

World Health Organization Awards To Recognise Excellence in Belfast



The Lord Mayor of Belfast Councillor Arder Carson, alongside Belfast Healthy Cities Chair Nigel McMahon and CEO Joan Devlin have launched this year's World Health Organization Belfast Healthy City Awards.

The awards recognise and celebrate the work undertaken by organizations from all sectors towards improving the health and wellbeing of the people of Belfast and they are now established as an annual event, with a presentation at a high profile event each November.

Encouraging organisations from all sectors, including statutory, voluntary, academic, community and private sectors to become involved in the awards the Lord Mayor said:

'There are many organisations, large and small, across the city who work hard to make life healthier and fairer for our communities. It is very important that this work is valued and recognised and these awards are an important way to do that. The awards highlight that better health and wellbeing can make real improvements for people and for the city as a whole. I would encourage any organisation, whether it is a large public body or a small community initiative, to consider making an application.'

'Improving health and tackling inequalities is important for improving people's quality of life and lifetime opportunities. It is also an investment in the city: healthy places are prosperous places and health is a vital asset for all cities'.

Belfast Healthy Cities Chair, Nigel McMahon added

'We have been delighted with the response to the Belfast Healthy City Awards over the past two years. The variety of organisations taking part indicates an increasing awareness of the need to integrate health and wellbeing into all areas of public life. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the contribution frontline staff and volunteers make.'

There are four award categories, Promoting Health Equity; Healthy Places; Healthy Living and a new category for this year, Engaging for Change. This category is particularly aimed at projects that work directly with people to empower them to improve their own health and wellbeing.

The awards are open until **Wednesday 21 October**. Further information and an application pack is available from www.belfasthealthycities.com

Notes

This will be the third year in which the World Health Organization (WHO) Healthy City Awards have been presented. A short film about last year's awards is available [here](#)

The awards categories are

Promoting Health Equity

This award will highlight programmes and activities that aim to tackle inequalities in the city including addressing 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.

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. Healthy Places focuses on how planning, transport and regeneration affect people's lives, their health and wellbeing and how this shapes disadvantage and inequalities.

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. Healthy Living focuses on initiatives that encourage and enable people of all ages to live healthier lives and actively participate in society.

Engaging for Change

This award will focus on projects or initiatives that work directly with people to empower them to take control of improving their own health and wellbeing. Initiatives will demonstrate the application of active engagement processes to involve and retain participants. They will show how they make use of the assets that exist to improve health within the community and are likely to have involved collaboration or partnership approaches.

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