



**LIVERPOOL
CITY REGION**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

METROMAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

I am writing to state my support for the application on behalf of Liverpool City Region to become a member of the World Health Organisation Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities.

When I was elected Metro Mayor in 2017, I recognised that we needed to ensure that the diverse voices of the Liverpool City Region were represented throughout our structure; in 2017, I therefore appointed a Mayoral Advisor for Equalities and established a Fairness and Social Justice Advisory Board, which was the first of its kind in the country. The board provides a voice for all parts of our communities and ensures the voices of older people are represented around the table.

I have also been pleased to support the development of the LCR Older Peoples Group and an organic and self-organised voice for the sector.

In addition to this, devolution in the Liverpool City Region gives us the opportunity to tackle issues relating to ageing. We ensure that all our policies and practices take into account the impact on, and provide support for, older people in our City Region.

We are currently developing our Local Industrial Strategy, which specifically addresses the challenge of an ageing population and workforce, and our Innovative Wealth and Wellbeing project picks up many of the themes associated with health and ageing.

We have also taken specific steps to support older people in our society including:-

- Providing the most generous public transport concessionary travel scheme outside of London
- Introducing our new fleet of trains on the Merseyrail network, which will be the most accessible rail fleet in the country, with an ongoing programme of station improvements to improve accessibility
- Consulting directly with older peoples groups when developing our Local Industrial Strategy and our Spatial Development Strategy.

We would welcome the opportunity to share what we are doing, and perhaps more importantly, to learn from the experiences of others around the world.

I hope you judge the Liverpool City Region to be a beneficial addition to the global network of age-friendly cities, and that you appreciate our potential to contribute to, and benefit from, an international platform.

Yours sincerely

Steve Rotheram
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