

Inner North

Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Annual Report
2019/20



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency



Department for
Communities

An Roinn
Pobal

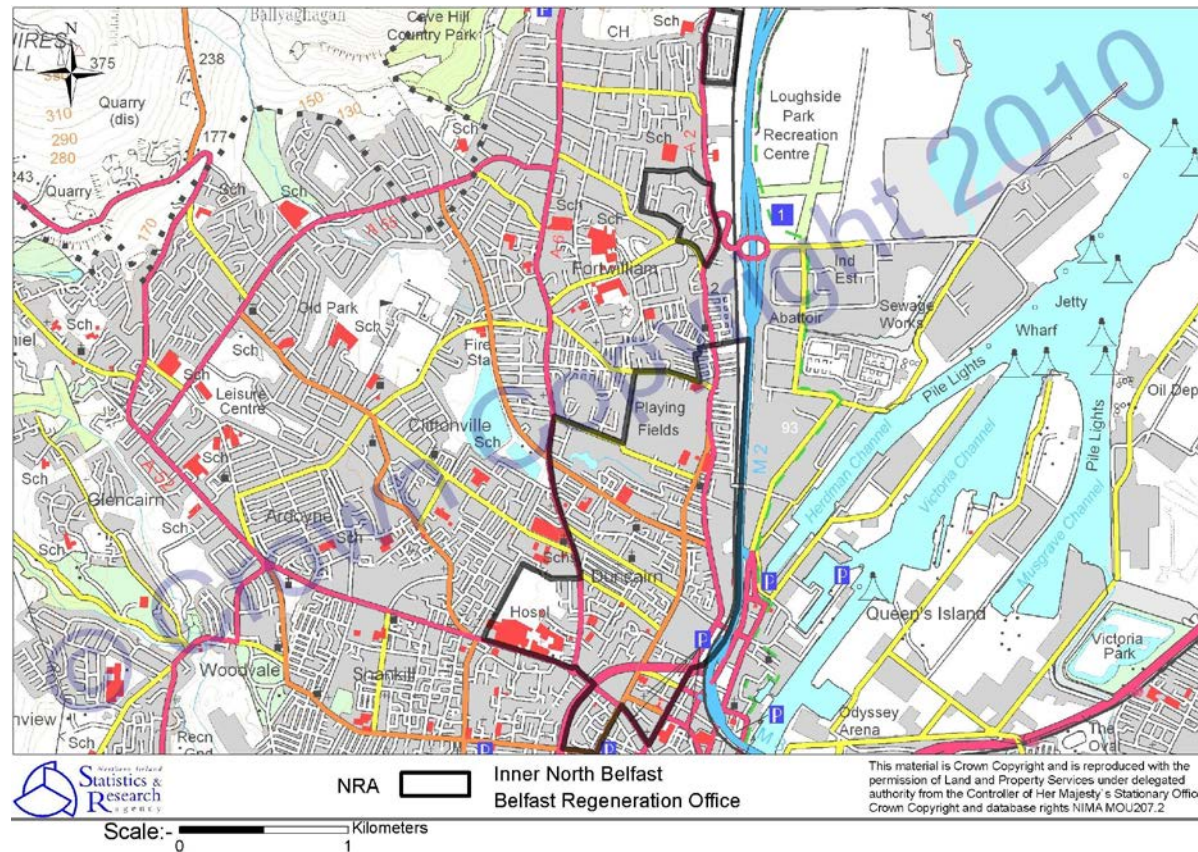
Department for
Commonities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Area Annual Report 2019/2020



Area Profile of Inner North Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA)¹



¹ The figures in this Section are based on the 2001 Census Output Areas which approximate the Neighbourhood Renewal Area shown in the map above. Census Output Areas are the smallest geographic units for which official statistics can be produced whilst also protecting the confidentiality of individuals. For a copy of the Output Areas on which this profile is based click here: [Neighbourhood Renewal Area to Output Area lookup](#)

About Neighbourhood Renewal:

The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme still aims to reduce the social and economic inequalities which characterise the most deprived areas. 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. Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships were established with representatives of local community interests together with appropriate Government Departments, public sector agencies, private sector interest and local elected representatives. The socio economic statistics demonstrate some of the principal challenges facing the Inner North area; reflecting high levels of unemployment, low educational attainment, community health issues and the challenges facing young people in the area in addition to widespread physical blight and dereliction.

Background Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership:

The Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership emerged in late 2004 through informal meetings between representatives of Greater New Lodge Community Empowerment Partnership and Lower North Belfast Community Council. The Neighbourhood Partnership initially comprised of four representatives from each group. Representatives from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and North and West Belfast Health and Social Services Trust also became members. The original community balance, established at the end of 2004, was supplemented in April 2006 by a representative from Mount Vernon when this neighbourhood was added to the neighbourhood renewal area (NRA) by DSD.

Inner North Belfast NRA comprises mostly of Duncairn and New Lodge wards, and includes Carrick Hill, Newington, Duncairn, New Lodge, Mountcollyer, Gainsborough, Grove, Northwood, Mount Vernon and Shore Crescent. A number of main arterial routes run through the area and the M2 motorway acts as one of its boundaries. It should be noted that the Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and its subgroups have all signed up to and abide by the Neighbourhood Renewal Code of Practice and Guiding Principles and subsequent subgroup Terms of Reference. There is a shared commitment of all participants through

planning arrangements that provides the framework to ensure individual respective plans are aligned to a sovereign plan and that resources and primary and mainstream activities are directed at achieving identified local outcomes and addressing priority needs. The Partnership consists of a range of community and voluntary sector partners from across New Lodge, Carrick Hill, Tigers Bay, Shore Road and Mount Vernon, Belfast City Council, NIHE, and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. It is committed to delivering sustained improvement in Inner North Neighbourhoods as initially reflected in its 2006 Vision Framework and Action Plan.

The Partnership has 3 sub-groups to assist in the identification, development and where appropriate the delivery of projects, which aim to address the Programmes 4 strategic objectives of Community Renewal, Social Renewal, Economic Renewal and Physical Renewal. They also assist local community organisations to coordinate actions that are beneficial for all communities living in the Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA).

The development of annual Action Plan meant all members of the sub-groups involved in delivering Neighbourhood Renewal had a seat at the Partnership. After a review it was agreed that the Partnership move to establish a smaller more focused Partnership Management Committee that would provide overall direction to the work of the Partnership.

Each subgroup would then nominate at least one member to sit on the main Partnership Management Committee. Each sub group was to appoint a chairperson and a co-chair and engage with the appropriate statutory representatives to ensure representation on the subgroup.

The ongoing core aims of the sub groups were:

- 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 Inner North.
- To engage in effective working partnerships with key stakeholders from all relevant sectors to proactively 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, coordinate and monitor implementation of the Neighbourhood Action Plan.

2019- 2020: Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Membership are:

Name	Organisation
Paul Roberts (Chairperson)	Community Representative Ashton Community Trust
Billy Hutchinson (Vice Chairperson)	Community Representative Mount Vernon Community Development Forum
Jenny Oliver	Statutory Representative Belfast City Council
Vacant	Statutory Representative Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
Anthony McKenna	Statutory Representative Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Katrine Newell	Community Representative New Lodge Youth
Irene Sherry	Community Representative Ashton Community Trust
Andy Pearson	Statutory Representative Department for Communities, Community Empowerment Division, Greater Shankill & North Team
Marcella McNeill	Statutory Representative Department for Communities, Community Empowerment Division, Greater Shankill & North Team
Paul O'Neill	Community Representative Ashton Community Trust
Brian Dunn	Community Representative LCAP
Alan Quail	Community Representative LCAP

Inner North Neighbourhood Partnership Subgroups

The subgroups for the 2019/20 Inner North Neighbourhood Partnership are listed below:

- Physical, Economic, Community & Social Renewal Subgroup
- Children, young people & families subgroup
- Health & wellbeing subgroup

Physical, Economic, Community & Social & Sub Group Members

Name	Organisation
Paul Roberts (Co-chair)	Ashton Community Trust
Billy Hutchinson	Mount Vernon Community Development Forum
Pat Boyle	Aston Community Trust
Paul O'Neill	Ashton Community Trust
Anthony McKenna	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Stephen McCourt	Carrick Hill Residents Association
Jenny Oliver	Belfast City Council
Maria Valente	Star Neighbourhood Centre
Mark Hackett	Ashton Community Trust
Dean Elliot	New Beginnings
Tommy Whiteside	New Beginnings
Brian Dunn	LCAP
Alan Quail	Mount Vernon Community Development Forum
Jill McDermott	Arts for All

Details Of Activities

The sub group are currently reviewing the potential for development sites across the partnership area. A number of meetings have been held to discuss the economic corridor and opportunities for employment. A list is currently being drafted of vacant sites/derelict land owned by DFC, BCC and NIHE.

Employability barriers have been discussed and representatives from DFC Universal Credit have attended the meeting to provide updated information. The need to ensure links are established with community planning and Place Shaping is seen as a priority.

Children and Young People Sub Group

Name	Organisation
Katrina Newell, Chair	New Lodge Youth Centre
Francis Duff, Co-chair	Fortwilliam Youth Club
Stephen McCourt	Carrick Hill Residents Association
Maryvn Bell	SMILE Sure Start
Christine McKeown	Kinderkids daycare
Maria Valente	Star Neighbourhood Centre
Sarah Murphy	Star Neighbourhood Centre
Marisa Conroy	Star Neighbourhood Centre
Edith McManus	Lower North Family Support Hub
Arlene Moody	Ashton Community Trust
Paul Dynes	New Lodge Youth Centre
Jan Costello	Duncairn Community Centre

Details Of Activities

The NR Action plan has been updated with achievements throughout the year. It was agreed that the priorities continue to be Family Support; Young people and community perception; educational underachievement; childcare provision; and access for all.

Locality planning and cross community projects continue to influence services across the area. Kinderkids continues to provide much needed across the area. The impact of Universal Credit Mitigation is starting to effect many families and the need for reliance on food banks has increased dramatically.

Health and Well Being Sub Group

Name	Organisation
Irene Sherry, Co-chair	Ashton Community Trust
Stephen McCourt	Carrick Hill Residents Association
Maria Valente	Star Neighbourhood Centre
Jo Murphy	Lighthouse
Karen Collins-Neill	New Life Counselling
Liddean McStravog	Cancer Lifeline
Geoff Kerr	174 Trust
Margaret Craig	Healthy North Belfast
Nicole Parker	LCAP
Carol Hamilton	LCAP
Alan Quail	Mount Vernon Community Development Forum
Martina McIlkenny	PIPS

Details Of Activities

This group met for the first time this year in November 2019. The action plan was reviewed and agreed that it was fit for purpose with priorities set at Social and Community Renewal; Healthy Ageing; Mental Health; Suicide prevention; drugs and alcohol.

North Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership Chairs Forum

Inner North Neighbourhood Partnership is one of a number Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships throughout North Belfast. The others are:

- Ballysillan and Upper Ardoyne Neighbourhood Partnership
- Crumlin / Ardoyne Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
- Ligoniel Neighbourhood Partnership
- Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership

The North Belfast Health Forum

The North Belfast Health & Social Wellbeing Forum has been in existence from 1999 when North Belfast Partnership facilitated the coming together of interested individuals & groups to develop a cross-community partnership approach to addressing issues of health & social well-being throughout north Belfast.

The Forum continues to provide a platform to discuss health issues impacting north Belfast and prioritise areas of work which need to be addressed: members include representatives from across the community, voluntary and statutory sectors working in the field of health & wellbeing with the overarching aim of reducing life inequalities throughout the locality.

Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Funded Projects

The Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund is currently supporting eight projects within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Community Renewal/Social Renewal

1. 174 Trust – Afterschool Project

During 2019-2020, we were obviously impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic and were closed from mid-March to end of June during the initial lockdown imposed by government.

We did not have sufficient request from Key Worker families to provide Afterschool care to allow us to remain open on a physical sense. However, the Afterschool did maintain a link with the children and their families through online and postal activities.

This was successful to a certain extent in that the numbers were still high for returning to full activities at the end of August. This has been reflected since with a continual high level of occupancy of places through to the end of 2020.

Parents were given annual evaluation forms where we received very positive feedback on the service we provided.

Our own bus service enabled us to pick up children from schools. When we returned to 'normal' service we made adjustments to the bus to enable us to use it safely, conducting all the necessary cleaning and sanitising to meet requirements.

The staff provided a varied programme of activities, developed around the 12 principles of play, as well as taking into account children's interests and requests. We also have been able to access facilitators during this year who have provided a wide range of activities.

Jigsaw provided workshops to help children recognise and explore their emotions and how to express themselves along with their ideas using differing emotions. This was part of 'wellbeing' programme.

Resident outreach artist – We were provided with a facilitator from our own Duncairn Arts Centre again to do workshops on moving images and the children made their own films. These film workshops proved to be a huge hit with the children.

Part of our Afterschool programme allows for the children, especially those in key stage 2 to take part in the homework club, getting a quiet space to focus on homework and we use some volunteers from year's 11 & 12 in local schools to help the children.

We are very lucky as a childcare provider to have an enclosed back garden, particularly this year, and the children were able to use this outside area for physical play thus reducing the time inside where the risk was higher in regards any Covid threats. This year we accessed the help from The Prince's Trust who provided volunteers to create a new dimension to the garden space. They created a music wall from old household articles, a fairy garden and a dinosaur pond which has helped to further develop the children's imaginations and create more play opportunities.

Unfortunately, this year we were not able to have our usual summer scheme in July/August due to the pandemic.

As a childcare provider, we always strive to improve our service and this was recognised in our yearly Social Services inspection on the "Quality of care", in which we received no recommendations.

174 Trust is committed to providing quality and affordable childcare to enable parents to work or access training as a way back into the workplace, and with us also having a Preschool Nursery, we are able to offer continuity of provision and care for families in the area.



2. Carrick Hill Residents Association:

Carrick Hill Community Centre started the year off on a high. Our tried and tested activities for children and young people, senior citizens and families were in full swing. Activities ranged from parent toddler sessions, the afterschool's programme, dance classes and disco, the Thursday Club, stretch & tone, Zumba and Pilates. A grant from the Garfield Anniversary Fund from the previous year, allowed us to revamp our 20+ year old showers, toilets and changing rooms. This enabled us to begin planning, delivering and adding new activities such as: trampoline for people of all ages, with the aim of building on our physical fitness classes and encouraging more women into our community gym.

But the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry.

In March 2020, our world came to a grinding halt, as coronavirus became more prevalent. Our old way of life, of chatting to neighbours over the fence or popping next door for a chat, while our children played on the streets, ended for the people of Carrick Hill. Our once vibrant community retreated indoors. The streets were deserted, as local people sought to protect themselves from the coronavirus pandemic and our shutters came down.

After overcoming the initial fear and shock, we quickly mobilized to serve our community. We came together to organise and support our older residents who were socially isolated and shielding, and to help the wider community whose everyday lives would be impacted by coronavirus.

With financial support from the Department for Communities, Belfast City Council, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and CFNI, Carrick Hill Community Centre delivered a variety of support to the community. This included delivering basic food essentials to vulnerable people, cleaning packs to families and activity packs to children. We supported local people who had been made redundant during the pandemic. We held makeshift employment clinics whereby we helped people with job searches, completion of job applications, and helped build their CVs. We also helped some local small businesses to access government grant support and to navigate the job retention/furlough scheme.

2020 has so far been a year like no other for Carrick Hill Community Centre. However, we are seeing light at the end of the tunnel and are looking towards the future, with renewed hope and enthusiasm, as we move into a 'new normal'.

3. Star Neighbourhood Centre:

The Star Neighbourhood Centre is an organic and generic community organisation, based on the Duncairn Gardens interface, in the New Lodge area of North Belfast. We are a quality driven organisation where the focus is on our users' requirements and quality is demonstrated in our day-to-day operations.

We aim to respond to locally identified need through close engagement with the community, beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries. The Star Neighbourhood Centre offers services tailored to meet local need. This includes its opening hours and a diverse range of activities and programmes on offer.

The Star works on a holistic basis within the neighbourhood. This ranges from catering for pre-school age children to providing services for older people. Given its 'position' within the community, the Star Neighbourhood Centre has the flexibility to be able to react to particular situations, and respond to changing local needs, as and when they arise.

Star Neighbourhood Centre provides a number of programmes, facilities and services to the Greater New Lodge community. These include:

- Childcare Social Economy Projects
- Out of Schools
- Family Support
- Youth Projects
- Older Persons Group
- Support for Groups
- Volunteer Development Projects
- Community Inclusion Events

The Centre acts as a local resource centre for the community. This includes offering services such as: typing, photocopying, computer and internet access, telephone/fax and lending equipment. The Star Neighbourhood Centre also acts as a conduit to

statutory and voluntary organisations for local people to access information on benefits, training, employment and legislation. It sign-posts the community to other local services, community/voluntary organisations and training providers within the area.

As well as the provision of services, the Star acts as a development catalyst for the area advocating and campaigning on behalf of the community. It aims to attract resources and draw the attention of resource providers and policy makers, to the needs of the Greater New Lodge area.

What we achieved in 2019/20:

- 42 Childcare places provided to support parents in training and/or employment
- 168 People participated in community relations/inclusion projects: These included
 - 65 older people participating in events & outings
 - 60 young people participating in 3 TBUC programmes
 - 43 young women took part in 2 Good Relation programmes
- 20 Volunteers engaged in community development activities. Volunteering in;
 - Youth projects, older peoples group & community events
- 111 School aged children took part in holiday schemes; these included
 - Children participated in summer scheme & a mid-term /Halloween programme
- 31 People took part in programmes to support and develop local parents;
 - The establishment of a new a crochet group & a young parent personal development programme
- 29 Individual young people received up to 5 different OCN qualifications;
 - Young People & Youth Level2
 - Personal development Level2
 - Youth Leadership Level 2
 - Diversity & Good Relations
 - Wallpapering & Decorating
- 15 People took part in promotion of mental health programme:
 - 3 Youth workers trained in the 'Mental Wealth Games'

- 15 young people took part in 'Mood Matters Programme'
- 30 People participated in programmes to promote a healthy lifestyle;
 - Exercise programmes to promote physical health& eat well programmes for healthy diet
- 16 Residents participated in programmes to promote community safety such as
 - Home safety events, urban planning events & outreach
- 155 Young people benefiting from youth inclusion/diversionary projects; including
 - Planning & evaluation events. Summer activities programme & centre group work

Highlights of the Year

Smash It Sister (SIS)

SIS is a Good Relations programme with the objective of empowering young women. This programme supports young women to develop their personal skills, attributes and knowledge. It also encourages and supports them to participate more fully in their communities.

The SIS programme explored the role women played in political and civic life in Northern Ireland and how it impacts on women's lives today. The programme brought together young women from three different organisations: GLOW, Let Youth Lead & Star Neighbourhood Centre.

The young women participated in a range of activities, workshops and group sessions. These included self-defence classes with Leah McCourt MMA champion, DIY skills with Women's Tec, make-up classes with Patti Louise Grogan, and a women and leadership course with Kellie O'Dowd.

The SIS programme also included visits to historical sites in Dublin, the Belfast Charitable Association and the Boyne Centre. The young women achieved 4 different OCN qualifications throughout the programme. They were involved in the planning and design of the 'Big SIS' programme with the aim to continue their development and to give other young women the opportunity to take part

in the empowerment programme. The programme was due to conclude with a Young Women's Conference at the Waterfront Hall. However, this has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Street Games

Youth Workers from Star Neighbourhood Centre supported by Belfast City Council delivered a total of 42 'Street Games' sessions at the Girdwood Community Hub.

Street Games brought children and young people from Lower Oldpark, Shankill, Cliftonville and the Newlodge together to participate in a range of sporting activities.

Street Games aims to make young people and their communities healthier, safer and more successful. Sport teaches key skills such as teamwork, understanding and discipline. It brings people together, creates pride in a community and breaks down social barriers.

New Groups

A number of local women came together to establish a crochet group. The group is of a mixed age and meets every Tuesday morning. The women drink lots of tea and coffee, have a good natter and teach those who do not know how to crochet.

The crochet group provides a great opportunity to get out of the house, to meet new people and learn a new skill. All of which supports better mental health and reduces feelings of isolation.

The Young Parents Group is made up of parents who are 25 years-old and under. Our weekly groups for young parents are a great place for you to make friends and share the experience of being a parent. Activities include arts and crafts, music, cooking, getting active, building confidence and healthy living, personal development programmes and family outings.



Mount Vernon Community Development Forum / Loughview Community Action Partnership(LCAP)

The Forum and Partnership is an umbrella group that seeks to address social and economic issues for residents from White City to Tigers Bay. They work collaboratively with other groups to address these social and economic issues within the Inner North Neighbourhood area. As such, thematic groups have been established that focus on issues for seniors, youth and health. Examples of this are; Ashton Community Trust, Northern Ireland Alternatives, Good Morning Belfast, Sure start and the CLARE project as well as a wide range of statutory agencies, which enables programme delivery such as training and employment services, and a wide range of other programmes including arts, sports and culture, health, seniors and environment and youth.

Highlights of the year

- 60 - Young people participated in Fingerprint learning project
- 72 - People participated in community relations/inclusion projects
- 56 - Volunteers engaged in community development activities

- 32 - People participated in conflict transformation training
- 22 - People took part in programmes to support and develop local parents
- 28 - Individual young people received up to 4 different OCN qualifications
- 98 - People participated in programmes to promote a healthy lifestyle
- 35 - Residents participated in programmes to promote community safety
- 121 - Young people benefiting from youth inclusion/diversionary projects
- 24 - Volunteers participated in Social Care projects with CLARE
- 14 - People participated in job training
- 35 - People participated in community Safety project

The highlights of the year are supported by the seasonal events in Mount Vernon. The residents organised events at Easter, July, Halloween and Christmas. All of the events were well supported by residents.

Mount Vernon are planning and working on a Men's Shed. The group has attracted 12 participants and are meeting to plan the project. They intend to start working on different projects by the end of January 2020. MVCDF, worked with Bryson and Groundwork NI to revamp the Poly-tunnel. The poly-tunnel as attracted a number of volunteers to work on environmental projects.

Two health events were held to highlight the health facilities that are available and the community health response that exists to help people understand the Well-Being agenda and how to access the services.

Men's Health Event

This was held in Crusaders F.C. as the venue was used to attract men. The event was well attended and very popular. It attracted men who had not attended any health events before. The event consisted of stall that explained about what the organisations were delivering in relation to health and Well-being. The event had a Keynote speaker who was a GP and he spoke about three cancers in Men. The GP highlighted the importance of early detection in combating cancer and explained what to look for and emphasised the importance of going to see a GP. He explained the statistics of early detection and how it saved Men's lives.

Older People's Health Event

The event was held in Fortwilliam and was well attended. The event was used to highlight the services that existed for older people. The event covered information on home safety, health services, community support and social isolation. Older people's organisations had stalls and delivered information that was useful for the participants. There were tasters held including Fingerprint Learning who held a workshop on how to prevent dementia. CLARE held a workshop on reducing Social isolation and promoting independence and the PSNI did a workshop on home safety.

Arts for All



Arts for All is a registered Charity run by two staff, a co-ordinator and administrator. It is governed by a dedicated voluntary board made up of nine individuals with a range of specialist backgrounds. The board is diverse and is well connected to the creative, statutory, community development and charity sectors.

Arts for All was established to increase opportunities for artistic activity in communities that traditionally had limited engagement with the arts. Since its inception, and with the refurbishment of its cultural hub, the John Luke Gallery, the organisation has caused a rippling effect gently influencing and inviting groups to develop their own arts and cultural activities.

In 2019/20, we continued with many of our annual projects but also introduced some new work.

- Capacity Building programme - This programme is running on a limited basis
- The Belfast Health & Social Care Trust 'Inspire' Project - A project using art to develop the skills of participants with learning disabilities.
- Exhibitions at the John Luke Gallery now relocated to Cityside Retail Park from September 2019.

Throughout the year, we hosted 12 separate art exhibitions showcasing new art by local professionals and budding artists. We look forward to exciting opportunities ahead including use of our new space, 'The Pod', which is adjacent to the gallery. We look

forward to welcoming new users to this wonderful creative facility. Numbers of attendees have increased as more footfall was allowed into the new space. Over 1200 people attended these exhibitions in total.



Economic Renewal

Ashton Community Trust – Skills and Employment



Ashton Training & Employment Services is an initiative designed to help unemployed people overcome issues that may be preventing them from finding and keeping a job. Its services are securely embedded in local communities where it has gained significant trust with local people. Ashton Training & Employment Services are about empowering people to take responsibility for and ownership of their own lives. It offers a number of training services that are flexible around need, and it involves a structured framework for clients to uncover barriers, explore ways of overcoming their barriers, access training, develop employability skills and secure employment.

CALL ICT is part of this service; it targets those who have not previously derived full benefit from learning, providing Essential Skills training in literacy and numeracy, as well as ICT training. Using one to one tuition, small group learning and group orientated sessions, the programme has enabled participants to acquire new and improved skills, and given them the opportunity to progress to jobs or to further education or vocational training both within the Ashton Community Trust and at other educational establishments. Essential Skills support is designed to enable participants to improve their overall quality of life, their personal development and their employment opportunities.

The lockdown imposed due to Covid-19 in March led to the cancellation of Essential Skills exams for 14 participants who were expected to achieve accredited qualifications at the end of the 2019 – 2020 year.

Activities this year have included:

- 29 Participants achieving accredited qualifications in Essential Skills: Communication, Literacy, Application of Number, Numeracy and ICT
- Residents obtaining employment following participation in the training
- 88 Residents receiving careers advice and guidance
- 78 Residents receiving training in literacy, communication, numeracy, application of number and ICT

This training is designed to help participants progress to further education, training or into employment.

Ashton Community Trust – Kinderkids Day-Care

Throughout 2019/2020, Kinderkids Day Care operated three social economy childcare centres in North Belfast. Kinderkids provided employment for 78 staff who cared for 534 children. As a result, this enabled 427 parents to either remain in employment, commence employment or avail of training opportunities. In addition, to providing childcare to facilitate training and employment opportunities, Kinderkids has supported 107 families referred through the Belfast Trust, the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub and through community referrals. This service supports families by providing essential childcare support and interventions.

Kinderkids continues to provide the highest quality childcare for the children who use the service. This is achieved through the implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage for children aged 0-5, with a holistic focus on the learning environment. The Play Work Principles have been adopted in the out of school provision and integrated into play provision. This facilitates a dedicated child-centred approach to the play and learning of the school-aged children. Play work promotes independence and self-direction in the out of school provision. It creates an ethos of child-led play, based upon the children's intrinsic desire to learn and explore.

Recently, Kinderkids has invested in developing The Solihull Approach within the Day Care. This has been initiated in the under 2 age group, with a plan in place, for this to be developed throughout the whole Day Care provision. The Solihull Approach with its focus on the child's natural desire to play and learn, goes hand in hand with, the guiding principles of Play Work. The Solihull

Approach has allowed Kinderkids staff to recognise and develop the interpersonal communications of our smallest babies and to help promote a greater understanding of children's emotional and social needs.

Given the fact, that Kinderkids Day Care is situated in an area of great socio-economic deprivation, the investment in both Play Work and Solihull has provided added value to the care and play opportunities, afforded to the children who attend. It has built resilience, fostering attitudes of acceptance and understanding and has promoted problem-solving and conflict resolution techniques.

Family Support

The Head of Childcare and Family Support at Ashton chairs the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub, of which Ashton is lead. This service receives and co-ordinates referrals that connects families to the services they need, at a time, when they need them. The Hub brings together organisations that deliver services to children/young people (0-18 years) and their parents/carers. This includes community, statutory and voluntary family support services. At present, the Hub has 63 different agencies signed up to deliver a varied range of services including:

- Family Support delivered in the home setting
- Mentoring for children and young people
- Counselling services
- Debt management
- Financial advice
- Social activities for children and young people.

During the reporting period April 2019-March 2020, the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub processed 205 referrals delivering support to families in Lower North Belfast. As a result, 291 parents and 407 children have been supported by over 300 individual services.

In addition to processing referrals, the team also became involved in many activities within the community to promote positive outcomes for families. In August, we organised a uniform drive which saw the distribution of recycled uniforms to local families. The

event was set up like a shop with rails and displays. We were delighted that 79 children were provided with a uniform, thus reducing the burden on families at this very expensive time of year.

We were also very fortunate to be awarded £2,500 from our colleagues in Newington Housing Association. We used this money to provide gas and electricity voucher top-ups for local families. This has been a great asset, as local families have told our 1-1 family service workers that they could not afford to heat their homes, as often as they needed. The provision of Tesco/Asda vouchers for local families worth £7,500 courtesy of Belfast Charitable Society was an invaluable initiative. It aimed to try and address the issue of poverty, which we know is so prevalent in Lower North Belfast.

In February, we organised a Family Fun Event in a local community centre and provided fun activities for the children. We collaborated with 30 of our Hub partners, who hosted stands to promote their work to local families. Over 200 people attended this event and it was regarded by many families as a huge success. It was noted, that after the bad publicity the New Lodge area had received over the past year, it was great to see all the good work being done, and highlighted in such a positive way.

Part of our role, as the Family Support Hub lead is also to build capacity within organisations who deliver services to the Hub. We were delighted this year to be able to offer training on Adverse Childhood Experiences to all our members.

Ashton Community Trust – Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator:

The Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator is located within the Ashton Community, lead partner of the Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. The Coordinator supports the Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and works in conjunction with Partnership members and associated organisations to deliver the agreed actions identified within the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan. The Coordinator facilitates collaborative and joint working across the various initiatives relevant to the regeneration and renewal priorities across Inner North and promotes best practice on joint outputs to achieve common outcomes.

The primary purpose of the post is still to continue to provide support to the Inner North Partnership and its subgroups; Children, Young People and Families; Physical, Economic, Community & Social Renewal; and Health and Wellbeing, with this dedicated resource and capacity to ensure that, the following administrative deliverables are met.

- Voluntary/community groups working in across Inner North are supported
- Better integration of Community Planning developments with the work of the INNRP and its stakeholders across Inner North
- Inner North N.R. Code of Practice and Guiding Principles is implemented
- Inner North N.R. Action Plan is reviewed
- Inner North N.R. Information pack is reviewed and updated
- Inner North N.R. Partnership training and capacity needs are identified
- Inner North N.R. Partnership membership is representative and effective
- Regular meetings of Inner North Partnership and subgroups are held and administered with the ethos of being action orientated; and
- Inner North N.R. Annual report is drafted and produced

Overall, the Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator will continue to:

- Maintain and support INNRP and related subgroup structures, to ensure they are representative of local regeneration, renewal and community stakeholders and will coordinate and monitor implementation of INNRP Action Plan.
- Support the INNRP in influencing statutory agencies to focus their investments and resources on delivery of public services where they will have the most impact on improving the wellbeing and quality of life for those living and working in Inner North
- Promote effective partnerships with key stakeholders from all relevant sectors to proactively deliver the identified priorities detailed in the associated NR Plan.

This post has been vacant from March 2019. Since then, this position has been filled, and a new Neighbourhood Coordinator was appointed in June 2020.

Additional capacity provided by a dedicated community based Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator enables the INNRP, and its structures, to focus more effectively on the implementation of the regeneration and renewal priorities as detailed in the Inner North Neighbourhood Action Plan. This is achieved through improved connection, collaboration and coordination between the INNRP,

the activities and engagement of the subgroups and the increased participation of the public and statutory agencies addressing the high levels of poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion in Inner North Belfast.

Inner North Neighbourhood Partnership 2019/2020 Expenditure (by Strategic Objective)

The following table details current projects funded via the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment fund. It also details the 2019/20 individual spend for each project, the total amount of expenditure by strategic objective and the overall 2019/20 total expenditure in the Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Community/Social Renewal Expenditure

Programme/Project	Funding Period	Funding Amount (Project allocation)	2019/20 Spend (as at 31/03/19)
Ashton Community Trust – Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator	1/04/2019 – 31/03/2020	£27,539.59	£24,819.20
174 Trust (Part funding of Deputy Co-ordinator Post)	01/04/2019- 31/03/2020	£10,862.08	£10,862.08
Carrick Hill Residents Association (FT Centre Co-ordinator, PT Finance/Admin Officer)	01/04/2019– 31/03/2020	£40,971.00	£40,630.04
Arts for All PT Admin Officer, Part-funding of Project Co-ordinator Post)	01/04/2019 – 31/03/2020	£8,612.28	£8,612.26
Star Neighbourhood Centre (Centre Manager, Childcare Co-ordinator, Deputy Leader, 3 Youth Development Officers)	01/04/2019-31/03/2020	£118,569.36	£116,631.02
Mount Vernon Community Development Forum / Loughview Community Action Partnership (Community Development Worker)	01/04/2019-31/03/2020	£85,835.96	£82,815.96
Total Community/Social Renewal Expenditure		£292,390.27	£284,370.56

Economic Renewal Expenditure

Programme/Project	Funding Period	Funding Amount (Project allocation)	2019/20 Spend (as at 31/03/19)
Ashton Community Trust – Skills and Employment (ICT Tutor, Essentials Skills Tutor)	01/04/2019 – 31/03/2020	£34,069.60	£31,835.44
Ashton Community Trust _ Kinderkids Day-care (Head of Childcare & Family Support, Manager, 2 Childcare Assistants)	01/04/2019- 31/03/2020	£106,984.55	£106,984.55
Total Economic Renewal Expenditure			
Total Expenditure		£141,054.15	£138,819.99

Achievements Of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding In 2019/20 Year

Community Renewal Output Measures

Projects	CR1 - Number of people participating in community relations programmes	CR2 – Number of people Participating in community bonding projects	CR3 - number of people volunteering for community development activities	CR4 - Number of people engaged in unpaid voluntary work	CR5 -Number of people receiving training in community development skills/ capacity building	CR6 - Number of people using new or improved community facilities	CR7 - Number of community / voluntary groups supported	CR8 - Number of community relations projects supported
Carrick Hill Residents Association			16		8			
Arts for All	208		17					
Star Neighbourhood Centre	227		20					
174 Trust								
Ashton Community Trust - Kinderkids			9					
Mount Vernon Community Development Forum/LCAP		16	25	38	78		6	
Ashton Community Trust, Skills & Employment				2			25	
Ashton Community Trust, NR Co-ordinator							19	
Total	435	16	84	40	86		50	

Social Renewal Education Output Measures

Projects	SR (ED) 1 - Number of childcare/nursery school places crated/safeguarded	SR (ED) 5 - Number of people engaged in parenting/skills development programmes	SR (ED) 6 – Number of pupils directly benefiting from the project.	SR (ED) 14 – Number of young people directly benefiting from the project	SR(ED)17 – Type and number of accredited courses completed	SR (ED) 18 – Number of pupils directly benefiting from /being supported by the project	SR (ED) 33 - Number of young people involved in shared activity
Carrick Hill Residents Association		2		123		32	22
Arts for All			25	53			
Star Neighbourhood Centre	142	25				31	
174 Trust	18						
Ashton Community Trust, Kinderkids	107	84					
Mount Vernon Community Development Forum/LCAP	14	12					
Ashton Community Trust, Skills & Employment							

Projects	SR (ED) 1 - Number of childcare/nursery school places created/safeguarded	SR (ED) 5 - Number of people engaged in parenting/skills development programmes	SR (ED) 6 – Number of pupils directly benefiting from the project.	SR (ED) 14 – Number of young people directly benefitting from the project	SR(ED)17 – Type and number of accredited courses completed	SR (ED) 18 – Number of pupils directly benefitting from /being supported by the project	SR (ED) 33 - Number of young people involved in shared activity
Ashton Community Trust, NR Coordinator							
Total	174	39	25	176		63	22

Social Renewal Crime & Health Output Measures

Projects	SR (c) 3 - Number of people participating/attending community safety initiatives	SR (C) 6 - Number of young people benefiting from youth inclusion/diversionary projects	SR (H) 1 – Number of people benefiting from healthy lifestyle projects	SR (h) 2 - Number of people attending Health Education/Awareness Initiatives	SR (H) 4 - Number of health education/awareness initiatives provided /delivered	SR (H) 6 – Number of people participating in suicide prevention programmes
Carrick Hill Residents Associations		92			11	
Arts for All						
Star Neighbourhood Centre	27	135	8			
174 Trust						
Ashton Community Trust, Kinderkids	64	33				
Mount Vernon Community Development Forum/Lcap	33	98				
Ashton Community Trust – Skills And Employment						
Ashton Community Trust – Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator						
Total	116	325	8		11	

Economic Renewal Output Measures

Projects	ER2 – Number of residents going into employment	ER3 - Number of people accessing careers advice	ER4 - Number of people receiving job specific training	ER11 – Number of Social Economy Enterprises created/supported	ER13 - Number of new/existing childcare places supported to facilitate training and or employment	ER14 - Number of people attaining a formal qualification from participation in Adult education	ER15 – Number of FTE jobs safe -guarded
Carrick Hill Residents Association			21				1.60
Arts for All							1.8
Star Neighbourhood Centre			3		43		5.20
174 Trust			1				0.80
Ashton Community Trust – Kinderkids			8	4	427		4.6
Mount Vernon Community Development Forum/LCAP			26				1
Ashton Community Trust – Skills and Employment	3	97	1			40	2
Ashton Community Trust – Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator							1
Total	3	97	62	8	337	40	18

Inner North Neighbourhood Partnership Conclusion

In the 2019/20 financial year, Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership total overall spend was £423,190.55

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

Community Renewal/	
Social Renewal	£284,370.56
Economic Renewal	£142,185.28
Physical Renewal	£0.00

There are still 3 key future developments in the Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Area and these are detailed below:

Ulster University Greater Belfast Development

This development is still the most significant regeneration project in the North side of Belfast for a generation. It holds the potential for significant economic and social development for a part of the city which suffered badly during the years of unrest. This is a significant £250 million development, built around the existing campus in York Street. The construction has taken place in two stages and although it was hoped to have the full campus opened by September 2018, it was delayed due to the collapse of part of the building firm, Lagan Construction Group. It is now expected to be completed in 2022. The university acknowledges there will be challenges ahead in ensuring Belfast has the right infrastructure in place for a development of this scale. They are working in partnership with Belfast City Council and a number of government departments including DfC to ensure that concerns around student housing, car parking and public transport, public realm and community benefit are addressed. The University has engaged with the Inner North Neighbourhood Partnership and the local community to address a range of issues. Meetings are held on a regular basis.

York Street Interchange.

Transport NI and DRD have proposals, estimated at a cost of £120m - £165m, to provide a grade-separated junction at York Street that would provide direct links between Westlink, the M2 and M3 motorways and greatly improve access between these roads. Plans to improve the York Street Interchange with Westlink are included in Department's Investment Delivery Plan for Roads. Proposed plans have raised concerns for residents particularly residing within the New Lodge and Carrick Hill area. Alternative plans have been submitted to the Department and Translink NI and presented at a public inquiry. Residents are still waiting for a positive response and reaction to their suggestions for improvement.

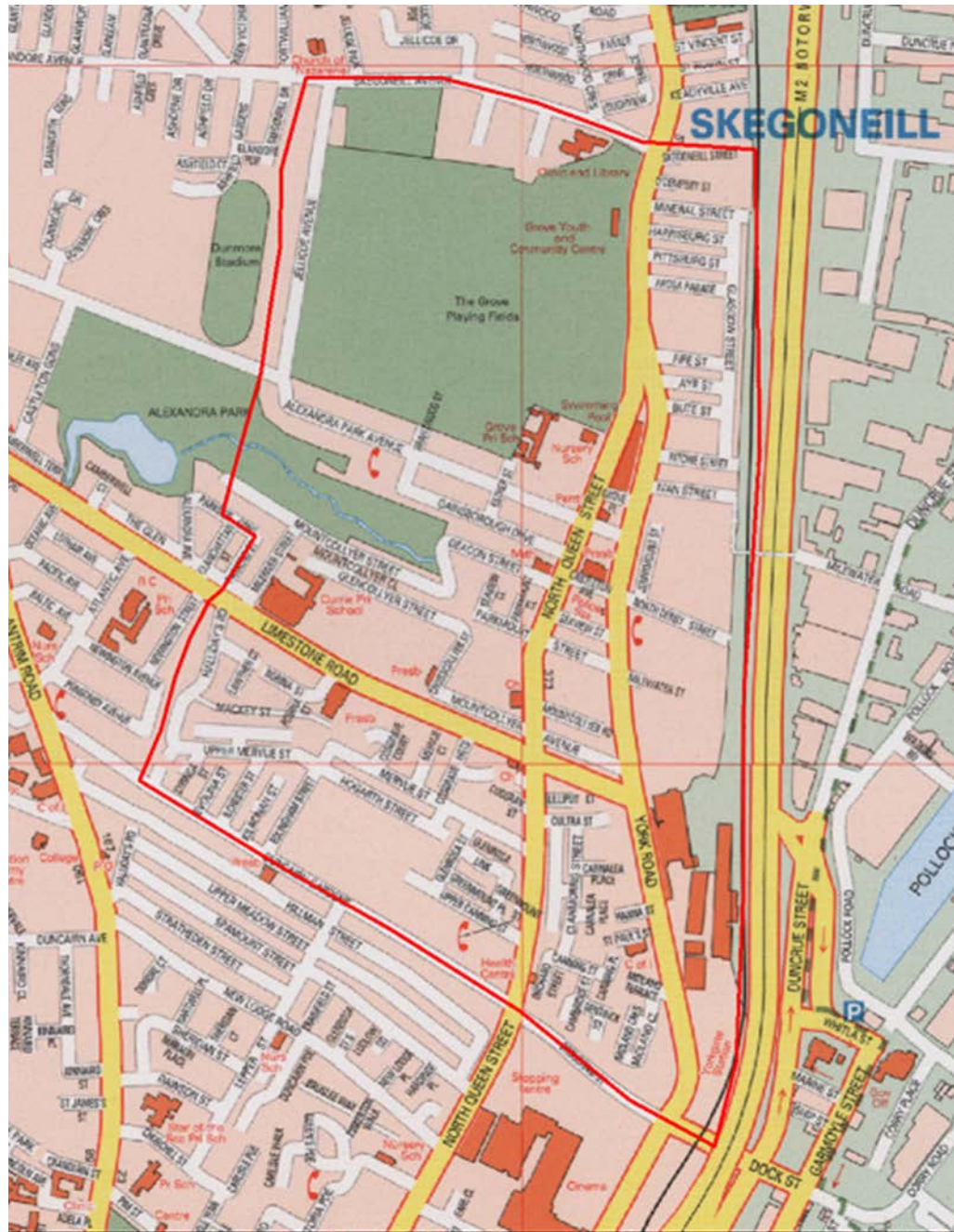
Building Successful Communities (2018-19)

The overarching objective for Building Successful Communities (BSC) is to test a housing led regeneration approach in six pilot areas which are experiencing blight, physical and social dereliction and decline, in partnership with local communities and key statutory and voluntary and community sector organisations. External consultants worked closely with regeneration forums in six pilot areas to undertake needs and issues analysis; help with the development of Action/Regeneration Plans; and to provide expert support to ensure that the plans produced were deliverable.

The key regeneration objectives identified were to improve housing and infrastructure, deliver new social and affordable homes where possible and to unlock wider physical and social regeneration by providing a focus for environmental upgrading. Tigers Bay & Mountcollyer in the Inner North Belfast NRA is one of the six pilot areas.

A number of early interventions were initially funded. These included works at Curry Primary School, Duncairn Community Garden and an extension of Belfast City Council's renewing the Routes program. Feasibility studies looking at the former Grove Baths site and a wraparound school project at Curry Primary School were also funded.

The main catalyst projects for this area are a package of new housing developments alongside complimentary environmental improvements. The new development of 6 social houses at Halliday's Road was completed in October 2017. A complimentary environmental improvement scheme is currently being finalised with NIHE and this is expected to go on site shortly. The construction of 20 social houses at Hogarth Street went on site in March 2018 and is expected to complete by December 2019. The Gainsborough Sites were disposed of by NIHE to a private developer with the contract agreed in December 2018. The developer's plans are for 79 new houses across the sites and planning applications are expected to be submitted in May 2019. Plans are also advanced for new LED lighting in the area. This will be funded through BSC pending budget approval.





Department for Communitis
Community Empowerment Division
9 Lanyon Place
Belfast
BT1 3LP



Department for
Communities

An Roinn
Pobal

Department for
Communities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

