

Downpatrick

Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Annual Report
2019/20



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency



Department for
Communities

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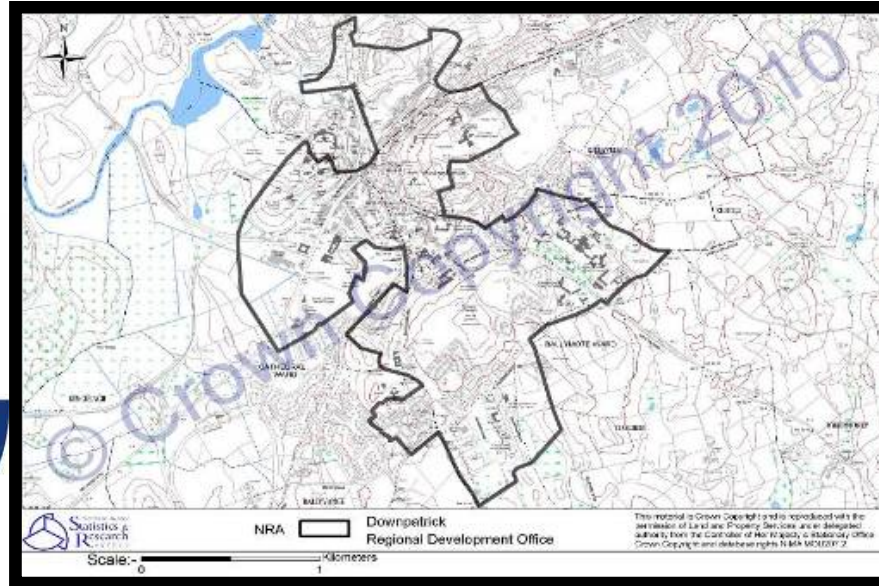
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Neighbourhood Renewal

The Neighbourhood Renewal policy “People & Place” 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.

Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Area

The Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal area comprises the housing areas within Downpatrick (Flying Horse, Model Farm and new Model Farm estates, Kennedy Square, Meadowlands, and Marian Park) and a substantial part of the town centre including the Bridge Street / Mount Crescent area. By July 2015, it had a population of approximately 6,113 and by 2017 was 6,292.

Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

The Downpatrick Neighbourhood Partnership was established in March 2006 to take forward the local delivery of the Neighbourhood Renewal strategy. It comprises 26 members from the community/voluntary, private and statutory sectors. The Partnership is defined as a non-constituted entity acting in an advisory role to the Department for Communities on Neighbourhood Renewal issues in the designated Neighbourhood Renewal area. It currently meets on a 6 weekly basis and its administration services are provided by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.



The Department for Communities provides the associated costs for administrating the Partnership under technical assistance arrangements.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership's sub groups are transient and short term, set up to undertake specific tasks 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 Downpatrick Vision and Action Plan



The Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership set its 10 year vision for the area back in 2006. It states that:

“Local neighbourhoods in Downpatrick will be safe, attractive places where people want to live, work and play. Communities will be healthier and prosperous, working together to create a positive future for our children and young people”.

Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plans



The Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership has a 3 year Action Plan in place. It is reviewed each year in line with the Department for Social Development guidance. The Plan sets out those revenue (service delivery type) projects that are currently being funded by the Department, together with any new revenue projects that are in development. It also sets out the capital development schemes that the Partnership has identified for delivery. This Annual Report document reports on delivery of the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan for the 2019/2020 financial year.

Downpatrick NR Partnership Members

Name	Organisation
Nicholas McCrickard Chairperson	County Down Rural Community Network
Macartan Digney (Vice Chairperson)	Marian Park Residents Association
Donna Marks	Marian Park Residents Association
Lisa Perry/Patricia Kearney	Flying Horse Ward Community Forum
Jeanette McCarthy, Alison McCarthy, Doreen Brown	Tosu Ur
Anthony Trainor, Cadogan Enright	Stream Street Residents Association
Danny Quinn, Kerry Gracey	Meadowlands Community Association
Kyla Hannaway	Model Farm Community Association
Lilian Swaffied/Susan Casement	Bridge Street & Marian Crescent
Dan McEvoy	Downpatrick Collective
Tatiana Seed	South Eastern Regional College
Maria Kelly/Anne McKeever	South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust
Jenny Laverty	County Down Rural Community Network
Owen McDonnell	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Donna Weir	Education Authority
Aishling Rennick/Katrina Hynds	Newry Mourne & Down District Council
Raphael Crummy	Department for Communities

Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Projects

The Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund has supported five Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan revenue projects during the 2019/2020 financial year and one capital project as follows:-

Community Renewal

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council - Neighbourhood Partnership Technical Assistance



This project provides Council with funding to deliver the Neighbourhood Renewal secretariat support function without which the Partnership could not effectively operate. This includes the co-ordination of Partnership meetings, planning events and other initiatives, the production of Neighbourhood Renewal Action plans and contribution to the monitoring and evaluation process. This service is seen as vital to the smooth functioning of Neighbourhood Renewal in Downpatrick.

Partnership Meeting

The Council reported through an outcomes based approach the difference that the project made not just on the inputs or processes over which we have control, but the success and impact of tangible improvements in the things that matter to the residents of Downpatrick under the management of the Technical Assistance project:

	QUANTITY	QUALITY
Effort	<p>How much did we do?</p> <p>Held five partnership meetings throughout the year Hosted three DfC Meetings Held three Stakeholder Meetings re Trojan Horse Completed one capital project funding application Submitted one business case Completed one equality impact assessment Completed one Rural Needs Assessment Sourced Funding for one opening for the new Meadowlands Play Park Submitted three reports to AHC Committee Provided updates to Downpatrick DEA Meetings Had consultation meetings with Meadowlands Community Association and Flying Horse Ward Community Forums Cross over of programmes/events with Downpatrick DEA with residents withing the NRA</p>	<p>How well did we do it?</p> <p>20-25 members in attendance at each of the 5 partnership meetings. Regular updates provided to Partnership Board by all Establishment of new Trojan Horse Working Party consisting of DfC, NMDDC Officials & FHWCF £25,000 Funding secured for additional work in Meadowlands Play Park Appointment of consultants & contractors to complete works in Meadowlands £200 funding secured for Official Opening Play Park 2 x visits to Community Facilities in NMDDC area with FHWCF Draft plans have been drawn up for Trojan Horse and work completing on Planning Application</p> <p>Joint DEA/NR Projects</p> <p>250 people attending the Downpatrick Walk for Life (Dunleath Park) 32 primary school children from Ballymote involved in the Building Resilience Programme (St Colmcille's) 100 primary school children and teachers availed of the Healthy Me (Mental Health Programme) in Downpatrick Primary 30 primary school children involved in cross community intergenerational Christmas Carol Service with Alzheimer's Society (Our Lady & St Patricks)</p>
	IS ANYBODY BETTER OFF	
Effect	<p>25 members of the NRP involved in decision making Fulfilment of one capital priority met to drive inclusive community usage Meadowlands residents empowered in community relations 30 children taught coping strategies and where to seek support/help 100 children availed of health projects</p>	<p>100% of partnership members empowered 100% increase of disabled access provided at the playpark 100% positive communication amongst the Downpatrick NRA 30% increase in cross community intergenerational skills 100% increase in knowledge of improved mental health issues 100% positive impact on Meadowlands residents health & wellbeing 75% reduction in social isolation within Meadowlands 100% Trojan Horse Working Party</p>

Social Renewal

Downpatrick Public Health Agency – Health & Community Engagement Programme

This project, which is being managed by the Public Health Agency, has been running since 2013. It involves the employment of a Community Development Health Worker to deliver a range of targeted Health and Wellbeing and community initiatives within the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal area.

The service delivery has been outsourced by the Public Health Agency to a community sector organisation - County Down Rural Community Network, under Service Level Agreement arrangements. This project has delivered a range of activities including health programmes, identifying and developing new volunteers for community groups and delivering greater engagement and networking between and within groups. This has helped develop the skills and confidence of the local community to enable them to participate in the health and community related activities.

Healthy Activity – Men’s Shed Bee Keeping Initiative



The PHA reported at the end of the 2019/20 financial year on the success and impact of noticeable improvements in the things that matter to the residents of Downpatrick NRA that participated in Health and Wellbeing and community initiatives:

How Much Did We Do?

Placements provided for volunteering opportunities through:

- Daily activity at the NRA allotments
- Daily and weekly activity at 'Bee Keeping'
- Fifty plus groups including the Men's Group and the Women's Group
- Weekly activity, four volunteers/Men's Group, weekly activities, 12 volunteering at the allotments and thirteen at the Bee Keeping/Women's Group, weekly activity, 4 volunteers.

Funding Applications Made#

Financial Assistance PCSP/Awards for All/ASDA

Training/improving skills/capacity

Events Management Marshalling/Basic Food and Hygiene/First Aid

Community Engagement Events

Seven events planned

How Well Did We Do It?

Volunteering opportunities:

- NRA allotments, 12 volunteers per week
- Bee Keeping, 13 volunteers on a weekly basis
- Men's Group, 4 volunteers per week
- Women's Groups, 4 volunteers per week

Funding Secured:

Financial Assistance, Good Relations/PCSP, 7 applications made, £5,750 Awards For All. £6,456 Meadowlands Community Association for additional programme of activities/ASDA. 2 applications secured £1,050 Flying Horse Ward Community Forum.

Training/Improving Skills/Capacity

- Events Management Marshalling, 24 trained/Basic Food and Hygiene – 10 attended.
- First Aid Emergency First Aid and AED Training – 12 registered and cancelled due to Covid-19

Community Engagement Events

- DCC 2 events Halloween and Christmas family event, FHWCF 1 senior event
- MPCA 1 family Christmas event, BS&MCA 1 senior event, MPCA opening of play park and Ballyhorgan Beach community event (7 groups)

Groups Supported

- 7 groups supported with updated action plans, FHWCF – AGM and Charity Commission Return. Funding applications and monitoring returns/DCC, AGM and Secretariat role up to November 2019 and still assisting with some admin support. Assisted with youth intervention project/BS&MCCA, SSRA, MCA, MFCA, TU and MPCA, assisted with funding applications and monitoring returns/Downpatrick Men's Club, Chaired AGM and assisted with evaluations.

Is Anyone Better Off?

Volunteering Opportunities:

This give volunteers the opportunity to sustain and avail with the smooth running of the various activities within the NRA. The over 50's groups have been ongoing for over 14 years now and without the help and support from the volunteers they would not exist. 28 socially isolated older residents have received a weekly activity, additional support and sign posting to relevant statutory agencies.

The allotments and Bee Keeping is improving the mental health of our volunteers and plot holders. A number of projects/groups have received educational information from volunteers i.e.: Holiday Hunger project, Barnardo's Saturday club for children on the Autism Spectrum and physical disabilities. The senior groups benefitted from the Bee Keeping making their own polish with wax from the local hives.

- Allotments – daily activity, 2 volunteers and weekly activity, 12 volunteers/Bee Keeping, daily and weekly activity, 13 volunteers.
- 50 plus groups, weekly activity, 4 volunteers/Men's Group, weekly activities, 12 volunteering at the allotments and 13 at the Bee Keeping/Women's Group, weekly activity, 4 volunteers.

Training/Improving Skills/Capacity

Volunteers and member groups learnt new skills and delivered projects in a safe manner.

- Events Management Marshalling, 24 trained/Basic Food and Hygiene, 10 attended.
- First Aid Emergency First Aid and AED Training, 12 Registered and Cancelled due to Covid-19.

Community Engagement Events

Families and individuals benefitted from these events as they are all free and held in a safe and secure environment.

- DCC 2 events Halloween and Christmas, FHWCF, 1 senior event, MPCA and 1 family Christmas event.
- BS&MCA 1 senior event, MPCA opening of play park and Ballyhornan Beach community event (7 groups).

Groups Supported

- 7 groups supported with updated actions plans, FHWCF AGM and Charity Commission Return. Funding applications and monitoring returns, DCC AGM and Secretariat role up to November 2019 and still assisting with some admin support
- BS&MCCA, SSRA, MCA, MFCA, TU and MPCA assisted with funding applications and monitoring returns
- Downpatrick Men's Club chaired AGM and assisted with evaluations, member groups are growing and increasing in confidence, taking on management roles and responsibilities that they would normally shy away from, training has provided the groups with the knowledge and skills to run very successful events within their own estates or on a larger scale i.e.: Halloween and Christmas.
- All of the estates are benefitting from the hard and dedicated work of the volunteers. Estates are kept clean and tidy with regular clean up by the volunteers.

The Covid-19 has been a difficult time for the groups and they have applied for funding, awaiting outcome. They are identifying those residents most in need and have referred a number of residents on to CDRCN to receive virtual vouchers for the food bank and meat parcels.

A number of the groups have been providing activities playing bingo, painting walls and hanging baskets, provided by the allotments to brighten up the estates. This is all done through social distancing ensuring that everyone is kept safe.

Economic Renewal

Driving to Success

This project provides additional support in education and training for neighbourhood renewal residents. It includes a bespoke programme of vocational skills and personal development training to assist young people to seek and secure employment / better employment, through participation in a training programme leading to the achievement of a nationally recognised qualification and the chance to obtain a driving licence. The project has been in place since 2012 and has continued to meet its targets.





Students from South Eastern Regional College's Downpatrick Campus were presented with certificates following successful completing of the Driving to Success programme 2019/20

Tatiana Seed, Project Office, Driving to Success at SERC said "This local project aims to engage with people from the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Area to equip them with practical skills and knowledge to improve their employability".

She added "We are delighted that this year 26 students have achieved nationally recognised qualifications in Health and Social Care, Hospitality and Customer Services, Personal Development and IT through SERC. In addition, the programme has provided free driving lessons and an opportunity for students to take their driving theory and practical test to obtain a full driving licence. This alone can make a huge difference to participants' self confidence and independence as they go about their daily lives and greatly improves their employment opportunities.

The SERC reported through an outcomes based approach the difference that the project made and the success and the impact of tangible improvements in the things that matter to the NRA residents in Downpatrick that took the course.

How Much Did we Do?

- 30 people, residents of the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Area took a bespoke innovative further education course leading to achievement of two level 2 nationally recognised qualifications in personal development, IT and a vocational subject and to obtaining a full car driving licence on completion of the programme.
- 26 participants completed the programme
- Course activities included various training to acquire relevant knowledge and practical skills, such as:
 - ✓ Use of Health and Social Care equipment in HSC Unit at SERC
 - ✓ Hospitality Industry insight at Burrendale Hotel, Country Club and Spa in Newcastle
 - ✓ Mind-set Workshop, mental health and resilience training delivered by the Action Mental Health guest speaker
 - ✓ 15 hours of driving theory practice sessions with additional 6 hours of tutorials
 - ✓ PSNI Road Safe Roadshow at SERC
 - ✓ Access to online DVSA licenced software with driving theory resources

How Well Did we Do It?

The programme of courses was tailored to the learners' individual needs to offer the participants unique learning experience high quality tuition and access to resources and facilities available for SERC students.

The programme provided the following:

- Choice of Semester 1 or Semester 2 courses with the preferred modules to study and timeframes to fit in with the other participants' commitments e.g. studying, caring responsibilities, considering possible job offers etc.
- Courses timeframe 9am to 3pm met the participants childcare arrangements
- Full allowance of driving lessons was provided in line with satisfactory attendance and after participants had passed their theory test
- Student attendance was recorded electronically and was available for the students to view on the Students Register App
- Learning support for IT class as and when required and additional tutorial sessions and 1 to 1 tutorials to meet individual learning needs
- Access to specialist IT equipment, headphones in the classroom and laptops for work at home for those who do not have access to a P.C.
- High quality tuition in line with the standards set up by the Awarding bodies
- Driving lessons instruction provided by ADI Driving Instructors
- Availability to take driving lessons in a car with an automatic gear box as a reasonable adjustment for individuals if required

- Free access to SERC services for students, career advice, individual career planning, counselling, ebooks, eresources
- All modules of personal development and vocational training were combined in one qualification, hence only 1 registration fee was paid to the OCN NI Awarding body
- Contract for the provision of driving lessons granted to the Driving Instructors who offered the best value for money and high quality of instruction
- The project was managed on a day to day basis by Project Officer reporting to the Project Manager, Downpatrick Campus Manager
- Regular progress reviews were held to ensure the targets were met. Quarterly Progress reports were submitted to the key stakeholders
- Accuracy of the project expenditure claims was ensured by SERC financial procedures which address governance and accountability
- Quarterly Financial Reports were prepared in co-operation with SERC Finance Department to ensure budget requirements were adhered to with timely reporting
- Project participants, SERC staff and Driving Instructors working on the project gave their feedback, which stated 98% student satisfaction with the teaching of the subjects and provision of services, and 100% staff/partner satisfaction with the projects operation and management

Is Anyone Better Off?

- 26 students achieved qualifications in one of vocational areas (social care, hospitality and customer services), which are in great demand on the local market
- Participants developed practical and employability skills, which will help them to recover barriers to employment
- Participants identified suitable educational progression pathways within SERC to re-engage in education and skills development
- The provision of driving lessons enhanced the possibility of a participant being able to travel to take up an opportunity for employment
- People from the Downpatrick NRA were provided access to a bespoke programme of vocational skills and personal development training which the College could not provide under mainstream funding
- Students stated in their feedback on participant on the programme that they had improved their:
 - ✓ Social inclusion by having met new people and made friends
 - ✓ Behaviours by giving up bad habits, being more considerate about others, improving their mental health, having greater motivation and confidence, enhanced interest in continuing with education
 - ✓ Attitudes by being more organised, setting up goals, actively looking for work

Project Evaluation Shows:

- Post project employment – 9 participants have got a job (6 full time, 2 part time and 1 seasonal and voluntary) in the following sectors, health and social care, 3 catering, 3 retail, 1 manufacturing, 1 cleaning
- 3 participants were able to get a job with driving to work requirements after they passed driving test
- Further education, 6 participants decided to continue education at SERC in academic year 2020/21.

Individual Success Stories

Participant 1

Achieved 2 qualifications and obtained driving licence. After the project has attained a full time job in catering as a waiter and now is training to be a supervisor. He is also planning to enrol on evening part-time IT course at SERC.

Participant 2

Achievement of the First Aid qualification allowed the participant to take a voluntary role with Order of Malta Ambulance Service and take up training with the local Fire Brigade team

Participant 3

Obtaining a car driving licence allowed the participant to take a full time job as a chef in a restaurant in Belfast

Participant 4

Admitted that achievement of his full potential on the project and obtaining a car driving licence boosted their confidence, greatly improved their mental health, encouraged healthier living habits and motivated them to set goals for the future.

Participant 5

Participated on the programme to achieve useful qualifications, to improve self-confidence with the aim of changing personal circumstances, which allow her to get her children back home from foster care. Positive steps are currently being made in this direction

Many project participants admitted that participation on the programme has helped them build their confidence, boost their self-esteem and motivation alongside the new relevant and practical skills. Following completion of the course many feel they have the confidence to continue their education at SERC and make a difference for themselves. They also said that there is a lot of support available to get people engaged in education or applying for jobs. The participants would advise anyone in the area to think about participation on the Driving to Success programme.

Social Renewal – Education

South Eastern Education and Library Boards - Parents – Speech & Language Therapy

The main aim of the project is to raise standards in language and literacy by providing early identification and support for children at risk of underachieving. All children involved in the service have a comprehensive assessment of their speech, language and communication skills carried out by the Speech and Language Therapist (SLT). The SLT then carry out observations focusing on children on the SLT caseload. Time is spent supporting identified children either in a group or one to one basis as directed by the SLT. In addition the SLT consults with parents and teachers to explain the process and provide advice on how best to support the child at home and in the classroom. Parents are invited to attend some of the sessions and are set home learning tasks to complete with the child. Parent training sessions are also offered to give parents advice on strategies and activities to carry out at home to support their child's language development.

Talk Boost Programme



The SEH&SCT reported through an outcomes based approach the difference that the project made not just on the inputs or processes over which we have control, but the success and impact of tangible improvements in the things that matter to the children and parents who benefitted from this intervention:

How Much Did We Do?

- 980 therapy sessions delivered (includes 324 through Extended Schools)
- 62 children involved in the Speech and Language intervention programme – group/individual sessions, home programmes
- 4 children participated in Talk Boost Language programme
- 92 parent contacts made – through face to face meetings and observation sessions/telephone contacts
- 4 parents attended training sessions related to specific areas of speech and language development
- 23 education staff attended training sessions regarding the SLT service in schools and supporting their development of speech sounds through cued articulation
- 7 education staff were trained to deliver Talk Boost language programme

How Well Did We Do It?

10 days – average time waiting for assessment.

Parental Satisfaction:

- 92% of parents of children who had attended previous appointments at the local clinic/health centre felt that the Speech Language Therapy service offered in the school was 'more beneficial than' or 'as beneficial as' a clinic based service.
- 94% of parents 'strongly agreed/agreed' that they were satisfied with the amount of contact with the Speech and Language Therapist i.e. through reports/letters/phone calls/newsletters/meetings/observation of therapy sessions.
- 100% of parents 'strongly agreed/agreed' and that their child's speech and language skills had improved.
- 100% of parents 'strongly agreed/agreed' that they were satisfied with the speech and language therapy service their child had received in school.

Parent opinions on the service delivered:

'Child X has improved greatly while receiving Speech and Language Therapy. It is the main reason we choose the school and we think it is an invaluable service'.

'Speech and Language in school was far better for my son than going to clinic. He felt excluded as he missed school going to the clinics'.

'This service has been one of the greatest supports my child has received. We are very grateful and fully appreciate all the help'.

Education staff satisfaction:

- 100% of staff felt they now had the skills to implement the Talk Boost Language programme in their schools following specific training.

Education staff commented on the benefits of the Speech and Language Therapy school service:

- Good communication for Individual Education Plan target setting
- Good home school communication
- Having it 'in house'
- Seeing the team first hand when we need to discuss a child
- Resources on hand
- Having staff equipped and trained to support what the Speech and Language Therapy team do.

Is Anyone Better Off?

- 24% discharged from the Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) service with speech, language and communication skills within normal limits/reached potential
- Coaching of 3 classroom assistants through their attendance of therapy session with their allocated child
- 4 parents availed of training sessions on specific areas of speech and language development
- 24 parents of children on the active SLT caseload have developed their skills in carrying out therapy
- At home by attendance at therapy observation sessions in school

Parent comments on improvements made for their child:

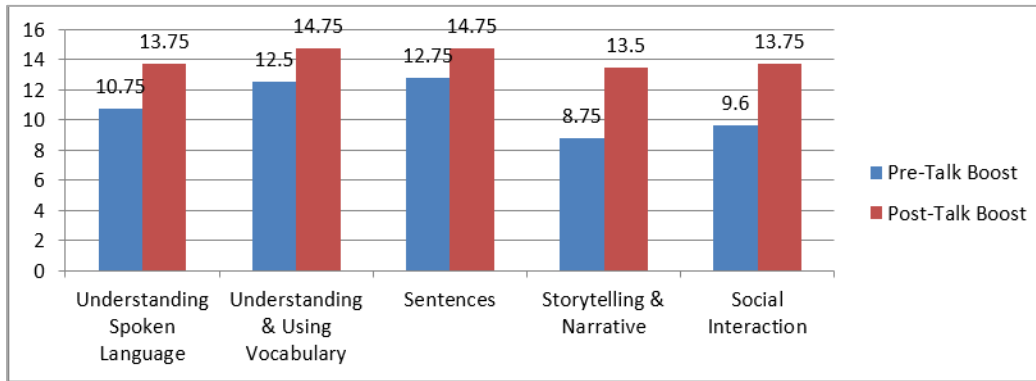
'Speech and language sessions have made a significant difference to Child X's speech. She would definitely not be as advanced if she had not received it. She improves and continues to improve after each sessions'.

'I am blow away at the progress in such a short space of time. Fantastic service'

'The service provided in school is invaluable, my son made fantastic improvements in a short space of time with little disruption to his school day'.

Talk Boost

Average increase in scores for those schools which completed the programme during this reporting period.



Social Renewal - Health

Downpatrick Family Health & Wellbeing

Downpatrick Family Health & Wellbeing project is facilitated through a joint approach linking the EA, South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust, Downpatrick Sure Start, Bryson Charitable Group, Action for Children, Home Start and County Down Rural Community Network. Started in 2011, the project provides a coordinated network of health and family support services to neighbourhood renewal residents through a new Parent Visitor Programme; a Family Support Home Visiting Service; and a Mobile Crèche provision. The project continued to meet its objectives throughout the year.

New mum and baby class



The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust reported through an outcomes based approach the difference that the project made and the success and impact of tangible improvements in the things that matter to parents that participated in the classes.

How Well Did We Do It?

- 20 families have availed of the new parent programme from 20 week gestation until the child reaches 2 years of age. Additionally during this time families can avail of Sure Start services and apply for a place on the projects Developmental programme for 2/3 year olds which aids the transition into preschool.
- 40 families have received a Family Support Service, 108 children have had access to the service over the year. Some of these children (4-11 year olds) may have assessed Sure Start services previously which provides a good foundation for

building relationships with the family. Additionally younger siblings can avail of Sure Start services and may also apply for a place on the projects Developmental programme for 2/3 year olds which aids the transition into preschool.

- 108 unique adult individuals (annual stats) 140 unique children attended Parenting and Healthy Lifestyle Programme
- 76 crèche facilities were provided to enable parents to attend Parenting and Healthy Lifestyle Programme

Is Anyone Better Off?

Family Support

'Great service worked really well for all the family. Thanks.'

'Good to know that staff are at the end of the phone if I need them again'

'Molly has been fantastic with my child, she followed everything until she knew Molly's time was running out, then it is 90% back to normal. The service was fantastic'

'A real success after the programme'

'Yes it has been really helpful'

'Really happy with the service and our family support worker in particular has been really helpful'

'The service has supported me to deal with the issues more effectively myself'

'Lorraine has been fantastic, she is friendly and approachable and has been a great help to us. Emily responded very well to Lorraine and was happy to work with Lorraine'

'Thank you for your help'

'It has provided us with some good new ideas to work on. It will be interesting to see what improvements it makes over time'

Weaning Group

4 mums attended and completed the evaluation.

What Went Well?

None of the babies had commenced weaning. Those attending were asked to write on a sticky note what they have learnt from the session. The responses included:

'Importance of different textured foods on speech development'

'Different textures of foods'

'Can mash food rather than puree, helps with speech development'

'No whole milk in baby's bottle until 1 year old'

What didn't work so well?

One mum who had confirmed didn't attend.

Learning Achieved

These parents have all increased their knowledge about weaning their babies.

Signposting

Their health visitors were advised that each of them had attended the session.

New Mums Group

13 mums attended over the 6 weeks with 4 of them attending every sessions, 3 others attended 5 sessions, 1 mum attended 4 weeks, 1 attended 3 sessions, 3 attended twice and 1 attended 1 session. We had a crèche staff member as a we had 3 toddlers also attending some weeks. The nine mums attending the last session completed an evaluation.

This was a more structured group than in the past with each week focusing on a Five to Thrive topic, starting with brain development on the first week.

The majority of mums self-reported that they had learnt new things about their baby's development e.g. how not to compare and all babies are different and develop at different stages. They were asked what impact the Five to Thrive information had on them as a mummy and the comments included:

'Helped me understand the importance of following simple things like cuddle, relax etc.'

'It's made me more aware of my interaction with my baby throughout different times of the day'

'Encouraged me to talk more, relaxing to help baby'

'Relax, getting time for yourself is important for you and baby. Remember tone of voice'

'Looking for cues and responding, opportunity for play at different times e.g. changing'

'Highlighted the need for relax time for both mummy and baby'

'Made me think to do these'

'Great tips and ideas for bonding with my baby'

They were also asked what they have noticed about their baby after hearing about Five to Thrive and responded:

'His vocal abilities, his touch and laughing'

'Taking it all in'

'How he responds to me talking/facial expressions'

'Noticed differences and appreciate individual developments'

'She loves cuddles. She enjoys playing with soft toys'

'More responsive to me. Inquisitive too'

'Happier'

100% of the mums stated that attending the group had increased their confidence. They were asked about what they had most enjoyed about the group and commented as follows:

'Talking to other mums. Getting tips from them. Helpful information too'

'Loved talking to the other mums'

'Organisation, good to have group discussion and then time to chat'

'Meeting new mums'

'Meeting new mums and gaining their advice and support'

'Talking to other mums and learning from their experiences'

'Meeting new mums, sharing my experiences with them and learning about myself, coping techniques'

'the chance to meet other mums and share ideas and stories'

When asked what they least enjoyed 2 mums made comments:

'2 hours maybe a bit long, baby became tired after an hour'

'Going home time'

Other comments included:

'The whole experience has helped me develop a new perspective on my parenting. I feel very grateful to have been part of the group'

'I really enjoyed the group. Lynn was excellent and always gave great advice'

'We will miss Lynn terribly'

'Thank you very much'

'Last longer'

These mums have made friends and have gone as a group to Stay and Play.

Baby Massage Evaluation

Results from baby massage classes completed. 16 evaluations were returned.

- 16 participants found the course very useful and never had any difficulty or felt uncomfortable with any of the movements
- 16 participants practiced the baby massage techniques between classes
- 10 parents confirmed that as a result of attending the baby massage their baby's sleep pattern improved, 4 said there was no change and 2 were unsure
- 16 participants confirmed that their baby was more settled and relaxed in general
- 9 parents confirmed that prior to massage their baby suffered colic or constipation with 7 parents confirming no

All participants confirmed that the programme benefitted themselves and their children.

- Nice to spend one to one time with baby and has helped with constipation
- Nice meeting other mums, starting massage with bedtime routine
- Learned some good moves to do after bath time to relax baby and enjoyed the social aspect too
- It really befitted my child as he has become more settled and found it relaxing
- Helped with one to one time, difficult at home with other siblings, relaxed wind
- Special time together
- Relaxed time together
- Yes very much
- Lovely one to one time

Have you noticed any changes in your child's speech, language and communication skills?

Some of the parents stated that:

'Their children now know more rhymes than before'

'The children engaged and developed more. Some of the children were able to use more vocabulary and could use more language through rhythm, rhyme and story time'

'The children love attending this group, we sing the songs regularly at home and it has helped with speech development'

'As a childminder my children love and look forward to coming see (Ginger) each week. They enjoy the rhymes and stories each week'

'Yes absolutely, no dummy more speech, more singing and dancing'

How often did you attend Rhythm, Rhyme and Story Time Group?

Out of 12 evaluation forms 4 parents and their children came almost every week and 6 parents and children came every week.

Some of the parents commented:

'Children really love coming to rhyme time and seeing Ginger, they especially love Hokey Cokey and the musical instruments'

'Great group look forward to coming back in September'

'The girls are fabulous, very encouraging and fun'

'One parent has suggested that there be summer sessions'

Cook It Evaluation

Feedback from 3 participants.

Did you enjoy the Cook it session?

Yes, all of it, 3. Yes, some of it, 0. No, not at all, 0.

What did you enjoy most?

- Learning new healthy ideas from other mums and by chatting to other mums getting hints and tips from others.
- Having time away from children and getting cook with both hands
- Sharing ideas around health eating and working together

What did you enjoy least?

- Not enough weeks
- Nothing

Did the session change any of your ideas about healthy eating and how?

- Yes, cooking from scratch is cheap.
- Using less processed and jar food and understanding health eating for the family
- some new ideas of things to use as healthier alternatives when cooking

Did the session help you put healthy eating into practice?

Yes, a lot, 3 participants.

- It increased my confidence and I have taken each recipe we have done in class and made for my family at home and they have enjoyed every meal
- I tend to try and cook healthy meals at home but I got some ideas to involve the kids
- Use alternative ingredients

Since attending the sessions have you:

1. Bought or cooked any different or new types of food to the ones you would normally have bought, e.g. spread, bread?
 - a. Yes no jars, as sauce was made from scratch
 - b. Tried some recipes at home with the kids
 - c. Used ideas to incorporate into meals at home
2. Have you cooked meat without adding fat or oil?
 - a. Yes – 2
 - b. No – 1
3. Added vegetables to dishes that you wouldn't have before?

- a. Yes – 3
- b. No – 0

4. Reduced your sugar in cooking or in your daily intake?

- a. Yes – 3
- b. No – 0

Physical Renewal

Downpatrick Meadowlands Play Park Equipment Enhancement



Following the success of the newly installed Play Park in 2018/19, it was recognised that the community needed an ability swing that could accommodate wheelchair access. The project developed by the local community, the Downpatrick NR Partnership and Newry Mourne & Down District Council allowed for an inclusive play park to provide a much needed playing provision for the local community and the wider area by encouraging more active lifestyle choices and creating a space for individuals, families, schools and youth centres to come together and socialise through children's physical play. It was particularly important that through its design and by the nature of the play equipment that the park was accessible by children of all abilities.

The addition of the ability swing in 2019/20 to the play park provides a valuable provision to the area, driving inclusive community usage. Simply put, inclusive play, means all children, regardless of their ability, gender, age or background, should be given the same opportunities to explore, discover and achieve during play.

Downpatrick Partnership 2019/2020 expenditure (by Strategic Objective)

The following table details current projects funded via the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment fund. It also details the 2019/2020 individual spend for each project, the total amount of expenditure by strategic objective and the overall 2019/2020 total expenditure in the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Community Renewal

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF/LOV Funding Amount (Project allocation)	2019/2020 Spend
Newry Mourne and Down District Council Neighbourhood Renewal Technical Assistance	01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020	£16,700.00	£16,290.00
Public Health Agency - Public Health & Community Engagement Programme	01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020	£25,000.00	£25,000.00
Total Community Renewal Expenditure		£41,700.00	£41,290.00

Social Renewal

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF/LOV Funding Amount (Project allocation)	2019/2020 Spend
SOCIAL RENEWAL – EDUCATION			
Speech & Language Therapy	01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020	£48,112.00	£48,112.00
Total Social Renewal Education Expenditure		£48,112.00	£48,112.00
SOCIAL RENEWAL – HEALTH			
Downpatrick Family Health & Wellbeing	01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020	£54,819.24	£54,819.24

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF/LOV Funding Amount (Project allocation)	2019/2020 Spend
Total Social Renewal Health Expenditure		£54,819.24	£54,819.24
Total Combined Education & Health Social Renewal			£102,931.24

Economic Renewal

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF/LOV Funding Amount (Project allocation)	2019/2020 Spend
South Eastern Regional College - Driving to Success	01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020	£63,021.89	£59,733.78
Total Economic Renewal Expenditure		£63,021.89	£59,733.78

Physical Renewal

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF/LOV Funding Amount (Project allocation)	2019/2020 Spend
Meadowlands Play Park Equipment Enhancement	29/01/2020 - 31/03/2020	£21,146.00	£21,146.00
Total Physical Renewal Expenditure		£21,146.00	£21,146.00
GRAND OVERALL NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL TOTAL		£228,799.13	£225,101.02

Achievements Of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding In 2019/2020 Year

Community/Other Output Measures

PROJECT	CR4 - Number of people engaged/involved in unpaid volunteer work.	CR5 – Number of people receiving training in community development/capacity building.	CR7 – Number of community/voluntary groups supported.
DDC NP Technical Assistance			7
PHA Health & Community Engagement programme	47	34	7

Social (Education) Output Measures

PROJECT	SR(Ed) 3 – Number of pupils whose attainment is measurably enhance/improved.	SR(Ed) 5 – Number of people engaged in parenting/skills development programmes
Downpatrick – SH&SCT – Speech & Language Therapy	41	96

Social (Health) Output Measures

PROJECT	SR(H)1 – Number of people benefiting from healthy lifestyle projects	SR(H) 2 – Number of people attending Education/Awareness initiatives	SR(H) 3 – Number of people accessing intervention/treatment services	SR(H) 4 – Number of health/education awareness initiatives provided/delivered
Downpatrick Family Health & Wellbeing		268	40 Families 108 Children	76
PHA Health & Community Engagement programme	98			

Economic Output Measures

PROJECT	ER 6 – Number of people receiving non-job specific training.	ER 14 – Number of people attaining a formal qualification from participation in adult education.
Driving to Success 2	26	26

Physical Output Measures

PROJECT	PR(1): Area of land improved for open space
Meadowlands Play Park	1

Downpatrick Partnership Conclusion

In the 2019/2020 financial year, Downpatrick Partnership total overall spend at June 2020 was **£225,101.02**. This can be further broken down into Strategic Objective spend as follows:-

✓ Community Renewal	£ 41,290.00
✓ Social Renewal	£102,931.24
✓ Economic Renewal	£ 59,733.78
✓ Physical Renewal	£ 21,146.00

Breakdown of actual achievements for total expenditure

The Partnership's priority is to concentrate on educational, health and economic projects. Speech & Language Therapy is benefiting pupils and parents, improving reading skills and reducing waiting lists. Driving to Success continues to engage with people to improve their employability. Family Health & Well-being has had an instrumental role in keeping families together and teaching parental skills to new parents. Community Engagement has helped many organisations develop their volunteer base and crucially, their governance arrangements. Finally, the building of a new play park in Meadowlands along with the first ability swing has been a great success.



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