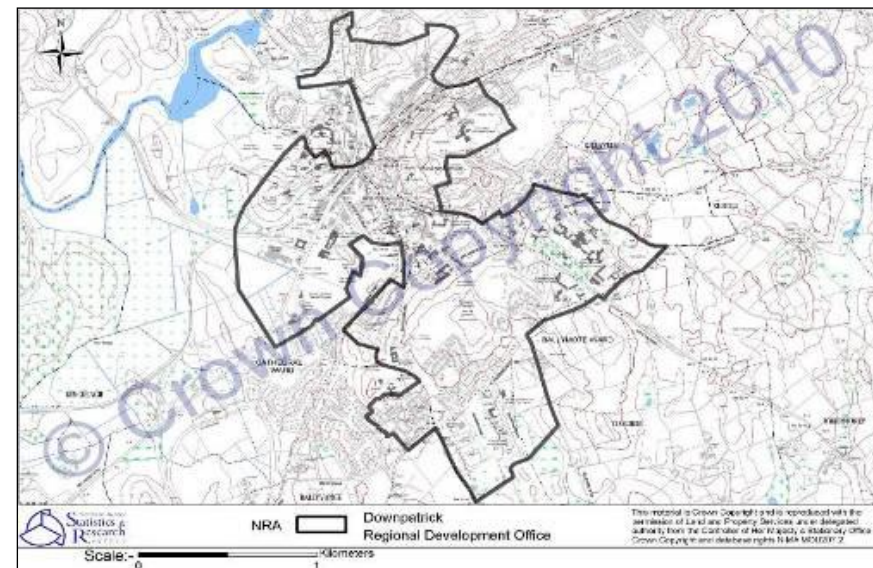


Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Area Annual Report 2014/2015



Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

ANNUAL REPORT – 2014/2015

Neighbourhood Renewal

The Neighbourhood Renewal policy “People & Place” aims to reduce the social and economic inequalities which characterise the most deprived areas. The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy ‘People and Place’ was published in June 2003 to close the gap between the quality of life for people in the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of society. It does so by making a long term commitment to communities to work in partnership with them to identify and prioritise needs and co-ordinate interventions designed to address the underlying causes of poverty. The Strategy has four interlinking strategic objectives:

- **Community Renewal** – to develop confident communities able and committed to improving the quality of life in their areas.
- **Economic Renewal** – to develop economic activity in the most deprived neighbourhoods and connect them to the wider urban economy.
- **Social Renewal** – to improve social conditions for the people who live in the most deprived neighbourhoods through better co-ordinated public services and the creation of safer environments.
- **Physical Renewal** – to help create attractive, safe and sustainable environments in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Area

The Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal area comprises the housing areas within Downpatrick (Flying Horse, Model Farm and new Model Farm estates, Kennedy Square, Meadowlands, and Marian Park) and a substantial part of the town centre including the Bridge Street / Mount Crescent area. It has a population of approximately 5,468.

Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

The Downpatrick Neighbourhood Partnership was established in March 2006 to take forward the local delivery of the Neighbourhood Renewal strategy. It comprises 26 members from the community/voluntary, private and statutory sectors. The Partnership is defined as a non-constituted entity acting in an advisory role to the Department for Social Development on Neighbourhood Renewal issues in the designated Neighbourhood Renewal area. It currently meets on a 6 weekly basis and its administration services are provided by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. The Department for Social Development provides the associated costs for administering the Partnership under technical assistance arrangements.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership's sub groups are transient and short term, set up to undertake specific tasks to assist it in the identification, development and, where appropriate, delivery of projects.

The Partnership and Subgroups have all signed up to and abide by the Neighbourhood Renewal Code of Practice and Guiding Principles and subsequent Subgroup Terms of Reference

The Downpatrick Vision and Action Plan

The Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership set its 10 year vision for the area back in 2006. It states that:

Local neighbourhoods in Downpatrick will be safe, attractive places where people want to live, work and play. Communities will be healthier and prosperous, working together to create a positive future for our children and young people.

Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plans

The Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership has a 3 year Action Plan in place. It is reviewed each year in line with the Department for Social Development guidance. The Plan sets out those revenue (service delivery type) projects that are currently being funded by the Department, together with any new revenue projects that are in development. It also sets out the capital development schemes that the Partnership has identified for delivery. This Annual Report document reports on delivery of the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan for the 2014/15 financial year.

Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Projects

The Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund has supported six Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan revenue projects during the 2014/2015 financial year as follows:-

1. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council - Neighbourhood Partnership Technical Assistance

This project provides Council with funding to deliver the Neighbourhood Renewal secretariat support function without which the Partnership could not effectively operate. This includes the co-ordination of Partnership meetings, planning events and other initiatives, the production of Neighbourhood Renewal Action plans and contribution to the monitoring and evaluation process. This service is seen as vital to the smooth functioning of Neighbourhood Renewal in Downpatrick.

This picture captures Partnership members with local politicians at a recent planning event.



2. Downpatrick Public Health Agency – Health & Community Engagement Programme

This project which is being managed by the Public Health Agency has been running since 2013. It involves the employment of a Community Development Health Worker to deliver a range of targeted Health and Wellbeing and community initiatives within the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal area. The service delivery has been outsourced by the Public Health Agency to a community sector organisation - County Down Rural Community Network, under Service Level Agreement arrangements. This project has been delivering an arrange of activities including men’s and women’s health programmes, identifying and developing new volunteers for community groups and delivering greater engagement and networking between and within groups. This has helped develop the skills and confidence of the local community to enable them to participate in the health and community related activities.

This picture captures the new “Men’s Group” that has been set up under the programme



3. Driving Your Way to Success 2.

This project provides additional support in education and training for neighbourhood renewal residents. It includes a bespoke programme of vocational skills and personal development training to assist young people to seek and secure employment / better employment, through participation in a training programme leading to the achievement of a nationally recognised qualification and the chance to obtain a driving licence. The project has been in place since 2012 and has continued to meet its targets (set out on pages 14 & 15).

New Skills: Oil boiler service certificate recipients



Social Renewal - Education

1. Nurturing Project St. Colmcille's Primary School

St. Colmcille's Primary School Downpatrick '**Nurturing Project**' has been developed in consultation with families, community development professional's and the South Eastern Education and Library Board's Education Psychology Service and the Department of Education. It provides a small emotionally secure setting in a specially furnished classroom where trained staff gives additional support to pupils with special needs and their parents. The project has been successful in increasing reading age amongst participants. The project started in 2012 and will be maintained by the Education Authority from 01/04/15.

Pupils learning new skills: gardening



2. South Eastern Education and Library Boards - Parents - Partners in Literacy Learning Project

Developed in 2012, this project has been designed in conjunction with Nursery, Primary, Post Primary and Special School Principals in the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Area, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) and Sure Start. It provided speech therapy and support across nursery schools and involved parents in their children's development. It also provided reading partnerships for children with literacy weakness. The project ended in October 2014.

Staff from Downpatrick Primary School who have delivered the Talk Boost Programme (L-R Wendy Clarke, Learning Support Assistant, Shirley Anne Thompson, Learning Support Unit Teacher/SENCO, Melanie Bates, Learning Support Unit Teacher /Literacy Co-ordinator).



Social Renewal - Health

1. Downpatrick Family Health & Wellbeing

Downpatrick '**Family Health & Wellbeing**' project is facilitated through a joint approach linking the SEELB, South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust, Downpatrick Sure Start, Bryson Charitable Group, Action for Children, Home Start and County Down Rural Community Network. Started in 2011, the project provides a coordinated network of health and family support services to neighbourhood renewal residents through a new Parent Visitor Programme; a Family Support Home Visiting Service; and a Mobile Crèche provision. The project continued to meet its objectives.

Creche: Solihill Parenting Programme



Downpatrick Partnership 2014/2015 expenditure (by Strategic Objective)

The following table details current projects funded via the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment fund. It also details the 2014/2015 individual spend for each project, the total amount of expenditure by strategic objective and the overall 2014/2015 total expenditure in the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding Amount (Project allocation)	2014/2015 Spend
Technical assistance			
Newry Mourne and Down District Council Neighbourhood Renewal Technical Assistance	01/04/2011 – 31/03/2015	£90,257.41	£28,211.99
COMMUNITY RENEWAL			
Public Health Agency - Public Health & Community Engagement Programme	19/08/2013 – 31/03/2015	£107,186.54	£65,361.47
Total Community Renewal Expenditure		£107,186.54	£65,361.47
SOCIAL RENEWAL – EDUCATION			
Nurturing Project St. Colmcille’s Primary School	13/01/2012 – 31/03/2015	£218,739.35	£43,500.75
Downpatrick – South East Education & library Board - Parents - Partners in Literacy Learning Project	31/01/2012 – 30/06/2014	£364,135.23	£71,985.29
Total Social Renewal Education Expenditure		£582,874.58	£115,486.04

SOCIAL RENEWAL – HEALTH			
Downpatrick Family Health & Wellbeing	1/04/2011 – 31/03/2015	£272,210.40	£53,600.10
Total Social Renewal Health Expenditure		£272,210.40	£53,600.10
PHYSICAL RENEWAL			
Total Physical Renewal Expenditure		£00	£00
ECONOMIC RENEWAL			
South Eastern Regional College - Driving to Success 2	4/03/2013 - 31/03/2015	£181,798.98	£79,938.29
Total Economic Renewal Expenditure		£181,798.98	£79,938.29
OVERALL TOTALS		£1,234,327.91	£342,597.89

ACHIEVEMENTS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDING IN 2014/2015 YEAR

Community/Other Output Measures

PROJECT	CR1 – Number of people participating in community relations projects.	CR3 - Number of people volunteering for community development activities	CR5 – Number of people receiving training in community development skills.	CR7 – Number of community/voluntary groups supported.
DDC NP Technical Assistance	1	1		
PHA Health & Community Engagement programme		11	163	5

Social (Education) Output Measures

PROJECT	SR(Ed) 3 – Number of pupils whose attainment is measurably enhance/improved.	SR(Ed) 5 – Number of people engaged in parenting/skills development programmes	SR(Ed) 8 – Number of pupils benefiting from the project	SR(Ed) 10 – Number of pupils directly benefiting from the project	SR(Ed) 11 – Number of pupils whose attainment is measurably improved against baseline position to ensure pupils reach full potential
Driving Your Way to Success 2	30		30		
Nurturing Project St. Colmcille's PS	12		12	12	12
Downpatrick - SEELB – Parents - Partners in Literacy Learning Project	167	195	167	167	167

Social (Health) Output Measures

PROJECT	SR(H)1 – Number of people benefiting from healthy lifestyle projects	SR(H) 2 – Number of people attending Education/Awareness initiatives	SR(H) 3 – Number of people accessing intervention/treatment services	SR(H) 4 – Number of health/education awareness initiatives provided/delivered
Downpatrick Family Health & Wellbeing	156	23	36 families	217 creches
PHA Health & Community Engagement programme	167	167	167	60

Economic Output Measures

PROJECT	ER 4 – Number of people receiving job specific training.	ER 5 – Number of weeks (per participant) of non job specific training provided.
Driving Your Way to Success 2	30	16

Downpatrick Partnership Conclusion

In the 2013/2014 financial year, Downpatrick Partnership total overall spend at June 2015 was **£342,597.89**

This can be further broken down into Strategic Objective spend as follows:-

- **Community Renewal** **£93,573.46**
- **Social Renewal** **£169,086.14**
- **Economic Renewal** **£79,938.29**
- **Physical Renewal** **£0.00**

Breakdown of actual achievements for total expenditure

Having previously focused on the delivery of the large £4.1M Ballymote Multifunctional and Healthy Living Sports facility which provided an additional 80 jobs for the area, the Partnership's new priority is to concentrate on educational, health and economic projects.

The Parents - Partners in Literacy Learning Project is already showing its benefits with pupils reading scores having improved by at least 2 – 3 years in the first year of the reading element. The economic project, Driving Your Way to Success has also been encouraging.

In the 2015/16 financial year £273K already has been approved mainly to continue the educational and economic focus, but also covering such issues as early health interventions in families.



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