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‘Ageing in Place Standard Tool - Project Purpose

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).** Principally around neighbourhood design.

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

Image credit: Age Without Limits Library

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Ageing in Place Standard Tool: Background

- Scottish Place Standard Tool: a recognised “simple framework to structure conversations about place” (The Place Standard tool is a way of assessing places. | Our Place

- We are particularly interested in the physical, spatial and environmental factors of ‘ageing in **place**’ to help with the design of age-friendly places.

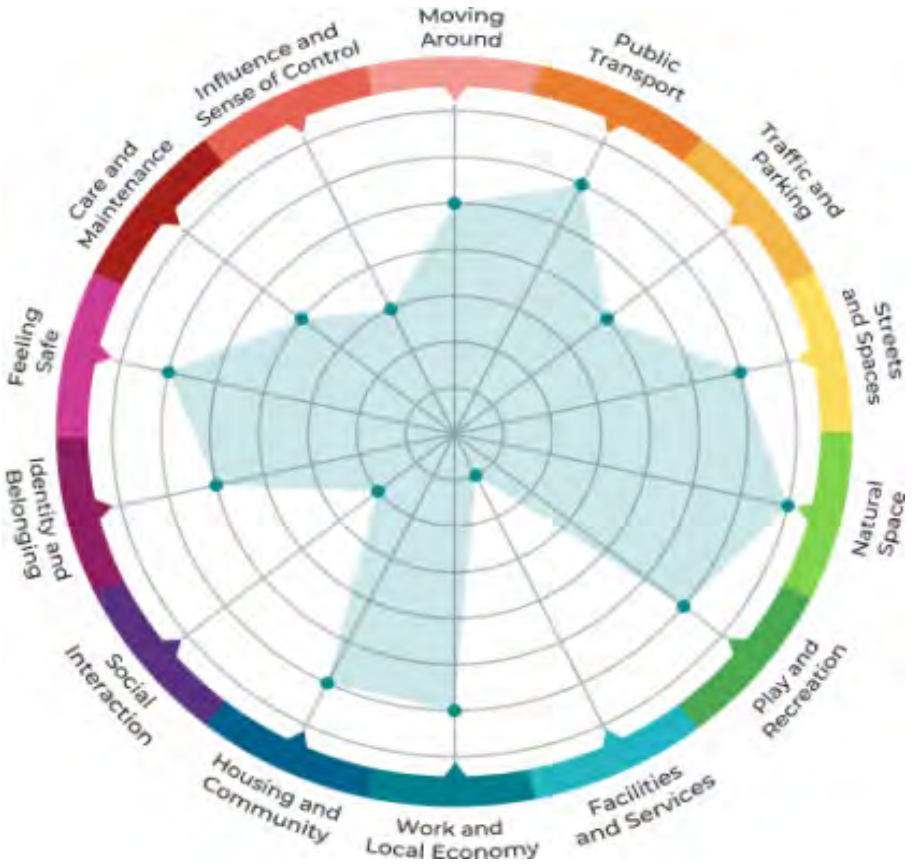

Image credit: Our Place website

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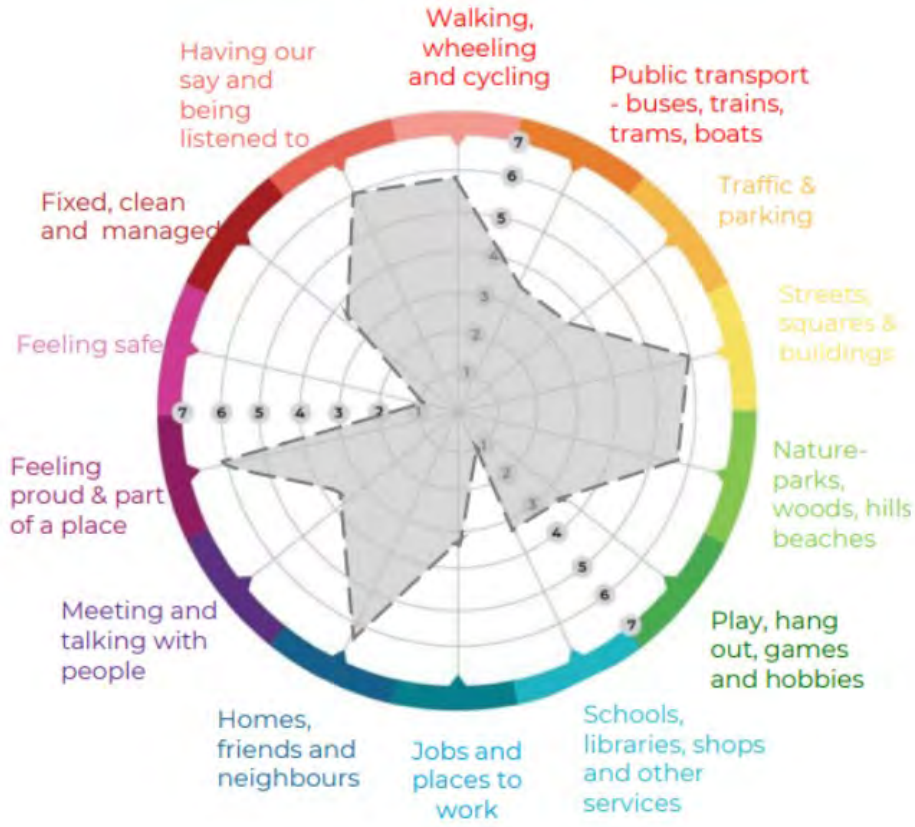
Ageing in Place Standard Tool: Background

PS Children's Version

- Scottish Place Standard Tool has been re-iterated and updated over time to include a series of versions and lenses.
- Children & Young People version/ Design version
- Climate Lens/ Air Quality Lens

- **If the climate emergency and the ageing society are two of the greatest challenges of our age then 'Why not an *Ageing in* Place Standard Tool?'**



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Architecture & Design Scotland
10 Principles of a Caring Place 2019

1. Friendly and Accessible Transport

People have options that are efficient, cost effective and which encourage social interaction. There should be connections between other towns and centres, as not every town can offer everything people need, and inadequate transport between places can be an isolating factor.

Achieved by: Providing green travel options that are safe, reliable, convenient and comfortable. Improving frequency and choice of local transport options that help to connect people and places.

2. Accessible Quality External Environments

Inclusive networks and spaces that support multigenerational interaction. Diverse places to meet, connect and chat. Barrier free, open space for the whole community, within walking distance of homes and workplaces.

Achieved by: Building, enhancing and maintaining a network of accessible social spaces (internal and external) to support intergenerational relationships – supported by communication, events and programming around community need.

3. Digital and Physical Connectivity

Pleasant walkable places supported by technology, services and community.

Achieved by: Extending accessibility options and mobility services. Enabling walking choices through service design and spatial design, supported by innovation in community, partnership and innovative mobility technologies and systems.

4. Housing Choice

Provision of intergenerational housing that offers choice in terms of typology, location and resident connectivity – supported by policy and financing mechanisms (e.g. co-living mortgages).

Achieved by: Regulating and innovating for mixed-tenure neighbourhoods that support community building, changing needs, right-sizing, step down/step up care, social spaces and places for family or friends to stay whilst visiting.

5. Design for Re-purposing and Integrating Technology

Transform failing spaces and buildings by considering opportunities for re-use and repurposing, and developing intelligent systems that optimise the use of latent space and services.

Achieved by: Adaptive and innovative repair and retrofitting of vacant properties. Design support for technology-based wellbeing and care services supported by integrated systems, accessible and easy to use home-based solutions, adaptable infrastructure and local skills.

6. Relationships, Support and Mentoring

For patients, families and care professionals. Encouraging compassion and care for one another and providing community support for technology use to increase confidence and connectivity.

Achieved by: Taking a whole family approach to planning services which supports single households with capability or mixed dependency households. Supported by places to socialise and opportunities to participate with excellent, well connected communication using the different channels users engage with, building better awareness of local opportunities.

7. Accessible and Diverse Amenities and Services

Ensuring that a sufficient number of core services (e.g. banks, libraries, shops, healthcare and publicly accessible toilets) are available and accessible.

Achieved by: Reshaping services, life planning and healthcare around local needs supported by sustainable, distributed wellbeing and community hubs. Connected by technology, partnerships and quality public realm.

8. Empowered Carers and Care Models

Empowering carers with more integrated place-focused services, workforce development and work assignment systems – supported by partnership working with clients, neighbourhoods and communities using smart technologies.

Achieved by: Adopting innovative care models. Using technological systems, solutions and area-specific carer allocation to provide staff with more time for clients and better care.

9. Preventive and Holistic Healthcare Options

Integrated, multidisciplinary and empathetic health and social care. Ensuring patients are listened to and empowered in their care journey.

Achieved by: Curating conversations around the shared identity of the community and the values and expectations to enable people to make informed choices about participation, supported by place-based approaches to decision making.

10. Opportunities for Meaningful Work and Activities

Provide a breadth of opportunities for volunteering, hobbies and skills development to provide fulfilment and a feeling of usefulness – reducing isolation and loneliness for individuals.

Achieved by: Recognising the potential of any individual to be a resource or source of benefit to their wider community. Building programmes of opportunity for work and purposeful activity linked to service provision, volunteering and repurposing spaces on the high street supporting enterprise.

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https://www.ads.org.uk/resource/town-centre-living-ten-principles-caring-place

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Who is Involved?

- ESALA: **Iain Scott, Catharine Ward-Thompson**
- Advanced Care Research Centre ACRC (Edinburgh): **Sue Lewis, Nuša Farič**
- Newcastle University: **Kate Gibson**
- Heriot Watt University: **Ryan Woolrych**
- ACRC PPIE Network: **Paul Kelly, Bryan Woodrow**
- ACRC Academy: **Jack Robertson**
- CAHSS Researcher: **Ewajesu Okewumi**

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Evidence Gap

What exists:

1. **World Health Organisation** (WHO*) Age Friendly Cities Framework* (2007)
2. **Scottish Government** – *Place Standard Tool versions* (2015/ 2021)
3. **The Hague Univ. –** Age-Friendly Cities & Communities Questionnaire (2020-present)
4. **Centre for Ageing Better**- *Age Friendly Handbook & Mapping Tool.* (2025)
5. **Stirling University**-*Environments for Ageing & Dementia Design Assessment Tool:* EADDAT (2022)
6. **Open University**- Van Hoof et al. '*Ten Questions concerning Age-Friendly Cities, Communities & Built Environment* (2022)
7. **Heriot-Watt University**- Woolrych et al. '*Developing Climate Resilient Age-Friendly Cities and Communities: A Place-based Approach'* (2024)

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Project Methods

1. Assess Team existing knowledge around issues of 'Ageing in Place' to see how our papers and publications 'sat within' existing 'Place Standard' domains.
2. Conduct Workshops with members of the public in 3 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.
3. Conduct Stakeholder Interviews with key individuals from different place-making sectors.
4. Project Report.

Image credit: Iain Scott

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Key Findings

Existing Place Standard Tool (PST)

- Extremely useful for structuring conversations between designers, planners and communities.
- 14 domains onerous to complete and analyse results. Some domains more relevant than others to AiP.

What could be inflected more in the PST for older people?

- Accessibility to health services (e.g primary care, pharmacy, opticians etc).
- Affordability and agency of home adaptations.
- Assessing the strength/security and accessibility of social support networks.

Digital Technologies

- Reliance on friends/family connections to gain digital competency.
- Concern over digital citizenship. Digital systems of access to spaces and services.

Climate Change

- Risks to the home from climate events.
- Accessing health services in extreme weather.
- Stakeholders expressed little work has been done by policymakers to prepare older adults for impacts of global warming. Communities and climate resilience.

Image credit: Age Without Limits Library

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Next Steps

- Identify options for full project funding
- Develop and submit a funding application, with stakeholder and PPIE input, and commitments to support from stakeholders.

- In discussions with Public Health Scotland over the creation of a standardised and freely accessible tool for assessing ‘Ageing in Place’ independent of the existing PS suite.

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Public Health Scotland

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A+DS – Ten Principles of a Caring Place in Action

Image credit_ A&DS

1 Cycling Without Age

- Started in Copenhagen and being rolled out across Scotland.
- Volunteers use specially designed cycles (a 'Trishaw') to take elderly people on rides, helping tackle social isolation and along the way create new friendships.

2 Colquhoun Square Helensburgh

- Accessible civic square creating an active local centre for use by all demographics.
- Accessible seating, widened pavements and new surfaces have been installed to help promote outdoor activity.

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3 Neatebox

- Their 'Welcome' app makes staff aware of visitors with specific needs in advance of their arrival.
- 'Button' allows pedestrians with a mobility or visual impairment to automatically push a pedestrian crossing button if out of reach using a smart phone or smart watch.

4 Older Women's Co-housing London

- First co-living development for older women (50+) in the UK.
- Shared common room, guest suite, garden, craft shed and laundry.
- Small service teams have been set up to take care of the building, garden, communal life and outward-facing activities like membership and communication.

5 Blackwood Housing Association

- Specialist provider of housing for disabled people of all ages.
- Tech enabled independence: uses a digital system to manage tenant care provision.
- Enables residents to contact family, access internet and receive reminders of appointments, care visits or medication.

6 Compassionate Frome Somerset

- Connects patients with community support.
- Aims to break the cycle of illness which reduces people's ability to socialise, leading in turn to isolation and loneliness which can exacerbate illness.
- Scheme has reduced emergency admissions in Frome by 30%.

7 Alexandra Park in Manchester

- A Victorian era park which was recently refurbished to become Manchester's first 'age-friendly' park
- Local older residents were consulted as part of the design process.
- Works included: park landscape, benches, buildings, sporting facilities, refurbishment of the pavilion to provide public toilets, a larger flexible community space and a community café.

8 Buurtzorg Model

- Innovative district nursing and home care social enterprise with a successful model of person-centred clinical and personal care through neighbourhood teams of up to 12 nurses and assistants, supporting 40 – 60 clients.
- The teams self-manage within an agreed simple framework to ensure quality care, happy staff and financial sustainability.
- Costlier per hour but lower overall costs because fewer hours needed. Emphasis on preventative care.

9 Realistic Medicine

- Promoted by Chief Medical officer
- Puts the person receiving health and social care support at the centre of decisions.

10 Mehrgenerationenhaus

- German housing model. Provides kindergarten, elderly social centre and drop in centre for young families for coffee and advice.
- Pensioners volunteer, reading books to children and run a 'rent-a-granny' service, while teens show elderly people how to use computers.

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Architecture & Design Scotland
Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

Next Steps

Discussions with Architecture & Design Scotland for accompanying 'design sector' guidance on the design and delivery of age-friendly places including relevant international exemplars.

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