
THEMATIC ACTION PLANNING (TAP) TEAM: Skilled and Enterprising Economy

Workshop one: Develop agreed understanding of task and shared learning experience

DATE: 13th September 2017, **TIME:** 9.30am, **VENUE:** Bleary Business and Community Centre

Attendees: Katie Brown – **AMMA Centre**, John Mc Guinness – **ABC Community Network**, Ciaran Cunningham – **Banbridge Enterprise Centre**, Adrian Ballentine – **Brownlow Ltd**, Mairead Harvey – **CCMS**, Paul Murray - **Department of Education**, Colette Ross – **EA Youth Service**, Derek Browne - **Social Enterprise**, Ethna McNamee - **Invest NI**, Jim Cunningham - **SRC**, David Vint- **SRC**, Geraldine Lawless - **TADA Rural Support Networks**, Gary Mawhinney – **Translink**, Gerry D'Arcy – **Translink**, Carol Fitzsimons- **Young Enterprise**,

ABC Council: Alison Beattie, Colm Gallagher, Damien McEvoy, Elaine Gillespie, Jennie Dunlop, Jennifer Doak, Jill Boyd, Lisa Soye, Michelle Markey, Natalie Leneghan, Nicola Wilson, Sarah Jane Macdonald, Wanda Rea, Alderman McCrum, Councillor Lennon.

Apologies: Aidan McCormick – **Education Authority**, Chris Morrow- **NI Chamber of Commerce**, **ABC Council** Councillor Savage.

1. Getting to know each other

Ethna McNamee, Invest NI welcomed everyone to the first workshop for this Thematic Action Planning (TAP) Team. She introduced herself as co-chair of this group and informed the group that she would be sharing this role with Nicola Wilson, Head of Economic Development from Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

In pairs, everyone was given the opportunity to introduce themselves, their role in the organisation, their favourite part of their role, and, in their opinion, what makes a good partnership. From the feedback, working with people was a common theme that came through as a motivating factor for people's work and the following were identified as attributes of effective partnerships:

- Honesty
- Trust
- Mutual respect
- Understanding
- Communication
- Listening
- Open and honest communication
- Willingness to really listen to 'people' and what they think is important to them and their community
- Capacity and willingness to deliver
- Collaboration not just cooperation
- Responsiveness

2. Setting the scene

Ethna outlined the agenda for the session which provided a background to the community planning approach we have used, our progress to date, a recap of the Skilled and Enterprising Economy long-term outcomes and population indicators and how these outcomes link to the draft programme for government outcomes.

The **vision** for the Economy in the community plan is:

We are an internationally renowned destination – our competitive industries, productivity and outward facing economy provides the global platform to attract, develop and maintain talent, investment and high growth opportunities.

This group will work towards realising two of the long-term outcomes in the community plan:

Enterprising Economy outcome

Our borough is a centre of excellence for entrepreneurship, innovation and investment.

The following population indicators will be used to track our progress over time:

- Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses.
- Business birth rates.
- Survival rate of newly born businesses.

Skilled Economy outcome

People are better equipped to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by our dynamic economy.

The following population indicators will be used to track our progress over time:

- Percentage of the workforce in the employment qualified to level 1 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above, and level 4 and above
- Employment rate (age 16-64)

3. Overview of action planning process

Jennie Dunlop, Community and Strategic Planning Manager shared the action planning process that will be used to develop action plans based on the long-term outcomes identified in the community plan.

Jennie outlined the community planning cycle, agreed governance structure and the four key deliverables for each Thematic Action Planning Team:

1. Develop clear, achievable and measurable shared action plans to cover a 2 year period
2. Consult with stakeholders and promote involvement of Section 75 groups in this process
3. Implementation within a performance management framework
4. Ensure cross-cutting themes are integrated

The community plan takes an outcomes based approach which means starting off with what we would like to achieve (which are the vision and outcomes in the community plan), and working back to determine what we need to do to get there (action planning).

This working back involves using research and consultation to determine:

- first where we are in relation to what we want to achieve – this is a type of problem identification /baseline
- then the causes of the problem – different groups/areas
- what works to solve the problem
- what exists to solve it – organisations, tools, facilities, services, networks

This research and consultation will be part of the action plans. Any actions will be collaborative, where partners can achieve more through working together.

4 Working together

The teams reviewed the draft terms of reference and were given the opportunity to suggest changes and additions to the document to shape how this team will work together. Based on discussions a revised terms of reference will be drafted and circulated for agreement at the next workshop.

ACTION: Community Planning team to review all comments and amend Terms of Reference in light of group discussion. This will include values identified from the first group discussion on what makes a good partnership.

5 Recap of indicative actions/priorities

Jennie provided a recap of the indicative priorities identified as part of the development of the community plan. She advised that many people and organisations had fed into Competiveness & Employment and Education & Skills (CEES) Thematic Working Group summer 2016 and that these priority areas would be used as the starting for developing the action plan.

The CEES thematic working group identified the following three priority areas action planning:

1. Tackle the Skills Deficit
2. Build Career Pathways
3. Promote & Support Entrepreneurship

To inform the next stage of the action planning process, it would be useful for each organisation to map their current work against any of these priority areas, with details of any partnership working.

ACTION: Community Planning team to circulate matrix for mapping current actions

ACTION: All organisations are tasked to complete the mapping exercise and return to Community Planning Team by 21st September 2017.

ACTION: Community Planning team to collate results and share with all team members.

6 Agree engagement activities

Jennie provided members details of the overall purpose of community engagement for the Thematic Action Planning Teams, which is to gain an understanding of the causes of some of the issues highlighted in the statistics, and how different groups and areas are impacted.

ACTION: Further detail and input on engagement will be explored at the next workshop.

7 Shared learning experience

We were delighted to welcome Alasdair McKinlay as our guest speaker for this first workshop. Alasdair is leader of the community empowerment and public bodies units in the Scottish Government's Local Government and Communities Directorate.

He was there to share his knowledge and learning of the Scottish Government experience of delivering community planning, including the challenges they faced.

This was followed by an interactive and informative question and answer session.

Ethna and Nicola closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their active participation and by encouraging members of the group that together we can make a real difference to people's lives. They thanked Alasdair for sharing his experience and learning from Scotland.

Next Steps

The remaining workshops are scheduled as follows:

WORKSHOP	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Workshop 2	Tuesday 26 th September	2 - 5pm Lunch from 1.15pm	Bleary Business & Community Centre (TBC)
Workshop 3	Tuesday 24 th October	2 - 5pm Lunch from 1.15pm	Lakeview 2, Craigavon Civic Centre
Workshop 4	Wednesday 15 th November	10am – 1pm	Bleary Business & Community Centre (TBC)

Workshop 2 26 September (1.30 – 5.00pm) will focus on:

- Identifying issues through the baseline
- Agree engagement activities to understand the causes of the issues
- Mapping current work and identifying opportunities for collaboration