



Bangor

Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Annual Report
2018/19



Northern Ireland
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Introduction to Neighbourhood Renewal



The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme (NRP) aims to reduce the social and economic inequalities which characterise the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy 'People and Place' was published in June 2003 to close the gap between the quality of life for people in these neighbourhoods and the rest of society. The DfC has made a long-term commitment to work in partnership with communities to identify and prioritise needs and co-ordinate interventions designed to address the underlying causes of poverty. To tackle the complex, multi-dimensional nature of deprivation in an integrated way, the NRP 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.



Bangor Neighbourhood Renewal Area



Figure 1: Kilcooley and Fern Grove Estate

Bangor Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA) covers the whole of the Kilcooley and Fern Grove estate (shown in Figure 1). Kilcooley estate is the third largest estate in Northern Ireland with a population of 2,767 based on NISRA figures (2017). 79% of residents identified themselves as having a Protestant or Christian faith background and approximately 4% of respondents identified themselves as having Catholic faith background.

Of the 432 wards in Northern Ireland, Kilcooley ward is ranked 72nd and the 3rd most deprived in Ards and North Down Borough.

Situated approximately three miles west of Bangor Town Centre, the estate is bounded by two major roads, the West Circular Road on the East and the Belfast Road on the West.

£4.2 million has been invested in Bangor NRA by the DfC since the programme's inception in 2004. Significant additional match funding and in-kind support has also been levered into Bangor NRA by other supporting partners.

Bangor NRA is one of 36 Neighbourhood Renewal areas in Northern Ireland as measured by the Multiple Deprivation Measure. Levels of 'multiple deprivation' remain much higher in Bangor NRA than within North Down and Ards.

Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership

The Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership (KNP) was established in 2004/ 2005 to take forward the NRP in Bangor. The Partnership is defined as a non-constituted entity acting in an advisory capacity to DfC on issues identified in the designated Bangor NRA. The Partnership comprises of members from the community/voluntary and statutory sectors as shown in Figure 2.

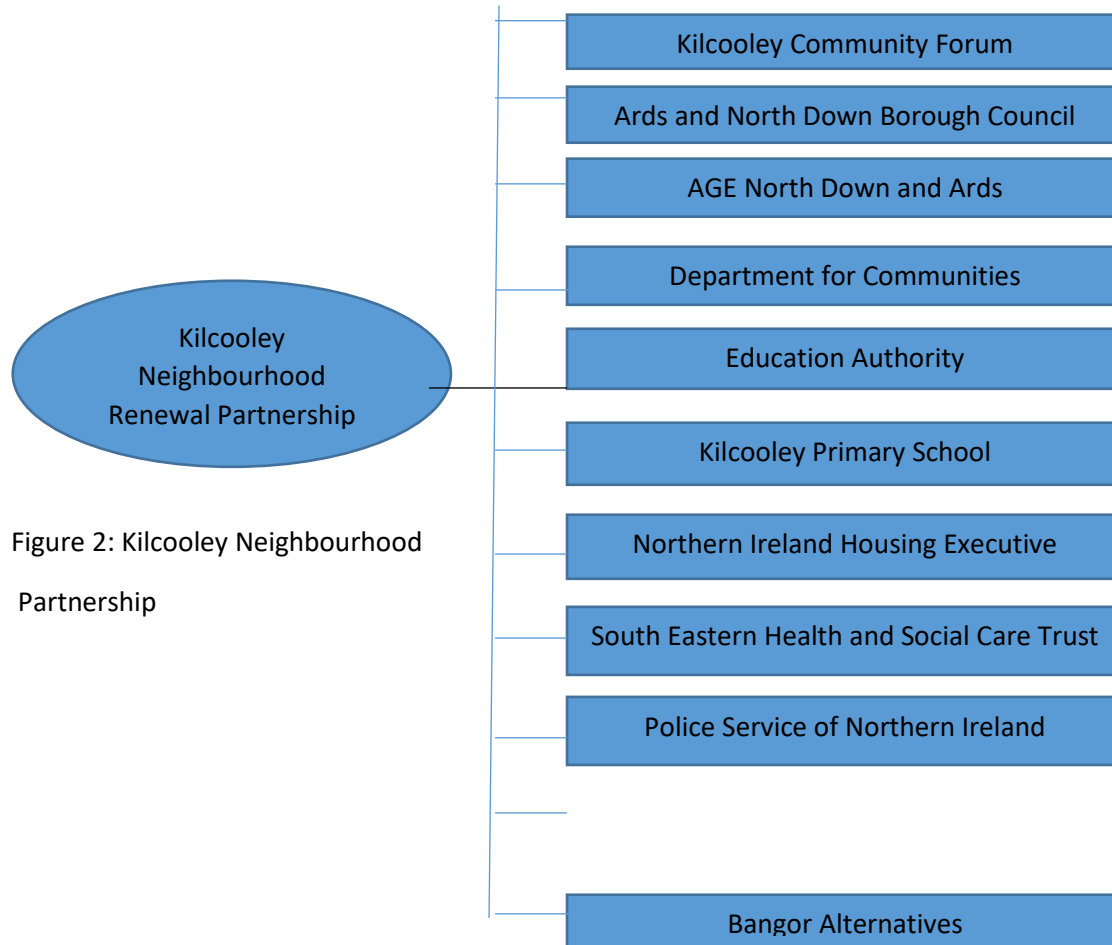


Figure 2: Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership

The overall aim of the KNP is to engage in effective working partnerships with key stakeholders from all relevant sectors to pro-actively deliver priorities detailed in the Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan to improve the well-being and quality of life for residents.

The objectives of KNP are to manage, develop and oversee the regeneration of Bangor NRA to:

- Ensure that people living in the services and to create better prospects and the creation families.

Kilcooley Women's Centre

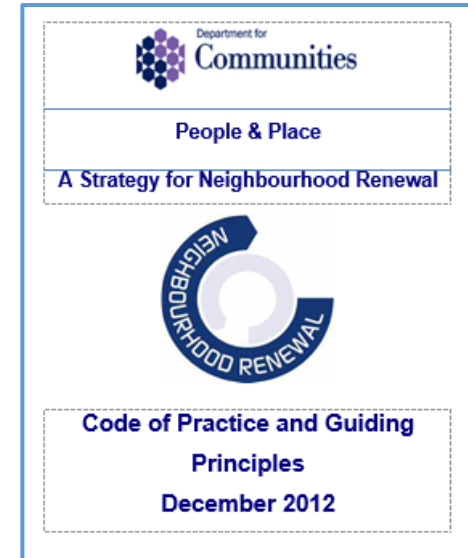
Bangor NRA have access to the best possible opportunities which make for a better quality of life, of a safer environment for themselves and their families.

- Develop economic activity in the Bangor NRA and connect the community to the wider economy of Bangor, Belfast and Northern

- Develop confident communities that are able and committed to improving the quality of life in the Bangor NRA.
- Improve the environment and image of the Bangor NRA so that it becomes an attractive place in which to live and invest.

The council employs a part time Neighbourhood Renewal Officer funded by the DfC to provide secretariat support to the Partnership which meets on a six weekly basis.

The Kilcooley Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership has signed up to and is reminded of the Neighbourhood Renewal Code of Practice and Guiding Principles and subsequent Sub-Group Terms of Reference at each meeting.



The Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan



The vision for Bangor NRA, (as defined in the initial Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan 2007-2010) is:

‘Kilcooley will become an attractive, safe and prosperous estate where the residents enjoy healthy active lifestyles.’

The environment in which the KNP now operates has changed significantly since the inception of the NRP. Need within the community has changed and priorities have been revised to reflect this. In addition, major changes in the global economy means that KNP now operates in an environment of funding cuts and budget restraint. The KNP has conducted a full review of the action plan to ensure priorities contained therein are based on and commensurate to, identified evidence based need and to determine progress in tackling deprivation since the development of the initial plan.

The aim of the revised Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan for 2018-2019 is to deliver a real and significant improvement in people’s quality of life by focusing on key priorities such as,

- educational attainment
- income deprivation
- health inequalities and
- early year intervention.

The development of the Kilcooley 3G sports facility, together with the continued provision and supporting infrastructure of programmes will contribute significantly to delivering against all four Neighbourhood Renewal strategic objectives (physical, social, economic and community).

The Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan 2019-2020 continues to establish an overarching structure for regeneration and community development activity within Bangor NRA. The Action Plan demonstrates outcomes that contribute to DfC’s key priorities and mission statement whilst simultaneously providing a foundation for community planning and the revised regeneration policy framework.

Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership Projects

The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme has supported six revenue projects and two capital projects during the financial period 2018 - 2019 under the key strategic objectives as outlined below:

Community Renewal

Social Renewal (education, health and crime)

Economic Renewal

Physical Renewal

COMMUNITY RENEWAL

Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership – Technical Assistance



Secretariat support and coordination of services for the Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership is provided by a part-time Neighbourhood Renewal Officer (NRO), employed by Ards and North Down Borough Council and funded through DfC Technical Assistance.

The NRO ensures the implementation of the Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan and works in conjunction with Community/Voluntary and Statutory organisations to ensure the needs of the community are met under the four key strategic objectives of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme. Key milestones achieved for 2018-2019 include:

- The priorities contained within the Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan 2018-2019 have been monitored and updated as appropriate by the NRO. Subsequently, an electronic update of the Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan 2018-2019 to incorporate new and emerging projects has been produced.
- The NRO continues to facilitate the Kilcooley Neighbourhood Renewal Meetings, held every 6 weeks. During the period of March 2018 to March 2019 there were 8 Partnership Meetings.
- The NRO continues to facilitate the Education Working Group, rolling out numerous programmes to address the needs of the community of Kilcooley. During the period of March 2018 to March 2019 there were 5 Education Working meetings held. The main achievements of the Education Working Group include the roll out of **GET SET! Kilcooley**, the education programme designed to encourage parents to engage with their children's education. 2 banners have been produced and erected within the estate to encourage the programme and highlight the work of the Primary School. Numerous new projects have been carried with the Bangor Alternatives and the Kilcooley Primary School, including, community safety sessions in Kilcooley Primary School on the theme of bullying, cyber bullying, anti- social behaviour and homelessness and the creation of the afterschool club.

- The NRO has been instrumental in the development of the newly established Kilcooley Health Improvement Partnership, working with both the Chair (South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust) and facilitator (Kilcooley Women's Centre) to ensure the Health Action Plan 2019-2020 has workable actions and realistic outputs.
- The NRO continues to address and represent the needs of Kilcooley, attending the Ards and North Down Locality Planning Group managed by the South Eastern Health and Social Care trust (SEHSCT). A key aspect of the group has been to partake in the Needs Analysis Programme which was launched by S3Solutions to identify the health and education needs of those in the Ards and North Down Borough. The NRO attended the workshops and participated in the discussion, ensuring the needs of Kilcooley were highlighted and addressed.
- The NRO has continued to be the key contact between the Kilcooley Community Forum 3G Pitch Group, Ards and North Down Borough Council and the SIF Capital Projects Group, attending 6 SIF Capital Projects Board Meetings and facilitating where appropriate the 3G Pitch Stakeholder Group.
- A new Chair and Vice of the Partnership have been appointed. Tracy Harrison (Kilcooley Women's Centre) is the Chairperson and Pauline Brown (Head of the Kilcooley Primary School) is the Vice Chair.

Kilcooley Community Forum – Salaries & Running Cost Programme

This project is essential to the ongoing delivery of community development service provision within Kilcooley. The Forum helps identify need and encourages community/partner based responses that address underlying social problems on an individual, community or intercommunity level. The Forum participates in the developing of the NR action plan and helps to develop solutions that address social issues including: the need to create employment opportunities, work placement programmes and develop sustainable community social enterprises.



It manages, through its social economy arm, Kilcooley Healthy Living Centre that provides opportunities to promote health and healthy living options while offering 'session programmes' to elderly residents, young people, schools, Youth Justice Agency, Probation, Looked After Children and other interested parties. Kilcooley Community Forum has a strong track record of cross community engagement in sport, education and mutual understanding. At present, the Forum is aligned with Community Learning Through Engagement from Drumbeg Estate in Craigavon, Co Armagh and Sandymount College from Dublin.

The Forum provides the day-to-day management for 18 community allotments as well as a horticulture training area and education facility. It also hosts a borough-wide Community Nursery Hub which provides growing space and expertise to community groups from North Down and Ards.

The Forum continue to offer the Unblocking Potential access course for Ulster University benefiting the support of Ulster University's Community Fellow within the Community Education Hub.

Social Renewal

The Kilcooley Women's Centre – STEP Project

The project supports women into training and education in the Neighbourhood Renewal area. It was designed to enhance the transferrable skills, improve employment opportunities and life chances of the participants and to address educational underachievement in the area. It is delivered and implemented by Kilcooley Women's Centre who has 19 years' experience in grass roots community education, with accreditation status with the main UK awarding bodies.

The project offers a wide portfolio of training opportunities, catering for those with no formal qualifications to those who need to re-skill due to redundancy, return to work after bringing up a family, to move from benefits, unemployed/economically inactive or for those in low paid occupations. The training takes place in Kilcooley primary School and a safe, supportive environment, in a community setting with built in support mechanisms. For any overspill in Kilcooley, the Co Down Scout base in Balloo is available, which has been extremely successful. The project has been essential to those who fear returning to education and for whom confidence to engage and recognition of their potential is a major barrier. The Women's Centre also provides onsite childcare which encourages single parents, unemployed and those in the transition from benefits to work, to benefit from affordable accessible childcare. The project demonstrates long term returns, with the reduction in people claiming means tested benefits when people move into work, and has had a positive impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the participants.



A variety of courses are also on offer such as GCSE English, GCSE Government & Politics, GCSE Maths, Sociology, Psychology, Level 3 Classroom Assistant, Numeracy, Literacy, Essential Skills ICT Level 1 & 2, Basic IT, SAGE Payroll, SAGE Accounts, Social Media for Beginners, languages including French, Spanish, health and social care, fashion design, Hospitality, Business Studies. The Centre heavily rely on volunteers to support the Kilcooley Women's Centre events and workshops, including the Annual Health Fair, International Women's day, Christmas Fair, Easter Fair and the European Day of Languages.



Education Authority – Kilcooley Transition Programme

This on-going project provides a range of programmes to nurture the transition of pupils from years 6 and 7 in Kilcooley Primary School to year 8 in Bangor Academy & Sixth Form College and Priory Integrated College. The project has five programmes that are in addition to the current provision in schools to support year 8 pupils and their parents in their transition year. Kilcooley PS pupils participating in the programmes showed improved attainment levels after completing the programme.

The tailored programmes through this Neighbourhood Renewal project are:

- ✓ Transition Support
- ✓ Reading Partnership
- ✓ Parental Engagement
- ✓ Numeracy Together
- ✓ Pupil and Parent Transition



A total of 48 parents from the Kilcooley NRA have participated in parenting skills in the last year, with parents participating in events and programmes relating to the transition of pupils for the 2018/2019 academic year. In addition, 22 parents have participated in programs in preparation for pupil transition. Alongside this, teachers from Kilcooley Primary School have reported increased engagement of parents in their children's education as a result of the Transitions Programme

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust – Family Health and Wellbeing Programme

Providing a coordinated network of health and family support services is the key aim of this early intervention project. The project enhances parenting skills and improves the mental and emotional well-being of children and their families.

The project during the 2018/19 year had two key elements:

- A New Parent Visitor Programme - which focused on new parents, ante-natal and post-natal visits to support parents until the child is two years old.

- ~~Family Home Support Programme - which offered practical and emotional support to families and children aged 0-11 years during difficult periods. The main focus was on behavioral management and supporting families during the transition stages of a child's life.~~



Bangor Alternatives - Community Safety Project

Bangor Alternatives is a government accredited community based restorative justice project. It was established to address low level crime and anti-social behavior in a holistic fashion. It operates a wide variety of user-led programs to tackle sensitive community issues to redirect young people away from crime and offer victims a forum to have their concerns addressed.

The project is building on previous projects and it is in respect of work that is not regulated by protocols within the formal justice sector, and therefore addresses the areas of youth prevention, community safety, crime prevention and community support initiatives. Bangor Alternatives provides a number of services that address the issues of community conflict, community cohesion and anti-social behaviour, and the impact that these have upon individuals and communities. Through the work of Bangor Alternatives they have continued to address:

- Intensive Youth Support because of their involvement in anti-social behaviour

- Engagement of youth in prevention projects
- Sessions delivered in Schools
- Young people carrying out volunteer hours in the community
- Crime prevention sessions offered to community
- Crime and anti-social behaviour prevention sessions
- Vulnerable residents offered Community Support services, home visits personal/home security products
- Community volunteers engaging with Alternatives to help 'renew' their local communities
- Residents engaging in mediation as a means of resolving anti-social behavior and Neighbourhood disputes
- Working with organisations/agencies to deliver community services.



PHYSICAL RENEWAL

Education Authority – Parent and Community Facility Build

In 2018/19 capital funding was provided by the Department for Communities Neighbourhood Renewal Programme to provide a Parent and Afterschool Centre within Kilcooley Primary School.

The project, which cost £282,000, delivered by the Education Authority, comprised the refurbishment of the front entrance of the school so that additional pupil, family and community facilities could be added to the main building of the school.

Work on the building was completed by 31st March 2019.

The new facilities enables the school to accommodate a range of family and parent programmes as well as hosting vital services for pupils of Kilcooley and their parents.

The facility also enable the school to provide state of the art after school provision for pupils.



Education Authority – Positive Play Project

In 2018/19 capital funding was provided by the Department for Communities Neighbourhood Renewal Programme to provide specific play equipment and training for teaching and non-teaching staff and parents within Kilcooley Primary School and Nursery Unit.

The Project, which cost £20,000.40, delivered by the Education Authority, comprised the purchase of specific play equipment and the provision of training to help children learn through play within the Kilcooley Primary School and Nursery Unit.

The play equipment and training was provided by 31st March 2019.

The play equipment and training will raise awareness regarding children’s right to play as well as its potential in supporting wellbeing, learning and development.



Bangor Neighbourhood Renewal Expenditure 2018/2019

The following table details the funding amount awarded through the DfC’s Neighbourhood Renewal Programme and the actual spend achieved by the projects under each of the four strategic priorities for the period 2018/2019

Programme/Project	Funding Period 01/04/2018 – 31/03/2019	Funding Amount	2018/2019 Spend (as at 31 st March 2019)
Community Renewal			
Kilcooley Community Forum	01/04/2018-31/03/2019	£42,406.04	£41,741.30

Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership-Technical Assistance	01/04/2018-31/03/2019	£14,897.00	£14,872.20
Community Renewal Total		£57,303.04	£56,613.50
Social Renewal			
Kilcooley Women's Centre – STEP Project	01/04/2018-31/03/2019	£46,736.33	£42,281.46 *
Education Authority – Transition Programme	01/04/2018-31/03/2019	£12,450.00	£12,450.00
Bangor Alternatives	01/04/2018-31/03/2019	£36,913.85	£36,343.48
South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust -Family Health and Wellbeing Project	01/04/2018-31/03/2019	£45,501.00	£45,501.00
Social Renewal Total		£141,601.18	£136,575.94
Physical Renewal			
Kilcooley Primary School Nursery Unit Positive Play	02/07/2019 – 31/03/2019	£282,000.00	£282,000.00
Kilcooley Primary School Nursery Unit & Parent Afterschool Centre	20/02/2019 – 31/03/2019	£20,000.40	£20,000.40
Physical Renewal Total		£302,000.40	£302,000.40

* Estimated spend in respect of Kilcooley Women's Centre – STEP Project.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDING IN 2018-2019

Community Renewal

Project	CR1 – Number of people participating in community relation projects	CR4 - Number of people engaged/involved in unpaid voluntary work	CR5 - Number of people receiving training in community development skills/capacity building	CR7 – Number of Community/voluntary groups supported each year	CR8 - Number of community relations projects supported
Kilcooley Community Forum	47	33	33	24	
Kilcooley Women's Centre STEP Project		4			
Bangor Alternatives Community Safety Project					16

Social (Education) Output Measures

Project	SR (ED) 2 - Number of pupils whose attendance is measurably enhanced/improved (<i>Tacking Barriers to Learning</i>)	SR(Ed)5 – Number of people engaged in parenting/skills development programmes	SR(Ed)6 -Number of pupils directly benefitting from the project (<i>improving attainment in Literacy and Numeracy</i>)	SR(Ed) 7-Number of pupils whose attainment is measurably enhanced improved. (<i>Improving Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy</i>)	SR(Ed) 25 Number of pupils directly benefitting from the ICT element of the Project
Education Authority Transitions Programme Enhanced Learning Environment		48	15	48	48
Kilcooley Primary School Nursery Unit & Parent Afterschool Centre	1				
Kilcooley Primary School Nursery Unit Positive Play Project		40	126		

Social Renewal (Health) Output Measures

Project	SR (H) 2 – Number of people attending Health Education/Awareness initiatives	SR (H)3 – Number of people accessing `	SR (H)4 -Number of Health Education/awareness initiatives provided
South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust -Family Health and Well being	33 parents and 20 children	27 parents and 32 children	6

Physical Output Measures

Project	PR5 Number of projects improved
Kilcooley Primary School Nursery Unit & Parent Afterschool Centre	1

Economic Output Measures

Project	ER2 - Number of residents going into employment	ER4 - Number of people receiving job specific training	ER14- Number of people attaining a formal qualification from participation in Adult education
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Kilcooley Women's Step project			
	4	56	
Bangor Alternatives			30

Conclusion

The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme has delivered significant investment into Bangor NRA and laid a solid foundation necessary for future action.

This investment has contributed to addressing some of the challenges and deprivation impacting the community's ability to prosper. Since the inception of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme in Kilcooley a series of projects have been developed in response to community need as identified under the key strategic themes of Community, Economic, Social and Physical Renewal.

During 2018-2019 the Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership had a total over all spend of £495,189.84

This can be further broken down into the following spend under each of the strategic objectives:

Community Renewal	£56,613.50
Social Renewal	£136,575.94
Physical Renewal	£302,000.40
TOTAL RENEWAL	£495,189.84

It is acknowledged that neighbourhood regeneration is a long-term objective and that significant change can only be achieved over an extended period of time. Whilst there has been some narrowing of the gap in the quality of life between Bangor NRA and non-NRA's, given the pervasive and entrenched nature of deprivation and its impact on the community, there is a requirement to continue to deliver regeneration investment in Kilcooley on an on-going basis.

The Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership continues to be the driving force overseeing the delivery of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme for Bangor NRA.



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