Social Wellbeing Pillar: Communities

Thematic Working Group (TWG): Workshop 2, 27 July 2016

Attendees: Joanne Wallace- **Wallace Consulting**, Aínín Ní Eochaidh- **Aonach Mhacha**, Alan Gilmore- **DART Partnership**, Alan Herron- **Play Board**, Angharad Bunt- **Sport NI,** Billy Stewart- **PSNI**, Bernadette McNeice- **St Vincent De Paul,** Caitriona Hughes- **Magheralin Community Association,** Charles Neville- **Ulster Scots Community Network,** Carolyn Agnew- **Health Trust,** David Nichol- **NIFRS,** Donna Haughian- **Health Trust,** Denis Loney- **ESERG,** Edita Hamilton, Eileen Murphy- **Women's Aid,** Esther Baird- **Portadown 2000,** Geraldine Lawless- **TADA Rural Support Networks,** Gerry McIlroy- **Brownlow Neighbourhood Renewal,** Harold Briggs- **Magheralin Community Association,** John Waddell- **DAERA,** Julie Bolton- **CYPSP,** Kathy Donnelly- **St Vincent De Paul,** Keara Downey- **Sinn Fein,** Kieran Shields- **Education Authority,** Lesley McCombe- **Dept of Justice,** Lynsey Mead- **Gilford Community Forum,** Margaret Bell- **Libraries NI,** Martin Stevenson- **Salvation Army,** Melvin Spires- **NIHE,** Norman Livingston- **Mid Ulster Football Association,** Willie Monaghan- **Darkley & District Community Association.**

ABC Council- Bernie Marshall, Cathy Devlin, Chris Cassidy, Diane Clarke, Eileen Campbell, Elaine Devlin, Frances Haughey, Godfrey McCartney, Jennifer Doak, Lisa Soye, Louis O'Neill, Martina McConville, Mike Reardon, Nicola Mahood, Noreen O'Callaghan, Peter Scott, Seamus McCrory, Tracey Johnston, Wanda Rea, Lynette Cooke, Councillor Maire Cairns, Councillor Gemma McKenna

Apologies: Anthony Soares- **Centre for Cross Border Studies**, Barbara McAtamney- **Department of Justice,** Catherine Turley- **Barnardos,** Heather Kavanagh, **SRC,** Ian Wilson- **DART Partnership,** Irene Turkington- **Brownlow Neighbourhood Renewal,** John Robinson- **Barnardos**, Marian Corvan, Marion Jemison- **REACT,** Mia Murray- **Arke Sure Start,** Sheila McCreesh- **Lislea Community Association,** Stephanie Thompson- **CYPSP,** Theresa McIlroy- **Brownlow Neighbourhood Renewal,** Alexandra De La Tour- **NICIE, ABC Council**- Annette Blaney, Denise Girvan, Elaine Gillespie, Gillian Topping, Patricia Gibson

1. Welcome & Introduction

Billy Stewart, PSNI, welcomed members as Chair of the Communities TWG.

2. Baseline Statistics

Jennifer Doak, NISRA updated the baseline report as per Workshop 1 requests:

- Absence from school & educational attainment;
- Research on priorities & needs for BME communities;
- Road traffic collision - killed/seriously injured;
- Community Transport research.

Outcome: TWG members agreed that the draft baseline report reflected the current situation.

3.   Workshop 1 Report

Joanne Wallace, Wallace Consulting provided a recap of the issues and priorities agreed at the previous session. The three inter-linked priorities developed at Workshop 1 were:

- *Strengthen Community Infrastructure & Improve Connectivity*
- *Improve Community Engagement, Participation & Cohesion*
- *Create Safe Communities*

Joanne highlighted that the community development approach described in *Strengthening Community Infrastructure* was the preferred delivery method under the Health & Wellbeing TWG. Therefore this has the potential to be a cross-cutting theme, which underpins the Community Plan.

The majority of members supported the amalgamation of the Community Infrastructure & Community Cohesion priorities (four Tables supported amalgamation & two were against). Therefore, Sections 4 & 6 of this report present a combined format for comment at Workshop 3.

The group agreed to include an additional priority *Early Intervention & Support* linked to poverty, marginalisation and disadvantage and providing targeted support to the most vulnerable members of society (as per the "Concentrated Issues" presented in Section 3 of Workshop 1 Report). This priority is strongly linked to the Promoting Social Inclusion cross-cutting theme.

- *Improve Community Engagement, Participation & Cohesion*
- *Create Safe Communities;*
- *Early Intervention & Support (*suggested rewording to *Supporting Social Inclusion)*

The Vision, based upon member proposals at Workshop 1 was agreed as:

"We live in caring, safe, welcoming & connected communities that people feel proud to live in, to shape and contribute to."

Outcome: TWG to discuss the revised priorities & related outcomes & actions at Workshop 3.

4.   Short- Medium- & Long-Term Outcomes

Joanne presented draft short- and medium-term outcomes. The following suggestions have been drafted on the basis of the discussions (see Table 4.1).

Outcome: TWG members to agree any changes to the proposed Short-, Medium- & Long-term outcomes at Workshop 3.

Table 4.1   Priorities & Outcomes

Priority	Short-term (0-5yrs)	Medium-term (6-9yrs)	Long-term (10-15yrs)
Improve Community Engagement, Participation & Cohesion	We are using our combined skills, knowledge, connections & assets to strengthen the promotion, accessibility & use of our resources	Communities are equipped & empowered to deliver positive change	Everyone has equal access to information, services, facilities & activities according to their interests & needs
	There are more opportunities for people to come together through meaningful activities, engagement & interaction	People get along well together, feel part of the community & are positively contributing to its future	People of all ages have opportunities to engage in community life & shape decisions – they have a strong sense of belonging and take pride in their area
Create Safe Communities	The voice of the local community is listened to & everyone understands their responsibility & role in making the area safe	People feel safer & relationships between different communities & groups are improved	We live in a safe & peaceful environment, free from the fear of crime, where people take responsibility for their actions & have consideration & respect for others
Supporting Social Inclusion	There is a collective focus on removing barriers & building capacity & resilience to improve the lives of individuals & the communities they live in	Services are more responsive to individual needs & circumstances to improve quality of life & life chances	Individuals, families and communities are equipped & supported to reach their full potential throughout their lives

5.   SWOT Analysis

Seamus McCrory, ABC Borough Council provided a snapshot of partner activities relevant to the priorities. Members conducted a SWOT analysis on each priority to inform action planning.

Table 5.1: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE/COHESION	
STRENGTHS	**WEAKNESSES**
• Skilled community groups, interagency partnership working, sharing of good practice, shared service delivery; • Neighbourhood Renewal model – collective working; • Good volunteer base; • Willingness to work together; • Bottom-up approaches (e.g. Local Action Groups); • Good evidence base from Community Planning statistics; • Rich assets (e.g. sports facilities, education, youth structures)	• New Council area; • Weak community infrastructure in some areas/poor cohesion & relationships; • Services being stretched, dilutes impact; • Some groups feel excluded from community life; • Pilots not expanded/followed up; • Majority of funding directed at Neighbourhood Renewal Areas – need in other areas too; • Some agencies not working together; • Ineffective/convenient partnerships; • Centralisation of services leads to poor accessibility, particularly in rural areas; • Not everyone is represented at Community Planning sessions or on partnerships (e.g. LGBT, BME); • Lack of outreach; • Silo communities; • Service duplication; • Lack of conduit for delivery of information/services; • Lack of info. sharing between groups – poor dissemination/communication
OPPORTUNITIES	**THREATS**
• Through Community Planning - to lead on engagement & development of services, increased engagement with Members, make connections with Programme for Government; • Skill-up, educate & integrate communities; • Look at how we are using the assets we have & maximise this – locality structure; • Investment in volunteering; • Create links between projects; • Use of school facilities for community use	• Impact of BREXIT on funding & austerity; • Political instability; • Volunteer fatigue; • People not seeing progress/disengaged; • Short-term programmes; • Agencies not working together - apathy; • Large geographical area; • Reliance on community & voluntary sector to deliver statutory services; • Political agendas, not need determines resources; • Perception that Community Planning "belongs" to Council; • Community gatekeepers as a barrier.

Table 5.2: COMMUNITY SAFETY	
STRENGTHS	**WEAKNESSES**
• Neighbourhood Policing Teams & Communities; • Local expertise & knowledge; • Neighbourhood Watch (also Park Watch initiatives); • Youth engagement; • PCSP model – all working together to include elected representatives;	• Absence of Neighbourhood Policing Teams in rural area; • Reluctance to report to police; • Policing contacts change – loss of trust; • Lack of clarification around role of community; • Community – police relationships not seen as a priority (Officer lead); • Promoting good relations isn't as prominent as crime; • Lack of pride in area
OPPORTUNITIES	**THREATS**
• Holistic approach – support/education for addiction, families; • Community motivation & willingness; • Recognise achievements; • More risk taking, innovative approaches; • Look at capital investment opportunities, alternative finance	• Drugs – ripple effect, drug dealers; • Under-resourced; • Funding withdrawal; • Not everyone has a common goal, disengagement
Table 5.3: SOCIAL INCLUSION	
STRENGTHS	**WEAKNESSES**
• Good evidence base; • Good responsive infrastructure (e.g. Family Support Hubs, CYPSP, Food banks, community & church groups, older people's groups) delivering services; • New communities, cross-community activities – joined by shared needs	• Lack of funding availability, partnership working & resources; • Small pots of money, short-term working; • Difficulty reaching people that need support the most; • Poor user involvement in service design
OPPORTUNITIES	**THREATS**
• Link services together; • Social responsibility schemes with private sector; • Expansion of good practice; • Community sector capacity building & solutions – natural partnerships; • Neighbourhood Renewal, PCSP models	• Disengagement between agencies; • Sensitivity around funding & partnership; • Withdrawal of funding, staff & services

6. Proposed Actions & Indicators

Members developed potential actions for each priority.

Outcome: TWG members to discuss & agree proposed activity tables at Workshop 3.

Table 6.1: Community Cohesion		
Proposed Actions	Detail	Outcomes
1 Asset Mapping	- Audit partnerships, facilities, services & identify service gaps, hard to reach groups & barriers to accessing information & services; - Identify money, skills, structures, communication required for delivery	*Short-term* - We are using our combined skills, knowledge, connections & assets to strengthen the promotion, accessibility & use of our resources; - There are more opportunities for people to come together through meaningful activities, engagement & interaction; *Medium-term* - Communities are equipped & empowered to deliver positive change; - People get along well together, feel part of the community & are positively contributing to its future; *Long-term* - Everyone has equal access to information, services, facilities & activities according to their interests & needs; - People of all ages have opportunities to engage in community life & shape decisions – they have a strong sense of belonging and take pride in their area.
2 Structures to support access/sharing facilities & resources	- Develop an overarching structure, to address gaps, plan services & strengthen capacity & skills for partnership working – with authority to deliver; - Explore issue based Thematic Groups/Clusters to support multi-agency partnership working (e.g. CYPSP); - Energetic & innovative - new way of working that is truly collaborative and makes best use of the wealth of voluntary support; - Partnership approach that cuts through the red tape & allows for swift early interventions across a range of agreed priorities - pool resources; - Local capacity building based on Training Needs Analysis; - Improve internal communication & support partnership working; - Adopt a community development approach & use the existing assets within communities - increase community use of public sector owned facilities; - Explore transfer of assets for community use/social enterprise;	
3 Community Engagement Strategy	- Provide an up-to-date information point (e.g. Community Service Directory, web-based resource, Digital Engagement Platform); - Need to increase community participation, ownership & contribution; - Value & invest in opportunities for volunteering & reduce red tape; - Raise awareness of Community Planning process & how to become part of the decision-making, make it relevant to motivate people to participate – link to civic responsibility & pride – combined vision for the future; - Target the most excluded to increase belonging & build cohesion - develop specific strategies for hard to reach groups, use people within the community (e.g. Community Navigators, Health Champions) to make connections & support people to access services	

Table 6.2: Create Safe Communities			
Proposed Actions		**Detail**	**Outcomes**
1	Evaluation of Current Structures	- Review current PCSP & Policing Committee roles & engagement mechanisms – how can we remove barriers & ensure greater community input & outreach; - Research to identify alternative community-police engagement methods & showcase existing projects	*Short-term* - The voice of the local community is listened to & everyone understands their responsibility & role in making the area safe; *Medium-term* - People feel safer & relationships between different communities & groups are improved *Long-term* - We live in a safe & peaceful environment, free from the fear of crime, where people take responsibility for their actions & have consideration & respect for others
2	Confidence Building Programme	- Improving communication & community understanding about respective roles & responsibilities across PCSP, Neighbourhood Watch, Community Associations etc.; - Highlight achievements in reducing crime & ongoing work; - Improve accessibility in reporting crime (e.g. via community groups); - Safe communities shouldn't only be the responsibility of PSNI & PCSP - link with community pride & activism to protect space & assets (e.g. Civic Responsibility Charters, Community Champions); - Tackling negative perceptions of police, fire & rescue, ambulance services in a holistic community led approach; - Innovative relationship building to improve community confidence (e.g. Push the Peeler off the Pier).	
3	Address systemic issues	- Pool resources in crime hotspot areas; - Understand what makes people feel unsafe & who are the most vulnerable groups (e.g. BME, isolated, older people) & also the causes behind crime – connect across other services in a preventative approach (e.g. education, family support, youth services); - More opportunities to come together to promote good relations & cross-cultural interaction	

Table 6.3: Support Social Inclusion			
Proposed Actions		Detail	Outcomes
1	Development & Delivery of Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion Framework	• Link with Table 6.1, Action 1 - Understand root cause of social exclusion, at risk groups & additional support needs – interrogate statistics; • Development of multi-agency Anti-Poverty/Inclusion Framework – early intervention; • Life-stage approach with support at trigger points & transition stages (e.g. focus on young children to break the cycle & build capacity for early adulthood); • Linking with Table 6.1, Action 2 – identify & develop delivery structures & referral processes • Focus on improving quality of life for all & adopt a preventative approach – stop poverty figures increasing – link to welfare reform/finances/debt; • Create new opportunities for those in need – map across to education, employment, health, infrastructure etc.; • Better targeting (Neighbourhood Renewal boundaries don't reflect the extent of need) to increase service take-up; • Capacity building & training community representatives & groups – Social Responsibility Charter	*Short-term* • There is a collective focus on removing barriers & building capacity & resilience to improve the lives of individuals & the communities they live in; *Medium-term* • Services are more responsive to individual needs & circumstances to improve quality of life & life chances; *Long-term* • Individuals, families and communities are equipped & supported to reach their full potential throughout their lives

7.   Potential Beneficiaries & Partners

The following were identified, with varying emphasis according to the specific priority:

Target Beneficiaries	Potential Partner Examples
• Wider community, specifically - Children & young people, older people, BME (including Travellers), people with physical & learning disabilities, rural communities, areas of deprivation, men, families, volunteers, the unemployed, people on a low income;	• Council, Education Authority, Public Health Agency, Sure Start, Health & Social Care Trust, Community transport, Translink, Housing Executive, Community Groups & rural networks, PCSP, Citizens Advice, Department for Infrastructure, voluntary sector, sports groups, faith-based, Volunteer Now;
• Victims of crime, private sector/businesses, the most vulnerable, high crime/interface areas, victims of domestic violence, LGBT, looked after children, NEETS;	• Youth Justice, Probation, PSNI, Emergency Services, DOJ, Environmental Services, Locality Planning Groups, elected representatives, Youth service/detached youth workers
• S75 groups, the isolated, carers, those with addictions, single parents, mothers (including first time mothers), fathers, disaffected youth, children with disabilities, people with life limiting illness	• Support services for drug & alcohol, Break Through, REACT, Women's Aid, CYPSP, Simon Community, NEXUS, SVP, Support Hubs, Gingerbread, GPs, Health Centres, Libraries, relevant central government departments, business sector, funders, academics

8.   Parked Issues

Issues have been incorporated into the Action Tables under each priority.

9.   Next Steps

The 3rd Workshop will be on Tuesday 30 August, 2016: 1:00-4:30pm at Armagh City Hotel.

Workshop 3 will focus on:

- Revisions/refinements to draft Action Tables;
- Complementarity with other Pillars & TWGs;
- Links to Cross-cutting themes.