

Decision Making Lens

The goal of this framework is to guide decision making through an Age-friendly lens. The principles and considerations have been identified to promote and support the inclusion of older adults in all areas of civic life. Through building these principles into plans, policies and daily work we will move Kitchener closer to being a community in which we can all “live well and age well.”

Prepare

Prior to engaging in decision making processes, do we have a clear understanding of the:

- Populations impacted? (age, abilities, geography, income, gender, diversity)
- Pros and cons?
- Long-term benefits and outcomes?

Communicate and Understand

Who and when do we need to engage?

How are we going to engage?

How do we communicate engagement opportunities?

Are the methods of engagement accessible and appropriate for the population impacted?

Communicate and Inform

Following the decision did we?

- Inform those impacted of the outcomes?
- Communicate the new decision to stakeholders using varied methods of communication? (digital, print, face-to-face, telephone)
- Determine ways to evaluate the outcomes and impacts of the decision?

Reflect

Age-friendly Principles

Is the process, policy, program or service?

- Accessible (Barrier free, convenient, welcoming, accommodating)
- Safe (Secure, physically, emotionally, risk-free)
- Affordable (Cost effective, good value, reasonable, attainable, fee assistance)
- Inclusive (Geographically, culturally, linguistically, appropriate for diverse needs and backgrounds)

If no, then the decision might not be age-friendly and additional consideration or planning in one of the 4 principles is required.

Age-friendly Considerations

If yes, does this process, policy, program or service also promote?

- Civic engagement
- Independence
- Social connections within neighbourhoods and/or the community
- Intergenerational connections
- A positive image of aging