



Lord Mayor Launches WHO Belfast Healthy City Awards 2014



Lord Mayor of Belfast, Cllr Nichola Mallon and Chair of Belfast Healthy Cities, Nigel McMahon launch the WHO Belfast Healthy City Awards 2014. Entries are open until Friday 10 October.

Belfast Healthy Cities, a member of the World Health Organization European Healthy Cities network has invited applications for awards in three categories which acknowledge the city's increasing awareness of health and wellbeing issues.

Building on the success of the 25th Anniversary awards in 2013, the three categories for 2014 are: Healthy Places, Healthy Living and Promoting Health Equity. The awards will be presented at a conference on 14 November which will examine 'Reuniting Planning and Health: Tackling Disadvantage'

Belfast Healthy Cities Chair Nigel McMahon, encouraged organisations from all sectors, including statutory, voluntary, academic, community and private sectors to become involved in the awards. "We were delighted with the response to the inaugural Belfast Healthy City Awards last year. There is an increasing awareness of the need to integrate health into all areas of public life and throughout the community sector, the private sector and public sector - health and wellbeing is becoming a central policy issue. These awards, spread across three categories, allows people on the front line of service delivery to celebrate their work and their commitment".

"The energy and commitment that many groups, large and small, have demonstrated towards improving health and wellbeing for the people of Belfast is substantial. These awards are one way in which we will highlight what has been achieved so far, while we continue to plan for future challenges faced by Belfast and Northern Ireland."

Belfast Lord Mayor, Councillor Nichola Mallon, helped launch the awards. She said: "I am hugely supportive of initiatives such as this which help to promote policies aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of our residents across every part of the city. By tackling health inequality, there is potential to increase life expectancy and improve quality of life for everyone".

NOTES

The three categories are: Category 1: Healthy Places – This award will be presented to a programme or initiative that has significantly contributed to supporting good health through creating supportive and healthy places for people, focusing on planning, transport and regeneration and the impact they have on people's lives.

Category 2: Healthy Living - This award will recognise achievement in healthy living; leisure and sporting activities including dance; active and healthy travel including cycling and walking initiatives; volunteering; and heritage and environmental programmes.

Category 3: Promoting Health Equity - This award will highlight programmes and activities that tackle inequalities in the city including issues such as: socio-economic deprivation; fuel poverty; food poverty; the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups; health promotion initiatives and tackling age or lifestyle related inequalities.

The Healthy Belfast awards are open to Government and public sector agencies; schools and education providers; community and faith organisations; social enterprises and private sector businesses. Regional organisations are welcome to apply where they can demonstrate that activities directly benefited the people of Belfast.

The awards are now closed and judging is currently taking place. They will be presented at the [Reuniting Planning and Health: Tackling Disadvantage Conference 14 November 2014](#)