



Southern Age Well Network

Annual Report 2024-25



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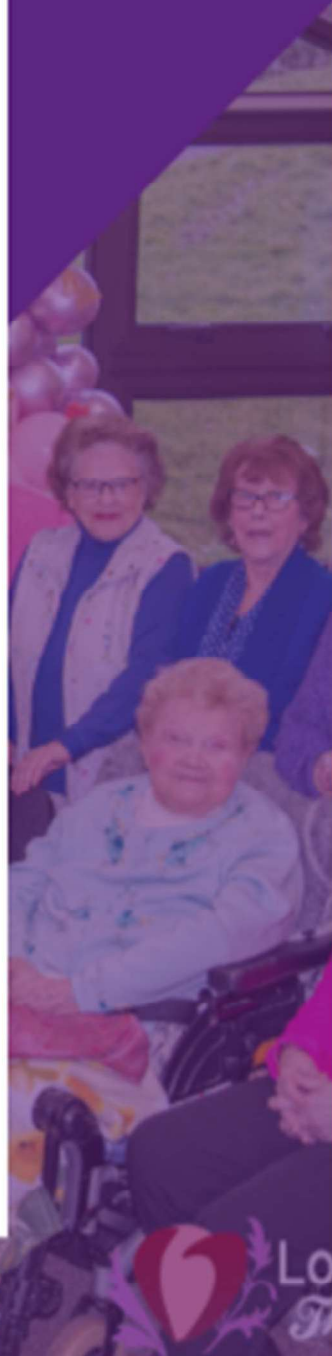
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Introduction

Welcome to the Southern Age Well Network's annual report! We're excited to share the incredible progress we've made in supporting almost 3000 older adults in our community.

This year, we've focused on growing our funding base and expanding our reach to help more seniors access resources and services. This year saw staff secure £316,798 for 52 groups, demonstrating the incredible value of our service. For every pound Southern Health and Social Care Trust invested in our organisation, SAWN generated £5.59 in return.

93 referrals from 10 different sources throughout the year were contacted and given information on local services and upcoming events, some were introduced to member groups and others were signposted to relevant services. The social value of this aspect of our work can not be underestimated, positively changing local older people's lives.

We're thrilled to see the positive impact we've had on countless individuals and our 75 member groups, and we're looking forward to even greater achievements in the future.

Funding Highlights

This year's funding saw a record-breaking surge in grants secured with our member groups. Staff worked with 52 groups on 118 applications securing £316,798 for activities, transport, equipment and resources.

Funding Achievements



Increased Funding

Total funding surpassed last year's figures by 34%.



New Partnerships

We partnered with new organisations to expand our reach and strengthened existing partnerships including Age Friendly, supporting Positive Ageing and Chat & Connect events.



Grant Success

We secured a major grant to support our new training initiative to support group volunteers from Dormant Assets NI delivered by The National Lottery.



Group Support

Empowering Communities

We're passionate about empowering local groups to thrive and make a difference in their communities.



Throughout the year, we provided a range of resources and support to help groups achieve their goals. This has been accomplished through ongoing impact assessment, consultation and strong partnerships with our community & volunteers. Our staff provides governance support, helping groups maintain open and ethical processes, in line with official guidance. Volunteers play a vital role in shaping decisions and policies ensuring accountability & transparency under rigorous scrutiny. Group support is our key focus, creating a strong well resourced Network with older people across Newry and Mourne.

Our efforts focus on providing training, mentorship, and networking opportunities, allowing groups to collaborate and learn from each other.

This collaborative approach fosters innovation and creates a sense of community among groups.





Impact & Future

Our collective efforts have resulted in tangible improvements in the lives of many. Working with communities to focus on proactive measures to prevent health issues related to ageing and improve overall well-being in older people. This also reduces loneliness, tackles isolation, while helping older people retain independence and keeping them at home for as long as possible.

Referrals from primary care teams increased three-fold resulting in 93 isolated older people being connected to groups and services.

Key Outcomes



Community Growth

We saw a significant increase in community engagement through our 75 member groups.



Improved Services

Local groups expanded their services to meet community needs, offering a range of activities and volunteer opportunities.



Enhanced Skills

Groups gained valuable skills and knowledge through training in Safeguarding Adults at Risk, Loneliness, & Emergency First Aid.



Events



Positive Ageing

This event held during Positive Ageing Week in October saw 264 older people connect with 80 local and regional organisations to improve access to services.



Chat and Connect

Two Chat and Connect events held in Crossmaglen and Bessbrook invited 104 older people to access information and support from 15 agencies.



Connecting Generations

Southern Age Well Network connect older peoples groups with local schools and youth groups to improve intergenerational understanding.



Summary

This year has been a remarkable journey for Southern Age Well Network, marked by significant achievements in fundraising and supporting groups.

We've made a tangible difference in the lives of countless older people, empowering them to lead fulfilling lives and thrive in their communities.



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COMMUNITY FUND**

Southern Age Well Network would like to thank our funders and supporters

