

Bangor

Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Annual Report

2019/20



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**Ards and
North Down**
Borough Council

Introduction to Neighbourhood Renewal

The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme (NRP) aims to reduce the social and economic inequalities which characterise the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy 'People and Place' was published in June 2003 to close the gap between the quality of life for people in these neighbourhoods and the rest of society. The DfC has made a long-term commitment to work in partnership with communities to identify and prioritise needs and co-ordinate interventions designed to address the underlying causes of poverty. To tackle the complex, multi-dimensional nature of deprivation in an integrated way, the NRP 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 coordinated public services and the creation of safer environments.
- ✚ Physical Renewal – to help create attractive, safe and sustainable environments in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

Bangor Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Bangor Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA) covers the whole of the Kilcooley and Fern Grove estate (shown in Figure 1). Kilcooley estate is the third largest estate in Northern Ireland with a population of 2,767 based on NISRA figures (2017). 79% of residents identified themselves as having a Protestant or Christian faith background and approximately 4% of respondents identified themselves as having Catholic faith background.

Of the 432 wards in Northern Ireland, Kilcooley ward is ranked 72nd and the 3rd most deprived in Ards and North Down Borough.

Situated approximately three miles west of Bangor Town Centre, the estate is bounded by two major roads, the West Circular Road on the East and the Belfast Road on the West.

£4.2 million has been invested in Bangor NRA by the DfC since the programme's inception in 2004. Significant additional match funding and in-kind support has also been levered into Bangor NRA by other supporting partners.

Bangor NRA is one of 36 Neighbourhood Renewal areas in Northern Ireland as measured by the Multiple Deprivation Measure. Levels of 'multiple deprivation' remain much higher in Bangor NRA than within North Down and Ards. Kilcooley and Fern Grove Estate.

Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership

The Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership (KNP) was established in 2004/2005 to take forward the NRP in Bangor. The Partnership is defined as a non-constituted entity acting in an advisory capacity to DfC on issues identified in the designated Bangor NRA. The Partnership comprises of members from the community/voluntary and statutory sectors as shown below.

Kilcooley Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Members 2019/20

Names of Members	Organisation
Desy Clayton	Kilcooley Community Forum
Tracy Harrison	Kilcooley Women's Centre
Pete Wray (Vice Chair)	Bangor Alternatives

Names of Members	Organisation
Stephen Hollywood	Bangor Alternatives
Pauline Brown	Kilcooley Primary School
Dorothy Beattie	AGE North Down and Ards
Francesca Dowler	Ards and North Down Borough Council
Kirk Marshall	Ards and North Down Borough Council
Anita Waite	Department for Communities
Brian McAleenan	Department for Communities
Lynda Vladeanu (Chairperson)	South and Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
Bernie Mooney	Education Authority
Esther Millar	EA Youth
Owen Brady	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Police Service of Northern Ireland	Police Service of Northern Ireland

The overall aim of the KNP is to engage in effective working partnerships with key stakeholders from all relevant sectors to proactively deliver priorities detailed in the Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan to improve the well-being and quality of life for residents.

The objectives of KNP are to manage, develop and oversee the regeneration of Bangor NRA to:

- Ensure that people living in the Bangor NRA have access to the best possible services and to create opportunities which make for a better quality of life, better prospects and the creation of a safer environment for themselves and their families.
- Develop economic activity in the Bangor NRA and connect the community to the wider economy of Bangor, Belfast and Northern Ireland.
- Develop confident communities that are able and committed to improving the quality of life in the Bangor NRA.
- Improve the environment and image of the Bangor NRA so that it becomes an attractive place in which to live and invest.

The council employs a part time Neighbourhood Renewal Officer funded by the DfC to provide secretariat support to the Partnership which meets on a six weekly basis.

The Kilcooley Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership has signed up to and is reminded of the Neighbourhood Renewal Code of Practice and Guiding Principles and subsequent Sub-Group Terms of Reference at each meeting.



The Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan



The vision for Bangor NRA, (as defined in the initial Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan 2007-2010) is:

'Kilcooley will become an attractive, safe and prosperous estate where the residents enjoy healthy active lifestyles.'

The environment in which the KNP now operates has changed significantly since the inception of the NRP. Need within the community has changed and priorities have been revised to reflect this. In addition, major changes in the global economy means that KNP now operates in an environment of funding cuts and budget restraint. The KNP has conducted a full review of the action

plan to ensure priorities contained therein are based on and commensurate to, identified evidence based need and to determine progress in tackling deprivation since the development of the initial plan.

The aim of the revised Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan for 2018-2020 is to deliver a real and significant improvement in people's quality of life by focusing on key priorities such as,

- educational attainment
- income deprivation
- health inequalities and
- early year intervention

The continued provision and supporting infrastructure of programmes will contribute significantly to delivering against all four Neighbourhood Renewal strategic objectives (physical, social, economic and community).

The Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan 2018-2020 continues to establish an overarching structure for regeneration and community development activity within Bangor NRA. The Action Plan demonstrates outcomes that contribute to DfC's key priorities and mission statement whilst simultaneously providing a foundation for community planning and the revised regeneration policy framework.

Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership Projects

The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme has supported six revenue projects during the financial period 2019-2020 under the key strategic objectives as outlined below:

Community Renewal

- Ards and North Down Borough Council – Kilcooley Technical Assistance
- Kilcooley Community Forum – Salaries and Running Costs Project

Social (education, health and crime) and Economic Renewal

- Kilcooley Women's Centre – STEP Project
- Education Authority – Kilcooley Transitions Programme
- South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust – Family Health and Wellbeing Project
- Bangor NI Alternatives – Community Safety Project

Details of individual projects are listed from pages 9 to 25.

Community Renewal



A&NDBC Kilcooley Technical Assistance

Secretariat support and coordination of services for the Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership is provided by a part-time Neighbourhood Renewal Officer (NRO), employed by Ards and North Down Borough Council and funded through DfC Technical Assistance.

The NRO ensures the implementation of the Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan and works in conjunction with Community/Voluntary and Statutory organisations to ensure the needs of the community are met under the four key strategic objectives of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme. Key milestones achieved for 2019-2020 include:

- The priorities contained within the Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan 2018-2020 have been monitored and updated as appropriate by the NRO. Subsequently, an electronic update of the Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan 2018-2020 to incorporate new and emerging projects has been produced.
- The NRO continues to facilitate the Kilcooley Neighbourhood Renewal Meetings, held every 6 weeks. During the period of March 2019 to March 2020 there were 8 Partnership Meetings.

- The NRO continues to facilitate the Education Working Group, rolling out numerous programmes to address the needs of the community of Kilcooley. During the period of March 2019 to March 2020 there were 5 Education Working meetings held. Numerous new projects have been carried with the Bangor Alternatives and the Kilcooley Primary School, including, community safety sessions in Kilcooley Primary School on the theme of bullying, cyber bullying, anti- social behaviour and homelessness and the creation of the afterschool club and have started a restorative practice afterschool club. A parental support programme was implemented in Kilcooley Primary School, securing funding from the SEHSCT, NIHE and the Kilcooley Primary School to fund a consultant for ongoing works with parents of the selected pupils to address some of the issues that are being experienced by both parents and children. EA Youth are currently running a youth programme on Tuesday evenings for age 13-17 is currently running. Participants are completing a crime justice and citizenship programme which has involved a mural design being run by EA Youth. They also have a programme for primary 7s age 10-11 on Monday evenings and they are completing a transitions programme to look at raising aspirations
- In addition, the Education Working Group have agreed to roll out the Kilcooley Education Website in conjunction with Ulster University. The website will be designed to highlight the education provision available in Kilcooley from the various providers.
- The NRO continues to work with the Kilcooley Health Improvement Partnership, including working with both the Chair (South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust) and facilitator (Kilcooley Women's Centre) to ensure the Health Action Plan 2019-2020 has workable actions and realistic outputs. The NRO has contributed to the Kilcooley Health Improvement Partnership Newsletter by providing programme updates from the relevant community Groups within the area.
- The NRO continues to address and represent the needs of Kilcooley, attending the Ards and North Down Locality Planning Group managed by the South Eastern Health and Social Care trust (SEHSCT). A key aspect of the group has been to partake in the Needs Analysis Programme which was launched by S3Solutions to identify the health and education needs of those in the Ards and North Down Borough. The NRO attended the workshops and participated in the discussion, ensuring the needs of Kilcooley were highlighted and addressed.
- The NRO has continued to be the key contact between the Kilcooley Community Forum 3G Pitch Group, Ards and North Down Borough Council and the SIF Capital Projects Group, attending 6 SIF Capital Projects Board Meetings and facilitating where appropriate the 3G Pitch Stakeholder Group.
- A new Chair and Vice of the Partnership have been appointed. Lynda Vladeanu (SEHSCT) is the Chairperson and Pete Wray (Bangor Alternatives) is the Vice Chair.



Kilcooley Community Forum

Kilcooley Community Forum – Salaries & Running Cost Programme

This project is essential to the ongoing delivery of community development service provision within Kilcooley. The Forum seeks to develop and deliver a range of projects targeting the key areas of Education, Health and Community Development.

To this end, the Forum has established a Community Education Hub, based at Kilcooley Presbyterian Church. In partnership with Ulster University, the Forum offers regular access courses to local people to facilitate their entry onto the Community Development Honours Degree Course at Jordanstown. During the year 2019-20, seven local people enrolled in the degree course. This year also saw the first Graduations of students from this programme. The Forum also offers a range of OCN courses including community development, health and well-being and horticulture.

In addition, programmes focused on Drama, Local History, shared history and Social Justice have been delivered in partnership with a range of cross-community groups from West Belfast, Craigavon and Dublin.

The Forum offers a range of health support initiatives through its Community Garden and Allotments sites. This year, the Forum has supported nine community groups through direct training as well as offering grow-packs and seeds plus on line tuition to 120 homes from Kilcooley and A&NDBC area. Fresh produce for the Forum's Dig for Victory project, has been provided to the local food bank for distribution as crops have become available. Seedlings and plants have been provided directly to members of the public and donations of plants and growing materials have been made to a number of local support projects for vulnerable people.

The Forum has also sought to champion the needs of those with mental illness and, in partnership with Community Learning through Engagement from Craigavon, delivered a substantial training programme which culminated in a presentation at Stormont which was attended and endorsed by MLAs from all main parties.

COVID – 19 Pandemic March 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this has been a challenging time for all organisations involved in the Kilcooley Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. Despite this, The Kilcooley Community Forum stepped up to the mark and provided valuable service to the residents within Kilcooley.



KCF utilised their allotment plots and used a team of local volunteers to bring all of the growing space into use by preparing beds with the aim to produce fresh vegetables that could be fed into the wider food bank partnership for safe and equitable distribution to identified and eligible recipients.

KCF purchased bulk supplies of compost, seeds, fertiliser and planting began week commencing 23rd March.

Volunteers, led by allotment enthusiast Tommy Hutton have rebuilt raised beds, carried out extensive soil preparation and have sown crops for rotation over the coming months.

KCF distributed 100 bags of compost, seed trays and seeds to local residents who wanted to grow their own vegetables and salad at home.

Residents booked a collection spot through the Forums Community Garden project and the materials were distributed free of charge. This Project has been led by the Forum's Dr Jacqueline Monahan, supported by horticulturist Dave Rainey

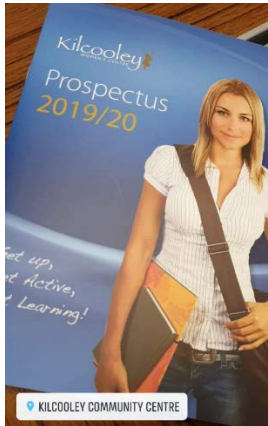
Instructional videos were made available online on the Kilcooley Community Garden Facebook site.

Social Renewal



The Kilcooley Women's Centre – STEP Project

The project supports women into training and education in the Neighbourhood Renewal area. It was designed to enhance the transferrable skills, improve employment opportunities and life chances of the participants and to address educational underachievement in the area. It is delivered and implemented by Kilcooley Women's Centre who has 25 years' experience in grass roots community education, with accreditation status with the main UK awarding bodies.



The project offers a wide portfolio of training opportunities, catering for those with no formal qualifications to those who need to re-skill due to redundancy, return to work after bringing up a family, to move from benefits, unemployed/economically inactive or for those in low paid occupations. The training takes place in Kilcooley Community Centre and a safe, supportive environment, in a community setting with built in support mechanisms. For any overspill in Kilcooley, the Co Down Scout base in Balloo is available, which has been extremely successful. The project has been essential to those who fear returning to education and for whom confidence to engage and recognition of their potential is a major barrier. The Women's Centre also provides onsite childcare which encourages single parents, unemployed and those in the transition from benefits to work, to benefit from affordable accessible childcare. The project demonstrates long term returns, with the reduction in people claiming means tested benefits when people move into work, and has had a positive impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the participants.



A variety of courses are also on offer such as GCSE English, , GCSE Maths, Sociology, Psychology, Level 3 Classroom Assistant, Numeracy, Literacy, Essential Skills ICT Level 1 & 2, Basic IT, SAGE Payroll, SAGE Accounts, Social Media for Beginners, languages including French, Spanish, health and social care, fashion design, Hospitality, Business Studies.

The Centre heavily rely on volunteers to support the Kilcooley Women's Centre events and workshops, including the Annual Health Fair, International Women's day, Christmas Fair, Easter Fair and the European Day of Languages.

COVID – 19 Pandemic March 2020



The Kilcooley Women's Centre

The COVID19 crisis has resulted in a massive increase in requests for support from the KWC team. During the initial days of the COVID19 outbreak, a dual operational model was implemented to protect staff and the public, and to comply with social distancing. A skeleton team was on rota in the office, with the remainder working from home, continuing to carry out normal duties.

This included planning for the imminent examination period. KWC also operated a comprehensive childcare and early year's programme, which needed to continue to provide for the children Key Workers whilst being mindful of the duty of care for their childcare workers and administrative team.

Key areas focused on included:

- Operational Model for Administration Service Delivery
- Operational Model for Training Service Delivery
- Operational Model for Administration Service Delivery
- Operational Model for Training Service Delivery
- Employability Support
- Addressing Food Poverty
- Combatting Hygiene Poverty

Kilcooley Women's Centre Project's Outcomes throughout 2019/20

How Much Did We Do?

A total of 58 participants took part in activities carried out by the project. These included:

- Essential skills in numeracy and literacy delivered to 10 participants
- Academic qualifications delivered to 12 participants including GCSE English and maths
- 26 participants took part in Spanish, crafts and beauty classes and
- 10 participants took part in ICT and classroom assistance classes

During the year we offered job search and interview techniques and supported people to create CVs. This resulted in 5 participants going into employment. The employers included schools, call centres, a hotel and Denroy Plastics.

We also encouraged participants to volunteer, in activities in their community and this resulted in 5 participants volunteering in activities such as the local summer scheme, health fair and craft fair.

How Well Did We Do It?

- All the core activities and accreditations are delivered in accordance with the relevant Awarding Body Guidelines. This will ensure the quality standard of the qualification and the teaching
- All the teaching and IQA staff are required to attend standardisation meetings and are required to keep their CPD updated, current and relevant to the course they are teaching.
- All activities were delivered on time up until the middle of March when we were hit by the pandemic and we had to stop all face to face classes
- Over all the project was a success exceeding the targets required.

Is Any One Better Off?

All of the participants are better off as a result of the project.

5 participants went into paid employment, this will not only have a positive impact on them directly but on their family network.

32 participants achieved accreditations. This will help them get closer to their goals whether it be employment, further education or just to help their children with their homework. To date 13 of these participants have now moved on to further education. Looking at the numeracy class evaluation. Comparing self-initial data with mid-evaluations, there is a significant change in behaviours and outlook with initial data showing low levels of confidence and everyday maths ability. Participants said the course allowed them to relax and was uplifting. They also stated that the tutor was very supportive and very knowledgeable. Mid-evaluation could show an increase in knowledge, claiming that the course was informative, educational and enlightening.

26 participants took part in personal development, this may have been the first step to further education or as a means to be involved in their own community. Many of the participants stated that their communication skills have improved as a result of the classes. Participants initially showed a low level of confidence and general social skills. Staff received verbal feedback from participants claiming an increase in knowledge and a general increase in wellbeing due to the structure and opportunity the course provided them with. Participants also claims that the course was vital to them progressing in remunerative work.

Education Authority – Kilcooley Transitions Programme

This on-going project provided a range of programmes to nurture the transition of pupils from years 6 and 7 in Kilcooley Primary School to year 8 in Bangor Academy & Sixth Form College and Priory Integrated College. The project had five programmes that are in addition to the current provision in schools to support year 8 pupils and their parents in their transition year. Kilcooley PS pupils participating in the programmes showed improved attainment levels after completing the programme.



The tailored programmes through this Neighbourhood Renewal project were:

- ✓ Transition Support
- ✓ Reading Partnership
- ✓ Parental Engagement
- ✓ Numeracy Together
- ✓ Pupil and Parent Transition

A total of 40 parents from the Kilcooley NRA have participated in parenting skills in the last year, with parents participating in events and programmes relating to the transition of pupils for the 2019/2020 academic year. In addition, 40 parents have participated in programs in

preparation for pupil transition. Alongside this, teachers from Kilcooley Primary School have reported increased engagement of parents in their children's education as a result of the Transitions Programme

Kilcooley Transitions Project's Outcomes

How much did we do?

40 parents were engaged and supported to develop the skills necessary to support their children in their education and through the transition process.

A total of 40 primary school pupils were supported and offered additional help in reading, numeracy and ICT to improve achievement.

A total of 12 post primary pupils were trained to support primary school pupils through a mentoring and positive role model programme.

How well did we do it?

Schools reported an improvement in achievement, knowledge and skills. Parents have an understanding, increased awareness and the skills necessary to help support their children through the transition process.

Is anyone better off?

Pupils feel supported and valued and there is a shift in their behaviour and attitude towards achievement. Schools report there is improvement in skills, achievement, attention and behaviour. There is also a shift in parental attitudes. Developing parental skills to supporting their children through transition and the education process has empowered parents.

The impact on the NR citizens benefitting from the project/programme i.e. changed in behaviour, shift in attitudes, safer communities, changes in circumstances, increases in knowledge, remunerative work, improvement in skills, pass rates of exams etc

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust – Family Health and Wellbeing Programme

Providing a coordinated network of health and family support services is the key aim of this early intervention project. The project enhanced parenting skills and improved the mental and emotional well-being of children and their families.

The project during the 2019/2020 year had two key elements:

- A New Parent Visitor Programme - which focused on new parents, ante-natal and post-natal support to parents until the child is two years old.
- Family Home Support Programme - which offered practical and emotional support to families and children aged 0-11 years during difficult periods. The main focus was on behavioral management and supporting families during the transition stages of a child's life.



Family Health and Wellbeing Programme Performance Achieved during 2019/20

What did we do?

New Parent Programme Caseload (Health Visitor)

Category of caseload	Family/Children Numbers
Total caseload numbers children at end of quarter	26 families
Single parents	15
In a relationship (both parents in family)	8
Mothers under twenty years old	10
Father engagement	4
Social work involvement level three (family support)	9
Social work involvement level nine (child protection)	5
Antenatal clients	4
New referrals	2
Discharge	2
Core visits (Healthy Child Healthy Future Programme)	18
Additional targeted interventions	46

Family Support Worker Caseload

Category of caseload	Family/Children Numbers
Total caseload numbers (children at end of quarter)	13 families
Single parents	1
In a relationship (both parents in family)	5
Mothers under twenty years old	2
Father engagement	2
Social work involvement level 3 (family support)	1
Social work involvement level 9 (child protection)	2
Antenatal clients	0

How well did we do?

- 99% core home targets achieved.
- Groups' activity feedback positive and changes apparent
- Evidence of compliments for both NPPHV and FSW

Is anyone better off?

NNP HV clients have had enhanced home visiting service to two years of age, increasing the first one hundred days and baby brains development.

Parent's diet, nutrition and exercise, behavior and routines improved.



Bangor NI Alternatives - Community Safety Project

Bangor Alternatives is a government accredited community based restorative justice project. It was established to address low level crime and anti-social behavior in a holistic fashion. It operates a wide variety of user-led programs to tackle sensitive community issues to redirect young people away from crime and offer victims a forum to have their concerns addressed.

The project is building on previous projects and it is in respect of work that is not regulated by protocols within the formal justice sector, and therefore addresses the areas of youth prevention, community safety, crime prevention and community support initiatives. Bangor Alternatives provides a number of services that address the issues of community conflict, community cohesion and anti-social behaviour, and the impact that these have upon individuals and communities.

Through the work of Bangor Alternatives they have continued to address:

- Intensive Youth Support because of their involvement in anti-social behaviour
- Engagement of youth in prevention projects
- Sessions delivered in schools
- Young people carrying out volunteer hours in the community
- Crime prevention sessions offered to community
- Crime and anti-social behaviour prevention sessions
- Vulnerable residents offered Community Support services, home visits personal/home security products
- Community volunteers engaging with Alternatives to help 'renew' their local communities
- Residents engaging in mediation as a means of resolving anti-social behaviour and Neighbourhood disputes
- Working with organisations/agencies to deliver community services

COVID – 19 Pandemic March 2020



Bangor Alternatives

During the Coronavirus Crisis, Alternatives has continued to deal with daily issues of community concern and crisis by extending and adapting their crisis intervention methodology to include the following detailed below.

Activities:

- ✓ Daily telephone support to existing families referred through Family Support Hubs and other sources to help them cope with Covid-19 crisis and respond to emerging needs.
- ✓ Sharing essential service information with families who require additional support.
- ✓ Distribution of food packages to local families, especially those who include elderly, children, young people and those with underlying health issues.
- ✓ Assistance with and advice on utilities; prescriptions and other essential services
- ✓ Provision of telephone counselling for people struggling with mental health issues or coping mechanisms.
- ✓ Provision of youth resource packs
- ✓ Online support for young people and continuing training

- ✓ Provision of online social media platforms such as Facebook groups; Zoom etc to help people stay in touch



Key Performance Measurement for Bangor NI Alternatives 2019/20

What did we do?

Several hundred residents of Kilcooley NRA received advice guidance and support on crime prevention and community safety initiatives during the reporting year. Core activities included one to one support on crime prevention and community safety, group seminars, educational session with local schools and diversionary activities for local youth and the achievement of formal qualifications

Bangor Cares

Involved a consortium of organisations planning series of events in September 2019 with focus on tackling the issue of mental health.

Anti-Crime Workshop

Worked collaboratively with agenda, to help facilitate and host an anti-crime workshop to older residents of Kilcooley. Speakers involved Alternatives, police, banks and council.

Restorative Afterschools

Introduced the concept of Restorative Practices into our afterschool, building trust between young people and adults.

Priory/Kilcooley 'Moving on & Mental Health'

Young people from Priory Colllege designed and delivered a session around moving to the 'big' school and mental health to Primary Seven pupils of Kilcooley Primary School

Open Dialogue

Promoted Good Relations and cross-community initiatives and activities aimed at promoting social cohesion.

Mindful Me Kilmaine

Delivered mental health awareness sessions to three classes of Primary Six pupils as part of Kilmaine's 'Mindful Me' day.

Kilcooley Environmental Project

Held workshops for young people in Kilcooley in producing wooden sculptures and signage.

Restorative Allotment and Reflective Garden

Restorative Allotment and Dialogue Garden resource to enable our young people to give community pay back as part of their reparation.

Strangford Restorative Justice

Young people from Strangford College were given a basic overview on the principles and practices of Restorative Justice and in building relations and safety in school and community

Youth Drop in Club

Coordinate a weekly schedule for ten young people to utilise the facilities at Hollywood Youth Centre

PSNI Gaming Night

Organized with PSNI, an event that saw young people build positive relationships with local neighbourhood officers

Targeted Life Skills, with Lisburn YMCA

Church Safety Talk

Internet Cyber Crime Day

ASB Session

Youth Diversion Trips

START Programme

Young people that had previously not been in education, employment or training engaged in our informal employability programme.

How well did we do it?

All activities undertaken were extremely well attended with highly positive levels of feedback. We have made important and valued relationships that will continue over the coming years that provides hugely beneficial specialist areas of expertise. Experts from a range of sectors like drugs and alcohol counsellors, security specialists, educational professionals to name a few, have been instrumental for our project at no additional costs, which has facilitated new skills, tools and knowledge of our service users. Governance standards has been adhered to at all times that has increased our professionalism in all aspects of service delivery. The compliance arrangements at Bangor Alternatives are extensive with internal inspection observations comprehensively delivered. At weekly meetings the procedures were adhered to with prepared agendas, and review of conflicts of interest registered. Of the 91% of respondent service users who completed evaluation questionnaires, 96% felt that our services

activities had proved beneficial. Only 4% of respondents recorded a 'Don't Know' response or did not respond to this question. No service user responded that our service activities were not beneficial.

Is anyone better off?

Police reports have indicated the crime levels in the NRA have continued to be recorded at a low level that demonstrates the interventions that Alternatives coordinate is proving fruitful. The one to one restorative interventions involving neighbourhood disputes, diversionary and educational activities for youth and training seminars with local schools and groups in the area, have proved hugely beneficial for residents. Adults and children alike are continuing to be given appropriate skills, tools and knowledge on how to reduce crime, ASB and responsible community citizenship. This has been demonstrated in the marked decrease of anti-social behavior in the locality. Should an incident of ASB be recorded, residents in NRA are aware to contact Alternatives where a swift intervention ensued. Beneficiaries of the project remains NRA wide, both directly and indirectly, as a result of the core aspects of our work. Further, as a result of our educational START Programme, many young people (33%) have been able to progress into remunerative employment with a further 45% into further education and training after developing important 'soft' skills like communication and time management and the achievement of Numeracy and Literacy qualifications. As a result of service delivery this year we have observed:

- Our elderly tend to be in good health physically, mentally and emotionally;
- Older people in NRA are equipped with knowledge in skills in keeping themselves safe;
- Our communities are inclusive, safe, resilient and empowered and
- Our young people have been provided employment and educational opportunities to fulfil their potential and in with the skills in developing responsible citizenship and pride in their community

Bangor Neighbourhood Renewal Area Expenditure 2019-2020

The following table details the funding amount awarded through the DfC's Neighbourhood Renewal Programme and the actual spend achieved by the projects under each of the four strategic priorities for the period 2019/2020

Community Renewal Expenditure

Programme/Project	Funding Period 01/04/2019 – 31/03/2020	Funding Amount	2019/2020 Actual Spend
Kilcooley Community Forum	01/04/2019-31/03/2020	£42,406.04	£41,546.31
Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership -Technical Assistance	01/04/2019-31/03/2020	£14,897.00	£14,897.00
Community Renewal Total		£57,303.04	£56,443.31

Social Renewal Expenditure

Programme/Project	Funding Period 01/04/2019 – 31/03/2020	Funding Amount	2019/2020 Actual Spend
Kilcooley Women's Centre – STEP Project	01/04/2019-31/03/2020	£58,505.68	£51,568.16
Education Authority – Transition Programme	01/04/2019-31/03/2020	£12,450.00	£12,449.56
Bangor Alternatives	01/04/2019-31/03/2020	£34,663.35	£34,373.24
South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust -Family Health and Wellbeing Project	01/04/2019-31/03/2020	£45,501.00	£45,501.00
Social Renewal Total		£151,112.03	£143,891.96

Achievements Of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding In 2019-2020

Community Renewal Output Measures

Project	CR1 – Number of people participating in community relation projects	CR4 - Number of people engaged/involved in unpaid voluntary work	CR5 - Number of people receiving training in community development skills/capacity building	CR7 – Number of Community/voluntary groups supported each year	CR8 - Number of community relations projects supported
Kilcooley Community Forum	95	32	19	21	
Kilcooley Women’s Centre STEP Project		5			
Bangor Alternatives Community Safety Project					24

Social Renewal Education Output Measures

Project	SR(Ed) 5 – Number of people engaged in parenting/skills development programmes	SR(Ed)6 -Number of pupils directly benefitting from the project (<i>improving attainment in Literacy and Numeracy</i>)	SR(Ed) 25 Number of pupils directly benefitting from the ICT element of the Project
Education Authority Transitions Programme	40	52	40

Social Renewal Health Output Measures

Project	SR (H) 2 – Number of people attending Health Education/Awareness initiatives	SR (H) 3 – Number of people accessing intervention/treatment services	SR (H) 4 -Number of Health Education/awareness initiatives provided
South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust -Family Health and Well being	51	32	8

Social Renewal Crime Output Measures

Project	SR (C) 1 - Number of people receiving advice on crime prevention	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 (C) 7 - Number of victims of crime supported
Bangor Alternatives Community Safety Project	198	461	178	199

Economic Renewal Output Measures

Project	ER2 - Number of residents going into employment	ER4 - Number of people receiving job specific training	ER14 - Number of people attaining a formal qualification from participation in Adult education
Kilcooley Women's STEP project	5	58	5
Bangor Alternatives Community Safety Project			28

Conclusion

The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme has delivered significant investment into Bangor NRA and laid a solid foundation necessary for future action.

This investment has contributed to addressing some of the challenges and deprivation impacting the community's ability to prosper. Since the inception of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme in Kilcooley a series of projects have been developed in response to community need as identified under the key strategic themes of Community, Economic, Social and Physical Renewal.

During 2019-2020 the Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership had a total over all spend of £200,335.27

This can be further broken down into the following spend under each of the strategic objectives:

Community Renewal - £56,443.31

Social Renewal - £143,891.96

Total Renewal - £200,335.27

It is acknowledged that Neighbourhood regeneration is a long-term objective and that significant change can only be achieved over an extended period of time. Whilst there has been some narrowing of the gap in the quality of life between Bangor NRA and non-NRA's, given the pervasive and entrenched nature of deprivation and its impact on the community, there is a requirement to continue to deliver regeneration investment in Kilcooley on an on-going basis.

The Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership continues to be the driving force overseeing the delivery of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme for Bangor NRA.



Engaged Communities Group

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