a novel learning element.

1. 2006: Joan Devlin and Sam Kendal, Senior Planner, Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan team, Planning Service with participant contributions to a Healthy Urban Planning seminar held in November 2006 to identify Belfast action on the concept.

2. 2007: Participants in the first Queen's University of Belfast Healthy Urban Planning module made a final presentation in May 2007 to Dr David Stewart, then Director of Public Health at EHSSB and Chair of Belfast Healthy Cities (left), and Dr Paula Kilbane, then Chief Executive of EHSSB (right).





Introducing healthy ageing

Introduced in Phase IV (2003-08), the healthy ageing programme in the city placed older people's issues on the agenda of several organisations. Belfast Healthy Cities worked alongside EHSSB, and produced an intersectoral action plan which addressed social living conditions. Healthy Ageing, InterAction included action on seven themes identified in consultation with older people, including home safety, community safety, transport, housing, poverty, health promotion and community networks. The plan complemented EHSSB's health and social care strategy for older people. It was supported by the first comprehensive profiles of older people and their health, social and living conditions, with one profiling the entire EHSSB area and one focusing on Belfast.

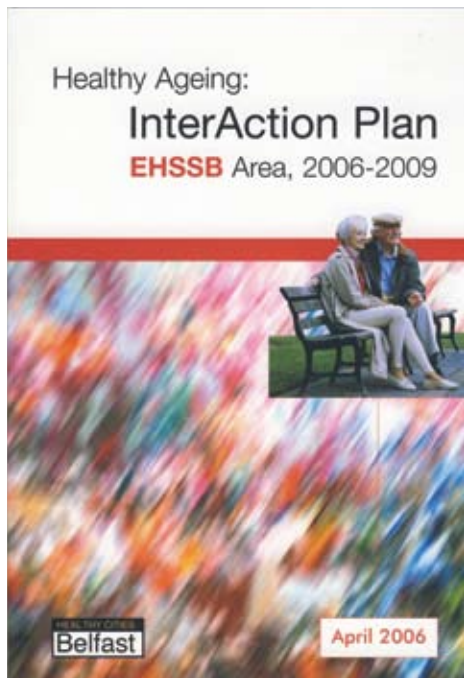
Belfast Healthy Cities' partnership produced the Seniors Info directory, which built on the Contacts for Older People published in 2003. Very well received by older people, this directory includes key information, hints and tips as well as contact details for relevant organizations and services. An online resource aimed at professionals, hosted and to be updated by Belfast City Council, has also been very well received. Belfast City Council has entered the directory for the Michael Cole Award 2009, organized by the Food Standards Agency, as an example of excellent partnership working.

Belfast Healthy Cities chairs the Eastern Area Transport Forum, as transport has been identified as a key issue affecting the health and wellbeing of older people.

1. 2006: The launch of the Healthy Ageing:InterAction and profile documents was held in Lisburn Civic Centre.

2. The profile of older people was introduced by Jonna Monaghan, Belfast Healthy Cities.

3. 2008: Seniors Info was launched by Councillor Diane Dodds and Older People's Advocate, Dame Joan Harbison, pictured here with Malachy Turley of the project steering group and Ruth Fleming, Health Development Manager with Belfast Healthy Cities (back middle).



Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership

As a result of the InterAction process, an intersectoral healthy ageing strategic partnership was established in Belfast in 2008. The initial role for the partnership is to explore and co-ordinate opportunities for joint working between partners, which include Belfast City Council, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the Regional Health and Social Care Board and Age Concern Help the Aged. The partnership has now been placed within Belfast City Council to take the political lead, with joint funding for a co-ordinator and an administration post by Belfast City Council and the Regional HSC Board.



Building the evidence base

Eastern Area 'Investing for Health' Indicators

This indicator set was developed in consultation with stakeholders in the EHSSB area to identify indicators that can be used to monitor progress on Investing for Health goals and objectives. It was adopted regionally as a basket of Investing for Health indicators, which are currently collated by NISRA (www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/mapxtreme_ifh/default.asp)

Divided by Health: A City Profile

This profile, published in late 2008, provides a comprehensive profile of the social determinants of health. It charted change since the first profile published in 1998, particularly on inequalities in health, and also provides a current baseline. It highlighted positive change for example on life expectancy, but overall found limited change in inequalities.



2008: Michael McGimpsey MLA, Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, launched the profile; here pictured with Peter McNaney, Chief Executive of Belfast City Council and Joan Devlin.

Capacity building: providing evidence and tools for action

Equity in Health – Tackling inequalities

The successful Equity in Health training programme series focused on building organizational capacity to tackle inequalities in health, identified as a key need within the city. It provided evidence and models of good practice on issues from monitoring inequalities to HIA and healthy urban planning, and was aimed at middle managers across sectors. The pilot programme was delivered in 2002-03, and was supported by a publication series including *Understanding the Links* (2003), *Case Studies* (of local action, 2003), *Tools for Action* (2004).

As a result of an external evaluation, the programme was replicated as *Investing in Health: Making the Links* in 2004-05, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

A New Vision for Health lecture series

As a new take on capacity building, the New Vision for Health featured leading edge thinking on issues key to future health and wellbeing, intended to inform agendas being set under public sector reforms. The series included four lectures with international and UK based leading experts on *The Biology of Poverty*, *The Power of Wellbeing*, *Climate Change and Health* and *The Art of Citymaking*.

The lecture series culminated in a workshop on climate change and health, which sought ways of engaging the health sector in debate and action. An intersectoral group will develop this work in Phase V (2009-2013).



1. 2008: Dr Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer of Scotland, presented evidence on how poverty and disadvantage affect health biologically.

2. Charles Landry (centre), expert on citymaking, provided ideas on creative placemaking; here pictured with Pat McCartan, Chair of Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and Dr Bernadette Cullen, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Public Health Agency and Chair of Belfast Healthy Cities.

Sharing learning internationally

Belfast Healthy Cities has been invited to represent the WHO European Healthy Cities Network across the world, as an example of good practice promoted by WHO. In Phase III (1998-2002) Belfast also acted as mentor for the establishment of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Healthy Cities Network. Belfast has also given key note addresses at a number of international conferences.

World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg 2002



2002: Councillor Peter O'Reilly, Joan Devlin and Andrew Hassard, then Head of Environmental Health, Belfast City Council and Chair of Belfast Healthy Cities, represented Belfast in at the Johannesburg summit.

Healthy Cities Conference, Taipei 2004



2004: Joan Devlin represented the WHO European Healthy Cities Network and Andrew Hassard represented Belfast in Taipei at their visit to the Healthy Cities Conference.

Capacity Building Symposium for Korean Healthy Cities, Seoul 2005

John McMullan, Bryson Group represented Belfast Healthy Cities at the Capacity Building Symposium for Korean Healthy Cities, Seoul 2005.

Active living

Belfast was a founder member of the WHO Multi City Action Plan (MCAP) on active living and hosted the European Health Enhancing Physical Activity Conference in 2000. In 2005, Belfast drafted the action plan for the MCAP for Phase IV.

Locally, Belfast Healthy Cities was instrumental in developing the Active Living Weeks in partnership with Belfast City Council between 2000 and 2007, which aimed to encourage people to become physically active by providing taster sessions on swimming, walking, cycling and dance.



2000: Participants of the European Health Enhancing Physical Activity conference were expected to be physically active.

Study visits

Belfast shared experiences with study visit delegations from Newcastle upon Tyne, Horsens in Denmark, Galway and Belgrade in Serbia.

1. 2007: Lord Mayor Pat McCarthy hosted a dinner reception for the Mayor of Galway, Councillor Niall O'Brollchain; pictured are also Joan Devlin, Director of Belfast Healthy Cities, Fiona Donovan, Co-Ordinator of Galway Healthy Cities and Councillor Peter O'Reilly (right).

2. 2007: Carmel Hanna MLA hosted the Horsens delegation during a visit to Stormont.

3. 2006: The Newcastle upon Tyne delegation exchanged experiences especially in relation to older people.

4. 2004: Andrew Hassard (back right), then Head of Environmental Health and Chair of Belfast Healthy Cities, hosted a reception for the Belgrade delegation.



Phase V (2009-2013): Striving for health and health equity in all local policies

Secretariat for WHO European Healthy Cities Network

In Phase V (2009-2013), the Network secretariat has for the first time been outsourced from WHO. Belfast was invited to provide the secretariat, with an initial agreement for the first year of Phase V. The secretariat provides a key role co-ordinating designation to Phase V and supporting cities as well as WHO staff.



2009: Lord Mayor Naomi Long signed the Belfast designation to Phase V; here pictured with Joan Devlin (left), Dr Eddie Rooney, Chief Executive, Public Health Agency and Dr Bernadette Cullen, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Public Health Agency and Chair of Belfast Healthy Cities.

Phase V framework: Equity from the Start: Health and Health Equity in All Local Policies

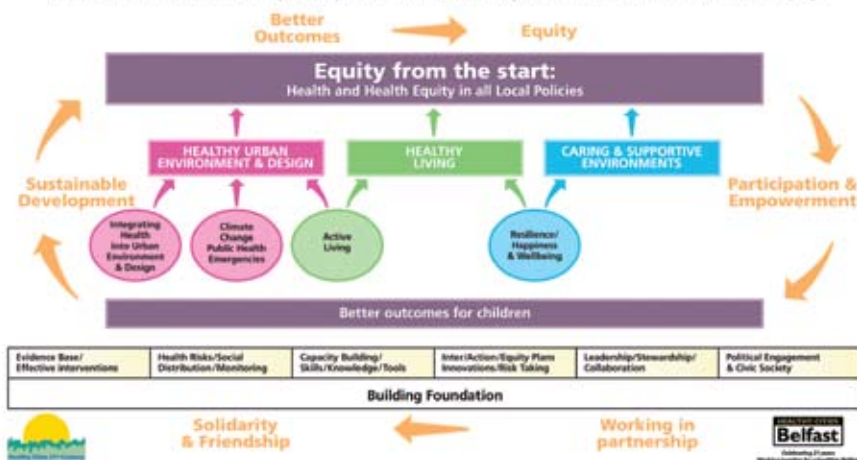
The focus for the future of Healthy Cities is improving health and health equity. The framework for Belfast focuses on generating health and health equity as a core value in all local policies, by developing a cross sectoral approach that will strive to mainstream health and health equity in all local policies and tackle some of the key causes of health inequalities. The approach will emphasise leadership, the importance of evidence based action, local level data and monitoring progress, capacity building and engagement across the political as well as civil society.

The three key themes for Phase V are:

- Caring and supportive environments, emphasizing better outcomes for children in all areas of work
- Healthy living, with a focus on wellbeing, happiness and resilience and active living
- Healthy urban environments and design, incorporating climate change

Belfast – A World Health Organization Healthy City Phase V (2009 – 2013)

Policies and actions are consciously developed from the start in a way that contributes to health and health equity.



Chairs of Belfast Healthy Cities

- 1989: Dr Gabriel Scally, Director of Public Health, Eastern Health and Social Services Board
1990: Alan Ferguson, Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health
1991: Mary Black, North & West Unit of Management
1992: Brendan Henry, Community Services Department, Belfast City Council
1993: Paul Sweeney, Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust
1994-95: Dr Philip Donaghy, Acting Director of Public Health, EHSSB
1995-2000: Dr Pat Kinder, former Chief Executive, EHSSB
2000-05: Andrew Hassard, Head of Environmental Health, Belfast City Council
2006-07: Dr David Stewart, Director of Public Health, EHSSB
2007 – : Dr Bernadette Cullen, Public Health Consultant, EHSSB

Co-Ordinators/Directors

- 1988-89: Maureen Gardiner
1990-93: Catriona Garrett
1993-94: Katrina Malone
1996 – : Joan Devlin

Current staff

Joan Devlin
Director

Maura Ahern
Support Manager

Ruth Fleming
Health Development Manager

Jonna Monaghan
Senior Health Development Officer

Caroline Scott
Support Officer

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www.belfasthealthycities.com



1989



1992



1994



1997

Belfast: A WHO European Healthy City

Belfast is a designated member city of the Phase V WHO European Healthy Cities Network (2009-2013). The partnership is funded by Public Health Agency, Belfast City Council, Belfast HSC Trust and Northern Ireland Housing Executive, who also contribute with other partners, to the development and delivery of local programmes to meet the WHO designation requirements.

