



Community & Voluntary Sector Panel
Meeting Notes
Monday 14 October 2019, 6.30 pm
Lurgan Town Hall, Lurgan

Chair: ABC Community Network – John McGuinness

Panel Members: ABC Seniors Network– David Hammerton, Clanrye Group – Emma Brannigan, Mencap – Liam Burns, Derrylee Community Group – Frances Kerr, P2000 – Geraldine Lawless, Volunteer Now – Edel Cunningham, Brownlow Ltd – Brendan Curran, Craigavon Area Foodbank – Chris Leech, Migrant Support Service – Brendan MacPartlin, Royal British Legion – Joe Gibson, Inspire Wellbeing – Cheryl Lester, Armagh Rural Transport – Diane Irwin, Waringstown Together – Lenny Deans, West Armagh Consortium – Stephen Fields, , IncredABLE – Nigel Hampton

Others in Attendance ABC Council – Jennie Dunlop, Michelle Markey, Sharon McNicholl, Prospect Awards CIC – Anna Clarke, Southern Health and Social Care Trust – Tracey Powell, The National Lottery Community Fund – Mark Creaney

Apologies: Banbridge Twinning Association – Gilbert Lee, Lislea Community Association – Sheila McCreesh, Salvation Army – Martin Stevenson, Links Counselling – Laura Wylie, Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau – Donna Stewart, Donaghcloney Community Gardens – Walter Ferris, Ulster GAA – Anne Garvey, Women’s Aid – Eileen Murphy, Reach Mentoring – Rick Preston, Grace Generation – Julie Ann McGreevy, County Armagh Community Development – David McMullen, Regeneration – Keith McCann, Scotch Street Youth & Community Centre – Andrew McCreery, Mounview and Grey Estates Community Association - Jonathan Mercer

1. Welcome & Introductions

John McGuinness, ABC Community Network welcomed everyone to the meeting and highlighted that this was the first meeting for new panel members.

Everyone introduced themselves and their group or organisation.

2. Community Planning update

Michelle Markey, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council provided an update on Community Planning.

Michelle went through the Powerpoint Presentation elaborating briefly on the following points:

- **Introduction to Community Planning**

Community Planning is about improving the wellbeing of the Borough and the quality of life for people through local services that are joined up, responsive and take an evidence based approach. The Community Plan for our borough is entitled “Connected” and sets out the long-term vision for the borough over a 13-year period up to 2030. Community Planning takes a partnership approach. There are nine long-term outcomes. Arranged around the pillars of Community, Economy and Place. There are thirteen statutory partners named in the legislation with specific duties around community planning but to achieve the aspirations in the plan statutory, private and community sectors need to work together.¹ The Community & Voluntary Sector Panel, Department for Communities, Business Partnership Alliance and Southern Regional College are new support partners who now have membership of the Community Strategic Partnership.

- **Community Planning Governance Overview**

The formal governance structure is two tiered, with a Community Planning Strategic Partnership (CPSP), which has strategic oversight of the process, and six Thematic Action Planning (TAP) Teams reporting into the partnership. The TAP Teams will develop and deliver on agreed actions and will report into the CPSP through the Chairs from each Team. This group (the Community and Voluntary Sector Panel) has been established to involve the sector in community planning. Panel members are involved in levels of the structure with two members representing the panel at the Community Planning Strategic Partnership. The Engagement & Communications Working Group oversaw the development of the panel and were involved in the development of a joined up the Communications Plan and the Community Engagement Strategy for Community Planning.

- **Progress towards Outcomes**

Every 2 years, a Statement of Progress must be published which shows the progress towards outcomes. Our Statement is in 3 parts

1. Background to Community Planning
2. Progress towards Outcomes
3. Developing our partnership

We are still at an early stage in the process so it is not possible to say that we’ve shifted population indicators yet.

John provided panel members with the back ground and rationale for the Community and Voluntary Sector Panel. He went through the powerpoint presentation elaborating briefly on the following points:

Establishing ABC Community and Voluntary Sector Panel

- Community and Voluntary Sector play a crucial in the borough
- Beginning of 2018 sector help design the process for establishing a panel,
- Panel first met in May 2018 and brings greater networking and united identity for borough,

¹ The Housing Executive, Invest NI, PSNI, Public Health Agency, Education Authority, NIFRS, Health and Social Care Board, Tourism NI, Southern Health and Social Care Trust, CCMS, Sport NI and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council. The Local Government (Community Planning Partners) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

- Chair and Vice Chair appointed in July 2018 following expression of interest
- Roles and responsibilities and code of conduct designed and agreed by panel

Roles and Purpose of the Panel:

- Ensure the Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise Sector is represented
- Promote ongoing Community Engagement
- Articulate the voice of the Community and Voluntary sector
- Support the development of Cross-sectoral Relationships and improved partnership working

Panel Development Programme

Panel identified three themes to work on as part of its one-year development programme – Health and Wellbeing, Employability and Skills and Communities.

Programme of work has been framed around these themes with the panel visiting Monaghan Public Participation Network, hosting first event “Songs, Sheds and Social Prescribing” Exploring pathways to wellbeing, the next event in early November. John advised Liam would talk about this under AOB.

Action: Panel members to sign and return code of conducts.

3. How does Council work? – Sharon McNicholl

John welcomed and thanked Sharon McNicholl, Strategic Director: Performance for coming along to the meeting of the Community and Voluntary Sector Panel.

Sharon went through the Powerpoint Presentation elaborating briefly on the following points:

Our Council – Key Facts

- Formed 2015 as part of Local Government Reform, 2nd largest council in NI with a population of 214,100, approx. 1500 staff and budget of c£85m

Elected Members

- report to 41 Elected members from across 5 political parties (DUP, UUP, SF, SDLP and Alliance and one independent councillor

Corporate Plan 2018-2023

- Aligned to Community Plan
- Shared vision
- 30 commitments across four themes: Committed Council, Economy, Community and Place

Achievements

- Local services delivering for you (video)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuAs-hqBsEU>

Structure

Council structure

Decision making

Committee structure

Partnership

Connected Community Plan

Plan on a Page

Learning

Panel members posed questions during the presentation.

Action: CPT to share presentation following meeting.

4. How do Panel Members connect and communicate with each other?

Agreed by all that this agenda item could commence via email.

Action: CPT will issue the template and guidance for all panel members to complete.

5. Member Networking

Members had an opportunity to network with each other during break.

6. National Lottery Community Fund

John welcomed Mark Creaney from National Lottery Community Fund.

Mark shared with panel members the funding opportunities provided through the National Lottery Community Fund. Three main programmes:

- Awards for All
- People and Communities
- Empowering Young people

Mark advised that there was now an online application process which may increase the number of applications received. Approx £8million has been given out in grants since 2014.

Mark mentioned briefly that consultation for Dormant Accounts fund was being launched to agree a process on how the money would be allocated. The National Lottery have been commissioned to distribute the money under the direction of Department of Finance. It was also noted that the funds were not monies derived from national lottery activities.

Action: CPT to share information on Dormant Accounts Fund when it becomes available

7. AOB

Liam Burns shared with panel members the brief running order for the Panel Employability Event. He advised that the purpose of the event was an information and networking event for the sector to find out what was happening locally across the borough. He encouraged panel members to share the event invite with their colleagues, group members and those who would be interested in. **Appendix two**

Action: CPT to share information on panel employment event

Action: All panel members to promote and share with contacts

Michelle reminded panel members that there was still an opportunity for eligible panel members to claim mileage. Forms and guidance would be recirculated to all panel

members. If anyone needs any assistance on these they should get in touch with community planning team.

Action – CPT to Circulate Expenses Claim Form and Guidance Notes

8. Close & Thanks

John thanked everyone for attending the meeting and encouraged everyone to attend the panel event on the 4th November 2019.

Appendix two



Trained, Skilled & Working Information and Networking Event

Do you want to know what is happening around Employability and Skills in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon areas? Find out who is doing what? Meet other organisations and groups working in this sector?

Come join us on...

Monday 4th November 2019 at 6.30pm *Light finger buffet available from 6.00pm*
Mayes Hall, Craigavon Civic Centre

And hear from...

- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- Southern Regional College
- Mencap, Volunteer Now and other providers from the Community, Voluntary and Business Sector

We would welcome information and display stands from a wide range of organisations who deliver Employability and Skills services in the ABC Borough.

If you wish to host a stand please let us know by **Monday 28th October 2019**

For catering purposes please RSVP by **30th October 2019** emailing: communityplanning@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk