



NOTE OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (CPSP) MEETING HELD
AT BANBRIDGE CIVIC BUILDING CHAMBER ON THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2026 AT 10 AM

- PRESENT:** Elaine Gillespie (Vice Chair) ABC Council
- OFFICIAL PARTNERS:**
- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| DfC | Simon Sloan |
| Millennium Court (Chair – CVSP) | Geraldine Lawless |
| NIHE (Vice Chair - Place Board) | Sinead Collins |
| SRC | Jim Cunningham |
| SRC | Heather Kavanagh |
| EA | Paul Crooks |
| SHSCT | Gerard Rocks |
| Sport NI | Rebecca Hope |
| Invest NI | Alistair Quinn |
| CB Volunteer Bureau (Vice Chair -CVSP) | Donna Stewart |
| ABC Council | Cllr Peter Lavery |
- APOLOGIES:**
- | | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| ABC Council | Ruth Allen |
| PHA (Chair) | Colette Rogers |
| SRC | Tracy Rice |
| PSNI | Adam Corner |
| ABC Council | Cllr Kate Evans |
| ABC Council | Jonathan Hayes |
| DfC | April Dalzell |
| NIHE | Catherine Mc Farland |
| BPA | Adrian Farrell |
- IN ATTENDANCE:**
- Laura Wylie, Links Counselling/ CVSP Steering Group, (Vice Chair - Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion Sub Committee)
 - Charlene Stoops, Deputy Chief Executive, ABC Council
 - 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)
 - Lissa O’Malley, Place and Strategic Projects Managers, ABC Council
 - Jennifer McKibben, Project Officer, ABC Council
 - Ashleigh Campbell, Engagement Support Officer

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.

All partners present briefly introduced themselves. In addition, the Chair acknowledged that Ethna Mc Namee, Invest NI and Adam Corner, PSNI had changed roles and left the partnership, and she thanked them for their time. The Chair welcomed Alistair Quinn- Invest NI, Rebecca Hope-Sport NI and Jim Cunningham and Heather Kavanagh- SRC as this was their first meeting.

2. NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Note of the Community Planning Strategic Partnership (CPSP) meeting on 26 November 2025 previously circulated.

AGREED

- by consensus, the note of the Community Planning Strategic Partnership meeting on meeting on 26 Nov 2025, be confirmed.

3. CPSP ACTION PLAN

Report CPSP-26-01

Overview of the action planning process to date.

Shared Leadership & Community Engagement Sub-Committee

Donna Stewart, Chair of the sub-committee, presented the Shared Leadership & Community Engagement sub-committee's actions

Discussion on Partnership Actions

- Paul Crooks- Education Authority to arrange for Arlene Mc Kee- EA, to link in with CP in terms of support for the Youth Voice.
- Simon Sloan mentioned that he is moving roles and also how valuable the Statement of Progress is in terms of linking into the Programme for Government and the measurement of the framework with local Government.

Promoting Good Mental Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee

Gerard Rocks, and Laura Wylie, Co-Chairs of the sub-committee, presented the Promoting Good Mental Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee actions.

Discussion on Partnership Actions

- The SHSCT are working collectively with CYPSP and SPLIG to get infrastructures in place with the maintained focus of mental health and emotional and physical wellbeing and creating the conditions to improve them.
- The CWLW (Connect Well Live Well) was rebranded in April 2025 and was previously the Loneliness Network.
- There should be an acknowledgement of other strategies across the borough, and this sub-committee should build upon them.
- Under the action on supporting volunteering and volunteers - the Verve Network are undertaking health checks with Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau, and this is proving to be a great success with 4 volunteers already having received health checks.
- Sport NI are currently working on recruiting and sustaining volunteers and would like to be a partner on the Take 5 action: Give- Support volunteering and volunteers.

During the above update, Lissa O'Malley and Jennifer Mc Kibben, ABC Council joined the meeting at 10:38am

- The CVS Steering Group are hoping to undertake research into the social value of volunteering.
- Appreciation should be given to the amount of time given by volunteers, both on the ground and those who sit on Boards.
- Volunteers are now dealing with drug and alcohol and mental health issues presenting themselves which is placing them at risk and support needs to be given to volunteers to cope with this.
- The EA Youth Service have been invited along to the next sub-committee meeting as engaging the 16-25 year olds is a priority under this sub-committee.
- Programmes need to be targeted in the borough; the loneliness population indicator sits at just over 20% and this needs to be reduced. Could a heat map be produced with loneliness statistics, age and geographical areas? Could young people be targeted where they are, such as places of worship, to encourage participation. In other CPP's there is a faith forum connected to them- could this be looked at in ABC.
- Capacity building within communities is not consistent and needs to be undertaken in order to empower communities.
- Working with the PSNI, SDACT and PHA on drug issues is integral. Paul Crooks mentioned that a colleague is working on a mental health and drugs programme in schools and that the EA Youth Service run their own programme and suggested linking in and working in partnership to target the drugs issue and it was thought that SDACT could be invited along to present at a future sub-committee meeting.

Place Board

Sinead Collins, Interim Chair of the Place Board, presented the Place Board actions.

5. CPSP SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES: PLACE BOARD

Report CPSP-26-02

Presentation on Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown Place Plan

- Overview of engagement and feedback to date

Discussion on Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown Place Plan

- Partners spoke about not having seen the social media around the Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown Place Plan and wondered if a sponsored advert might increase engagement.
- An update on the Mandeville sight in Craigavon was asked for from Invest NI, and the consultants are on board, designing the space and developing it in stages.
- NI Water need to be come a partner in terms of Place
- Sport NI have mapped out sports facilities across Councils, schools and clubs and will share this information.
- The current crisis with youth workers contracts only being extended for 3 months raised concern.
- Lurgan Park was seen as an asset and Lurgan needs publicised in terms of positivity given the negative press of late.

Following the above update, Charlene Stoops, Cllr Peter Lavery, Sinead Collins, Lissa O'Malley and Jennifer Mc Kibben, ABC Council, withdrew from the meeting at 11:40am

3. CPSP ACTION PLAN

Report CPSP-26-01

Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion Sub-Committee

Chris Leech and Martin Stevenson, Co-Chairs of the sub-committee, presented the Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion sub-committee's actions.

Discussion on Partnership Actions

- It was acknowledged that crisis support is still needed but there was a hope to move to a more strategic response than the reactive response at present through this sub-committee.
- Importance of co-location of services to increase accessibility.
- It was noted that Job Start was not as successful as in previous years.
- Lots of work is ongoing in neighbourhood renewal areas in terms of addressing individual barriers to accessing career opportunities and there is an opportunity for SRC to become a partner on this action.
- Volunteering sits across all themes and needs elevated.
- Potential for an integrated database between schools and employers to match students and skills. LMP should address this.
- The enterprising economy outcome has no actions listed against it and this may be partly due to the lack of business partners around the table.
- Work is progressing with the LEP's.

ACTIONS

- To forward the Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown Place Plan engagement information to partners to create their own social media posts or tag followers in posts.
- Invite SDACT along to speak at a PGMHWP sub-committee meeting.
- List EA as a partner on the action- promote shared leadership across the partnership and engagement in the partnerships decisions under the priority of delivering a Youth Voice project.
- List Sport NI as a partner on the action- Give- Support volunteering and volunteers.
- Check if NI Water would be content to become a partner on the Place action of Involve local people in improving water quality and improving peatlands in the borough.

AGREED

- approval is granted from the Partnership for the partnership's action plan with the caveat that additions can be made to actions if a partner does not see themselves fitting within an existing action.
- The partnership's action plan will be sent to each CPSP member organisation to endorse, to indicate which actions they can join or identify any additional actions that they can take forward on behalf of the partnership.

4. COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

Presentation on the CVS Panel

Discussion on the CVS Panel

- The upcoming rural policy was noted and associated funding. Simon will put Geraldine in touch with a DAERA representative to get more information about the live consultation and will share engagement dates.
- Geraldine and Donna, along with steering group members met with Charlene Stoops, Deputy Chief-Executive of ABC Council and they will be approaching partners to set up similar meetings.

5. CPSP SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES: SHARED LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The additional design decisions made by the PB Working Group are highlighted below:

- 3 decision making events will take place across the borough in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon on Saturdays
- continue to offer pots of up to a maximum of £1000
- changes to the eligibility criteria to give the chance to as many groups as possible to avail of the funding:
 - each group or constituted organisation can apply in only one of the three areas (previously they could apply for one in each of the three areas – Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon).
 - each group or constituted organisation to make one application (previously umbrella groups with distinct groups/multiple year groupings could apply for up to two projects).
 - non constituted groups will still be able to apply with a sponsor organisation.

Discussion on the SLCE update.

- It is important to try to engage the business sector, alongside the LMP and the LEP.
- Sport NI mentioned crowdfunder as a potential method for PB going forward.

ACTIONS

- To engage the business sector in PB tak£500+ going forward through governance arrangements.

AGREED

- approval is granted from the Partnership to endorse the recommendations from the PB Tak£500+ Evaluation and Learning Report
- approval is granted for the additional design decisions made by the PB Working Group.

6. AOB

Rebecca Hope from Sport NI spoke about the Creating Opportunities funding that Sport NI are running from April 2026, that can offer funding to sporting organisations, for revenue for a project of up to £10,000 targeting children, women and disability. The organisations must have crowdfunding set up and more information is available on the Sport NI website.

Simon Sloan spoke about the joint forum and the agreement between central Government and the CVS sector.

ACTIONS

- The CPT will send out the information from both Sport NI and DfC to CPSP partners.

7. CLOSE

Date of next meeting will be 3rd June 2026 in Lough Neagh Discovery Centre.

The business having been completed; the meeting concluded at 1:00pm.