



MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (CPSP) MEETING
HELD IN THE BANBRIDGE CHAMBER OF ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE & CRAIGAVON
BOROUGH COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 23 AUGUST 2023 AT 10.10AM

- PRESENT:** Colette Rogers (Chair) PHA
- OFFICIAL PARTNERS:**
- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| ABC Council | Elaine Gillespie |
| ABC Council | Cllr Julie Flaherty |
| ABC Council | Cllr Peter Lavery |
| DfC | Simon Sloan |
| Invest NI, (Chair - Place Board) | Ethna McNamee |
| Libraries NI | Evelyn Hanna |
| NIHE | Sinead Collins |
| PSNI | Sergeant Karen Ross |
| SRC | Catriona Regan |
- APOLOGIES:**
- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| ABC Council | Jonathan Hayes |
| ABC Council | Michelle Markey |
| ABC Council | Emma O'Carroll |
| ABC Council | Lissa O'Malley |
| CCMS | Shirley McKenna |
| Craigavon Foodbank & CVSP Steering Group | Chris Leech |
| DfC | Sorcha Hassay |
| DoH | Sophie Lusby |
| Libraries NI | Adrienne Adair |
| Links Counselling & CVSP Steering Group & Vice Chair, Councillor Kevin Savage, of Promoting Good Mental Wellbeing Sub-Committee | Laura Wylie |
| Millenium Court & CVSP | Geraldine Lawless |
| NIFRS | Dermot Rooney |
| NIHE | Catherine McFarland |
| PSNI | Brendan Green |
| SHSCT | Lesley Leeman |
| SHSCT | Gerard Rocks |
| Sport NI | John Hart |
| Tourism NI | Martin Graham |
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Jennie Dunlop, Community and Strategic Planning Manager (online)
Jennifer McKibben, Project Officer: Community Planning
Jessica Bennett, Statistical Data Analysis Officer
Paula Wilson, Democratic Services Officer
- ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Donna Stewart, Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau (Vice Chair – Shared Leadership & Community Engagement Sub-Committee)
Seamus McCrory, ABC Council (Chair – Tackling Poverty & Social Exclusion Sub-Committee)



Martin Stevenson, Salvation Army/Steering Group (Vice Chair –
Tackling Poverty & Social Exclusion Sub-Committee)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Welcome

The Chair, Colette Rogers, welcomed all present to the meeting, noting that there had been some changes in membership since the previous meeting: Councillors Julie Flaherty and Peter Lavery were attending their first meeting of the Partnership; Sharon McNicholl from ABC Council had recently taken up a new position with Belfast City Council and Colin Loughrin had stepped down from the CMV Panel leaving the Vice Chair position vacant. Members also noted the absence of Geraldine Lawless, who would be taking some time off following a close family bereavement. Best wishes and condolences were sent to all involved.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Adrienne Adair, Libraries NI, Brendan Greene, PSNI, Martin Graham, Tourism NI, John Hart, Sport NI, Sorcha Hassay, DfC, Jonathan Hayes, ABC Council, Geraldine Lawless, Millennium Court/CVSP Chair, Chris Leech, Craigavon Foodbank/CVSP Steering Group, Lesley Leeman, SHSCT, Sophie Lusby, DoH, Michelle Markey, ABC Council, Catherine McFarland, NIHE, Shirley McKenna, CCMS, Emma O'Carrol, ABC Council, Lissa O'Malley, ABC Council, Gerard Rocks, SHSCT, Dermot Rooney, NIFRS and Laura Wylie, Links Counselling/CVSP Steering Group.

NOTED.

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting on 04 April 2023.

Minutes of the Community Planning Strategic Partnership (CPSP) meeting on 04 April 2023.

AGREED: on the proposal of Catriona Regan, seconded by Ethna McNamee, that the Minutes of the Community Planning Strategic Partnership (CPSP) meeting on 04 April 2023, having been previously circulated, be confirmed and signed off as a correct record.

3. STATEMENT OF PROGRESS & REVIEW OF POPULATION

- **Report CPSP-23-04**

Jessica Bennett, ABC Council, guided Partners through this element of the report and delivered a short presentation on findings – See **Appendix 1**.

The Chair thanked the Officers involved on a very comprehensive and useful presentation.



Partners welcomed the focus on the educational achievements of young people, in particular those in receipt of free school meals, and noted the key factors affecting educational achievement: family structure, social deprivation and gender.

Whilst there would be no suite of indicators that would capture all the necessary information, it was felt that the indicators proposed would assist with the measuring and tracking of progress across the board.

In response to a query, Partners noted that the free schools meals scheme was operated by Central Government and that information pertaining to the scheme was useful in terms of directing lobbying activity and funding needs towards those schools where additional support was most needed.

It was further noted that other Community Planning Partnerships were using similar indicators for poverty and mental health and wellbeing and as such the three new indicators would provide an opportunity to compare progress against other areas once all Statements of Progress had been submitted to DfC in November.

Partners were encouraged to consider what actions could be taken as a result of any data gathered and how it might be fed back centrally in a co-ordinated and effective way. It was agreed that the matter be considered at Chairs' Group and feedback to a later meeting of the Partnership.

AGREED: by consensus, that CPSP use the three indicators detailed within the report for poverty and mental health and wellbeing to report on in the Statement of Progress for 2021-2023

4. **SHARED LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE: TAKE500+ PB EVALUATION**

- **Report CPSP-23-05**

Partners received a brief overview of the report and watched a short video on the success of the programme which can be viewed at

<https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/take500plus/>

It was noted that an extensive evaluation of the programme had been conducted by Dr O'Kane. An executive summary and copy of the recommendations contained within the report had been circulated previously. These recommendations had been further considered by the Shared Leadership Engagement Sub-Committee.

The key points raised by the Sub-Committee were as follows:

- Direction for Year 3 needed to be considered by the PB Working Group.
- Viability of funding pool? – estimated budget of £100K required.
- 3 funding partners confirmed. More contributions would be required.
- Partners to consider building PB into their own organisational Business Plans to help facilitate ongoing delivery of the Partnership's PB programme.



- Further Partnership investment required in staffing terms to run programme as it had grown beyond what could be facilitated by the Community Planning Team alone.
- Learning event to be held in October to help educate and inform on the PB programme.

Partners were advised that the results from an upcoming Internal Audit of the programme by ABC Council would be referred to the Sub-Committee for consideration.

Councillor Flaherty expressed her continued support for the programme but expressed concerns around the viability of the funding pot and whether the programme would be seen as just another funding stream or a “top up” to FAP provision. She hoped that the scheme would retain its unique and special feeling.

Partners noted that if the target figure of £100K was not achieved, then it would be up to the PB Working Group to reconsider and make recommendations to the Partnership based on the funding pot available.

The Chair concurred with Councillor Flaherty’s comments, reiterating that PB was not just a grants process and would continue to evolve. It would require money but also other resources. It would be important to demonstrate to potential funding organisations the huge return on investment, not just in monetary terms but also on the community impact, the involvement of people living within the area and their sense of ownership of the projects.

Following further discussion, in response to points raised by Partners, it was noted that:

- The group with the lowest number of voters was the 16-24 age group.
- A key element of the scheme was local community involvement in decision making.
- Future consideration may be given to sustainable social enterprise models.
- DfC had advised PB would be looked at as part of the People and Places Review and could potentially be considered under the Community Planning / Neighbourhood Renewal umbrella.
- A workshop was planned by the People and Place Review Team to explore potential links between the new People and Place Strategy and community planning. The Workshop would be an opportunity to promote PB as a delivery mechanism.

AGREED by consensus that:

- CPSP endorse the recommendations of the Tak£500+Evaluation and Learning Report;
- CPSP host a learning event to disseminate the findings of the Tak£500+ Evaluation and Learning Report; and
- That delegated authority be given to the Shared Leadership and Community Engagement Subcommittee to approve the design and delivery of a further PB process.



NOTED:

Partners were asked to advise:

- Community Planning Officers of their intended level of contribution to the next PB process by 25 September 2023, and
- The level of enterprise support available to PB applicants for promotion of projects and ideas.

The Chair thanked all present for their input and encouraged Partners to think creatively, noting that whilst some Partners may not be able to contribute in financial terms, they may have skilled members of staff whose expertise or experience would be useful.

5. PLACE BOARD – DRAFT BANBRIDGE PLACE PLAN

- **Report CPSP-23-06**

Jennifer McKibben delivered a detailed presentation on the Draft Banbridge Place Plan - See **Appendix 2**.

The Chair thanked Officers and contributing Partners for their efforts on what was clearly a huge volume of work.

Partners noted the inclusion of short, medium and long-term, aspirational plans with the Place Plan, some of which had been included within previous Masterplan documents. Partners were reminded that there was no pot of money available for completion of these projects, and that Place Plans were developed on the understanding that it would be up to CPSP to lobby for and drive the projects forward and to push for inclusion on the regional agenda. Partners took note of the weight of responsibility on the Partnership and on the Place Board Sub-Committee to drive the matter forward.

Following discussion, it was noted that:

- There had been significant consultation between the Economic Development Unit of ABC Council, and CPSP in the development of the Place Plan, noting similarities to Urban ABC.
- The Armagh Place Plan had been completed. Banbridge was under development. Next to be considered was Dromore, then Portadown, Craigavon and Lurgan.
- In response to community demand, an Officer from ABC Council was investigating the provision of private and community allotments.
- Whilst the Place Plans did not provide funding to develop the projects detailed, they provided clear direction on the desires of the local communities and would strengthen the case of such projects moving forward.
- The full Place Plan document would be circulated to Partners and Banbridge District Elected Members later that day for consideration.
- The Digital Hub at SRC was available for us by the wider community.

AGREED: that the Place Board Sub Committee be granted delegated to consider the draft Banbridge Place Plan and approve it, subject to any amendments.



The meeting adjourned for a short break at 11.45am.

Councillor Julie Flaherty and Councillor Peter Lavery retired from the meeting at this time.

**6. TACKLING POVERTY & SOCIAL EXCLUSION SUB-COMMITTEE
PEACEPLUS & DFC PEOPLE & PLACE WORKSHOP NOMINEE**

- **Report CPSP-23-07**

Seamus McCrory from ABC Council, Simon Sloan, DfC, and Martin Stevenson, Salvation Army, elaborated on the key elements of this report.

The Chair suggested that there should be one statutory representative and one voluntary agency representative nominated to attend the workshop to ensure that all of the links covered in previous discussions were being presented at that table and asked that Partners express their interest directly with Jennie Dunlop within the next week.

AGREED: that the Partnership nominate two representatives to attend a Community Planning Workshop with the DfC People and Place Review team.

NOTED: that the invite be emailed to all Elected Members for their consideration.

The Chair thanked the Sub-Committee Chairs for their comprehensive updates, noting the challenging work being undertaken.

Debate ensued regarding Asylum Seekers' right to work. Partners endeavored to seek clarity on the matter and it was noted that Simon Sloan, DfC, would share a link to the NI Executive Office Strategy on the issue.

NOTED.

**7. INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM FOR HEALTH SYSTEM AND SOUTHERN REGION TEST
SITE AREA INTEGRATED PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

It was noted that a number of Partners were involved in the pilot including Elaine Gillespie, Geraldine Lawless, Laura Wiley and Leslie Leeman and that the Southern Trust area was the first AIPB to be set up and run as a test pilot. The Board was due to produce an outline Action Plan in September and therefore it was suggested that a representative be invited to the November Partnership meeting to deliver a presentation.

AGREED: to invite a representative from the test AIPB and/or DoH to make a presentation to at the next meeting of the Partnership in November 2023.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CO-CHAIRS OF REGIONAL COMMUNITY PLANNING
WORKING GROUP**

- **Report CPSP-23-08**



Elaine Gillespie guided Partners through the correspondence received and the specific recommendations contained therein were noted. Officers believed no specific actions were necessary to address the general recommendations made. It was advised that the

Partnership's Statement of Progress was upcoming, and Partners were asked to provide any feedback on operational improvements if necessary.

The letter also requested a nomination from the Partnership onto the Regional Data Working Group.

AGREED: that ABC Council's Data Analyst be nominated onto the regional Data Working Group.

9. CORRESPONDENCE WITH PSG/SOLACE REGARDING FUNDING CHALLENGES FACING COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND THE IMPACT ON COMMUNITY PLANNING

NOTED.

Donna Stewart expressed gratitude on behalf of the voluntary sector for having corresponded with PSG/SOLACE on the matter.

10. AOB

10.1 Step-Up Programme

Catriona Regan, SRC, gave Partners a brief overview of the Step-Up Programme being delivered by the 6 regional colleges, aimed at the economically inactive, and advised that further details on same would be distributed to Partners for their information.

Partners briefly discussed opportunities for work placement provision and if opportunities could be sought amongst Partners for same.

NOTED.

10.2 Role of Vice Chair of CPSP

Partners were advised that the role of Vice Chair remained vacant. In the absence of any objections, it was:

NOTED: that a representative of ABC Council would assume the role of the Vice Chair of CPSP.

10.3 PSNI Current Priorities for the ABC Area

Karen Ross, PSNI, provided Partners with a brief overview of current priorities within the ABC area including anti-social behaviour, violence against women and girls and drug use and the issue associated therein.

The Chair advised Partners that work was ongoing amongst health-related organisations to provide updates and issue alerts regarding current drug circulation and what could be done



from a treatment and management perspective. Further noted that this alert system was operational across Northern Ireland.

10.4 Banbridge Library – Out of Hours Service

Evelyn Hanna, Libraries NI, advised Partners that the Banbridge Library Out of Hours Service was almost ready to become operational, increasing the hours of access to users to a total of 50 hours. Security personnel would be onsite outside of normal opening hours along with CCTV and monitored user access.

11. CLOSE

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 29 November 2023 at 10.00 am with a venue to be confirmed.

The business having been completed, the meeting concluded at 12.45 pm.



ABC Community Planning Strategic Partnership
Meeting
23 August 2023



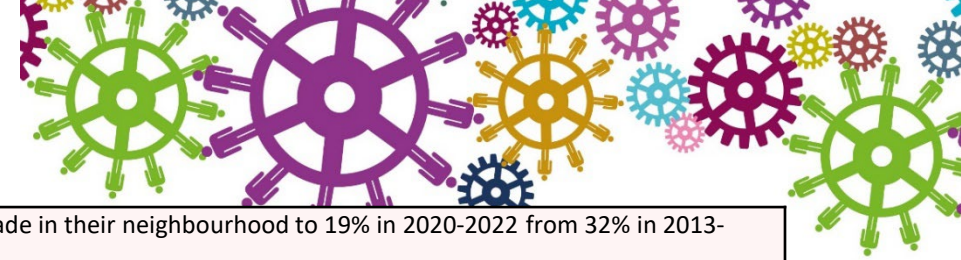
Update on 2021-2023 Statement of Progress

CONNECTED: Summary of Outcomes and Population Indicators



OUTCOME	POPULATION INDICATORS
<p>Confident Community: Everyone has opportunities to engage in community life and shape decisions – we have a strong sense of community belonging and take pride in our area.</p> <p>Healthy Community: People are making positive lifestyle choices. They are more resilient and better equipped to cope with life’s challenges.</p> <p>Welcoming Community: Our borough is a safe, respectful and peaceful environment.</p>	<p>COMMUNITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of people who feel that they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made in their neighbourhood. • % of people who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood. • No. of preventable deaths per 100,000 population. • Gap in life expectancy between the most deprived areas and the borough overall. • % of people who participate in sport or physical activity on at least one day a week. • % of people reporting that fear of crime has a minimal impact on their quality of life. • % of people who see town centres as safe welcoming places for people of all walks of life. • No. of accidental dwelling fires
<p>Enterprising Economy: Our borough is a centre for entrepreneurship, innovation and investment.</p> <p>Skilled Economy: People are better equipped to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the dynamic economy.</p> <p>Tourism Economy: Our borough is the destination of choice for international visitors.</p>	<p>ECONOMY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses. • Business birth rates. • Survival rates of newly born businesses. • % of the workforce in employment qualified to level 1 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above, and level 4 and above. • Employment rate (age 16-64). • No. of overnight trips made by visitors from outside Northern Ireland.
<p>Creative Place: Our borough is an inspirational and creative place offering quality, inclusive arts and cultural experiences.</p> <p>Enhanced Place: Our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for current and future generations to enjoy.</p> <p>Revitalised Place: Our distinctive and vibrant urban and rural areas are at the heart of community and economic life.</p>	<p>PLACE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of people (aged 16+) engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year. • No. of buildings at risk saved. • No. of high quality parks/green spaces (those holding Green Flag Award Status®) • City and town centre vacancy rates. • Level of social housing need

Progress towards outcomes - Summary



COMMUNITY	Influencing decisions	↓	Decrease in the % of people who feel they have an influence on decisions made in their neighbourhood to 19% in 2020-2022 from 32% in 2013-2015.
	Sense of belonging	↓	Decrease in the % of people feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood to 84% in 2020-22 from 90% in 2013-2015.
	Preventable deaths	↔	The number of preventable deaths per 100,000 population increased slightly to 163 in 2017-2021.
	Health inequalities - females	↔	The gap in life expectancy between those living in the most deprived areas increased slightly from 1 year in 2012-2014 to 1.3 years in 2019-2021.
	Health inequalities - males	↔	The gap in life expectancy between those living in the most deprived areas has remained relatively stable from 3.3 years in 2012-2014 to 3.2 years in 2017- 2019.
	Sport & physical activity	↑	The percentage of people who participate in sport on at least one day per week has increased from 45% in 2012/13-2014/15 to 56% in 2019/20.
	Fear of crime	↑	73% of people report that fear of crime has a minimal impact on their quality of life, up from 69% in 2015/16.
	Town and city centres	↓	The % of people who saw town centres as safe & welcoming for people from all walks of life decreased to 49% in 2020-2022 from 71% in 2014-2016.
	Accidental dwelling fires	↑	There were fewer accidental dwelling fires (63) in 2022 than in 2016 (86).
ECONOMY	Business numbers	↑	The no. of VAT &/or PAYE registered businesses increased to 9,390 in 2023.
	Business birth rates	↑	Business birth rates increased to 11% in 2021, up from 8% baseline in 2014.
	Business survival rates	↑	Business survival rates increased.
	Skill levels	↑	% of the workforce in employment and qualified in all 4 levels increased.
	Employment rate	↑	% of the workforce in employment increased from 68% in 2013 to 71% in 2021.
	Overnight trips	--	No new data available
PLACE	Arts and cultural participation	↓	The % of people (aged 16+) engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year has fallen.
	Buildings at risk	↑	The total number of buildings at risk saved has increased from 21 in 2016 to 30 in 2022.
	Parks & green spaces	↓	8 parks and green spaces were awarded the Green Flag Award in 2023.
	City & town centre vacancy rates	↑	City and town centre vacancy rates decreased in all centres except Craigavon where they increased, but remained lower than all other town/city centres in the borough.
	Social housing need	↓	Level of Social Housing Need has increased to 1,101 units for the period 2022-2027, an increase of 799 from 2015-20.



Indicators for Consideration

Poverty

- Percentage of Children (aged under 16) living in Relative Low Income Families
- GCSE Attainment Levels for students entitled to free school meals (FSME)

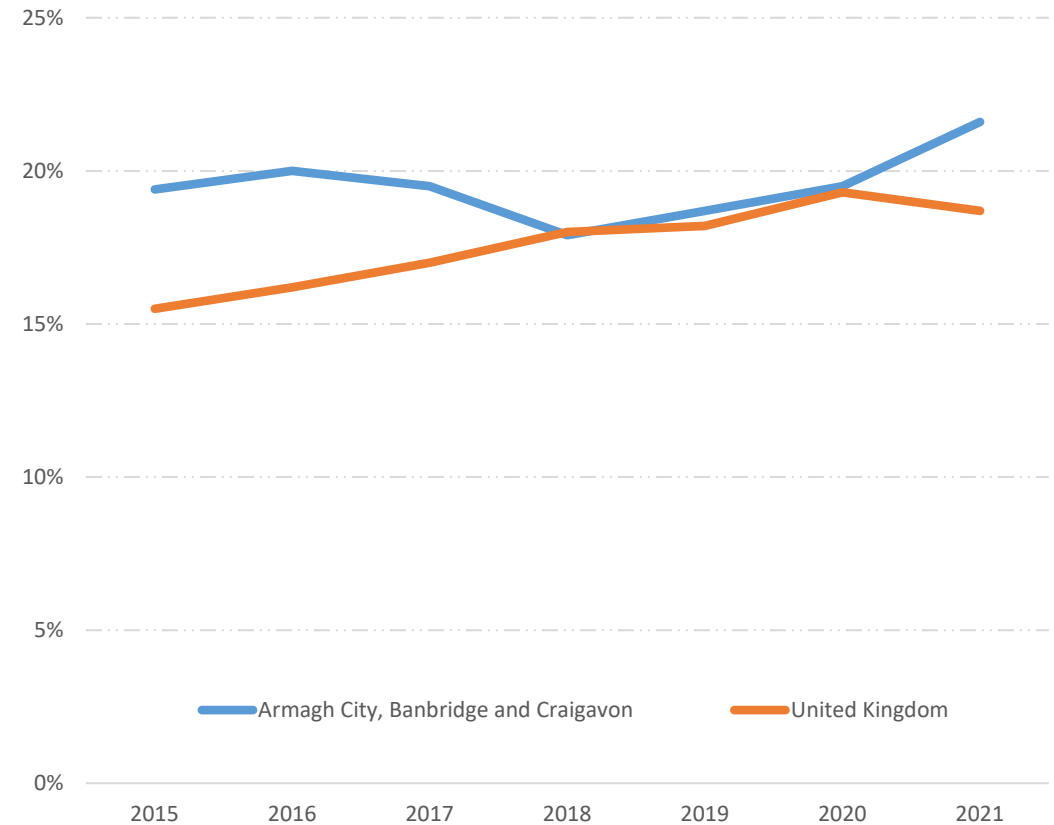
Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

- Standardised prescription rate – mood and anxiety disorders



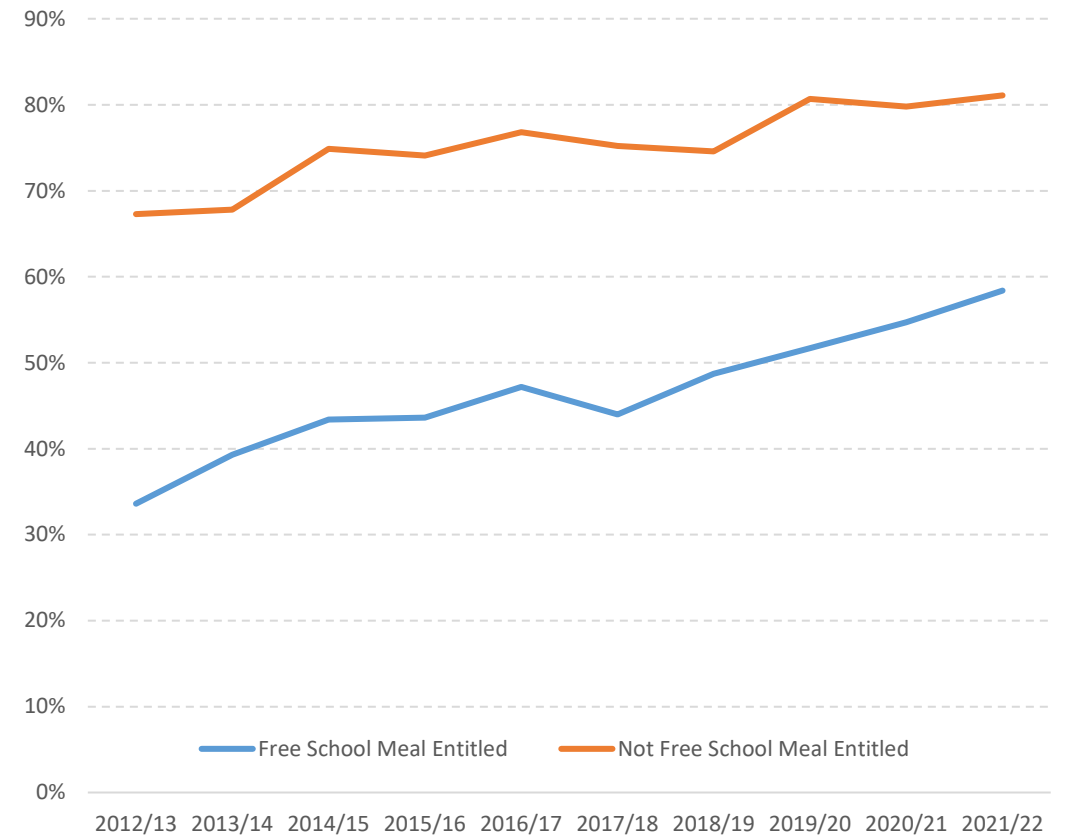
Percentage of Children (aged under 16) living in Relative Low Income Families

- ❑ Released annually by the Department for Work and Pensions, ONS
- ❑ Available at LGD level
- ❑ Derived from analysis of multiple administrative sources of benefit, tax credit and earnings data.
- ❑ Currently used by two CPPs in NI.
- ❑ The statistics are a measure of children and cannot be used to obtain the number of low-income families
- ❑ In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon in 2021 approximately 21.6% of children aged 0-15 were living in families with relative low income compared to approximately 18.7% in the UK overall.



GCSE Attainment Levels for students entitled to free school meals (FSME)

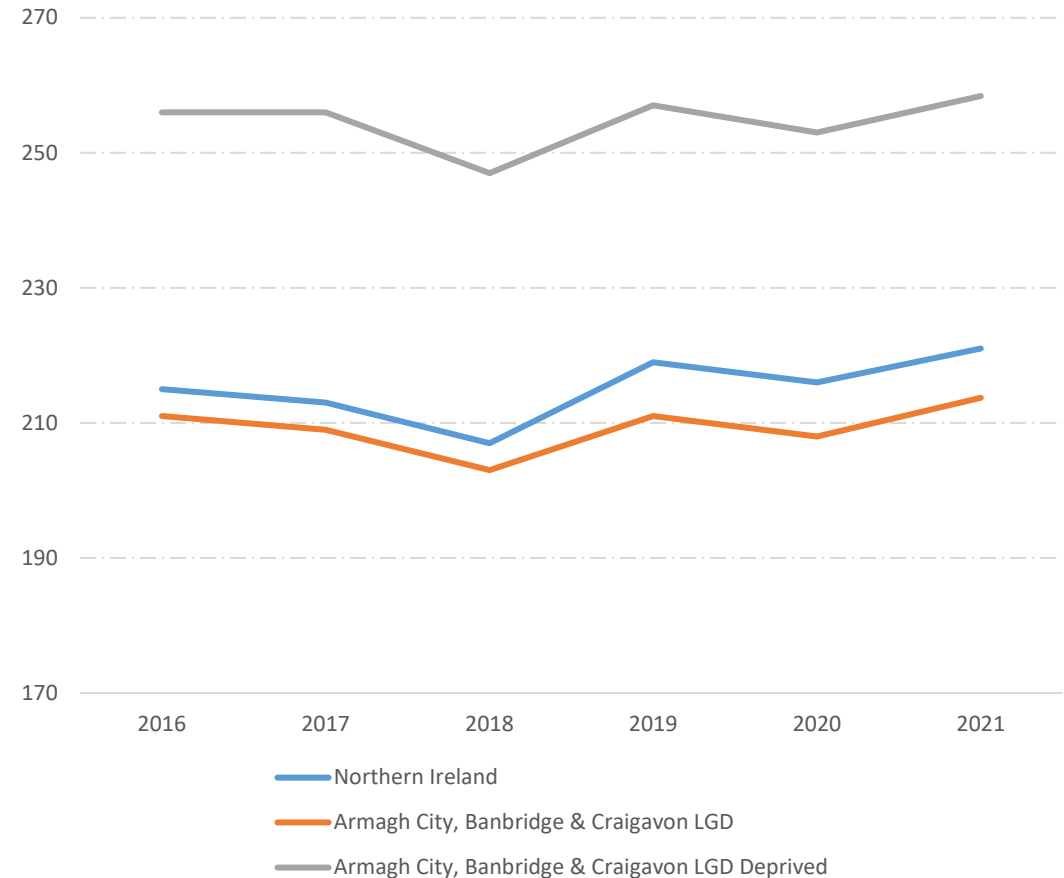
- ❑ Data from the School Leavers Survey which is released annually by the Department of Education, NI.
- ❑ Data coverage is 100%
- ❑ Free school meals are available to children from families meeting certain eligibility criteria and FSME is widely used as a proxy indicator for deprivation in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales.
- ❑ Some concerns about FSME as a measure of deprivation as it may under-report deprivation.
- ❑ This is a forward looking measure.
- ❑ Not currently used by any other CPP.
- ❑ In 2021/22, 81.1% of Non-FSME leavers achieved 5+ GCSE grades A*-C including GCSE English and Maths while for those children entitled to free school meals, just 58.4% of leavers achieve 5+ GCSE grades A*-C including GCSE English and Maths.





Standardised prescription rate – mood and anxiety disorders

- Released annually in the Health Inequalities Report, Department of Health
- Recorded as a mental health indicator in the Health Inequalities Annual Report.
- Allows for comparison between the 20% most deprived areas in the borough.
- Currently used by five CPPs in NI.
- In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon in 2021 approximately 21.4% of the population were being prescribed medication for mood and anxiety disorders.
- The standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety disorders is now the highest it has been of the years presented.
- There remains a significant gap between the most and least deprived areas of the borough with more than one in every 4 people prescribed medication for mood and anxiety disorders in the deprived areas.





693 PEOPLE
INVOLVED IN
THE PLACE PLAN

Have VISION. Think outside of the box and DO NOT follow what other towns are doing. You need to make Banbridge DIFFERENT to other towns that way people will come for a different experience that can not be had elsewhere. // Survey response



245 RESPONDENTS
ACROSS TWO ONLINE SURVEYS

113 YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED
57 OLDER PEOPLE ENGAGED



17 MEETINGS
AND INTERVIEWS

21 DROP-INS
AT THE POP UP
PLACE LAB

6 WORKSHOPS
(ONLINE AND
IN-PERSON)

3 POP-UPS AT
COMMUNITY
EVENTS

2 DISCOVERY
WALKS

VISION FOR BANBRIDGE



An **inspiring** market town, where generations-old, family-run **independent** businesses are thriving, alongside multinational businesses and exciting markets



A town of **innovative** industries and active citizens, makers, and discoverers, that celebrate and share its rich heritage and make it an even better place to live



An **inviting** hub of opportunity, and place to recharge along the Belfast Dublin Economic Corridor (BDEC)




A town that places **importance** on its river, as a source of leisure, biodiversity and green power



5 THEMATIC CLUSTERS AND BIG IDEAS

THEMATIC CLUSTER	BIG IDEA
ARTS, HERITAGE AND LEISURE	Extend F.E McWilliam Gallery & Studio
	More Sports and Activity Opportunities
	Historic Plaza in Church Square
GREEN INNOVATION	A Collaborative Sustainable Transport Audit
	Banbridge as an EV Charging Point Stop-Off Hub
SPACES, PLACES AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	Link Riverside Walk to Church Square and Solitude Park
	Bridge Havelock Park to Huntly Wood
	New Gateway Features
LIVING HERE	Mixed Tenure Housing Developments
	Cycling Network including the Delivery of Banbridge to Scarva Greenway Proposal
	Places to Grow Together – Allotments, Community Garden and Sensory Gardens
HIGH STREET AND INVESTING	Digital Creative Innovation Hub
	Improved Evening Economy Offering

Date	Details
August	Meeting with Community Planning Strategic Partnership Place Board Sub Committee to approve Draft Banbridge Place Plan
September	Draft Banbridge Place Plan will be presented at GRS Committee and Full Council for approval
October - December	Draft Banbridge Place Plan - public consultation. There will be a programme of engagement activities during this period.
December – January 2024	Findings of the consultation will be analysed and incorporated. Place Plan will undergo final edits.
January	Meeting with Community Planning Strategic Partnership and Place Board subcommittee to approve final version of Banbridge Place Plan
February	Banbridge Place Plan will be presented at GRS Committee and Full Council for approval.
March	Launch of Banbridge Place Plan



Next Steps



Questions