



NOTE OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (CPSP) MEETING HELD
ONLINE VIA TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 10 AM

PRESENT:	Elaine Gillespie (Vice Chair) ABC Council	
OFFICIAL PARTNERS:	ABC Council DfC Millennium Court (Chair – CVSP) NIHE (Vice Chair - Place Board) SRC SHSCT Libraries NI	Cllr Kate Evans Simon Sloan Geraldine Lawless Sinead Collins Tracy Rice Elaine Wilson Kendra Reynolds
APOLOGIES:	ABC Council ABC Council ABC Council PHA (Chair) NIHE (Chair– Shared Leadership and Community Engagement Sub-Committee) Invest NI (Chair – Place Board) Sport NI NIFRS EANI Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau (Vice Chair Shared Leadership & Community Engagement Sub-Committee & CVS Panel) PSNI PSNI Libraries NI Tourism NI Links Counselling (CVSP & Vice- Chair Promoting Good Mental Health & Wellbeing Sub- Committee) ABC Council ABC Council	Cllr Peter Lavery Cllr Liam Mackle Jonathan Hayes Colette Rogers Catherine McFarland Ethna McNamee Rebecca Hope Gerard Kearney Paul Crooks Donna Stewart Adam Corner Karen Ross Adrienne Adair Martin Graham Laura Wylie Lissa O'Malley Jennifer McKibben
IN ATTENDANCE:	Gerard Rocks, SHSCT (Chair Promoting Good Mental Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee) Andrew Orr, DfC Jennie Dunlop, Community and Strategic Planning Manager, ABC Council Michelle Markey, Community Planning & Engagement Officer, ABC Council Emma O'Carroll, Community Planning and Evidence Officer, ABC Council Martin Stevenson, Salvation Army CVSP Steering Group (Vice- Chair Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion Sub Committee)	

Chris Leech, Craigavon Foodbank / CVSP Steering Group (Vice Chair - Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion Sub Committee)
Ruth Allen, Head of Community Development, ABC Council (Chair - Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion Sub Committee)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Vice Chair, Elaine Gillespie, welcomed all present to the meeting, and put forward apologies from Chair, Colette Rogers. Noting the meeting was quorate and could therefore proceed.

The meeting was changed to online to assist with attendance.

All partners present briefly introduced themselves. In addition, the Chair acknowledged and welcomed Kendra Reynolds from Libraries NI as it was her first meeting.

2. NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Note of the Community Planning Strategic Partnership (CPSP) meeting on 29 May September previously circulated.

AGREED

- by consensus, the note of the Community Planning Strategic Partnership meeting on meeting on 29 May 2025, be confirmed.

3. STATEMENT OF PROGRESS 2023-2025

Report CPSP-25-04

Presentation on Population Indicators

- Statutory duty to publish the Statement of Progress by 30th November 2025
- Update on population indicators in the plan. 12 indicators have improved, nine have stayed the same and seven have got worse since the baseline.

Discussion on Population Indicators

- Population indicator on mental health is prescription rate for mood and anxiety disorders, which as stayed the same since the baseline. This doesn't reflect the high levels of mental ill health partners are seeing. It was noted that the indicator was a crude measure of mental ill health on its own and other information was needed to build a better picture. Messaging around the indicators is therefore important.
- Possible link between less concern for the environment and the continuing cost of living crisis and importance of Real Living Wage.

During discussion of the above item Cllr Kate Evans temporarily retired from the meeting at 10:27am and rejoined at 10:41am.

Presentation on Partnership Actions

- 90% of actions on track to be delivered. Two actions have not been taken forward.

Discussion on Partnership Actions

- Feedback from CVS Panel steering group meeting on three points:
 - Importance of engagement with the Community & Voluntary Sectors through Craigavon Urban Area place planning process
 - Importance of having summaries of documents associated with the Place Plans to make them accessible

- Need for more communication on PEACE PLUS local plan

Presentation on Partnership Health Check

- Low response rate to partnership health check survey of 21%
- Biggest number of responses from CVS Panel
- Drop in attendance rate for CPSP meetings to 58%
- Some partners continue in leadership roles in the partnership
- Drop in partner satisfaction with meetings driven by wider CVS Panel members (wider CVSP has held fewer meetings during this reporting period)
- Partnership continues to be seen as beneficial, a learning environment and a place where relationships are built

Discussion on Partnership Health Check

- Partnership is working and listening to the community
- CVS Panel steering group has new members who are being mentored by existing members
- Opportunity for chair's group to analyse partnership health check findings and use them to reengage partners who have not been attending
- Statement of Progress is honest and transparent and any challenges or shortcomings will be addressed by the partnership

ACTIONS

- To forward comments to the Place Plan Team, Place Board chairs and Board relating to engagement on Craigavon Urban Area Place Plans.
- Ruth Allen, ABC Council to link in with Geraldine Lawless, CVSP to arrange a meeting on PEACE PLUS.
- Chairs' group to look at the partnership health check findings and propose any actions for the partnership in response.
- Community Planning Team to schedule meetings for next year in advance to improve meeting attendance.

AGREED

- approval is granted from the Partnership for the Statement of Progress to go to publication, subject to any minor changes.

4. CPSP ACTION PLAN

Report CPSP-25-02

Following the action planning day for the whole partnership on 2nd October, the chairs decided to take additional time to finalise the actions and will bring the draft action plan to the next CPSP meeting early next year for sign off.

The Chair acknowledged the work from everyone on the review and action plans.

5. COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL UPDATE

Feedback from CVS Panel steering group meeting on three points noted above.

- Importance of engagement with the Community & Voluntary Sectors through Craigavon Urban Area place planning process
- Importance of having summaries of documents associated with the Place Plans to make them accessible
- Need for more communication on PEACE PLUS local plan.

During the above update, Jessica Bennett, ABC Council withdrew from the meeting at 11:10am

6. CPSP SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Report CPSP-25-06

Promoting Good Mental Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee

The sub-committee met after the partnership action planning day to refine feedback into an action plan. The next meeting at the start of December will finish the action planning.

There is a focus on mental health, especially for young people.

AIPB is also focusing on mental health and useful connections could be made between AIPB and the sub-committee.

Tackling Poverty & Social Exclusion Sub-Committee

Actions have been distilled into six key areas.

At its next sub-committee meeting partners will focus on where the partnership can add value and drive things further than would be possible alone.

The sub-committee also hosted a discussion on the Anti-Poverty Strategy with DfC in the summer.

Place Board

Place Board has had an overview of the Craigavon Urban Area Place Plans Discovery Document, along with timescales and milestones for the project, part funded by DfC.

Partners were encouraged to get involved in the discussion and engagement stage, to ensure that it is meaningful and worthwhile for the community.

There are also plans to start looking at place plans for rural towns.

The Place Board also filtered through the proposed actions in the revised action plan at the last meeting, categorising where best the partnership could add value.

Discussion

- Process for place planning is developed, but each place has a slightly different approach based on its unique characteristics and the consultants appointed.
- Learning from each process is incorporated into the next.

AGREED

- Approve that Council Officers can appoint a consultancy team to develop the Craigavon Urban Area Place Plans.
- Participate in the activities and workshops during the engagement phase.
- Give delegated authority to the Place Board to approve the draft version and final version stages within the CUA place plan process in order to meet deadlines.

During the above update, Ruth Allen, ABC Council withdrew from the meeting at 11:25am

Shared Leadership & Community Engagement Sub-Committee

The last PB process saw 3,585 people voting to allocate £114,100 to 116 Take 5 projects.

To date over four partnership PB processes 16,245 votes have been cast by people aged 8 and over to fund 370 projects to a total of £328,043.

The next PB process will align better with timeframes and decision events will be held outside the summer months.

Clarification was sought on whether delegated authority was for the sub-committee or PB Working Group to approve the design of the next process.

Partners were asked to be mindful of the next PB process when thinking of budget allocations for next year, as the project cannot run without financial contributions from partners.

AGREED

- Give delegated authority to the Shared Leadership & Community Engagement Sub-Committee to approve the design and delivery of a further PB process subject to the funding pool being in place.

7. AOB

No other business.

8. CLOSE

Date of next meeting will be early in 2026 when the partnership's reviewed action plan will be available for consideration by the partnership.

The business having been completed; the meeting concluded at 11:35am.