
Social Wellbeing Pillar: Communities

Thematic Working Group (TWG): Workshop 3, 30 August 2016

Attendees: Joanne Wallace- **Wallace Consulting**, Alan Herron- **Play Board**, Barbara Dickson- **Rathfriland Regeneration**, Billy Stewart- **PSNI**, Brendan Curran- **Brownlow Neighbourhood Renewal**, Brendan McCann- **TADA**, Brian O'Connor- **PSNI**, Bryan McLaughlin - **TADA**, David Nichol- **NIFRS**, Donna Haughian- **Health Trust**, Eileen Murphy- **Women's Aid**, Gerry McLroy- **Brownlow Neighbourhood Renewal**, Elizabeth Devlin- **St Vincent De Paul**, Esther Baird- **Portadown 2000**, Heather Kavanagh, **SRC**, Jim Cunningham- **SRC**, Jim Kitchen- **Sustainable NI**, John McGuinness- **ABC Community Network**, Judith McNamee- **NIHE**, Julie Bolton- **CYPSP**, Lesley McCombe- **Dept of Justice**, Margaret Bell- **Libraries NI**, Marion Jemison- **REACT**, Martin Stevenson- **Salvation Army**, Norman Livingston- **Mid Ulster Football Association**, Sally McQuaid, Sheila McCreech- **Lislea Community Association**, Sylvia McRoberts- **Armagh PCSP**, Tony Kennedy- **John Hewitt Society**, Willie Monaghan- **Darkley & District Community Association**, **ABC Council**- Chris Cassidy, Denise Girvan, Diane Clarke, Elizabeth Reaney, Frances Haughey, Lynette Cooke, Martina McConville, Michelle Markey, Nicola Mahood, Noreen O'Callaghan, Peter Scott, Seamus McCrory, Councillor Gemma McKenna, Eamonn Kelly.

Apologies: Bernadette McNeice- **St Vincent De Paul**, Catherine Turley- **Barnardos**, Caitriona Hughes- **Magheralin Community Association**, Carolyn Agnew- **Health Trust**, Geraldine Lawless- **TADA**, Gerard Rocks- **Health Trust**, Harold Briggs- **Magheralin Community Association**, John Waddell- **DAERA**, Kathy Donnelly- **St Vincent De Paul**, Rebecca Davis- **RNIB**, Stephanie Thompson- **CYPSP**, **ABC Council**- Cathy Devlin, Eileen Campbell, Elaine Gillespie, Mike Reardon, Wanda Rea, Tracey Johnston, Annette Blaney, , Gerard Houlahan, Gillian Topping, Patricia Gibson, Godfrey McCartney, Bernie Marshall, , Jennifer Doak, Lisa Soye, Louis O'Neill.

1. Welcome & Introduction

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

2. Workshop 2 Report

The Vision, based upon member proposals is:

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

Joanne Wallace, Wallace Consulting provided a recap of the draft outcomes & actions discussed at the previous session, as per the inter-linked priorities of:

- *Improve Community Engagement, Participation & Cohesion*
- *Create Safe Communities;*
- *Supporting Social Inclusion*

Outcome: Workshop 2 output agreed

3. Short- Medium- & Long-Term Outcomes & Actions

Joanne presented draft short- and medium-term outcomes & actions for discussion by members. The following Tables were updated on the basis of the discussions (see Table 3.1, 3.2 & 3.3).

Please note that outcomes & activities, should not be perceived as linear and that there will be fluidity depending on target groups and opportunities.

Outcome: Information updated to reflect TWG members combined comments.

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Proposed Actions		Detail	Outcomes
1	Asset Mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit partnerships, facilities, services & identify service & partnership gaps, hard to reach groups & barriers to accessing information & services; • Identify resources, skills, structures, communication required for delivery 	<p><i>Short-term</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; <p><i>Medium-term</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities are equipped & empowered to deliver positive change; • People get along well together, feel part of the community & are positively contributing to its future; <p><i>Long-term</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 community belonging and take pride in their area.
2	Structures to support access, sharing facilities & resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 & external communication & support partnerships; • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an up-to-date information point (e.g. Community Service Directory, web-based resource, Digital Engagement Platform); • 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 in the community (e.g. Community Navigators) to make connections & support people to access services, use of sports. Be mindful of rurality 	

Table 6.2: Create Safe Communities		
Proposed Actions	Detail	Outcomes
1	Consideration of Current Structures	<p><i>Short-term</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The voice of the local community is listened to & everyone understands their responsibility & role in making the area safe; <p><i>Medium-term</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People feel safer & relationships within & between communities are improved <p><i>Long-term</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We live in a safe & peaceful environment, free from the fear of crime, where people & agencies take responsibility for their actions & have consideration & respect for others
2	Confidence Building Programme	
3	Address systemic issues	

Table 6.3: Support Social Inclusion

Proposed Actions		Detail	Outcomes
1	Development & Delivery of Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Has to be wider than poverty in order to include isolation & marginalisation; • 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) 	<p><i>Short-term</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a collective focus on removing actual & perceived barriers & building capacity & resilience to improve the lives of individuals & the communities they live in;
2	Establish/ strengthen structures & partner capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking with Table 6.1, Action 2 – identify & develop delivery structures & referral processes, work together to shift resources & target more effectively; • Focus on improving quality of life for all & adopt a preventative approach – stop poverty figures increasing – link to welfare reform/finances/debt; • 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 	<p><i>Medium-term</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services are more responsive to individual needs & circumstances to improve quality of life & life chances;
3	Deliver linked initiatives to increase opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better targeting (Neighbourhood Renewal boundaries don't reflect the extent of need) to increase service take-up; • Create new opportunities for those in need – map across to education, employment, health, infrastructure etc. (e.g. foodbank coordination, school uniform swaps); 	<p><i>Long-term</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals, families and communities are equipped & supported to reach their full potential throughout their lives

4. Beneficiaries & Partners

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

Target Beneficiaries	Potential Partner Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider community, specifically - Children & young people, older people, BME (including Travellers), people with physical & learning disabilities, rural communities, areas of deprivation, women, men, families, volunteers, the unemployed, people on a low income, victims of domestic violence; • Victims of crime, private sector/businesses, the most vulnerable, high crime/interface areas, victims of domestic violence, LGB&T, looked after children, NEETS; • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council, Education Authority, Public Health Agency, Sure Start, Health & Social Care Trust, Department for Infrastructure, community transport, Translink, Housing Executive, PCSP, Voluntary & Community Groups & rural networks, Citizens Advice, sports groups, faith-based, Volunteering networks, S75 representative groups, trade unions, private sector; Consumer Council; Banks • Youth Justice, Probation, PSNI, Emergency Services (fire, Ambulance, PSNI), DOJ, Environmental Services, Locality Planning Groups, elected representatives, Youth service/detached youth workers, Education & Training providers • HSCT, PHA, Support services for drug & alcohol, community & voluntary sector (e.g. rural networks, children & youth, homeless, domestic violence, faith based, parenting providers), CYPSP, Support Hubs, GPs, Health Centres, Libraries, relevant central government departments, business sector, funders, academics, Education & Training providers, Department for Infrastructure, community transport, Translink

5. Cross-Cutting Themes

Presentations were given on the following Community Planning cross-cutting themes:

- Sustainability;
- Equality, Good Relations & Social Inclusion;
- Rural Development; and
- Communication.

Members discussed issues relating to their Theme in groups.

Sustainability		
Economic	Social	Environmental
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer communities will attract inward investment; • Social economy considerations, managing assets, delivering services, employment & training implications; • Skills deficit programmes & training promoted through community sector; • Volunteering provides employability skills, confidence, communication, knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong links with health & wellbeing; • Actions promote social inclusion, belonging, volunteering, community safety; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport access has implications for isolation, cohesion & accessing services; • Need to ensure that communities are well designed and all sections needs thought of – inclusion, safety & cohesion; • Better use of existing buildings for community purposes; • Community environmental projects, windfarms, carpooling, cycling, allotments, gardens, clean-ups; • Removal of interfaces, graffiti reduction; • Digital connectivity will improve information provision, communication, cohesion & inclusion; • Links with fuel poverty

Equality, Good Relations & Social Inclusion		
Equality	Good Relations	Social Inclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for all S75 groups to be disadvantaged from mainstream in some way; • Outreach & innovative engagement; • Ensure timing of consultations are accessible; • Ensure representation on partnerships & during project design – use of networks; • Make sure voices are heard; • Identify language, mobility barriers etc & address; • Bespoke communication for young people; • Proactive approach, involvement throughout process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of ownership, understanding of benefits, promote equality; • Promotion of shared space & services, partnerships between communities based on common issues; • Community “twinning”; • Use of sports, arts, intergenerational projects to bring together; • The challenges facing all communities, including BME communities, post Brexit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources must be targeted on those in most need; • Must be capacity building & strengthening of infrastructure across ABC; • Build in opportunities - cross-link with health, employment etc

Rural Development	
Challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring interventions are financially viable (lower populations); • Transport difficulties leading to unequal service access; • Population growth (including BME communities) impacting on cohesion; • Loss of services (post office, libraries); • Underinvestment (e.g. dereliction, roads, verge-cutting, play areas); • Farm safety, rivers & quarries; • Supporting the most vulnerable, isolated, ageing population; • Poor digital connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural proofing Community Plan, delivery of village plans, working with community; • Work with TransportNI, Community transport, Education Authority to extend services; • Better use existing buildings, dual use schemes; • Invest in rural halls; • Armagh Portadown rail system; • Lobby/work with digital providers; • Forge better links between community representatives, churches, farming, sports & other groups & agencies such as Health Trust, PSNI

Communications	
Challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too complicated; • Specific groups: Young people, people with learning difficulties, English not first language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear messages, plain English; • Provide translation, easy to read versions; • Tailor methods, leaflets, Council Newsletter, Use technology, APPs; • 1 page summary; • Signposting for more info; • verbal communication still best method; • Include private sector

6. Next Steps

As this is the final workshop for the TWG, Diane Clarke ABC thanked the group for their continued support and expertise.

Next Steps are:

- Consideration and prioritisation of outcomes from all six thematic working groups by Statutory Partners (Sept/Oct 2016);
- Consultation and engagement with local citizens and communities (Sept/Oct 2016);
- Draft Plan and formal consultation (Oct- Dec 2016);
- Conduct formal assessments (Oct-Jan 2017);
- Development of final plan (Dec- March 2017).