

# Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area Annual Report 2015/16 year



## Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership ANNUAL REPORT – 2015/16 year

### Neighbourhood Renewal (NR)

In June 2003 the Department for Social Development launched the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy 'People and Place. This long term strategy seeks to target those communities throughout Northern Ireland who are suffering from higher than average rates of unemployment, ill health and crime, lower levels of educational attainment and higher rates of income deprivation. 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 and close the gap between the quality of life for people living in the most deprived neighbourhoods in Northern Ireland and the rest of society. The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme aims to reduce the social and economic inequalities which characterise these areas of deprivation and decline.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy has four interlinking strategic objectives under the following themes:

Community Renewal – *to develop confident communities that are 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.*

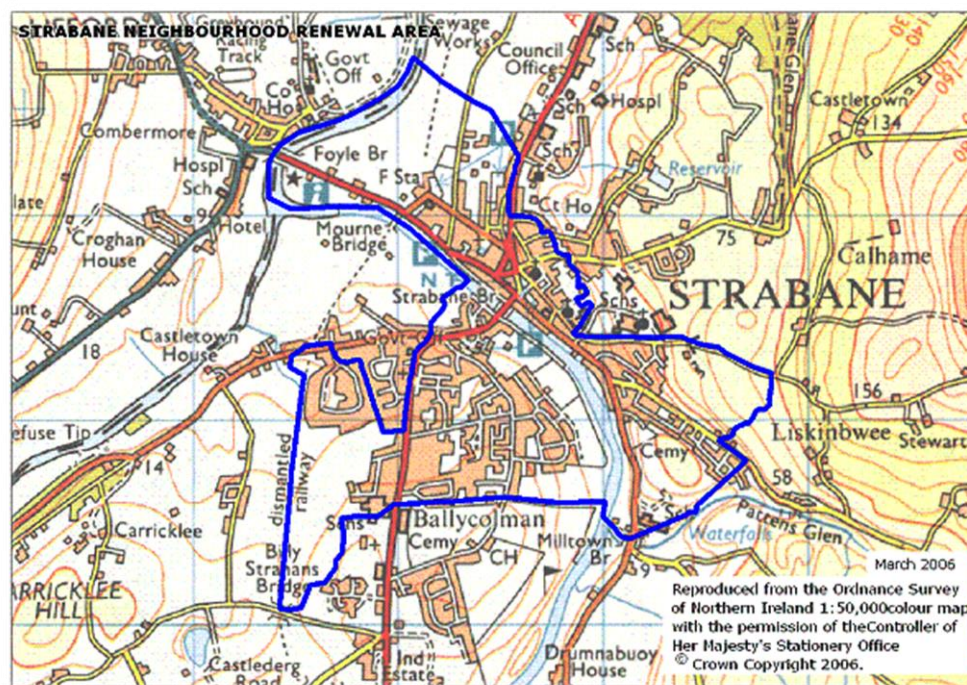
Physical Renewal – *to help create attractive, safe and sustainable environments in the most deprived neighbourhoods.*

North West Development Office (NWDO) is responsible for the delivery of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy in Londonderry and the neighbouring towns of Limavady and Strabane. It produced an implementation plan which set out the Department's approach to the selection of the Neighbourhood Renewal areas and the establishment of delivery structures in the City and neighbouring towns. The Neighbourhood Renewal Areas were identified as those within the top 10% most deprived areas according to the Noble Multiple Deprivation Measures. Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Boards were set up in each

Neighbourhood Renewal Area i.e. 4 across Londonderry, Strabane and Limavady to manage the delivery of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme. The Neighbourhood Partnership Boards took the lead in the process of drawing up the Neighbourhood Vision Framework and Neighbourhood Action Plans for their Neighbourhood Renewal areas. Following a local consultation process Neighbourhood Action Plans were developed which identified priority issues and actions required meeting the specific needs of local neighbourhoods and achieving the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Board's vision for their respective area.

### Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area

The Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area broadly covers the five main housing estates of Ballycolman, Carlton Drive, Lisnafin Park, Barrack Street, Springhill Park, Fountain Street, Innisfree Gardens, Drumrallagh and the town centre. A map of the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA) is shown below.



At the last Census (2011) there were 2,430 households and 5,583 people living within the boundaries of the Neighbourhood renewal area. There were 6% of residents who identified themselves as having a 'Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) community background', while approximately 93% identify themselves as having a Catholic community background. Approximately 64% of the population is of working age.

This Neighbourhood suffers high levels of unemployment since the decline of the textile and agricultural industries. There is multiple deprivation with higher levels of crime, anti-social behaviour, benefit dependency and lower levels of educational attainment. Benefit uptake in Strabane NRA is currently considerably higher than Non NRAs and also has among the highest percentage of benefit claimants among all other NRAs. Although there has been positive change in Strabane NRA for the percentage achieving 5 or more GCSEs, (where the percentage has almost doubled since 2004/05), the rate for Strabane NRA remains lower than Non NRAs.

The town centre has seen a reduction in footfall as a result of shop closures and retailers moving out of the town centre to the edge of town retail parks. There are a number of vacant and derelict properties that have added to the town's decline and desolation. Historically there are community divisions within the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

### **Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership**

Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership was established in 2005 to take forward the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme and oversee the development and delivery of the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan, with the vision that '*Strabane will be physically attractive and economically prosperous, with strong, well-led communities that work together for lasting change. Public services will be accessible and responsive to need. Local neighbourhoods will be safe, attractive places where people want to live. Opportunities will be available to build a healthier community and a positive future for our children and young people*'. The Partnership is defined as non-constituted entity acting in an advisory role to the Department for Neighbourhood Renewal issues in the designated Neighbourhood Renewal area. Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership currently comprises of 26 members who include representatives from local voluntary and community organisations, elected representatives, other government departments and local statutory organisations. It currently meets on a six weekly basis. A Neighbourhood Renewal Officer and Part-time Administrator provide the administrative services to the Partnership.

Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership has established 4 Action Teams and a number of sub/working groups to assist it in the identification, development and where appropriate the delivery of projects which aim to address the Programmes four strategic objectives of community renewal, social renewal, economic renewal and physical renewal. The Partnership and Subgroup members have all signed up to and abide by the Neighbourhood Renewal Code of Practice and Guiding Principles and subsequent Subgroup Terms of Reference.

### Composition of Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

<b>Statutory Sector</b>	<b>Representation</b>
Mr Seamus Bradley	Education Authority
Ms Avril Mc Allister	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Mr Tony Murray	Department for Employment & Learning
Sgt William Calderwell	Police Service for Northern Ireland
Ms Sonia Montgomery	Western Health & Social Care Trust
Mr Gavin Lunny	Department of Culture Arts & Leisure
Mr Declan Maguire	Extended Schools Cluster (Melmount)
Ms Anne Lindsay	Extended Schools Cluster (Strabane)
Mr Barry O'Hagan	Derry City & Strabane District Council
Mrs Anne McMurray	Department for Social Development
<b>Community &amp; Voluntary Sector</b>	
Mr Ivan Barr	Community & Voluntary Sector
Mr Michael Cunningham	Community & Voluntary Sector
Mrs Jacqueline Gallagher	Community & Voluntary Sector

Mr Jay Mc Cauley (Chairperson)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Mr Damien Gavigan	Community & Voluntary Sector
Miss Kamini Rao	Community & Voluntary Sector
Mr Aodhan Harkin (Vice Chairperson)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Mr Gerard Harkin	Community & Voluntary Sector
Mrs Liz Kavanagh	Community & Voluntary Sector
Ms Teresa Stewart	Community & Voluntary Sector
Mr Jarlath McNulty	Community & Voluntary Sector
Ms Joan Kelly	Community & Voluntary Sector
Mr Paul Gallagher	Strabane Local Strategy Partnership
<b>Political Representatives</b>	
Cllr Brian Mc Mahon	Derry City & Strabane District Council
Cllr Karina Carlin	Derry City & Strabane District Council
Cllr Patsy Kelly	Derry City & Strabane District Council

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Objectives

The objectives of the Partnership are to manage, develop and oversee the regeneration of Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area to:

- Ensure that people living in the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area have access to the best possible services and to opportunities which make for a better quality of life, better prospects and the creation of a safer environment for themselves and their families.
- Develop economic activity in the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area and connect the community to the wider economy of Strabane and Northern Ireland.
- Develop confident communities that are able and committed to improving the quality of life in the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
- Improve the environment and image of the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area so that it becomes an attractive place to live and invest in.

The Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership is responsible for:

- Analysing and prioritising the needs of the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
- Engaging with and consulting local communities to drive and implement Neighbourhood Renewal.
- Leading the process in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan
- Overseeing the implementation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan.
- Reviewing the Action plan annually to ensure that it reflects the priority needs in the area.
- Monitoring and evaluating progress against the priorities in the action plan quarterly.
- Publicising and building awareness of Neighbourhood Renewal by informing and updating local communities of progress made on a regular basis.
- Facilitating and securing agreement between local service providers on integrated working in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
- Taking decisions on individual projects and activities to be undertaken in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
- Establishing systems to monitor the overall progress and impact of Neighbourhood Renewal in the area and providing monitoring reports to the Department.

The Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership has established 4 Sub/Working Groups to address the priorities under the themes Community Renewal, Social Renewal – Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour, Education, Health, Economic Renewal – Worklessness, and Physical Renewal.

### Composition of Social Renewal Action Team

<b>Statutory Sector</b>	<b>Representation</b>
Mr Seamus Bradley	Education Authority
Mrs Lynsey Brannif	Education Authority
Patricia Houston	Education Authority
Mrs Anne McMurray	Department for Social Development
Sgt William Calderwell	Police Service for Northern Ireland
Mrs Vanessa Russell	Policing & Community Safety Partnership
Ms Sonia Montgomery	Western Health & Social Care Trust
Mr John Kerr	Strabane District Council
Mr Aidan Lynch	Strabane District Council
Mr Ryan Porter	Strabane District Council
<b>Community &amp; Voluntary Sector</b>	
Mr Ivan Barr (until December 2015)	S&ATUC
Mr Michael Cunningham (until October 2015) Mr Ivan Barr (from January 2016)	Melmount East Bank Community Association Forum
Mrs Jacqueline Gallagher	Springhill Park Community Development Association
Ms Louise Boyce (until September 2015) Mrs Ursula Gallagher (from September 2015)	Strabane Community Project
Mr Damien Gavigan	Lisnafin Ardnalee Trust CCDA
Mr Aodhan Harkin	Strabane Sigersons GAA



Ms Wenda Graham	Koram Centre
Ms Grainne Begley (until January 2015) Ms Wendy McGlinchey (from January 2016)	Strabane & District Caring Services/ NHIP
Mr Gerard Harkin	Strabane & District Caring Services
Ms Mairead Fulton	North West Citizen's Advice Bureau
Ms Marirose Cunningham	North West Volunteer Centre
Ms Liz Kavanagh	Barnardo's
Mr Dessie Kyle	HURT
Ms Teresa Stewart	Strabane AYE
Mrs Joan Kelly	Fountain St CDA
Mrs Marie Brown	Foyle Women's Aid
Ms Perpetula Foley	Strabane Community Unemployed Group
Mr Andrew Kelly	Coderdojo Strabane
Mr Jarlath Mc Nulty	Cairde
<b>Local Schools</b>	
Ms Maire Ni Dhocartaigh	Gaelscoil Ui Dhocartaigh
Mrs Bridgid Wilders	St Catherine's Primary School
Mrs Sandra O'Doherty	St Mary's Primary School
Ms Martina McComish	Knockavoe Resource Centre
Mr Declan Maguire	Extended Schools Cluster (Melmount)
Ms Anne Lindsay	Extended Schools Cluster (Strabane)

Ms Claire Doherty	Holy Cross College
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### **Education Committee Steering Group**

This group was established to develop programmes/initiatives that help to improve children's educational/life outcomes. A central element to this work has been increased involvement and collaboration with parents and families, community organisations and other support services. The Group brings together the community and voluntary sector, school principals, Education Authority and Strabane Surestart. The sub-group has been very successful at helping to increase collaboration between schools, community groups and other support services e.g. a joint design team, consisting of staff from schools and community organizations, designed and delivered an internet safety programme for parents.

The Education Steering Committee has facilitated the development of a number of projects including:

- A series of seven community and schools based Internet Safety training programmes for parents.
- A *Coderdojo Strabane* 'Show & Tell' event in the Alley Theatre on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015;
- Two ten week computer coding programmes for P5 and P6 schoolchildren in St Mary's PS and Knockavoe School (delivered by a Coderdojo mentor).

The Neighbourhood Partnership has also continued to develop effective working relationships with schools located in the NRA through the Melmount and Strabane Extended Schools Clusters.

### **Neighbourhood Health Improvement Sub Group**

This Group also functions as part of the Social Renewal Action Team and is primarily responsible for the implementation of the Neighbourhood Health Improvement Project (NHIP). In 2015/16, over eleven hundred residents from Strabane NRA participated in NHIP programmes designed to help people:

- Become more physically active
- Lose weight and maintain an overall healthy diet
- Cease smoking

- Reduce the risk of cancer
- Promote good mental health.

### Health Needs Analysis

The NR Co-ordinator is currently drafting a Health Needs Analysis that will enable the NHIP sub-group to devise a Health Improvement Plan. When developed, the Health Improvement Plan will form the basis of funding bids to establish a Health Improvement Hub for Strabane Town.

### **Poverty Working Group**

This working group currently brings together CAB, Barnardo's, WHSCT and a number of local community organizations. To date the sub group has focused on researching project models designed to address child poverty. During 2015/16 the working group concentrated its efforts on scoping the potential for replicating or adapting Tyne Gateway Trust's award winning 'Community/Family Entrepreneur' model. This model employs and trains local people to use their own experiences alongside their first-hand community knowledge to gain access to families who may otherwise not engage with services, and to then provide a 'bridge' to the other specialist services that the family need to access to make progress. Following a visit to Strabane by Tyne Gateway Trust's Director and Operations Manager in November 2015, this work is ongoing.

### **Youth Intervention Steering Group**

The Youth Intervention Steering Group is made up of selected representatives of the Social Renewal Action Team. They represent the Voluntary & Community Sector, Police Service for Northern Ireland, local schools and the Education Authority. It was established to address the identified need for youth intervention programmes to tackle low educational attainment, significant problems of anti-social behaviour within local communities and lack of facilities for young people who are disengaged from current services being delivered in Strabane. Its current role is to liaise between the various youth intervention projects operating in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area including the Education Authority's *Strabane Community Support Programme*, Holy Cross College's *Learning Mentor* project and the Strabane AYE (accessing youth engagement) project.

### Composition of Physical Renewal Action Team

Statutory Sector	Representation
Mrs Anne McMurray	Department for Social Development
Mr Robert Mc Cartney	Transport NI
Mr Noel McNulty	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Community & Voluntary Sector	
Mr Michael Cunningham (until October 2015) Mr Ivan Barr (from January 2016)	Melmount Community Forum
Mrs Jacqueline Gallagher	Springhill Park Community Development Association
Mr Damien Gavigan	Lisnafin Ardnalee Trust Cross Community Community Development Association
Mr Aodhan Harkin	Strabane Sigersons GAA
Mr Jarlath McNulty	Cairde
Mrs Joan Kelly	Fountain St Community Development Association

### Physical Renewal Working Group

The Physical Renewal Action Team is made up of representatives from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, DSD, Transport NI and the Community & Voluntary Sector. During the 2015/16 year the Action Team liaised with Transport NI, DSD and NIHE to deliver a range of physical renewal projects including:

- Environmental improvement works linking the new pedestrian cycle bridge to the Melmount Road.
- A scheme of minor improvement works in Ballycolman, Drumrallagh and Fountain Street estates.
- Completion of a play park and multi-use games area (MUGA) at Patrician Villas;
- Completion of new female changing rooms, treatment room and committee room at Sigerson's Park;

### Composition of Economic Renewal Action Team

Statutory Sector	Representation
Mrs Anne McMurray	Department for Social Development
Miss Susan Doherty	Derry City & Strabane District Council
Mr Tony Murray	Department of Employment & Learning
Community & Voluntary Sector	
Mr Niall Allen	Job Directions Ltd
Mr Gerard Harkin	Strabane & District Caring Services
Mr Jarlaith McNulty	An Cairde
Ms Christina Mullen	Strabane Enterprise Agency
Ms Perpetula Foley	Strabane Community Unemployed Group
Mr Damien Gavigan	Lisnafin Ardnalee Trust CDA
Mrs Mary Mc Rory	Omagh Enterprise Centre
Other Public Bodies	
Ms Angela McConnell	North West Regional College
Mr Raymond Craig	North West Regional College
Ms Eilis Coyle	South West College

The Economic Renewal Action Team's main priorities have been to help improve access to skills and employment and to foster bottom up economic growth through the promotion and development of the Social Economy. The South West College's *Going Places* Programme and Strabane Unemployed Centre were the two key Neighbourhood Renewal 'employability' interventions during 2015/16. The NR Social Economy Working Group has focused its efforts on working in partnership with Strabane Social Enterprise Incubation Hub. The Hub provided mentoring and business planning support to eight individuals/groups from Strabane NRA.

## Composition of Community Renewal Action Team

Statutory Sector	Representation
Mrs Anne McMurray	Department for Social Development
Ms Amanda Biega	Derry City & Strabane District Council
Community & Voluntary Sector	
Mr Paul Gallagher	Springhill Park Community Development Association
Mr Gerard Harkin	Strabane & District Caring Services
Mr Jarlaith McNulty	Cairde
Mr Michael Cunningham (until October 2015) Mr Ivan Barr (from January 2016)	Melmount East Bank Community Association Forum
Ms Marirose Cunningham	North West Volunteer Centre
Ms Louise Boyce (until September 2015) Mrs Ursula Gallagher (from September 2015)	Strabane Community Project
Ms Jacqueline Gallagher	Springhill Park Community Development Association
Mr Aodhan Harkin	Strabane Sigersons GAA
Mr Bobby Rao (until July 2015) Miss Kamini Rao (from July 2015)	Strabane Ethnic Community Association
Ms Teresa Stewart	Strabane AYE (Access Youth Engagement)
Mr Damien Gavigan	Lisnafin Ardnalee Trust Cross Community Development Association
Mrs Joan Kelly	Fountain St Community Dev. Assoc.

Other Public Bodies	
Mr Ivan Barr (until December 2015)	S&ATUC

The key actions sought under Community Renewal aim to involve local communities in improving local services by providing for effective consultation, representation and partnership working; improving the capacity of community groups to identify and meet community needs; supporting more people to get involved in community activity and promoting equality and good relations.

Research undertaken by the North West Volunteer Centre during the year 2015/16 indicated that there was a high level of volunteering in Strabane NRA. The study found that approximately 50,000 hours per annum were gifted by the volunteers surveyed and that the estimated economic value of volunteering was in excess of £0.5 million (based on the average hourly wage for NI). The Neighbourhood Partnership will carry out a further survey of volunteer activity in the Autumn of 2016. Detailed below is a brief summary of the main findings from volunteer surveys carried out by the North West Volunteer Centre (2015) and Strabane Neighbourhood Partnership (2014).

	No. of Volunteers	Hours of Volunteering Activity	Estimated Minimum Economic Value (based on minimum wage of £6.50 per hour)
<b>2014</b>	274	49,307	320,495
<b>2015</b>	439	49,555	322,107

During 2015/16, the Department for Social Development used a range of statistical indicators to monitor trends over time in Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area (*Measurement of Outcomes Report 2015*). A number of findings have been drawn from these indicators:

- Benefit uptake in Strabane NRA is currently considerably higher than Non NRAs and also has among the highest percentage of benefit claimants among all other NRAs. This applies to the percentages of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) claimants, Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants and Pension Credit (PC) claimants.
- The most notable aspect from the education indicators is the positive change for the percentage achieving 5 or more GCSEs, where the percentage in 2012/13 has almost doubled since 2004/05.
- Overall crime levels in Strabane NRA have decreased since 2003 with the main driver of that decrease being a reduction in the level of 'criminal damage' and 'violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery'. There has also been a negative change in the Gap for anti-social behaviour incidents although this is largely down to a large decrease in incidents for Non NRAs.



## Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Projects

A snap shot of the ongoing work of the projects in the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area as follows:-

### Community Renewal

#### 1. Springhill Park Community Development Association – Springhill Park Regeneration Project

Springhill Park Community Development Association delivers social, educational and recreational community based facilities and works directly with young and old people in activity and learning programmes as follows:

- Summer Scheme
- Junior Youth Club, Senior Youth Club, After Schools Club
- Youth Intervention Programme – Drugs and Alcohol, Smoking Cessation
- Halloween Project
- Women's Group
- Neighbourhood Health Improvement Scheme – Boxercise, Yoga, Massage Therapy, Step Aerobics, Health Awareness
- Play park facilities



**Women's Group**



**Summer Scheme**



**Halloween Activities**

## 2. Strabane Ethnic Community Association – Ethnic Community Development Project Co-ordinator, Part time Administrator Salaries, Running and Programme Costs

Strabane Ethnic Community Association works directly with ethnic minority and local residents in activity and learning programmes surrounding cultural awareness and to assist ethnic minority groups to integrate into communities. They provide the following:

- English Language Classes, Anti Racism & Diversity Training, IT Courses
- Cultural Events - Diwali Festival, Polish Night, Bollywood dancing, multi cultural food
- Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure – Community Cultural Hub
- Health Initiatives
- Local Primary Schools Project – Diwali Story presentation
- Youth Intervention Project – Cricket Tournaments, football, cross community activities
- Sign post to local statutory bodies - Housing issues, Education, Employment, Social Security Benefits



**Diwali Festival**



**Cultural Food Night**



**Diwali Schools Presentation**

### 3. Lisnafin Ardnalee Trust Cross Community Development Association – Project Co-ordinator’s Salary/ENIC and Running Costs

Lisnafin Ardnalee Trust Cross Community Development Association delivers a comprehensive package of services, interventions, training etc. that address Education, Worklessness, Health, Crime and Anti-social behaviour. In addition to the above, the Project delivers social and recreational activities from the local Community Centre. Some of the activities as follows:

- IT Classes, both accredited and non-accredited, Construction Skills Register
- Play and Stay (0-4 years)
- Citizens Advice Outreach Clinic
- Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure – Community Cultural Hub
- Over 50’s Fitness Classes
- Irish Dancing, Box-exercise, Zumba
- Summer Scheme – Gaelic training, soccer training, multi-sports,
- Arts & Crafts
- Guest Teas, Birthday Parties and other charitable events



**Summer Scheme**



**Arts & Crafts Class**



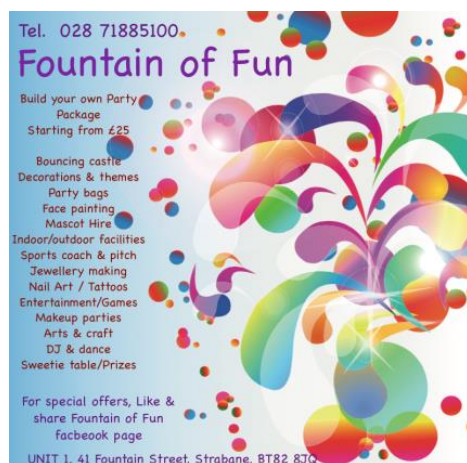
**iPad Training**

#### 4. Fountain Street Community Development Association Ltd – Project Co-ordinator’s Salary/ENIC and Running Costs

This project delivers services, interventions and programmes that address the issues of crime and anti-social behaviour, underage drinking, vandalism, graffiti, drugs and alcohol, unemployment, poor health, low education attainment etc. for residents of all age groups living in the Fountain Estate and Neighbouring Areas.

- Junior and senior youth club
- Essential Skills Maths, English & ICT
- First Aid
- Personal Development Programmes
- Health Awareness Projects
- Fountain of Fun Social Enterprise
- Department of Education – Surestart Programme
- Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure – Community Cultural Hub

The community centre delivers social and recreational activities such as bingo, local community fun days, senior citizen’s lunch etc.



**Fountain of Fun Party Hire**



**Christmas Grotto**

## 5. Melmount & East Bank Estates Community Association Forum - Uniting Neighbourhood Renewal Communities

Melmount East Bank Estates Community Associations Forum represents a number of community groups with unpaid staff based in the Ballycolman Estate and surrounding area. The Forum works closely with other organisations to help residents to access services and facilities such as the Community Allotment Project, Flexicare and community safety initiatives. The Forum, with other community organisations, takes a lead role in the delivery of Strabane's St.Patrick's Day festival. The organisation delivers a number of programmes as follows:

- Community Safety Initiatives – Feel safe in the Home, Help at Hand, Winter Packs, awareness initiatives
- Senior Citizens social outings and events
- 'Silver Surfers ' IT class
- St.Patrick's Day Parade
- Health Initiatives – Community Allotment
- Youth Initiatives – Summer Project (Tournaments and Competitions), volunteering
- Environmental Enhancement Project that involves graffiti removal, tree and shrub planting



**Community volunteers delivering help and assistance in the community**



**Strabane's St Patrick's Day Parade 2016**

## 6. Strabane Community Project – Salary Costs – Full Time Project Co-ordinator and Part Time Finance Administrator

Strabane Community Project provides a range of services for older people, in particular those who are vulnerable and suffer from isolation as follows:

- Meals on Wheels Service
- Luncheon Club
- Good Morning Listening Ear Telephone Alert Service
- Respite Care for Carers
- Transport
- Sign posting to other services
- Fuel Stamp Savings Scheme
- Information and Advice sessions – Social Security Benefit checks
- Social & Recreational Activities
- Health & Safety initiatives, Community Safety initiatives
- Strabane Foodbank



**2015 IPB Pride of Place Awards: Runner up position in the Age Friendly Community Initiative**

## 7. Derry City and Strabane District Council – Technical Assistance

This Project is focused on the continued implementation of the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan. The Neighbourhood Renewal Co-ordinator provides Technical Assistance to the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership in the delivery of the Department's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and works in partnership with local community/voluntary groups, local residents, local schools, local forums, statutory agencies, funding bodies and other partnerships operating across the region. The two staff employed under this programme work to strengthen relationships with local C&V groups / statutory agencies, while also promoting the social, economic and physical renewal of the Partnership area through supporting community development, reducing inequalities in health, improving educational attainment, promoting social enterprise, supporting low income households and making physical improvements to residential areas and public spaces.



**'5.7 Million Reasons'  
Newsletter produced by NR  
Co-ordinator**

## Economic Renewal

### 8. South West College – Going Places Programme in the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area

The project involves a targeted training programme for the unemployed and young people who are no longer in education. The programme also includes the provision of a mentor who will support participants both during and after their training. During 2015/16 thirty six residents participated on the programme, eight of whom moved into employment. The Programme is delivered in three phases annually.

#### Phase 1

Engages residents in accredited training; participants are unemployed and not participating in education, training or employment at point of entry.

#### Phase 2

Provides progression from Phase 1 and provides an opportunity for 24 residents to obtain a driving licence via access to 18 driving lessons and two funded attempts at the driving test. Residents are also provided with directed training in preparation to sit the Driving Theory Test; the Programme provides for two attempts at theory test. All participants have access to accredited employability training and Basic First Aid during this phase. A four-week work placement is completed by participants at the conclusion of phase 2.

#### Phase 3

Provides progression from phase 2 and engages with 12 residents. Phase 3 provides residents that have fully engaged with the programme during phase 1 and 2 the opportunity to undertake specialist education or training to enhance their job prospects. Residents choose the most appropriate option from a menu of provision which include:

- Specialist Driving (LGV, HGV, PSV and Fork Lift Truck)
- Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA)
- Course Fees for Foundation Degree





## 9. Derry City & Strabane District Council – Generalist Voluntary Advice Services

DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Funding is awarded to Derry City & Strabane District Council which has a service level agreement with North Citizen's Advice to deliver advice services within the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area. This project specifically targets local residents in receipt of social security benefits to ensure they are encouraged and supported to take up their full entitlement and that the process of seeking advice on a wide range of benefit and other issues is made more accessible. The Generalist Adviser provides advice and support as follows:

- Provides individual assessment of Social Security Benefits to ensure that individuals living in Neighbourhood Renewal areas receive maximum income
- Advice on passport benefits – road tax, free school meals, prescriptions, blue and white badges, medical treatment
- Advice on consumer rights, employment, housing issues
- Outreach Centre based in Housing Estates
- Debt Management
- Ongoing changes to Welfare Reform and Tribunal Advocacy



**Launch of North West Citizens Advice**



**CAB Office, Strabane**



**Generalist Adviser**

## 10. Strabane Community Unemployed Group – Salary Costs – Full time Centre Co-ordinator

This project provides funding toward the recruitment of a Project Co-ordinator to work within communities to help people who are unemployed, in particular long term unemployed and people suffering from long term health problems, to overcome barriers to learning that prevent them moving into employment. Through partnership working with the North West Regional College, the organisation delivers a number of formal education courses from the Unemployed Centre.

- Essential Skills, Numeracy, Literacy and ICT
- Introduction to Computers
- START IT
- Arts and Crafts
- Creative Writing



ICT and Essential Skills Students



Open Day at Strabane Community Unemployed Group

## Social Renewal - Health

### 11. Western Health & Social Care Trust – Neighbourhood Health Improvement Project

The aim of the project is to develop an integrated and collaborative approach to addressing health improvement. The project is instrumental in addressing health related issues identified in the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area. Some of the programmes delivered are as follows:

- Weight Management
- Smoking Cessation
- Cancer Awareness
- Healthy Eating
- Grow Your Own
- Fit Families
- Mental Health Awareness
- Drugs and Alcohol Awareness
- Teenage Outreach Programme

In 2015/16, over eleven hundred residents from Strabane NRA participated in NHIP programmes.



St Patrick's Day 5K run

## 12. HURT (Have your Tomorrows) – Support and Treatment Programmes for those Marginalised through Drugs and Alcohol

HURT is a drug and alcohol family support group that provides opportunities for those individuals and their family members, marginalised as a result of alcohol and drug use, to help them reintegrate within home, community and employment life. HURT provides holistic services through a tailored care plan designed to meet the needs of the individual. It offers the following services:

- Operates an open referral system and works closely with relevant Statutory Body and Voluntary Sector
- Following initial assessment provides a tailored care plan that meets individual needs
- Provides counselling, a range of complimentary therapies to individuals and family members affected by addiction.
- Delivers Drugs and Alcohol Workshops and Programmes to youth groups, local schools and communities.



### 13. Strabane Sigerson's GAA – Project Co-ordinator delivering for a better Ballycolman

Strabane Sigersons GAA designs and facilitates the delivery of social, health and education programmes addressing the inequalities in health and improving the health and well-being of local people along with the delivery of appropriate programmes and courses aimed at empowering local people and extending the impact throughout the community. They deliver a number of programmes to provide opportunities for people of all age groups to improve health and well-being through the medium of sport as follows:

- Gaelic football – children, young people and adults
- Youth Intervention - Off the Streets Project
- Youth Tournaments – local schools
- Use of Flood Light Football Pitch, Youth Football Pitch
- Health initiatives – Drugs and Alcohol Awareness, Keep fit classes, Health & Well-being Promotion, First Aid & Defibrillator training,
- Coaching courses
- Easter & Summer Coaching Camps



**Coaching Camp**



**Paediatric First Aid Training**



**Coaching Camp**

#### **14. The Koram Centre, Counselling, Psychotherapy and Psycho Social Support Ltd - The Provision of Counselling, Psychotherapy and Psychosocial Support to Beneficiaries of the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area**

This project provides funding toward the recruitment of a Manager/Cognitive Behavioural Therapist/Researcher, Part-time Clerical Officer, Running and Programme Costs to deliver a professional counselling and psychotherapy service. The Koram Centre offers therapeutic interventions that include individual treatment plans for depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, agoraphobia, trauma – physical and sexual, obsessive compulsive disorder, and bereavement, anger and relationship difficulties. It provides couples therapy, family therapy, learning disability counselling and child counselling. The Koram Centre works closely with the Western Health & Social Care Trust (WHSCT) – Public Health Agency and receives referrals through the local health centre, social services,



**Counselling Rooms at the Koram Centre**



**Koram Centre's allotment site at Tulacorr, Strabane**

## Social Renewal – Education

### 15. Holy Cross College – Strabane Educational Support Programme

Holy Cross College, in partnership with Strabane Academy delivers this programme that targets pupils who are disengaged from the current education system providing academic and pastoral support. A Learning Mentor works with thirty pupils on an individual basis and assists them to remain engaged with mainstream education. Pupils are offered a tailored education support and personal development plan to meet individual needs. The Learning Mentor supports each young person in academic and vocational courses that are not available at local schools and improves their opportunities for employment, training or employment.



Friendship Building Training at Foyle Arena



Ms Doherty – Learning Mentor

## 16. Education Authority Western Region – Strabane Community Support Programme

This Youth Led Programme was developed in response to an identified need for youth intervention programmes to tackle issues of low educational attainment, underage drinking, regular incidents of anti-social behaviour and lack of facilities for young people living in the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal area who are disengaged from the current education and youth services.

The programme provides leadership training and peer mentoring which includes pathways to qualifications/accreditation leaving a lasting legacy of new community leaders across the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal area. The key drivers of the programme are the Neighbourhood Renewal Youth Forum made up of 10 young people aged 16-25years. Two Drop in Centres have been established within Community Centres in Ballycolman and Lisnafin estates to engage young people on a weekly basis in various accredited and non-accredited personal development programmes with support from an area youth worker. During the summer months young people engage in the Summer Youth Intervention Programme during periods of social unrest/heightened tensions to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour. Young people are involved in a number of programmes that address community relations, health issues, promote active citizenship and volunteering to build community capacity and cohesion within local neighbourhoods.



Young people from the Ballycolman & Lisnafin 'Drop In' Centres



## Physical Renewal

### 17. Department for Regional Development (Transport NI) – Upgrade of footpaths and streets within the Strabane

Environmental Improvements leading from the new pedestrian cycle bridge through Ballycolman Estate to Melmount Road.



**Ballycolman Estate**



**Beechmount Avenue**

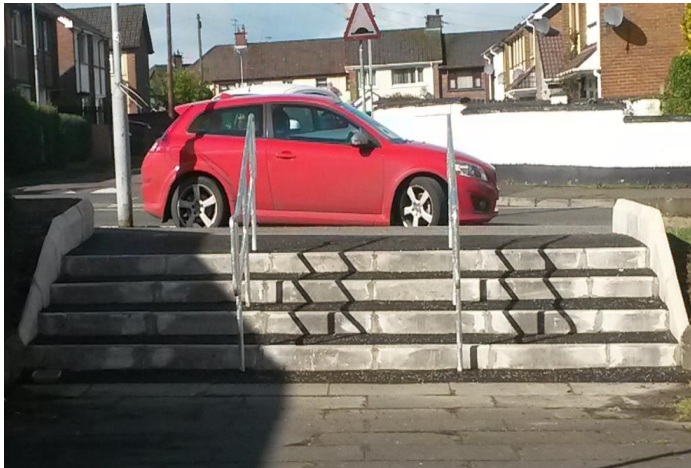


**Approach to Melmount Rd from Beechmount Avenue**

## 18. Northern Ireland Housing Executive - Environmental Improvements Scheme

This project was developed through the Physical renewal action Team. Following site visits to the main Neighbourhood Renewal estates it was found that areas were showing all the signs of up to 40 years of wear and tear and in need of refurbishment in terms of creating quality space. The NIHE identified works to be carried out, including the following:

- Steps connecting Springhill Park and Fountain Street/Drumrallagh
- General painting and power washing of several communal areas
- Refurbishment of steps in Ballycolman estate and the installation of handrails



**Refurbished steps at Ballycolman Estate**

## 19. Derry City & Strabane District Council – Creation of multi use play/recreation area at Fountain Street/Patrician Villas

The multi use play/recreation area will provide facilities for residents from Patrician Villas and the Drumrallagh, Fountain Street, Springhill Park, Evish Grove and Mount Carmel Heights estates to support informal recreational play and exercise opportunities. The project will primarily but not exclusively target the 2 – 16 year age group and provide an alternative safe space which will contribute to the health, well-being and social development of children, young people and adults, as well as enhancing the physical appearance of the area.



**20. Strabane Sigersons GAC – Construction of 4 Female Changing Rooms & Associated Facilities at Pairc Mhic Sioghair (Sigersons Park)**

This project provided 4 Female changing rooms, disabled toilet, and two additional rooms for treatment and meetings. It will make a significant improvement to the previous facilities that consisted of second hand portacabins that were not adequate to meet existing need. This project addresses the lack of specialist facilities for young people and the expressed demand by clubs and schools that has been identified as a priority issue within the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan and the Council's facilities strategy.



**Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership 2015/16 year Expenditure (by Strategic Objective)**

*The following table details current projects funded via the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment fund. It also details the 2015/16 year individual spend for each project, the total amount of expenditure by strategic objective and the overall 2015/16 year total expenditure in the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area.*

<b>Programme/Project</b>	<b>Contract for Funding (CFF) Funding Period</b>	<b>CFF Funding Amount (Project allocation)</b>	<b>2015/16 Spend (as at 31/03/16)</b>
<b>COMMUNITY RENEWAL</b>			
Fountain Street Community Development Association Ltd – Project Co-ordinator’s Salary/ENIC and Running Costs	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	£42,984	£42,984
Lisnafin Ardnalee Trust Cross Community Development Association – Project Co-ordinator’s Salary/ENIC & Running Costs	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	£29,931	£29,931
Melmount East Bank Estates Community Association Forum – Uniting Neighbourhood Renewal Communities	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	£41,982	£41,982
Springhill Park Community Development Association – Springhill Park Regeneration Project	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	£41,422	£37,703

Strabane Community Project – Salary Costs – Full Time Project Co-ordinator and Part Time Finance Administrator	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	£29,863	£29,863
Strabane Ethnic Community Association – Ethnic Community Development Project Co-ordinator, Part time Administrator Salaries, Running and Programme Costs	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	£49,485	£49,485
Derry City & Strabane District Council – Technical Assistance to Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	£34,409	£34,409
<b>Total Community Renewal Expenditure</b>		<b>£270,076</b>	<b>£266,357</b>

<b>SOCIAL RENEWAL – HEALTH</b>			
HURT (Have your Tomorrows) – Support and Treatment Programmes for those marginalised through Drugs and Alcohol	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	£9,694	£9,694
Strabane Sigersons Gaelic Athletic Association – Project Co-ordinator delivering for a better Ballycolman	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	£29,678	£29,678
The Koram Centre, Counselling, Psychotherapy and Psycho Social Support Ltd – The Provision of Counselling, Psychotherapy and Psychosocial Support to Beneficiaries of the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	£70,176	£70,176
Western Health & Social Care Trust – Neighbourhood Health Improvement Project (spend allocated on a population pro-rata basis)	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	£208,774	£22,506
<b>Total Social Renewal – Health Expenditure</b>		<b>£318,322</b>	<b>£132,054</b>

<b>SOCIAL RENEWAL – EDUCATION</b>			
Holy Cross College – Strabane Educational Support Programme	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	£33,993	£33,993
Education Authority - Strabane Community Support Project	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	£39,311	£39,311
<b>Total Social Renewal – Education Expenditure</b>		<b>£73,304</b>	<b>£73,304</b>

<b>ECONOMIC RENEWAL</b>			
Derry City & Strabane District Council - service level agreement with North West Advice Bureau to deliver services – Advisor & Administrator salaries & running costs (Facilitated through Voluntary & Community Unit)	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	£239,201	£39,201
Strabane Community Unemployed Group - Salary Costs – Full time Centre Co-ordinator	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	£20,498	£20,498
South West College - Going Places Programme in the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	£119,278	£119,278
<b>Total Economic Renewal Expenditure</b>		<b>£378,977</b>	<b>£178,977</b>



<b>PHYSICAL RENEWAL</b>			
Department of Regional Development – Upgrade of footpaths and streets within the Strabane NRA	1 January 2016 to 31 March 2016	£195,000	£195,000
Derry City & Strabane District Council – Creation of multi use play/recreation area at Fountain Street/Patrician Villas	1 September 2014 to 31 July 2015	£271,870	£95,155
Strabane Sigersons GAA - Construction of 4 Female Changing Rooms & Associated Facilities at Pairc Mhic Sioghair (Sigersons Park)	1 December 2014 to 18 August 2015	£216,393	£84,253
NIHE - Environmental Improvements within the Strabane NRA	1 January 2015 to 31 March 2016	£62,806	£20,007
<b>Total Physical Renewal Expenditure</b>		<b>£749,069</b>	<b>£394,415</b>

<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>£1,789,748</b>	<b>£1,045,107</b>
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## ACHIEVEMENTS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDING IN 2015/16 YEAR

### Community Renewal Output Measures

<b>PROJECT (STRABANE)</b>	<b>CR 1</b> – Number of people participating in community relations projects.	<b>CR 2</b> – Number of people participating in community bonding projects.	<b>CR 3</b> – Number of people volunteering for community development activities.	<b>CR 4</b> – Number of engaged/involved in unpaid voluntary work.	<b>CR 5</b> – Number of people receiving training in community development skills/capacity building.	<b>CR 6</b> – Number of people using new or improved community facilities.	<b>CR 7</b> – Number of community/voluntary groups supported.	<b>CR 10</b> – Number of people using existing community facilities.
Fountain Street Community Development Association Ltd – Project Co-ordinator’s Salary/ENIC and Running Costs		711		47				1,016
Lisnafin Ardnalee Trust Cross Community Development Association – Project Co-ordinator’s Salary/ENIC & Running Costs		126	40					2,488
Melmount East Bank Estates Community Association Forum – Uniting Neighbourhood Renewal Communities		525		152			14	528
Springhill Park Community Development Association – Springhill Park Regeneration Project		150		23				247
Strabane Community Project – Salary Costs – Full Time Project Co-ordinator and Part Time Finance Administrator		305		78				

Strabane Ethnic Community Association – Ethnic Community Development Project Co-ordinator, Part time Administrator Salaries, Running and Programme Costs	1776			181				344
HURT (Have your Tomorrows) – Support and Treatment Programmes for those marginalised through Drugs and Alcohol				4			9	
Strabane Sigersons Gaelic Athletic Association – Project Co-ordinator delivering for a better Ballycolman			126			709		
The Koram Centre, Counselling, Psychotherapy and Psycho Social Support Ltd – The Provision of Counselling, Psychotherapy and Psychosocial Support to Beneficiaries of the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area				35				
Holy Cross College – Strabane Educational Support Programme							1	
Strabane Community Unemployed Group - Salary Costs – Full time Centre Co-ordinator				12				
Education Authority - Strabane Community Support Project			15		15			

## Economic Renewal Output Measures

	ER 4– Number of people receiving job specific training.	ER 6 – Number of people receiving non job specific training	ER 14 – Number of people attaining a formal qualification from participation in Adult Education.	ER 15 – Number of FTE jobs safeguarded.
<b>PROJECT (STRABANE)</b>				
Fountain Street Community Development Association Ltd – Project Co-ordinator’s Salary/ENIC and Running Costs		31	29	1
Lisnafin Ardnalee Trust Cross Community Development Association – Project Co-ordinator’s Salary/ENIC & Running Costs			44	1
Melmount East Bank Estates Community Association Forum – Uniting Neighbourhood Renewal Communities		38		2
Springhill Park Community Development Association – Springhill Park Regeneration Project				1.6
Strabane Community Project – Salary Costs – Full Time Project Co-ordinator and Part Time Finance Administrator		39		1.5
Strabane Ethnic Community Association – Ethnic Community Development Project Co-ordinator, Part time Administrator Salaries, Running and Programme Costs		67		1.6

Strabane Sigersons Gaelic Athletic Association – Project Co-ordinator delivering for a better Ballycolman		49		1
The Koram Centre, Counselling, Psychotherapy and Psycho Social Support Ltd – The Provision of Counselling, Psychotherapy and Psychosocial Support to Beneficiaries of the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area		50		1.5
Holy Cross College – Strabane Educational Support Programme				1
Strabane Community Unemployed Group - Salary Costs – Full time Centre Co-ordinator		98	26	1
South West College - Going Places Programme in the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area	36	36		1
Education Authority - Strabane Community Support Project	22			1

## Social Renewal (Education) Output Measures

<b>PROJECT (STRABANE)</b>	<b>SR(ED) 2</b> – number of pupils whose attendance is measurably enhanced/improved	<b>SR(ED) 3</b> – Number of pupils whose attainment is measurably enhanced/improved	<b>SR(ED) 4</b> – Number of pupils whose behaviour is measurably enhanced/improved	<b>SR (ED) 5</b> – Number of people engaged in parenting skills/development programmes.	<b>SR(ED) 8</b> – Number of pupils directly benefitting from the project (Closing the performance gap)	<b>SR (ED) 14</b> – Number of young people directly benefitting from the project.	<b>SR (ED) 17</b> – Type and number of accredited qualifications completed.
Lisnafin Ardnalee Trust Cross Community Development Association – Project Co-ordinator’s Salary/ENIC & Running Costs					42		
Springhill Park Community Development Association – Springhill Park Regeneration Project					64		
Holy Cross College – Strabane Educational Support Programme	162	158	127	85	321		
Education Authority - Strabane Community Support Project						60	45

## Social Renewal (Health) Output Measures

<b>PROJECT (STRABANE)</b>	<b>SR (H) 1</b> – Number of people benefiting from Healthy Lifestyle Projects.	<b>SR (H) 2</b> – Number of people attending Health Education/Awareness Initiatives.	<b>SR (H) 3</b> – Number of people assessing intervention/treatment services.	<b>SR (H) 4</b> – Number of health education/awareness initiatives provided/delivered.	<b>SR(H) 5</b> – Number of people benefitting from new or improved health facilities	<b>SR (H) 6</b> – Number of people participating in suicide prevention projects.	<b>SR(H) 7</b> – Number of new/improved sports facilities provided	<b>SR(H) 8</b> – Number of people accessing new sports facilities	<b>SR(H) 10</b> - % increase in the number of people using improved sports facilities
Fountain Street Community Development Association Ltd – Project Co-ordinator’s Salary/ENIC and Running Costs	131								
Lisnafin Ardnalee Trust Cross Community Development Association – Project Co-ordinator’s Salary/ENIC & Running Costs	71			4					
Springhill Park Community Development Association – Springhill Park Regeneration Project	60								
Strabane Community Project – Salary Costs – Full Time Project Co-ordinator and Part Time Finance Administrator	88			4					
Strabane Ethnic Community Association – Ethnic Community Development Project Co-ordinator, Part time Administrator Salaries, Running and Programme Costs		41		3					
HURT (Have your Tomorrows) – Support and Treatment Programmes for those marginalised through Drugs and Alcohol		280	33	13					

Strabane Sigersons Gaelic Athletic Association – Project Co-ordinator delivering for a better Ballycolman	357			10					
Strabane Sigersons GAC – Construction of 4 Female Changing Rooms & Associated Facilities at Pairc Mhic Sioghair (Sigersons Park)							1	350	100
The Koram Centre, Counselling, Psychotherapy and Psycho Social Support Ltd – The Provision of Counselling, Psychotherapy and Psychosocial Support to Beneficiaries of the Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Area	135		445			112			
Education Authority - Strabane Community Support Project		20							
Strabane Sigersons GAC – Construction of 4 Female Changing Rooms & Associated Facilities at Pairc Mhic Sioghair (Sigersons Park)							1	390	100
Derry City & Strabane District Council – Creation of multi use play/recreation area at Fountain Street/Patrician Villas	480				480	380	1	704	



## Social Renewal (Crime) Output Measures

<b>PROJECT (STRABANE)</b>	<b>SR (C) 1</b> – Number of people receiving advice on crime prevention.	<b>SR (C) 2</b> – Number of community safety initiatives implemented.	<b>SR (C) 3</b> – Number of people participating/attending community safety initiatives.	<b>SR (C) 4</b> – Number of crime prevention initiatives implemented.	<b>SR (C) 5</b> – Number of people participating/ attending crime prevention initiatives.	<b>SR (C) 6</b> – Number of young people benefiting from youth inclusion/diversionary projects.	<b>SR (C) 8</b> – Number of homes with increased security.
Fountain Street Community Development Association Ltd – Project Co-ordinator’s Salary/ENIC and Running Costs			60			33	
Lisnafin Ardnalee Trust Cross Community Development Association – Project Co-ordinator’s Salary/ENIC & Running Costs		3				155	
Melmount East Bank Estates Community Association Forum – Uniting Neighbourhood Renewal Communities							30
Springhill Park Community Development Association – Springhill Park Regeneration Project	78	3	78			88	
Strabane Community Project – Salary Costs – Full Time Project Co-ordinator and Part Time Finance Administrator		7	1001				
Strabane Ethnic Community Association – Ethnic Community Development Project Co-ordinator, Part time Administrator Salaries, Running and Programme Costs				4	69		

Strabane Sigersons Gaelic Athletic Association – Project Co-ordinator delivering for a better Ballycolman						125	
Education Authority - Strabane Community Support Project						15	

## Physical Renewal Output Measures

<b>PROJECT (STRABANE)</b>	<b>PR 1 – Area of land improved for open space.</b>	<b>PR 2– Area of land reclaimed for open space.</b>	<b>PR 3– Area of land improved and made ready for development.</b>	<b>PR 4 – Number of new builds.</b>	<b>PR 5 – Number of building(s) improved.</b>	<b>PR 6 – Number of community facilities improved.</b>	<b>PR 7 – Number of traffic calming schemes.</b>	<b>PR 8 – Number of trees planted.</b>	<b>PR 9 – Number of projects improving community facilities.</b>	<b>PR 10 – Area of land improved and made ready for shared space.</b>	<b>PR 11 – Number of people/volunteers involved in physical development and/or environmental projects.</b>
Derry City & Strabane District Council – Creation of multi use play/recreation area at Fountain Street/Patrician Villas									1	1	
Strabane Sigersons GAC – Construction of 4 Female Changing Rooms & Associated Facilities at Pairc Mhic Sioghair (Sigersons Park)						1					
Northern Ireland Housing Executive – EI Scheme								1			

## **Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Conclusion**

In the 2015/16 financial year, Strabane Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership total overall spend was £1,045,107.

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

Community Renewal	£266,357
Social Renewal	£205,358
Economic Renewal	£178,977
Physical Renewal	£394,415

The programmes/services supported by the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund ranged from locally based community services through to physical renewal and neighbourhood health improvement programmes. Neighbourhood Renewal funding addressed a number of key priorities identified in the Strabane Neighbourhood Action Plan.

### **Community Renewal**

The key actions sought under Community Renewal aim to build the area's social capital by improving the capacity of community groups to identify and meet community needs; support more people to get involved in community activity and to promote equality and good relations between people of different nationalities, race, gender, sexuality, religion and political opinion.

During 2015/16, local community groups and other stakeholders continued to plan, organize and deliver a wide range of services to residents from Strabane NRA. A total of twenty projects were funded through the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme to deliver a range of services in support of:

- Community Development
- Counselling/psychotherapy treatment
- Education
- Employability/vocational training
- Drug & alcohol support & treatment
- Health improvement
- Physical renewal works
- Welfare advice
- Technical assistance (Neighbourhood Partnership)
- Youth Intervention

Research undertaken by the North West Volunteer Centre during the year 2015/16 indicated that there was a high level of volunteering in Strabane NRA. The study found that approximately 50,000 hours per annum were gifted by the volunteers surveyed and that the estimated economic value of volunteering was in excess of £0.5 million (based on the average hourly wage for NI).

### **Economic Renewal**

In 2015/16, Strabane Neighbourhood Partnership continued to focus on fostering 'bottom up' economic development through supporting the development of social economy enterprises and helping to raise the skills levels of NRA residents to take advantage of emerging job opportunities. This was done by working alongside Strabane Social Enterprise Incubation Hub and other stakeholders from the statutory and community & voluntary sectors and by working closely with the South West College in support of the *Going Places* employability programme.

### **Social Renewal**

The priority actions sought under Social Renewal broadly focus on improving early child development and educational attainment; reducing inequalities in health; supporting low income households and preventing crime and reducing anti-social behaviour. The Social Renewal Action Team represents a wide range of stakeholders with interests in health, education, early years, welfare advice, the arts and sports & leisure.

The Partnership's Health Sub Group continues to direct and oversee the delivery of the Neighbourhood Health Improvement Project in Strabane. In the past year, the project reached over eleven hundred people through the delivery of programmes and

events designed to improve family health and help people become more physically active, maintain an overall healthy diet, cease smoking, reduce the risk of cancer and promote positive mental health.

The Education Steering Committee continued to facilitate schools based and community based initiatives that help to improve children's educational/life outcomes. A central element to this work has been increased involvement and collaboration with schools, parents and families, community organisations and other support services. In 2015/16, the Education Steering Committee facilitated the development of a number of projects including:

- A programme of seven community and schools based Internet Safety training programmes for parents.
- A *Coderdojo Strabane* 'Show & Tell' event in the Alley Theatre on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015;
- Two ten week computer coding programmes for P5 and P6 schoolchildren in St Mary's PS and Knockavoe School (delivered by a Coderdojo mentor).

In 2015/16, Strabane Citizens Advice Bureau helped clients in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area generate additional income of £155,322 (this is the figure up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015)

### **Physical Renewal**

The Physical Renewal Action Team has worked on the following priority actions during 2015/16.

#### **Improvements to Estates**

- Support the development of public artwork projects that will physically renew/change the appearance of public spaces and neighbourhoods. The Neighbourhood Partnership has worked closely with Derry City & Strabane District Council and other stakeholders to deliver a public art project that uses creative arts processes and the installation of public artworks to help create inclusive, safer neighbourhoods in Strabane. Subject to the availability of funding, Maurice Harron Studio has been commissioned to design and install a sculpture entitled 'The Long Boat' in Ballycolman Estate close to the newly constructed Strabane Pedestrian Cycle Bridge.
- Liaise with Transport NI and DSD to implement further estate improvements in Ballycolman Estate.

- Liaise with NIHE and DSD to implement minor improvement works in Ballycolman, Drumrallagh and Fountain St Estates.

### **Sport, Leisure and Recreation Facilities**

Support Derry City & Strabane District Council to:

- Complete a multi-use play and recreation area at Patrician Villas. This project officially opened in September 2015.
- Take forward the development of a new 3/4g playing surface at Melvin Sports Complex.

Support Strabane Sigersons GAA to complete new female changing rooms, treatment room and committee room at Sigerson's Park.

One of the key priority actions identified under the Physical Renewal element of the Neighbourhood Action Plan is the development of pedestrian footbridges upstream and downstream of Strabane Bridge to improve access between the town centre, residential areas, schools, public transport, sport and leisure facilities. Construction of the upper pedestrian/cycle bridge, which will link the Ballycolman and Fountain Street/Springhill areas of the town, was completed in December 2015.



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