



# Rathcoole

## Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Annual Report

2019/20



Northern Ireland  
Statistics and Research Agency



Department for  
**Communities**

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# **Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area Annual Report 2019-2020**







## **About Neighbourhood Renewal**

In June 2003, Government launched “People and Place – A strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal” This long term (7-10 year) strategy was designed to target those communities throughout Northern Ireland suffering the highest levels of deprivation. Neighbourhood Renewal is a cross Governmental strategy, which aims to bring together work of Government Departments in partnership with local people to tackle disadvantage and deprivation in all aspects of everyday life.

Neighbourhoods in the most deprived top 10% of wards across Northern Ireland were identified using the Noble Multiple Deprivation Measure. Following extensive consultation, this resulted in 36 areas and a population of approximately 280,000 (one person in 6 in Northern Ireland), being targeted for intervention.

Partnerships were established in each Neighbourhood Renewal Area as a vehicle for local planning and implementation.

## **About Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership**

Established in 2006, The Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (RNRP) meets on a bi-monthly basis to carry out the task outlined in the Department for Social Development (DSD) “People and Place” document to develop an Action Plan for the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

RNRP identifies priority objectives, which it believes are fundamental to addressing the four strategic priorities which have been set by the Department for Social Development (see below). These objectives are added to the Action Plan which was first produced in 2006 and which is revised on an annual basis.

The Action Plan is also guided by a needs assessment, which is continuously updated as new information becomes available from Northern Ireland Statistical Research Agency. The Action Plan takes account of NINIS statistics, statutory priorities and lessons learned from the Neighbourhood Renewal Mid Term Review report.

**Key points for residents living within Rathcoole:**

**Households**

The table below shows Mid-Year Population Estimates (2018) for Rathcoole NRA and shows the % change from the 2008 Mid-Year Population Estimates for a range of age bands for both males and females.

Age Bands	Population Estimates 2018	2008-2018 Population Change (%)
Male 0-15 years	803	22.4%
Male 16-39 years	1,135	0.6%
Male 40-64 years	1,090	5.4%
Male 65+ years	534	-5.3%
Male Totals	3,561	5.3%
Female 0-15 years	778	21.8%
Female 16-39 years	1,204	-5.3%
Female 40-64 years	1,213	12.2%
Female 65+ years	740	-14.9%
Female Totals	3,936	1.9%
Overall Totals	7,497	3.5%

The table below shows demographic characteristics of the people living in Rathcoole NRA from the 2001 and 2011 Censuses. The 2001 Census took place on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2001 and the 2011 Census on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

Census	Population	Aged 16-59 years (%)	Aged 60 & over (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Catholic Community Background (%)	Protestants & Other Christian (including Christian related) Community background %	Persons aged 16 & over who were single (never married) (%)	One family & no others: Lone parent households with depended children (%)	Lone pensioner Households (%)
2001	7,323	53.8	26.7	46.3	53.7	3.4	92.6	32.2	12.1	20.4
2011	7,408	58.0	23.2	47.0	53.0	5.3	83.4	39.2	14.2	16.6

It is important to note that, with a rise in lone parent families, 57% of individuals claiming income support are lone parent families. Though the figures for Lone Pensioner Households appear to be decreasing this is set to significantly increase in the future with a population increase of 42.1% expected of people aged 65+ between 2015 and 2030.

### Education and Learning

Key Stage 1 Level 2 qualifications in English and Maths were higher than non-NRA areas by 0.9% and 0.2% respectively in the 2011/12 results. However by GCSE level the percentage of those achieving 5 GCSEs including Maths and English shows a significant and growing gap of 34.8%. School leavers with no GCSEs has also risen from 7.5% to 8.1%, with the 2011 non-NRA average being 1.4%

Between the 2001 Census and the 2011 Census the population with no qualifications within Rathcoole dropped from 59.6% to 43.2%. In 2011 the Northern Ireland average of individuals with no qualifications was 40.63, dropping the gap to only 2.57%.

The population who had a degree level/level 4 or higher qualification rose from 5.3% to 10.5% between the 2001 and 2011 census. Though percentage has nearly doubled in the space of ten years, the figures still remain behind the Northern Ireland average of 23.65%.



## **Well-Being and Employment**

In the 2011 census 31% of residents had a limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability, significantly higher than the Northern Ireland average of 20.69%.

In 2018 20.7% of residents in Rathcoole were on Employment and Support Allowance (an increase of c1%) in comparison to 9% of the Non-NRA figures in 2017. In 2018 13.1% of residents in Rathcoole were on Disability Living Allowance.

Jobseekers Allowance claimants are its lowest level since 2009, however in 2018 the percentage of Rathcoole residents on JSA was at 3.9% in comparison to 2.1% in 2017 province wide.

It is important to highlight the impact mental ill health has had upon Rathcoole's well-being and employment figures. Nearly half of individuals in Rathcoole on ESA in 2017 were on the benefit because of psychiatric disorders (49%). Of those on disability living allowance 21% defined as mental health causes.

60% of individuals claiming income support are also in receipt of carer's premium, emphasising the need to support carer's within the area to maintain a good quality of life for both themselves and the people they are caring for.

## **Crime**

Overall crime rates per 1,000 of the population show that Rathcoole is a safe place to live, with figures often better in the NRA area than in non-NRA areas. An increase in drugs offences is noteworthy, however this is also evident in non-NRA areas. Though there has been no real change in the overall figures for Offences recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation, at 11.7 per 1,000 of the population according to the most recent per population figure, it is important to note that this figure is over double that reflected in the Non-NRA statistics. In 2018 there were 99 reports of domestic violence in Rathcoole in comparison to 101 in the previous year.

There were 271 incidences of ASB in Rathcoole in 2018, comparable to the 2017 figure of 272.

## **Action Plan**

The Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership completed a review of its original Action Plan in 2011 and published further updates on an annual basis to ensure that the actions required against all key priorities identified were sufficiently detailed. The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategic Plan (10 year) Annual Action Plan reflects priorities that are valid and relevant for the area, are supported by robust evidence and take account of local knowledge.

It should be noted that the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership members have signed up to and abide by the Neighbourhood Renewal Code of Practice, and guiding principles, and subsequent Sub-Group Terms of Reference.

To take forward the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership was established in 2006, The Partnership currently comprises of 24 members (Trust membership currently vacant) including representatives from the local community, voluntary and statutory organisations and elected representatives.

The main statutory agencies involved in RNRP, and local Government Departments have continued to contribute to the delivery of the Action Plan – either directly through the performing of their statutory function in a way that best suits the needs of the Rathcoole community; or, through significant and timely support to the sub-groups to add value to their projects.

The Partnership will continue to work hard and respond to community needs and changes, as and when they occur. The Partnership meets on a bi monthly basis; with facilitation and Co-ordination of the Partnership and sub-groups provided through the Neighbourhood Renewal Co-ordinator post, which is funded by DfC through Belfast Regeneration Office and managed by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

#### **Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Structure and Membership:**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>
Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) Elected Representative	Councillor David Hollis Chairperson (until 2/05/19)
Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) Elected Representative	Councillor Dean McCullough Chairperson (from 6/08/19)
Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) Elected Representative	Councillor Robert Foster Vice Chairperson (from 6/08/19)
Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) Elected Representative	Councillor Billy Webb Vice Chair (until 2/05/19) Acting Chair until 6/08/19)
Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) Elected Representative	Billy DeCourcy (until 2 May 2019)
Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) Elected Representative	Councillor Paul Hamill
Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) Elected Representative	Councillor Taylor McGrann (from 2 May 2019)
Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) Elected Representative	Councillor Victor Robinson (from 2 May 2019)
Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) Community Planning Manager	Ronan McKenna
Department for Communities (DfC) – Community Empowerment Directorate	Claire McKane



<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>
Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)	Bronagh Spackman
Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI)	Sergeant David Boyd (or representative)
Northern Health & Social Care Trust (NH&SCT)	Gareth Farmer
Inniscoole Day Centre	Louanne Bakker
Abbey Community College	Maria Quinn
Rathcoole Primary School	Emma Quinn
Education Authority (EA)	Francis Loughlin
Synergy/Team JVC Hub	Elaine McCrum
Adree Wallace Associates	Adree Wallace (from 6 August 2019)
Breakaways	Joyce Campbell
Listening Ear	Karen Phillips (from 6 August 2019)
Newtownabbey Arts and Cultural Network	Dee Crooks (from 6 August 2019)
Newtownabbey Women's Group	Wilma Lennox
RATH Community Group	Jim McCracken (from 6 August 2019)
Rathcoole Creative Memories	Annie Anderson
Mallusk Enterprise	Emma Garrett
Newtownabbey Family Connections	Claire Humphrey
Newtownabbey Methodist Mission	Rev Billy Davison/Mary Henderson
Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey	Lorraine Adamson
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Louise Moore (left post December 2019)
Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator	Cathy Hall
Tackling Deprivation Coordinator	Karin McKinty (until February 2020)
Tackling Deprivation Coordinator	Lara Townsend (entered post February 2020)

## **New Members**

In July 2019 four new member organisations were welcomed to the Partnership.

- Adree Wallace Associates – appointed representative Adree Wallace
- Listening Ear – appointed representative Karen Phillips
- Newtownabbey Arts and Cultural Network – appointed representative Dee Crooks
- RATH Community Group – appointed representative Jim McCracken

## **Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership Sub-groups**

Currently the partnership facilitates 3 sub-groups to assist in the identification, development and, where appropriate, the delivery of projects which aim to address the 4 strategic objectives set out in the People and Place Strategy; Community Renewal, Social Renewal, Economic Renewal, and Physical Renewal.

The RNRP three sub-groups which work towards the four themes are:

- Learning, Health and Well-Being,
- Economic and Physical
- Communications and Events.

Each sub-group also assists local community organisations to co-ordinate actions that are beneficial for all communities living and working in the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA).

## **Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Sub-groups – Roles and Membership**

The role of each subgroup is to focus on issues within the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Action Plan. Membership of sub-groups is open to anyone working or living in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area who feels they have a contribution to make to support Neighbourhood Renewal and the work of the Neighbourhood Partnership.

The Learning, Health and Well-Being sub-group, and the Economic and Physical Renewal sub-group meet bi-monthly alongside a separate Task Group which oversees the Improving Outcomes for Children in Rathcoole and Monkstown Action Plan. The

Communications and Events sub-group meets monthly. A report of the activities of each sub-group is given at a feedback session to the main Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership at its bi-monthly meetings.

**The aims of sub-groups are:**

- 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 Rathcoole.
- To engage in effective working partnerships with key stakeholders from all relevant sectors to pro-actively 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, co-ordinate and monitor implementation of the Neighbourhood Action Plan.

Though the current membership of the sub-groups is detailed below it should be noted that membership of the sub-groups are open. All sub-group members are welcome to attend any group, and any person or organisation expressing an interest in the work of the Partnership are free to attend. This list is therefore not exhaustive.

**Learning, Health and Well-Being Sub-group**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>
DfC - Belfast Regeneration Office	Claire McKane
NHSCT	Angela Reid
PSNI	Serg. David Boyd
Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey	Lorraine Adamson
Inniscoole Day Centre	Louanne Bakker
Synergy	Elaine McCrum
Breakaways	Joyce Campbell
NRC	Vacant
Newtownabbey Methodist Mission	Mary Henderson
Education Authority	Lynn Clyde
Start 360	Evelyn McGuigan

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>
Newtownabbey Family Connections	Claire Humphrey
SureStart	Brenda Doherty
SureStart	Cathy Todd
Spark	Andrew Cuthbert
Rathcoole Primary School	Emma Quinn
Abbey Community College	Maria Quinn
Alzheimer's Society	Hannah Coleman
Listening Ear	Karen Phillips
Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Officer	Cathy Hall

### **Economic and Physical Sub-group**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>
ANBC Elected Representative	Councillor Billy Webb
ANBC Economic Development	Seonaid Rooney
Department for Communities	Claire McKane
Newtownabbey Jobs and Benefits Office	Jonathan Logan
Mallusk Enterprise	Emma Garrett
Community Representative	Annie Anderson
NIHE	Bronagh Spackman
Jobmatch Network Personnel	Michelle McMullan
Jobmatch	Eva Karra/Jude Murphy
Bryson Futureskills	Rab Guiney
People Plus	Jeanette McMurray
People Plus	Paula Barrett
Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Officer	Cathy Hall

### Communication and Events Sub-group

(Disbanded in February with responsibilities deferred to the Community Cohesion Sub-Group)

Organisation	Name
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor Robert Foster
Department for Communities	Claire McKane
Newtownabbey Women's Group	Wilma Lennox
Newtownabbey Women's Group	Pat Murray
PSNI	Serg. David Boyd/Jackie McClurg
Community Representative	Annie Anderson
Breakaways	Joyce Campbell
Breakaways	May Clyde
Breakaways	Linda Shaw
Newtownabbey Methodist Mission	Flo Beckett
Newtownabbey Methodist Mission	Marie King
Rathcoole Library	Amanda Wardle
Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Officer	Cathy Hall

### Community Cohesion Sub-Group (launched 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2020)

Organisation	Name
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor Robert Foster
Department for Communities	Claire McKane
Newtownabbey Women's Group	Wilma Lennox
Newtownabbey Women's Group	Pat Murray
PSNI	Serg. David Boyd/Jackie McClurg
Community Representative	Annie Anderson
Breakaways	Joyce Campbell
Breakaways	May Clyde



<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>
Breakaways	Linda Shaw
Rathcoole Library	Amanda Wardle
NIHE	Bronagh Spackman
RATH Community Group	Jim McCracken
RATH Community Group	Roberta Neilly
Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Officer	Cathy Hall

The Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership's vision identifies the following main objectives for each of the three sub-groups:

#### **Learning Health and Well-Being Sub-group**

- To improve community safety for older and most vulnerable people
- To develop a befriending service for vulnerable groups
- To develop stronger links with the Police and Community Safety Partnership
- To increase community based activities for older people, and also excursions and transport.
- To continue to support the "Good Morning Newtownabbey" project
- To reduce dependency on prescription drugs
- To support Rathcoole residents with debt advice and money management.
- To ensure that there is accessible community health services
- To promote positive physical and mental health of older people
- To develop an older person's newsletter
- To research the extent and nature of transport provision, identifying any gaps and the implications on the mobility of older people.

In partnership with the Improving Outcomes for Children in Rathcoole and Monkstown Action Plan

- To develop a plan amongst schools to raise parents and children's views regarding education
- To promote and increase volunteer activity to support out of hours learning facilities
- To develop a co-ordinated early intervention approach for age 0-5 years

- To develop a family support programme
- To improve educational attainment for all ages as a result of support provided to the family.
- To target disengaged young people 16-18 years at risk of disengaging from education and training
- To improve educational attainment particularly among the 16-18 age group seen as disengaged from education and training provision
- To promote and support positive lifestyle choices
- To develop and promote a positive image of young people
- To improve relationships between young people and the wider community
- To create positive opportunities for young people at risk of social exclusion
- To increase the number of programmes for young people that focus on diversity, culture and identity
- To increase the participation of young people within Rathcoole on all matters that affect them.
- To improve opportunities for young people in relation to sport.
- To be responsive to the needs of young people and provide services at times that they require them.

A Youth Providers Group has been established out of the remit of the Learning, Health and Well-Being Sub-Group to enable a more focused approach targeting the issues relating specifically to young people.

### **Economic and Physical**

- To support local residents to move from dependence to independence
- To provide greater employment opportunities
- To encourage training providers to establish pre-employment opportunities with employers for long term unemployed
- To provide awareness of access to existing opportunities
- To support individuals to be ready to take up opportunities
- To develop and promote training and support mechanisms to encourage women to return to work.
- To promote business start-up programmes to the community

### **Communications and Events/Community Cohesion**

- To work towards building a united cohesive community moving away from divisions within the Rathcoole Area.
- To increase the number of volunteers to support community activities.

- To increase the number of community events for all the community to become involved in on a recurring basis.
- To improve communication methods.
- To support local residents to feel safe
- To support the maintenance of a drugs amnesty box.
- To support the development of the allotments project
- To improve the appearance and quality of experience in living within Rathcoole.

### **Delivery of the Action Plan**

The Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership has not under estimated the scale of its task. To deliver the objectives on the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan there is a need for:

- Positive leadership
- Promotion of a positive image
- New working relationships
- A robust plan that allows for change and is sufficiently flexible to respond to the needs and opportunities during the course of Neighbourhood Renewal
- A willingness to change working practices and a shared commitment to pooling resources and expertise.

The Action Plan is reviewed regularly to reflect changing statistics and other material, which builds on the baseline position and in particular takes account of the high levels of need in relation to education and skills, poor health and the physical living environment.

### **Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund**

In the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area, the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund supports both community and statutory organisations in tackling the multiple deprivations that have been identified by the government statistical and research agency NISRA (Northern Ireland Statistical and Research Agency) through NINIS (Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service).

Organisations currently funded under the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund in Rathcoole include:

## **Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council**

### **Community, Economic, Physical and Social Renewal**

Department for Communities funding of the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Co-ordinator for the year 2018/19 contributed towards technical assistance, partnership development, developing best practice and project expenses. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council managed the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator contract, enabling the post holder to work collaboratively with statutory, voluntary, community bodies and political representatives to drive forward the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan.

Robust partnership working between Central Government (BRO/Department for Communities) and Local Government (Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council) has been evident since the inception of Neighbourhood Renewal in Rathcoole. There are 6 elected representatives who actively participate on the main Neighbourhood Partnership and its associated sub-groups.

#### **The role of the Co-ordinator is:**

- To support the Neighbourhood Partnership to put in place appropriate procedures to govern, specifically, the DSD Code of Practice and Guiding Principles on Neighbourhood Renewal and the conduct of their business including policy on dealing with conflicts of interest;
- To support the Neighbourhood Partnership with monitoring of progress against the Neighbourhood Action Plan and to review and update priorities within the Action Plan on an annual basis;
- To establish and maintain thematic sub-groups to take forward priorities within the Neighbourhood Action Plan;
- To work with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and DSD on the development of future community development programmes;
- To provide strategic direction to the Neighbourhood Partnership and support and direction to the NR sub-groups;
- To influence and maintain service delivery in the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area;
- To work closely with the Rathcoole community, providing support and leadership, developing programmes aimed at older people, youth, women, men, health, education, employment and economic regeneration.
- To attract funding for community development projects in the area;
- To maintain vital links between the community and statutory sector and contribute to the building of community infrastructure in the Rathcoole Estate.

The Co-ordinator designs newsletters, updates social media sites to raise awareness of Neighbourhood Renewal, and produces quarterly, and annual reports.

### **Team JVC Hub (previously Synergy)**

Team JVC Hub is an activity based centre which develops programmes to reach the wider community. TEAM JVC Hub offers programmes aimed at mental and physical wellbeing, educational enhancement, and skills development, more information on these programmes can be viewed below.

Programmes delivered by Team JVC Hub in 2019/2020 include:

- Pre-employment programmes and support
- Maths and English Essential Skills
- Sewing Group
- Knitting Group
- Mental health support group
- Nail Knowledge course
- 'Au'some Parents/Carers Support Group
- Age Perfect – Older People's Group
- Memory Lane – Reminiscence Project
- COVID 19 home activity packs

*I've been coming to Hub for a year now during that time I've made new friends reconnected with old friends and learned new skills. The community benefits from the many activities the hub provides. I love coming its always welcoming like a big hug - Elaine*

*Before going to the groups I rarely left the house so my mental health has improved dramatically, I look forward to going each week. I met new friends and learned new skills. Even in lockdown Elaine was in contact with us regularly. I am so glad the groups have started again - Sandra*



*I really enjoy going to the knitting group. There's a versatile age range in the group which is really good. It's not just about knitting, we have a really good laugh together the whole time but we also support each other when it's needed as everyone feels able to open up to each other about things they have faced over the past week or are facing. I have found the group very therapeutic and am learning a life skill. Elaine is very good at welcoming new people, making sure they are and feel included.*

*Coming to my groups has given me a safe haven to go to. Everyone is so welcoming and friendly. Due to depression and anxiety I don't go out in public and the Hub is my only contact outside my family. I can feel safe here and I'm learning new skills, which help keep my mind focused. During the Corona shielding, not getting to the Hub has been like losing my right arm. I am so happy to be back.*



### **Newtownabbey Women's Group (NWG)**

Newtownabbey Women's Group has supported, developed and implemented programmes of social, educational and recreational activities to increase community capacity and build positive and effective relationships between the community and statutory sectors.

Newtownabbey Women's Group runs a weekly event on a Monday evening for its full membership. A number of different programmes have been sourced and progressed through the week based on the needs of women in the locality. This has included health and well-being programmes, history programmes and a number of trips. During the week a drop-in centre is facilitated to allow women facing social isolation to mingle. It also provides individuals with the opportunity to call in and seek support from the Development Worker in areas such as benefits, employment, health concerns etc.

Newtownabbey Women's Group are heavily involved in events that occur throughout the year, with their Development Worker sitting as chair of the Communications and Events sub-group, with an additional member of the group sitting on the sub-group. This year the Women's Group sourced funding from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council for the Rathcoole annual Christmas Festival, which had a footfall of an estimated 150 individuals. The event sought to highlight, utilise and celebrate local talent by commissioning NACN as a local Arts and Cultural project to write and perform the Rathcoole community pantomime. They also organised a 'summer's out' event with the support of the Partnership hosted at the Dunanney Centre.

### **Examples of other groups working closely with the Partnership in the area:**

#### **Breakaways**

The Breakaways are a 55+ club who are always hard at work and play. Every Tuesday they meet for lunch and a dance but this is not all they do. Throughout the year they organise entertainment and fundraising events and go on a number of trips.

#### **Listening Ear**

Listening Ear is a mental health charity based in the Dunanney Centre in Rathcoole. The aim of the organisation is to provide mental health training to individuals and groups. The training is accredited, and participants will learn the skill of both recognising mental health issues and learning how to support a person going through a mental health crisis. Listening Ear has provided training to local residents through Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Programme Cost funding.

The Partnership were also able to support the organisation during their health event hosted in Inniscoole Day Centre through the provision of additional stalls for health checks such as Chest, Heart and Stroke and Sport for Fun Health MOTs.

### **RATH Community Group**

Is based in the Dunanney Centre in Rathcoole and provides a range of training opportunities for local residents. The group is also proactive in the area providing support to those who need it and working in Partnership with other Newtownabbey based groups through the Newtownabbey Consortium. The group is currently supported by Adree Wallace associates.

### **Adree Wallace Associates**

Adree Wallace Associates provides support to local groups through the provision of mentoring. Adree Wallace is a university lecturer with a strong background in community development and a current focus on addressing the issue of the low educational achievement of Protestant males in Northern Ireland.

### **Newtownabbey Arts and Cultural Network**

Newtownabbey Arts and Cultural Network is an organisation based in Rathcoole providing training in media, singing, drama, journalism and more. In September of 2019 the organisation hosted VFEST in V36 Park with local and international acts in attendance as well as providing the script, set support, production and performance of the Rathcoole Fairytale Pantomime for the Newtownabbey Women's Group Christmas event.

### **ROC Care**

ROC Care is a befriending scheme based out of Newtownabbey Methodist Mission. It provides a training opportunity for those interested in befriending and is then able to match them up with those requiring befriending and referred into the service by a relevant organisation.

## **Men's Shed**

The Newtownabbey Men's Shed was originally set up with the support of Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal. The group now meets in Valley Business Park and opens at least three days a week running practical classes such as wood carving and turning through to history classes, painting and much more. Trips are also organised throughout the year. The group annually makes wooden toys to be presented to the children's hospice. The Tackling Deprivation Coordinator provided support and advice to the Shed throughout the year

## **Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey**

The offices of Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey (previously Citizen's Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey) are within the Dunanney Centre in Rathcoole. The organisation offers advice on debt management, welfare issues and tax and benefits to local residents, with the office very well utilised all year round.

## **Barnardo's Newtownabbey Family Connections/THRiVE**

The Barnardo's Newtownabbey Family Connections and THRiVE projects work towards improving educational outcomes for children and young people in Rathcoole.

Their key areas of work during the 2019/2020 year were:

- Family Support Programme—providing support to local children and their families to enable a holistic change in the whole family dynamic in order to impact positively on the educational life of the child.
- THRiVE Campaign – this campaign seeks to improve the aspirations of children and young people.

Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership provided funding to support Barnardo's in their 'We Can' Early Years Events. The aim of the event was to raise awareness of the project's 'We Can' campaign and to encourage parents to become more involved in play and learning. 155 parents attended the event in Rathcoole with their child/children. During the evaluation process all parents who completed the form stated that the event had encouraged to become more involved in the play and learning of their child, with brilliant ideas provided on how this could be done.

The Partnership also funded the commencement of a mental health first aid course. Due to COVID 19 participants were unable to complete this course, but the aim is to resume the course once guidance permits and parents have more flexibility to participate.

### **Additional Projects and Initiatives – Additional Funding Provision:**

Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership has both led and supported many further programmes and initiatives during 2019/2020 in an attempt to address deprivation. The Partnership has also worked with a range of Community and Voluntary Groups across the Rathcoole area to ensure that projects have been delivered at a high standard for the benefit of all residents in the area.

### **Training**

Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership believes in the importance of providing our community organisations with any training they may need to enable them to provide the best possible opportunities for their volunteers and participants. A number of First Aid courses occurred based on requests made at sub-group level.

### **Job Fair**

A Job Fair was hosted by RNRP in partnership with RATH Community Group. Out of the event one person went on to obtain work and another entered training.

### **Twilight Football**

Due to a significant rise in Anti-Social Behaviour occurring in late summer into the start of school's first term it was agreed that an immediate intervention was required. RNRP worked in partnership with the youth centre, Rathcoole Football Clubs, Sport for Fun and Listening Ear to provide a twilight football competition. During each session young people also participated in emergency first aid training and mental health first aid training.

### **Revision Blast Camp**

Abbots Cross Primary School was provided with funding in Easter to support P6s who were trying to decide if sitting the AQE was the right direction for them to take through the provision of an AQE Blast Camp. A follow up camp hosted before the exams during the October break to provide additional revision support to help boost confidence and reduce anxiety in advance of the exam period.



## **Redeeming Our Communities**

RNRP supported Redeeming Our Communities' (ROC Care) befriending scheme in Rathcoole, through the provision of funding towards the management and co-ordination of the befriending scheme with a view to supporting the schemes growth and development within Rathcoole.

Referrals are received from the Northern Health Trust, the Community Navigator, housing associations (Radius & APEX), local churches, charities and local pharmacies. More groups and agencies are now aware of the befriending scheme and the support available to those who are isolated and lonely. Primarily clients are isolated because of old age and health, however a number of clients in their 40s/50s are isolated due to health issues.

ROC Care Rathcoole is delivered through a dedicated and committed team of volunteers. The ongoing support and training has raised awareness and knowledge of issues relating to older people as well as developing skills and capacity.

## **COVID 19 Response**

The Covid 19 Crisis hit at the end of the financial year. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of March the Partnership called an emergency meeting to establish the best means of supporting the local community. The meeting was attended by Councillors, council staff and local community based organisations. All information was disseminated to the full Partnership and sub-group database after the close of the meeting. During the meeting it was agreed that:

- Good Morning Newtownabbey (GMN) would be utilised as a centralised phone service for residents to call if they were in need of support. GMN would then contact the Partnership or the relevant local group with details of the support required.
- Support would include emergency food hampers for those financially impacted by COVID 19; isolation packs; a cooked meal delivery service for those unable to cook for themselves and whose normal means of accessing cooked meals had been removed due to the impact of Covid 19; and a prescription, grocery, gas and electric delivery service.
- The support mechanisms would be coordinated through the Partnership through a rota programme etc. to ensure there was no duplication of services within the estate and to ensure responsibility was shared so that local volunteers did not become overwhelmed.
- The Partnership would cancel all future projects and would establish a project to allow local groups to apply for up to £500 in enable them to address the COVID 19 crisis.

- A leaflet drop would occur supported by local groups and volunteers to every household in Rathcoole highlighting the support available and the GMN phone number.

During 2019-2020 the following was awarded by the Partnership to local groups in response to COVID 19:

- £500 to Listening Ear for the purchase of groceries for emergency hampers
- £500 to Newtownabbey Arts and Cultural Network for printing costs
- £500 to Newtownabbey Women's Group for the purchase of groceries for emergency hampers and meal ingredients
- £500 to Billy Boys Band (through RATH Community Group) for meal ingredients
- £500 to RATH Community Group with an additional £500 awarded for purchase of groceries for hampers
- £350 to ROC Care for the purchase of items for isolation packs
- £500 to Sports for Fun for equipment for sports packs
- £500 to Funky Kids Workshop for children's activity packs
- £500 to Abbey Allsorts for additional needs specific activity packs
- £500 to TEAM JVC Hub to allow the organisation to support the COVID 19 response.

The Partnership also purchased surface wipes, gloves, soap and anti-bacterial gel as well as groceries to support all groups and volunteers involved in the COVID 19 Response.

Volunteers were from individual volunteer calls, local community groups and organisations listed above, local Councillors, Rathcoole Football Club and local churches.

## **Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal 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 Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

### **Community Renewal Expenditure 2019/20**

<b>Programme/Project</b>	<b>CFF Funding Period</b>	<b>CFF Funding Amount 2019/20</b>	<b>2019/20 Spend</b>
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (in collaboration with Synergy/NWG) – Neighbourhood Renewal in Rathcoole	01/04/2019 - 31/03/2020	£78,463.22	£71,140.59

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDING IN 2019/20 YEAR

### Community Renewal Output Measures

<b>Output Measure</b>	<b>Synergy</b>	<b>Newtownabbey Women's Group</b>	<b>Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</b>
CR3 Number of people volunteering for community development activities	20	21	100
CR7 Number of community/voluntary groups supported	4	0	0
CR8 Number of community relations projects supported	6	7	4
CR10 Number of people using existing community facilities	200	60	-

### Social Renewal Output Measures

<b>Output Measure</b>	<b>Synergy</b>	<b>Newtownabbey Women's Group</b>	<b>Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</b>
SR(Ed)8 Number of pupils directly benefitting from the project	0	0	150
SR(H)4 Number of health education/awareness initiatives provided/delivered	2	4	4
SR(C)2 Number of community safety initiatives implemented	3	3	7

### Economic Renewal Output Measures

Output Measure	Synergy	Newtownabbey Women's Group	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
ER4 Number of people receiving job specific training	4	0	0
ER15 Number of FTE jobs safeguarded	0.5	0.5	1

### Targets specific to Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator

Target	Achievement
NR Partnership to have reviewed and prepared annually Neighbourhood Renewal information pack for all new members of NRP and sub groups. To update this pack as necessary throughout the period up to 31/03/20.	Information Pack updated as necessary and on website.
Undertake an annual Training Needs Analysis of the NR Partnership and sub groups	Training needs analysis undertaken of main partnership and sub groups as requested.
NR Partnership to have undertaken a review of Partnership and sub group membership	Undertaken at each meeting of partnership and sub groups.
NR Partnership to have undertaken an annual review of NR Action Plan, in consultation with DFC, taking cognisance of the Measurement of Outcomes report, and update action plan accordingly. To ensure that NR Action Plan takes account of current service provision in the area through council and other statutory and voluntary and community sector organisations.	Action plan reviewed in September 2019.
An annual report to be produced for Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership approval which details the progress on NR implementation to date, NRIF investment in areas, programmes funded and outcomes achieved.	Annual report for 2019/20 provided December 2020.



Target	Achievement
NR Partnership to facilitate a minimum of 6 NRP meetings and a minimum of 12 Sub Groups meetings annually. To issue all meeting papers at least 2 full working days in advance of meetings. Agreed minutes of meetings should be reissued within 10 working days after each meeting.	7 Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership meetings, 26 sub group meetings – (Communications and Events, Learning Health and Wellbeing and Economic and Physical).
NR Partnership to follow up on action points from each sub group to drive forward implementation of Neighbourhood Action Plan.	Done on an ongoing basis throughout 2019/20 at each partnership and sub group meeting.
NR Partnership Coordinator to provide progress of sub groups and projects to each NRP meeting and to provide updates on new funding opportunities. To update NR Action Plan in advance of all NRP meetings and issue to all members at least 2 working days in advance of meetings.	Done on an ongoing basis throughout 2019/20 at each partnership meeting.
To raise awareness of Best Practice by ensuring Partnership members are involved in Councils Best Practice Visits/Community Planning Events/Guest Speakers and that key messages with regard to Community Planning are disseminated to Partnership members in a timely manner.	Done on an ongoing basis throughout 2019/20 at each partnership and sub group meeting.

## **Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership Conclusion**

In the 2019/20 financial year, **Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership** total overall spend was - **£71,140.59**

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

<b>Community Renewal</b>	<b>£35,570.30</b>
<b>Social Renewal</b>	<b>£28,456.29</b>
<b>Economic Renewal</b>	<b>£7,114.00</b>



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