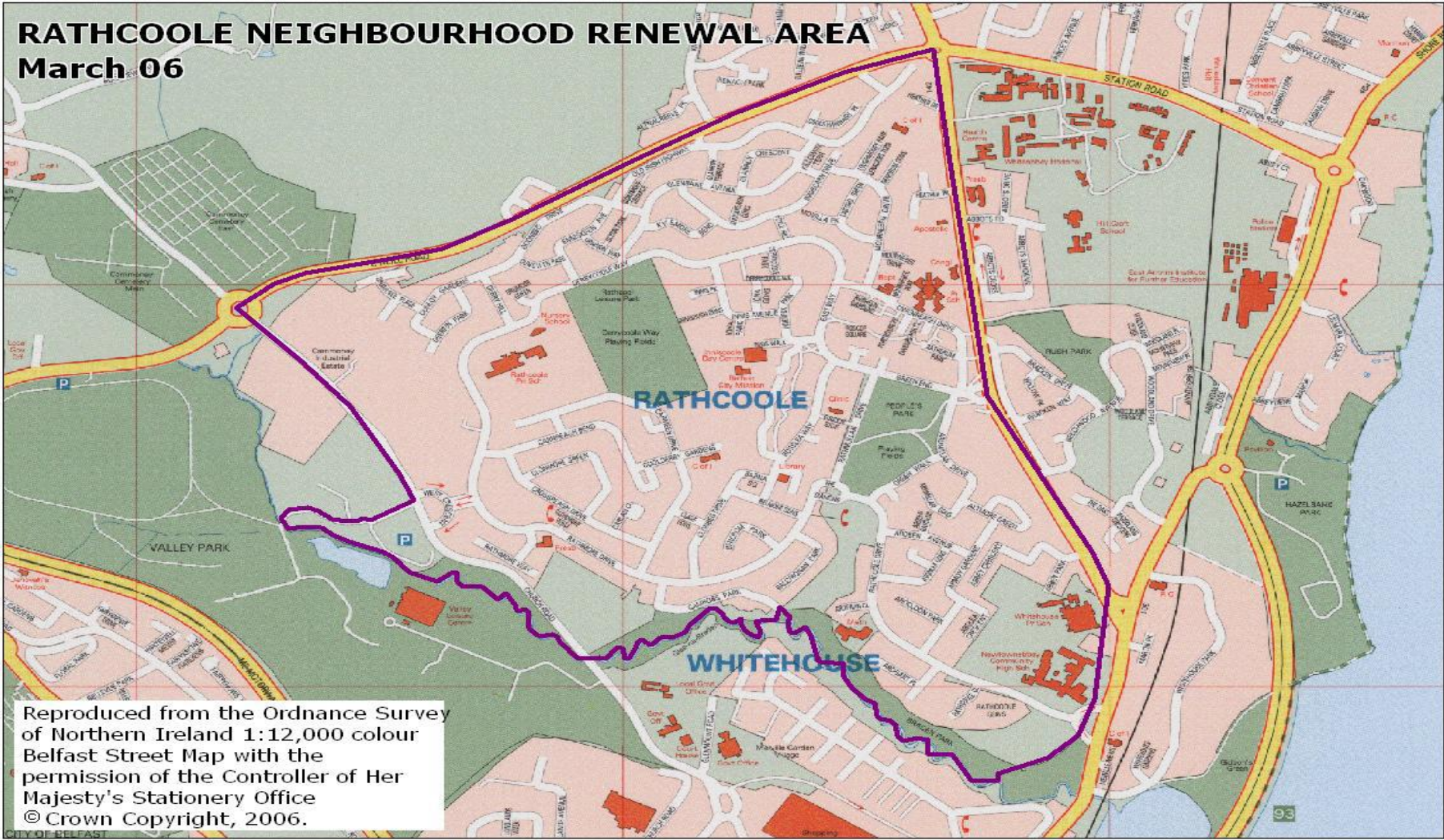


# **Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area Annual Report 2014-2015**



# Area Profile of Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA)



## **Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area**

### **About Neighbourhood Renewal**

In June 2003, Government launched “People and Place – A strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal” This long term (7-10 year) strategy was designed to target those communities throughout Northern Ireland suffering the highest levels of deprivation.

Neighbourhood Renewal is a cross Governmental strategy, which aims to bring together work of Government Departments in partnership with local people to tackle disadvantage and deprivation in all aspects of everyday life.

Neighbourhoods in the most deprived top 10% of wards across Northern Ireland were identified using the Noble Multiple Deprivation Measure. Following extensive consultation, this resulted in 36 areas and a population of approximately 280,000 (one person in 6 in Northern Ireland), being targeted for intervention.

Partnerships were established in each Neighbourhood Renewal Area as a vehicle for local planning and implementation.

### **About Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership**

Established in 2006, The Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (RNRP) meets on a bi-monthly basis to carry out the task outlined in the Department for Social Development (DSD) “People and Place” document to develop an Action Plan for the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

RNRP identifies priority objectives, which it believes are fundamental to addressing the four strategic priorities which have been set by the Department for Social Development (see below). These objectives are added to the Action Plan which was first produced in 2006 and which is revised on an annual basis.

The Action Plan is also guided by a needs assessment, which is continuously updated as new information becomes available from Northern Ireland Statistical Research Agency.

The Action Plan takes account of NINIS statistics, statutory priorities and lessons learned from the Neighbourhood Renewal Mid Term Review report.

The Mid Term Review highlighted the following in relation to Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area:

- There was 9.1% increase in Disability Living Allowance Claimants from 2003-2008
- In relation to education, whilst the number of school leavers with no GCSE's rose by 5.1%, the percentage of pupils achieving G.C.S.E in Maths rose by 23.2% and in English rose by 26.4%.
- Crime statistics showed positive trends as all recorded crimes had decreased by 29.7% from 2003-2008.
- The suicide rates were more of a concern with 16.5 suicides per 100,000 people. The male population showed higher rates of suicide with 35.7 in comparison to 16.1 females in 2004-2008.

The Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership completed a review of its original Action Plan in 2011 and published further updates in 2012 and 2014 to ensure that the actions required against all key priorities identified were sufficiently detailed. The Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan reflects priorities that are valid and relevant for the area, are supported by robust evidence and take account of local knowledge.

It should be noted that the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership members have all signed up to and abide by the Neighbourhood Renewal Code of Practice and guiding principles and subsequent Sub Group Terms of Reference.

To take forward the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership was established in 2006, The Partnership currently comprises of 25 members including representatives from the local community, voluntary and statutory organisations and elected representatives.

This year has seen the Partnership working more closely, with greater clarity of role and function, in positive sense collaboration. The Partnership continues to strive for more innovative approaches, to sit aside mainstream Government programmes, to tackle deprivation in whichever form it takes.

The main statutory agencies involved in RNRP and local Government Departments have continued to contribute to the delivery of the Action Plan – either directly through the performing of their statutory function in a way that best suits the needs of the Rathcoole community; or, through significant and timely support to the Sub-groups to add value to their projects.

The Partnership will continue to work hard and respond to community needs and changes, as and when they occur.

The Partnership meets on a bi monthly basis and facilitation and Co-ordination of the Partnership and Sub-groups is provided through the Neighbourhood Renewal Co-ordinator post which is funded by DSD through Belfast Regeneration Office and managed by Newtownabbey Borough Council.

## Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Structure and Membership:

<b>Councillor Billy Webb</b>	<b>Chairperson RNRP</b> and Councillor (Newtownabbey Borough Council)	Statutory Representative
Alderman William DeCoursey	<b>Vice Chairperson RNRP</b> and Councillor (Newtownabbey Borough Council)	Statutory Representative
Joyce Campbell	Breakaway Blues	Voluntary & Community Representative
Steven Crawford	Northern Ireland Housing Executive	Statutory Representative
Quinton Crean	Rathcoole Primary School	Statutory Representative
Sara Barkley	Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator	Community Representative
Melanie Humphrey	Mallusk Business Park	Community Representative
Judith Mayne	Northern Health and Social Care Trust	Statutory Representative
Angela Denvir	Northern Health and Social Care Trust	Statutory Representative
Wilma Lennox	Newtownabbey Women's Group	Voluntary & Community Representative
Vivien Lewis	Newtownabbey Community High School	Statutory Representative
Elaine Manson	Newtownabbey Borough Council / Mossley Mill	Statutory Representative
John McCorry	North Belfast Partnership	Voluntary & Community Representative

Annie Anderson	Independent	Voluntary & Community Representative
Alistair Montgomery	Police Service of Northern Ireland	Statutory Representative
Vicki Moore	Dunanney Centre / Rathcoole Community Churches Group	Voluntary & Community Representative
Claire Nolan	Belfast Regeneration Office North Team	Statutory Representative
Alderman Victor Robinson	Newtownabbey Borough Council / Mossley Mill	Statutory Representative
Conor Ellis	Belfast Regeneration Office North Team	Statutory Representative
Councillor John Scott	Newtownabbey Borough Council Mossley Mill	Statutory Representative
Adrian Smith	Synergy Centre	Voluntary & Community Representative
Rev Billy Davison	Newtownabbey Methodist Mission	Voluntary & Community Representative
Councillor Dineen Walker	Deputy Mayor, Newtownabbey Borough Council	Statutory Representative
Councillor Thomas Hogg	Newtownabbey Borough Council	Statutory Representative
Phil Hamilton	Rathcoole Friends of the Somme	Voluntary & Community Representative

### **Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership Subgroups**

The Partnership has established five sub groups to assist in the identification, development and where appropriate, the delivery of projects which aim to address the People and Place 4 strategic objectives of Community Renewal, Social Renewal, Economic Renewal and Physical Renewal. They also assist local community organisations to co-ordinate actions that are beneficial for all communities living and working in the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA).

### **Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Sub Groups – Roles and Membership**

The role of each subgroup is to focus on issues within the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Action Plan. Membership of sub groups is open to anyone working or living in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area who feel they have a contribution to make to support Neighbourhood Renewal and the work of the Neighbourhood Partnership.

The RNRP has five sub groups which work towards the four thematic themes, these are:

- **Community and Physical,**
- **Social,**
- **Education,**
- **Economic,**
- **Youth**



# RATHCOOLE NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP SUBGROUPS

Community and  
Physical

Social

Education

Youth

Economic

Each subgroup meets monthly (more frequently in the development of an event or programme) and includes a Chairperson and a minute-taker. A report of the activities of each subgroup is given at a feedback session to the main Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership at its bi-monthly meetings.

**The aims of subgroups are:**

- To influence statutory agencies to focus their investments and resources on the delivery of public services where they will have most impact on improving the well-being and quality of life for those living and working in Rathcoole.
- To engage in effective working partnerships with key stakeholders from all relevant sectors to pro-actively deliver the identified priorities detailed in the Neighbourhood Action Plan;
- To maintain a Neighbourhood Partnership and related sub group structures that are representative of local regeneration stakeholders that will lead, coordinate and monitor implementation of the Neighbourhood Action Plan

The current membership of the 5 Rathcoole Subgroups is detailed below.

**COMMUNITY AND PHYSICAL RENEWAL SUBGROUP**

NAME	ORGANISATION
<b>Wilma Lennox Subgroup Chairperson</b>	<b>Newtownabbey Women's Group</b>
Julie Brockerton (Minutes)	PSNI
Pat Murray	Newtownabbey Women's Group
Alistair Montgomery	PSNI
Sara Barkley	Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Co-ordinator
Steven Crawford	NIHE
Jonathan Henderson	Newtownabbey Borough Council
Victoria Moore	Manager of Dunanney Centre and Rathcoole Community Churches Group
Alderman Wm De Courcey	Councillor Newtownabbey Borough Council
Rev Billy Davison	Newtownabbey Methodist Mission
Annie Anderson	Community representative
Mary Henderson	Newtownabbey Methodist Mission
Claire Nolan	Belfast Regeneration Office/ DSD

**SOCIAL RENEWAL SUBGROUP**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
<b>Judith Mayne Subgroup Chairperson</b>	<b>Northern Health and Social Care Trust</b>
Adrian Smith (Minutes)	Synergy Centre
Pat Murray	Extra-Care
Joyce Campbell	Breakaway Blues
May Clyde	Breakaway Blues
Betty Clarke	Independent
Annie Anderson	Community Representative
Evelyn Crawford	Breakaway Blues
Jessie McDowell	Independent
Lucy Fullerton	Independent
Heather Caldwell	Newtownabbey Family Centre
Mary Henderson	Call2Care Ministries
Sara Barkley	Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator
Claire Nolan	Belfast Regeneration Office/ DSD

## EDUCATION, EMPLOYABILBITY AND ECONOMIC RENEWAL SUBGROUP

EDUCATION	EDUCATION	EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC	EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC
<b>Billy Webb Chairperson</b>	<b>Councillor Newtownabbey Borough Council and Chairperson of Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership</b>	<b>Victoria Moore Subgroup Chairperson</b>	<b>Manager of Dunanney Centre and Rathcoole Community Churches Group</b>
Sara Barkley (Minutes)	Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator	Melanie Humphrey (Minutes)	Mallusk Business Park
Quinton Crean	Rathcoole Primary School	Seonaid Rooney	Newtownabbey Borough Council
Claire Humphrey	Newtownabbey Family Connections	Billy Webb	Councillor Newtownabbey Borough Council and Chairperson of Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership
Nigel Pellerton	Monkstown Community School	Arlene Watson	Northern Regional College
Cathy Todd	Surestart	Pat Hutchinson	Citizens Advice Bureau
Robert Gibney	Abbots Cross Primary School	Rab Guiney	Bryson Future Skills Project
Vivien Lewis	Newtownabbey Community High School	Annemarie Fletcher	Newtownabbey Jobs and Benefits Office (DEL)
Fraser Bailie	Whitehouse Primary School	Brian Maguire	North Belfast Partnership
Kelly Jones	Barnardos	Sara Barkley	Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator
Claire Nolan	Belfast Regeneration Office/ DSD	Claire Nolan	Belfast Regeneration Office/ DSD

## YOUTH SUBGROUP

NAME	ORGANISATION
Alistair Montgomery	PSNI
Mags Gibney (Minutes)	We're the Business
Lynne Clyde	NEELB – Manager of Youth Centre
Elaine Manson	Newtownabbey Borough Council Good Relations
Julie Bockerston	PSNI
Paul Hamill	Belfast City Mission
Gail Ferguson	Bytes
Nicola Mc Pearson	Bytes
Phil Hamilton	Friends of the Somme
Francis Hunter	Newtownabbey Methodist Mission
Victor Robinson	Councillor Newtownabbey Borough Council
David McEvoy	Rathcoole Youth Forum
Claire Nolan	Belfast Regeneration Office/ DSD

The Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership's vision identifies the following main objectives for each of the five sub groups:

### **Social Renewal :**

- To improve community safety for older and most vulnerable people
- To develop a befriending service for vulnerable groups
- To develop stronger links with the Community Safety Partnership
- To increase community based activities for older people and also excursions and transport.
- To continue to support the "Good Morning Newtownabbey" project
- To Identify the possibility of a "handy man" scheme
- To reduce dependency in prescription drugs
- To develop a community pharmacy programme
- To support Rathcoole residents with debt advice and money management.
- To ensure that there is accessible community health services
- To promote positive physical and mental health of older people
- To develop an older person's newsletter
- To research the extent and nature of transport provision, identifying any gaps and the implications on the mobility of older people.

### **Community and Physical Renewal :**

- To work towards building a united cohesive community moving away from divisions within the Rathcoole Area.
- To increase the number of volunteers to support community activities.
- To increase the number of community events for all the community to become involved in on a recurring basis.
- To improve communication methods.
- To support local residents to feel safe
- To deliver and maintain a drugs amnesty box.
- To investigate the possibility of a Men's shed project.

- To investigate the possibility of an allotments project.
- To improve the appearance and quality of experience in living within Rathcoole.

### **Economic Renewal**

- To support local residents to move from dependence to independence
- To provide greater employment opportunities
- To encourage training providers to establish pre-employment opportunities with employers for long term unemployed
- To provide awareness of access to existing opportunities
- To support individuals to be ready to take up opportunities
- To develop and promote training and support mechanisms to encourage women to return to work.
- To promote business start up programmes to the community

### **Education**

- To develop a plan amongst schools to raise parents and children's views regarding education
- To employ five graduate internships to work with both children and parents in 5 schools to raise educational attainment
- To promote and increase volunteer activity to support out of hours learning facilities
- To develop a co-ordinated early intervention approach for age 0-5 years
- To develop a locality planning steering group
- To develop a family support programme
- To improve educational attainment for all ages as a result of support provided to the family.
- To target disengaged young people 16-18 years at risk of disengaging from education and training
- To improve educational attainment particularly among the 16-18 age group seen as disengaged from education and training provision.



## **Youth**

- To promote and support positive lifestyle choices
- To develop and promote a positive image of young people
- To improve relationships between young people and the wider community
- To create positive opportunities for young people at risk of social exclusion
- To increase the number of programmes for young people that focus on diversity, culture and identity
- To increase the participation of young people within Rathcoole on all matters that affect them.
- To improve opportunities for young people in relation to sport.
- To be responsive to the needs of young people and provide services at times that they require them.

## **Delivery of the Action Plan**

The Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership has not under estimated the scale of its task. To deliver the objectives on the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan there is a need for:

- Positive leadership
- Promotion of a positive image
- New working relationships
- A robust plan that allows for change and is sufficiently flexible to respond to the needs and opportunities during the course of Neighbourhood Renewal
- A willingness to change working practices and a shared commitment to pooling resources and expertise.

The Action Plan is reviewed regularly to reflect changing statistics and other material, which builds on the baseline position and in particular takes account of the high levels of need in relation to education and skills, poor health and the physical living environment.

## **Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund**

In the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area, the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund supports both community and statutory organisations in tackling the multiple deprivation that has been identified by the government statistical and research agency NISRA (Northern Ireland Statistical and Research Agency) through NINIS (Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service).

Organisations currently funded under the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund in Rathcoole include:-

- **Newtownabbey Borough Council**

***Community, Economic, Physical and Social Renewal***

DSD funding of the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator for the year 2014/15 contributed towards technical assistance, partnership development and developing best practice.

Newtownabbey Borough Council managed the Neighbourhood Coordinator contract, enabling the post holder to work collaboratively with statutory, voluntary, community bodies political representatives to drive forward the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan.

Robust partnership working between Central Government (BRO/DSD) and Local Government (Newtownabbey Borough Council) has been evident since the inception of Neighbourhood Renewal in Rathcoole. There are 6 elected representatives who actively participate on the main Neighbourhood Partnership and its associated subgroups. During the period of this report, a Councillor on the NP, Victor Robinson, was Mayor of Newtownabbey Borough Council.

**The role of the Coordinator is :**

- To support the Neighbourhood Partnership to put in place appropriate procedures to govern, specifically, the DSD Code of Practice and Guiding Principles on Neighbourhood Renewal and the conduct of their business including policy on dealing with conflicts of interest;
- To support the Neighbourhood Partnership with monitoring of progress against the Neighbourhood Action Plan and to review and update priorities within the Action Plan on an annual basis;
- To establish and maintain thematic sub-groups to take forward priorities within the Neighbourhood Action Plan;
- To work with Newtownabbey Borough Council and DSD on the development of future community development programmes;
- To provide strategic direction to the Neighbourhood Partnership and support and direction to the NR sub-groups;
- To influence and maintain service delivery in the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area;
- To work closely with the Rathcoole community, providing support and leadership, developing programmes aimed at older people, youth, women, men, health, education, employment and economic regeneration.
- To attract funding for community development projects in the area;
- To maintain vital links between the community and statutory sector and contribute to the building of community infrastructure in the Rathcoole Estate.

The Co-ordinator designs a quarterly newsletter, updates social media sites to raise awareness of Neighbourhood Renewal, produces a weekly communication sheet and produces an annual report.

Robust partnership working between Central Government (BRO/DSD) and Local Government (Newtownabbey Borough Council) has been evident since the inception of Neighbourhood Renewal in Rathcoole. There are 6 elected representatives who actively participate on the main Neighbourhood Partnership and its associated subgroups.

- **Synergy Centre**

- Community, Economic, Physical and Social Renewal***

- This community development organisation is the lead partner in a collaborative project with Newtownabbey Women's Group. Joint programmes are developed to reach the wider community, where, complementary to the service by NWG, Synergy offers programmes aimed at mental and physical wellbeing, educational enhancement, and skills development. The organisation's Project Coordinator works closely with Northern Health and Social Care Trust in developing programmes for people of all abilities aimed at reducing social isolation particularly in men (this complements NWG who offer a similar service to women) and providing services for the elderly and vulnerable. Services were also provided which were aimed at increasing educational achievement and promoting skills development. The Project Coordinator also provides secretariat support to Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership's Social Renewal subgroup.

- The role of the Project Coordinator**

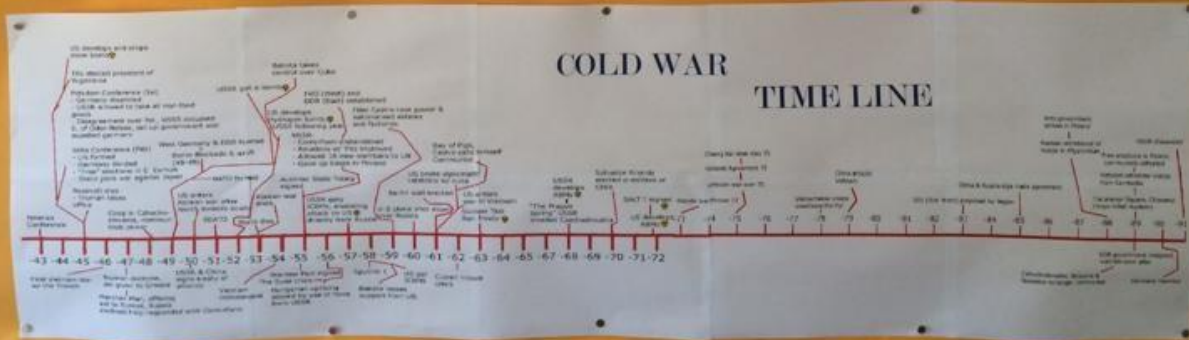
- This community development organisation is the lead partner in a collaborative project with Newtownabbey Women's Group. Individual and joint programmes were developed to reach the wider community.

- Synergy's programmes were primarily aimed at mental and physical wellbeing, educational enhancement, and skills development. The organisation's Project Coordinator worked with Northern Health and Social Care Trust in developing programmes for people of all abilities aimed at reducing social isolation.

- Services aimed at increasing educational achievement and promoting skills development were also provided. The Project Co-ordinator provided secretariat support to Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership's Social Renewal subgroup.

Programmes delivered by Synergy in 2014/2015 include:

- G.C.S.E Sociology
- Essential Skills – ICT, English and Maths
- Genealogy
- History
- A weekly book club
- An intergenerational summer scheme
- Art classes
- Computers for leisure



- **Newtownabbey Women's Group**

***Community, Economic, Physical and Social Renewal***

Working in collaboration with Synergy, this group supported, developed and implemented programmes of social, educational and recreational activities to increase community capacity and build positive and effective relationships between the community and statutory sector. The project worked closely with Newtownabbey Borough Council on programmes aimed at inclusion and increasing community development. The Development Worker of the organisation chaired and facilitated Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership's Community and Physical subgroup, taking the lead on community engagement opportunities, liaising with Council on community events and initiatives, with NIHE on matters relating to housing and with police and community safety bodies in reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.

- **Newtownabbey Women's Group**

Newtownabbey Women's Group supports, develops and implements programmes of social, educational and recreational activities to increase community capacity and build positive and effective relationships between the community and statutory sector.

This group was the lead applicant for various funding opportunities which enabled projects aimed at improving the lives of people living and working in Rathcoole to take place.

The project worked closely with Newtownabbey Borough Council on programmes aimed at inclusion and increasing community development. The Development Worker of this group chaired and facilitated Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership's Community and Physical subgroup, taking the lead on community engagement opportunities, liaising with Council on community events and initiatives, with NIHE on matters relating to housing, with Police and community safety bodies in reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.

Examples of projects that the Development Worker of Newtownabbey Women's Group provided:

- A daily drop in for women
- Skills and hobby classes (crocheting, sewing, jewellery making)
- A community pharmacy programme promoting the positive health and well being of women
- Personal development course ~(STEPS to Excellence)
- Provision of work placements for the unemployed
- Women into Politics programme
- Best Practice Visit to Slane Castle to help with event planning
- Cookery classes
- Weight to health Programme
- Drug awareness for parents
- Let's Talk (sexual health awareness for parents)

Newtownabbey Women's Group has also been active in wider community development initiatives such as volunteering at a Neighbourhood Renewal Spooktacular Halloween week of activities, A Christmas Village family event and the creation of a community quilt.





## **Rathcoole Churches Community Group**

### **Economic Renewal**

The Rathcoole Churches group was the project promoter for the funding of “We’re the Business” pilot economic project.

We’re the Business was set up to address the lack of opportunity for young people aged 18-25 years old who are not in education, training or employment (NEETS).

The project provided training, work experience and enterprise courses for young people to encourage them to investigate self-employment options as an alternative to employment.

The project offered young people a centred mentoring programme, which assisted with job search, application completion, interview skills and preparation. This project has enabled Project Co-ordinator to work with young people on life skills, personal development and barriers to employment.

In addition, the young people attended a BRO funded project, Belfast Activity Centre which provided an adventure learning residential funded by the PSNI to improve team work and communication, they attended best practice visits to learn about self-employment and successful business ideas and they engaged in voluntary work placements.

They set up a milkshake bar with a shared community space as part of their social economy project. This operated from the Dunanney Centre.

The young people involved in this project have represented “We’re the Business” in wider community development activities such as a family Christmas event and the community quilt project.

A presentation was held on 24 March 2015 to end the pilot project and the core group of people achieved over 50 qualifications. The “Coole shakes” milkshake bar continues to operate from the Dunanney Centre.

Some of the training that “We’re the Business” participants completed:

- Self awareness and team work
- Personal effectiveness and goal setting
- Financial Planning
- Business Planning
- Level 2 certificate in preparing and delivering a sustainable social enterprise activity
- Barrista Training
- Level 2 in Youth Work
- Making a business pitch
- Preparing for presentations
- City and Guilds Level 2 Business
- Level 1 in Personal Development (GOALS)
- Food Safety
- World Host
- Customer Service





Above We're the Business participants with their branded products.

**Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal partnership has led many successful programmes in 2014/2015 in an attempt to address deprivation including:**

**The Graduate Internship Programme (Education/Economic Renewal)**

The Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Co-ordinator prepared a funding bid to the Department of Education under the Community Education Initiative Programme to support a Graduate Internship Programme for the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area. This project was managed by Barnardos and was a joint initiative with the local schools to try and tackle the issues of under achievement.

This project enabled 5 schools to benefit from additional support from graduate teachers who had completed their teaching qualification with Stranmillis College. The interns worked in each of the schools providing enhanced numeracy and literacy programmes for identified young people and families who needed extra help.

In the school year 2014/2015 the interns worked with over 100 young people and their families in school and after school to use innovative techniques to improve their learning in numeracy and literacy.



### **The RAPID Drugs Bin (Social Renewal)**

The Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Community and Physical Sub Group in consultation with the local community identified a community safety need to try to decrease the amount of drugs being held in the community. The Neighbourhood Renewal Co-ordinator worked with Newtownabbey Women's Group to submit a funding bid to the Department of Justice through Newtownabbey Policing and Community Safety Partnership. FASA came on board to assist to educate the local community on the advantages and disadvantages of a drugs bin as well as providing drug awareness programmes for residents and parents.

To date the drugs bin has been very successful with up to two bags of prescription drugs being disposed of on each occasion by the PSNI.

This community initiative has helped vulnerable residents to feel safer in their homes, reduce the risk of suicide and self-harm, reduce the risk of contamination of the water supply and helped to lower the risk of drug related crimes.





## **Intergenerational and Annual Events**

Over the course of 2014/2015 there have been a number of events organised by Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal sub groups which have attempted to improve community cohesion and develop relationships within the community.

“The Great Bake Off” was an intergenerational project that was organised by Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Social Sub Group in partnership with Newtownabbey Community High School and the Breakaways older people’s group.

The participants attended cookery lessons together, planned menus and then competed against each other to prepare a high quality afternoon tea for a panel of judges.

Projects such as this improve relationships with community and school as well as being used as an educational tool for learning.



The Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Community and Physical sub group was responsible for arranging summer and Christmas events which enabled residents to feel included in community life.

In June 2014, the Community and Physical sub group arranged a community information event to alert the community to groups and services that are available in Rathcoole. This event was well attended and was beneficial to new groups and enabled the groups to meet others that they may not have had the opportunity to otherwise engage with.



The Rathcoole Christmas Village is an annual Christmas event in which volunteers from a range of community groups work together to transform a local Georgian House into a Christmas Village.

This event is very popular and last year was sold out on the same day that tickets went on sale. The event targeted families who may not be able to afford to attend other events at Christmas time and was offered at a low cost to families.

The Christmas Village is an example of team working at its best as a number of community groups and Neighbourhood Renewal Sub Groups worked together to plan the event, rehearse for the shows and prepare the house for the opening day.



## **North Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership Chairperson's Forum**

Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership is one of five neighbourhood partnerships in North Belfast. The other four are:

**Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership**

**Crumlin/Ardoyne Neighbourhood Partnership**

**Ligoniel Neighbourhood Partnership**

**Ballysillan and Upper Ardoyne Neighbourhood Partnership**

The five North Belfast Neighbourhood Partnerships Chairs meet bi-monthly to co-ordinate the work of neighbourhood renewal across North Belfast's most disadvantaged communities. The Chairs Forum, which is facilitated by BRO and the North Belfast Partnership, is a valuable mechanism for promoting the work of community organisations delivering Neighbourhood Renewal. The Forum also acts as a conduit for collective responses from Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships to consultations, policy issues and potential collaborative funding opportunities.

### Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal 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 Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding Amount 2014/15	2014/2015 Spend (as at 31/03/15)
<b>COMMUNITY RENEWAL</b>			
<b>Newtownabbey Borough Council (NBC) - Community Development and Relations</b>	01/04/2014 - 31/03/2015	£35,023.95	£34,821.95

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding Amount 2014/15	2014/2015 Spend (as at 31/03/15)
<b>SOCIAL RENEWAL</b>			
<b>Synergy/ Newtownabbey Women's Group</b>	01/04/2014 - 31/03/2015	£67,078.92	£62,377.64

Programme / Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding Amount 2014/15	2014/2015 Spend (as at 31/03/2015)
<b>ECONOMIC RENEWAL</b>			
<b>Rathcoole Churches Group – We're the Business</b>	01/04/2014 – 31/03/2015	£37,252.16	£38,883.38
<b>Rathcoole Primary School - Nurture Unit</b>	01/04/2014 – 30/06/2014	£31,880.63	£31,671.47
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£171,235.66</b>	<b>£167,754.44</b>

**ACHIEVEMENTS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDING IN 2014/2015 YEAR**

<p align="center"><b>Community Renewal Output Measures</b></p>	<p align="center">CR1 – Number of people receiving training in community development skills</p>	<p align="center">CR2 – Number of people volunteering for community development activities</p>	<p align="center">CR4 – Number of people engaged in unpaid voluntary work</p>	<p align="center">CR5 - Number of community / voluntary groups supported</p>	<p align="center">CR6- Number of people using new or improved community facilities</p>	<p align="center">Number of projects improving community facilities</p>	<p align="center">CR8 – number of people participating in community relations projects</p>	<p align="center">CR9 - Number of people involved in projects that promote shared space</p>
<p>Synergy Centre / Newtownabbey Women's Group</p>		<p align="center">84</p>		<p align="center">35</p>	<p align="center">1</p>	<p align="center">3</p>	<p align="center">190</p>	
<p>Rathcoole Churches Group – We're the Business</p>	<p align="center">33</p>	<p align="center">33</p>	<p align="center">3</p>	<p align="center">33</p>	<p align="center">143</p>	<p align="center">3</p>	<p align="center">15</p>	<p align="center">143</p>
<p>Rathcoole Primary School – Nurture Unit</p>								
<p>Newtownabbey Borough Council Community Development and Relations</p>	<p align="center">29</p>	<p align="center">105</p>	<p align="center">79</p>	<p align="center">41</p>	<p align="center">2466</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p align="center">317</p>	
<p><b>Totals</b></p>	<p align="center">62</p>	<p align="center">22</p>	<p align="center">82</p>	<p align="center">109</p>	<p align="center">2610</p>	<p align="center">8</p>	<p align="center">522</p>	<p align="center">143</p>



<b>Social Renewal Output Measure</b>	<b>SR2 - Number of people attending parenting skills development programmes</b>	<b>SR 3 - Number of pupils benefiting from projects designed to improve attainment (primary)</b>	<b>SR 4 - Number of pupils benefiting from projects designed to improve attainment (secondary)</b>	<b>SR5 - Number of adults obtaining qualification through NR Projects (accredited)</b>	<b>SR6 - Number of adults obtaining qualification through NR Projects (non-accredited)</b>	<b>SR7 – Number of people benefiting from Healthy Lifestyle projects</b>	<b>SR10 – Number of people benefiting from suicide prevention projects</b>	<b>SR13 – Numbers receiving advice on crime prevention</b>	<b>SR14 – Number of community safety initiatives implemented</b>	<b>SR15 – Number of people participating/ attending community safety initiatives</b>	<b>SR17– Number of young people benefiting from youth inclusion/diversionary programmes</b>
<b>Synergy/Newtownabbey Women’s Group</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>118</b>		<b>75</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Rathcoole Churches Group – We’re the Business</b>				<b>22</b>		<b>23</b>		<b>24</b>			<b>48</b>
<b>Rathcoole Primary School – Nurture Unit</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>88</b>									
<b>Newtownabbey Borough Council – Community Development and Relations</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>178</b>		<b>145</b>	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>1104</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>92</b>

<b>Economic Renewal</b>	<b>ER1 – Number of FTE jobs safeguarded</b>	<b>ER2 – Number of Residents going into employment</b>	<b>ER3 – Number of people accessing advice or welfare services</b>	<b>ER4 – Number of people receiving job specific training</b>	<b>ER5 – Number of person weeks of job specific training</b>	<b>ER6 Number of people receiving non job specific training</b>	<b>ER7 Number of weeks of non specific job training</b>	<b>ER7 – Number of business receiving advice and support</b>	<b>ER8 – Number of new business start ups</b>	<b>ER9 – Number of new/ existing businesses requiring/ receiving advice/ support</b>	<b>ER10 – Number people accessing careers advice</b>	<b>ER11 - Number of Social Economy Enterprises created/supported</b>	<b>ER12 - Number of New business start ups</b>
<b>Synergy Centre / Newtownabbey Women's Group</b>	2		31	10	74			3		3	55		
<b>Rathcoole Churches Group – We're the Business</b>	1	10	64	26	50	22	50	1	3	4	38	3	1
<b>Rathcoole Primary School – Nurture Unit</b>	2												
<b>Newtownabbey Borough Council</b>	1		53	1				4		6	97	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	6	10	148	37	24	22	50	8	3	13	190	5	3

<b>PHYSICAL RENEWAL</b>	<b>PR 4 Area of land improved and made ready for shared space</b>	<b>PR6 – Number of Buildings improved</b>
Synergy Centre / Newtownabbey Women's Group		1
Rathcoole Churches Group – We're the Business	1	1
Rathcoole Primary School – Nurture Unit		1
Newtownabbey Borough Council - Community Development and Relations		
<b>TOTALS</b>	1	3

#### **Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership Conclusion**

In the 2014/15 financial year, **Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership** total overall spend was - **£167,754.44**

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

**Community Renewal £34,821.95**

**Social Renewal - £62,377.64**

**Economic Renewal - £70,554.85**

#### **Breakdown of actual achievements for total expenditure**

The actual achievements against key output measures for the financial year 2014/15 are detailed in the above tables.



**Belfast Regeneration Office  
North and Greater Shankill Team  
North City Business Centre  
2 Duncairn Gardens  
BELFAST  
BT15 2GG**