

## Health: The Design, Planning and Politics of How and Where We Live

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

The development of an evaluation and monitoring repository for UK age-friendly communities

- **Format:**

Presentation in-person.

- **Author(s) Name:**

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- **University or Company Affiliation:**

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

The Age-friendly Cities and Communities (AFC) movement was born as a reaction to the increasing urbanisation and ageing of the global population. Evaluation of AFC initiatives is an essential element in assessing their success, but many cities and communities lack the expertise and resources to conduct evaluations. Tools and guidance for evaluating AFCs have been developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and others. However, methods of assessing the structures and processes that shape the context in which AFCs are situated have been lacking, and the utility of existing evaluation tools has been questioned.

This paper is based on a study that was carried out in collaboration with the Centre for Ageing Better (CAB) to scope the available tools and guidance, and to form a repository for members of CAB UK Network of AFCs. A scoping review was carried out using the search term "age-friendly" in the academic literature as well as the grey

literature. This resulted in 234 hits for the grey and 449 for the academic literature. Titles were screened by two researchers and checked by a third, with any disputes resolved by discussion. Twenty-three titles were selected from the grey literature and 12 from the academic literature, giving a total of 35 reports on tools and guidance. Many of the tools were structured around the WHO guidance and indicators and provide broad and useful direction for cities and communities wishing to evaluate their work. However, much of this guidance lacked the specific, practical detail of the metrics, e.g. walkability scales, required to carry out evaluations in practice. Networks of communities that share learning and training, and ongoing support in the form of web-based materials and workshops may help communities develop their own place-specific metrics to conduct effective evaluations.

- **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

**Calum Mattocks** is a Research Associate the Cambridge Institute of Public Health with interests around the relationship between the environment and health, ageing, evaluations and planning policy where it relates to health. His current work with PHE includes developing better ways of using routine data to characterise area deprivation among older people. Other ongoing research includes working with the CAB to assess needs and develop evaluation and monitoring resources for UK Network of Age-Friendly Cities. Calum is also a member of the steering group for Northestowe NHS Healthy New town in Cambridgeshire.

**Stefanie Buckner** is a Research Associate at the Cambridge Institute of Public Health with an interest in ageing, ageing policy and Age-Friendly and Dementia-Friendly Cities and Communities. She recently co-led the development and pilot-testing of an Age-Friendly City evaluation tool. Her current work includes the DH-funded National Evaluation of Dementia Friendly Communities (the DemCom study) and ongoing research funded by the Centre for Ageing Better to assess needs and develop evaluation and monitoring resources for the UK Network of Age-Friendly Cities.

**Louise Lafortune** is a Senior Research Associate at the Cambridge Institute of Public Health. Her expertise includes evidence reviews, priority setting partnership activities, and research that focuses on the development and evaluation of preventive interventions for frail older adults and people with dementia. She has recently co-led a pilot study to testing an age-friendly cities evaluation tool and is currently leading a study commissioned by the Centre for Ageing Better to assess the needs and develop evaluation and monitoring resources for members of the UK Network of Age-Friendly Cities.