



Armagh Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Annual Report 2017/18

Armagh Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

About Neighbourhood Renewal

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

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

About Armagh Partnership

The Neighbourhood Renewal Area covers much of West Armagh and includes the housing estates of Callanbridge, Mullacreevie, Drumarg, St Patrick's Park, Callan Street, Railway Street and Drumbreda and comprises a total population of 5,350.

To take forward the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme, Armagh Partnership was set up in 2006 to oversee the development and delivery of the local Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan. The Partnership currently comprises 16 members which include representatives from local communities, voluntary organisations, elected representatives, private sector and local statutory organisations. It currently meets on a bi-monthly basis and its administration services are provided through a Coordinator and administrator with Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council.

It is defined as a non-constituted entity acting in an advisory role to the Department for Neighbourhood Renewal issues in the designated Neighbourhood Renewal area. It has established 3 sub groups to assist it in the identification, development and, where appropriate, delivery of projects.

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

The Partnership's Vision for Armagh

By the year 2018 Armagh will be a place where **“All of the people living here have the quality of life to which they aspire; this will include”**:

- Living in affordable good quality housing;
 - Having access to suitable education, training and employment opportunities;
 - Having access to high standards of health care;
 - Enjoying a range of cultural, social, leisure and recreational pursuits;
 - Having access to a variety of appropriate community facilities;
 - Enjoying the full range of civil liberties.
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- There is a peaceful society, at peace with itself and with its neighbours and where crime is minimal.
 - Those who are vulnerable or weak are cared for and where the values of shared responsibility, mutual support and self-help are practised.
 - There is a safe, clean and welcoming environment with everyone accepting their share of responsibility for that environment.
 - There is accessibility for all local facilities and services.
 - Diversity is recognised and valued through accepting that everyone has a unique contribution to make to the life of the community.
 - There is strong community spirit and pride.

It should be noted that Armagh Partnership and Subgroups have all signed up to and abide by the Neighbourhood Renewal Code of Practice and Guiding Principles and subsequent Subgroup Terms of Reference.

Armagh Partnership Projects

The Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund is currently supporting 7 revenue projects in the Armagh Neighbourhood Renewal Area as follows:-

Armagh Growing Communities Programme – administered through ACB&CBC

Armagh Technical Assistance – administered through ACB&CBC

Armagh – STEPs ‘Supporting Training and Employment Programme’ 2 – administered through Southern Regional College

Southern Region – Oceans (Offshore Career Employment and New Skills) – administered through Southern Regional College

Southern Region - The Grow Project – administered through Southern Regional College

Armagh - Social Renewal Education Programme – administered through the Education Authority

Armagh - Count, Read, Succeed Plus – administered through the Education Authority

Community Renewal

1. **Armagh Growing Communities Programme** - has been designed by the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council in consultation with community associations to provide a direct capacity building and support resource to work within the community. It also includes a range of sports and physical activity interventions which will help improve the health of residents and create a safer environment for residents.

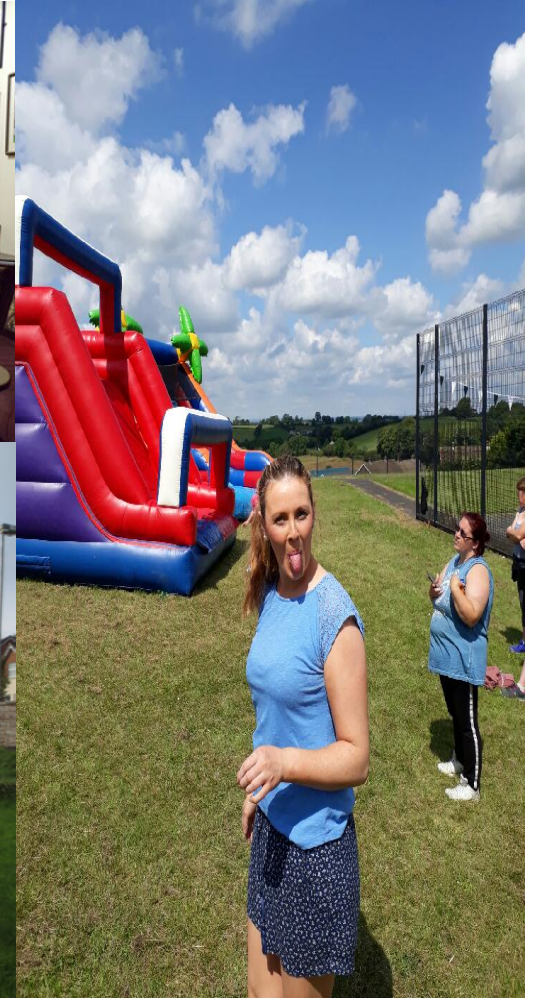
The Growing Communities Programme comprises two strands – (1) Neighbourhood Renewal Support and Growth, running costs for the Community Associations within the Neighbourhood Renewal area and Capacity Building and Support Services for these Associations. (2) Growing Communities Project which is delivered under the following themes:

- Communications - development of community website, setting up of schools / community PR strategy group and media training.
- Implementation of Social Economy Strategy - Provision of mentoring and support to those groups who have developed SE opportunities to transform them into SE businesses.
- Mentoring & Support to Community Associations - Delivery of training to community association committees to include defibrillator use and funding seminars etc.
- Volunteer Initiative – working with Volunteer Now and local people to identify and secure new volunteers for the area and to host an event to celebrate the achievement of local volunteers within the community.

- Youth & Children Sports Coaching & Diversionary Activities – structured sports coaching initiatives Positive Futures workshops, Best Practice visits and Residential trip for young people.
- Health & Wellbeing – physical activity sessions for beginners and intermediate level and first aid training.
- Intergenerational Project – to include the installation of raised beds and garden areas within school grounds and mentoring and support for delivery of Older Peoples Action Plan.
- Irish Language – delivery of a summer Irish language camp to help develop the use of Irish Language within the community.

The programme contributes to the NR objective to develop confident communities that are committed to improving the quality of life in their areas.

The programme also complements the Council's Community Support Plan in allowing the NR community associations to concentrate and focus on the delivery of programmes and training opportunities that will lead to better equipped, fit for purpose and self-sustaining community associations.



Residents from the Armagh NRA participating in a range of activities as part of the Growing Communities programme, including jiving classes, history talks, family fun-days and the Seven Hills walking challenge

2. **Technical Assistance** - provides a much needed secretariat and coordination service which is key to the development off an effective neighbourhood renewal partnership and development and delivery of the Armagh Action Plan.



Economic Renewal

1. **Armagh – STEPs ‘Supporting Training and Employment Programme’**– has been developed in consultation with members of the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and the Southern Regional College to provide additional support in education and training for neighbourhood renewal residents. The programme provides mentoring support to those school pupils currently involved in the Schools Partnership Programme, additional mentoring to young people who progress from school to apprenticeship and other programmes; STEPs also includes additional enhanced Vocational training and a Driving programme. This will improve and enhance the employability and educational chances by providing practical life skills.

The Support Training and Employment Programme (STEPS) during 2017 experienced another year of success with 109 NR residents applying to the programme. 71 of those who completed accredited training achieved a qualification. Residents completed a wide variety of training including courses in; Forklift (Counterbalance), CSR, Door Supervision, Lorry Driving, Gym Instruction, Cutting Men’s Hair and First Aid. Residents who achieved a qualification were also offered the opportunity to partake in driving lessons and achieve their driving test.

The STEPs programme was created to offer training across the Armagh community equipping residents with recognised training qualifications, confidence and practical life skills all of which are crucial in enabling local people to find employment or to facilitate everyday life at work or in education.



Armagh resident Joe McGinley taking part in practical training as part of the Level 2 Men’s Hair Cutting.

Armagh Neighbourhood Renewal residents Sezgiy Bystrov and William George receiving their SIA Door Security certificates



2. **Southern Region – Oceans (Offshore Career Employment And New Skills) Project** – this has been developed in consultation with members of the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships and the Southern Regional College the project aims to improve community well being, skills and environment through targeting residents interested in working in UK and Irish coastal waters.

The project provides accredited training in essential skills and provides a gateway to employability in the offshore industry, on oil rigs and renewable energy platforms. The OCEANS Project includes MIST (Minimum Industry Safety Training), an essential qualification required to gain employment in the offshore industry.

The module includes risk assessment, COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health), manual handling and working at height.



- 3. Southern Region - The Grow Project** - provides training in horticulture skills and horticulture management. Participants in the project are skilled up to grow and care for plants in their own gardens and then later act as horticulture advisors to the local community. It is hoped that in the long term local communities will establish social enterprises with allotments and outlets where locally produced fruit and vegetables are available for sale.

The Grow project was completed by 22 residents from NR areas in the Lurgan and Armagh. This year 19 residents achieved a Level 2 qualification in Horticultural Management.

In March Grow students visited community allotment projects in Friarstown and Corkagh Park in South Dublin. During the visits there was much sharing of information and discussion on the benefits of gardening and growing your own produce. Focal points included growing organic fruit and vegetables in the community and the benefit to individual's health and wellbeing through participation in outdoor projects.

Throughout the duration of the GROW project residents have promoted the benefits of the programme within their own local communities. They have shared excess produce with neighbours and discussed the processes involved, helping others to begin in growing their own produce. This has further helped promote a healthier lifestyle in their own communities.



Members of the GROW project visiting community allotment projects in Friarstown, South Dublin

Social Renewal

1. **Armagh - SELB Social Renewal Education Programme 2** - this programme is modelled on the previous Social Renewal Education programme 1. It includes additional enhanced out of school hours learning opportunities (after school clubs including activities to support parental engagement and summer activities) and school focused youth engagement for increased access to education, employment, youth services and pre-employment training.
2. **SELB - Count, Read, Succeed Plus** - is a tailored programme designed to meet the needs of parents and children in the Armagh Neighbourhood Renewal area and will complement the schools' central role by providing additional support through working with communities and parents and linking their children's work back into the classroom. This programme will focus on parental engagement (especially parents of underachieving pupils) to help raise educational standards through (a) school and community-based out of school hours' learning, (b) in-school and out of school hours' parental engagement and (c) 'Twilight' sessions to empower and capacity-build the teaching and classroom assistant workforce.



Armagh Partnership 17/18 year Expenditure (by Strategic Objective)

The following table details current projects funded via the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment fund. It also details the 17/18 individual spend for each project, the total amount of expenditure by strategic objective and the overall 17/18 total expenditure in the Armagh Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding Amount (Project allocation)	2017/18 Spend
COMMUNITY RENEWAL			
Armagh – Growing Communities	01/04/17 to 31/03/18	£94,043.32	£93,586.93
Armagh - Technical Assistance	01/04/17 to 31/03/18	£15,322.10	£15,296.90
Total Community Renewal Expenditure		£109,365.42	£108,883.83

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding Amount (Project allocation)	2017/18 Spend
ECONOMIC RENEWAL			
Armagh – STEPs ‘Supporting Training and Employment Programme’ 2	01/04/17 to 31/03/18	£59,325.28	£59,325.28
Southern Region – OCEANS Programme	01/04/17 to 31/03/18	£6,963.93	£6,963.93
Armagh & Craigavon – Grow Project	01/04/17 to 31/03/18	£5,334.56	£5,334.56
Total Economic Renewal Expenditure		£71,623.77	£71,623.77

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding Amount (Project allocation)	2017/18 Spend
SOCIAL RENEWAL- Education			
Armagh - SELB Social Renewal Education Programme 2	01/04/17 to 31/03/18	£75,780.60	£74,945.32
Armagh - SELB Count Read Succeed Plus	01/04/17 to 31/03/18	£61,770.12	£61,035.99
Total Social Renewal Education Expenditure		£137,550.72	£135,981.31
OVERALL GRAND TOTAL		£318,539.91	£316,488.91

ACHIEVEMENTS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDING IN 17/18 YEAR

Community/Other Output Measures

PROJECT	CR1 – No of people participating in community relations projects	CR2 – Number of people participating in community bonding projects	CR3 – Number of people volunteering for community development activities	CR10- No of people using existing community facilities
Armagh - Growing Communities Programme	942		10	1040 (per quarter)
Armagh - Technical Assistance Programme		14		

Economic Output Measures

PROJECT	ER2 – no of residents going into employment	ER3 – Number of people accessing careers advice	ER4 – no of people receiving job specific training	ER6 – Number of people receiving non job specific training e.g. First Aid	ER11 – No of social economy enterprises created / supported	ER14 – Number of people attaining a formal qualification from participation in Adult Education	ER15 – No of FTE jobs safeguarded
Armagh - STEPs 'Supporting Training and Employment Programme'	2		72			76	
Southern Region – OCEANS Programme		3	3				
Armagh - Growing Communities Programme				76	3		1
Southern Region - The Grow Project		9	9			9	

Social (Education) Output Measures

PROJECT	SR(Ed)3 (Tackling barriers to learning)– Number of pupils whose attainment is measurably enhanced/improved	SR(Ed)5 (Tackling barriers to learning)– Number of people engaged in parenting skills/development programmes	SR(Ed)7 (Literacy & Numeracy)– Number of pupils whose attainment is measurably enhanced/improved	SR(Ed)8 (Closing the Performance Gap) – Number of pupils directly benefitting from project	SR(Ed)10 No of pupils directly benefitting from the project	SR(Ed) 14 (Youth Services) – Number of young people directly benefitting from the project.
Armagh - SELB - Social Renewal Education Programme	384					55
Armagh - SELB - Count Read Succeed Plus		81	150			
Armagh - Growing Communities Programme					100	
Armagh - STEPs 'Supporting Training and Employment Programme'	70					

Social (Health) Output Measures

PROJECT	SR(H)1 No of people benefiting from Healthy Lifestyle Projects	SR(H)2 No of people attending Health education / Awareness Initiatives
Armagh - Growing Communities Programme	288	42
Southern Region – Grow Project	9	

Armagh Partnership Conclusion

In the 2017/2018 financial year, Armagh Partnership total overall spend was **£316,488.91**. This can be further broken down into Strategic Objective spend as follows:-

Community Renewal £108,883.83

Social Renewal £135,981.31

Economic Renewal £ 71,623.77

Breakdown of main achievements for total expenditure

The main achievements in the Armagh Neighbourhood Renewal area in 2017/2018, as a result of Neighbourhood Renewal funded projects, are:

- ✓ 942 participating in community relations projects;
- ✓ 84 people received job specific training;
- ✓ 2 people went into employment;
- ✓ 85 people attaining a formal qualification from participation in Adult Education
- ✓ 759 pupils benefited from Education Programmes;
- ✓ 81 people engaged in parenting skills/development programmes;
- ✓ 297 people benefitting from Healthy Lifestyle programmes

Partnership members are content that the projects funded in this year are addressing key priorities identified in the Armagh area action plan.



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