[Ageing In] Place Standard Tool: A Preliminary Investigation

CO-DESIGNING AGE-FRIENDLY APPROACHES TO AGEING IN PLACE

[Ageing In]
Place

EWAJESU OKEWUMI & JACK ROBERTSON

ACRC
Advanced Care Research Centre

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh College of Art

Newcastle University

HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY

Research Report

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Project
Purpose

Description

The purpose of the study is to involve members of the public and key stakeholders in identifying the need and potential for a useful, freely accessible and user-friendly standardised tool that would allow stakeholders to assess (both quantitively and qualitatively) factors that relate to 'Ageing in Place' (AiP).

Project Aim

To design a standardised tool to measure factors relating to AiP, helping people to remain living in their own homes and communities into later life.
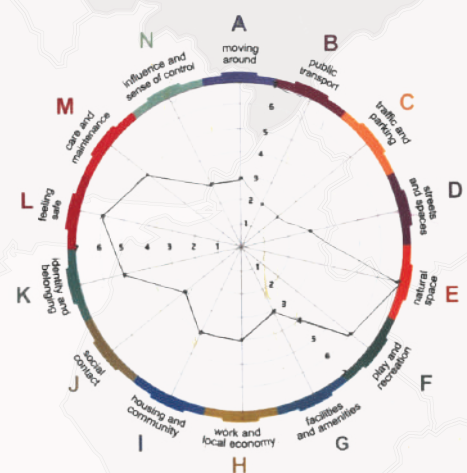
Potential

Such a standard tool could be of potential benefit to policy-makers, designers, third-sector partners (e.g., age-related charities) and communities themselves.

Outcome

The outcomes of this study will be used to support a more substantial national or international grant application that will carry the research to the next level.

This report explores how well the Place Standard Tool supports older adults to age in place, identifying what's missing to make places truly age-friendly.

Project Methods

- Assess Team existing knowledge around issues of 'Ageing in Place' to see how our papers and publications 'sat within' existing 'Place Standard' domains.

- Conduct Workshops with members of the public in three separate communities including urban and rural places. (Edinburgh, Haddington, Newcastle). Workshops included 'Place Standard' assessment exercise & discussion around using the tool, followed by focus group around issues of 'Ageing in Place'. Including climate change and new digital technologies.

- Conduct Stakeholder Interviews with key individuals from different place-making sectors.

Key Findings

- **What is Missing from the PST?**
  Accessibility to health services (e.g primary care, pharmacy, opticians etc).
  Affordability & agency around home adaptations.
  Assessing the strength/security of informal socio-spatial support networks.

- **Digital Technologies**
  Reliance on friends/family to gain digital competency. Lack of digital training access for older people.
  General preference for in-person services (e.g GP appointments and banking).
  Concern over online safety, digital citizenship & inclusion.

- **Climate Change**
  Perception that global warming will impact later generations.
  Concern over affordability of home insurance and accessing health services in extreme weather and floods.
  Communities and climate resilience. Lack of interventions to prepare older adults for impacts of global warming.

Age-Friendliness of existing Place Standard Tool

The PST is a helpful framework for community engagement, but its 14 domains are often seen as time-consuming and sometimes less relevant to older adults—particularly domains like 'local economy' and 'play & recreation'. Critical aspects such as access to healthcare, home adaptations, and informal support networks are missing.

The findings point to the need for a more age-friendly tool that better captures older adults' lived experiences.

Next Steps

- **Participants, Funders and AiP Stakeholders**
  Finalise the current project and report to funders and stakeholders.

- **Partners & Funding**
  Identify further partners and funding opportunities.

- **Timeline Planning**
  Agree a preferred project programme and duration.

- **Funding Application**
  Develop and submit a funding application, with stakeholder and PPIE input and support.

Image References

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[Ageing In] Place

prepared by
Authors

Iain Scott
Sue Lewis
Caroline Pearce
Nuša Farič
Kate Gibson
Paul Kelly

Bryan Woodrow
Jack Robertson
Ewajesu Okewumi
Ryan Woolrych
Catharine Ward Thompson
Ellie Wilkes (Pamphlet Design)

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