

An Inclusive City for... Older Londoners

Introduction

Many of the barriers and challenges that people face are shared across different groups. As a consequence, the Mayor's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy is structured not by protected characteristics or groups, but around the issues that Londoners face. We also know that many Londoners have complex identities and that some face multiple disadvantages.

We recognise that some issues affect some groups particularly badly, and that many stakeholders and community groups have a focus on working with particular groups. This reader's guide is intended to highlight the sections of the strategy that are particularly relevant to, or make specific reference to, **older Londoners**

The Mayor is already delivering a number of initiatives to address some of the objectives outlined in the strategy, including:

- **Inclusive design:** The principle of inclusive design – which enables everyone to participate equally, confidently and independently in everyday activities by removing the barriers that cause segregation – is informing the work of a number of teams. The London Plan will require all planning applications to have an inclusive design statement.
- **Step-free access:** The Mayor has invested £200 million to make more stations on London's underground network step-free. Transport for London will make more than 30 additional stations step-free by 2020-21 – a 14 percentage point increase in step-free coverage.
- **Concessionary fares:** The Mayor has committed to protect all concessionary fares – including the Freedom Pass and over-60s Oyster Card. The Mayor recently announced that fares will apply on the Elizabeth Line (Crossrail) so all concessions offering free or discounted travel will be valid.

The following sections outline the evidence-based objectives in the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy that will inform the Mayor's work on issues affecting older Londoners:

Chapter 1 covers the Mayor's efforts to make London a great city to live in.

- Section 1.1 (page 19) outlines our strategic objective to help improve the supply of homes available to meet Londoners' diverse housing needs – informed by evidence of how older people suffer from a lack of accessible or adaptable homes.
- Section 1.2 (page 33) outlines our strategic objective to protect and provide the social infrastructure needed by London's diverse communities – informed by evidence of the value that older people place on social, cultural and community infrastructure, such as high streets.

- Section 1.3 (page 37) outlines our strategic objectives to promote the use of inclusive design and to involve those most affected by accessibility issues in response to evidence of the exclusion that older people can face from public spaces and their reliance on accessible public toilets.
- Section 1.4 (page 44) outlines our strategic objectives to ensure that our actions on air quality are informed by an understanding of those most likely to be affected and to ensure our approach to tackling fuel poverty and improving green spaces are inclusive. These objectives are built on an understanding of the damaging effect that poor air quality and fuel poverty can have on older people in particular.

Chapter 3 outlines the Mayor's efforts to make London the best city in the world to work and do business in.

- Section 3.1 (page 71) outlines our strategic objective to help increase the number and diversity of people getting the skills they need – informed by evidence of how older Londoners are disproportionately likely to lack qualifications or basic digital skills.
- Section 3.2 (page 78) outlines our strategic objective to help as many Londoners as possible to benefit from employment opportunities. This responds to evidence of careers advice and guidance being poorly tailored to older people's needs.
- Section 3.3 (page 87) outlines our strategic objective to help ensure London's employers have fair and inclusive employment practices – informed by evidence of how older workers are held back by a lack of flexible employment practices.

Chapter 4 covers the Mayor's work to make London an easier, cheaper and safer city to travel around.

- Section 4.1 (page 97) outlines our strategic objective to address barriers to walking and cycling which evidence suggests are particularly relevant to older Londoners.
- Section 4.2 (page 102) outlines our strategic objective to make transport more affordable – informed by evidence of many older Londoners' reliance on subsidised transport.
- Section 4.3 (page 105) outlines our strategic objectives to promote inclusive design in all transport schemes and to work with Transport for London to increase staff awareness of how to offer an inclusive service. These objectives draw on evidence of the barriers older people face in accessing the transport network and travel information.

- Section 4.4 (page 109) outlines our strategic objective to reduce crime and the fear of crime on our transport networks – informed by evidence of how older people, and older women in particular, are likely to feel unsafe when using public transport.

Chapter 5 outlines the Mayor’s work to help Londoners lead safe, healthy, fulfilling lives.

- Section 5.1 (page 111) outlines our strategic objective to reduce the gap in risks of fire between different communities – where we know that older people are at greater risk of dying from fire.
- Section 5.2 (page 122) outlines our strategic objective to help address health inequalities – including older people’s greater risk of living in food poverty.
- Section 5.3 (page 130) outlines our strategic objectives on tackling barriers to social integration. Here we know that older people can be at risk of experiencing isolation and loneliness, and face cost, travel and time constraints that prevent them from volunteering.
- Section 5.4 (page 137) outlines our strategic objective to help more Londoners experience and engage with the city’s culture. This objective draws on evidence that older people have the lowest participation rates for all cultural venues and are often prevented from experiencing London’s 24-hour culture due to a fear of crime.
- Section 5.4.2 (page 142) outlines our strategic objective to ensure diversity, inclusion and social integration are important principles of the Mayor’s new sport programme and strategy. Data shows that older Londoners are less likely to participate in sporting activities.