



**NHS**

**West and North London**

**Brent Health and Wellbeing Board**

16 April 2026

**Report from Elders Voice**

**AGE-FRIENDLY BRENT UPDATE**

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	ALL
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	N/A
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>List of Appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 - Age-Friendly Brent Strategy and Action Plan Appendix 2 - Summary
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	External partners: Rita Nath-Dongre and Fay Austin from Elders Voice Tony Burch Age-friendly Champion.  Internal Officers: Charlene Santos Community Engagement Lead Charlene.santos@brent.gov.uk

**1.0 Executive Summary**

- 1.1. This report provides an update to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the development of Age-Friendly Brent, a borough-wide, resident-led initiative aimed at improving the quality of life for older people.
- 1.2. The report outlines key insights gathered through extensive engagement with older residents, including the Age-Friendly Brent Launch event held on 11 November 2025, and presents the emerging Age-Friendly Brent Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2028).
- 1.3. The findings highlight that while Brent is a vibrant and diverse borough with strong community assets, older residents continue to face barriers relating to accessible transport, outdoor spaces, access to health and care services, and digital inclusion. The report sets out a coordinated, partnership-based response to address these challenges and support healthy, active and independent ageing.

## **2.0 Recommendation(s)**

2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the progress made in developing Age-Friendly Brent and the key findings from resident engagement.

2.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to support the implementation of the Age-Friendly Brent Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2028), including:

- Promoting a whole-system, partnership approach across Council services, NHS partners and the voluntary sector
- Supporting the integration of Age-Friendly principles into relevant strategies and service planning
- Championing Age-Friendly Brent across organisations and networks

## **3.0 Detail**

### **3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context**

3.1.1 The Age-Friendly Brent programme directly contributes to Brent's Borough Plan priorities, particularly:

- **A Healthier Brent** – supporting healthy ageing, improving access to services, and reducing health inequalities
- **Thriving Communities** – strengthening social connections, reducing isolation, and promoting inclusive participation
- **The Best Start in Life & Prosperity and Stability** – by supporting intergenerational approaches and enabling older residents to remain active contributors to community life

3.1.2 The programme also aligns with:

- The UK Network of Age-Friendly Communities (Centre for Ageing Better)
- The World Health Organisation Age-Friendly Framework
- Brent's commitments to equity, inclusion and reducing inequalities

3.1.3 Age-Friendly Brent provides a framework to embed these priorities across Council, NHS and community partners.

### **3.2 Background**

3.2.1 Age-Friendly Brent is a resident-led initiative developed in partnership with Brent Pensioners Forum, Elders Voice, Brent Council, Ashford Place and Age UK Hillingdon, Harrow and Brent.

3.2.2 Brent was officially recognised as part of the UK Network of Age-Friendly Communities in June 2025.

3.3.3 Over the past 18 months, extensive engagement has taken place with older residents through:

- Community workshops and forums
- Surveys (online and paper-based)
- Focus groups

- The Age-Friendly Brent Launch (November 2025), attended by approximately 200 residents and stakeholders
- The Deputy Mayor of London Debbie Weekes-Bernard visit to Brent hosted by [Age-Friendly Brent Partners](https://issuu.com/brentcouncil/docs/your_brent_magazine_-_spring_2026)  
[https://issuu.com/brentcouncil/docs/your\\_brent\\_magazine\\_-\\_spring\\_2026](https://issuu.com/brentcouncil/docs/your_brent_magazine_-_spring_2026)

Key findings identified:

- Strong appreciation of Brent’s diversity, parks and community assets
- Persistent barriers including:
  - Accessible transport and Freedom Pass restrictions
  - Unsafe pavements and lack of public toilets/rest areas
  - Difficulties accessing GP appointments, social care and community support services (particularly non-digital access)
  - Digital exclusion and lack of accessible information

These insights have shaped the **Age-Friendly Brent Strategy (2026–2028)**, with five priority areas:

1. Accessible Transport
2. Outdoor Spaces & Buildings
3. Community Support & Health Services
4. Social Participation
5. Housing  
(with Communication & Digital Inclusion as a cross-cutting priority)

#### **4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

4.1 The development of Age-Friendly Brent has been underpinned by extensive stakeholder engagement, including:

- Older residents
- Brent Pensioners Forum
- Voluntary and community sector organisations
- NHS partners and Integrated Care Board representatives
- Local community groups and forums

4.2 Engagement has been inclusive of diverse communities across Brent, ensuring voices from different backgrounds, abilities and experiences are represented.

4.3 Our Age-Friendly Ambassadors who are local resident are also championing the voices of older people to ensure changes reflect the needs of our community.

4.4 The Mayor, Cllr Ryan Hack, along with Cllrs Mili Patel, Neil Nerva, Robert Johnson and other councillors, have been engaged through the Age-Friendly Launch, local forums and community networks. These engagements have provided opportunities to support neighbourhood-level delivery, such as the monthly Seniors Hub pilot - launched at Harlesden Library at the end of March 2026. Collectively, they have expressed a shared commitment to fostering a borough in which all generations can thrive.

Age-Friendly Brent was invited by the GLA to host a visit by the Deputy Mayor of London, Debbie Weekes-Bernard on 5 December 2025. Cllr Muhammed Butt, and Krupesh Hirani (AM) the Assembly Member for Brent & Harrow welcomed the opportunity to showcase our collaboration and partnership in action.

## **5.0 Financial Considerations**

5.1 There are no immediate direct financial implications arising from this report. The delivery of the Age-Friendly Brent Action Plan is currently supported through:

- Existing Council resources
- Public Health fund the part time Coordinator post for 24 months. Funding ends July 2027.
- External funding opportunities
- Voluntary and community sector in kind contributions

5.2 Future funding requirements will be developed through partnership planning and brought forward where necessary.

## **6.0 Legal Considerations**

6.1 There are no specific legal implications arising directly from this report.

6.2 The proposals align with the Council's statutory duties, including responsibilities under the Care Act 2014 and wider public health and wellbeing duties.

## **7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

7.1 The Age-Friendly Brent programme directly supports the Council's duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

7.2 The initiative aims to:

- Reduce inequalities experienced by older people
- Improve access to services for those facing barriers due to disability, income, language or digital exclusion
- Promote inclusive, accessible environments

7.3 Engagement has ensured that the voices of diverse older residents are reflected in the strategy and action plan.

7.4 The programme also contributes to addressing health inequalities, particularly those linked to social isolation, access to services and digital exclusion.

## **8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

8.1 The proposals support environmental objectives by:

- Encouraging walkable, accessible neighbourhoods
- Promoting use of public transport
- Supporting improvements to public spaces and local high streets

8.2 Age-friendly environments contribute to more sustainable, inclusive communities

## 9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1 The Council & partners may wish to consider signing up to the **Age-Friendly Employer Pledge**. Participation in the Pledge would further reinforce the Council's commitment to supporting an age-friendly workforce and inclusive working environments. Brent (public buildings) has already signed up to the **GLA Dementia-Friendly Venues Charter**. Further work could explore involving older residents in auditing and encouraging commitment from our wider partner organisations.

## 10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 A coordinated communication approach will be essential to support delivery of Age-Friendly Brent, including:

- Promotion through **Your Brent magazine** and Council communications channels
- Use of **printed and non-digital formats** to ensure accessibility
- Engagement through community networks, faith groups and voluntary organisations
- Public events such as Age-Friendly annual summit and campaigns (e.g. Ageing Without Limits Day)

10.2 Clear, accessible communication will be critical to ensuring older residents are aware of services, opportunities and developments.

**Report sign off:**

**Ruth du Plessis**  
Director of Public Health