

Living Well Together

Community Planning
in Newry, Mourne and Down
Our Journey



Our Vision

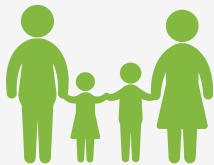
“Newry, Mourne and Down
is a place with strong, safe
and vibrant communities
where everyone has a good
quality of life and access to
opportunities, choices and
high-quality services which
are sustainable, accessible
and meet people’s needs.”

Newry, Mourne and Down's 'Living Well Together' community planning process brings partner organisations, regional government agencies and local communities together to work in collaboration to deliver our vision. Community planning is built on the understanding that organisations and communities working alone cannot do what can be achieved in partnership. Our focus is on what we can do together to achieve our goals. Our vision defines the outcomes we want to achieve by 2030.

Focusing on Outcomes

To do this we identified five overarching outcomes that partners across Newry, Mourne and Down will seek to achieve by working better together.

All people in Newry, Mourne and Down:



Get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential



Enjoy good health and wellbeing



Benefit from prosperous communities



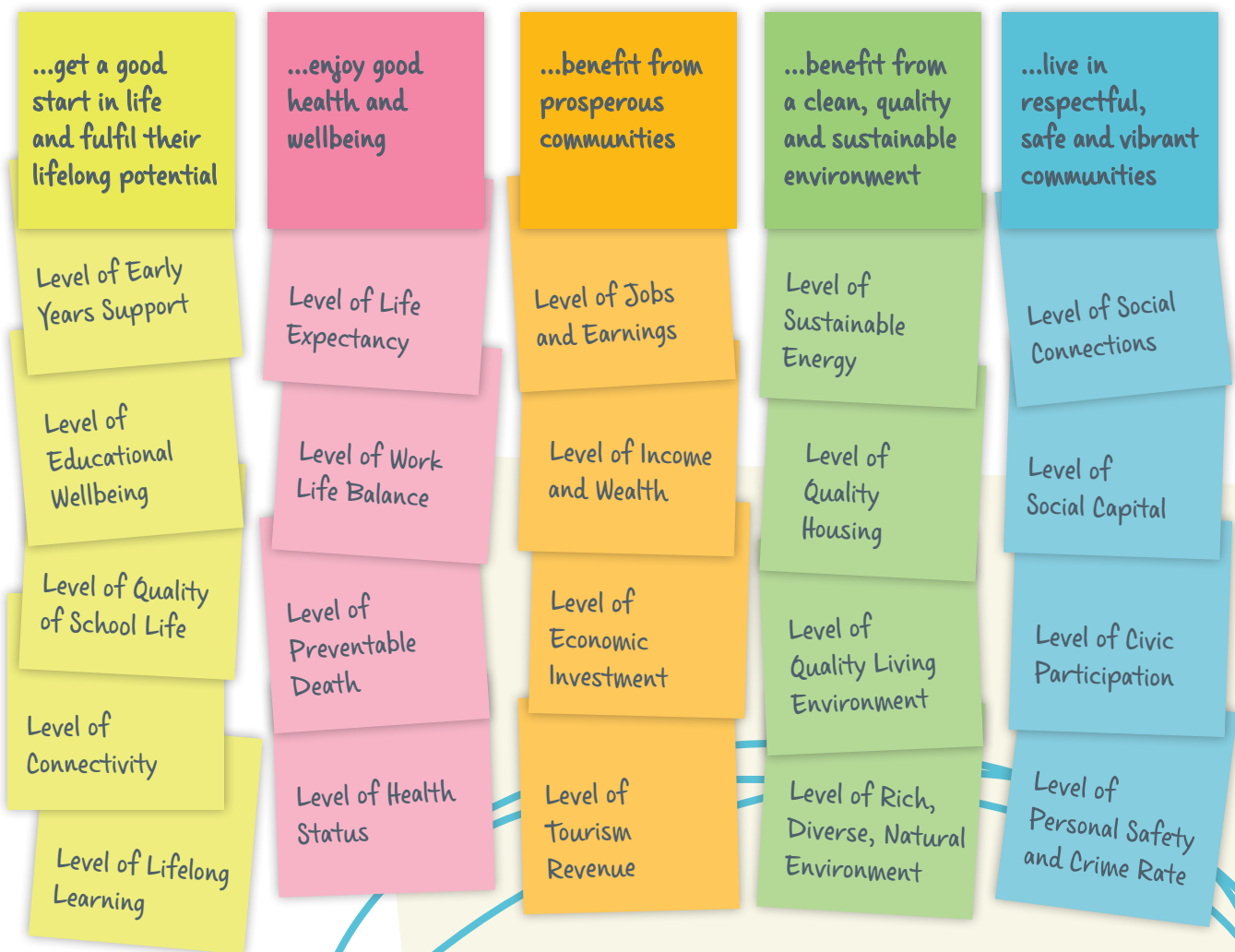
Benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment



Live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities

How will we know if we are getting there?

The Community Plan was drawn up through discussion between partners, consultation with communities and establishing a baseline of evidence so we could measure any improvements. We identified 21 social, economic and environmental measures (indicators) to help identify any positive (or negative) changes. You will find these on page 10.



Using an Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) approach three key questions help us to track progress: How much did we do? How well did we do it? Is anyone better off? We have developed a series of scorecards to report on these questions.

Who is doing this and how?

We set up the Community Planning Partnership Board, made up of senior people from statutory sector agencies, representatives of political parties and the community and voluntary sector, which is responsible for the overall Community Plan.

We established four Thematic Groups to draw up and oversee delivery of actions in priority areas under the themes of: Lifelong Health and Wellbeing; Prosperous Communities; Sustainable Environment; Safe and Vibrant Communities.

We also established seven District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums which bring Councillors and nominated community representatives together to develop and to deliver local action plans as part of the overall Community Plan.

Community and voluntary sector organisations are represented at every level of the Partnership.

What have we done that's new and different?

Community planning is still in its early days in Northern Ireland. Getting organisations to think differently and to work closely together on local priorities is not easy, but we are moving in the right direction with the following recent innovations and collaborations.

Our Focused Priorities

Thematic Group	Priority Areas
Lifelong Health and Wellbeing	Mental Health: Promotion of Take Five Steps to Wellbeing Physical Activity: Social Prescribing for people with long term health conditions Preventable Death: Building a Community of Lifesavers
Prosperous Communities	Employability and Skills: Improving links between schools and the world of work Tourism: Implement Newry, Mourne and Down Tourism Strategy
Sustainable Environment	Reduce Traffic Congestion: Develop Park and Ride / Share in key locations Sustainable Travel: Develop Action Plan for alternatives to car journeys including public / community transport, walking and cycling. Access to Quality Housing: Implement Housing Need Action Plan developed from 2019 conference Access to Natural and Build Heritage: Identify collaborative plan with environmental organisations
Safe and Vibrant Communities	Develop the Intercultural Forum: Working to ensure inclusion in more diverse society Implement Participatory Budgeting: Roll out Participatory Budgeting across all DEAs

Innovation: District Electoral Area Forums

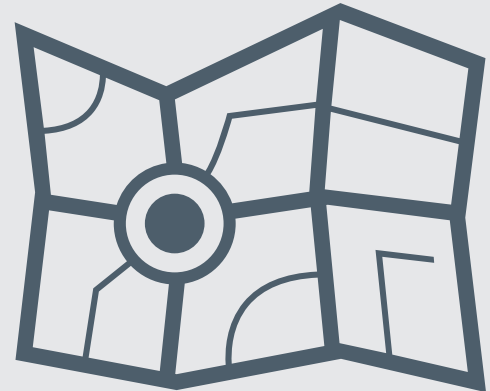
District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums bring together each DEA's Elected Members (Councillors) and nominated community representatives and are the primary mechanism for community engagement at local level.

A full-time DEA Co-ordinator and part-time administrative support to each of seven DEA Forums facilitates engagement with communities and the development and delivery of a local Action Plan. DEA Forums can call in statutory community planning partners to discuss concerns and local priorities, and a number of partners have made use of these community planning structures to identify issues and to develop locally specific approaches to improvements, eg. NI Housing Executive's identification of Housing Need at DEA level; Sport NI Everybody Active partners engage closely with DEAs to ensure delivery of appropriate local programmes.



Collaboration: Asset Mapping

Community Planning does not come with a budget. A focus on collaboration and coordination of resources needs to be developed.



Beyond their staff skills and experience, much of the wealth of all public sector community planning partners is their joint estate – land and buildings in ownership. If this resource can be better utilised through identification of surplus land and buildings, and partners engaged to identify transfer opportunities for alternative and innovative use, the intelligent re-use of these assets through community planning can be a significant driver for low-cost sustainable development. There is a need to identify and develop sites for new social housing and to improve service provision across a range of partners.



Newry, Mourne and Down has embarked on a collaborative Asset Mapping project designed to enable partners to identify and maintain shared information on land, sites and building ownership in the district. This has required an understanding of the different, and not always compatible, information technologies in use by different partners and the development of new data sharing protocols. Newry, Mourne and Down has been instrumental in bringing a range of agencies together with this common interest and has sought to co-ordinate data development both at local level and more broadly with regional partners.

Innovation: Participatory Budgeting

In 2018, Newry, Mourne and Down Community Planning Partnership decided to implement Participatory Budgeting (PB) through the Communities Leading Change initiative, as a method of extending democracy and increasing civic engagement, by giving people in the district a say on allocating funding to address issues that matter most to them. Statutory partners collaborated to establish a pooled budget for the initiative. This was a first for community planning partners and a first for citizens of Newry, Mourne and Down District who took part in two Participatory Budgeting (PB) initiatives; Communities Leading Change in the Mournes and Youth Leading Change across the district.

Our aim for both PB initiatives was to help people to lead and make real changes in their communities. Every group submitted a funding application and were invited to attend a community voting event to pitch their ideas for funding. A total of over 5500 votes were cast on which projects the community wanted to see funded in their local area. Of the 30 groups which participated across the district, 21 groups were successful in receiving a share of £10,500 pooled awards budget.

Two short films were commissioned for the events in the Mournes DEA and the Youth Leading Change district wide youth event held in Newry. They can be found at: www.newrymournedown.org/communities-leading-change Positive feedback has generated enthusiasm for further developing this form of decision-making and engagement in community planning. We will support future activities across the district.



**Communities
Leading
Change**

Collaboration: Community Support Partnership

With initial funding support from the Department of Justice, the Newry Mourne and Down community planning process has enabled a new Community Support Partnership (also known as Concern Hub elsewhere) to be put in place. This important collaborative mechanism enables key public services including PSNI, NI Fire and Rescue Service, NI Ambulance Service, NI Housing Executive along with Health and Social Care Trusts to share information on vulnerable individuals who are known to and are putting significant but often inappropriate demands on one service. A combined service approach to understanding the wider picture of the person's needs and identifying a better overall way of assisting them, and also reducing the level of inappropriate demand on stretched public services are the key goals.

Meeting monthly, Newry, Mourne and Down Community Support Partnership started to receive referrals in July 2019 and has already been effective in assisting a number of vulnerable individuals through this collaborative initiative.



Living Well Together

Statement of Progress 2017–2019

Indicators and Measures

We identified 21 key indicators that we will work on and measure to ensure our collective actions are promoting the positive outcomes we wish to see achieved for our community. In this way we can measure progress towards our outcomes and change what we are doing if it is not working.

This document highlights the progress that has been made so far from 2017 to 2019. However, not every indicator has data available. To summarise the findings, we have used the legend below and a brief outline of progress:



Positive Change



No Change



Negative Change



No baseline data to compare/ No data currently available

All people in Newry, Mourne and Down get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential

Level of Early Years support

Children aged 0-4 registered with dentist



From 2014-18, the percentage of 0-5 year olds registered with the dentist has increased annually

Birth weight rate



An average of 90% of babies were born at a healthy weight (2014 -2018)

Level of pre-school nursery places



Funded places at pre-schools has remained steady for the population from 2016/17 until 2018/19

Level of Educational Wellbeing

Level of educational attainment



In 2016, 69% of students achieved at least 5 GCSE'S grades A*-C (or equiv), similar to 65% in 2012

Level of literacy and numeracy



58% (2016) of students achieved at least 5 GCSE'S grades A*-C (or equiv) inc. English and Maths, similar to 57% in 2012

Level of Quality School Life

Attendance levels



Primary and Post Primary students absenteeism was 5.31% in 2017/18, similar to 5.57% in 2015/16

Engagement in extra-curricular activities



No data currently available

Level of emotional support



The pupil teacher ratio and number of referrals to the Education Welfare Service has remained steady

Impact of area planning



In 2016/17, 24 schools had a >5% Deficit compared to 15 schools in 2014/15

Level of Connectivity

Level of infrastructure



DFI Road Improvement Schemes have decreased to 292 (2018/19) from 409 (2016/17)

Travel times



No data currently available

Congestion levels



Increase traffic count on key routes throughout the district

Level of broadband connectivity



The percentage of properties receiving superfast broadband has increased to 83% (2018) from 73% (2016)

Level of Lifelong-learning

Increase in skills base



Third lowest proportion (%) of those leaving school aged 16, 17 and 18 not entering Education, Employment or Training in NMD (2017) No comparable data

Overall numbers in education/further education



The number of enrolments into further/ higher education decreased to 21, 947 (2017/18) from 24, 835 (2012/13)

Skills in growth areas/ growth sectors



Higher Education Qualifications in 'maths, computing, engineering and technology' has increased to 245 (2017) from 210 (2015)

All people in Newry, Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing

Level of Life Expectancy	Life Expectancy		Within the district generally, male and female life expectancy (2011-13 to 2015-17) has remained steady, however, within the districts most deprived areas, male life expectancy at birth has risen by 0.9 years and females by 1.3 years
Level of Work Life Balance	Employees working very long hours		From 2013, the total mean hours worked in the district has risen by 0.4 hours (2018) and remained below the NI average
	Time devoted to leisure, arts, culture and heritage		In 2013/14 - 2015/16, 89% of residents were engaged in culture arts and leisure No comparable data
	Workplace health		The total number of accidents reported to the council relating to work deaths, injuries or sickness has decreased to 44 incidents in 2018/19 from 64 in 2016/17
Level of Preventable Death	Illness		The standardised death rate- Circulatory U75 has decreased to 68 in 2013/17 from 81 in 2009/13, whilst Cancer Rates U75 have remained similar
	Accidents		19 Road Traffic Collision Fatalities were reported in 2016-17, similar to 18 reported in 2013-14
	Suicide		The suicide rate has increased to 16.1 (2013-17) from 13.6 (2009-13)
Level of Health Status	People reporting good or very good health		79% of residents report generally good health (2018). No comparable data
	Children who are overweight or obese		The rate of Primary 1 and Year 8 rates of children overweight or obese has not seen any significant change from 2010/11-2012/13 to 2014/15-2016/17
	People dependent on carers		Increase in the total claimants for carers allowance to 7640 (2018) from 6850 (2014)
	Level of mental illness		Standardised Admission rate for self harm has decreased to 150 (2014/15 - 2016/17) from 219 (2010/11-2012/13)
	Addictions		The standardised death rate for smoking, drugs and alcohol related illness' have remained similar from 2009-13 to 2013-17

All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities

Level of Jobs and Earnings	Level of economically inactive	△	The economic activity rate has increased to 69% (2018) from 61% (2015)
	Level of GVA per head	△	The GVA per head has increased to £15, 508 (2016) from £14, 189 (2012)
	Shift in sectoral spread of business	▷	Services is the main business sector accounting for 78% of employees in NMD in 2018, similar to 77% in 2016
Level of Income and Wealth	Level of average earnings	△	The average annual wage has increased to £25,426 in 2018 from £22,155 in 2016
	Level of skills development across population	△	Higher Education Qualifications in 'maths, computing, engineering and technology' has increased to 245 (2017) from 210 (2015)
Level of Economic Investment	Level of economic investment	▷	In relation to the Invest NI Supported Businesses Programme there has been a decrease in the number of businesses supported and people employed, however an increase in both external and export sales by 10% from 2017 to 2018
	Size and quality of business base	△	The number of VAT or PAYE registered businesses has increased to 8, 745 (2019) from 7, 875 (2016)
Level of Tourism Revenue	Level of overnight visitors	△	The level of overnight visitors has increased to 449, 953 (2018) from 403, 302 (2015)
	Average spend per trip by visitors	△	The average spend per visitor has increased to £154.12 (2018) from £106.72 (2016)
	Occupancy level	△	Hotel, self-catering and B&B's rates have increased from 2015-17

All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment

Level of Sustainable Energy

Energy output from renewable sources	▽	Renewable energy planning applications have decreased by 92% from 2015/16- 2018/19
Sustainable energy installations	▽	The total number of domestic sustainable energy installations and regularisations has decreased to 171 (2018) from 287 (2015)
Energy efficiency measures	▽	The number of energy efficiency measures installed by the NIHE Affordable Warmth scheme has decreased to 516 (2018/19) from 865 (2017/18)

Level of Quality Housing

Quality of social housing	▷	The district ranks above the NI average for the percentage of domestic dwellings that are unfit and in a state of disrepair (2017). No comparable data
Housing need	△	Social housing need in the district has decreased to 1,884 for 2018-2023 from 1,959 for 2017-2022
Level of mixed tenure developments	△	A mixed tenure development (Craigmore Way, Newry) is currently seeking planning permission for around 300 homes
Level of affordable housing	▽	The total number of those in housing stress has increased to 2,388 (2018) from 2,264 (2016)

Level of Quality Living Environment

Properties at risk of flooding	▷	A total of 3.2% of the houses in the district are at risk of flooding, above the NI average (2017) No comparable data
Urban air quality	▷	The air quality levels in high motor vehicle traffic areas within Newry and Downpatrick have seen no significant change (2017-19)
Incidents of litter, dog fouling, excessive noise, fly tipping and pollution	▷	The Local Environmental Audit and Management System (or LEAMS) which monitors issues such as litter, dog fouling, fly tipping has remained at a score of 72 for 2017/18 and 2018/19
Recycling rate	△	Since 2015-16, the district increased the overall rate of recycling by 12.1% to 51.2%, exceeding the 50% target by 2020

Level of Rich, Diverse, Natural Environment

Water quality	▷	From 2015 to 2018, four surface water status' within the districts have changed, two to "good" and two to "poor"
Access to green space	▷	No data currently available
Unauthorised developments	▽	From 2015/16 to 2018/19 the number of open enforcement cases has increased by 71.4%, whilst the number of cases concluded has remained steady.
Quality of habitats	▽	In the 2014-2020 reporting period 14 ASSI's were reported to be in an unfavourable condition, compared to nine in 2002-2008

All people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities

Level of Social Connections	Opportunities to connect with others	△	Good Morning/Good Neighbour number of users increased to 1183 (2018/19) from 303 (2017/18)
	Social network support	▷	72% of residents think their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (2018) No comparable data
	Level of attitudinal change	△	49% of residents felt that relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were 5 years ago (2018)
Level of Social Capital	Level of volunteering	▽	The total number of volunteers with Volunteer Now has decreased to 180 (2018/19) from 277 (2017/18)
	Level of community networks/ infrastructure	▷	78% of residents do not regularly participate in local groups or activities. No comparable data
Level of Civic Participation	Voter turnout	▷	Comparing voter turnout for government elections from 2001 to 2014, it is evident that turnout has decreased. However, from 2014-2019 the voter turnout has increased by 4%
	Inclusive engagement in decision making	▷	31% of residents feel they have influence when it comes to any local decisions made No comparable data
Level of Personal Safety and Crime Rate	Crime rate	▷	The total number of crimes has remained steady from 12, 222 (2012) to 12, 433 (2018), with a decrease in burglary/ theft and an increase in ASB
	Fear of crime	▷	Most residents feel safe in their local area during the day (94%) and after dark (87%) No comparable data
	No. of Neighbourhood Watch schemes / Farm Watch schemes	△	Neighbourhood watch schemes within the district have increased to 175 (2018/19) from 150 in 2016/17

For further information contact:
communityplanning@nmandd.org

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www.newrymournedown.org