

# STATEMENT OF PROGRESS: 2021-2023

## PART 1: POPULATION INDICATORS

### CONNECTED **A COMMUNITY PLAN**

for Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough



# 01 COMMUNITY

Confident  
Healthy  
Welcoming

At the heart  
of all we do...

**Connectivity**  
**Equality**  
**Sustainability**

## PLACE

Creative  
Enhanced  
Revitalised

# 03

# 02

## ECONOMY

Enterprising  
Skilled  
Tourism

### CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Throughout the development of the community plan, there were three things that were so important that they could not sit on their own and these are the cross-cutting themes of the plan:



#### CONNECTIVITY

We believe connectivity is integral to improving quality of life. Through our plan we will work to transform and connect all areas of our borough physically, digitally and socially through shared collaborative approaches.



#### EQUALITY

We are committed to promoting equality, good relations, and inclusion and believe them to be central to improving quality of life for everyone. A peaceful and inclusive society is vital to ensuring that we have a welcoming, confident and safe community.



#### SUSTAINABILITY

We will work to improve everyone's quality of life economically, environmentally and socially, without compromising our future generations' ability to develop, grow and flourish. We will screen our plan to ensure our outcomes and actions are sustainable.



# CONNECTED: Summary of Outcomes and Population Indicators

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

# PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES SUMMARY

COMMUNITY	<b>Influencing decisions</b>	▼	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.
	<b>Sense of belonging</b>	▼	Decrease in the % of people feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood to 84% in 2020-22 from 90% in 2013-2015.
	<b>Preventable deaths</b>	—	The number of preventable deaths per 100,000 population increased slightly to 163 in 2017-2021.
	<b>Health inequalities - females</b>	—	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.
	<b>Health inequalities - males</b>	—	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.
	<b>Sport &amp; physical activity</b>	▲	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.
	<b>Poverty</b>	▲	A decrease in the % of children (aged under 16) living in relative low income families from 20% in 2016 to 18.8% in 2022.
	<b>Mental Health</b>	—	21.4% are being prescribed medication for mood and anxiety disorders in 2021, up slightly from 21.1% in 2016.
	<b>Fear of crime</b>	▲	73% of people report that fear of crime has a minimal impact on their quality of life, up from 69% in 2015/16.
	<b>Town and city centres</b>	▼	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.
ECONOMY	<b>Accidental dwelling fires</b>	▲	There were fewer accidental dwelling fires (63) in 2022 than in 2016 (86).
	<b>Business numbers</b>	▲	The no. of VAT &/or PAYE registered businesses increased to 9,390 in 2023.
	<b>Business birth rates</b>	▲	Business birth rates increased to 11% in 2021, up from 8% baseline in 2014.
	<b>Business survival rates</b>	▲	Business survival rates increased.
	<b>Skill levels</b>	▲	% of the workforce in employment and qualified in all 4 levels increased.
	<b>Employment rate</b>	▲	% of the workforce in employment increased from 69% in 2015 to 75.2% in 2022.
	<b>Educational attainment</b>	▲	58.4% of FSME school leavers achieved 5+ GCSE grades A*-C including GCSE English and Maths in 2021/22, up from 44% in 2015/16.
	<b>Overnight trips</b>	—	No new data available
PLACE	<b>Arts and cultural participation</b>	▼	The % of people (aged 16+) engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year has fallen to 64% in 2021/22 from 86% in base year.
	<b>Buildings at risk</b>	▲	The total number of buildings at risk saved has increased from 21 in 2016 to 30 in 2022.
	<b>Parks &amp; green spaces</b>	▼	8 parks and green spaces were awarded the Green Flag Award in 2023.
	<b>City &amp; town centre vacancy rates</b>	▲	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.
	<b>Social housing need</b>	▼	Level of Social Housing Need has increased to 1,101 units for the period 2022-2027, an increase of 799 from 2015-20.

Relative to baseline: ▼ Negative Shift ▲ Positive Shift — No Change

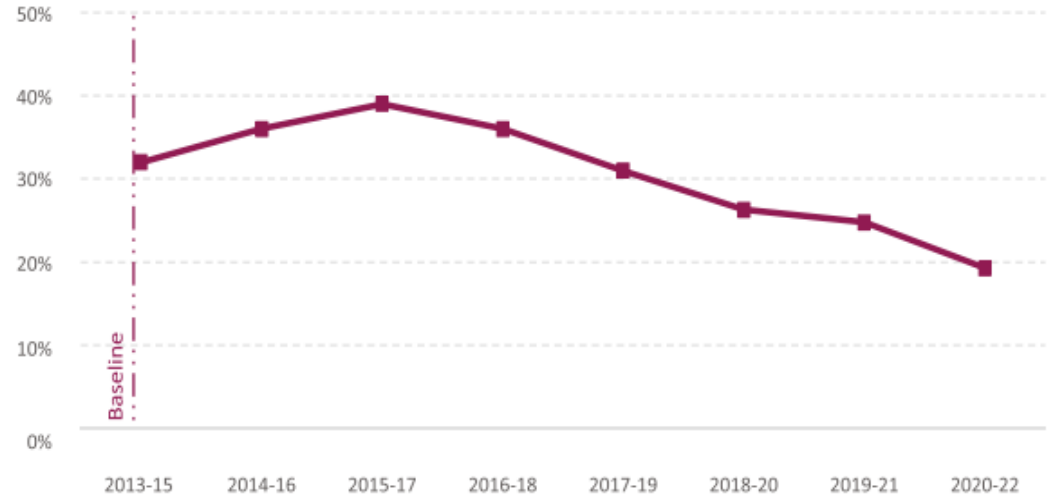
# Confident Community

*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.*



- ❑ Percentage of people who feel they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made in their neighbourhood
  
- ❑ Percentage of people who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood

**Percentage of people who feel they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made in their neighbourhood**



Baseline 2013-15		Where we were 2018-20		Where we are now 2020-22	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
32%	29%	26%	22%	19%	20%

# Healthy Community

*People are making positive lifestyle choices. They are more resilient and better equipped to cope with life's challenges.*



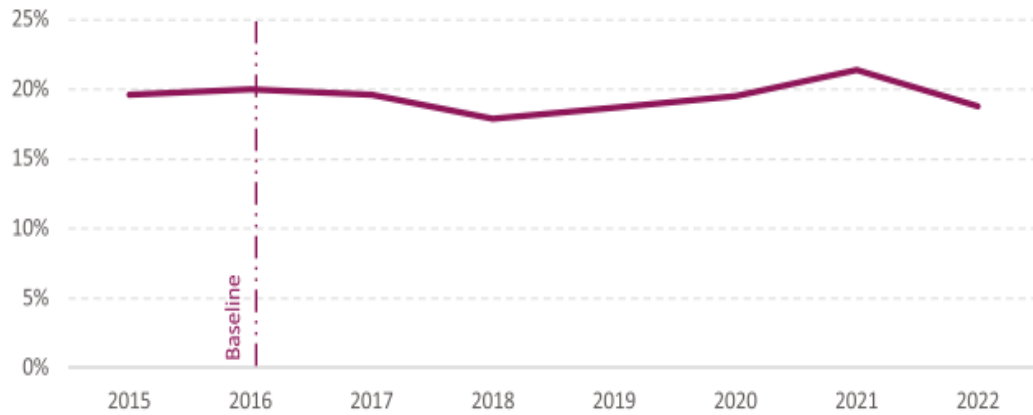
- Gap in life expectancy between most deprived areas and the borough overall
- Number of preventable deaths per 100,000 population (age standardised preventable mortality rate)
- Percentage of people who participate in sport on at least one day per week
- The percentage of children (aged under 16) living in relative low-income families
- The standardised prescription rate – mood and anxiety disorders.

# Healthy Community

People are making positive lifestyle choices. They are more resilient and better equipped to cope with life's challenges.

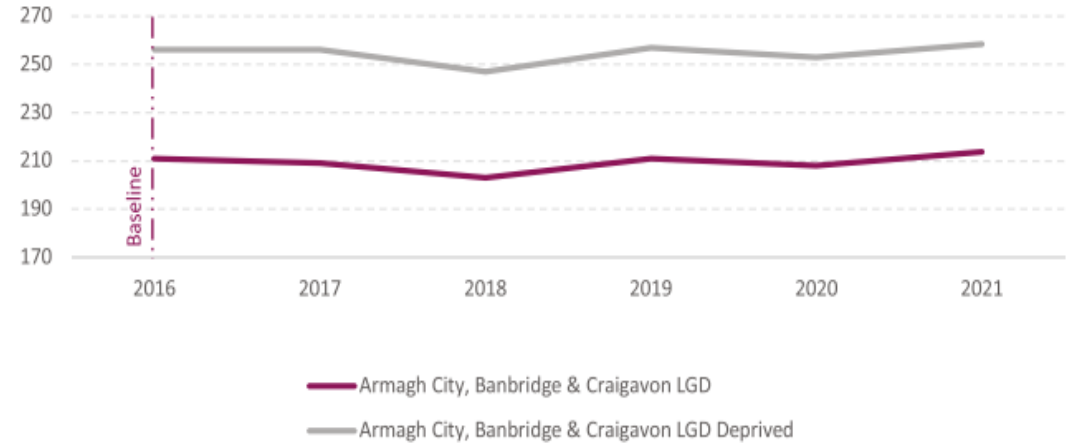


## The percentage of children (aged under 16) living in relative low income families



Baseline 2016		Where we were 2019		Where we are now 2022	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
20.0%	21.0%	18.7%	19.6%	18.8%	18.8%

## Standardised Prescription Rate - Mood and Anxiety (persons prescribed per 1,000 population)



Baseline 2016		Where we were 2019		Where we are now 2021	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
211	215	211	219	214	221

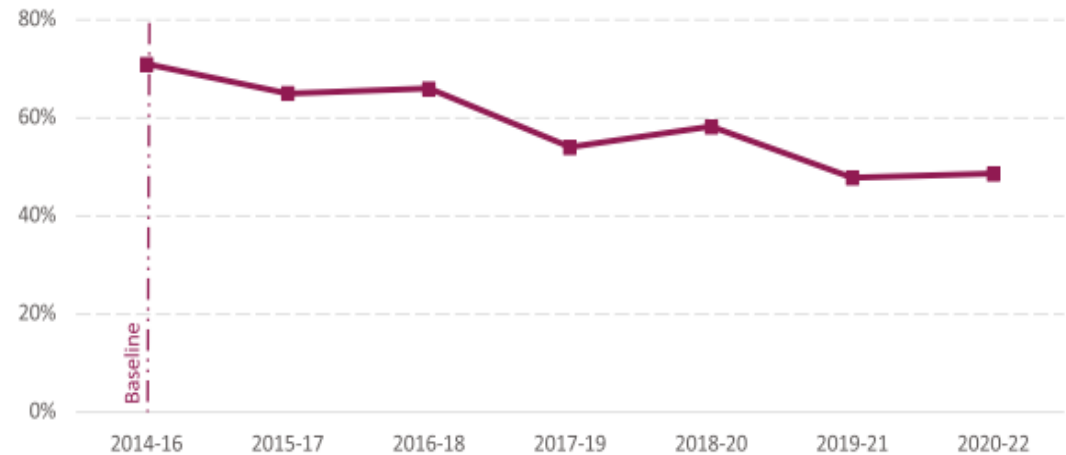
# Welcoming Community

*Our borough is a safe, respectful and peaceful environment*



- ❑ Percentage of people reporting that fear of crime has a minimal impact on their quality of life
  
- ❑ Percentage of people who see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people of all walks of life
  
- ❑ Number of accidental dwelling fires

**Percentage of people who see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people of all walks of life**



Baseline 2014-16		Where we were 2018-20		Where we are now 2020-22	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
71%	58%	54%	61%	49%	49%

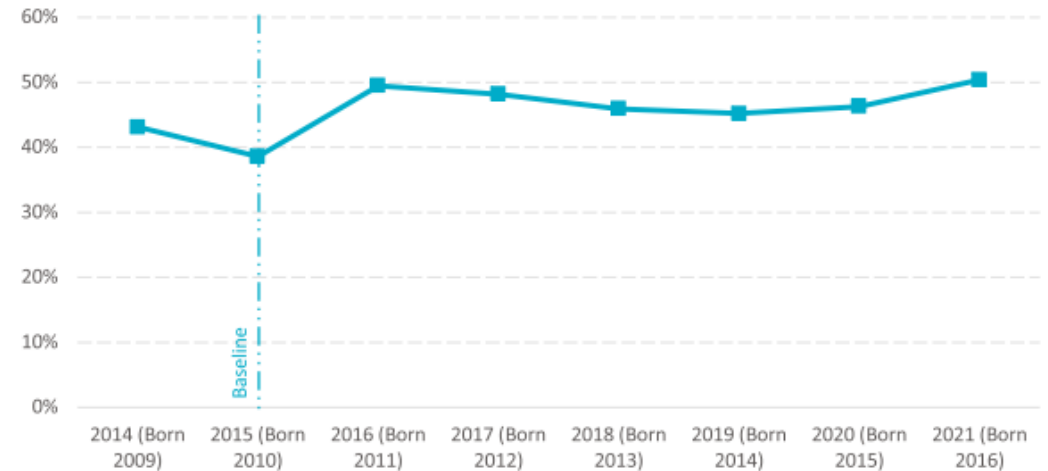
# Enterprising Economy

*Our borough is a centre of excellence for entrepreneurship, innovation and investment.*



- Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses
- Business birth rates
- Survival Rates of newly born businesses

## Survival rate of newly born businesses



Baseline 2015 (Born 2010)		Where we were 2019 (Born 2014)		Where we are now 2021 (Born 2016)	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
Armagh 36%	39%	Armagh 49%	45%	50.4%	47.3%
Banbridge 43%		Banbridge 42%			
Craigavon 38%		Craigavon 44%			
<b>ABC Avg 39%</b>		<b>ABC Avg 45%</b>			

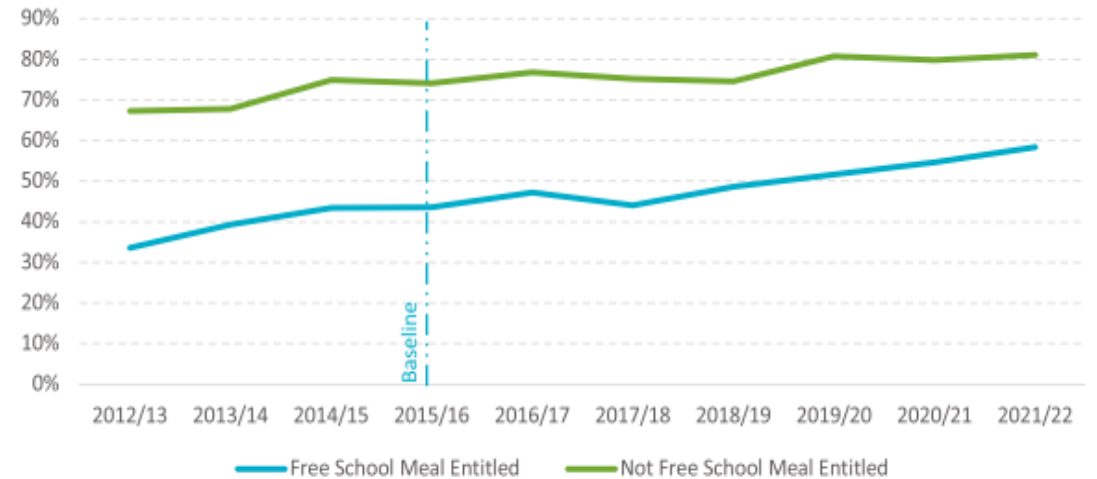
# Skilled Economy

*People are better equipped to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the dynamic economy.*



- Proportion of the workforce in employment qualified to below level 2 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above and level 4 and above
- Employment rate (age 16-64)
- GCSE attainment levels for students entitled to free school meals (FSME)

## GCSE attainment levels for students entitled to free school meals (FSME)



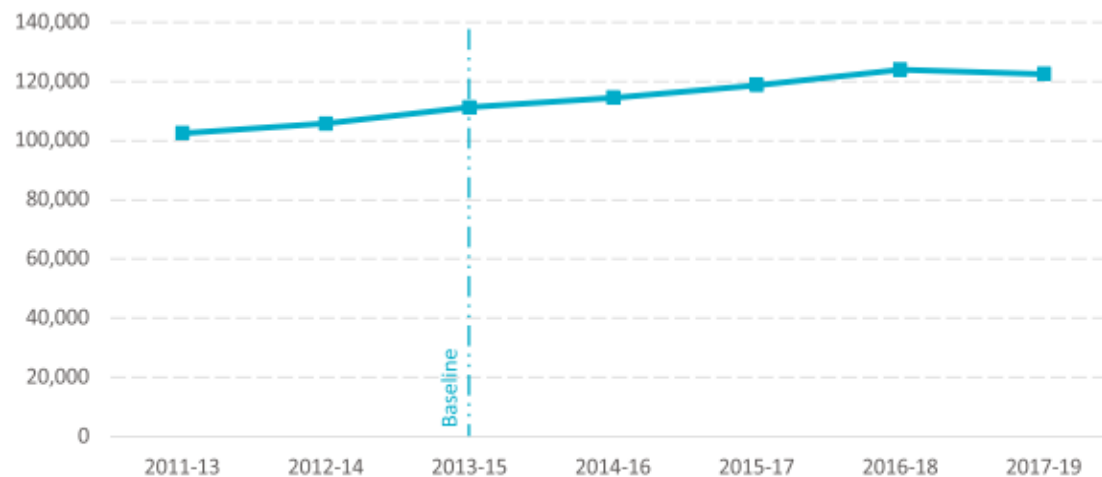
Baseline 2015/16		Where we were 2019/20		Where we are now 2021/22	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
44%	45%	52%	56%	58%	59%

# Tourism Economy

*Our Borough is the destination of choice for international visitors.*



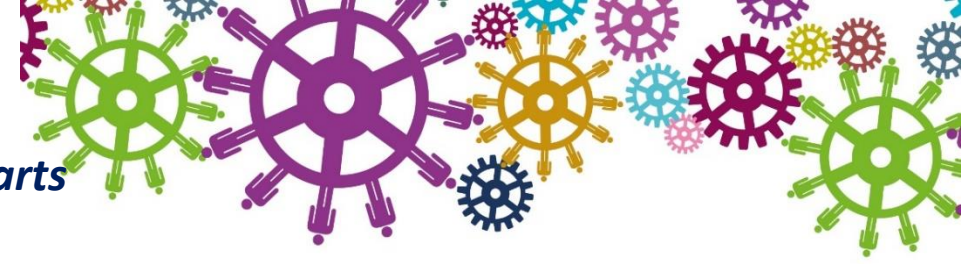
## Number of overnight trips made by visitors from outside Northern Ireland



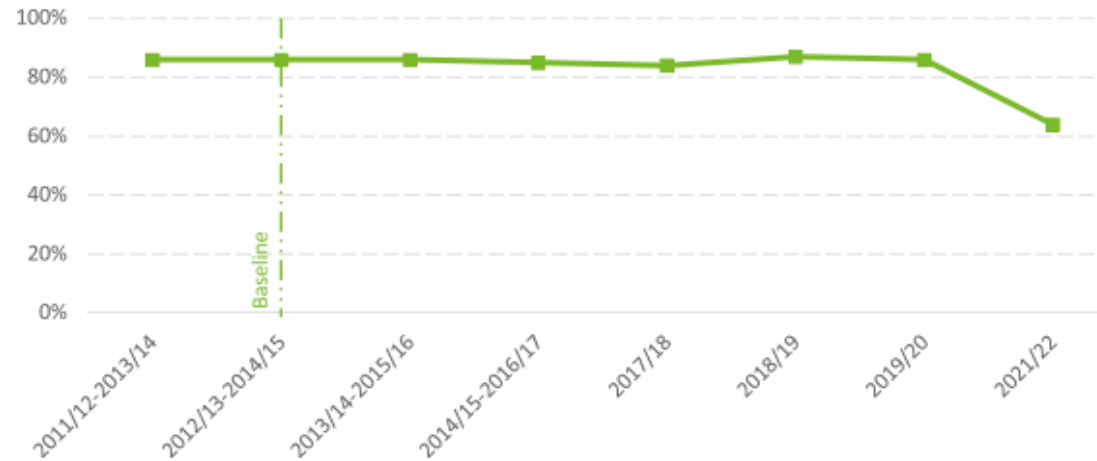
Baseline 2013 – 2015		Where we were 2016-18		Where we were 2017-19	
ABC	% of NI	ABC	% of NI	ABC	% of NI
111,300	5%	124,000	4%	122,600	4%

# Creative Place

*Our Borough is an inspirational and creative place offering quality, inclusive arts and cultural experiences.*



## Percentage of people (aged 16+) engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year



Baseline 2012/13 - 2014/2015		Where we were 2013/14-2015/16		Where we are now 2021/2022 <sup>29</sup>	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
86%	87%	86%	86%	64%	62%

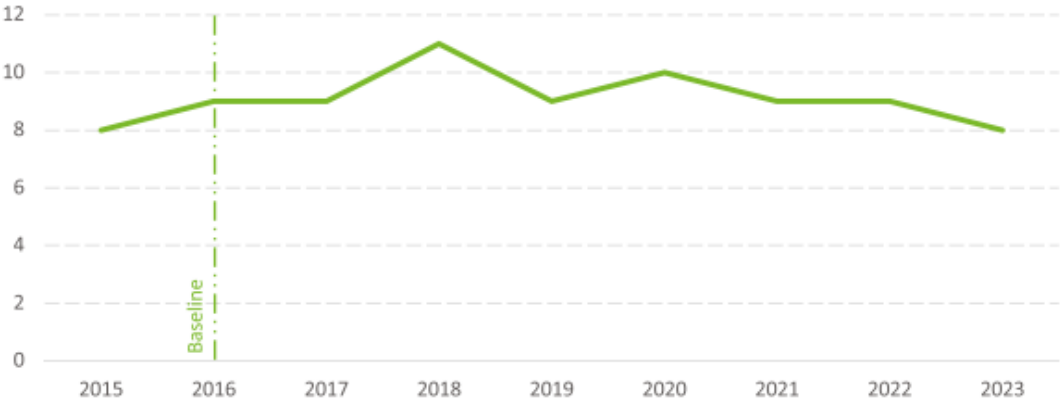
# Enhanced Place

*Our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for current and future generations to enjoy.*



- Number of buildings at risk saved
  
- Number of high quality parks/green spaces (those holding Green Flag Award® status)

**Number of high quality parks/green spaces (those holding Green Flag Award® status)**



Baseline 2016		Where we were 2020		Where we are now 2023	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
9	51	10	78	8	76

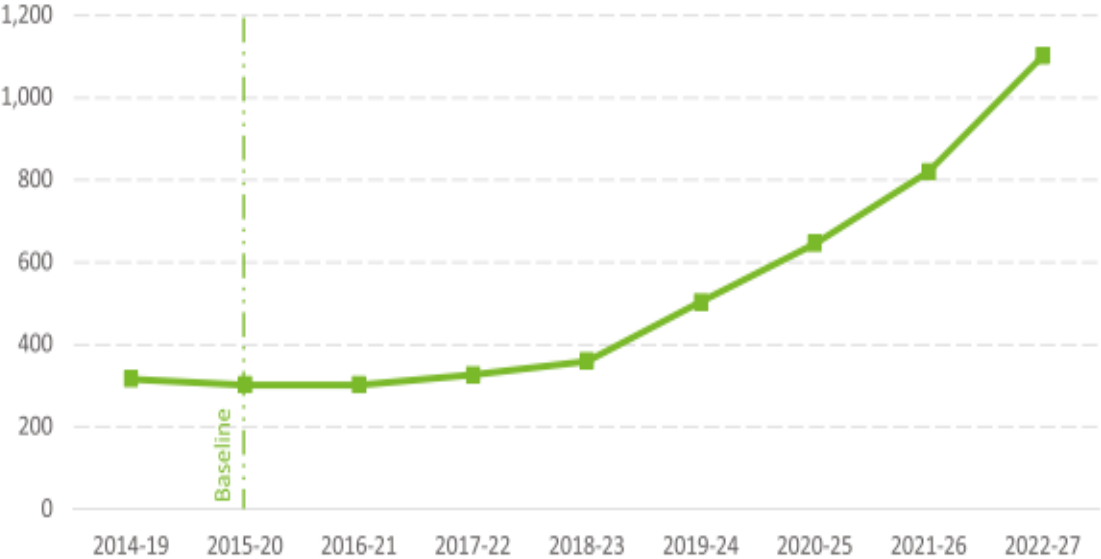
# Revitalised Place

*Our distinctive and vibrant urban and rural areas are at the heart of community and economic life.*



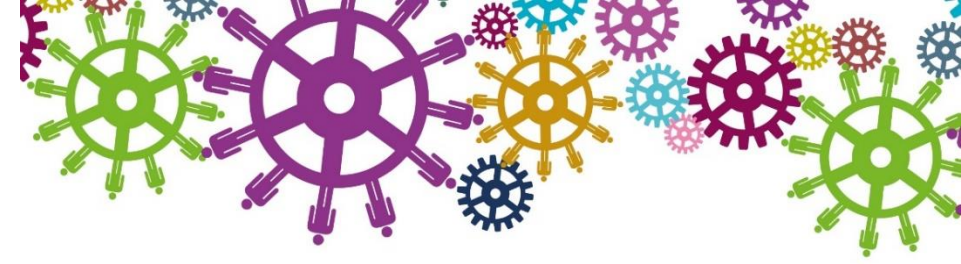
- City and town centre vacancy rates
- Level of social housing need

## Level of social housing need



Baseline 2015-20	Where we were 2020-25	Where we are now 2022-27
ABC	ABC	ABC
302	646	1,101

# Summary



Theme	No. of Indicators	Better	Worse	Same	No Data
Community	10	4	3	3	0
Economy	7	6	0	0	1
Place	5	2	3	0	0
Total	22	12	6	3	1

# STATEMENT OF PROGRESS: 2021-2023

## PART 2: PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE

### CONNECTED **A COMMUNITY PLAN**

for Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough



## PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES

**90%**  
ACTIONS ARE  
ON TRACK

**RAG Rating:**

**GREEN** [action completed/on track]

**AMBER** [action on track, some concerns]

**RED** [action not on track, major concerns]

ACTIONS	GREEN	AMBER	RED
21	17	2	2

The full Response & Recovery Plan is available online at [armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/covid-19-response-and-recovery-plan](https://armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/covid-19-response-and-recovery-plan)

The plan is based on the research and engagement undertaken as part of the partnership's last Statement of Progress [armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/our-progress-towards-outcomes](https://armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/our-progress-towards-outcomes)

The partnership has established four sub-committees to take forward this important work.



# PROMOTING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SUB-COMMITTEE



Gerard Rocks  
Assistant Director for  
Promoting Wellbeing  
Southern Health and  
Social Care Trust



Laura Wylie CEO Links  
Counselling Services and  
Community Voluntary  
Sector Panel

## ACTIONS

- 1.1 **Take 5: Ambassadors, Resource & Training**
- 1.2 **Be Active: Get Moving ABC Framework**
- 1.3 **Give: Promote, Champion & Sustain Volunteering**
- 1.4 **Connect: Loneliness Network**
- 1.5 **Promote Self-care within the CVSE sectors**

## Sub-Committee Membership

- Southern Health & Social Care Trust
- ABC Council
- C&B Volunteer Bureau
- Public Health Agency
- Sport NI
- Links Counselling
- Libraries NI
- Volunteer Now
- PSNI

# 02 PROMOTING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## BE ACTIVE: GET MOVING ABC

Lead Partner: Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

Get Moving ABC is a Borough wide targeted initiative delivered by a range of statutory bodies and organisations who have a collective goal in motivating and supporting residents to achieve the recommended physical activity levels and to develop positive attitudes towards being active.



The Get Moving ABC Partnership's target is to get more of our population moving and become the most physically active Borough in Northern Ireland. The focus is on increasing sport and physical activity within homes, communities, workplaces, and schools.

Achievements over the reporting period included:

- Delivery of 941 programmes to those least likely to participate in physical activity
- A Communications Plan which promoted 15 Global/National Awareness Days /Months
- New partners engaged, including 8 Businesses
- Branding created

One participant said, *"I couldn't have done this without Aaron. He was a brilliant coach. He has helped me achieve the the Couch 2 5K something I didn't think I could do. Aaron has a great way with people"*.

Collaboration is the key to the success of the Get Moving Framework with NI Chest Heart and Stroke commenting they *"found this partnership to be of extreme benefit to local businesses in the ABC area, as it had strengthened links between employers, employees and their families in physical activity initiatives and increased awareness"*

# 02 PROMOTING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## CONNECT: SUPPORT AND GROW THE LONELINESS NETWORK

Lead Partner: Southern Health and Social Care Trust



There are now 85 organisations in the Loneliness Network which was established in 2021 to address loneliness in the borough.

Through the Loneliness Network, eight “chatty benches” have been installed in partnership with ABC Council and they are proving to be very successful in combatting loneliness. As part of this initiative six chatty walks were organised and 66 people attended these. Some of the attendees at the Chatty Walks said-

*“It was a very beautiful experience, thank you so much, connecting with lovely people has really lifted my mood”*

*“This has been an amazing experience, well organised...It was great meeting like-minded people and benefiting from their experiences. It has helped both physically and mentally and uplifting”*

As part of Loneliness Awareness Week 25 groups registered for materials to enable them to host an event and some groups even held more than one event during the week.

The Kindness Postbox initiative involves local schools and nursing homes with the pupils writing a letter or drawing a picture for the residents in the home and then going to deliver them to the home and spending time with the residents.



One of the schools asked the nursing homes for the residents first names and then wrote letters for each and every resident. There has been positive feedback received from all involved especially the homes who got visits from pupils. This was a very thoughtful gesture and was warmly received by the staff and residents in the nursing home. This really enriched the experience and brought it to life creating real meaningful connections across all generations.

# TACKLING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION SUB-COMMITTEE



Seamus Mc Crory Head of Community Development ABC Council



Chris Leech Chairperson of Craigavon Area Foodbank and CVS Panel



Martin Stevenson Community Development Coordinator for Salvation Army and CVS Panel

## ACTIONS

- 2.1 Emergency Need**
- 2.2 Form an independent Anti-Poverty Forum**
- 2.3 Understanding Poverty and Exclusion**
- 2.4 Employability and Skills**
- 2.5 Housing**
- 2.6 Age Friendly**
- 2.7 People and Place Strategy**
- 2.8 PEACE PLUS**

## Sub-Committee Membership

- ABC Council
- Craigavon Area Foodbank
- SHSCT
- CYPSP, Public Health Agency and Children in Need
- Invest NI
- PSNI
- Public Health Agency
- The Salvation Army
- Dept for Communities
- Southern Regional College
- NIHE
- NIFRS

# 03 TACKLING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

## EMERGENCY NEED

**Lead Partner: ABC Council**

Within 22/23, a total of 18,153 people presented themselves to the main partner organisations for general advice and support including food and fuel support. The partners meet on a regular basis to share best practice and provide a coordinated approach to delivery. We have also been working with local businesses in order to redistribute food which may otherwise have been wasted e.g. owing to damaged packaging and this is redirected to the Community Food Hub and used to supply foodbanks and local community groups for the purposes of meeting food needs. Social Supermarkets are being developed to support longer term sustainable approaches to accessing food; these include additional wrap around services, such as training and personal development.

The work of the Partnership is also beginning to identify wider needs and how poverty has impacted on issues such as housing, mental health, family relationships, education and addiction, therefore the wider referral networks and wraparound support services are key to providing a joined-up approach in order to meet the needs.



FEEDBACK FROM A SERVICE USER AT THE FOODBANK

*After six weeks of foodbank, I received six weeks of the Pantry, a subsidised shopping experience linked with the foodbank with the aim to get me on my feet again after the initial help. So again, not left alone and encouraged to rise. I'm so very thankful for the foodbank and the Pantry. It helped me so much in my time of need.*

# EMERGENCY NEED

**9767** INDIVIDUALS AVAILED OF FOOD SUPPORT DURING THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2022- 31ST MARCH 2023.

ESTIMATED APPROXIMATELY A TOTAL OF **13,138 PEOPLE** WERE SUPPORTED TO ACCESS ESSENTIAL FOOD WITHIN A ONE-YEAR PERIOD.

A FURTHER **2592** PEOPLE WERE ALSO SUPPORTED BY DIRECT DONATIONS FROM LOCAL SUPERMARKETS AS PART OF A COME AND COLLECT SCHEME WITHIN THE DROMORE AREA

**5271** INDIVIDUALS AVAILED OF CRISIS FUEL SUPPORT. THIS WAS BASED ON AN ASSESSMENT OF NEED, WHICH WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE VOLUNTEERS FROM ST VINCENT DE PAUL AND THE SALVATION ARMY

**6156** INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED IN TERMS OF FOOD AND FUEL SINCE **APRIL 2023**

## HOUSING

### Lead Partner: Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Between April 2021 and March 2023 a total of 104 units of social housing were completed within 13 new build social schemes across the Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon area. This included 13 wheelchair accessible homes. In March 2023 there were five new build social schemes on site which will deliver a further 99 units including nine wheelchair accessible homes and a further six new build schemes are currently included on the three year Social Housing Development Plan which will deliver approximately 186 units.

The village of Derrytrasna was included as part of the Housing Executive's 2018/19 Rural Housing Need Test Programme. The test focused on encouraging anyone in need of a home in this rural location to come forward and engage with NIHE Housing Advisors to discuss housing options and opportunities. This consultation, which was carried out in partnership with Ark Housing Association, assisted the Housing Executive in assessing the need for additional social housing in the area and the most suitable location and mix for this housing.

The test, which comprised of two community information events, art competitions in two local primary schools and promotion through social media, generated a positive response and an increase in the local waiting list for social housing. Based on this response, the Housing Executive were in a position to support a proposal from Ark Housing Association to develop a social housing scheme for 14 units including 10 No 3 person



2 bed houses, 2 No 5 person 3 bed houses, 1 No 3 person 2 bed generic wheelchair bungalow and 1 No 5 person 3 bed generic wheelchair bungalow. The completed scheme, which will introduce new high quality and accessible social housing units to this small rural community, was allocated during the Summer of 2023.

# PLACE BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE



Ethna Mc Namee Invest  
NI Regional Manager  
Regional Office West



Sinead Collins  
Head of Place  
Shaping South  
Region, Northern  
Ireland Housing  
Executive

## ACTIONS

### 3.1 Armagh Place Plans

### 3.2 Place Plans

### 3.3 City of Culture

## Sub-Committee Membership

- ABC Council
- Invest NI
- University of Ulster
- Education Authority
- Libraries NI
- SHSCT
- Business partnership Alliance
- Links Counselling Service
- Queens University
- PSNI
- NIHE
- Rural Support NI
- DAERA
- Dept for Infrastructure
- Dept for Communities
- Arts Council
- Migrant Support Services
- Dept for Infrastructure (Roads)

# 04 PLACE

## ARMAGH PLACE PLAN

Lead Partner: ABC Council



The Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Community Planning Partnership, launched the Armagh Place Plan, the first community planning led Place Shaping Plan in Northern Ireland in May 2022.

The Armagh Place Plan is designed around four outcomes; a connected city, a green city, an engaging city and a healthy city. Collectively the plan developed seven typologies and thirty cross-cutting actions. The Armagh Place Plan actions are being monitored by Council, 19 actions are active, and 11 actions are non-active at this time.

One action from the Armagh Place Plan is the Armagh City Townscape Heritage scheme and this will encompass up to 15 buildings which are earmarked for the sympathetic restoration which will encompass an anticipated combined potential investment of up to £6.3 million pounds funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and building owners. The scheme will be delivered over 5 years and will create new jobs and commercial and residential opportunities.

One of the buildings refurbished in Armagh was destroyed in a fire over 60 years ago. The transformation work began in 2021 to rebuild and restore the famous terraced No. 1 Seven House which dates back to the 1770s. The building now has two stunning apartments and an office space.



# 04 PLACE

## BANBRIDGE PLACE PLAN

Lead Partner: ABC Council. Other partners: Dept for Communities and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive

The draft Banbridge Place Plan is the Community Planning Partnership's second locality plan. Over 680 people were involved in developing the draft plan, which was out for public consultation from October to November 2023.

By combining the aspirations and knowledge of local people with the wide range of powers and functions of community planning partners, the draft plan has brought forward five ambitions, or outcomes, for the town and a series of collaborative actions to improve the quality of the area for the benefit of all. Banbridge is a strong choice for economic investment, given its geographical location along the A1 and strong history of industry and entrepreneurship. There are actions to implement new gateway features, develop the evening economy offering and create spaces to develop economic growth for the town centre and wider area.

The town's green spaces are key assets to be built upon and there are actions within the plan to build connections and make it more accessible for people to get about and enjoy.

The plan will require a wide range of people from statutory, private and voluntary sectors to work alongside the people to deliver the Banbridge of the future.



## KEY DOCUMENTS PRODUCED



Statement of Progress  
2021-2023



Connected Covid-19 Response  
and Recovery Plan



Community &  
Voluntary Sector  
Action Plan



The Armagh  
Place Plan



Draft Banbridge  
Place Plan



Age Friendly Strategy  
and Action Plan



PB TAKE500+ Evaluation  
and Learning Report

# STATEMENT OF PROGRESS: 2021-2023

## PART 3: PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### CONNECTED **A COMMUNITY PLAN**

for Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough



# SHARED LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE



**Catherine McFarland**  
Director of Finance, Audit & Assurance,  
Northern Ireland Housing Executive



**Donna Stewart**  
Manager, Craigavon & Banbridge  
Volunteer Bureau  
Community & Voluntary Sector Panel

## ACTIONS

- 4.1 Shared Leadership Support**
- 4.2 Further Embed the partnership's Community Engagement Strategy**
- 4.3 Community Empowerment**
- 4.4 Support Community & Voluntary Sector Panel**
- 4.5 Promote the use of data and other evidence to inform the partnerships decisions and make available to public**

## Sub-Committee Membership

- ABC Council
- C&B Volunteer Bureau
- Department for Communities
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Public Health Agency
- Southern Health & Social Care Trust
- Tada RSN

## ABC COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

In March 2022, the Community Planning Strategic Partnership agreed a refreshed Covid-19 Response & Recovery Plan and changes to the partnership structures to drive delivery of the plan.



# 06

## PARTNERSHIP HEALTH CHECK 2021-2023

### HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

#### COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS



**41**  
meetings

**158**  
people from 84  
organisations

**5** Community Planning  
Strategic Partnership  
(CPSP)

**3** Chairs' Group

**13** PB Working  
Group

**15** Community Planning  
Strategic Partnership  
Sub-Committees

**4** Community  
& Voluntary  
Sector Panel

**1** ABC Peer  
Network

"The meetings are in the main extremely well run and managed. The main partnership is well chaired, effective and efficient and enjoyable".

### HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

#### PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

**68**  
people from 28  
organisations



**54**

shared leadership  
support sessions

**2**



learning events

"Thank you for all the work on CP, the support and resources available via ABC Community Plan are exceptional".

## HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

### PARTNER PARTICIPATION

#### ATTENDANCE



Statutory Partner CPSP meeting attendance rate

#### LEADERSHIP ROLES



Chair & Vice-Chair Roles

7 held by 5 Statutory Partners

4 held by Community & Voluntary Sector Partners

#### LEADING ACTIONS



Actions in the Covid-19 Response & Recovery Plan



Action Leads from 4 Statutory Organisations and 4 Community & Voluntary Sector Organisations



Actions led or jointly led by ABC Council

#### DELIVERY



**90%**  
of actions  
are on track

“Our focus is on provision of front line support to those in need, which can put a squeeze on the time available for strategic committee work”.

<sup>3</sup> Some actions have joint Action Leads

## PARTNER SATISFACTION<sup>4</sup>

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP



**92% agree**  
meetings are well run

**89% agree**  
papers for the meeting  
are clear and include  
relevant information



**81% agree**  
the partnership has a  
**shared purpose** that is  
understood by all members

**67% agree**  
they have **clear roles**  
& **responsibilities**



**70% agree**  
there are **clear lines**  
of **accountability**

**72% agree**  
**communication** across the  
partnership is effective



“Any meetings I am involved with are working well, are relevant to community needs and now we are back to face to face again, provides more opportunities for networking”.

“I have found the meetings useful, it helps to consolidate our plans and support each other in targeting our approach”.

“You are involved, you get minutes and updates, you can find working in partnership can save time and money and you have a better understanding of what is happening elsewhere and you can expand your contact network”.

<sup>4</sup> 36 partners responded to an online survey administered between 27 June 2023-31 July 2023

## IS ANYONE BETTER OFF? IMPACT OF THE PARTNERSHIP

### BENEFITS



**92% agree**

agree that the benefits of the partnership outweigh the costs

“Better awareness and understanding of the role of other organisations and opportunity to raise awareness of work in the Borough”

“I have developed relationships with other organisations which has led to a collaborative approach to working within the CVS.”

“Shared best practices and learning about the service delivery of other organisations”

## BIGGEST BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MEMBERSHIP TO DATE



**28%**

shared learning & networking

**25%**

collective thinking and problem solving



**24%**

raising awareness of issues/organisations



**23%**

making a positive impact on the borough



**86%**

agree the partnership is a learning environment

**89%**

have developed or deepened relationships



**64%**

have developed or deepened relationships with those working in a different sectors



## INFLUENCING RESOURCE ALLOCATION



**83%** of Partners whose resource allocation has  
been influenced by the partnership and its action plans



“The Place Board is a working group which is not replicated in any of the other CP Partnerships I am involved with. All members are involved in looking holistically at the importance of a place to the people who reside there and challenged to think about how these places can be improved. I believe that this group will achieve meaningful outcomes and will be the exemplar for action focused partnership working”.

“Great to be able to join the dots to enhance service provision”.

“The relationships across Departments have given me a very strong sense of the interconnectedness of all the work that is done across government and the need to focus on a much more joined up approach”.

Making direct links with the right people within organisations makes everything move quicker with better outcomes for all.

“A broader understanding of issues, ways of working, and possibilities for action”.

“The relationships have produced cross fertilization of ideas, education for all stakeholders and an improved outcome for our citizens”.

## PARTNER CONSULTATION

### FINANCIAL CLIMATE



**64%**

of partners surveyed are delivering activities in direct response to the cost of living crisis.



**50%**

of partners are planning to reduce or stop activities because of funding or budget cuts.

To enable community planning to really deliver impactful outcomes regarding community wellbeing requires NI Executive/Central government to properly fund/resource.

### ISSUES FOR THE BOROUGH

Poverty and mental health remain the issues identified by the biggest number of partners surveyed:

**57%**



**Cost of Living/Poverty**

“Cost of living and increased deprivation is having an impact on people’s wellbeing and mental health”.



**20%**

**Mental Health**

Other issues identified include:

**13%**



**Access to Services**



**13%**

**Lack of Funding**



**13%**

**Social exclusion/  
Loneliness**

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

“Helpful to work together as much as possible through the various crisis’ of the past 3 years, however crisis seems to be the new norm and we need to get used to that reality and figure out how to remain strategic in the midst of it”.

“Continue to provide space and time for effective cross Departmental conversations”.



# COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

ARMAGH, BANBRIDGE, CRAIGAVON



Geraldine Lawless, Tada Rsn and INTERIM VICE CHAIR, Donna Stewart, Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau

# Over to you...

**In your groups, please consider:**

1. What strikes you about the Statement of Progress?
2. What progress have we made as a Partnership since publication of the Community Plan in 2017?
3. What do we still need to work on?



 Health and  
Social Care

 Department of  
**Health**  
An Roinn Sláinte  
Máinnystrie O Poustie  
[www.health-ni.gov.uk](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk)

 **Integrated Care  
System NI**

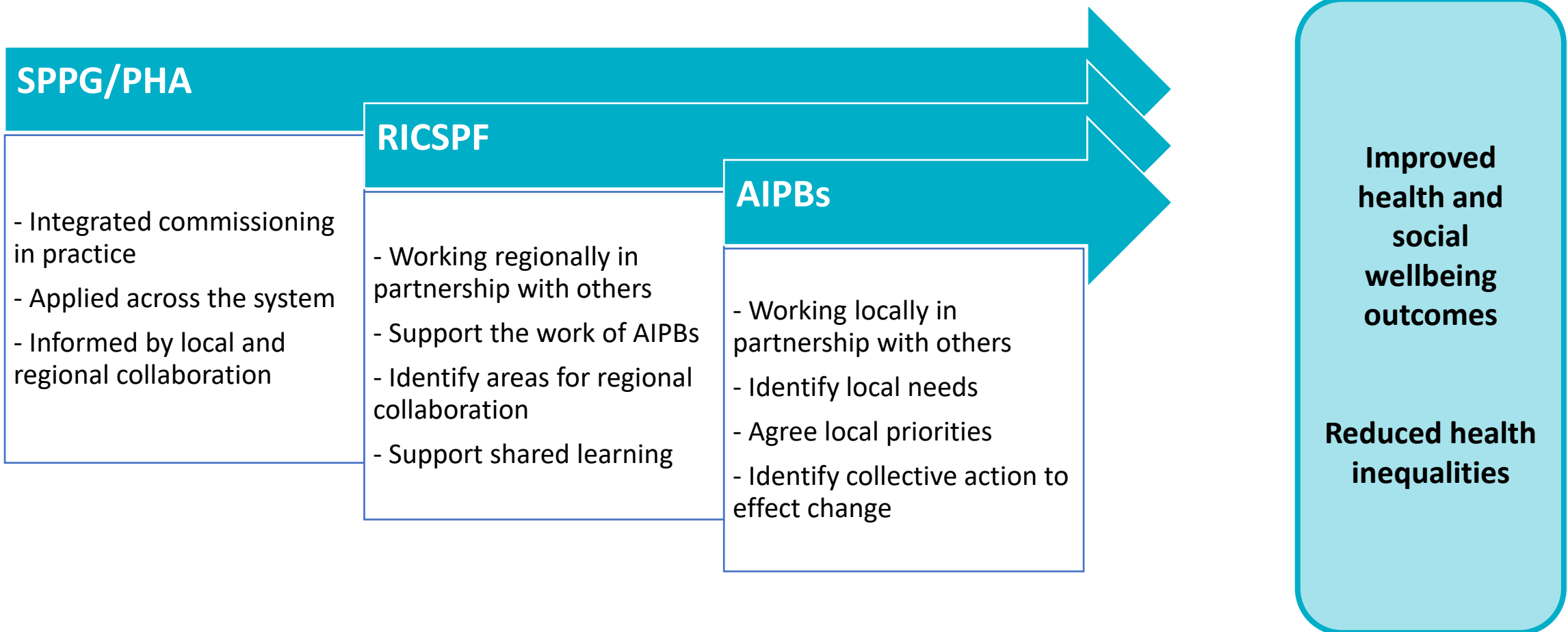
# Integrated Care System

Delivering the right care at the right time



## **Integrated Care System NI**

provides the framework through





**Integrated Care  
System NI**

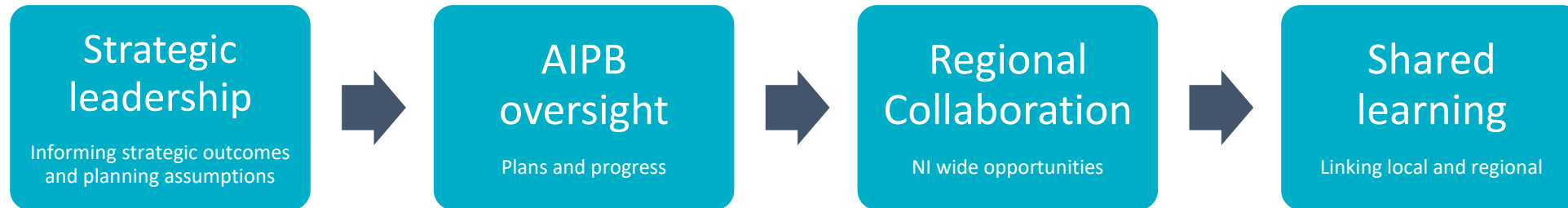
## What is the Regional ICS Partnership Forum?

- Single Regional **Forum**
- **Collaborative partnership** – from within HSC and beyond
- Provide overarching **strategic leadership** for AIPBs
- Ensure **AIPB alignment** with the strategic direction
- Maintain **alignment between local and regional** levels
- Identify opportunities for **regional collaboration**

# RICSPF Role



**Integrated Care  
System NI**



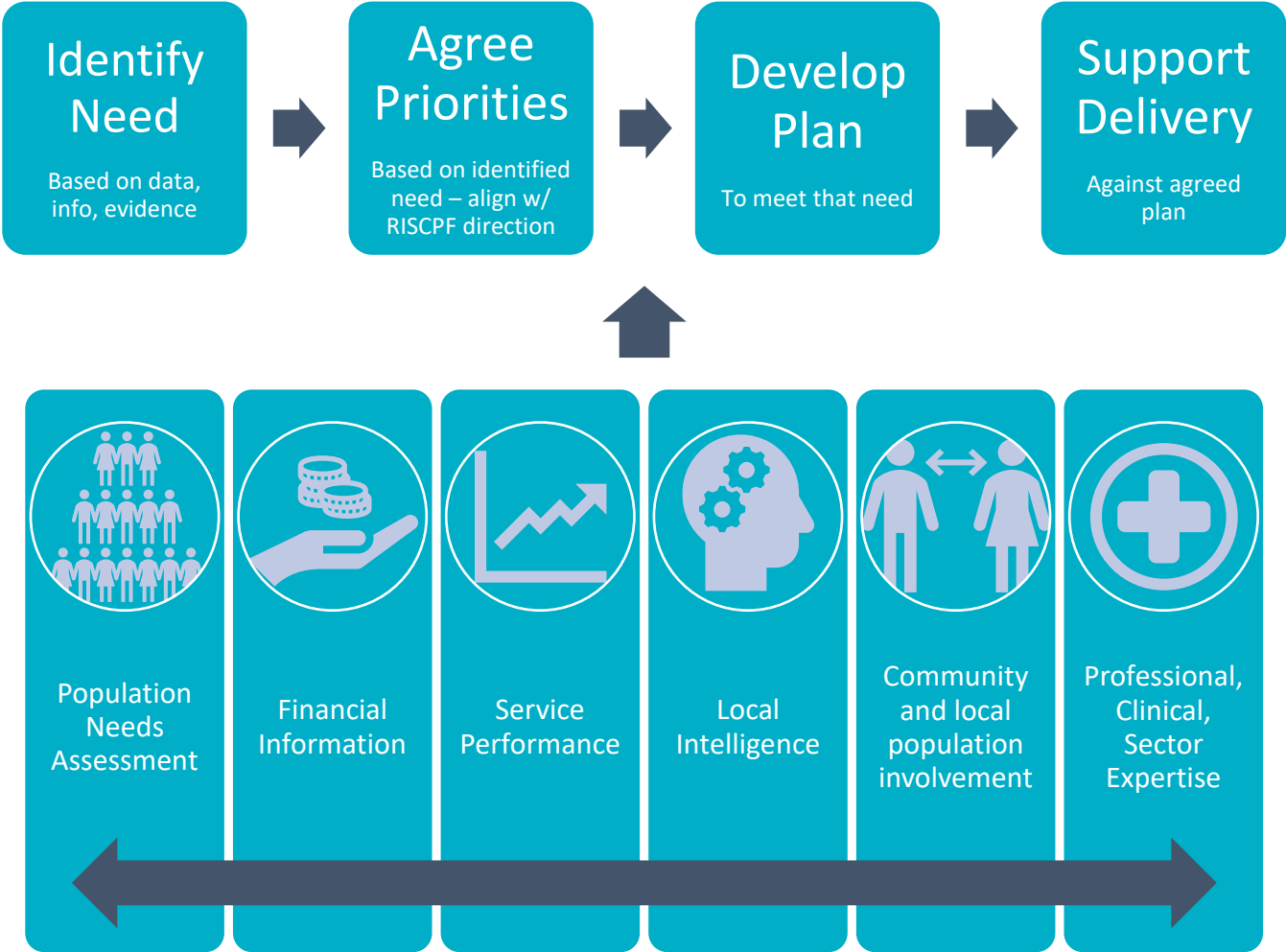


**Integrated Care  
System NI**

# What is an AIPB?

- Local **Planning** Body
- **5** across NI – co-terminus with HSC Trusts
- **Collaborative partnership** – from within HSC and beyond
- Established in **statute**
- It is **one part** of the overall commissioning model
- Scope extends across **all local care and services**
- Address **key strategic areas locally** – informed by RICSPF
- **Accountable** to the Department

# AIPB Role





**Integrated Care  
System NI**

# AIPB Core Membership

## Core Members

- HSC Trust – Chief Executive and Directors
- Primary Care – including GPs and Community Pharmacists
- Local Voluntary & Community Sectors
- Local Council and Community Planning Partnership
- Service User and Carer

## Informed by:



# Southern ALPB Test Update



**Integrated Care  
System NI**



## INTERIM LESSONS:

- Pre-engagement
- Clarity of roles and responsibilities
- Relationship building
- Scope and focus

## NEXT STEPS:

- Extension and handover
- Evaluation and implementation



**Integrated Care  
System NI**

# Implementation Timeline





 Health and  
Social Care

 Department of  
**Health**  
An Roinn Sláinte  
Mánnystrie O Poustie  
[www.health-ni.gov.uk](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk)

 **Integrated Care  
System NI**

For more information, please visit  
**[online.hscni.net/icsni](http://online.hscni.net/icsni)**



# PEOPLE AND PLACE

# REVIEW



Department for  
**Communities**  
[www.communities-ni.gov.uk](http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk)

An Roinn  
**Pobal**

Department for  
**Commonities**



- In June 2003, the Department launched “People and Place – A strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal” to address poverty and social exclusion which characterises urban communities suffering the highest levels of deprivation.
- With recognition that the strategic context that NR operates in has changed since its inception in 2003, in February 2020, Minister Hargey publicly committed to a comprehensive and strategic review of the current People and Place Strategy.
- The review commenced in late 2021, and is being delivered through a Co-Design process involving a range of stakeholders
- Of note, Minister specifically made the following comments that the successor Strategy should;
  - ❑ Be stand alone and involve a co-design approach
  - ❑ Have a clear focus on government department buy-in as this has been largely absent
  - ❑ Align with the emerging anti-poverty strategy and CWB framework.
  - ❑ Include targeting objective need and embedding a rights based approach
  - ❑ Include action & implementation plans – focused on building community capacity and infrastructure
  - ❑ Bring forward considerations for a rural people and place strategy looking at most socially deprived rural areas and work with DAERA.





More effective  
delivery structures

Better collaboration  
[Across Govt,  
Between Govt &  
Sector and across  
sector]

Better Outcomes  
Evaluation

Definition of Place

Community  
Development  
approach to  
tackling place-  
based deprivation

More effective  
administrative  
systems  
[less bureaucratic,  
more responsive,  
more flexible]





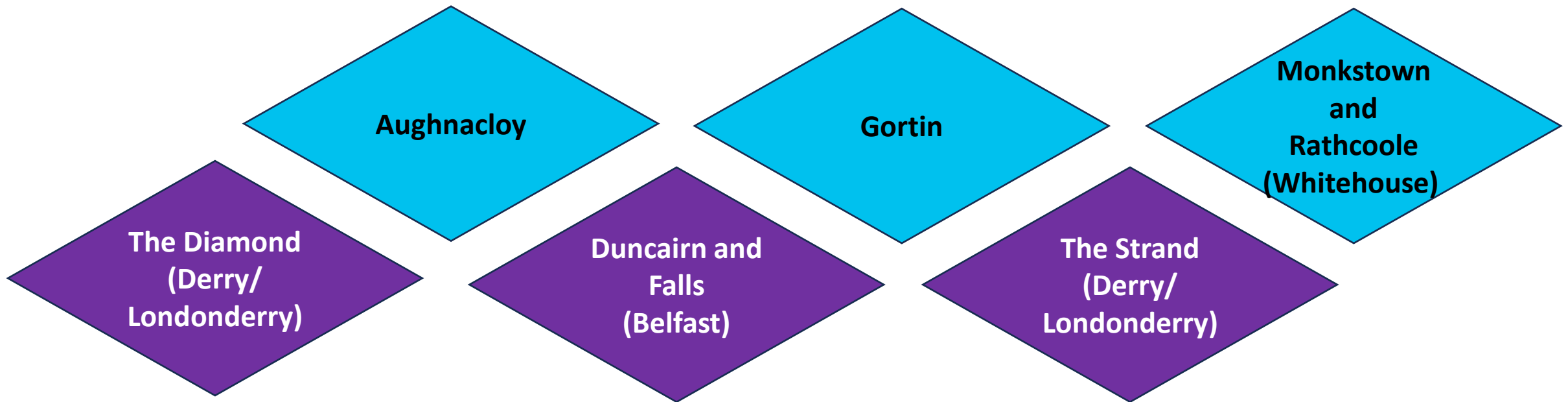
- Lough Neagh – Community Planning Workshop (25 October)
- To tackle place-based deprivation ... Strategic alignment with Community Plans will be important (Colum Boyle Perm. Sec. DfC Nov. 2023)
- Actions to be taken forward



**Collaboration Test & Learn  
Initiative:  
Current Position**



- On 26 Sept 23, NICS Board approved the Strategic Collaboration Framework for use in identified Test & Learn pilot areas.
- The approved pilot localities (SOA's) are;



- The initial 2 pilot sites are The Diamond (Derry/Londonderry) and Aughnacloy, with the others expected to be incrementally rolled out.





## PURPOSE

### What is the Test & Learn purpose / what are we trying to achieve?

- To find ways to test, learn and improve better collaboration using the **Collaborative Strategic Framework** in 2 pilot areas:
  - **The Diamond**
  - **Aughnacloy**
- The pilots will focus on improving process collaboration by testing the Framework, the learning from which should help identify the barriers to and benefits of simplifying processes associated with delivering funding programmes.
- Learning will also be used to inform the People & Place Review strategy development process





## WHAT IS THE FRAMEWORK

### What is the Collaborative Strategic Framework?

- The Collaborative Planning Framework has been designed to assist the process of analysing what is happening within a geography.
- It consists of a robust collective ‘discovery phase’ which will identify the key components that make up the current interventions within the geography including what already exists in terms of:
  - funding,
  - existing projects / programmes,
  - governance, and outcomes.
- All partners in the area will consider the Collaborative Planning Framework together to explore opportunities to work more closely.
- These collective discussions will shape a shared vision, integrated plan and commitment to the area.





## HOW WE WILL PROCEED

- **Nov – Dec 23:** Phase 1 Discovery. Will include extending the conversation to local Government, Statutory Bodies and other Stakeholders.
- **By 1 Dec 23:** Go-Live readiness will be demonstrated with approval sought from the Steering Group to proceed.
- **W/C 4 Dec 23:** Go-Live in first two areas. During December, this is expected to be primarily ‘desk-based’ research orientated
- **Jan 24 –** focused conversation with all stakeholders in pilot areas
- **May 24:** Present Test & Learn pilot report to NICS Board
- **3 Jun 24:** Begin production of 6 month evaluation report





## SUCCESSOR STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVALS (Minister dependent)

## TRANSITION & IMPLEMENTATION

