



Ballymena

Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Annual Report

2019/20



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency



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**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Annual Report 2019/20



About Neighbourhood Renewal

The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme 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 are made up of representatives of local community interests together with appropriate Government Departments, public sector agencies, private sector interest and local elected representatives.

About Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme, Ballymena Partnership was set up in 2005 to oversee the development and delivery of the local Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan. The Partnership currently comprises 24 members, which include representatives from local communities, voluntary organisations, elected representatives and local statutory organisations. It currently meets on a bi monthly basis and its administration services are provided through a Coordinator and Administrator within Mid & East Antrim Borough Council.

The Partnership established four sub-groups to assist with 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. The sub groups are categorised as Health; Economic and Employability; Education; and Community. Representation from appropriate local community, voluntary and statutory agencies has been sought to ensure benefit to the process of developing projects that will deliver impact to the Neighbourhood Renewal area. Regular meetings with partnership members and sub group members ensure that needs are discussed on an ongoing basis, in line with actions identified as part of the 'Putting People First' Community Plan. The potential for new projects and those projects are monitored in line with contractual requirements and agreed outcomes and working in partnership with agencies and community groups to make best use of resources and avoid duplication. The Coordinator and Administrator work closely with the Ballymena South Community Development Worker to provide support to community groups in relation to developing Good Governance, identifying training needs, capacity building, project development and monitoring and evaluation of programmes of work.

It should be noted that Ballymena 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.

Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Projects

The Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund supported 8 projects in the Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Area in the 2019 / 2020 financial year as follows:-

Community Renewal

1. Mid & East Antrim Borough Council – DEA Officers and Administrative Support

A restructuring process of the Community Planning and Development department was carried out by Council, which implemented the functions – Policing & Community Safety Partnership, Good Relations, Community Planning, Community Development and Community Centre Management into 7 District Electoral Areas with 7 DEA officers, as part of the Review of Community Development across the MEABC area. Following the commencement of these posts in 1st October 2019, the following points are for consideration in relation to the local review of the Neighbourhood Renewal programme.

Braid DEA – Just over a quarter (28%) of the Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Area lies within the Braid DEA. These are neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% of wards across Northern Ireland identified as part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

Ballymena DEA - Approximately three quarters (72%) of the Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Area lies within the Ballymena DEA. These are neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% of wards across Northern Ireland identified as part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

The landscape of the geography of the NRP area has changed due to the restructuring process in Council to District Electoral Area format operational from 1st April 2020. To deliver Neighbourhood renewal there is a team in Council comprising of a DEA Manager and two DEA Officers covering Ballymena DEA and Braid DEA alongside administration support going forward to coordinate and deliver the NRP programme. They are responsible for the implementation of the Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan through liaising with project promoters, programme delivery agents and stakeholders to ensure projects are developed and delivered in accordance with the objectives of the plan. Staff monitor and evaluate the project and work in

partnership with Neighbourhood Renewal partners to ensure projects are developed in line with the needs of the community, in local and strategic terms i.e. Mid & East Antrim Community Plan 'Putting People First' and in line with funding requirements.

2. Mid & East Antrim Borough Council - Ballymena South Community Development Officer

There are four cluster groups in the Ballymena area, Ballymena South Cluster is made up of representatives from the Ward Area of Ballee, Ballykeel, Harryville and the Moat. This Cluster also represents the Neighbourhood Renewal Area of Ballee, Ballykeel and a small part of Harryville and meets bi monthly to discuss the needs of their communities. The aim of the cluster is to enhance self-support and collaborative working amongst the groups.

The employment of a Cluster Development Officer and Admin Support jointly funded by Neighbourhood Renewal and Mid and East Antrim Borough Council has embedded the cluster concept. The groups within Ballymena South Cluster area receive support and guidance from the Development Worker and projects are developed for the benefit of the South Cluster area with groups working in partnership. The network of Cluster groups supports greater use of resources and good relations across the area and targets needs from a grass roots level.

Economic Renewal

1. NRC - Community Access to Lifelong Learning (CALL)

This project brings education into the community, removing barriers such as transport and cost to participants and provides a learning environment, which is tailored to the needs of the participants. Delivered by Northern Regional College tutors, participants have the opportunity to engage in courses of interest to them. The overall aim of the project is to build self-esteem and encourage people from the NRA to actively participate in educational opportunities. The programme provides a pathway to learning and capacity building through a framework of courses that are tailored to encourage participation and supportive learning, addressing barriers to education.



Call Project 2019/20

Social Renewal - Education

1. Ballee Community Childcare – Ballee Community After Schools Club

This project facilitates the recruitment of staff, which has enabled an increase in the number of children supported by the project. The project is successfully addressing a major identified need in the Neighbourhood Renewal area by the provision of an After Schools Club to support parents who wish to return to work or education.



2. Barnardo's Jigsaw Project

This project aims to address the barriers to educational achievement and improve the experience of school for children and their parents. The project recruits three support workers (across the three partnered schools) to engage with parents on a range of school based family support interventions for both parents and children. The Jigsaw programme improves links between schools, parents and pupils and has resulted in improved education and training.



Social Renewal – Health

1. Ballykeel Together Development Association - Mature Adults Luncheon Social Programme

This project aims to bring together and engage older people from the Ballykeel area. It is a social programme that looks at providing companionship, education and advice, exercise and health promotion. The activities planned are delivered by trained volunteers from the local community. The monthly luncheon club in Ballykeel encourages social interaction and improved health and well-being for participants. This programme supports inclusion, independent living, and support for older people, which is vital given that the statistics for the Mid & East Antrim area evidence an ageing population, which is increasing.



2. Harryville Men's Shed Group – Harryville Men's Shed

The Men's Shed Project has been designed to tackle issues of social isolation for unemployed/retired men. It addresses health concerns and encourages men to seek help and encourages those feeling isolated to re-engage within their community. The project also provides opportunities for up-skilling and improved employment opportunities. This project is delivered in Ballee and is open to residents from Ballee, Ballykeel and Harryville. The programme includes a fitness suite, which is focused on healthy lifestyle and emotional wellbeing and is also a shared space for men to develop their skills in upcycling, craftwork, social enterprise and woodwork.



3. MEABC - Community Sport Basketball Twinning Programme

The Mid & East Antrim Borough Council (MEABC), led community sport intervention project aims to establish interaction, dialogue, education and health and well-being amongst young people from interface and disadvantaged areas in Ballymena. This project is match funded in partnership with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Good Relations Programme, which is funded by The Executive Office. The project provides an opportunity for six local schools to learn together in a safe, shared space through the promotion of neutral sports. This programme is an example of how through sport schoolchildren can build relationships, mutual understanding, cultural diversity and skills development.



Achievements Of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding In 2019 / 2020 Year

Community Renewal Output Measures to be used for 2019 / 2020 Annual Report

Project	CR1 Number of people participating in community relations projects	CR2 Number of people participating in community bonding projects	CR4 Number of people engaged /involved in unpaid voluntary work	CR7 Number of community /voluntary groups supported	CR8 Number of community relations projects supported	CR10 Number of people using existing community facilities
Mature Adults Luncheon Social Programme		100	8	1		
Ballee Community After Schools Club				1		27
Ballymena South Community Development Worker		11		9		
Harryville Men's Shed			17	1		
Ballymena Community Sport Basketball Twinning Project	272				1	

Economic Renewal Output Measures to be used for 2019/20 Annual Report

Project	ER3 Number of people accessing careers advice	ER6 Number of people receiving non job specific training e.g. first aid	ER11 Number of Social economy enterprises created /supported	ER13 Number of new/existing childcare places supported to facilitate training and/or employment	ER15 Number of FTE jobs safeguarded
Harryville Men's Shed			1		
Community Access to Life-Long Learning		55			
Ballymena South Community Development Worker			1		1

Social Renewal (Education) Output Measures to be used for 2019 / 2020 Annual Report

Project	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) 10 Number of pupils directly benefitting from the project	SR(Ed) 12 Number of pupils whose attendance is measurably enhanced/improved	SR(Ed) 14 Number of young people directly benefitting from the project	SR(Ed) 17 Type and number of accredited qualifications completed
Jigsaw Project		298	548	7		
Community Access to Life-Long Learning					36	20
Ballee Community After Schools Club	72					

Social Renewal (Health) Output Measures to be used for 2019 / 2020 Annual Report

Project	SR(H)1 Number of people benefiting from Healthy Lifestyle Projects	SR(H)2 Number of people attending Health Education /Awareness initiatives	SR(H)3 Number of people accessing intervention /treatment services
Jigsaw Project		664	12
Ballymena Community Sport Basketball Twinning Project	25		
Mature Adults Luncheon Social Programme	80	140	
Harryville Men's Shed		40	

Social Renewal (Crime) Output Measures to be used for 19/20 Annual Report

Project	SR(C)1 Number of people receiving advice on crime prevention
Mature Adults Luncheon Social Programme	80
Ballymena South Community Development Worker	282
Ballymena Community Sport Basketball Twinning Project	25

Ballymena 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 Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Community Renewal Expenditure 2019/20

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding Amount	2019 /2020 Spend
Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Development Officer and Administrative Support	01/04/2019 - 31/03/2020	£27,507.80	£24,729.38
Ballymena South Community Development Officer	01/04/2019 - 31/03/2020	£16,251.13	£12,603.97
Total Community Renewal Expenditure		£43,758.93	£37,333.35

Economic Renewal Expenditure 2019/20

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding Amount	2019 /2020 Spend
Community Access to Life-Long Learning	01/04/2019 - 31/03/2020	£24,734.64	£19,544.79
Total Economic Renewal Expenditure		£24,734.64	£19,544.79

Social Renewal Education Expenditure 2019/20

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding Amount	2019 /2020 Spend
Jigsaw Project	01/04/2019 - 31/03/2020	£70,870.04	£69,874.22
Ballee Community After Schools Club	01/04/2019 - 31/03/2020	£8,758.40	£8,758.40
Total Social Renewal Expenditure		£79,628.44	£78,632.62

Social Renewal Health Expenditure 2019/20

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding Amount	2019 /2020 Spend
Mature Adults Luncheon Social Programme	01/04/2019 - 31/03/2020	£9,898.00	£8,946.67
Harryville Men's Shed Project	01/04/2019 - 31/03/2020	£9,988.00	£9,988.00
Ballymena Community Sport Basketball Twinning Project	01/04/2019 - 31/03/2020	£6,150.00	£6,150.00
Total Social Renewal Health Expenditure		£26,036	£25,084.67

Total Ballymena Partnership Expenditure 2019/20

Overall Totals	Total Allocation	Total Spend
	£174,158.01	£160,595.43



Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Summary

In the 2019/2020 financial year, Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership's total spend was **£160,595.43**

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

Strategic Objective	Total
Community Renewal	£37,333.35
Economic Renewal	£19,544.79
Social Renewal	£103,717.29
Physical Renewal	£0

Breakdown of actual achievements for total expenditure

Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership in 2019 / 2020 has continued to be successful with the delivery of eight valuable projects.

The Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership continues to build the capacity of groups from the Ballymena South area, who make representation on the Community Planning Partnership delivering on the Implementation plan and Putting People First strategy through collaborative working. Mid & East Antrim Borough Council is working with statutory and community partners through Neighbourhood Renewal to develop and implement a shared vision for the area. Key to this approach is ensuring that

people and communities are genuinely engaged in decision-making processes and outcomes on services needed for their area. Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership is an excellent example of how local people have a voice when it comes to delivering better public services in their area. The Community Planning Partnership supports agencies in working together with the community to plan and deliver better services.

The delivery of new Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund projects has been hindered due to funding constraints within the Department for Communities however the projects are being developed where the need has been identified and should funding become available projects are in a position to be funded.

The partnership will continue to work for the benefit of the residents in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area for the remainder of the programme and will strive to secure further funding to address the needs identified locally.



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