

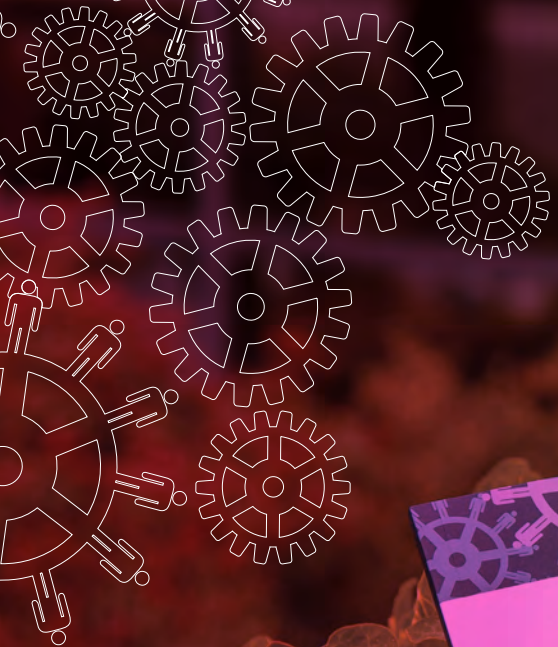
# STATEMENT OF PROGRESS: 2021-2023

## PART 2: PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE

CONNECTED **A COMMUNITY PLAN**

for Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough





# THE ARMAGH PLACE PLAN

PLAN REPORT | MARCH 2022

## CELEBRATING OUR STARS AND STORIES

Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon  
Community Planning Partnership



Armagh City  
Banbridge &  
Craigavon  
Borough Council

Housing  
Executive



Department for  
Communities  
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# COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PLAN 2022 - 2023

The Community Planning Partnership's actions are contained in its refreshed Covid-19 Response and Recovery Plan. This multi-agency and cross-sectoral response builds on the extensive community action and partnership working that we saw during the pandemic and has continued into the current cost of living crisis.

## THE FOUR PRIORITY THEMES FOR ACTION ARE:





## PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES



**RAG Rating:**  
**GREEN** [action completed/on track]  
**AMBER** [action on track, some concerns]  
**RED** [action not on track, major concerns]

ACTIONS	GREEN	AMBER	RED
21	17	2	2

The full Response & Recovery Plan is available online at [armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/covid-19-response-and-recovery-plan](https://armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/covid-19-response-and-recovery-plan)

The plan is based on the research and engagement undertaken as part of the partnership's last Statement of Progress [armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/our-progress-towards-outcomes](https://armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/our-progress-towards-outcomes)

The partnership has established four sub-committees to take forward this important work.



# 01

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE

# PROMOTING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING SUB-COMMITTEE



**Gerard Rocks**

Assistant Director for Promoting Wellbeing Southern Health and Social Care Trust

“

Mental health and wellbeing was the biggest priority issue for the borough identified by the Partnership in 2021, as the effects of the pandemic continue to be felt.

The Promoting Good Mental Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee was formed in June 2022 and builds on collaborative work by partners over the past five years.

”



**Laura Wylie**  
 CEO Links Counselling Services  
 and Community Voluntary  
 Sector Panel

The Community Planning Partnership is focusing its efforts around mental health and wellbeing on early intervention and prevention through Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing. The Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing are five simple steps that we can build into our daily lives to maintain and improve wellbeing – Connect, Be active, Keep learning, Give and Take Notice. Our actions promote the Take 5 public health message and provide opportunities for residents to put the message into practice.

Over the past two years we have launched an interactive Take 5 resource for the borough. We have continued to roll out the Take 5 Ambassador model, deliver our Get Moving Framework and grow the borough’s Loneliness Network. We have acknowledged the contribution that

volunteers make and have provided self-care for those in the Community & Voluntary Sectors. The Partnership’s second Participatory Budgeting grants project kept the Take 5 theme and the public voted for the Take 5 projects they wanted to see happen in their area. We would like to thank all the partners who have contributed to the work of this sub-committee and for the caring and professional way you approach this work.

Over the next two years we have plans to ensure our work is accessible to groups that are currently under-served. We will use our collective reach into the community to promote our messages and programmes and to inform regional and sub-regional initiatives.

**Members of the Promoting Good Mental Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee are:**

<b>Gerard Rocks (Chair)</b> Southern Health and Social Care Trust	<b>Laura Wylie (Vice-Chair)</b> Links Counselling and Community Voluntary Sector Panel
<b>Sinead Taylor</b> Southern Health and Social Care Trust	<b>Donna Stewart</b> Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau and Community Voluntary Sector Panel
<b>Deirdre Mc Parland</b> Southern Health and Social Care Trust	<b>Evelyn Hanna</b> Libraries NI
<b>Debbie Smith</b> Southern Health and Social Care Trust	<b>Karen Ross</b> PSNI
<b>Danny Sinclair</b> Public Health Agency	<b>Edel Cunningham</b> Volunteer Now
<b>John Hart</b> Sport NI	<b>Jonathan Hayes</b> Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
<b>Gillian Dewart</b> Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	



# 01 PROMOTING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## TAKE 5 STEPS TO WELLBEING

Using Take 5 as a framework, the Partnership is actively supporting the Public Health Agency message to take five simple steps to help maintain and improve your wellbeing on a daily basis through its actions. The 5 Steps to Wellbeing are:



### Connect

With the people around you, family, friends, colleagues and neighbours and spend time developing them. Building these connections will support and enrich you every day.



### Keep learning

Don't be afraid to try something new, rediscover an old hobby or sign up for a course. Learning new things will make you more confident, as well as being fun.



### Be active

Go for a walk or run, cycle, play a game, garden or dance - even a short 10-minute walk can improve mental alertness and wellbeing.



### Give

Do something nice for a friend or stranger, thank someone, smile, volunteer your time or consider joining a community group.



### Take notice

Of the world around you, how you are feeling, what matters to you and reflect on your experiences.

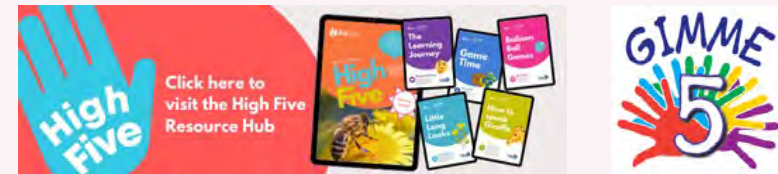
## TAKE 5

**Lead Partner: Southern Health and Social Care Trust and Partners.**

The Take 5 Ambassador Model continues to be rolled out across the ABC area. We have 49 new Ambassadors trained in partnership with Health Inequality Workers as a result of our focus on re-building our database of ambassadors post Covid. We have delivered 16 sessions with 237 participants benefiting from the Take 5 message across the ABC area. There are currently 61 active Ambassadors trained and supported to rollout the Take 5 Message across ABC.

Take 5 Ambassadors are equipped with information and resources to engage their groups. Feedback from participants has been positive. 100% of respondents reported they were aware of how to maintain good mental wellbeing, 95% of respondents indicated they were likely or highly likely to apply Take 5 messages in their everyday lives and 97.4% reported that they were more aware of organisations/activities and services in their area that could help them maintain positive wellbeing.

A Take 5 Celebration Event also took place to showcase innovative models



of Take 5 in practice within our communities and across all age ranges. The ABC Take 5 interactive resource was launched in June 2023 and all partners continue to promote this resource [prezi.com/view/P2PMRx0E0zZiaRK3zhj](https://prezi.com/view/P2PMRx0E0zZiaRK3zhj)

Southern Health and Social Care Trust and partners have been working together to build on the development of this Take 5 interactive resource by extending the interactive tool across all councils within the Southern Trust area. The interactive resource now provides a simple and informal platform to help people incorporate the steps and find out what is happening locally.

The interactive resource can be embedded into partner websites via a link or QR code.

<https://southerntrust.hscni.net/your-health/health-improvement/protecting-your-mental-health>



**Take 5 Ambassadors who have used the interactive resource said that:**

“The interactive tool helps to personalise Take 5 for participants and show local opportunities to take action”

“The interactive tool is great for engaging with young people”

“The videos within the Take 5 interactive platform are great for encouraging participants to make use of their local community and green space”

# 01 PROMOTING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## BE ACTIVE: GET MOVING ABC

Lead Partner: Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

Get Moving ABC is a Borough wide targeted initiative delivered by a range of statutory bodies and organisations who have a collective goal in motivating and supporting residents to achieve the recommended physical activity levels and to develop positive attitudes towards being active.



The Get Moving ABC Partnership's target is to get more of our population moving and become the most physically active Borough in Northern Ireland. The focus is on increasing sport and physical activity within homes, communities, workplaces, and schools.

Achievements over the reporting period included:

- Delivery of 941 programmes to those least likely to participate in physical activity
- A Communications Plan which promoted 15 Global/National Awareness Days /Months
- New partners engaged, including 8 Businesses
- Branding created

One participant said, *"I couldn't have done this without Aaron. He was a brilliant coach. He has helped me achieve the the Couch 2 5K something I didn't think I could do. Aaron has a great way with people"*.

Collaboration is the key to the success of the Get Moving Framework with NI Chest Heart and Stroke commenting they *"found this partnership to be of extreme benefit to local businesses in the ABC area, as it had strengthened links between employers, employees and their families in physical activity initiatives and increased awareness"*





## GIVE: PROMOTE, CHAMPION AND SUSTAIN VOLUNTEERING

**Lead Partners: Volunteer Now and Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau**

Craigavon and Banbridge Volunteer Bureau and Volunteer Now have both been working towards supporting volunteers in our Borough through the launch of the Volunteer Friendly Awards. Volunteer Friendly is a key award and development tool and is based on the national UK standard Investing in Volunteers. The Award is a quality standard and is user friendly in order to support, develop, recognise and reward smaller groups and organisations who are good at involving volunteers.



Some of the recipients of these awards have said that:

*“The experience has been empowering, uplifting and has instilled confidence for our organisation as a whole.”*

*“It has been a wonderful affirmation of the good practice that we strive for as we involve brilliant volunteers in our work.”*

Both organisations continue to support and champion volunteering in the borough. The Craigavon and Banbridge Volunteer Bureau have worked intensively to build the resilience and capacity of volunteers, and volunteer involving groups, who deliver services to the most vulnerable in the community. As part of this, Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau have given over 1700 EPIC awards given to volunteers (Empowering People in the Community) to recognise the value of our volunteers in the community.

Over the past two years Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau received two awards in recognition of outstanding work within the community. They also received a recognition award in Pride of Place Awards held in Dublin for which they were nominated by ABC Council,

but it’s not about us it’s about the wonderful volunteers who are the heart of our community. Volunteer Now have distributed over 1000 “thank you” bags to volunteers within the ABC area and continue to promote and support groups and build recognition for volunteering and celebrate people who volunteer. They also work with youth groups to promote their Youth Impact Awards which award young people from the age of 14-25 with certificates for 50,100 and 200 hrs volunteering. They work with organisations to promote their volunteer opportunities throughout the ABC Borough and have a wide range of training available which includes volunteer management, youth topics and more.



# 01 PROMOTING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## CONNECT: SUPPORT AND GROW THE LONELINESS NETWORK

Lead Partner: Southern Health and Social Care Trust



There are now 85 organisations in the Loneliness Network which was established in 2021 to address loneliness in the borough.

Through the Loneliness Network, eight “chatty benches” have been installed in partnership with ABC Council and they are proving to be very successful in combatting loneliness. As part of this initiative six chatty walks were organised and 66 people attended these. Some of the attendees at the Chatty Walks said-

*“It was a very beautiful experience, thank you so much, connecting with lovely people has really lifted my mood”*

*“This has been an amazing experience, well organised...It was great meeting like-minded people and benefiting from their experiences. It has helped both physically and mentally and uplifting”*

As part of Loneliness Awareness Week 25 groups registered for materials to enable them to host an event and some groups even held more than one event during the week.

The Kindness Postbox initiative involves local schools and nursing homes with the pupils writing a letter or drawing a picture for the residents in the home and then going to deliver them to the home and spending time with the residents.



One of the schools asked the nursing homes for the residents first names and then wrote letters for each and every resident. There has been positive feedback received from all involved especially the homes who got visits from pupils. This was a very thoughtful gesture and was warmly received by the staff and residents in the nursing home. This really enriched the experience and brought it to life creating real meaningful connections across all generations.

## **TAK£500+ - YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR VOICE, YOUR CHOICE!**

**Lead Partners: Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council**

Participatory Budgeting is a way for local people to directly vote on how local money is spent. Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon Community Planning launched its second Participatory Budgeting process "Tak£500+ Your Community, Your Voice, Your Choice!" in October 2022. The process enabled communities to develop ideas and apply for up to £1000 with local residents deciding how public funds could be best used to benefit their areas. Community Planning Partners pooled their resources to fund the community projects.

The programme contributed to the promotion of the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing as project ideas had to be based around the themes to help maintain and improve wellbeing on a daily basis. 119 project ideas were received and invited to the market stall decision event stage. 91 project ideas were put to a public vote where communities and residents voted on the ideas that they want to see delivered in their local area. Voting took place across three decision making events, one each in the Armagh,



Banbridge and Craigavon localities. A total of 3770 votes were cast and 81 project ideas secured funding.

Projects stretched over the entire borough and brought communities together through a variety of ideas including public gardens, sporting activities for all ages, training programmes and intergenerational projects, helping those with additional needs, supporting emotional wellbeing, weaving and more.

Tak£500+ has played an important role in providing opportunities to bring people and communities together. In addition to securing Tak£500+ funding

for their projects groups gained new members, accessed funding from other sources, developed links with other groups and improved their confidence.

For more information, including project evaluation and videos please see TAK£500+ - YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR SAY, YOUR WAY! - Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

[armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/take500plus](https://armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/take500plus)



# 01 PROMOTING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING



**73%** of voters stated they were **more aware**.

**96%** of successful groups were **more aware**.

**62%** **Over half of voters** surveyed intended to incorporate the Take 5 message into their daily

**100%** of successful groups agreed that they had **improved mental and physical health and wellbeing** through the delivery of their project.



**84%** successful groups agreed they had **reduced loneliness**.

**92%** successful groups agreed they had **developed new skills themselves**.



**43%** of successful projects were related to **sport or physical activity**



"This was a really fantastic day and the atmosphere at the event was one of positivity and it was so uplifting to meet so many other groups and connect with older, younger and cross community groups."

"It was great that the local community could come out and vote. It gave other people the opportunity to find out about our organisation that didn't know about it before."

"This was well set up and it was great that the younger people in the community were also given a voice as to where the funds should be allocated."

For more information on PB and to see how the groups benefitted from the project visit [armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/take500plus](https://armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/take500plus)



## OBA REPORT CARDS

# CONNECTED RECOVERY AND RESPONSE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORTING

1 SEPTEMBER 2021 - 31 AUGUST 2023

## Action1.2: Implement ‘Get Moving ABC’ Framework Action Plan to positively impact the health and wellbeing of the people living in the borough

The purpose of this action is to build on the increased awareness of the importance of physical activity for health and wellbeing through consistent and coordinated messages about Get Moving ABC. We will deliver a collaborative framework to engage everyone in physical activity which focuses on homes, communities, workplaces and schools across the Borough.

LEAD PARTNER	PARTNERS INVOLVED
Gillian Dewart Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	PHA, Southern HSC Trust, EA, Community & Voluntary Sector Panel, Sport NI, Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke

RAG:	RED	AMBER	GREEN

PERFORMANCE DATA	
How much did we do?	How well did we do it?
8 Get Moving ABC partnership meetings 20 Get Moving ABC partnership members	54% attendance at partnership meetings
Implementation of the Get Moving ABC Framework and associated 2 year action plan and 1 communications plan developed	
15 Global/National Awareness Days/Months Promoted each year 7 new business partners recruited (excluding get moving partners) to promote and/or deliver programmes including St Anthony’s Primary School, Netball NI, Cycul, Banbridge & Craigavon Badminton Clubs, 4 local businesses	
941 programmes directed at those least likely to participate in physical and active recreation activities 18 new initiatives developed	
Daily Mile in conjunction with SHSCT 8 Schools took part in the Daily Mile 10 <sup>th</sup> Birthday (April 22) Daily Mile Santa Run- 60 early years settings and schools from ABC participated	



How much did we do?	How well did we do it?
<b>Macmillan Move More (1/4/22 – 31/3/23)</b> 220 individuals supported	180 (82%) new referrals to Macmillan move more
<b>21</b> inclusive Sport and Leisure Programmes delivered (1/4/22 – 31/3/23) delivered <b>865</b> inclusive sport and leisure programme participants	
<b>Virtual Running Programmes</b> 7 Couch 2 5k programmes   584 couch 2 5k participants	
<b>15</b> Businesses from ABC signed up to Chest Heart & Stroke Workplace Health Programme funded by PHA (1/4/22 – 31/3/23)	13% (n2) of referrals to Cheat Heart & Stroke Workplace Programme were a direct response to Council's promotion
<b>17</b> businesses expressed interest in becoming a Get Moving Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 (47%) of Businesses who expressed an interest in becoming a Get Moving Partner have signed up</li> </ul>
<b>5</b> Armagh Place Shaping Plan Meetings attended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 71% (n5) Armagh Place Shaping Plan Meeting attendance rate</li> </ul>
<b>1 Community Sports Leader Programme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Guide Runners Leaders</li> <li>• 18 Cycle Ireland Ride Leaders/Inclusive Ride Leaders</li> </ul> <b>1 Coach Education Programme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19 Autism in Sport programmes</li> <li>• 16 Disability Inclusion Training programmes</li> </ul> <b>8</b> Cycle Ireland Rider Leaders trained	
<b>1</b> This Girl Can programme In conjunction with SHSCT <b>2</b> This Girl Can Inspiration Days <b>6</b> Secondary Schools attended the 1 <sup>st</sup> Day <b>3</b> Secondary Schools attended the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Day <b>60</b> females supported to become young leaders	
<b>Park Power</b> in conjunction with SHSCT	Park Power is a collaborative effort from a range of Community Planning Partners, including Southern Health and Social Services Trust and the Public Health Authority.  A video was created and shared as part of 'Walking Month' in May 🌐 <a href="https://getactiveabc.com/hw_programs/park-power">getactiveabc.com/hw_programs/park-power</a>
<b>136</b> families responded to Family Consultation <b>1</b> working group established <b>2</b> staff members trained in Love to Move <b>2</b> staff members trained in Ante Natal	
<b>6</b> staff members trained in Functional Fitness In conjunction with SHSCT	

### Is anyone better off?

100% (120) of Macmillan Move More participants reported an increase in physical Agency.  
93% (112) of Macmillan Move More participants reported improved mental wellbeing.  
93% of girls participating in This Girl Can rated the event as very good

### ACTION CHALLENGES

These figures largely represent what the Sports Development service in Council has been delivering toward the Get Moving ABC Action Plan. Consideration needs to be given to how the Framework is monitored and evaluated and in particular how other Council services and partners can share their relevant performance data in relation to Get Moving ABC.

### ACTION HIGHLIGHTS

#### Highlights of good news stories, achievements, and good practice which have led/are leading to change and improvement

<b>New Initiatives have included:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Senior's Dance</li><li>• Kids Dance</li><li>• Bat &amp; Chat</li><li>• Girls Get Moving</li><li>• South Lake Learning Disability Summer Scheme</li><li>• CAHMS Programme</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inclusive Snowtubing</li><li>• Summer Orienteering</li><li>• Black Paths Tours</li><li>• Let's Fish</li><li>• Urban Sports</li><li>• Additional Ward at Bluestone</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Separate Junior &amp; Senior Disability Summer Schemes</li><li>• Couch 2 3K</li><li>• Diabetes Programme</li><li>• Brain Injury Group Walking Football</li><li>• Sessions for Chest, Heart &amp; Stroke NI &amp; the Dementia Care</li></ul>
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### EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION, ENGAGEMENT AND INNOVATIVE WORKING WITH OTHER, UNINTENDED OUTCOMES?

**Collaboration is key to the successful delivery of this action and one example of how the Get Moving Partnership is doing this is as follows:** The PHA fund NI Chest Heart and Stroke to deliver a Workplace Health Programme called Live Well, Work Well. Council arranged for the programme to be promoted through Council's social media channels and also through its Business E-zine. The result being that businesses from ABC have now signed up to the programme with 9 of them advising that they heard of the programme from Council.

**Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke (NICHHS)** - The aim of Work Well Live Well, delivered by NI Chest Heart & Stroke and funded by the Public Health Agency is to support local workplaces to improve the health and wellbeing of their employees through personalised support. This involves determining health needs within businesses, building capacity and a healthy workplace culture and support to develop and deliver a bespoke, 3-year health action plan for their team. The Get Moving ABC partnership had approached me to join the group approximately 2 years ago, to support the Get People Moving priority aiming to increase the variety and number of activities on offer, and support people to be active everyday within workplaces, throughout the ABC Borough. I have found this partnership to be of extreme benefit to local businesses in the ABC area, as it had strengthened links between employers, employees and their families in physical activity initiatives and increased awareness. This has included working in partnership with ABC Sports Development team to provide taster sessions for local businesses, signposting to corporate gym membership and encouraging workplaces to get involved in physical activity programmes such as Couch to 5k and most recently the development of the Get Businesses Moving Programme. I look forward to continuing to work in partnership and achieving one common goal, of getting businesses based in the Borough to be the most physically active in Northern Ireland." Emma McCrudden, Programme Manager - NI Chest Heart & Stroke.

It was very fun and very influencing

#### AUTISM AND SPORT

My children love this programme and Dromore is the only centre I can get to easily as I am a single, working mum. It is the only sports programme my children get to take part in.

Sport Development provided physical activity literature to the Home Safety Team to distribute as part of their Home Safety Campaign

#### TAI CHI

Ryan is a great instructor. Very knowledgeable. For me just keep doing what you're doing. It's a great programme with everyone's needs regarding mobility taken into account. Thank You

I found it very interesting and encouraging. I'm even more motivated to come up with ideas and new ways for people to get active

#### INCLUSIVE SNOW TUBING

Fantastic Inclusive event for all the family

## FEEDBACK

#### BAT & CHAT

Absolutely loved the table sessions. Made new friends, improved my concentration improved my playing and understanding of the table

I attended the virtual programme and I don't think that it could be improved to be honest. There were weekly emails, which were expected, with all the advice, support and guidance required. It was very well organised and carried out. Thank you

Encouraged and motivated me to get out each day for run, being outdoors, feeling I achieved/accomplished something had a positive effect on my mental health. Ensuring I was properly prepared physically encouraged me to look at my diet, water intake.

#### WALKING FOOTBALL

I feel healthier and my mental health has improved greatly meeting other guys and building a great friendship group

#### COUCH 2 5K

Aaron I couldn't of done this without him. He was a brilliant coach. He has helped me achieve the C25k something I didn't think I could do. Aaron has a great way with people

Feel better physically and mentally than did 8 weeks ago and instilled good habits to continue this journey



# OBA REPORT CARDS

## CONNECTED RECOVERY AND RESPONSE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORTING

1 SEPTEMBER 2021 - 31 AUGUST 2023

### Action 1.4: Connect

The purpose of this action is to Support and grow the Loneliness Network. We will deliver the following:

- Destigmatise loneliness and connect services that support people
- Promote chatty benches and explore new initiatives such as chatty cafes
- Support Loneliness Awareness Week
- Develop and deliver loneliness training

LEAD PARTNER	PARTNERS INVOLVED
Sinead Taylor SHSCT	ABC Council, Community and Voluntary Sector e.g. CiNI, BCM, Linking Generations, C&B Volunteer Bureau, Libraries NI

RAG:	RED	AMBER	GREEN

PERFORMANCE DATA		
How much did we do? (n)		How well did we do it? (n & %)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 85 organisations in loneliness network</li> <li>• 4 loneliness training sessions</li> <li>• 20 loneliness training sessions attendees</li> <li>• 25 groups registered to deliver activities during loneliness Awareness Week</li> <li>• 8 chatty benches</li> <li>• 7 kindness post-boxes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 organisations participating in kindness boxes</li> <li>• 409 cards/letters distributed</li> <li>• 1500 talking tips cards distributed</li> <li>• 6 Loneliness Awareness Week chatty walks organised</li> <li>• 66 attendees at chatty walks</li> <li>• 3 different schools have visited 3 nursing homes with teacher/principal, pupils and CD staff</li> </ul>	5 (45%) organisations involved in kindness boxes were primary schools 6 (55%) of organisations involved in kindness boxes were nursing homes

## Is anyone better off? (n & %)

95% (n81) feel participation in Loneliness Network has been beneficial to your organisation | 95% (n81) feel participation in Loneliness Network has been beneficial to your members

## ACTION CHALLENGES

### Highlight any difficulties and what you think is needed to help address them?

More information needs to be available on how to tackle loneliness | More information needs to be available about loneliness and disabilities e.g: deaf, blind, autism - a section on how disabilities impact loneliness would be useful and perhaps information about organisations we could refer to overall e.g: telephone befriending etc | More information is needed on local initiatives to combat loneliness

## ACTION HIGHLIGHTS

### Highlights of good news stories, achievements, and good practice which have led/are leading to change and improvement

#### Case Study from Chatty Walks – Dawn

Dawn first came along to the second of the chatty walks, on the Mall in Armagh after she had seen the promotional flyer on Facebook. Dawn came alone and was not a member of a group. Initially she seemed quiet and reserved, however as we walked a number of the leaders had the opportunity to chat with her and make her feel welcome. Dawn mentioned that she is a single mum to 8 children (two of whom have learning difficulties). Dawn seemed quite isolated and lonely and lacked a connection to the community. She said that she has limited family support and does not leave the house very much apart from leaving the children to school etc. Dawn mentioned that she enjoyed walking but usually just exercised at home. Dawn shared that she struggled with anorexia in the past.

Ian Liggett, Vibe attended the walk. Community Development Worker recognised that Dawn may benefit from Ian's support. After the walk, Community Development Worker introduced Ian to Dawn informally in Vibe. Ian was able to offer her some immediate support (food vouchers) as well as provide information on a range of their activities/services that she could avail of through Vibe that were all free.

Dawn came along to the final walk at the Navan Centre where she met members of another local group. They encouraged her to come to some of their activities. Community Development Worker followed this up and learnt that Dawn has joined their walking and ukulele groups and now attends on a regular basis. This connection was created through Southern Trust Promoting Wellbeing staff promoting and raising awareness of Loneliness Awareness Week.

#### Feedback from Chatty Walks:

"These walks tick all the boxes for improving physical and mental health. I met so many new people and was able to extend social networks".

"I have met a walking buddy who lives beside me"

"It was a very beautiful experience, thank you so much, connecting with lovely people has really lifted my mood"

"This has been an amazing experience, well organised...It was great meeting like-minded people and benefiting from their experiences. It has helped both physically and mentally and uplifting"

#### Kindness Post-box Initiative -Armagh

All schools and homes who participated have agreed to continue the KPB initiative. Positive feedback received from all involved especially the homes who got visits from pupils. One of the schools got the first names of all the residents and wrote personal letters to each individual and then hand delivered them and read the letters to the residents. This was a very thoughtful gesture and was warmly received by the staff and residents in the nursing home. This really enriched the experience & brought it more to life & created real meaningful connections across the generations.

#### Quotes below from kindness post-box

"We all the loved the visit today - it did our hearts good! Such a lovely morning." Principal

"The children got great enjoyment writing their letters and I hope they bring some joy to the residents who receive them" Teacher

'Feel Good Armagh' community networking day & youth event

FGA was two hugely successful events to showcase support services in the Armagh Locality Area.

## ACTION HIGHLIGHTS

### Highlights of good news stories, achievements, and good practice which have led/are leading to change and improvement

#### Event 1

66 services hosted information stalls to highlight support for all ages in the Armagh area and to help connect people with services and each other. It was a great opportunity for individuals, groups and organisations to network and find out about local services.

#### Event 2

Around 170 young people took part in a wide variety of activities ranging from Arts & Crafts and African Drumming to Boxercise and Dungeons and Dragons. A total of 22 activities were offered along with food and refreshments. The free event was a joint effort from 11 member services of the CYPSP Armagh Locality Planning Group and funded by CYPSP, CiNI, SHSCT and ABC Council.

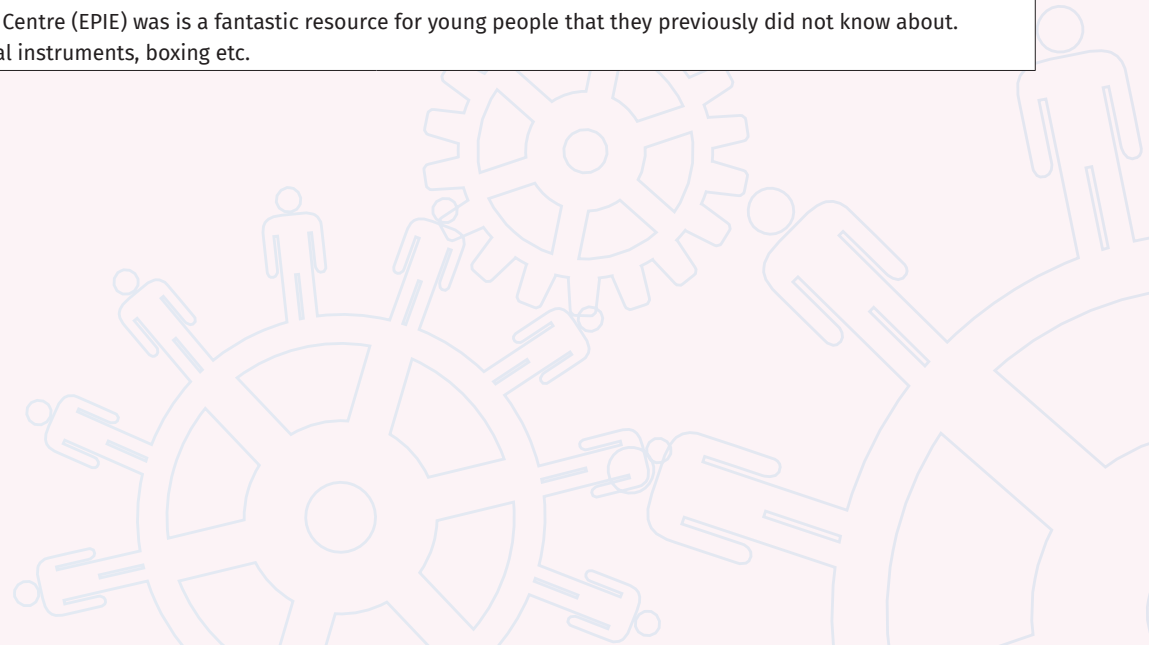
This event had a particular emphasis on showcasing to children and young people the support services available for them locally. It was a great opportunity for young people from a range of different backgrounds to come together to connect with one another and learn about each other through a range of fun activities.

Organisations who responded collectively have over 1000 members who benefit from the learning and sharing through the Loneliness Network. Some quotes received include;

- We share any information and events throughout our extensive network to ensure the Loneliness Network is promoted across the ABC area.
- Helped us focus more on the lonely and try to introduce projects so we could connect people
- Useful information, connections and really like the talking tips.
- ABC Loneliness Network gives people an opportunity to connect with other groups, share ideas and meet other people who are doing different things. It creates an opening for shared learning

## EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION, ENGAGEMENT AND INNOVATIVE WORKING WITH OTHER, UNINTENDED OUTCOMES?

From Feel Good Armagh a number of young people registered to become members of the EA Youth Centre (EPIE) was a fantastic resource for young people that they previously did not know about. Young people got the opportunity to try new things and develop new skills and interests e.g musical instruments, boxing etc.







## OBA REPORT CARDS

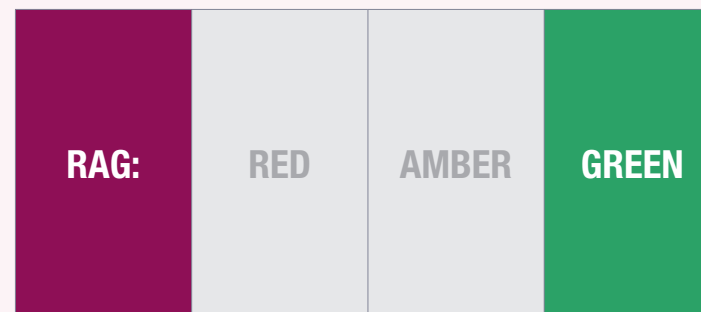
# CONNECTED RECOVERY AND RESPONSE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORTING

1 SEPTEMBER 2021 - 31 AUGUST 2023

## Action 4.3: Community Empowerment

The purpose of this action is to Further develop the Participatory Budgeting (PB) across the borough. We will implement the recommendations from the PB Roundtable to further develop PB as a delivery mechanism for the community plan.

LEAD PARTNER	PARTNERS INVOLVED
<p><b>Michelle Markey</b>                      Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council &amp; PB Working Group</p>	<p>PB Working Group members: 8 Community and voluntary sector panel members – West Armagh Consortium, Craigavon Area Foodbank, Volunteer Now, Triangle Housing, Portadown Rugby Club, Clanmil Housing, Linking Generations, ABC Council, ABC Policing and Community Safety Partnership, Ark Housing, Business Partnership Alliance, Department for Communities, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Southern Health and Social Care Trust, Sport NI, PSNI</p>



PERFORMANCE DATA	
How much did we do?	How well did we do it?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>16</b> partner organisations sharing resources and expertise</li> <li>• <b>9</b> partners contributing funding pool (3 CVS orgs)</li> <li>• <b>8</b> information sessions for groups (3 in person and 5 online)</li> <li>• <b>1</b> Social Media and Communications Plan</li> <li>• <b>119</b> applications received and invited to market-place voting events</li> <li>• <b>3</b> Market-Place Voting Events</li> <li>• <b>91</b> groups attending market-place voting events</li> <li>• <b>3770</b> votes cast of which 3,687 were eligible</li> <li>• <b>81</b> groups and 90% of project ideas were allocated funding</li> <li>• <b>1</b> Celebration Event attended by 150 community members</li> <li>• <b>81</b> community led mental wellbeing projects delivered across the borough</li> </ul>	<p><b>1. Communications &amp; promotion</b>                      92,795 Reach on social media for the opening of stage one                      82,817 Social Media Reach for Voting Stage</p> <p><b>2. Empowering Communities</b>                      99% (515) of voters and 100% (55) of successful groups agreed there was adequate support to participate in Tak£500+                      608 votes (13%) from children and young people aged between 8 and 24                      3687 local residents cast eligible votes to decide on the allocation of £76,412.68 to 91 projects across the Borough                      98% (510) of voters would vote again.</p> <p><b>3. Promoting Partnership Working</b>                      PB Working Group assessed themselves overall as scoring 5 out of 6 in meeting the Scottish Standards for Community Engagement and 4 out of 5 against the PB Charter for Northern Ireland in this project.</p> <p><b>4. Promoting The Take 5 Public Health Message</b>                      96% (53) of successful groups more aware of the Take 5 message                      73% (384) of voters more aware of the Take 5 message                      49% of voters intended to incorporate Take 5 into their daily routine</p>

## Is anyone better off?

### 1. EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

- 98% of Voters considered it very important to have a say on how resources are allocated in their area
- 96% of successful groups considered it very important to have a say on how resources are allocated in their area
- 100% of unsuccessful groups and those groups who withdrew before the decision events of successful groups considered it very important to have a say on how resources are allocated in their area
- 87% of successful groups felt more empowered by taking part in the decision events
- 92% of successful groups agreed that attending the decision event had energised their group
- 91% successful groups increased their confidence as a group through the decision event all groups increased their confidence through delivering their project and felt empowered by creating positive change in their community.
- 78% of younger children surveyed at the events felt more involved in the community from attending
- 

### 2. MEETING NEEDS

- 100% of successful group agreed that they had addressed needs in the community through their project delivery
- 84% of successful group agreed that they had reduced isolation and loneliness through their project delivery
- 100% of successful group agreed that they had improved mental and physical health and wellbeing in the community through their project delivery

### 3. PROMOTE INNOVATION AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- 95% of successful groups agreed their project had created new connections in their community
- 91% of successful groups strongly agreed/agreed they had created connections with new groups and individuals
- 100% of successful groups strongly agreed/agreed they had created stronger connections with the council and other service providers through involvement
- 57% of Unsuccessful groups created new connections with other groups or individuals at the decision event
- 57% of Unsuccessful groups strengthened connections with other groups or individuals at the decision event
- 94% of voters felt more aware of what was happening in their local area.
- 97% of voters felt more involved in the community as a result
- 98% of successful groups agreed they have raised awareness of their group
- 95% of successful groups are more aware of what is happening in their area
- 69% of unsuccessful groups agreed they had raised awareness of their group

## ACTION CHALLENGES

### Highlight any difficulties and what you think is needed to help address them?

- 23% of groups dropped off between the stage one application process and the second stage market stall decision-making events
- The duration of the market stall decision making events were viewed to long for some – considerations should be given to reduce the time or additional support provided to help volunteers host their stall.
- Despite efforts there was a lack of understanding around the voting events and how the voting worked. Targeted communication required to increase the understanding of the market-stall format and voting elements.
- The governance and administration of pooling partners resources is time intensive; the use of MOU's should be explored.

## ACTION HIGHLIGHTS

### Highlights of good news stories, achievements, and good practice which have led/are leading to change and improvement

- 81 community led health and wellbeing projects delivered
- 13% of applicants were from non-constituted groups
- 46% of groups funded were from rural areas
- The voice of younger people were elevated with nearly a quarter of voters aged between 8-15 years.

## EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION, ENGAGEMENT AND INNOVATIVE WORKING WITH OTHER, UNINTENDED OUTCOMES?

- 87% of successful groups agreed that attending the market stall events created stronger connections with the Council and service providers.
- 54% of successful groups noted that their group had experienced additional benefits and connections beyond the projects. Ranging from attracting new members, securing additional funding, developing links with other groups, voluntary organisations and the council team.



# 02

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS OF THE TACKLING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION SUB-COMMITTEE



**Seamus Mc Crory**  
Head of Community Development  
ABC Council



**Martin Stevenson**  
Community Development Co-  
ordinator for Salvation Army and  
Community Voluntary Sector Panel



**Chris Leech**  
Chairperson of Craigavon Area  
Foodbank and Community Voluntary  
Sector Panel

Tackling poverty & social exclusion in the borough is one of four priorities for action for our community planning partnership and requires collaboration across a wide range of partners and sectors. This Sub-Committee was formed June 2022 and has achieved a lot in a short space of time. ”

Since COVID-19, and indeed during the recovery period from the pandemic, community planning partners have deepened their collaboration to mitigate the impact of poverty in the borough. Voluntary, statutory and business partners have worked together to develop a sophisticated and extensive system to distribute emergency food and fuel and to refer people to other support services they need.

During the cost of living crisis we are still seeing financial hardship in communities and we have spent significant amounts of time and money in distributing emergency support.

During this time we have also made progress on developing more sustainable approaches to tackling poverty and social exclusion. We have launched four social supermarkets in the borough, delivered skills and employability programmes, housing schemes and age friendly initiatives. The Age Friendly Alliance launched their strategy and action plan in October 2022.

The sub-committee also has oversight of the PEACE PLUS 1.1 Local Plan and local input into the co-design of the People & Place Strategy to ensure that investment into the borough is joined up and continues to meet the needs of local people.

We would like to sincerely thank all our partners who have worked so diligently to deliver a joined up approach to poverty and social exclusion, providing ongoing support and reassurance to the people of the Borough when they needed it most.

**Members of the Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion Sub-Committee are:**

<b>Seamus Mc Crory (Chair)</b> Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	<b>Martin Stevenson (Vice-Chair)</b> The Salvation Army and Community Voluntary Sector Panel
<b>Chris Leech (Vice-Chair)</b> Craigavon Area Foodbank and Community Voluntary Sector Panel	<b>Nichola Creagh</b> Department for Communities
<b>Lisa McAliskey</b> Southern Health and Social Care Trust	<b>Darren Curtis</b> Children and Young people's Strategic Partnership - Children in Need
<b>Valerie Maxwell</b> Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, Public Health Agency	<b>Catriona Regan</b> Southern Regional College
<b>Stephen Fullerton</b> Invest NI	<b>Mark Ingham</b> Northern Ireland Housing Executive
<b>Karen Ross</b> PSNI	<b>Andy Burns</b> Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
<b>Lucille Lennon</b> Public Health Agency	<b>Alison Clenaghan</b> Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
<b>John Devaney</b> Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	<b>Stephanie Rock</b> Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
<b>Alison Beattie</b> Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	<b>Nicola Wilson</b> Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
<b>Sarah Jane McDonald</b> Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	

# 02 TACKLING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

## EMERGENCY NEED

Lead Partner: ABC Council

Within 22/23, a total of 18,153 people presented themselves to the main partner organisations for general advice and support including food and fuel support. The partners meet on a regular basis to share best practice and provide a coordinated approach to delivery. We have also been working with local businesses in order to redistribute food which may otherwise have been wasted e.g. owing to damaged packaging and this is redirected to the Community Food Hub and used to supply foodbanks and local community groups for the purposes of meeting food needs. Social Supermarkets are being developed to support longer term sustainable approaches to accessing food; these include additional wrap around services, such as training and personal development.

The work of the Partnership is also beginning to identify wider needs and how poverty has impacted on issues such as housing, mental health, family relationships, education and addiction, therefore the wider referral networks and wraparound support services are key to providing a joined-up approach in order to meet the needs.



FEEDBACK FROM A SERVICE USER AT THE FOODBANK

*After six weeks of foodbank, I received six weeks of the Pantry, a subsidised shopping experience linked with the foodbank with the aim to get me on my feet again after the initial help. So again, not left alone and encouraged to rise. I'm so very thankful for the foodbank and the Pantry. It helped me so much in my time of need.*



## HOUSING

### Lead Partner: Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Between April 2021 and March 2023 a total of 104 units of social housing were completed within 13 new build social schemes across the Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon area. This included 13 wheelchair accessible homes. In March 2023 there were five new build social schemes on site which will deliver a further 99 units including nine wheelchair accessible homes and a further six new build schemes are currently included on the three year Social Housing Development Plan which will deliver approximately 186 units.

The village of Derrytrasna was included as part of the Housing Executive's 2018/19 Rural Housing Need Test Programme. The test focused on encouraging anyone in need of a home in this rural location to come forward and engage with NIHE Housing Advisors to discuss housing options and opportunities. This consultation, which was carried out in partnership with Ark Housing Association, assisted the Housing Executive in assessing the need for additional social housing in the area and the most suitable location and mix for this housing.

The test, which comprised of two community information events, art competitions in two local primary schools and promotion through social media, generated a positive response and an increase in the local waiting list for social housing. Based on this response, the Housing Executive were in a position to support a proposal from Ark Housing Association to develop a social housing scheme for 14 units including 10 No 3 person



2 bed houses, 2 No 5 person 3 bed houses, 1 No 3 person 2 bed generic wheelchair bungalow and 1 No 5 person 3 bed generic wheelchair bungalow. The completed scheme, which will introduce new high quality and accessible social housing units to this small rural community, was allocated during the Summer of 2023.

# 02 TACKLING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

## AGE FRIENDLY BOROUGH

### Lead Partners: ABC Council

The Age Friendly three year strategy and action plan has been launched and attracted over 100 older people to the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre. Over the past two years there have been 8 ABC Age Friendly Alliance Meetings and 20 ABC Seniors Network Meetings/events. Many events have also taken place including ABC Seniors Network Spring Craft event, a Winter Wonderland walk and ABC Seniors Network Physical Activity Workshop.

The Older Persons Conference which takes place every year attracts over 350 older people and is a partnership approach with Armagh Banbridge Craigavon PCSP and Age Friendly Alliance.

As a result of the strategy many actions have taken place including raising awareness of loneliness and social isolation, the benefits of intergenerational practice and to try to combat digital exclusion, over 6000 hard copies of the ABC Seniors Newsletters have been distributed to older people across the Borough. Extensive consultation has been carried out via an age friendly survey, with 593 people aged 50+ sharing their views on what would make their area a better place to grow old in.

An application which was submitted to the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Communities and Cities has been successful which will offer support to our borough as we continue on our Age Friendly journey. Age friendly communities promote physical and social environments that support healthy active ageing and a good quality of life for older people.



This presents a great opportunity to make our Council area a place where older people can live full, active, valued and healthy lives. Living longer is a huge opportunity if we adapt our neighbourhoods and communities to work for us as we age.

We recognise that in our Borough there are 34,990 people aged 65+ and 2018 based population projections forecast that this will grow by 58.7% by 2043. The number of residents aged 85+ is also forecast to rise by a staggering 112% in the same period. We also recognise that growing numbers of older people are living with dementia, multiple long-term health conditions and in social isolation. Developing an Age Friendly Borough is one of the most effective local policy approaches for responding to demographic ageing.

## LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP

### Lead Partner: ABC Council

In February 2021, the Labour Market Partnership (LMP) was established through funding from the Department of the Communities (DfC) in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough (ABC) Council area.

The ABC Labour Market Partnership (ABC LMP) undertook a strategic assessment of employability outcomes and local labour market conditions within the region to inform a locally focused Action Plan.

At the heart of the ABC LMP is the need to ensure that a quality skills provision is driven by demand for skills in the economy, leading to reduced unemployment. The aim is for residents in our borough to have the skills, information, support, and opportunities to succeed in the labour market so they can make informed choices, access effective pathways, and reach their full potential. Co-designed with a range of stakeholders, the ABC LMP aims to support the local economy with a resilient, agile, and flexible workforce.

The ABC LMP Action Plan 2023-24 identifies four thematic areas: Disability, Economic shock, Economically inactive and Skilled Labour supply.

Programmes delivered include the HGV Employment and Training Academy which fully funded eligible individuals to gain a HGV licence Class 1 or Class 2 and a guaranteed interview, on successful HGV licensing. This addressed the massive shortage of HGV drivers. Another programme



delivered was the Rapid Response Employment programme which has direct and specific interventions to reskill applicants in areas where demand exceeds supply. To date five programmes have been delivered and they have been attended by 352 trainees, with two of these programmes targeting the 16-24 age group. The LMP seeks to ensure that the priorities identified continue to reflect employability and labour market challenges in the area and are led by statistical evidence and the findings of stakeholder consultations across the borough.

## OBA REPORT CARDS

# CONNECTED RECOVERY AND RESPONSE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORTING

1 SEPTEMBER 2021 - 31 AUGUST 2023

## Action 2.1 Emergency Need

The purpose of this action is to continue to provide food, energy and wraparound support to people experiencing poverty and develop social supermarkets model. We will continue to provide food, energy and wraparound support to people experiencing poverty.

LEAD PARTNER	PARTNERS INVOLVED
<p><b>Chris Leech</b> Craigavon Food Bank</p> <p><b>Alison Beattie</b> Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council</p>	<p>ABC Council, SHSCT, SRC, PSNI, Craigavon Foodbank, Via Wings, Armagh Foodbank, The Storehouse, Advice Services Craigavon, Advice Services Banbridge, Advice Services Armagh, Volunteer Now, Craigavon and Banbridge Volunteer Bureau, St Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army.</p>



PERFORMANCE DATA	
How much did we do?	How well did we do it?
<p>4 foodbanks – Craigavon foodbank, Armagh foodbank, Via Wings in Dromore and The Storehouse in Banbridge.</p> <p>6 partner voluntary organisations (Food)</p> <p>3 partner voluntary organisations (advice)programme</p> <p>5 partners trained in good safety</p> <p>28,315 people supported</p> <p>9793 individuals supported under fuel support programme receiving emergency supplies of Oil, Gas and Electric</p> <p>5104 people provided with DfC emergency food parcels. This figure would be higher when food distributed from donations from the public is included.</p>	<p>4 (100%) of Foodbanks satisfied with the quality of partnerships &amp; collaborations</p> <p>5,779 (20%) referred by another organisation in referral network</p> <p>4 (100%) of Foodbanks satisfied that the funding enabled them to meet the food and/or poverty needs of beneficiaries</p>



## Is anyone better off?

- 7991 (78%) increase in people presenting for support 2021/22 - 2022/23
- 749 (17%) increase in people receiving support under fuel support programme
- All areas in the borough are covered by the 4 Social Supermarkets(SSMS), within Armagh, Banbridge, Dromore and Craigavon and their extended partners. They are at various stages of development and provide links to a range of wider support services
- All partner organisations make referrals to Community Advice Services in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon for benefit checks to maximize household incomes and to share information on wider wraparound support available.
- Progress on developing more sustainable models to address food needs
- The 4 established Foodbanks and SSM's have developed various models depending on their community needs. Some engagement has taken place with the support of local faith based organisations e.g. harvest appeals and also business engagement e.g. Food companies based in the borough. Each SSM has complementary offerings within their buildings and the development of these spaces are part of their sustainability plans e.g. coffee shops and clothes/school uniform shops.
- Support / collaboration etc with other foodbanks for shared learning / best practice
- The SSM's have connections with other community groups and a few Foodbanks in the Belfast area. Council met with Strabane and Londonderry Foodbanks and SSM's to look at best practice and the longevity plans these areas had in place
- Regular meetings take place with the SSM's and their partners
- Council meets regularly for co-design and collaboration with the Foodbanks and SSM's
- Advice services – signposting
- Support for other organisations now that funding cuts have been announced

### **Other services offered:**

Upskilling and CV's | After School and children support | Wellbeing | Toy Library | Soup packs with recipes | Cooking courses | Connect café | Connect trips to Newcastle, Portrush and Bangor | Clothing and hospital responses | School uniforms and clothes shops | Wednesday walks | Mens' Thursdays | Women's and mum's groups | Open space drop in | Disability inclusiveness | Training with SRC | Elderly groups | Yoga and mindfulness | Counselling

The Community Advice Service is based in four offices in Armagh, Banbridge, Lurgan and Portadown. Over 12,000 individuals use advice services each year presenting with over 30,000 issues. These include benefits, appeals, debt, employment, tribunal support, EU settlement scheme, housing, family issues, health and education. Signposting between support partners and other services is an important role of the advice providers and strong relationships exist to support the process.

Emerging issues have been highlighted as youth service funding has been reduced for Voluntary Sector Youth Clubs. One example of support through the ABC Food Hub is outlined below

### **Case Study from St Mary's Youth Club**

Our youth centre is very thankful for the food donations from ABC Community Food Hub. As a youth centre working in a deprived community, we have been able to provide our young people with healthy drinks and snacks on a regular basis, this would not have happened without aid from the ABC Community Food Hub. The donations have helped us provide a meal for young people that may not have eaten that day. We found when young people were off school they would have stated how hungry they were. The Food Hub also supported us during times of celebration e.g. summer provision, Christmas. We have also been able to use some of the fresh vegetable supplies to teach young people how they can make a healthy meal at home for very little money. It has also helped us show young people that meals could be made from leftovers instead of these being thrown into landfill. When cooking with the young people they would open up more to us and chat about concerns they may have. This also enabled us to check in with young people that we knew needed extra support and guidance. Due to the cost-of-living crisis, we decided not to run a tuck shop, as it was unfair to put that financial pressure on parents when things are so difficult. Therefore, these snack donations helped to give all young people something to eat during our programme.

## ACTION CHALLENGES

### Highlight any difficulties and what you think is needed to help address them?

Growing food, laundrette services, computers and printers for students and phone support for making doctors appointments, access to furniture, private landlord/housing issues, mental health challenges and addiction identified as emerging needs.

However, wider unmet needs have been identified. Poverty has impacted on issues like housing, sofa surfing, mental health, family relationships, education, addiction and suicide

## ACTION HIGHLIGHTS

### Highlights of good news stories, achievements, and good practice which have led/are leading to change and improvement

#### Case Study from Community Advice Craigavon

A client with a significant overpayment of housing benefit, (£11,583), had called us. She was very anxious and had been 'burying her head in the sand' by her own admission, unable to deal with this and other overpayments and arrears. She wanted to get matters sorted but found the situation overwhelming and lacked the confidence. The adviser helped her start the discussion about negotiating a repayment plan that she could afford to maintain. The adviser assisted with completion of a budget form and explained the options to the client, who decided, with more information about process, to try and speak directly to the department herself. She subsequently moved on to contact a number of different agencies about outstanding issues and reported to the adviser 'I'd got myself into a hole and you inspired me and gave me confidence to tackle things myself'

## EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION, ENGAGEMENT AND INNOVATIVE WORKING WITH OTHER, UNINTENDED OUTCOMES?

- Innovative outcome from Café IncredABLE. Supporting the Food Hub and reskilling and upskilling their trainees.
- Cross council support helping with waste value and the expense of waste disposal.
- Improved links e.g. second hand furniture.
- Via Wings refrigerated van working collaboratively to distribute food across all food support organisation outlets.



# OBA REPORT CARDS

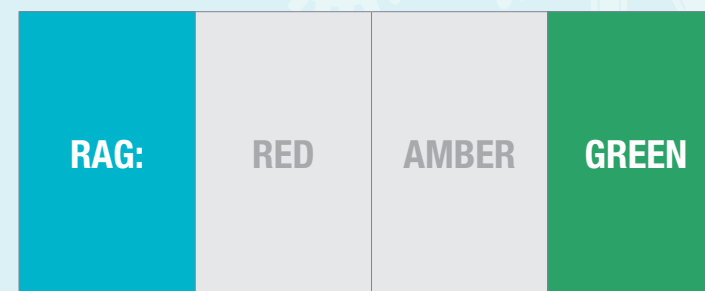
## CONNECTED RECOVERY AND RESPONSE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORTING

1 SEPTEMBER 2021 - 31 AUGUST 2023

### Action 2.5 Housing

The purpose of this action is to enhance mix of tenure, and improve accessibility and affordability across the Borough’s housing.

LEAD PARTNER	PARTNERS INVOLVED
Sinead Collins Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)	NIHE, Registered Housing Associations



PERFORMANCE DATA	
How much did we do?	How well did we do it?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13 new build social housing schemes completed</li> <li>104 social housing units completed</li> <li>5 new build social housing schemes in progress</li> <li>99 social housing units in progress</li> <li>6 new build social housing schemes agreed</li> <li>186 new build social housing units agreed</li> <li>573 private properties benefited from Affordable Warmth Scheme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>n13 (13%) of completed new social housing units are wheelchair accessible homes *April 2021 – March 2023</li> <li>n9 (9%) of social housing units in progress are wheelchair accessible homes *March 2023</li> <li>361 (63%) properties had boilers replaced through Affordable Warmth Scheme</li> <li>124 (81%) Disabled Facility Grant approvals completed</li> <li>3712 (-3%) applicants on the waiting list for ACBCBC September 2021 - March 2023.</li> <li>2311 (-2%) applicants in housing stress September 2021 to 2,311 in March 2023</li> </ul>



Is anyone better off?

## ACTION CHALLENGES

Highlight any difficulties and what you think is needed to help address them?

Housing associations can face difficulty in securing housing development sites in areas of housing need. We continue to review and assess lands remaining in NIHE ownership and have an Information Sharing Agreement in place with ACBCBC to review the potential of lands in Council ownership for housing development.

## ACTION HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of good news stories, achievements, and good practice which have led/are leading to change and improvement

### **New homes delivered in Derrytrasna**

The village of Derrytrasna was included as part of the Housing Executive's 2018/19 Rural Housing Need test programme. The test focused on encouraging anyone in need of a home in this rural location to come forward and engage with NIHE Housing Advisors to discuss housing options and opportunities.

Based on the engagement and findings of this test, the Housing Executive were in a position to support a proposal from Ark Housing Association to develop a social housing scheme for 14 units including 10 No 3 person 2 bed houses, 2 No 5 person 3 bed houses, 1 No 3 person 2 bed generic wheelchair bungalow and 1 No 5 person 3 bed generic wheelchair bungalow. The scheme is due to be allocated during the Summer of 2023.

Successes over the past 2 years-

- £3m Energy Efficiency Programme delivered in 546 NIHE homes
- £2.9m invested in Affordable Warmth Scheme
- £2.89m invested in adapting Housing Executive stock
- £2.22m Disabled Facility Grant investment
- 153 Disabled Facility Grants approved for private sector dwellings

# OBA REPORT CARDS

## CONNECTED RECOVERY AND RESPONSE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORTING

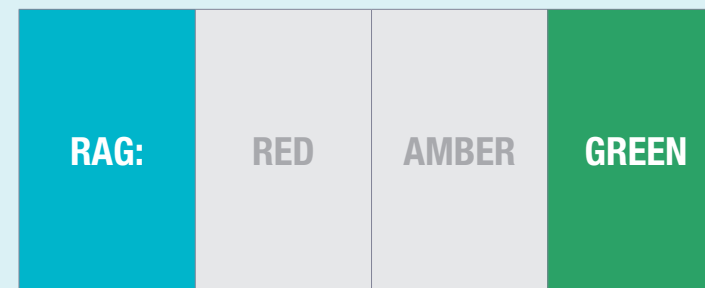
1 SEPTEMBER 2021 - 31 AUGUST 2023

### Action 2.6 Age Friendly

Create a Borough that is welcoming, accessible and friendly for people of all ages . We will deliver the following:

- Finalise Age Friendly Borough strategy
- Agree and implement action plan in collaboration with the Age Friendly Alliance
- Develop and implement communications and engagement plan

LEAD PARTNER	PARTNERS INVOLVED
Stephanie Rock ABC Council	ABC Age Friendly Alliance Partners: ABC Community Network, ABC Senior’s Network, Access & Information Lead SHSCT, Age NI, Alzheimer’s Society, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Armagh Rural Transport, British Red Cross, Carers First, Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau, DART, Dementia NI, DfC, DfI, Integrated Care Partnership, Libraries NI, Linking Generations NI, NIHE, NIFRS, PCSP, PHA, PSNI, SHSCT, SRC, TADA, Translink, Volunteer Now



PERFORMANCE DATA	
How much did we do?	How well did we do it?
8 ABC Age Friendly Alliance Meetings 20 ABC Seniors Network Meetings/events 8 ABC Intergenerational Network meetings attended 8 ABC Loneliness Network meetings attended 2 SHSCT Physical Activity Framework meetings attended 8 Age Friendly Network NI meetings attended PB WG participation 44 activities advertised in the Calendar of Events for PAM	20 partners (36%) actively attending ABC Age Friendly Alliance Meetings  8000 hard copy newsletters going out to digitally excluded homes in the Borough  593 surveys were completed, 283 (47.7%) of which were hard copies • 30% of respondents were male with 68% females giving their views. • 49% of respondents lived in the countryside or village with 49% stating they lived in a town or city

How much did we do?	How well did we do it?
<p>3 editions of 12 page newsletters produced for Positive Aging Month            2 editions of 8 page newsletters produced for Positive Aging Month            191 older people attending 5 ABC Seniors Network Events</p> <p>59 Age Friendly Strategy Survey respondents            2000 hard copies of Age Friendly Survey distributed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 50 older people participated in in-depth interviews</li> <li>· 5 focus groups with older people</li> <li>· 4 interactive workshops with age friendly alliance members</li> </ul> <p>4 Focus Groups with Older peoples Groups            125 focus group attendees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Age Friendly Strategy and 3 year action plan launch</li> <li>• 100 older people attendance at launch</li> </ul> <p>4 older Persons keep safe keep well Conferences</p>	<p>17 (28.8%) hard copy Age Friendly Strategy survey responses            100% (330) of participants attending enjoyed the conference and speakers</p> <p>50% (2) focus groups held in rural areas)</p> <p>24.7% of successful pb funding applications for older people            27.4% of pb Take 500 voters were 55+</p>

**Is anyone better off?**

100% (32 people) of participants attending the ABC Seniors Network Spring Craft Event agreed that the workshop was enjoyable, that they increased their skills and that arts and crafts have the power to influence positive mental health.

100% (35 people) of people attending the Winter Wonderland Walk and Physical Activity Focus Group agreed it was a great morning with a lot of new connections made. 85% said they would think of building more physical activity into their lifestyle as a result of attending the event.

100% (43 people) attending the ABC Seniors Network AGM & Information Event said they enjoyed the event and 90% said they had learned something new as a result of attending. We also recruited 3 new members.

100% (31 people) attending the ABC Seniors Network Physical Activity Workshop agreed it was a very enjoyable session, a great opportunity to make new connections and that they would try to build in more physical activity to their lifestyles.

100% (50 people) attending the Hidden Hearts Scavenger Hunt agreed it was an enjoyable event and that they enjoyed the physical activity (walk) which was built into the programme.

**ACTION CHALLENGES**

**Highlight any difficulties and what you think is needed to help address them?**

One of the issues is around communications and trying to make sure that older people who aren't online are still able to access information and that it doesn't become a barrier to participation. I always try to include a telephone number for promotional materials and use press releases in local papers as well.

## ACTION HIGHLIGHTS

### Highlights of good news stories, achievements, and good practice which have led/are leading to change and improvement

#### **Slow Cooker Programme**

This 2-week programme gave bereaved men the opportunity to come together, learn new healthy life skills, exchange stories and build a connection with like-minded people. After the 2 weeks, the men were exchanging telephone numbers and all asked to be placed on the Age Friendly Officer (AFO) database to receive information about activities, events and new programmes that were taking place. This also afforded the AFO the chance to work in partnership with the Bereavement Service within SHSCT and to find out more about the excellent service they offer to bereaved people throughout the Borough. In total 20 men attended on two separate dates in Feb and Mar with feedback being extremely positive. 100% reported that they had both enjoyed the programme and learnt something from taking part which would result in them making positive changes to both their shopping and cooking habits going forward!!

Comment from participant: "I want to thank you all for organising two very successful mornings which I personally found very helpful and informative. Please convey to all concerned my thanks for the course content and delivery and for the slow cooker and cookery books which I am looking forward to using"

#### **Public Consultation**

Going out with the draft age friendly strategy and action plan gave us the opportunity to check that we had captured the views of older people that had taken part in the age friendly survey. Whilst the vision and outcomes remained the same, it gave us a chance to tweak and add some new actions to the plan.

#### **Make the Call Promotion**

AFO has been actively sharing Make the Call Information and encouraging people to contact the service to try to improve the uptake of benefits by people who are entitled but not claiming. One woman reported to AFO that because of speaking to her and contacting Make the Call she was now entitled to Attendance Allowance. This will allow her to maintain her independence at home and help to pay a carer to help around the house.

**Case study:** The lady who received Attendance Allowance rang back to thank me and told me that she is entitled to over £100 per week and that the amount of money was life changing as she could now pay someone to help her around the house and this enabled her to retain her independence. This has made a great difference to her that she isn't relying on family all of the time as she felt she was becoming a burden to them.

## EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION, ENGAGEMENT AND INNOVATIVE WORKING WITH OTHER, UNINTENDED OUTCOMES?

ABC Age Friendly Alliance is a partnership approach made up of 56 partners representing 27 organisations.

ABC Seniors Network is made up of 21 Committee Members from older peoples groups throughout the Borough with 4 support organisations and 5 community and voluntary members.





## OBA REPORT CARDS

# CONNECTED RECOVERY AND RESPONSE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORTING

1 SEPTEMBER 2021 - 31 AUGUST 2023

## Action 2.4 Employability and Skills

The purpose of this action is to Implement the Borough's Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Action Plan We will continue to

- Enterprise pathways: provide business start up support for 16-24 year olds
- Covid Rapid Response Employment Programme: direct and specific interventions to reskill in areas where demand exceeds supply
- HGV Programme: help address the chronic shortage of HGV drivers.
- Get Future Ready Employability and Skills- series of employability and skills events aimed at 16-24 year olds.

LEAD PARTNER	PARTNERS INVOLVED
<b>Nicola Wilson</b> ABC Council	Jobs & Benefits Office, Education Authority, Business Partnership Alliance (BPA), The Antrim, down and Armagh Rural Support Network (TADA), Manufacturing NI, NI Food and Drink Association (NIFDA), Enterprise NI, Invest NI, ABC Council Community Development, ABC Council Economic Development Services Department, Southern Regional College, Northern Ireland Union of Supported Employment, Richmount Rural Community Association, Southern Health and Social Care Trust.

<b>RAG:</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
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PERFORMANCE DATA	
How much did we do?	How well did we do it?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 business and community LMP members</li> <li>• 10 LMP meetings</li> <li>• 1 Action Plan submitted to DfC</li> <li>• 5 LMP programmes</li> <li>• 352 LMP programme trainees</li> <li>• September 2021- April 2022                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 121 participants on 2 programmes (HGV 21-22- 81 &amp; Enterprise Pathways 21-22-40)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	116 (76%) attendance at LMP meetings 2 (40%) programmes targeting 16-24 year olds

How much did we do?	How well did we do it?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>April 2022- July 2023               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>231 Participants ( Rapid Response 107, Enterprise Pathways 44, HGV 80)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Get Future Ready Event partners (ABC LMP, Banbridge district enterprise centre, Southern Regional college)</li> <li>42 Get Future Ready events</li> <li>1920 Get Future Ready registrations</li> <li>119 employees participating</li> <li>4 employees (ALMAC Group, SRC, NIFDA, Manufacturing NI) participating in panel discussions</li> </ul>	1708 (89%) of registrations attended
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 promotional video produced for Get Future ready Employability and Skills conference</li> </ul>	139,195 total social media reach 1,120 total social media engagement

### Is anyone better off?

251 (71%) trainees gained a qualification  
205 (58%) trainees gained Employment (inc self employment)

## ACTION CHALLENGES

### Highlight any difficulties and what you think is needed to help address them?

The biggest difficulty the Labour Market Partnership has had is delayed Letter of Offer's from DfC. A 1 year delivery window is already difficult to deliver the range of employability and skills programmes the LMP offers, this has been shortened each year due to late letters of offer. There is nothing we can do around this due to it being out of our control.

The HGV academies have proved challenging due to back logs with test dates and licenses from DVLA. We have looked at this and decided to not run an academy until DVLA is not under as much pressure for licenses and testing dates.

## ACTION HIGHLIGHTS

### Highlights of good news stories, achievements, and good practice which have led/are leading to change and improvement

205 people previously unemployed, underemployed or at risk of redundancy have successfully gained employment as a result of LMP programmes. The rapid response programmes have been a great success as they overachieved on each target, meeting the needs of local businesses by offering short, sharp responses to sectors in need of skilled labour.

Get Future Ready Employability and Skills month was a great success in February 2023. It created a great buzz in the local labour market.

## EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION, ENGAGEMENT AND INNOVATIVE WORKING WITH OTHER, UNINTENDED OUTCOMES?

The Partnership with 16 local stakeholders meeting monthly has yielded some great results. There is such a diverse range of expertise that has led to some innovative programmes. With representatives across the Borough's employment spectrum we feel that this has sparked interesting collaboration and engagement across a variety of topics including female returners, Disability and the skills agenda.



# 03

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE

# PLACE BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE



**Ethna Mc Namee**  
Invest NI Regional Manager  
Regional Office West

The Place Board Sub-Committee are championing the role of our places in promoting wellbeing through the further roll out of place plans in the borough. This is a new approach and combines a locality planning approach to community planning with urban master planning.

Armagh was the very first place plan to be developed and work is now ongoing for the Banbridge Place Plan which is in draft form. The engagement process undertaken to date builds on the successful collaborative working that went into the City of Culture bid for 2022.







**Sinead Collins**

Head of Place Shaping South Region,  
Northern Ireland Housing Executive

In 2022 the Place Board Sub-Committee was formed to build upon the partnership’s work over the previous five years to ensure that all residents in ABC live in a creative, enhanced and revitalised place. The focus of the Place Board is to gain an understanding of social, community, economic or environmental led initiatives, impacting on the ‘places’ and to have partner and stakeholder discussions and share updates on future plans for the place.

Delivering place plans requires partnership working between the statutory, business and community/voluntary partners who make up our Place Board Sub-Committee and who will strive to support and identify potential partners and funding streams to deliver these actions.

To these partners we are indebted to the time and dedication given to this Sub-Committee and over the next two years we hope to see more actions come to fruition within the Armagh Place Plan and the roll out of actions within the Banbridge Place Plan and potentially more Place Plans being developed across our Borough.

This will bring to life the visioning, planning and enhance investment which will connect people and places and support social, environment and economic aspirations in ABC.

Members of the Place Board Sub-Committee are	
<b>Ethna McNamee (Chair)</b> Invest NI	<b>Sinead Collins (Vice-Chair)</b> NIHE
<b>Paul Crooks</b> Education Authority	<b>Veronica Morris</b> Rural Support NI
<b>Gavan Rafferty</b> Ulster University	<b>Jerome Burns</b> DAERA
<b>Adrienne Adair</b> Libraries NI	<b>Simon Wells</b> Dept for Infrastructure
<b>Lesley Leeman</b> Southern Health and Social Care Trust	<b>Lynne McDonald</b> Dept for Communities (Urban Reg)
<b>Adrian Farrell</b> Business Partnership Alliance	<b>Noirin Mc Kinney</b> Arts Council
<b>Laura Wylie</b> Links Counselling Service and Community Voluntary Sector Panel	<b>Brendan Mac Partlin</b> Migrant Support Service and CVS Panel
<b>Neil Galway</b> Queens University	<b>Mark Mc Peake</b> Department for Infrastructure Roads
<b>Karen Ross</b> PSNI	<b>Lissa O'Malley</b> ABC Council
<b>Brian Johnston</b> ABC Council	<b>Jennifer Mc Kibben</b> ABC Council
<b>Elaine Gillespie</b> ABC Council	<b>Damian Mulligan</b> ABC Council
<b>Barry Patience</b> ABC Council	<b>Jonathan Hayes</b> ABC Council



# ARMAGH BANBRIDGE & CRAIGAVON COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP



**THE ARMAGH PLACE PLAN**  
CELEBRATING OUR STARS AND STORIES



# 03 PLACE

## ARMAGH PLACE PLAN

Lead Partner: ABC Council | Other Partners: Dept for Communities and NIHE



The Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Community Planning Partnership, launched the Armagh Place Plan, the first community planning led Place Shaping Plan in Northern Ireland in May 2022.

The Armagh Place Plan is designed around four outcomes; a connected city, a green city, an engaging city and a healthy city. Collectively the plan developed seven typologies and thirty cross-cutting actions. The Armagh Place Plan actions are being monitored by Council, 19 actions are active, and 11 actions are non-active at this time.

One action from the Armagh Place Plan is the Armagh City Townscape Heritage scheme and this will encompass up to 15 buildings which are earmarked for the sympathetic restoration which will encompass an anticipated combined potential investment of up to £6.3 million pounds funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and building owners. The scheme will be delivered over 5 years and will create new jobs and commercial and residential opportunities.

One of the buildings refurbished in Armagh was destroyed in a fire over 60 years ago. The transformation work began in 2021 to rebuild and restore the famous terraced No. 1 Seven House which dates back to the 1770s. The building now has two stunning apartments and an office space.



# 03 PLACE

## BANBRIDGE PLACE PLAN

Lead Partner: ABC Council. Other partners: Dept for Communities

The draft Banbridge Place Plan is the Community Planning Partnership's second locality plan. Over 680 people were involved in developing the draft plan, which was out for public consultation from October to November 2023.

By combining the aspirations and knowledge of local people with the wide range of powers and functions of community planning partners, the draft plan has brought forward five ambitions, or outcomes, for the town and a series of collaborative actions to improve the quality of the area for the benefit of all. Banbridge is a strong choice for economic investment, given its geographical location along the A1 and strong history of industry and entrepreneurship. There are actions to implement new gateway features, develop the evening economy offering and create spaces to develop economic growth for the town centre and wider area.

The town's green spaces are key assets to be built upon and there are actions within the plan to build connections and make it more accessible for people to get about and enjoy.

The plan will require a wide range of people from statutory, private and voluntary sectors to work alongside the people to deliver the Banbridge of the future.













# 03 PLACE

## CITY OF CULTURE

Lead Partner: ABC Council

Making a City of Culture bid for the Borough was an action in the Armagh Place Plan. In 2021-22 Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council were successful in making the longlist of cities for UK City of Culture 2025. The process of developing the bid generated an unprecedented wave of support and excitement and created a renewed interest in and appreciation of the arts, culture and heritage of our Borough.

The bid was thoroughly researched and evidenced and the needs that were identified and themes that were developed within the bid are still wholly relevant, namely; Economic, Arts and Cultural, Place Making & Infrastructural, Social, Wellbeing & Environmental. The Bid outlined a confident, outward facing programme and legacy for the Borough and cultural, community, business and statutory sectors were aligned in support of its ambitions.

Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council is determined to deliver on the themes identified in the bid, ensuring that the needs identified are met and some of the projects that have come out of the process so far are outlined below:

- We delivered the 'New Cultural Geography of Smaller Places' Conference, which explored the relationship between creative process and place in small cities and rural regions like ours.
- We delivered the 'Nurture and Nature' Rural Engagement Arts Programme (funded jointly with Arts Council NI) in three rural communities within the Borough.
- We delivered a 'Museum Lates' community engagement programme.
- We are working in partnership with Galway City Council on a Shared Island Feasibility Study relating to the development of support programmes for artists, cross border mobility and shared workspaces.
- We are working on a visual art Commission (funded jointly with Arts Council NI).
- We are developing working partnerships with other UKCC25 bidding cities across the UK and undertaking a research project into the learning from the bidding process.

# INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY PLANNING

in the Armagh City,  
Banbridge and  
Craigavon Borough  
Council area?

Please contact the Community Planning, Policy &  
Research Department at Armagh City, Banbridge  
and Craigavon Borough Council

☎ 0300 0300 900

✉ [communityplanning@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk](mailto:communityplanning@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk)

🌐 [armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/communityplanning](http://armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/communityplanning)

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