

# COMMUNITY MAPPING



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## Transnational Comparisons of Service Provision for Older People in Rural, Sparsely Populated Areas

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Northern Periphery and  
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As part of the community mapping process, PLACE-EE Community Engagement Officers (CEOs) have completed a process of rapid participatory appraisal, to map the needs of those who are most vulnerable and marginalised in their areas. Following guidelines provided in Deliverable T1.1.1 (D.T1.1.1) A Review of Mapping Tools, and information and contacts on the PLACE-EE database of stakeholders, CEOs have made contact with local health and other relevant agencies, as well as individuals and local citizens, to place them at the centre of actions and decisions to improve their health and overall quality of life. Using the mapping tool (D.T1.1.1), CEOs assessed community service provision and assets, including current e-health provision, the availability of broadband, local connectivity in services, provision of ICT in libraries and other municipal sites; public and non-governmental organisation (NGO) service provision for older people; carers organisations; and availability of transport for residents.



Figure 1: Rapid participatory appraisal information pyramid

This report details the findings of the mapping exercise: an examination of current barriers and facilitators of services to older populations in rural, sparsely populated areas; and transnational comparisons of the range of cultural, political, economic contexts. It is structured into four sections, representing key areas within a community, as indicated in Figure 1.<sup>1</sup> The information presented concerns target demonstrator areas that have been identified as at highest risk for social exclusion and poor access to services for older residents within Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (FODC), Northern Ireland; Fjarðabyggð, Iceland; Limerick City and County Council (LCCC), Republic of Ireland; and Skellefteå, Sweden.

## Community Composition, Organisation, Structure and Capacity

Community composition, organisation, structure and capacity populate the bottom layer of the information pyramid featured in D.T1.1.1 (see Figure 2). This section describes how a community is made up and the organisations and services within it.

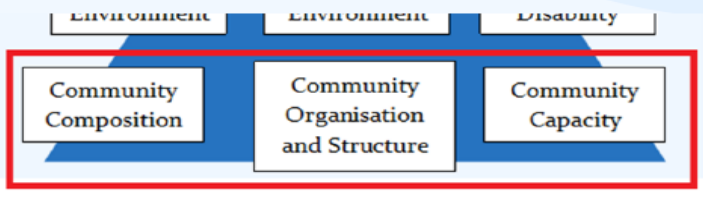


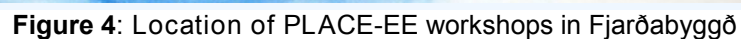
Figure 2. Bottom row of information pyramid



Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (FODC) have identified the areas of Erne West and West Tyrone as having the poorest access to services and the highest percentage of citizens aged 65+ (Figure 3). FODC has a population of 115,000, of which 15% are aged 65+, and is primarily rural with only two large towns, Enniskillen with a population of 13,560 and Omagh with a population of 19,836. Additionally, FODC has five local towns: Carrickmore, Dromore, Fintona, Irvinestown and Lisnaskea. The rest of the population live either in the 48 villages or in the countryside. There are three secondary schools in the demonstrator area: St Mary's High School, in Brollagh; St Aidan's High School, in Derrylin; and St John's Business and Enterprise College, in Dromore. Lisanelly and Devenish are the most disadvantaged parts of FODC and, in addition, 5 of the top 10 most deprived areas with regards to access to key services are in this district.<sup>3</sup>



The municipality Fjarðabyggð, Iceland has a population of 4777, of which 661 are aged 65+.<sup>4</sup> The area of Norðfjörður, as indicated in Figure 4, has been selected as the location of PLACE-EE workshops and related activities. Within Fjarðabyggð, the most remote and isolated areas are Mjóifjörður, Breiðdalsvík and Stöðvarfjörður, all of which have little or no service for elderly people. There are seven main towns/villages in Fjarðabyggð, with a population range of 14-1469. Five of the seven towns have one secondary school each and children from Breiðdalsvík and Stöðvarfjörður attend school together, alternating two days per week in each town (Monday-Thursday) and remaining in their home town in smaller classes on Fridays.



## Limerick City and County Council

Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) has a population of 191,809; 105,326 in the City and 89,849 in the County. 27,419 are aged over 65 (14.2%). The demonstrator site has a population of 9098, consisting of 7 small areas with towns (all with populations of less than 1000), and is situated in 2 municipal districts, namely Adare/Rathkeale and Newcastlewest (Figure 5). 20% of the population in the demonstrator site are aged over 65. There are two secondary schools in the demonstrator area, Scoil Mhuire agus Ide and Desmond College. Children aged 12-18 years travel from various parts of West Limerick using school bus to attend these schools.

Towns with populations of 1,000-5,000 people have been the worst affected over the past 10 years, being disproportionately hit by the recession and benefitting less from the economic recovery than most urban areas like Limerick City. Rural areas have been shown to have a higher proportion of children as well as those aged over 65, and are more likely to have issues regarding access to services. Compared to the national average, people aged 55+ in Limerick City and County Council have a lower level of educational attainment and the proportion having only primary education is highest in rural areas.



Figure 5: Demonstrator areas in LCCC

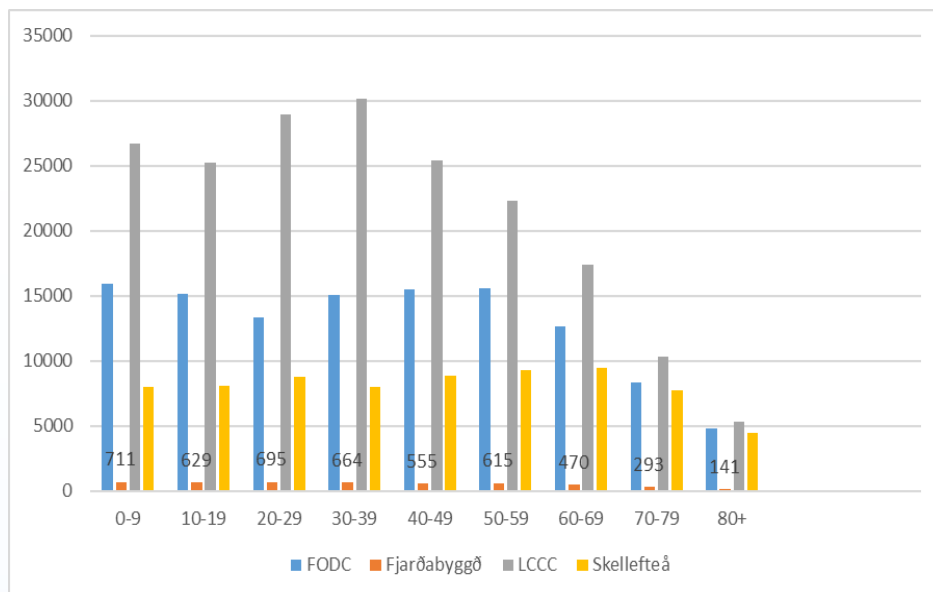
## Skellefteå

The final of our four partner sites, Skellefteå, has a population of 72,723 and the demonstrator area Kåge (Figure 6) has 5178 residents. Skellefteå kommun has only one town, Skellefteå, with a population of 35,852, and seven villages with a population of more than 1000. Kåge kommunedel (township) has no towns, only villages, namely Kåge with a population of 2230, Ersmark with 877 and Kusmark with 468. In each of the villages with more than 200 people, the maximum distance between houses is 200m, according to the Swedish definition of urban living. The remainder of the area is considered rural. 26% of people in Skellefteå kommun live in an area with less than 1000 people and this applies to 57% of people in Kåge. There is one secondary school in Skellefteå, Kågeskolan F-9, which has 523 pupils aged 6-15 and 309 pupils aged 11-15.



Figure 6: Demonstrator area in Skellefteå

The age profile of the partner areas can be seen in Figure 7, as represented in 10-year age bands.



**Figure 7:** Populations of partner areas in 10-year age bands

Services for older people at risk of isolation in rural areas mainly focus on giving them a voice and encouraging engagement within the community.

Social, handicraft, and educational activities are popular, including playing cards and knitting (Fjarðabyggð), as well as excursions and local history meetings (Kåge).

The Active Retirement group ARRA Friends, in Newcastlewest, Limerick, meet in the Desmond Complex, have 40 active members and focus on enabling retired people to enjoy a full and active life.

In FODC, South West Age Partnership (SWAP) and the Fermanagh & Omagh Interagency Forum for Older People are both in place to ensure that joint services are delivered for older people in the region and that their needs are represented.

## Socioecological Factors Affecting Health

Socioecological factors are issues that can affect the health and wellbeing of individuals within a community, specifically physical and environmental factors; social aspects, including cultural values or traditions that can influence behaviour change; and economic opportunities (see Figure 8).



**Figure 8.** Level one of rapid participatory appraisal information pyramid

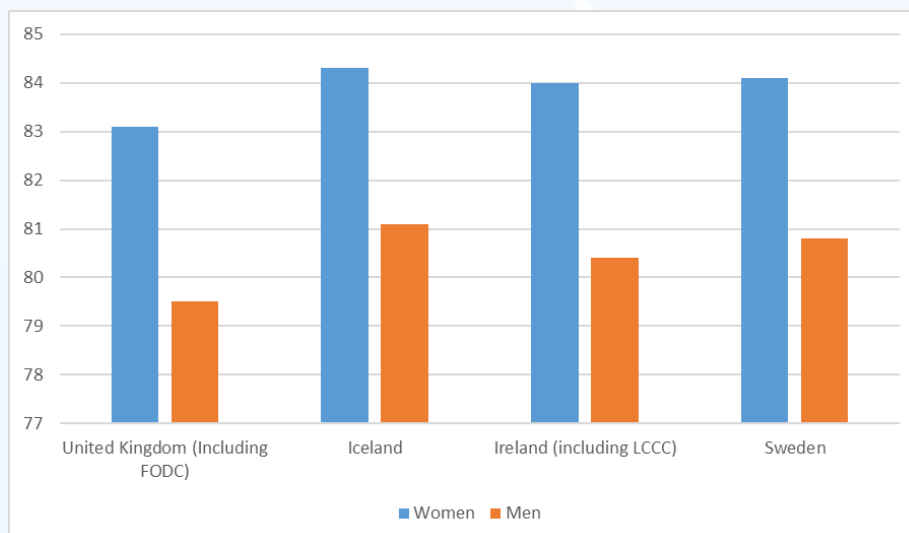
Older people often have a number of co-occurring health conditions, requiring frequent hospital or general practitioner (GP) appointments. Few have access to their own form of transport and many live alone (29.3% of people aged 60+ in FODC; and up to 41% of women aged 70+ in Limerick City), thus increasing their reliance on friends and family or public transport services. Unfortunately, public facilities are often lacking in rural and remote areas, making it problematic for elders to have their basic health needs met. This lack of availability can extend beyond transport to other services, such as banking and online connectivity. Technological advances in modern society have contributed towards reduced visibility of full-time banking on the high street, favouring a movement towards digital management. Older members of the community, however, often lack the skills required to manage their finances online or have inadequate access to the internet, rendering these options inaccessible. These are but a few of the concurrent socioecological factors that can contribute to social isolation and diminished autonomy and independence among rurally dwelling older people.

#### Health and Mortality:

Cardiovascular conditions, such as hypertension; mental health problems, including depression; and age-related physical conditions, such as arthritis and osteoporosis are the most commonly reported health problems among older people in rural areas. Other reported conditions include: obesity (FODC); high cholesterol and diabetes (LCCC); and degenerative cognitive conditions, such as dementia (Kåge). Elders are often the most frequent users of health services: 87% of both men and women aged 65+ in Iceland use prescription medicines,<sup>5</sup> and almost half (48%) of people aged 70+ in both Limerick City and County have been diagnosed with two or more health conditions.

Consequently, many older people also rely on home care services for daily activities such as personal care, housekeeping, and mobility. In Kåge, there are 89 individuals aged 65+ who use such services and in LCCC, 50% of people aged 70+ have a long-standing illness or health condition, 22% of which are severely limited in their daily activities as a result. Unfortunately, those who need assistance the most do not always receive it, citing factors such as cost, waiting lists, distance from services and transport problems as barriers.

Higher life expectancy among ‘baby boomers’ as well as low birth rates and migration trends are among the factors contributing to ageing communities within the EU.<sup>6</sup> Life expectancy at birth, i.e. the average number of years predicted to be lived by a person should they be subjected to current mortality conditions, across the four PLACE-EE partner countries in 2017 is shown in Figure 9.<sup>7</sup>



**Figure 9.** 2017 Life Expectancy for Women and Men in Partner Countries

Although extended life expectancy has been a universal trend across Europe in recent years, issues relating to isolation and poor access to services can have a detrimental impact.

#### Physical Issues that may Influence Health and Wellbeing:

The main issues reported that negatively impact on health and wellbeing are lack of access to transport; poor physical access to services, including health services and full-time banking; long travelling distances; and lack of entertainment.

Access to transport is a universal complaint across all demonstrator areas, making it challenging for older people living rurally to easily move around within their communities and attend health or social appointments.

FODC has two community transport services, Fermanagh Community Transport and Easilink Community Transport, both of which run infrequently and require advance booking. No motorway and lack of dual carriageway in FODC has resulted in a less than average proportion of journeys made by public transport in this area than in Northern Ireland,<sup>2</sup> and less satisfaction with physical connectivity among those aged 60+ than the rest of the population.

Similarly in the Republic of Ireland, only 37% of people in Limerick County, compared to 85% in the City, have access to services within a 10-15 minute walk, and almost half (47%) of those living rurally rate public transport as very poor.<sup>8</sup> Rural Bus connects communities within the demonstrator area that are not located on the main bus routes; however, improved links between this service and Bus Éireann services are necessary, particularly for those attending health appointments long distances from home.

Both Kåge and Fjarðabyggð have local transport systems connecting smaller towns within the demonstrator areas to each other and to larger towns. Nevertheless, issues relating to long travelling distances and adverse weather conditions are reported as potential contributors to social isolation and loneliness for older members of these communities.

#### ICT Provision with Links to Access Services:

As many services are becoming digital, it has been purported that improving welfare technology and overall connectivity in rural areas will help to combat isolation among those most at risk.

Of the four PLACE-EE partner countries, Sweden appears to be the most digitally active. The annual survey *Swedes and the Internet*<sup>9,10</sup> indicates that by 2017 almost everyone in Sweden had internet access in their home and for the first time, more than half of those aged 76+ were Internet users. Even so, while connectivity improvement among elders is evident, of those who remain digitally disconnected, 75% are aged 65+ and most live rurally.

Similar statistics exist across other partner areas: in FODC, almost three-quarters (74%) of people aged 65+ have never used the Internet; and in Iceland, many elders lack the skills to access online forms or information, or do not have the necessary electronic identification. In Limerick County, only 35% of those aged over 55 access information online and 69% of people aged 70+ never use the Internet, instead referring to national television, or local and national radio as sources of information.



Life expectancy  
is reduced by  
**2.7 years** in  
the most  
deprived areas  
of FODC



In order to combat issues with connectivity, a number of schemes have been implemented across demonstrator areas for older members of the community.

#### Acorn:

Age Friendly Limerick has been chosen as one of three areas to pilot a smart tablet that supports the primary needs and improves overall quality of life of elder users. The “Acorn” is an age-friendly system that provides older people with limited ICT skills the ability to be fully engaged online and is designed upon five content and application pillars: independence, health, finance, communications and security. The Acorn Tablet launched in Limerick in January 2019, attracting a number of PLACE-EE volunteers (Figure 10).



**Figure 10.** PLACE-EE Volunteers at Acorn Tablet Launch, Limerick, January 2019

Across Sweden municipalities are encouraged to make better use of technology in elderly care, particularly in relation to safety. Skellefteå municipality have piloted “smart home” services, in collaboration with Region Västerbotten and Telia Healthcare. Over shared infrastructure and open service platforms, these organisations have worked together to test motion sensors, door alarms, passivity alarms and cameras for night supervision in the homes of elderly people.

It is often the case that elders in Skellefteå hold negative attitudes towards ICT, preferring to talk to or seek information from a ‘real person’. Nevertheless, most realise that they cannot avoid new technologies and the “ICT-corner” group in the local library is well visited and appreciated by elderly. In this group, attendees have the opportunity to find out more about using a smartphone or tablet in everyday life, and sometimes representatives from local businesses such as the bank and pharmacy, will come along to explain the services that they offer.

#### Social Factors:

Social engagement and participation can have an important influence on the health, wellbeing and connectivity of a community, particularly for older members. Family, friends and voluntary groups all play an important role in combatting isolation and social disconnect.



In FODC, South West Age Partnership (SWAP) work with approximately 80 Older Peoples Groups and offer Grant Aid through a Service Level Agreement. They offer many activities throughout the year such as chair yoga, circus skills and fall prevention. The Community Services Department within FODC are available to offer advice and assistance to groups wishing to apply for funding.

Family relationships are strong in Fjarðabyggð, many children and grandchildren attentively engage with elder family members, and creative expression is strongly grounded in music and crafting, with many people attending church-based or independent choirs. Technologically advanced businesses, such as Sildarvinnslan, the haddock factory in Neskaupstaður, have gifted items including dining chairs and gym equipment, to more deprived regions of the demonstrator area. However, large distances between communities has hampered the development of services to older people, meaning that day care services and service centres struggle to offer a diverse range of social activities.

Crafting activities are popular in Skellefteå; many people attend the local cultural heritage association, where they enjoy weaving and storytelling together. Most groups here qualify for LEADER funds, to assist with local rural development, and support is also available for study groups as well as sports and health activities.

In Limerick County, 69% of people meet socially with relatives, friends and colleagues at least once a week, and there is one large retirement group in Newcastlewest, as well as a Men's Shed, where men of all ages gather to work on different projects, sharing and learning new skills.

Available funding includes *The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018–2022*, to tackle poverty and social exclusion at a local level; *The 2018 National Grant Scheme for Sport and Physical Activity for Older People*, to promote increased participation in recreational sport or physical activity for older people; and *Creative Ireland Programme*, which promotes individual, community and national wellbeing.

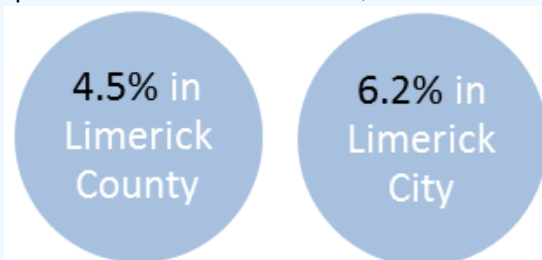
Many of the social challenges and concerns highlighted by elders, however, echo across demonstrator areas.

In the 2018 Pensioner's Parliament in FODC, almost 30% (29.63%) of attendees were concerned about crime in their area; more than one fifth (22.22%) were worried about isolation; and 10% admitted to feeling lonely every day.

Each November, Older Peoples Councils across the Republic of Ireland come together for a two-day national convention to network, share experiences and identify priority issues. Various projects operating under the Age Friendly County strategy are presented and specialist speakers are invited to discuss topics of interest, as identified by older people. With regards to respect and social inclusion, elders in Limerick have voiced wishes for:

- Improved communication between old and young;
- Greater awareness among younger people of the wisdom, knowledge and experience that elders can offer; and
- More research into loneliness and isolation, to combat risks to the physical and mental health of older people.

The greatest challenges to social participation in Limerick are a lack of interest in available activities, more so among those living in the City than County; high costs involved; difficulty in getting to the venues; and perceived negative attitudes towards elders.



People aged 55+ who often feel lonely

#### Investment and Business:

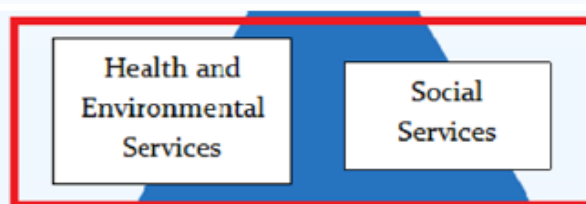
Economic opportunities are also key contributors to community growth and inclusion.

In Skellefteå, regional investment funding support is often targeted towards micro-companies and small and medium enterprises (SME's). In East Iceland, Austurbrú is the leading interdisciplinary institution promoting economic, social, cultural and educational opportunity. It operates in the interests of residents, municipalities and companies by supporting the development of jobs, businesses, education and research, and encouraging cultural and artistic diversity.

In Limerick, the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) is the first point of contact and support for those wishing to start, grow and develop micro and small businesses. Residents in the demonstrator area can exercise available opportunities to start their own business or mentoring programme, or engage in training or upskilling. The ISAX Ingenuity programme, supported by Bank of Ireland and LEOs, launched in 2016 and targets mature entrepreneurs aged 50+, who can channel their lifetime experience, talents and wisdom to set up their own businesses. *Limerick 2030: An Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick* launched in 2013 and set out to guide the economic, social and physical renaissance of Limerick City Centre and the wider County/Mid-West Region. As it stands, the primary targets of €1 billion in enterprise and investment infrastructure and 12,000 jobs have already been surpassed, only 5 years into the 20-year deadline, highlighting Limerick's economic recovery success.

## Health, Environmental and Social Services

Community mapping also involves investigation of the health, environmental and social services that are in place for older and isolated individuals (see Figure 11), to ensure optimal wellbeing and quality of life. PLACE-EE CEOs have questioned the availability and accessibility of such services in their demonstrator areas and considered the value of these to older members of the community.



**Figure 11.** Level two of rapid participatory appraisal information pyramid

#### Health Services:

The number of available GPs in FODC has reduced in recent years as some surgeries have amalgamated, resulting in many patients having to travel up to 30 miles round trip to see their doctor.

Similarly, in Iceland, the greatest problem in primary care in regional communities is the lack of GPs, as many do not reside in smaller towns or villages. Instead, many medical districts are staffed by locum practitioners, meaning that patients rarely develop a relationship with a doctor who knows them and their problems well.

There are 5 GPs located in Newcastlewest and a Health Service Executive (HSE) funded Primary Healthcare Centre that provides a variety of health and social services for older people. 9.1% of people aged 55+ in Limerick County and 14% in Limerick City are currently on a waiting list for a health service and 90% and 71% respectively have been on a waiting list for more than three months.

There is one clinic in Kåge and one hospital in Skellefteå city. In fact, residents in all demonstrator areas are required to travel to neighbouring towns or further afield should they have to attend hospital.

#### Social Care Services:

The Icelandic welfare system falls under the Nordic welfare model, with all the Nordic countries having a similar approach to taxation, social insurance and government involvement in welfare, education and healthcare. Overall responsibility for matters relating to older people lies with the Minister, whereas responsibility for services is shared between central government and municipalities; the former is responsible for healthcare and the latter for social services. Institutional services are provided by central government, municipalities, private foundations or private entities. Municipalities can also outsource services that they are obliged to provide.

The Fjarðabyggð municipality runs two nursing homes and 26 service flats for older people. Social home care services are provided to those who live in their own homes but need help with housekeeping and personal care; up to 90 households in the community receive home care services at any given time. Five active community centres are also available for older citizens, and the municipality has made agreements with senior citizens' associations on the mandatory provision of social activities for older people.

Social care services in the LCCC demonstrator area include community nursing, home help service, home care package, and respite care. Public Health Nurses and Community Nurses work as part of the Primary Care teams based in local health centres, providing a range of services that include care for older people on discharge from hospital. They are based in two locations within the demonstrator area.

Home Care Package is a set of services provided by the HSE to help an older person be cared for in their own home or remain at home rather than be admitted to a hospital or nursing home. Available services include home help (available to people aged over 65), nursing, or rehabilitation support. Respite care provides full-time carers with a break by accommodating patients within a care home for an agreed period. Other social care services include a befriending service, Alzheimer's Society adviser and home care service, and a carer's support group.

In Kåge, there is one residential home, providing 52 places for residents. Homecare service is also provided for 89 individuals aged 65+, which provides help with hygiene, clothing, meals, housecleaning and washing, as well as social activities. Most older people have security alarms in their homes.

#### Voluntary and Community Organisations:

The Red Cross has divisions in each town in Fjarðabyggð, some of which offer friends to visit the elderly in their community, as well as knitting and reading groups. There are also a number of local groups in Kåge that engage older people in local history meetings, arts and crafts skills, local development and social meetings in cafés, physical activities and excursions.

The Limerick Volunteer Centre promotes volunteering in Limerick City and County and is operated by three local partnerships: Ballyhoura Development (East Limerick), PAUL Partnership (Limerick City) and West Limerick Resources (this partnership services the demonstrator area). The Newcastlewest Volunteer Co-ordinator Network hosts quarterly meetings providing a friendly and supportive environment for organisations to share good practice, exchange ideas, develop joint initiatives and attend masterclasses on areas of volunteer management. The capacity for volunteering is greater in Limerick County, where 28% of over 55s volunteer at least weekly with community, cultural, sports or social movement groups, compared to 14% in the city.



# Health Policy

The final element of community mapping, at the top of the rapid participatory appraisal information pyramid (see Figure 12), covers national, regional and local policies regarding improvements to health within a community.



**Figure 12.** Top level of rapid participatory

## FODC

*The FODC 2030 Community Plan* sets out FODC's vision for the region in 2030 for a “welcoming, shared and inclusive” district. It is split into eight shared outcomes across three themes: people and communities; economy, infrastructure and skills; and environment. Statutory Bodies and Community Partners have taken the lead on each of the outcomes and through partnership relationships, are working towards a single vision for the region.

Outcome 2 of the plan states, “Older people lead more independent, engaged and socially connected lives”. Progress will be measured against the following indicators;

- Number of people aged 75+ who are hospitalised due to a fall
- % of the people aged 65+ in good health
- % of people aged 65+ who have never used the internet
- Number of crimes directed against people aged 60 years or above
- Number of Senior Smart Pass holders

PLACE-EE will feed into the performance measures for this outcome.

To best support the increasing number of older people in the district, FODC has launched their first *Age Friendly Strategy* and 3-year action plan. Through consultations with older residents, stakeholders, service providers and Community Planning Partners, the plan discusses challenges faced by elders in the area and specifies actions that will enable them to be more involved in their communities.

Links to document:

*FODC 2030 Community Plan*: <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/app/uploads/2015/07/Fermanagh-and-Omagh-Community-Plan-2030.pdf>

## Fjarðabyggð

Under the Act on the Affairs of the Elderly, the central administration of matters relating to older people is in the hands of the Ministry of Welfare. The Ministry is in charge of policy formulation and planning in this policy area on a national level and oversees implementation of the Act and regulations based thereon.

#### *The Act on the Affairs of the Elderly:*

- Ensure that older citizens receive person-centred healthcare and social services based on their individual needs and conditions.
- Enable older citizens to have a normal home life, whilst also ensuring that they receive appropriate institutional services as needed.
- Ensure equal rights for older people and that their right to self-determination is respected.

Under the Act, an older (“elderly”) person is defined as someone who has reached the age of 67 years.

Fjarðabyggð operates in accordance with its Family Policy, jointly formulated by the town authorities, the municipality’s staff and stakeholders. The Family Policy is based on a future vision where the municipality’s services support and strengthen families so as to increase people’s opportunities and the range of possible life choices. This vision applies equally to services for young and old. The Family Policy emphasises prevention, professionalism, recognised methods, effectiveness and cost-efficiency.

Fjarðabyggð has signed a co-operation agreement with the Directorate of Health on a “Health-Promoting Community”, thereby committing to put the health and wellbeing of all its citizens at the heart of policymaking across all the municipality’s operating divisions.

The municipality of Fjarðabyggð is an independent administrative entity governed by a Municipal Council democratically elected by the municipality’s inhabitants. The Council makes byelaws and sets rules as prescribed by law and is responsible for the municipality’s finances. The Council elects a Social Services Committee, whose remit includes matters relating to older people and related policymaking. The Director of Social Services is a staff member of the Committee and is entrusted with preparing a programme of activities and budget in accordance with the Committee’s policies and priorities.

Links to document:

*Act on the Affairs of the Elderly:* [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p\\_lang=en&p\\_isn=82809](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p_lang=en&p_isn=82809)

## **LCCC**

After signing up to Ireland’s National Age-Friendly Cities and Counties programme (AFCC), Age Friendly Limerick was established in 2013 with the formation of the Limerick Age Friendly Alliance. This high-level group includes representatives from a number of organisations and institutions across Limerick that maintain the interests and needs of older people at their heart. The AFCC develops local multi-agency planning structures, who consult with older people to develop integrated city and county strategies to promote and advance older people’s health and wellbeing across Ireland.

In 2015, Limerick launched its first *Age Friendly Strategy 2015-2020*. The strategy is the culmination of a detailed consultation process that has brought together the older residents of Limerick and the key service providers from the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors, to identify how to make Limerick an excellent place to live, work, enjoy life and grow older. The Older Peoples Council in Limerick continue to work with Task Managers from a number of lead agencies to implement the 42 objectives outlined in the Age Friendly Strategy.

The *National Positive Ageing Strategy (NPAS) 2013* was developed following extensive consultation with older people and their representatives and provides the blueprint for planning for an ageing population in Ireland into the future. Arising from the publication of the NPAS and Healthy Ireland, the national framework to improve the health and wellbeing of the population, the Department of Health (DOH) is leading a joint national programme with the HSE and Age Friendly Ireland (AFI): the Healthy and Positive Ageing Initiative (HaPAI).

Other key policy documents include the *National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (2007-2016)* 'Building an Inclusive Society', which is structured around a lifecycle framework with older people as a core category. High-level goals for older people focus on community care and income support. Other pertinent policy documents include the *National Carer's Strategy (2012)* and the *National Dementia Strategy (2014)*. Numerous health-related policies are also relevant, among them the national policy on elder abuse arising from the Report of the Working Group on Elder Abuse, Protecting Our Future (2002) and the 2009 Review of the Report, the Nursing Home Support Scheme, Fair Deal introduced into the Nursing Home Support Scheme Act 2009, and the standards, regulation and inspection of nursing homes introduced in the Health Act 2007.

Links to documents:

*Age Friendly Strategy 2015-2020:*

[https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/atoms/files/limerick\\_city\\_and\\_county\\_council\\_age\\_friendly\\_limerick\\_2015-2020\\_0.pdf](https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/atoms/files/limerick_city_and_county_council_age_friendly_limerick_2015-2020_0.pdf)

*National Positive Ageing Strategy (NPAS) 2013:*

[https://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/National\\_Positive\\_Ageing\\_Strategy\\_English.pdf](https://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/National_Positive_Ageing_Strategy_English.pdf)

*National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (2007-2016):*

<https://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/National-Action-Plan-for-Social-Inclusion-2007-2016.pdf>

*National Carer's Strategy (2012):*

<http://familycarers.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/The-National-Carers-Strategy.pdf>

*National Dementia Strategy (2014):*

<https://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/30115-National-Dementia-Strategy-Eng.pdf>

## **Skellefteå**

In 2018, the Swedish government stated, "*Sweden has to be a good country to grow old in*". Some of the efforts in place include an increase in funding for elderly healthcare; free healthcare for citizens over 85 years of age; and more money for technology in elderly care. There have been reductions in taxes for elders and increased pensions for some groups, and government the government has voiced intentions to increase the personnel in elderly care and create more homes for the elderly.

To have access to and to use ICT services is a part of the national, regional and local strategies to increase the sense of safety, security, and independence. It is also a means to remain connected to the surrounding society and keep updated. In December 2017, 80% of the population in Skellefteå municipality had access to 1000 Mbit/s broadband. The municipality now aims for 98% by 2025.

Links to documents:

<https://www.government.se/government-policy/social-services-including-care-for-older-people/>



## References

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