



# Love Living Here



COMMUNITY  
PLAN



Facilitated by



Antrim and  
Newtownabbey  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# ON THE ROAD TO A BETTER BOROUGH



vibrant places



prosperity



sustainability

innovation



education



achieving potential



travel



healthcare



lifelong learning



business



entrepreneurship



transport



wellbeing



volunteering



community life



leisure



# INTRODUCTION

Love Living Here is the exciting new Community Plan for the Borough of Antrim and Newtownabbey. It sets out a shared vision and agreed outcomes for the area up to 2030. The successful implementation of the Plan will be marked by a demonstrable improvement in how services are delivered across our Borough and the quality of life our citizens experience.

Central to the approach we have developed for delivery of our Community Plan is the widespread engagement of citizens from our communities across the Borough. We recognise the key role that groups such as schools, churches, sports clubs and community groups play in the day to day life of our communities. We hope that these groups will actively participate in our Place Shaping Forums to contribute their valuable local knowledge.

Community Planning came into operation in Northern Ireland on 1 April 2015, when local Councils were tasked with leading the development of the Plans. This has been achieved by working collectively with the other groups involved through a local Community Planning Partnership.

Our partnership members have responsibility for a diverse range of services from health and education, to tourism and sport. Through working together we have sought to understand the challenges which face those who live in, work in or visit our Borough. This has required extensive research, analysis of relevant statistics and a willingness by partners to contribute key information and knowledge to the Community Planning process.

Whilst we appreciate that there is still more to be done as we move into an action planning phase, our work to date has provided a robust evidence base and enabled us to engage in meaningful consultation with communities across our Borough.

We are mindful that our Community Plan will not operate in isolation, it must link to and reflect other key strategies and plans which will be delivered over the years to 2030. In this context the new Local Development Plan, which will be the spatial plan for the Borough will be a key consideration for the Partnership. It will consider any land use planning aspects such as housing, open spaces and employment which emerge through the Community Plan.

Equally, we are mindful that our Community Planning Partners must continue to deliver their core functions whilst also being committed and active participants in the delivery of the Community Plan. In a climate of economic austerity this will be a key challenge and only by working together will we be able to achieve the long term outcomes we aspire to and keep our citizens needs at the heart of what we do.



**Councillor Phillip Brett**  
Chairman, Antrim and Newtownabbey  
Community Planning Partnership

# COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Community Planning is “a process led by Councils in conjunction with partners and communities to develop and implement a shared vision for their area, a long term vision which relates to all aspects of community life and which also involves working together to plan and deliver better services” (Community Planning Foundation Programme, Department of the Environment)

The Community Plan is a plan for the Council area but it is not the Council’s plan. Community Planning is based on meaningful co-operation and collaboration across the Public Sector with a shared responsibility between partners to achieve outcomes.

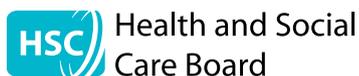
The active involvement of central government departments acknowledges the role of Community Planning in the delivery of the Programme for Government.

We will work with other support partners, strengthening the expertise and knowledge of the Partnership, enabling the development and implementation of actions in the plan.

We are committed to continuing to engage with the local community to ensure that the needs of our citizens remain at the heart of what we do.

We understand the importance of enabling others to be involved in Community Planning. We will encourage local community and voluntary sector groups, churches, schools and sports clubs, and other organisations to participate in Community Planning in their area. By establishing a Place Shaping Forum in each of the Council’s District Electoral Areas (DEAs) we will seek to ensure a local approach to the delivery of the Community Plan.

## Our partners include:



# COMMUNITY PLANNING THE APPROACH

Community Planning focuses on promoting positive outcomes for the citizens of Antrim and Newtownabbey. Love Living Here clearly sets out our aspirations for Antrim and Newtownabbey by 2030. It is the framework which will inform and influence the strategies and business plans of all the Community Planning partners delivering services across the Borough.

## OUTCOMES BASED ACCOUNTABILITY (OBA)

The Community Plan has been developed using an outcomes based approach. This means that

...the focus of the plan is on the difference it will make to the wellbeing and quality of life of our citizens.

## OUTCOMES

An outcome is a condition of wellbeing which we want for our community as a whole, for example our citizens are healthy.

## INDICATORS

An indicator is a measure or statistic which can be tracked over time and which will allow us to measure how the Community Plan is making a difference.

## TURNING THE CURVE

To inform the Community Plan we have undertaken extensive research, identifying baseline indicators that tell us 'where we are now' and if things have

been getting better or worse. The aim of the Community Plan is to turn the curve and improve upon 'where we are now'.

## ACTIONS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Achievement of the ambitious outcomes in Love Living Here will only be possible through shared ownership of actions. No single organisation will be able to turn the curve. However, through collective action, the Partnership will be able to improve the wellbeing and quality of life of the citizens of Antrim and Newtownabbey.

An implementation plan with related performance measures for each outcome in the Community Plan will outline the short, medium and long term actions which will be delivered to achieve our outcomes.

## DATA DEVELOPMENT

The indicators which have been identified to measure progress towards achieving our outcomes are based on the information which we could access during the development period of the Community Plan. However, through the development process we have identified information which, if collected in a way that allowed meaningful analysis at a Council and District Electoral Area level, would provide even greater insight into progress. This will form the basis of the Partnership's data development agenda, an area of work we will develop in partnership with other Council areas and which will result in additional indicators which can be measured in the future.



# THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The Community Plan has been developed through an extensive engagement and co-design process with partners, residents, local groups and organisations as well as other stakeholders such as regional charities and central government departments.

Through a series of workshops, pop-up engagements and conferences we were able to identify the issues which matter most to our citizens.

We identified the positives of life in Antrim and Newtownabbey such as our parks and open spaces, our proximity to Belfast and the sense of community and belonging. We identified the challenges such as access to services and opportunities, the changing needs of an ageing population and the challenges which face our town centres.

Two conferences in early 2016 helped to prioritise the key issues for inclusion in the Community Plan. The Community Planning Partnership has reviewed the information collected through these engagements and has identified a range of priority issues and concerns as expressed by our citizens. These priorities have been grouped under 4 key Outcomes, and a Wildly Important Goal.

The draft Community Plan framework was published in January 2017. During the 12 week consultation period, drop in workshops, group discussions and an online consultation questionnaire gathered

views on the draft outcomes and indicators as well as suggestions about what steps could be taken to achieve the outcomes.

The feedback on the draft plan has been taken into account in the publication of the final plan and will inform the development of outcome delivery plans. A full report on the responses to the consultation and how they have been taken into account in finalising the plan is available online at [www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/communityplan](http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/communityplan)

## The Outcomes (what we plan to achieve)

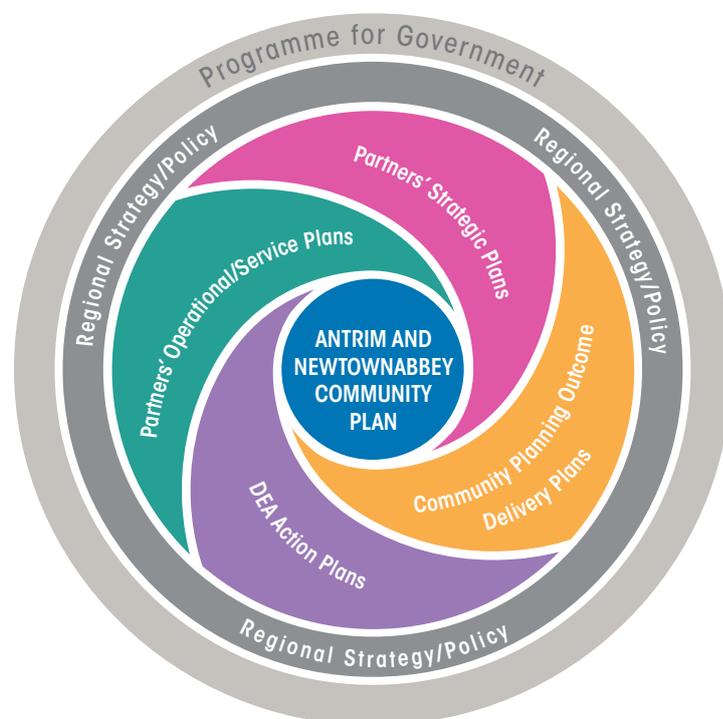
- 1 **Our citizens enjoy good health and wellbeing** 
  - 2 **Our citizens live in connected, safe, clean and vibrant places** 
  - 3 **Our citizens benefit from economic prosperity** 
  - 4 **Our citizens achieve their full potential** 
- Wildly Important Goal**  
Our vulnerable people are supported 

# THE WIDER CONTEXT

The Community Plan for Antrim and Newtownabbey sits within a framework of regional strategies and priorities for action. Each of the strategies aims to make life better for the people of Northern Ireland (NI) and improve our economic, social, educational and environmental prospects in the future. It is therefore important to capture and understand what the Community Plan can do to assist the achievement of these strategic objectives and how they can help to inform the actions we take at a local level.

A full analysis of regional strategies which are relevant to the Community Plan is available online at [www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/communityplan](http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/communityplan)

At a regional level, the Programme for Government provides the framework for the development and delivery of public policy. The ambitions of our Community Plan echo at a local level the goals of the Programme for Government, as demonstrated in the table below.



**Antrim and Newtownabbey  
Community Planning Framework**

Love Living Here Outcome	Related Programme for Government Outcome(s)
<b>1</b> Our citizens enjoy good health and wellbeing	We enjoy long healthy active lives
	We care for others and help those in need
<b>2</b> Our citizens live in connected, safe, clean and vibrant places	We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest
	We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure
	We have a safe community where people respect each other and the law
	We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment
	We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential
	We are a shared society that respects diversity
<b>3</b> Our citizens benefit from economic prosperity	We prosper through a strong competitive regionally balanced economy
	We have more people working in better jobs
	We have a more equal society
<b>4</b> Our citizens achieve their full potential	We have an innovative creative society where people fulfil their potential
	We give our children and young people the best start in life
	We have a more equal society
<b>Wildly Important Goal</b> Our vulnerable people are supported	We care for others and help those in need
	We give our children and young people the best start in life
	We have a more equal society

The Borough of Antrim and Newtownabbey covers 274 square miles and has a population of 140,467 people. Bounded by Lough Neagh in the west and Belfast Lough in the east, the Borough is divided into 7 District Electoral Areas (DEAs) as shown on the map.



**Airport District Electoral Area (DEA)** covers Aldergrove, Clady, Crumlin, Mallusk and Templepatrick. Population 20,304.

**Antrim District Electoral Area (DEA)** covers Antrim Centre, Fountain Hill, Greystone, Springfarm, Steeple and Stiles. Population 21,789.

**Ballyclare District Electoral Area (DEA)** covers Ballyclare East, Ballyclare West, Ballynure, Ballyrobert and Doagh. Population 17,564.

**Dunsilly District Electoral Area (DEA)** covers Cranfield, Parkgate, Randalstown, Shilvodan and Toome. Population 17,401.

**Glengormley Urban Electoral Area (DEA)**

covers Ballyhenry, Burnthill, Carnmoney, Collinbridge, Glebe, Glengormley and Hightown. Population 21,027.

**Macedon District Electoral Area (DEA)** covers Abbey, Carnmoney Hill, O'Neill, Rathcoole, Valley and Whitehouse. Population 19,592.

**Threemilewater District Electoral Area (DEA)**

covers Ballyduff, Fairview, Jordanstown, Monkstown, Mossley and Rostulla. Population 20,800.

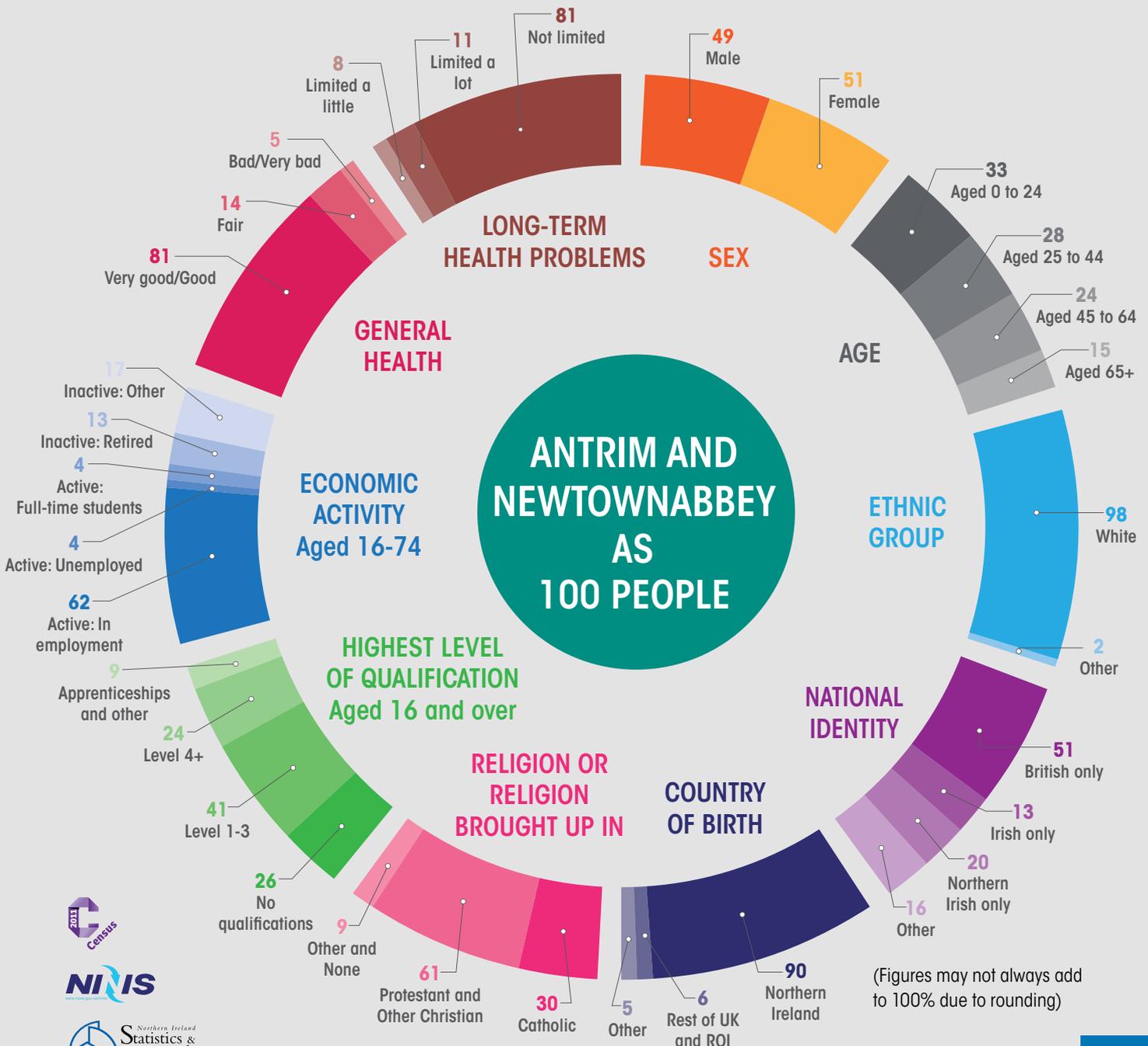


# UNDERSTANDING ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY

To develop this plan, a broad and comprehensive analysis of the data and statistics for the area was undertaken. A short summary of the main characteristics of our area is provided below. In addition, key data relating to each outcome and indicator is provided in the relevant sections of the plan.

## POPULATION

Our population has grown by 6.1% over the last decade. By mid-2030, our population is projected to be 145,401, an increase of 3.5% from 140,467 in mid-2015. Our older population is projected to overtake our children by 2027 with a projected population of 29,346 older people (aged 65+) and 28,529 children (aged 0-15). By 2030, it is projected that there will be a 42% increase in the number of people aged 65+.



(Figures may not always add to 100% due to rounding)



\* Figures may not always add up to 100% due to rounding  
 \*\* Inspired by original design from www.jackhagley.com



72% households are owned outright or owned with a mortgage compared to 66% overall in Northern Ireland



11% of properties were rented from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive 12% in Northern Ireland

### HOUSING

By 2030, it is projected that although the number of households within our area will increase, the average household size will decrease.

One person households

14,388

21.8%

2012

2030

It is projected that by 2030, the largest housing growth within our area will be 'one person households'.



By 2022, it is projected that the number of households with children (aged under 16) will start to decline.

### HEALTH

In our area we have 2 hospitals Antrim Area and Whiteabbey and 18 GP practices. Our residents also have access to 6 leisure facilities and 9 Council owned community centres alongside facilities provided by the community and voluntary sector.

The most commonly recorded diseases for patients registered with GP Practices within our area are: Hypertension (high blood pressure), Asthma, Diabetes Mellitus and Heart Disease.

Respiratory and circulatory disease are also an issue in our area with higher hospital admission rates for these illnesses than in other Council areas.

It is common for health inequalities to exist between more affluent areas and those with higher levels of deprivation.

The incidence of those admitted to hospital for self harm is twice as high in our most deprived areas than in the Borough as a whole.

The number of preventable deaths is over 50% higher in the most deprived areas



### WELLBEING

Levels of wellbeing are positive however levels of satisfaction with family life are less so.

Our Borough has rich and diverse natural and built heritage and assets which people value.

85% of residents feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood (NI Life and Times Survey).

### EDUCATION, SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

In our Borough there are 53 primary, 10 post primary and 7 special schools. Northern Regional College, Ulster University and the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) also have campuses here.

There are 13,490 primary school pupils (including Year 1-7, reception and nursery class pupils) and 10,415 post primary school pupils currently living in the Antrim and Newtownabbey area.

Primary school Key Stage 2 pupils are performing above the NI average



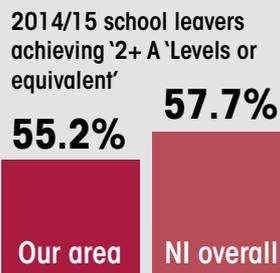


**80.9%** of school leavers achieved 'at least 5 GCSE's grades A\*-C compared to 81.1% overall for Northern Ireland



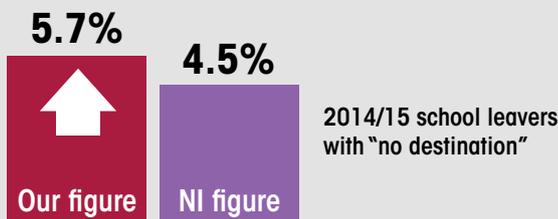
In 2012/13, 78.2% of Key Stage 2 pupils achieved level 4 or above in Communication in English, compared to a Northern Ireland average of 77.1%. (Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council ranked 6th highest of 11 Councils). 79.6% achieved level 4 or above in Using Maths, again above the Northern Ireland average (78.5%). (Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council ranked 4th highest).

However the picture for school leavers resident in our area is different with attainment levels below the Northern Ireland averages.



In 2015/16, 23.8% and 20.3% of primary school pupils (Years 1-7) and post primary pupils respectively living in our area were entitled to free school meals.

In 2015/16, 56% of post primary pupils living in our area attended a school within the area. 28% travelled to a school in Belfast and 10% to a school in Mid & East Antrim. Over 4,500 post primary pupils resident in Antrim and Newtownabbey attend a school outside of the area.



**Antrim and Newtownabbey**



**Northern Ireland**



The number of residents who have no or low level (level 1) qualifications

In 2015/16 there were approximately 525 "newcomer" primary school pupils and 100 post primary school pupils living in Antrim and Newtownabbey. 4 in 10 of these pupils reside in the Antrim Town DEA.

### EMPLOYMENT

Over half of our population aged 16-64 excluding students (55.6%) who are in employment work within the Council area.

Our area has a higher economic activity rate and employment rate (for those aged 16-64) than NI overall.



The employment rate (16-64 year olds) has decreased to **70.7%** in 2015 from **75.4%** in 2011.

In 2015 the annual average claimant count was 2.6%.

The annual full-time gross weekly wage is lower for those people that live within our area compared to NI overall and to neighbouring Council areas. In 2015, the annual full-time gross median wage for those people that live within the area was £479.10 per week compared to £484.90 for NI overall.

For more detailed information please refer to our three baseline reports Social, Economic and Tourism and Environment and our 7 District Electoral Area (DEA) Profiles. These provide comprehensive information and are available at [www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/communityplan](http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/communityplan)

# A SHARED VISION FOR 2030

1

Our citizens enjoy good health and wellbeing



2

Our citizens live in connected, safe, clean and vibrant places



Antrim and Newtownabbey is a resilient, socially responsible community where citizens enjoy a high quality of life.

3

Our citizens benefit from economic prosperity



4

Our citizens achieve their full potential



Wildly Important Goal  
Our vulnerable people are supported



## **1** OUR CITIZENS ENJOY GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

### **Our Priorities**

- >> Antrim and Newtownabbey is a place where people of all ages value their health and wellbeing and look after it in a variety of ways and encourage others to do so too.
- >> Exercise and physical activity are acknowledged as important ways to stay well both physically and mentally.
- >> There is provision of accessible recreational and leisure opportunities for all our citizens.
- >> The value of other activities such as volunteering, participating in local clubs and groups and learning new things as ways to look after our emotional and mental wellbeing is recognised.
- >> The particular needs of an ageing population are met so that our citizens can live long, healthy and independent lives in their own homes if that is their wish.
- >> The particular needs of the most vulnerable in our community are met so that they can live active and healthy lives. These needs may include access to leisure or play facilities, access to appropriate advice and support or access to services.

## **2** OUR CITIZENS LIVE IN CONNECTED, SAFE, CLEAN AND VIBRANT PLACES

### **Our Priorities**

- >> Getting around our Borough is easier for those who don't have access to a car and for those who would prefer a more active mode of transport.
- >> Our town and village centres are vibrant places where people live and where they spend their leisure time.
- >> Our citizens can be active participants in community life, if they wish to be, with opportunities to participate in clubs and activities and to get involved in volunteering.
- >> Our towns and villages, and our green and open spaces, are clean and vibrant places which our citizens have pride in.
- >> Our natural environment is valued.
- >> Local people get involved in decisions on the future development of their areas through the Place Shaping Forum.

## **3** OUR CITIZENS BENEFIT FROM ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

### **Our Priorities**

- >> Our local economy thrives, with local businesses starting up, growing, expanding and generating employment.
- >> Enterprise and innovation are encouraged and supported from an early age to build businesses and entrepreneurs of the future.
- >> Our area has a skilled population and infrastructure which is attractive to investors and employers.
- >> Barriers to accessing employment are reduced or removed enabling all of our citizens to have equitable access to the opportunities available in the Borough.

## **4** OUR CITIZENS ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

### **Our Priorities**

- >> A range of formal and informal learning opportunities are available.
- >> There is a culture of lifelong learning in Antrim and Newtownabbey with a range of opportunities to acquire new skills and qualifications.
- >> Our children and young people achieve throughout their education and progress to employment.
- >> Our children and young people are ambitious and inspired to achieve from an early age.
- >> The range of ways in which people learn, and develop skills for life and work, is acknowledged through availability of placements, internships and apprenticeships.

## **WILDLY IMPORTANT GOAL: OUR VULNERABLE PEOPLE ARE SUPPORTED**

### **Our Priorities**

- >> Our ageing population is supported to live active lives as part of their community.
- >> Our ageing population is supported to live as contentedly and independently as possible for as long as possible.
- >> Our young people are supported to access opportunities which enable them to fulfil their potential.

# PRINCIPLES

The four outcomes in the Community Plan are based on the following eight principles. The principles are important to developing a Community Plan which will meet the needs of all the citizens of our Borough.

## EQUALITY

The statistical evidence has shown that inequalities exist across the outcome themes. Proactive measures and targeting of areas most in need will aim to ensure that the varying social and economic needs of communities across the area are addressed. The overall aim will be to raise living standards in the most deprived areas up to at least the average of the rest.

## SUSTAINABILITY

We wish to adopt a sustainable approach to social, environmental and physical development. This means making sure that the impact of what we do is long term and based on the needs of our citizens. We also want to make sure we protect the valuable built and natural environment that exists in the Borough.

## CONNECTIVITY

We need to improve the social and physical connections throughout the Borough. This includes examining and seeking ways to improve our roads, paths, transport networks and digital connectivity.

We would also like to improve the social connections between residents across our Borough creating greater cohesion.

## OPPORTUNITY

We are fortunate that there are a lot of positive qualities about our Borough including our schools

and colleges and the variety of high quality businesses based here. We want to build on this and increase opportunities for our citizens in training, education, and employment. We want our first class leisure facilities to continue to provide opportunities for participation in a range of leisure activities.

## INCLUSIVITY

We want to promote a culture of tolerance, acceptance and inclusivity for all our citizens, which will link all elements of the Community Plan.

## VITALITY

We need to increase or restore vitality to communities both physically and socially by providing citizens with opportunities to be part of popular and inclusive events and activity in their area.

## CAPABILITY

We want our citizens to be able to take advantage of any opportunities created through Community Planning. At the moment, this ability varies across different communities and we want to address this. The different skills levels across the Borough can act as a barrier to employment and enterprise and we want to find solutions to address this.

## COMPASSION

We want to care for and support our neighbours and the vulnerable within our community. Social responsibility will be built into the Community Plan and is reflected in our vision for Antrim and Newtownabbey.



# COMMUNITY PLAN FRAMEWORK



## PRINCIPLES

EQUALITY - bringing the areas of highest disadvantage up to at least the average of the rest  
 OPPORTUNITY CAPABILITY SUSTAINABILITY CONNECTIVITY VITALITY COMPASSION INCLUSIVITY

## ENABLERS - MAKING THE PLAN HAPPEN

- > Development support
- > Community engagement
- > Communication and awareness raising
- > Physical assets

# HOW WE WILL DELIVER THE PLAN

The Community Planning Partners have worked closely to agree the focus of the Community Plan. Community Planning brings shared responsibility to achieve outcomes. Only by working together can we achieve these long-term outcomes, reduce duplication of services and create new and innovative ways of working to improve services for everyone who lives and works in the area.

Partnership members are committed to collectively delivering on the attainment of our outcomes. This will require a new way of working. Partners will collectively review their organisational contribution to outcomes as well as how each can contribute resources, knowledge and expertise to a partnership approach to delivering on the Community Plan.

We recognise the positive synergies of co-operation and the Community Plan reflects what we can deliver as a partnership, over and above our individual, respective responsibilities.

The **Community Planning Partnership** is made up of senior representatives from each of the statutory

partners, support partners and government departments. The Partnership is responsible for the strategic oversight of the Community Plan.

The **Community Planning Officers Working Group** is made up of senior officers from each of the partner organisations. The Working Group develops and determines the delivery arrangements for the Community Plan.

**Outcome Delivery Groups** will include a much wider cross section of stakeholders, who will engage with the community and relevant local organisations to design and develop actions to achieve the outcomes in the Community Plan.

**Place Shaping Forums** will support the implementation of the Community Plan. The Partnership will facilitate the development of a local Place Shaping Forum in each of the seven District Electoral Areas in the Borough. Chaired by a local Councillor and facilitated by a senior council officer. Each forum will include representation from locally based organisations.



# ENABLERS

## - making the plan happen

A number of “enablers” or support mechanisms will be vital to the successful achievement of the outcomes in the Community Plan. They will provide the foundation upon which to continue to develop the Community Plan and accomplish delivery over the next 10-15 years.

### DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

We recognise the need for ongoing support for all engaged in the Community Planning process.

**Action:** A development programme which reflects the needs of Place Shaping Forum members will be facilitated to build the skills of local people and develop their confidence to engage with, and to represent, their local community.

**Action:** An ongoing development programme for Partnership members will be facilitated to raise awareness of good practice in Community Planning and promote effective partnership working.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Community Plan must be owned by the whole community. To ensure this we will continue to engage with our citizens. The Place Shaping Forum in each area will play an important part in ensuring that the actions developed through the Community Plan reflect community need.

The Partnership is committed to working in a meaningful way with the citizens of the Borough

to tackle local issues within the framework of the Community Plan.

**Action:** The Partnership will work with local people to develop an action plan for each DEA which reflects the ambitions of the Community Plan and the needs of local areas.

### COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS BUILDING

The Community Plan has been developed through an extensive engagement process. The Partnership knows the importance of engaging with and listening to those who will benefit through delivery of the Community Plan and is committed to continued engagement with residents and stakeholders.

This engagement will continue throughout the lifetime of the Community Plan.

**Action:** The Partnership will develop a 3 year engagement and communication plan which will be regularly reviewed.

This will include developing the Community Planning section of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council’s website, where all information relating to Community Planning is currently located.



## COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF PHYSICAL ASSETS

There is a wealth of publicly and community owned and managed physical assets (e.g. buildings, sites, vehicles) throughout the Borough. Some are no longer needed for their current use or are not being used to their full potential. Moving forward, the partners will consider how the best use of these assets/facilities can be achieved. This might be through the development of asset management agreements, shared use of resources or the transfer of assets.

### Actions:

- >> A GIS officer will be employed to facilitate the mapping of key assets to inform Community Planning activities.
- >> An asset map will be produced identifying the public and community assets of the area including details of the characteristics/facilities available at each site eg schools, hospitals, leisure facilities.
- >> A Community Planning, collaborative approach will be promoted in the future development of capital schemes as appropriate.

## POTENTIAL DEMONSTRATION SCHEMES

The following indicative projects provide an illustration of how a Community Planning approach could be applied to potential local demonstration schemes.

### Development of the Newtownabbey Community High School site

Partners: Education Authority, Housing Executive, Council and others as appropriate.

The former Newtownabbey Community High School site located on the Shore Road is likely to be declared surplus by the Education Authority further to the location of the new Abbey College at the Monkstown Community High School site. This has created an opportunity to consider the future use of the 4.39 hectare site and a master plan has been completed. It is proposed that the key partners collaborate on the way forward for this important site in the greater Rathcoole area, considering in particular the housing demand and the need for leisure/recreational provision.



### **Development of Abbey College**

Partners: Education Authority, Northern Trust, Council, Sustrans and others as appropriate.

The new Abbey College, is currently operating from the Monkstown Community High School site whilst work is undertaken to identify a site and develop plans for a new purpose built school. It is proposed that adopting a Community Planning approach to the development of the new school will achieve the best outcomes for the pupils, their families, staff and the surrounding community. Relevant considerations will include health and wellbeing, walking and cycling routes, out of hours provision etc.

### **Development of the Greater Steeple site, Antrim**

Partners: Council, Housing Executive, Education Authority, Northern Trust, Sport NI, Sustrans, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Private sector and others as appropriate.

The former Antrim Borough Council offices operated from the Steeple House, a listed building located to the rear of the current Civic Centre and set within an historic parkland which features one of the last remaining round towers in Ireland. The Council had previously obtained planning permission for housing on the site which could help to address the need for over 50's provision within Antrim Town. The Steeple House itself is proposed to be redeveloped into a multi-purpose resource facility accommodating community and social enterprise activities. The parkland which is currently enclosed could, if opened up, provide walkways and cycle paths for children attending local schools including Antrim Grammar and Parkhall College as well as facilitating visitors to the site. The monastic importance of the site is something which should be protected as it forms an important element of the Historic Antrim story. It is proposed that the concept plan developed for the site be progressed adopting a Community Planning approach.

### **Development of Carnview Children's Home**

Partners: Council, Northern Trust, DTNI, North Belfast Ethical Investment Trust, Community & Voluntary sector and others as appropriate.

The former Carnview Childrens' Home owned by the Northern Health and Social Care Trust lies at the foot of Carnmoney Hill in the Rathfern estate and has been vacant for many years. A local community group has a desire to redevelop and operate the building to house health and wellbeing, childcare and social enterprise activities. Development Trusts NI has been involved in supporting the preparatory work for the proposed project under the Community Asset Transfer model. It is proposed that a Community Planning approach be adopted to explore the feasibility of this scheme.

# 1 Our citizens enjoy good health and wellbeing



## OUR PRIORITIES

- >> Antrim and Newtownabbey is a place where people of all ages value their health and wellbeing and look after it in a variety of ways and encourage others to do so too.
- >> Exercise and physical activity are acknowledged as important ways to stay well both physically and mentally.
- >> There is provision of accessible recreational and leisure opportunities for all our citizens.
- >> The value of other activities such as volunteering, participating in local clubs and groups and learning new things as ways to look after our emotional and mental wellbeing is recognised.
- >> The particular needs of an ageing population are met so that our citizens can live long, healthy and independent lives in their own homes if that is their wish.
- >> The particular needs of the most vulnerable in our community are met so that they can live active and healthy lives. These needs may include access to leisure or play facilities, access to appropriate advice and support or access to services.

## WHY DOES GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING MATTER? (The evidence)

We want the residents of Antrim and Newtownabbey to experience good health and wellbeing so that they are able to enjoy life to the full regardless of their age, where they live, or their socio-economic background.

**81.09%** of our residents reported that they were in **good or very good health** however inequalities in health and wellbeing need to be addressed

Good health is not consistent across our Borough.

Good or very good health:

**89%** in the Mallusk ward

**65%** in the Whitehouse ward

This shows that we have inequalities in health and wellbeing which need to be addressed.

It is common for health inequalities to exist between more affluent areas and those with higher levels of deprivation. However, it does not mean that it should be acceptable for these inequalities to continue into the future. All of our citizens should have an equal opportunity to experience good health and wellbeing throughout their lives.

The life expectancy of our residents is comparable to Northern Ireland figures.



**82.2 years**    **78.4 years**

However between 2009 and 2013 it was reported that 27.1% of all deaths were considered premature and potentially avoidable, this means that lifestyle choices are impacting on health and wellbeing.

Whilst our citizens are active, with 34% of respondents to a Sport NI survey reporting that they did 30 minutes of physical activity per week, 10.7% have mobility or dexterity difficulty.

**19% of our residents have a long term health problem**

On a positive note, many illnesses can be influenced by lifestyle choice, positive mental health and access to recreational opportunities which increase physical fitness.

Our population is ageing and therefore in the future we can expect to have increased demands on our healthcare services. It is therefore essential that we enable our older people to live active, healthy, productive and independent lives within the community. We have made this a "Wildly Important Goal".

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO OUR CITIZENS?

Through our community engagement process respondents told us their priorities for health and wellbeing were:

- >> Enhanced support services to combat the causes and effects of poor mental health and the risk of suicide.
- >> Measures to combat drugs and alcohol abuse and their long term effects on young people, including access to legal highs and prescription drugs.
- >> Early intervention and prevention measures to tackle the causes of ill health and ensure wellbeing.
- >> Enhanced provision of access to and more sharing of green spaces and sports facilities including walkways, cycle paths and play facilities for children and young people including those living with a disability.
- >> Education and awareness of the value of our natural and built environment and the contribution it makes to personal and community wellbeing.

## HOW WILL WE MEASURE THIS?

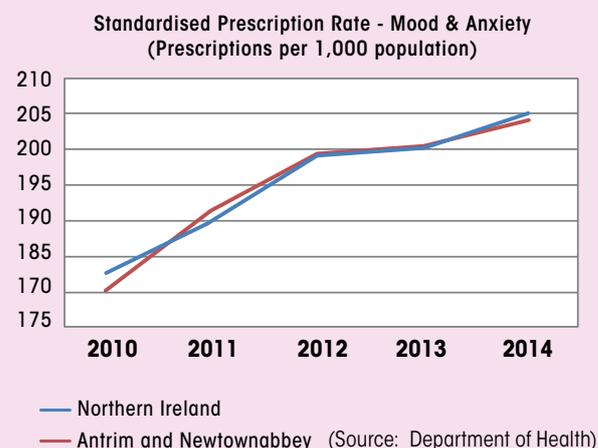
We have identified the following success measures (indicators) which will tell us whether, through partnership working under the Community Plan, we are positively contributing to improved health and wellbeing. These are:

>> **A decrease in the % people with prescriptions for mood/anxiety disorders.**

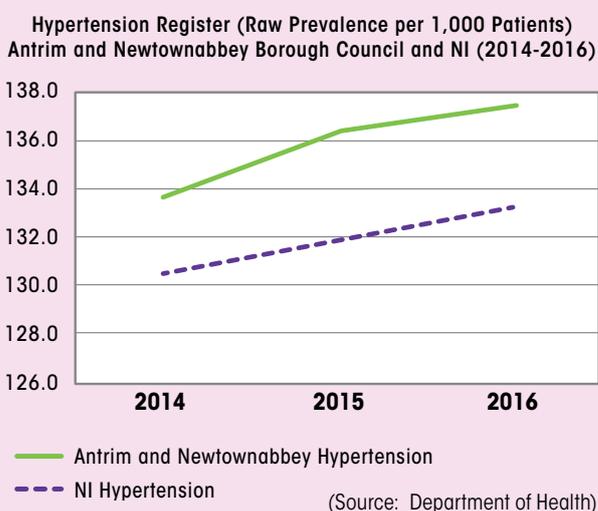
>> **A decrease in the % of people registered as suffering from hypertension (high blood pressure).**

### Our baseline

1 in 5 people in Antrim and Newtownabbey have a prescription for a mood or anxiety disorder. Whilst slightly lower than the NI average, this figure is still high and is rising.



1 in 8 people in Antrim and Newtownabbey are registered as suffering from high blood pressure (hypertension) which is higher than the Northern Ireland average.



## HOW MIGHT WE ACHIEVE THIS?

We can improve the health of our residents by enabling people to make better choices through targeted education and awareness of healthier lifestyle options. We can ensure that support and health services are accessible. We can also prioritise providing better access to and opportunities for recreational activity and activities with others which improve social connections and improve health and wellbeing.

In order to achieve this outcome we have identified the following strategic actions:

- >> Facilitate the roll out of “Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing” across the Borough with a specific focus on increasing uptake in schools, community and businesses.
- >> Schemes to support older people to access opportunities for participation in a variety of activities according to their needs and aspirations.
- >> Engage with community pharmacists in the area to scope and understand the services available to the community through pharmacies, including appropriate medicines’ use and public health initiatives. Support an enhanced public health role for community pharmacy by facilitating their better connection into, and engagement with, the local community infrastructure.
- >> Create additional greenways for walking/cycling across the Borough and link with greenway networks in neighbouring Council areas.
- >> Develop new allotment sites to address the high demand for neighbourhood allotments (circa 150 people in 2017 on a waiting list).
- >> Improve access to and provision of play and recreational facilities across the Borough for people with a disability.

## RELEVANT POLICIES/STRATEGIES

- >> NI’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy: A Healthier Future (2005-2025) Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
- >> Making Life Better – A Whole System Strategic Framework for Public Health 2014 – 2023 (DHSSPS)
- >> A Fitter Future For All: Obesity Prevention Framework for Northern Ireland 2012-2022
- >> Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009-2019 (DCAL)
- >> Strategic Planning Policy Statement

## POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council | Council for Catholic Maintained Schools | Education Authority | Health and Social Care Board | Health and Social Care Trust | Libraries NI | NI Fire and Rescue Service | Northern Ireland Housing Executive | Public Health Agency | Sport NI | Ulster University | Volunteer Now | Advice Agencies | Central Government Departments | Churches | Community and Voluntary Sector | Schools |

# Our Citizens Live in Connected, Safe, Clean and Vibrant Places

## OUR PRIORITIES: CONNECTED

- >> Getting around our Borough is easier for those who don't have access to a car and for those who would prefer a more active mode of transport.
- >> Our citizens can be active participants in community life, if they wish to be, with opportunities to participate in clubs and activities and to get involved in volunteering.
- >> Local people get involved in decisions on the future development of their areas through the Place Shaping Forum.



## WHY DOES BEING CONNECTED MATTER? (The evidence)

### CONNECTED PLACES

Our residents value the opportunity to travel independently and freely. However, physical connectivity across the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough is an issue. This affects not only our ability to move between places of interest, but also our ability to access key services such as healthcare and our ability to access further education, training and employment opportunities.

### Public transport

The Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough has a mixture of urban and rural environments. Our initial research indicates that access to public transport varies considerably across the Borough and is particularly problematic in rural areas. This could give rise to difficulties and inequalities for our residents in accessing opportunities and services purely because of where they live.

The current complexity of public transport routes makes it difficult to move freely across the Borough. The current routes focus on connectivity to Belfast instead of facilitating travel within the Borough. For example, there is no direct public transport route between the Macedon area and Mallusk.

### Active travel - cycling and walking

In order to ensure Antrim and Newtownabbey

is a connected, safe and vibrant place to live we have to address the issue of ensuring physical connection to the places, services and opportunities of interest to our residents. Ensuring greater access and connectivity will improve our economy, reduce social isolation, improve health and wellbeing and increase the sense of community cohesion felt by our residents.

We have a challenge to ensure that when considering development and planning of our environment, we avoid planning options which place reliance on access to private cars as the primary means of transport. We need to ensure that we prioritise the development of public and active transport options. We need to consider how we can maximise opportunities to develop cycle, rail and bus networks within the Borough, allowing access between centres of commerce, recreational and educational opportunity.

The 2011 census indicates that less than 1% of journeys to work or school in Northern Ireland are by bicycle. This reliance on motorised transport negatively impacts upon the health and wellbeing of our citizens and contributes to congestion.

Less than 10% of journeys to work or school are on foot



## Reliance on car ownership

The pattern of car ownership within the Borough reinforces the reliance on private forms of transport. However, there are inequalities in private car ownership within our Borough, which may mean that there are associated inequalities in access to jobs, key services and places of interest. For example, in Dunsilly 37% of people have access to 2 or more cars. In contrast, in Macedon 34% of people do not have access to either a car or a van.

**81%** of our citizens have access to **one or more** cars/vans (This is higher than the Northern Ireland average of 78%)



## CONNECTED PEOPLE

### Digital connectivity

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council ranks joint 3rd of the 11 councils in terms of availability of super-fast broadband. 82% of premises had access to super-fast broadband.

2015/16 home internet access:

**80%** households in Antrim and Newtownabbey

**78%** in Northern Ireland

### Community and voluntary activity

There are 302 community groups registered on the Council's database for the Antrim and Newtownabbey area, showing that there are opportunities for people to contribute to the vitality of their local communities.

**Volunteers** affiliated with organisations in the area is **9,244**



- >> Census data identified that 14% of people aged 16+ had volunteered.
- >> 44% of 315 survey respondents indicated they were members of a community organisation.

>> 20% of Sport NI Survey respondents in 2010 were members of a sports club.

>> According to the 2011 Census 12% of usual residents provided unpaid care to family, friends or neighbours. This figure was highest in the Carnmoney ward at 15%.

This commitment to voluntary activity gives rise to a sense of community and community spirit, which our citizens consider is an important aspect of living within the area. However, the awareness of and engagement in community organisations and clubs is not consistent across the Borough. This means that the awareness of opportunities to volunteer and the understanding of the benefits of volunteering both for the individual and the wider community, also varies.

### Participation in community life

Participation in community life, whether as a volunteer, or as a member of a group, is known to have positive impacts on mental and emotional wellbeing for the individual as well as enabling the development of new skills which can aid employability.

It is also recognised that volunteering or participating in a community activity widens the networks of those who could otherwise be socially isolated, and increases inclusion of those who are marginalised or vulnerable.

85.1% of respondents felt a **sense of belonging** to their neighbourhood



It is therefore important that we maximise the opportunities for our citizens to become actively connected and engaged with their community.

However, we recognise that there are barriers to the ability of individuals to get involved in community programmes and activities. For example, limitations can be presented by life stage issues such as caring responsibilities for young children, work patterns, health status and the ability of individuals to travel to or pay for activities. We need to identify practical means to enable people to overcome these barriers.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO OUR CITIZENS?

Through our community engagement process respondents told us their priorities were:

- >> Increased facilities and opportunities for the community especially provision for young people.
- >> Enhanced range and awareness of community events/activities to meet the needs of a diverse audience.
- >> Protection and enhancement of existing natural/open spaces, ensuring protection of the landscape, enhanced accessibility for recreational use.
- >> Increased public and active transport options to enable access to key centres and open spaces.
- >> Enhancement of sustainable development initiatives which promote a low carbon life style including energy efficiency, renewable energy use and car sharing schemes.

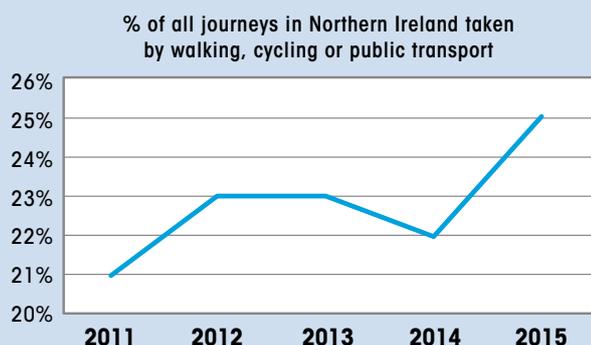
## HOW WILL WE MEASURE THIS?

We have identified the following success measures (indicators) which will tell us whether, through partnership working under the Community Plan, we are positively contributing to the creation of connected places and people.

Figures for numbers of volunteers and membership of groups/sports clubs in the Borough are not currently available however this will be part of our data development process.

- >> **Access to sustainable and affordable transport**
- >> **An increase in the % of non car journeys**
- >> **An increase in the % people who are volunteers/members of a group/sports club**

### Our baseline



(Source: Department for Infrastructure NI Travel Survey)

## HOW MIGHT WE ACHIEVE THIS?

- >> Undertake a transport study which will develop a service map for public and community transport and an audit of the available assets (buses, vans, volunteer drivers). Identify the gaps/ areas of need regarding accessibility across the Borough to leisure, education, health, training and employment opportunities and make recommendations to address issues.
- >> Scope/map the existing infrastructure (cycle and walking paths) and projects or programmes which support and promote active travel e.g. bike to work, safer routes to school. Use the findings to make recommendations for a (pilot) programme to address issues.
- >> Develop a joined up volunteering scheme for the Borough potentially including a timebanking/ rewards scheme.

## RELEVANT POLICIES/STRATEGIES

- >> Delivering Social Change 2012 (OFMDFM)
- >> Join In, Get Involved: Build a Better Future A Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan for Northern Ireland 2012 (DSD)
- >> Exercise, Explore, Enjoy – a strategy for Greenways 2016 (DRD)
- >> Northern Ireland changing Gear – a bicycle strategy for NI 2015-2040 (DRD)
- >> Regional Development Strategy 2012-2035 (DRD)

## POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council | Education Authority | Health and Social Care Trust | Health and Social Care Board | Public Health Agency | Sport NI | Central Government Departments | Northern Ireland Environment Agency | Schools | South Antrim Community Transport | Sustrans | Translink | Transport NI |

## OUR PRIORITIES: SAFE, CLEAN AND VIBRANT PLACES

- >> Our town and village centres are vibrant places where people live and where they spend their leisure time.
- >> Our towns and villages, and our green and open spaces, are clean and vibrant places which our citizens have pride in.
- >> Our natural environment is valued.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO OUR CITIZENS?

Through our community engagement process respondents told us their priorities were:

- >> New town centre businesses, reducing the number of vacant properties, and encouraging increased footfall and spend.
- >> Promotion of town centre living to encourage regeneration.
- >> Increased presence of community policing.
- >> Measures to combat drinking, drugs and anti-social behaviour in public spaces.
- >> Measures to increase road safety and deal with speeding and high traffic volumes.
- >> Increased maintenance of community spaces to combat litter, dog fouling, graffiti, flags, emblems and kerb painting which reduce the amenity value of public space.
- >> Increased night-time economy leading to a greater sense of safety in town spaces.
- >> Ensuring an appropriate mix and balance of housing to ensure people can remain in the area regardless of age, family size or health status.
- >> Protection and enhancement of existing natural/open spaces, ensuring protection of the landscape, enhanced accessibility for recreational use and the creation of wildlife corridors.

## WHY DOES LIVING IN SAFE, CLEAN AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES MATTER? (The evidence)

The Antrim and Newtownabbey area has 4 designated town centres, Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin, and Randalstown, plus Glengormley which is an urban centre.

Town teams now operate in Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin, Glengormley and Randalstown and the Council is working in partnership with the Department for Communities on regeneration plans.

Our citizens value opportunities for accessing local shops and cafes. 83% of the 315 survey respondents stated that they use their local shops and 70% that they use local cafes. However the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour can negatively impact on the enjoyment of our town centres and community spaces.

The fear of crime persists despite a downward trend in crime and anti-social behaviour in recent years.

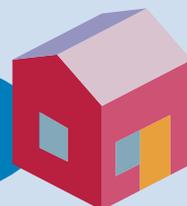
**17%**



**Between 2005/2006 and 2014/15 there was an overall decrease in crime of 17%.**

Key factors which influence the sense of security and safety in our town centres are the extent of footfall which they attract and whether they operate an evening economy.

Less than half (**40%**) of new businesses survive for more than **5 years** which gives rise to vacant units



Ensuring the vibrancy of our town centres and increasing the sense of safety within them, is positively impacted by limiting the number of vacant properties and ensuring an appropriate mix of retail and residential properties.

Town centres are also negatively impacted upon by out of town shopping outlets. In order to redress this situation, accessibility of town centres is a priority, including effective public transport and affordable, accessible parking.

Evidence suggests our parking is affordable. At the 1st January 2017, 7 out of 10 off street car park spaces in Antrim and Newtownabbey were free of charge.

## HOW WILL WE MEASURE THIS?

We have identified the following success measures (indicators) which will tell us whether, through partnership working under the Community Plan, we are positively contributing to the creation of connected, safe, clean and vibrant places.

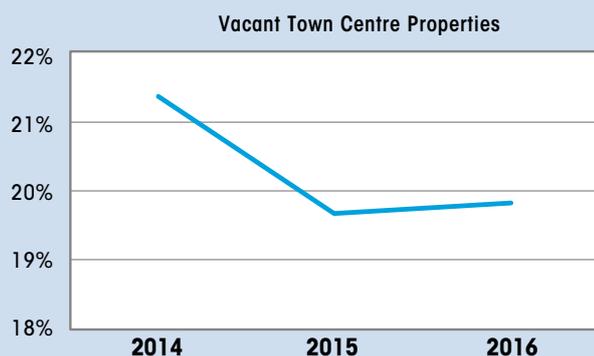
>> **A decrease in the % of vacant non-residential units**

>> **An increase in town/village centre footfall**

### Our baseline

The graph shows the percentage of vacant non-residential town centre properties within the Borough.

The area has 4 designated town centres (Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin and Randalstown) plus Glengormley which is an urban centre (figures are not currently available for Glengormley).



(Source: Department for Communities Town Centre Database)

Figures for town centre footfall are not currently available for all 4 town centres, however going forward, measurements will be introduced in order that we can track progress on this. This will be part of our data development process.

## HOW MIGHT WE ACHIEVE THIS?

- >> Facilitate our Place Shaping Forums to contribute to developing a better understanding of local issues and needs.
- >> Work collectively to ensure Antrim and Newtownabbey is within the top 3 'clean' Council areas in Northern Ireland.
- >> Engage with and support the work of the Police and Community Safety Partnership in the roll out of policing and community safety initiatives.
- >> Engage with and support the work of the Peace IV Partnership in the development of shared spaces (Crumlin Glen, Parkhall/Antrim Grammar and the Urban Sports Park) and shared space events.
- >> Engage with and support the work of the Rural Development Partnership in Village Renewal and investment in rural services.
- >> Delivery of major public realm and revitalisation schemes in our town centres including Glengormley (circa £4 million) and Antrim Town.

## RELEVANT POLICIES/STRATEGIES

- >> Safer Together Community Safety Strategy 2015 - 2017 (NIHE)
- >> Urban Regeneration and Community Development Framework 2013 (DfC)
- >> Homeless Strategy 2012-2017 (NIHE)
- >> Community Safety Strategy for NI 2012-2017: 'Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities' DOJ
- >> The Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland: Facing the Future 2012-2017 (DfC)

## POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council | Invest NI | Northern Ireland Housing Executive | PSNI | Central Government Departments | Chambers of Trade/Commerce | Policing and Community Safety Partnership | Shopping Centre Management | Taxi Companies | Translink |

# 3 Our citizens benefit from economic prosperity



## OUR PRIORITIES

- >> Our local economy thrives, with local businesses starting up, growing, expanding and generating employment.
- >> Enterprise and innovation are encouraged and supported from an early age to build the businesses and entrepreneurs of the future.
- >> Our area has a skilled population and infrastructure which is attractive to investors and employers.
- >> Barriers to accessing employment are reduced or removed enabling all of our citizens to have equitable access to the opportunities available in the Borough.

## WHY DOES BENEFITING FROM ECONOMIC PROSPERITY MATTER? (The evidence)

In order to ensure an economically prosperous area, it is necessary to ensure business activity within the area, but also an appropriate skills match of potential employees for the nature of work available.

Antrim and Newtownabbey has the lowest proportion of VAT registered businesses in Northern Ireland.



**3,685 VAT/PAYE** registered businesses are located within the Borough

There are **3,000 microbusinesses** with 9 employees or less

Small and micro businesses are an essential element of the economic fabric of the area and are often suppliers of goods or services for larger companies. Any changes to the supply chain needs of the larger purchasing companies therefore has a significant impact on other businesses locally and the resilience of the local economy.

There is therefore a need to prioritise the sustainability and growth of existing businesses and their supply chains.

In Antrim and Newtownabbey 70% of the working age population are employed in the private sector. This includes employment in some large companies such as Caterpillar, Canyon, Chain Reaction, Bombardier and Royal Mail. 19.4 % of jobs are in the retail, wholesale and motor vehicle sectors.

Between 2011 and 2015 the number of jobs available in the Borough increased by 2.8% to 55,937. There has therefore been growth in some sectors, for example distribution, whereas there has been contraction in others such as manufacturing. There were 486 redundancies within the Borough between 2013 and 2015, the majority of which were in the manufacturing sector.

**30%**  
employed in the public sector

**Residents aged 16-64 within the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough**

**19.6%**  
employed in the human health and social services sector

The rationalisation of public sector services and reform of public sector bodies in Northern Ireland has resulted in a reduction in employment.

Any reduction of jobs within the public sector is significant. Across Northern Ireland public sector jobs have decreased by 2.6%, a trend which has also impacted locally.

The levels of entrepreneurship in Northern Ireland are low and stand at 5.1%, measured by the number of business start-ups. Antrim and Newtownabbey is ranked 10th of the 11 councils.

The rate of **entrepreneurship** in Antrim and Newtownabbey is **4.2%**

We have a challenge to support the growth and innovation activity of the private sector, particularly during a period of public sector compression.

An important element of supporting and encouraging innovation and economic activity is ensuring our citizens have the right skills and qualifications.



**27.1%** of the population aged 16-64 are **educated to degree level** or above

The skills based within the Borough may also not align with the skills required by emerging industries. Unless skills are aligned, business growth will be restricted, or jobs will have to be filled with candidates from outside the local area.

**55.6%** of those aged 16-74 who are in **employment** work in the Borough

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO OUR CITIZENS?

Through our community engagement process the priorities identified were:

- >> Measures to encourage investment and job creation within the area.
- >> Measures to combat road traffic congestion and parking difficulties which discourage town centre economies.
- >> Focus on enhanced employability skills matched to the economic opportunities available and those being developed within the area with an emphasis on 'high end' job creation and entrepreneurship.
- >> Prevent 'brain drain' from the area and loss of skills to the local economy.
- >> Enhanced information sharing between government and the private sector to ensure statutory supports are appropriately targeted and businesses develop in line with strategic aspirations and emerging markets.
- >> Innovation support for local businesses to ensure competitiveness within current and future markets.
- >> Enhanced digital connectivity and transport systems to enable access to local and international markets for goods and services.



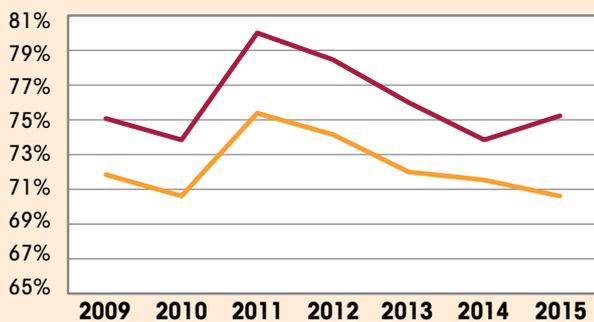
## HOW WILL WE MEASURE THIS?

We have identified the following success measures (indicators) which will tell us whether, through partnership working under the Community Plan, we are positively contributing to economic prosperity.

- >> An increase in the % of the working age population who are employed/self employed
- >> An increase in the % of the working age population who are economically active.

### Our baseline

Economic Activity and Employment Rates (2009-2015) for the Council



— Antrim and Newtownabbey Economic Activity Rate  
— Antrim and Newtownabbey Employment Rate

(Source: Department for the Economy)

Economically inactive includes retired people, students, those at home caring for family and those who are long term sick.

Economically active includes those in work or seeking work.

## HOW MIGHT WE ACHIEVE THIS?

- >> Develop an integrated support structure for business & enterprise (including social) which facilitates the integration of Council business support functions such as environmental health, planning, building control, economic development and rural business support.
- >> Provision of first class infrastructure for business development and growth including support for enterprise parks, development of digital connectivity and supporting the development of the skills base of the local population.

- >> Establish an Employability and Skills/Economic Think Tank Forum which will bring together education and skills providers and local employers and which will initially undertake an employment and skills audit to inform the development of future initiatives.
- >> Create a portfolio of investment locations within the Borough in conjunction with the private sector.

## RELEVANT POLICIES/STRATEGIES

- >> Economy 2030: Draft Industrial Strategy for NI 2017 (DfE)
- >> Smart Specialisation Framework for NI 2015 (DfE)
- >> Enabling Success: A Strategy to Tackle Economic inactivity in Northern Ireland 2015 (DfE)
- >> Economic Strategy: Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity: building a better future 2012-2030 (DETI)
- >> Regional Development Strategy 2012-2035 (DRD)

## POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council | Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) | Education Authority | Health and Social Care Trust | Invest NI | Tourism NI | Northern Regional College | Ulster University | Business in the Community | Central Government Departments | Chambers of Trade/Commerce | Community and Voluntary Sector | Entrepreneurs | Major Employers | Private Sector | Social Enterprise Hubs |

# Our citizens achieve their full potential



## OUR PRIORITIES

- >> A range of formal and informal learning opportunities are available.
- >> There is a culture of lifelong learning in Antrim and Newtownabbey with a range of opportunities to acquire new skills and qualifications.
- >> Our children and young people achieve throughout their education and progress to employment.
- >> Our children and young people are ambitious and inspired to achieve from an early age.
- >> The range of ways in which people learn, and develop skills for life and work, is acknowledged through availability of placements, internships and apprenticeships.

## WHY DOES ACHIEVING POTENTIAL MATTER? (The evidence)

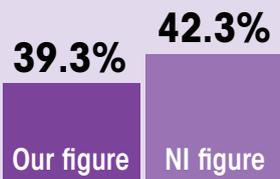
Enabling individuals and communities to maximise their skills and qualifications not only develops the economic vibrancy of the area but also increases community resilience and cohesion.

### Further and higher education

Available figures demonstrate that over 13,000 Antrim and Newtownabbey citizens were enrolled in Further Education (8,738) and Higher Education (4,545) in 2014/15.

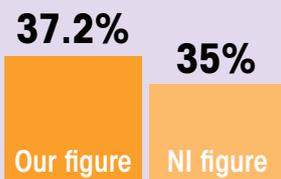
Further and Higher Education learning opportunities are provided by the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE), Northern Regional College and Ulster University, all of which are based within the Borough. In addition the Borough has 53 primary schools and 10 post primary schools.

Proportion of school leavers entering Higher Education



9th across all Councils

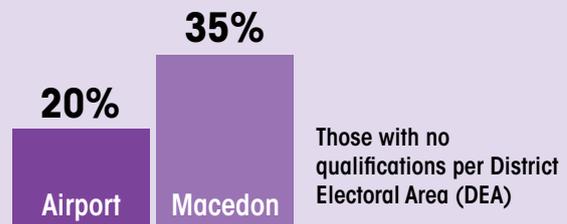
Proportion of school leavers entering Further Education



3rd across all Councils

### Skills and qualifications

Despite the opportunities to access formal education institutions qualification levels vary widely across the Borough.



The attainment of educational qualifications and transferrable skills, impacts on the ability of individuals to secure employment. 28% of those who are unemployed in the Borough are long term unemployed. 27% of those are aged between 18-24.

This is a matter of concern since the inability to gain employment at a young age will have a knock on impact on employment opportunities throughout life and increase dependence on state support services. Ensuring our young people in particular achieve their potential is therefore reflected in our 'Wildly Important Goal'.

## Changes in educational needs

Trends in age profile and economic patterns are also influencing educational opportunities within the Borough. Our ageing population are working for longer and this is leading to a need for re-training and/or upskilling to ensure longer term employability.

We are also experiencing a shift in the pattern of educational opportunities sought by individuals, with 81.8% of Further Education enrolments in 2014/15 being secured on a part-time basis. In 2014/15 35,681 people enrolled on non-regulated (hobby) courses.

There is also a move towards apprenticeships and vocational courses as alternatives to academic qualifications.

These changes in community needs and interests present challenges to the way in which educational courses are offered. Barriers to access need to be overcome, such as cost, transport and course scheduling.

However, the changes also present opportunities. The increased number of older people seeking educational attainment, provides new opportunities for intergenerational learning and enhanced community cohesion. There are also opportunities to harness the skills of older people as trainers and mentors within formal and informal education environments.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO OUR CITIZENS?

Through our community engagement process the priorities identified were:

- >> Balancing of school provision to ensure appropriate access to suitable educational opportunities close to home.
- >> Enhanced community based informal educational opportunities to enable skills development and improved life choices.
- >> Increased opportunities and access to third level education and vocational training such as apprenticeships.
- >> Increased provision of rural library services and information hubs.

- >> Increased opening hours for community and leisure facilities.
- >> Enhanced partnership/collaborative working between the statutory, community and voluntary sector to ensure joined up service provision which accurately meets the needs of the local community and maximises value for money.
- >> Development of enhanced community spirit and volunteering, enabling individuals to make a positive contribution to the place in which they live and grow.
- >> Supporting the development of local community leaders and the sustainability of the community sector to ensure the vibrancy of community support structures.

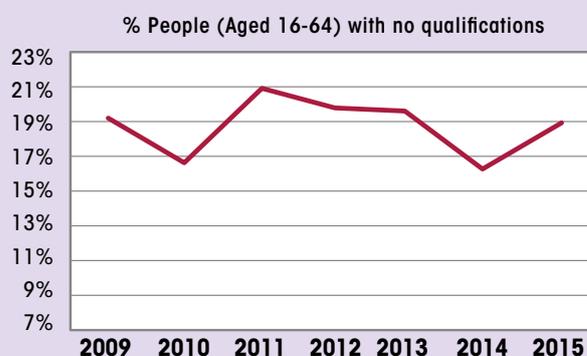
## HOW WILL WE MEASURE THIS?

We have identified the following success measures (indicators) which will tell us whether, through partnership working under the Community Plan, we are positively contributing to ensuring our citizens achieve their full potential. These are:

- >> An increase in the % of residents of working age who are engaged in learning
- >> A decrease in the % of working age population with no qualifications.

### Our baseline

The graph shows the % of Antrim and Newtownabbey working age population with no qualifications over a 5 year period. In 2015 18.8% had no qualifications compared to 16.2% in Northern Ireland.



(Source: Department for the Economy)

Whilst data is not readily available for individuals who are involved in learning on an informal basis (for example art or music classes or capacity building programmes). The figures available demonstrate that more than 13,000 Antrim and Newtownabbey citizens enrolled in Further Education (8,738) and Higher Education (4,545)

## HOW MIGHT WE ACHIEVE THIS?

- >> Establish an Employability and Skills/Economic Think Tank Forum which will bring together education and skills providers and local employers and which will initially undertake an employment and skills audit to inform the development of future initiatives.
- >> Develop an integrated approach across partner organisations to apprenticeships, internships, placements and work experience. This will include a review of HR policies regarding work experience, placements and internships for all ages, agreeing a standardised policy and practice.
- >> Develop an integrated approach across partner organisations to the development of a social clause policy with respect to the creation of training and employment opportunities within procurement contracts.
- >> Build upon good practice work with respect to targeting disadvantaged areas e.g. Areas at Risk programme.
- >> Develop an 'Aspiration Programme' for children & young people which includes research into levels of aspiration and current practice. Examine best practice approaches and develop programmes accordingly (on the understanding that a combination of approaches will be required depending on target audience – early years, pre-school, primary school, post primary school, disengaged young people) (possibly target Years 10 and 11 as this is when children seem to disconnect).
- >> Promote the value of lifelong learning by scoping what currently exists, gaps and opportunities and using this information to develop an annual Festival of Learning across the Borough.

- >> Facilitate the roll out of "Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing" across the Borough with a specific focus on increasing uptake in schools, community and businesses.

## RELEVANT POLICIES/STRATEGIES

- >> The Child Poverty Strategy 2016 (DfC)
- >> Further Education Means Success – Further Education Strategy 2016 (DfE)
- >> Generating our Success – NI Strategy for Youth Training 2015 (DfE)
- >> Securing our Success – the Northern Ireland Strategy on Apprenticeships 2014 (DfE)
- >> Pathways to Success: Preventing Exclusion and Promoting Participation of Young People 2012 – 2020 (DEL)
- >> Graduating to Success – Higher Education Strategy 2012-2020 (DEL)
- >> The Skills Strategy – Success Through Skills – Transforming Futures 2011-2020 (DEL)
- >> STEM Strategy: Success Through STEM 2011 (DE/DEL)
- >> Every School a Good School: A Policy for School Improvement (ESaGS) (DE) 2009-2020
- >> Providing Pathways (Education Authority 2017)
- >> Children and Young People's Strategy (DE 2017-2027)

## POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council | Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) | Education Authority (schools and youth service) | Libraries NI | Northern Regional College | Sport NI | Ulster University | Central Government Departments | Community and Voluntary Sector | Confederation of Business Industry | CAFRE (Greenmount) | Jobs and Benefits Offices | Local Businesses |

# 'Wildly Important Goal' – our vulnerable people are supported



## OUR PRIORITIES:

- >> Our ageing population is supported to live active lives as part of their community.
- >> Our ageing population is supported to live as contentedly and independently as possible for as long as possible.

## WHY DOES SUPPORTING OUR VULNERABLE PEOPLE MATTER? (The evidence)

Our population is ageing.

**46.7%**



Population increase 2005-2015 aged 85+

**42.1%**



Projected population increase 2015-2030 aged 65+

Currently 15.9% of the population of the Borough are aged 65+, with 7% of those (almost 10,000 people) aged 75+.

It is estimated that **11% of households** in the Borough are **lone pensioner** households.



## Health and wellbeing challenges

This presents huge challenges for how we organise and deliver community services, enable independence for older people and ensure health and wellbeing.

Social isolation has a negative impact on health and wellbeing. We are aware that personal mobility issues can make remaining connected within the community challenging. This is exacerbated by difficulties in accessing public transport in some areas and therefore limits the extent to which older people can contribute and participate in community life.

Older people are more susceptible to health related challenges and therefore need more care services to enable them to remain independent and to continue to live in their own homes. These supports are dependent on a mixture of family, community and health and social care services.

## Supporting independence

Homes also need to be suitable to support independence, including suitable layout and adaptability to changing mobility and health requirements.



There is also a need for suitable and adequate provision of residential care and supported living opportunities for those who are unable to remain fully independent within the community.

It is not sufficient to enable our older people to stay in their own homes, we need to ensure that they have a quality of life and feel safe. Older people often express a fear of crime and worries around personal security which impacts upon the extent to which they go out and the times which they go out.



Older people also often suffer from **fuel poverty** which can impact their quality of life.

The Housing Conditions Survey 2011 referenced that between 38% and 42% of households in the Borough were in fuel poverty. In particular there were concentrations of households around Ballyclare and Toome, as well as known areas of deprivation such as Farranshane and Macedon.

As more of our population lives longer, the quality of life for older people and the ability to live independently becomes ever more important. We need to ensure that our support services, transport systems and community structures support measures aimed at early intervention, positive health and wellbeing and maximum personal independence.

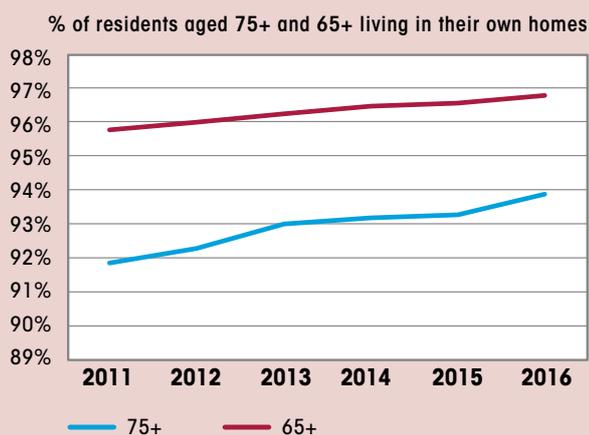
## HOW WILL WE MEASURE THIS?

We have identified the following success measure (indicator) which will tell us whether, through partnership working under the Community Plan, we are positively supporting our vulnerable people.

**>> An increase in the % of residents over 75 living in their own homes.**

### Our baseline

The graph shows the % of residents aged 75+ and 65+ living in their own homes. Whilst both trends are positive, there is a notable gap (3%) between the figures for 65+ and those for 75+.



(Source: Business Services Organisation)

## HOW MIGHT WE ACHIEVE THIS?

- >> Develop an age friendly strategy & action plan for Antrim and Newtownabbey. This exercise will initially involve a mapping exercise against the World Health Organisation age friendly criteria to scope current provision and identify gaps/opportunities for development/expansion of service delivery e.g. Good Morning programme, befriending programme, home safety initiatives, health and social care schemes etc.
- >> Develop a multi-agency Vulnerability and Concern Hub to facilitate identification of vulnerable people in the Borough and collectively identify the necessary support interventions needed to improve their wellbeing and reduce their vulnerability.
- >> Ensure access to benefits and support advice for all our older citizens.

## RELEVANT POLICIES/STRATEGIES

- >> Active Ageing Strategy NI 2016 - 2021 (DfC)
- >> Transforming Your Care: A Review of Health and Social Care 2011 (DHSSPS)
- >> Improving Dementia Services in Northern Ireland – A Regional Strategy 2011 (DHSSPS)
- >> Warmer Healthier Homes – A New Fuel Poverty Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011 (DfC)

## POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council | Health and Social Care Trust | Health and Social Care Board | Libraries NI | NI Fire and Rescue Service | Northern Ireland Housing Executive | PSNI | Public Health Agency | Advice Agencies | Community and Voluntary Sector | Policing and Community Safety Partnership |



## OUR PRIORITY

>> Our young people are supported to access opportunities which enable them to fulfil their potential.

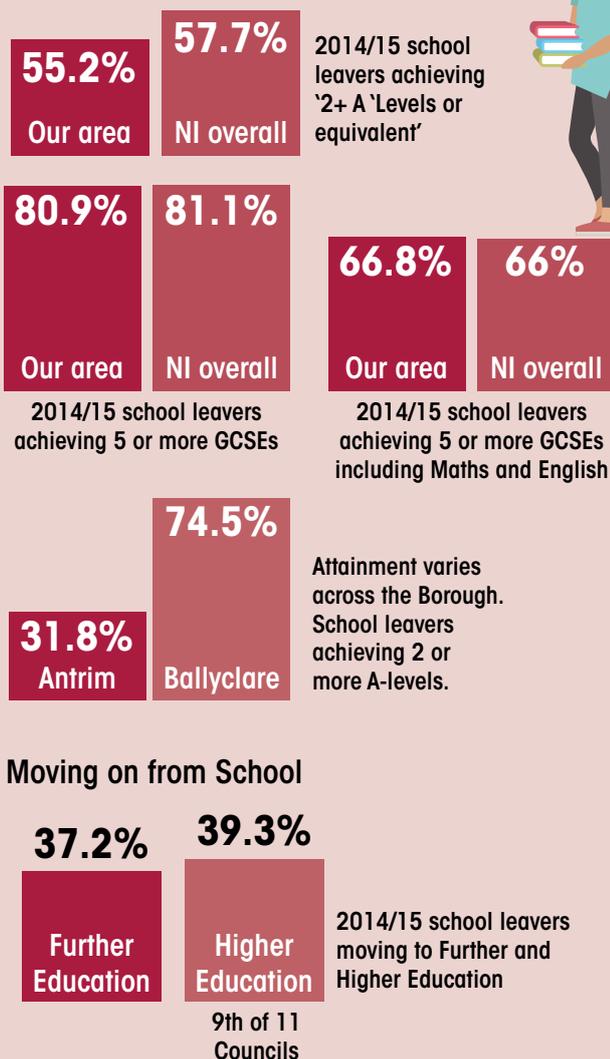


## WHY DOES SUPPORTING OUR VULNERABLE PEOPLE MATTER? (The evidence)

Locally, some educators describe a “poverty of aspiration” in some young people. This not only impacts on the economic status of young people, but also their ability to make positive life choices and ultimately their health and emotional wellbeing.

### Educational Attainment

While our rates of educational attainment in Northern Ireland are high, educational achievement within the Borough is slightly below the Northern Ireland average.



Whilst figures specific to Antrim and Newtownabbey are not available, it is known that fewer school leavers in Northern Ireland who are entitled to free school meals progress to Higher or Further Education (65.3%) than those who are not entitled to free school meals (81.1%).

A concern is the number of young people who leave education with “no destination” towards employment or training. In 2015 5.7% of school leavers (91 young people) within the Borough exited education in this manner. 30% of those young people lived in Antrim town DEA. It can be expected that those young people will have significantly less life choices than those who continue to gain additional skills.

**27% of unemployment benefit claimants from the Borough are aged 18-24**

In April 2016 there were 620 participants from Antrim and Newtownabbey in the Apprenticeships NI programme. 2 local employers offering placements include NIE and Belfast International Airport.

The location and availability of training has a direct impact on the pathways chosen by young people when leaving school. In addition, the ability to pay training costs may also impact on the number of young people accessing Further and Higher Education.

### Outside of Education

There were 109 youth justice referrals and 22 Juvenile Justice Centre transactions regarding young people from the Borough in 2015/16. It is known that by addressing access to training and employment opportunities, positive impacts can be made on factors such as youth crime and anti-social behaviour.

However, it should be highlighted that young people are contributing significantly to the community. In the 2011 census 18.1% of usual residents aged 18-24 had volunteered their time within the previous year. If we are to secure the economic vitality of the area and ensure that young people are enabled to fulfil their potential, it is essential that barriers to ongoing personal development and training are minimised.

It is also important to match training options to vocational opportunities within the area, such as apprenticeships, to provide young people with confidence that the effort they put into skills development will pay real dividends for their employability.

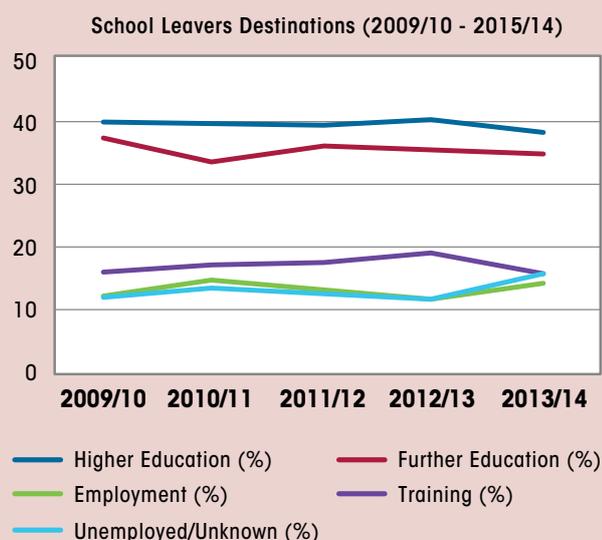
## HOW WILL WE MEASURE THIS?

We have identified the following success measure (indicator) which will tell us whether, through partnership working under the Community Plan, we are positively supporting our young people to fulfil their potential:

**>> An increase the % of young people progressing to employment, further education, training or voluntary activity.**

### Our baseline

The graph shows where our school leavers move on to from post primary school.



(Source: Department for Education)

## HOW MIGHT WE ACHIEVE THIS?

- >> Develop a Children and Young People Transition Programme which uses research and best practice to understand and address the transition needs and support needs of young people and in particular with regard to underachievement.
- >> Establish an Employability and Skills/Economic Think Tank Forum which will bring together education and skills providers and local employers and which will initially undertake an employment and skills audit to inform the development of future initiatives.

## RELEVANT POLICIES/STRATEGIES

- >> The Child Poverty Strategy 2016 (DfC)
- >> Further Education Means Success – Further Education Strategy 2016 (DfE)
- >> Generating our Success – NI Strategy for Youth Training 2015 (DfE)
- >> Securing our Success – the Northern Ireland Strategy on Apprenticeships 2014 (DfE)
- >> Pathways to Success: Preventing Exclusion and Promoting Participation of Young People 2012 – 2020 (DEL)
- >> Graduating to Success – Higher Education Strategy 2012-2020 (DEL)
- >> Every School a Good School: A Policy for School Improvement (ESaGS) (DE) 2009-2020
- >> Providing Pathways (Education Authority 2017)
- >> Children and Young People’s Strategy (DE 2017-2027)

## POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council | Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) | Education Authority | Health and Social Care Trust (16+ service) | Invest NI | Libraries NI | Northern Regional College | PSNI | Sport NI | Ulster University | Volunteer Now | Community and Voluntary Sector | CAFRE (Greenmount) | Chambers of Trade/Commerce | Jobs and Benefits Offices | Policing and Community Safety Partnership | Princes Trust | Private Sector | Recruitment Agencies | Training Providers

# NEXT STEPS

The Community Plan provides the framework to develop and deliver public services in Antrim and Newtownabbey in the years to 2030. Based on a shared vision for the area and setting out the outcomes we want to see for our citizens, the Community Plan is the first step on the road to a better Borough.

To achieve these ambitious goals, there are several steps to take over the lifetime of the plan.

## Research and Development

In the early stages of implementation of the Community Plan, the Partnership will undertake or commission a number of scoping studies or audits which will more comprehensively inform development of the projects and initiatives which the Partnership has committed to.

## Outcome Delivery Plans

Each of the outcomes and the Wildly Important Goal will have a delivery plan. These plans will include short, medium and long term actions and will be developed by Outcome Delivery Groups.

Led by members of the Partnership, these groups will include a broad range of stakeholders who can provide the expertise to inform the projects, programmes and actions which can address the challenges in our area.

## DEA Place Shaping Forums

We will engage at a local level with communities to ensure delivery of the Community Plan is responsive to local needs and to facilitate engagement of local people in the community planning process.

## Monitoring and Review

The Community Planning Partnership will review the plan on an annual basis and will formally report on progress every two years.



# NOTES



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