

# Rathcoole

## Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Annual Report  
2018/19



Northern Ireland  
Statistics and Research Agency

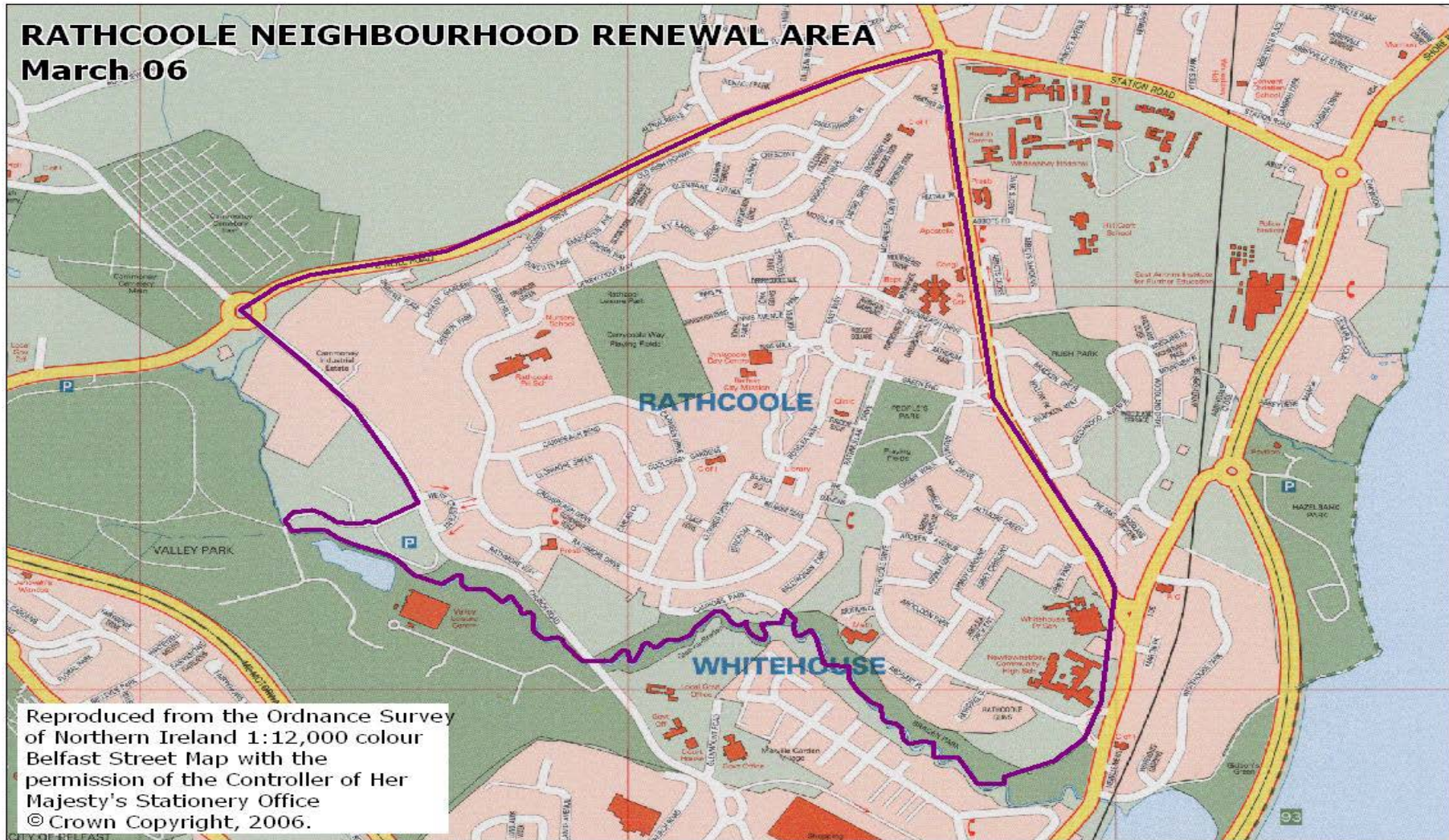


**DfC**

Department  
for Communities

[www.communities-ni.gov.uk](http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk)

Area Profile of Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA)



## **About Neighbourhood Renewal**

In June 2003, Government launched “People and Place – A strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal” This long term (7-10 year) strategy was designed to target those communities throughout Northern Ireland suffering the highest levels of deprivation. Neighbourhood Renewal is a cross Governmental strategy, which aims to bring together work of Government Departments in partnership with local people to tackle disadvantage and deprivation in all aspects of everyday life.

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

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

## **About Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership**

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

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

The Action Plan is also guided by a needs assessment, which is continuously updated as new information becomes available from Northern Ireland Statistical Research Agency. The Action Plan takes account of NINIS statistics, statutory priorities and lessons learned from the Neighbourhood Renewal Mid Term Review report.

The following information from NINIS shows highlights key points for residents living within Rathcoole:

## **Education and Learning**

Key Stage 1 Level 2 qualifications in English and Maths were higher than non-NRA areas by 0.9% and 0.2% respectively in the 2011/12 results. However by GCSE level the percentage of those achieving 5 GCSEs including Maths and English shows a significant and growing gap of 34.8%. School leavers with no GCSEs has also risen from 7.5% to 8.1%, with the 2011 non-NRA average being 1.4%

Between the 2001 Census and the 2011 Census the population with no qualifications within Rathcoole dropped from 59.6% to 43.2%. In 2011 the Northern Ireland average of individuals with no qualifications was 40.63, dropping the gap to only 2.57%.

The population who had a degree level/level 4 or higher qualification rose from 5.3% to 10.5% between the 2001 and 2011 census. Though percentage has nearly doubled in the space of ten years, the figures still remain behind the Northern Ireland average of 23.65%.

## **Well-Being and Employment**

In the 2011 census 31% of residents had a limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability, significantly higher than the Northern Ireland average of 20.69%.

In 2017 20% of residents in Rathcoole were on Employment and Support Allowance in comparison to 9% of the Non-NRA figures.

Jobseekers Allowance claimants are its lowest level since 2009, however in 2017 the percentage of Rathcoole residents on JSA was at 5.6% in comparison to 2.1% province wide.

## **Crime**

Overall crime rates per 1,000 of the population show that Rathcoole is a safe place to live, with figures often better in the NRA area than in non-NRA areas. An increase in drugs offences is noteworthy, however this is also evident in non-NRA areas. Though there has been no real change in the overall figures for Offences recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation, at 11.7 per 1,000 of the population, it is important to note that this figure is over double that reflected in the Non-NRA statistics.

## **Action Plan**

The Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership completed a review of its original Action Plan in 2011 and published further updates in 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2017 to ensure that the actions required against all key priorities identified were sufficiently detailed. The Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan reflects priorities that are valid and relevant for the area, are supported by robust evidence and take account of local knowledge.

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

To take forward the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership was established in 2006, The Partnership currently comprises of 24 members (Trust membership currently vacant) including representatives from the local community, voluntary and statutory organisations and elected representatives.

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

The Partnership will continue to work hard and respond to community needs and changes, as and when they occur. The Partnership meets on a bi monthly basis; with facilitation and Co-ordination of the Partnership and sub-groups provided through the Neighbourhood Renewal Co-ordinator post, which is funded by DfC through Belfast Regeneration Office and managed by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

**Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Structure and Membership:**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor David Hollis <b>Chairperson</b>
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor Billy Webb <b>Vice-Chairperson</b>
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor Robert Foster
ANBC - Elected Representative	Councillor Thomas Hogg
ANBC – Elected Representative	Alderman Billy De Courcy
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor Paul Hamill
ANBC – Community Services and Tackling Deprivation Manager	Elaine Manson
DFC - Belfast Regeneration Office	Michael Bradley/Claire Nolan
NIHE	Stephen Crawford
PSNI	Sergeant David Boyd (or representative)
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	Vacant – Occupant to be confirmed 2019/20
Inniscoole Day Centre	Louanne Bakker
Abbey Community College	Maria Quinn

Rathcoole Primary School	Emma Quinn
Education Authority	Francis Loughlin
Synergy	Adrian Smith/Elaine McCrum
Breakaways	Joyce Campbell
Newtownabbey Women's Group	Wilma Lennox
Rathcoole Creative Memories	Annie Anderson
Mallusk Enterprise	Emma Garrett
Newtownabbey Family Connections	Claire Humphrey
Newtownabbey Methodist Mission	Rev Billy Davison/Mary Henderson
Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey	Lorraine Adamson
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Louise Moore
RNR Co-ordinator/Tackling Deprivation Officer	Cathy Hall

### **Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership Sub-groups**

Currently the partnership facilitates 3 sub-groups to assist in the identification, development and, where appropriate, the delivery of projects which aim to address the 4 strategic objectives set out in the People and Place Strategy; Community Renewal, Social Renewal, Economic Renewal, and Physical Renewal.

The RNRP three sub-groups which work towards the four themes are:

- **Learning, Health and Well-Being,**
- **Economic and Physical**
- **Communications and Events.**

Each sub-group also assists local community organisations to co-ordinate actions that are beneficial for all communities living and working in the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA).

### **Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Sub-groups – Roles and Membership**

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

The Learning, Health and Well-Being sub-group, and the Economic and Physical Renewal sub-group meet bi-monthly alongside a separate Task Group which oversees the Improving Outcomes for Children in Rathcoole and Monkstown Action Plan. The Communications and Events sub-group meets monthly. A report of the activities of each sub-group is given at a feedback session to the main Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership at its bi-monthly meetings.

### **The aims of sub-groups are:**

- To influence statutory agencies to focus their investments and resources on the delivery of public services where they will have most impact on improving the well-being and quality of life for those living and working in Rathcoole.



- To engage in effective working partnerships with key stakeholders from all relevant sectors to pro-actively deliver the identified priorities detailed in the Neighbourhood Action Plan;
- To maintain a Neighbourhood Partnership and related sub-group structures that are representative of local regeneration stakeholders that will lead, co-ordinate and monitor implementation of the Neighbourhood Action Plan.

Though the current membership of the sub-groups is detailed below it should be noted that membership of the sub-groups are open. All sub-group members are welcome to attend any group, and any person or organisation expressing an interest in the work of the Partnership are free to attend. This list is therefore not exhaustive.

#### Learning, Health and Well-Being Sub-group

Organisation	Name
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor David Hollis
Department for Communities – Neighbourhood Renewal	Claire McKane
Education Authority	Lynn Clyde
NHSCT	Vacant – to be filled 2019/20
PSNI	Serg. David Boyd
Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey	Lorraine Adamson
Inniscoole Day Centre	Louanne Bakker
Synergy	Adrian Smith/Elaine McCrum
Breakaways	Joyce Campbell
NRC	vacant
Newtownabbey Methodist Mission	Mary Henderson
Education Authority	Lynn Clyde
Start 360	Evelyn McGuigan
Newtownabbey Methodist Mission	Frances Hunter
Newtownabbey Family Connections	Claire Humphrey

SureStart	Brenda Doherty
SureStart	Cathy Todd
Spark	Andrew Cuthbert
Rathcoole Primary School	Emma Quinn
Abbey Community College	Maria Quinn
Alzheimer's Society	Hannah Coleman
Listening Ear	Karen Phillips
RNR Co-ordinator/ Tackling Deprivation Officer, Neighbourhood Renewal	Cathy Hall

### Economic and Physical Sub-group

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>
ANBC Elected Representative	Councillor Billy Webb
ANBC Elected Representative	Councillor David Hollis
ANBC Economic Development	Seonaid Rooney
Department for Communities Neighbourhood Renewal	Claire McKane
Newtownabbey Jobs and Benefits Office	Jonathan Logan
Mallusk Enterprise	Emma Garrett
Community Representative	Annie Anderson
NIHE	Steven Crawford
Jobmatch Network Personnel	Michelle McMullan
Bryson Futureskills	Rab Guiney
People Plus	Jeanette McMurray
People Plus	Paula Barrett
RNR Co-ordinator/ Tackling Deprivation Officer, Neighbourhood Renewal	Cathy Hall

### Communication and Events Sub-group

Organisation	Name
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor Thomas Hogg
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor Robert Foster
ANBC – Elected Representative	Alderman Billy DeCourcy
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor David Hollis
ANBC – Community Services Officer	Jonathan Henderson
Department for Communities, Neighbourhood Renewal	Claire McKane
Newtownabbey Women's Group	Wilma Lennox
Newtownabbey Women's Group	Pat Murray
PSNI	Serg. David Boyd/Jackie McClurg
Community Representative	Annie Anderson
Breakaways	Joyce Campbell
Breakaways	May Clyde
Breakaways	Linda Shaw
Newtownabbey Methodist Mission	Flo Beckett
Newtownabbey Methodist Mission	Marie King
Rathcoole Library	Amanda Wardle
Tackling Deprivation Officer / RNR Coordinator Neighbourhood Renewal	Cathy Hall

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

### **Learning Health and Well-Being Sub-group**

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

In partnership with the Improving Outcomes for Children in Rathcoole and Monkstown Action Plan

- To develop a plan amongst schools to raise parents and children's views regarding education
- To promote and increase volunteer activity to support out of hours learning facilities
- To develop a co-ordinated early intervention approach for age 0-5 years
- To develop a family support programme
- To improve educational attainment for all ages as a result of support provided to the family.

- To target disengaged young people 16-18 years at risk of disengaging from education and training
- To improve educational attainment particularly among the 16-18 age group seen as disengaged from education and training provision
- To promote and support positive lifestyle choices
- To develop and promote a positive image of young people
- To improve relationships between young people and the wider community
- To create positive opportunities for young people at risk of social exclusion
- To increase the number of programmes for young people that focus on diversity, culture and identity
- To increase the participation of young people within Rathcoole on all matters that affect them.
- To improve opportunities for young people in relation to sport.
- To be responsive to the needs of young people and provide services at times that they require them.

**A Youth Providers Group has been established out of the remit of the Learning, Health and Well-Being Sub-Group to enable a more focused approach targeting the issues relating specifically to young people.**

#### **Economic and Physical**

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

#### **Communications and Events**

- To work towards building a united cohesive community moving away from divisions within the Rathcoole Area.
- To increase the number of volunteers to support community activities.
- To increase the number of community events for all the community to become involved in on a recurring basis.
- To improve communication methods.

- To support local residents to feel safe
- To support the maintenance of a drugs amnesty box.
- To support the development of the allotments project
- To improve the appearance and quality of experience in living within Rathcoole.

### **Delivery of the Action Plan**

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

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

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

### **Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund**

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

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

### **Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council**

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

Department for Communities funding of the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Co-ordinator for the year 2018/19 contributed towards technical assistance, partnership development, developing best practice and project expenses. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council managed the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator contract, enabling the post holder to work collaboratively with statutory, voluntary, community bodies and political representatives to drive forward the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan.

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

#### **The role of the Co-ordinator is:**

- To support the Neighbourhood Partnership to put in place appropriate procedures to govern, specifically, the DfC Code of Practice and Guiding Principles on Neighbourhood Renewal and the conduct of their business including policy on dealing with conflicts of interest;
- To support the Neighbourhood Partnership with monitoring of progress against the Neighbourhood Action Plan and to review and update priorities within the Action Plan on an annual basis;
- To establish and maintain thematic sub-groups to take forward priorities within the Neighbourhood Action Plan;
- To work with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and DfC on the development of future community development programmes;
- To provide strategic direction to the Neighbourhood Partnership and support and direction to the NR sub-groups;
- To influence and maintain service delivery in the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area;

- To work closely with the Rathcoole community, providing support and leadership, developing programmes aimed at older people, youth, women, men, health, education, employment and economic regeneration.
- To attract funding for community development projects in the area;
- To maintain vital links between the community and statutory sector and contribute to the building of community infrastructure in the Rathcoole Estate.

The Co-ordinator designs newsletters, updates social media sites to raise awareness of Neighbourhood Renewal, and produces quarterly, and annual reports.

### **The Synergy Centre**

The Synergy Centre is an activity based centre which develops programmes to reach the wider community. Synergy offers programmes aimed at mental and physical wellbeing, educational enhancement, and skills development, more information on these programmes can be viewed below. Adrian Smith, the original worker on the Synergy project since the commencement of Neighbourhood Renewal funding in Rathcoole, vacated the post in July 2018. A new member of staff, Elaine McCrum, was appointed and commenced her role in January 2019.

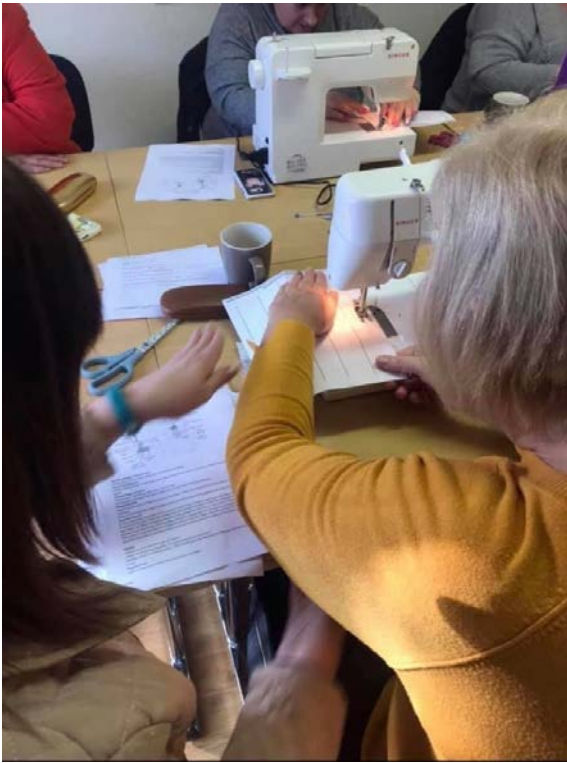
Alongside courses ongoing within Synergy premises, the organisation's Project Coordinator provides support to local organisations through the provision of courses and equipment/facilities. In 2019 Synergy's premises began to house a local mental health support group who were struggling to source a venue for their work. The coordinator works closely with the group to support their ongoing work and to help source funding/courses that may be relevant to the group.

Programmes delivered by Synergy in 2018/2019 include:

- Pre-employment programmes and support
- Genealogy
- History
- Art classes for people with learning difficulties



- Therapeutic anti-stress colouring group
- Computers for leisure
- ICT skills development and training
- Sewing Group
- Knitting Group



### **Quotes from Participants**

'Synergy, for me, has given me new hope meeting with my group on Tuesday. Thursday is sewing day, it is brilliant. Synergy is homely, friendly and understanding. I just love it.'

'Synergy is our lifeline. If we didn't have Synergy our group would probably have fallen apart. Synergy gave us a 'home' which is so important for all of us, who need each other's support to help us with our mental health.'

'Synergy has given me purpose to get out of the house at least one day a week. Elaine is one of the most genuine people I have met and the support that both I and the group have received is fantastic. All I can say is thank you!'

'Synergy gives out group hope. Hope for our future mental health, a place where we can share our fears and help each other to face each day and carry on. We all have problems which we can relate to and help each other through them.'

### **Newtownabbey Women's Group (NWG)**

Newtownabbey Women's Group has supported, developed and implemented programmes of social, educational and recreational activities to increase community capacity and build positive and effective relationships between the community and statutory sectors. The project worked closely with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council on programmes aimed at inclusion and increasing community development. The Development Worker for the organisation currently chairs the Communication and Events sub-group. The worker takes the lead on community engagement opportunities, liaising with the Council on community events and initiatives, with NIHE on matters relating to housing and with the Police and Community Safety bodies in the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Newtownabbey Women's Group runs a weekly event on a Monday evening for its full membership. A number of different programmes have been sourced and progressed through the week based on the needs of women in the locality. This has included health and well-being programmes, history programmes and a number of trips. During the week a drop-in centre is

facilitated to allow women facing social isolation to mingle. It also provides individuals with the opportunity to call in and seek support from the Development Worker in areas such as benefits, employment, health concerns etc.

Newtownabbey Women's Group are heavily involved in events that occur throughout the year, with their Development Worker sitting as chair of the Communications and Events sub-group, with an additional member of the group sitting on the sub-group. This year the Women's Group sourced funding from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council for the Rathcoole annual Christmas Festival, which had a footfall of an estimated 200 individuals. As part of their role in the Communications and Events sub-group, the group also helped to organise and support a summer fair and an age awareness event as well as providing support throughout the Learning Health and Well-Being week. This week included an Age Well event and a family fair in Rathcoole Primary, which was then mirrored in Abbots Cross Primary.

Newtownabbey Women's Group also participated in training to allow a number of its members to facilitate questionnaire sessions for Healthy North Belfast, collating information on the health of North Belfast using a positive enquiry model.

Members of Newtownabbey Women's Group have also been working hard to establish the work of the social enterprise aspect of the group. The group utilises the existing skills within the groups, provides additional training were needed, and encourages its members to use their skills to bring additional funding into the group. In December of 2018, for example, members of the group supplied teddy bear santa hats for some of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Christmas events, bringing in a small profit for the group.

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

Programmes delivered by Newtownabbey Women's Group in 2018/19 include:

- Social Enterprise training
- A daily drop in for women including social inclusion programmes and advice and signposting support
- Skills and hobby classes (crocheting, sewing, jewellery making, colouring-in)

- Personal development courses
- Provision of work placements for the unemployed
- A series of history courses looking at the history of Ireland from the Celts to the current day through Community Relations Forum
- A series of history courses through Training Women's Network
- Health awareness sessions



## **Examples of other groups working closely with the Partnership in the area**

### **Breakaways**

The Breakaways are a 60+ club who are always hard at work and play. Every Tuesday they meet for lunch and a dance but this is not all they do. Throughout the year they organise entertainment and fundraising events and go on a number of trips. One history related trip in particular was part funded through the RNRP Programme Costs fund. The group are also always at hand to help out at any community events, prepared to do anything from dressing up, acting and singing to making the tea. This has included support at the Partnership's older people themed event such as the Age Well event in Inniscoole Day Centre.

### **Men's Shed**

The Newtownabbey Men's Shed was originally set up with the support of Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal and has recently gone from strength to strength. The group now meets in Valley Business Park and opens at least three days a week running practical classes such as wood carving and turning through to history classes, painting and much more. Trips are also organised throughout the year. The group annually makes wooden toys to be presented to the children's hospice.

### **SPARK**

SPARK is a youth driven annual event hosted by local churches. Over one week in the summer a number of young people volunteer their time throughout the estate to provide services including drop ins, football training, pop up street parties and older people's events. During the 2018 SPARK summer event approximately 90 young people volunteered their time. The Partnership supported the group through advice and advertising.

### **Listening Ear**

Listening Ear is a new organisation with a focus on mental health. The aim of the organisation is to provide mental health training to individuals and groups. The training is accredited, and participants will learn the skill of both recognising mental health issues and learning how to support a person going through a mental health crisis. The Partnership has supporting the group through advice and help in promoting the service.

### **Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey**

The offices of Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey (previously Citizen's Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey) are within the Dunaney Centre in Rathcoole. The organisation offers advice on debt management, welfare issues and tax and benefits to local residents, with the office very well utilised all year round.

### **Additional Projects and Initiatives – Additional Funding Provision:**

Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership has both led and supported many further programmes and initiatives during 2018/2019 in an attempt to address deprivation. The Partnership has also worked with a range of Community and Voluntary Groups across the Rathcoole area to ensure that projects have been delivered at a high standard for the benefit of all residents in the area.

### **Barnardo's Newtownabbey Family Connections**

The Barnardo's Newtownabbey Family Connections Project works towards improving educational outcomes for children and young people in Rathcoole.

Their key areas of work during the 2018/2019 year were:

- Family Support Programme—providing support to local children and their families to enable a holistic change in the whole family dynamic in order to impact positively on the educational life of the child.
- THRiVE Campaign – this campaign seeks to improve the aspirations of children and young people.

Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership supported the work of both the Barnardo's Family Support Programme and the THRiVE Campaign through the provision of funding to assist in the delivery of training for local schools and printing costs to support the work of the THRiVE Campaign. This work was highlighted in the June edition of Antrim and Newtownabbey's *Borough Life* magazine.

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/boroughlife/>

### **Parents and Tots Workshops**

Two Parents and Tots Workshops were delivered in December 2018; aiming to support parents to develop confidence in engaging, and supporting their children through play. Teddy Tots provided educational sessions in The Newtownabbey Methodist Mission and Rathcoole Hall as part of each church's parents and tots programme.

### **Age Awareness and 'We Can' Age Well Events**

Rathcoole has a higher than normal aging population, with a number of lone living pensioners. The Partnership has been keen to encourage any work that supports older and isolated people throughout the estate. These events focused on mental health, physical abilities, health checks and as a mechanism to advertise the work of a number of groups throughout the area worker with older people.

The 'We Can' event was developed in partnership with the Age NI Community Navigator for the area.

### **Family Fairs**

A focus of the Barnardo's Family Support Programme during this year, as well as for the local schools, has been in increasing parental engagement with their children both in play and in education. The aim of the Family Fairs, hosted in Rathcoole Primary and Abbots Cross Primary, was to provide ideas for parents. Organisations such as Imagination Tots, Mini Explorers, Surestart and Moo Music alongside a Speech Therapist were in attendance at events both to provide advice and ideas for parents.

### **Older People's Programmes and Luncheon Clubs**

Funding was provided to allow for a joint trip between Rathcoole Hall Luncheon Clubs, Newtownabbey Methodist Mission Luncheon Clubs and Synergy. The aim of this funding was to promote the work of each of the groups, all running on different days, in order to support individuals to avail of more than one service. Many who attend each of the schemes face social isolation on a daily basis. The attendance at more than one facility will help to alleviate isolation.

### **Revision Blast Camps**

The Revision Blast Camps were funded primarily by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council with RNRP Programme Funding providing an education fun day through W5 Outreach at the end of the week. The aim of the Blast week was to provide a welcoming space for P7 pupils about to undertake their AQE exams with teachers from their own schools there to facilitate classes with their knowledge of the specific needs of their own pupils. The time allowed for both a more focused and fun approach to revision that teachers were unable to provide within the formal classroom setting with a number of pupils not participating in the exams.

### **Redeeming Our Communities**

RNRP supported Redeeming Our Communities' (ROC Care) befriending scheme in Rathcoole, through the provision of funding towards the management and co-ordination of the befriending scheme with a view to supporting the schemes growth and development within Rathcoole.

Referrals are received from the Northern Health Trust, the Community Navigator, housing associations (Radius & APEX), local churches, charities and local pharmacies. More groups and agencies are now aware of the befriending scheme and the support available to those who are isolated and lonely. Primarily clients are isolated because of old age and health, however a number of clients in their 40s/50s are isolated due to health issues.

ROC Care Rathcoole is delivered through a dedicated and committed team of volunteers. The ongoing support and training has raised awareness and knowledge of issues relating to older people as well as developing skills and capacity.

### **Sports Summer Scheme 2018**

The Sports Summer Scheme was provided for two weeks during the summer and was split by age category. The sessions focused on agility, balance and co-ordination and a free breakfast club was provided in the mornings with support from the Tesco Champion both in the provision of food and their presence during the hour the breakfast club was provided.

### **Community Training**

The Partnership hosted two food and hygiene Level 2 courses and 1 first aid course. Both courses were fully subscribed.



**Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership 2018/2019 Expenditure (by Strategic Objective)**

*The following table details current projects funded via the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment fund. It also details the 2018/2019 individual spend for each project, the total amount of expenditure by strategic objective and the overall 2018/2019 total expenditure in the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area.*

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding Amount 2017/18	2017/18 Spend (as at 31/03/18)
<b>COMMUNITY RENEWAL</b>			
<b>Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (in collaboration with Synergy/NWG) – Neighbourhood Renewal in Rathcoole</b>	01/04/2018 - 31/03/2019	£78,518.08	£68,978.62

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDING IN 2017/2018 YEAR

### Community Renewal\*

	<b>Synergy</b>	<b>Newtownabbey Women's Group</b>	<b>Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</b>
CR3 Number of people volunteering for community development activities	23	15	3
CR7 Number of community/voluntary groups supported	12	13	22
CR8 Number of community relations projects supported	2	7	4
CR10 Number of people using existing community facilities	84	300	-

### Social Renewal\*

	<b>Synergy</b>	<b>Newtownabbey Women's Group</b>	<b>Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</b>
SR(Ed)8 Number of pupils directly benefitting from the project	-	-	104
SR(H)4 Number of health education/awareness initiatives provided/delivered	3	6	6
SR(C)2 Number of community safety initiatives implemented	0	0	200

### Economic Renewal\*

	<b>Synergy</b>	<b>Newtownabbey Women's Group</b>	<b>Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</b>
ER4 Number of people receiving job specific training	4	19	-
ER15 Number of FTE jobs safeguarded	0.5	0.5	1

### Targets specific to Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator

NR Partnership to have reviewed and prepared annually Neighbourhood Renewal information pack for all new members of NRP and sub groups. To update this pack as necessary throughout the period up to 31/03/19.	Information Pack updated as necessary and on website.
Undertake an annual Training Needs Analysis of the NR Partnership and sub groups	Training needs analysis undertaken of main partnership and sub groups as requested.
NR Partnership to have undertaken a review of Partnership and sub group membership	Undertaken at each meeting of partnership and sub groups.
NR Partnership to have undertaken an annual review of NR Action Plan, in consultation with DFC, taking cognisance of the Measurement of Outcomes report, and update action plan accordingly. To ensure that NR Action Plan takes account of current service provision in the area through council and other statutory and voluntary and community sector organisations.	Action plan reviewed in September 2018.
An annual report to be produced for Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership approval which details the progress on NR implementation to date, NRIF investment in areas, programmes funded and outcomes achieved.	Annual report for 2018/19 provided December 2018.
NR Partnership to facilitate a minimum of 6 NRP meetings and a minimum of 12 Sub Groups meetings annually. To issue all meeting papers at least 2 full working days in advance of meetings. Agreed minutes of meetings should be reissued within 10 working days after each meeting.	7 Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership meetings, 26 sub group meetings – (Communications and Events, Learning Health and Wellbeing and Economic and Physical).
NR Partnership to follow up on action points from each sub group to drive forward implementation of Neighbourhood Action Plan.	Done on an ongoing basis throughout 2018/19 at each partnership and sub group meeting.
NR Partnership to have provide progress of sub groups and projects to each NRP meeting and to provide updates on new funding opportunities. To update NR Action Plan in advance of all NRP meetings and issue to all members at least 2 working days in advance of meetings.	Done on an ongoing basis throughout 2018/19 at each partnership meeting.
To raise awareness of Best Practice by ensuring Partnership members are involved in Councils Best Practice Visits/Community Planning Events/Guest Speakers and that key	Done on an ongoing basis throughout 2018/19 at each partnership and sub group meeting.

messages with regard to Community Planning are disseminated to Partnership members in a timely manner.	
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## Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership Conclusion

In the 2018/19 financial year, **Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership** total overall spend was - **£68,978.72**

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

<b>Community Renewal</b>	<b>£ 20,693.64</b>
<b>Social Renewal</b>	<b>£ 20,693.64</b>
<b>Economic Renewal</b>	<b>£ 20,693.64</b>
<b>Physical Renewal</b>	<b>£ 6,897.80</b>





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