



Belfast Healthy Cities Belfast: A WHO Healthy City through 25 years...



Belfast
A World Health Organization
Healthy City



Some of our speakers through the years pictured opposite, from clockwise; Jessica Allen, Michael Marmot, Charles Landry, Erio Ziglio, Agis Tsouros, Alex Attwood, Edwin Poots, Ilona Kickbusch, Angela Smith, Martina Anderson, Michael McGimpsey, Naomi Long.



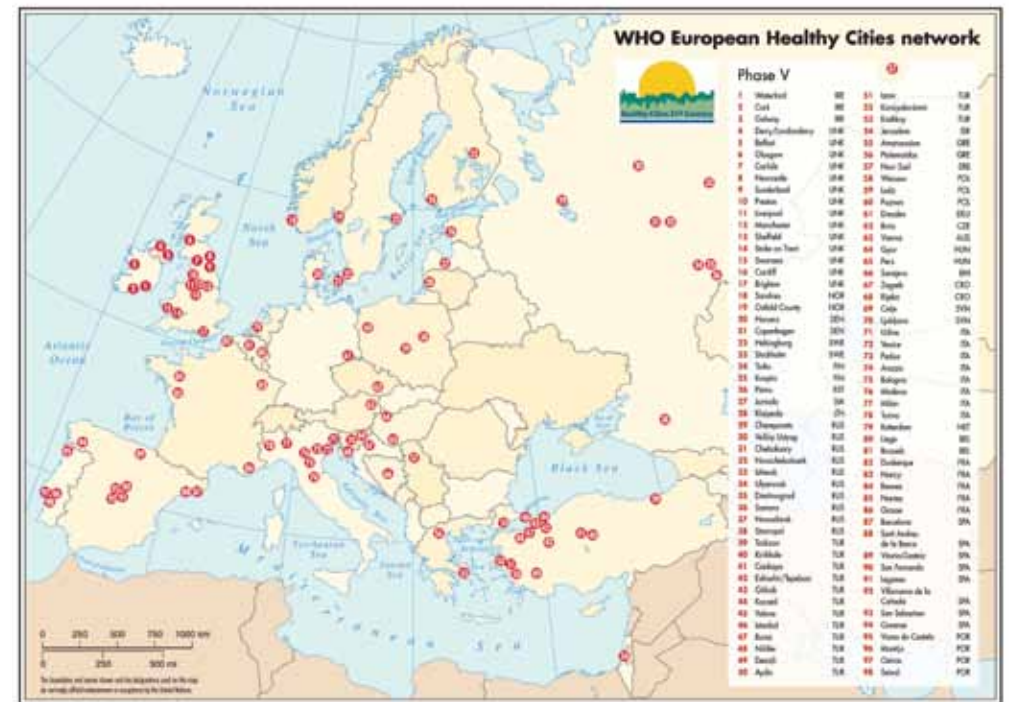
Belfast Healthy Cities, established in 1988, was the first strategic partnership in the city. Belfast also joined the WHO European Healthy Cities Network that year, among the initial 15 cities to be formally designated as WHO Healthy Cities. In 2013 the membership stands at 99 with the application to become a member made at the highest political level in the city.

Belfast has been designated to each of the five phases of the Healthy Cities network and as a result new concepts have been introduced to the city. Belfast Healthy Cities has had significant influence on policy and action in working with other sectors and departments in the areas of health, inequities and well-being.



At the time Belfast 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.

"Belfast Healthy Cities provide best evidence and research on how the health of a city can be improved. With a small but very effective team, their work together with city stakeholders over the past 25 years has had far reaching influence on the shaping of health and wellbeing strategy in Belfast and beyond."



PHASE I 1988-1992

Phase I involved 35 cities in the WHO European Healthy Cities Network. The goal was to introduce new ways of working for health in cities.

Some projects during Phase I were:

- Developing a Home Safety Check Scheme, which was taken over by Belfast City Council in 1990 and continues to operate
- Developing a policy on children's play, which led to the adoption of a Statement on Play
- A Travellers' Health project

PHASE II 1993-1997

Phase II included 39 cities. It was more action-oriented, with a strong emphasis on healthy public policy and comprehensive city health planning.

The key goal of the second phase was to work towards developing a city health plan and consult on it widely in the city. Belfast Healthy Cities through a series of partnership groups produced a series of three documents as a basis for consultation, which together provided a picture of health in the city and people's priorities. In this phase a women's health policy was also produced.

PHASE III 1998-2002

Phase III moved the European Healthy Cities movement towards a more strategic health development approach. It focused on developing an intersectoral city health development plan, which was intended to promote strategic planning for health across sectors at city level. In Belfast, this process culminated in the publication of the plan 'Planning for a Healthy City' in February 2002.

This plan outlined jointly agreed action plans on four themes identified as priorities from extensive consultation, using novel methods such as drama and music. The four themes covered were:

- transport, environment, planning and housing
- integrated information
- lifelong learning and mental health
- young people

Actions were implemented as part of the corporate plan of partner agencies.

PHASE IV 2003-2008

Phase IV was launched at the International Healthy Cities Conference in Belfast in October 2003. It consisted of an overall commitment to health development with emphasis on equity, tackling the determinants of health, sustainable development and participatory and democratic governance. It also committed WHO European Healthy Cities Network members to working on:

- healthy ageing
- healthy urban planning
- health impact assessment
- physical activity and active living

Belfast also produced *Divided by Health: a City Health Profile and Investing for Health Indicators*.

PHASE V 2009-2013

The overarching theme for Phase V was Health and Health Equity in All Policies. In Belfast, the overarching theme has been Equity from the Start: Health Equity in All Policies. A key Belfast priority has been Better Outcomes for Children, which has been reflected in all areas of work.

Key work areas for Belfast Healthy Cities included Health Equity in All Policies (HEiAP), Healthy Urban Environments and Climate Change and Health. Work on wellbeing was also initiated and will continue in Phase VI.

Phase VI 2014-2018

Belfast is currently preparing for designation into Phase VI. This phase will encompass two strategic goals of (1) Improving health for all and reducing health inequities and (2) improving leadership and participatory governance for health. The four core themes will be:

- investing in health through a life-course and empowering people
- tackling infectious and non communicable diseases
- strengthening people-centred systems, public health capacity, emergency preparedness and surveillance
- creating resilient communities and supportive environments

PHASE I

Belfast a Healthy City

Play Policy & Strategy

Traffic Guidelines launched by pupils from Harberton Special School

PHASE II

Habinteg Housing Assoc receives Healthy Building Award

City Health Plan Framework

PHASE III

Planning for a Healthy City

Contacts for Older People Launch, 2003: The online version of the directory was launched by Billy Hobson (left) and Gerry Potts.

Planning for a Healthy Launch

Quality of Life Matrix

1988 - 1992

1993 - 1997

1998 - 2002

Belfast first designated to WHO Healthy Cities Network

The healthy buildings award was designed to encourage builders, architects and developers to produce buildings that were constructed using sustainable materials, providing healthy and safe indoor environments and paid attention to how buildings influences the local community. The competition was organised in 1992, 1994 and 1998 and promoted the concept of healthy buildings. A draft health policy for women in Belfast was published by the Women's Health Issue Group in 1995.

Phase III was launched with a Charter of Commitment by Chief Executives from the City.

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.

2003 WHO International Healthy Cities Conference



2003

The World Health Organization selected Belfast to host the 2003 International Healthy Cities Conference. This event attracted over 800 delegates from over 68 countries around the world. The international conference is held at the end of every five year phase and marks the official culmination of each phase of the Network. Politicians from represented cities pledged their continued support in the Belfast Declaration, which underpins Phase IV.

PHASE IV



2003 - 2008

Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) in this Phase: Belfast Air Quality Action Plan; Houses in Multiple Occupation Policy; Green Travel Plan; Lower Shankill Regeneration; Connswater Community Greenway

This Phase developed key documents widely used by partner and other organisations throughout the city including a publication series produced by the pilot *Equity in Health* training programme which focused on building organisational capacity to tackle inequalities in health.

PHASE V



Climate Change and Health



2012 lecture series



25th Anniversary Awards judging panel



Equity from the Start: Health Equity in all Policies - Health Lens Approach

Shaping Healthier Neighbourhoods



2009 - 2013

The overarching goal for Phase V was Health Equity in all Policies (HEiAP) and provides Healthy Cities with the opportunity to work with local government and central departments.

Since 2009 Belfast Healthy Cities has provided an ongoing central role within the Network, as Secretariat of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network.

PHASE V

Study Visits - Fellow Healthy Network Cities who have visited Belfast to share learning



Horsens



Galway

Kids Space



Former Lord Mayor Gavin Robinson with KidsSpace participants 2012

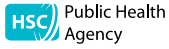


Former Lord Mayor Niall Ó Donnghaile with KidsSpace participants 2011

2009 - 2013

On European Culture Night 2011 and on the following weekend the first Kids Square event took place transforming St Anne's Square into a children's space with active space, creative space and free space. Kids Square – renamed as Kids Space has become an annual event attracting large number of families with extremely positive feedback.

Partners



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