



# South West Belfast

## Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Annual Report  
2019/20



Northern Ireland  
Statistics and Research Agency



Department for  
**Communities**

An Roinn  
**Pobal**

Department for  
**Commonities**

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# South West Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area Annual Report 2019/20



## **Chair Persons Forward**

The annual report for 2019-2020 has seen a lot of changes in working routines and amended targets due to the Coronavirus outbreak at the later part of the reporting year. During this period the Partnership has risen to the challenges associated with working together to improve the community we live in and responding to a rapidly changing environment. I am pleased to present the SWBNP Annual Report April 2019 to March 2020.

The report will detail the projects, initiatives and activities carried out over the year, all with the aim of improving the quality of life for residents of Sandy Row, the Donegall Road and the Greater Village.

Efforts to achieve Neighbourhood Renewal are guided by a South West Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area (SWBNRA) Action Plan which focuses on the community, economic, social and physical needs of the area. This focus is tied to the Strategic Themes set down in the Governments' Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Programme.

The plan covers the period April 2019 to March 2020. This Annual Report focuses on the work and progress made during this Year.

The role of SWBNP has been and remains, to enable the development, implementation and annual review of the SWBNRA Action Plan.

Responsibility for delivering against the requirements of the SWBNRA Action Plan rests with five local groups, Belfast South Community Resources, Greater Village Regeneration Trust, Sandy Row Community Forum, Southcity Resource and Development Centre and Windsor Women's Centre.

I would like to thank the management and staff of the five Neighbourhood Renewal Delivery Partners for their achievements in meeting the Action Plan delivery targets.

Also, our appreciation is extended to the Department for Communities for its continued funding of the South West Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal programme during the period 2019 to 2020.

The year 2019-2020 presented its own challenges, which will be explored in more detail within the body of the report.

This report is aimed to provide a concise and transparent account of how the SWBNP has performed regarding its expenditure, activities and achievements.

By producing this Annual Report; the South West Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership board recognises it is accountable to the local people.

The partnership is working on behalf of Government and other bodies that provide the tools and resources to improve the quality of life for all residents in the local area without distinction.

We welcome feedback and communication from the Department for Communities.

**Bob Stoker (Chairperson SWBNP)**

## **Background**

The South West Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area (SWBNRA) encapsulates two distinct communities which fall into the electoral wards of Shaftesbury & Blackstaff.

The first area, Sandy Row, geographically covers the area from the Boyne Bridge to the junction with the Lisburn Road, and bounded by Great Victoria Street to the east, Donegall Road Bridge and NIR tracks to the west.

The second area covers the Village, Mid-Donagall Road and Roden Street areas. It is bounded by the Westlink to the north, NIR tracks to the east, Windsor Park to the south and Glenmachan Street to the west.

### **SWBNRA Area Context**

Using the Multiple Deprivation Measures, Shaftesbury and Blackstaff electoral wards were identified in 2010 as lying within the top ten percent of the most deprived wards in Northern Ireland.

These figures have been updated through statistics from NISRA which shows some improvement in certain sectors. We believe this is partly due to the efforts of the delivery of themes within the neighbourhood process.

Both areas have suffered over time from the decline in traditional manufacturing industries, the impact of the Troubles and a lack of investment.

Each community has, however, retained their individual cultural identity and in recent years a significant number of social, economic, physical and environmental regeneration programmes have been delivered to help address the decline.

## **Project Information**

### **DfC Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy**

The Northern Ireland Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, 'People and Place', published in 2003, reiterated its commitment to tackling poverty, social inequalities and deprivation experienced by individuals, areas and groups.

Where people live was identified as a major determinant of their risk of experiencing poverty and a number of areas were identified in which concentrations of persons experiencing high levels of deprivation reside. The Strategy aims to tackle disadvantage for those people living within the most deprived communities.

**The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy is based on four interlinked strategic themes:**

**Community Renewal**

- To develop consistent communities that are able and committed to improving the quality of life in their areas.

**Economic Renewal**

- To develop economic activity in the most deprived neighbourhoods and to 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 co-ordinated public services and the creation of safer environments. This area can be seen as having 2 main trusts – Early Years, Youth Provision and Compulsory Education and then Community Safety, Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

**Physical Renewal**

- To help create attractive, safe, sustainable environments in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

Thus the Department for Communities (DFC) Neighbourhood Investment Programme aims to reduce the social and economic inequalities that characterised the most deprived areas.

### **SWBNRA Area Community Needs**

Community needs data available through the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NISRA) provides evidence of the high levels of socio-economic deprivation in the SWBNRA.

The two electoral wards that form a major part of the area, Shaftesbury and Blackstaff, rank in the top 100 of deprived wards.

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Blackstaff</b>	<b>Shaftesbury</b>
MDM Score	58	67
Income Domain	35	127
Employment Domain	213	81
Health Domain	133	61
Education Domain	22	16
Access Domain	641	808
Living Environment	8	212
Crime & Disorder Domain	71	352

Source: NISRA

### **SWBNRA Action Plan**

In order to deliver the in the agreed areas an Action Plan covering the period April 2019 to March 2020 was prepared.

The Plan has six main themes, namely:

- Economic Renewal (Worklessness and Adult Education).
- Community Renewal.
- Social Renewal (Early Years/ Youth Provision/ Compulsory Education).
- Social Renewal (Community Safety/ Crime/ Anti-Social Behaviour).
- Social Renewal (Health and Wellbeing).
- Physical Renewal and Housing.

### **Action Plan Delivery**

The South West Belfast Neighbourhood Action Plan 2019-2020 is delivered collaboratively by five community groups in South West Belfast, namely:

- Belfast South Community Resources.
- Greater Village Regeneration Trust.
- Sandy Row Community Forum.
- Southcity Resource and Development Centre.
- Windsor Women's Centre.

This collaborative approach allows greater sharing of information, exploration of different delivery approaches and the avoidance of duplication.

Funding contracts relating to the delivery of actions across each of the strategic themes are in place between the Department and the individual organisations.

Services are delivered by the partner groups within the framework of the four strategic themes as set out below:

#### **Community Renewal**

- Southcity Resource and Development Centre. (SCRDC)
- Sandy Row Community Forum. (SRCF)

#### **Economic Renewal**

- Belfast South Community Resource. (BSCR)
- Greater Village Regeneration Trust. (GVRT)

#### **Social Renewal (Early Years/ Youth Provision/ Compulsory Education)**

- Southcity Resource and Development Centre. (SCRDC)
- Belfast South Community Resource. (BSCR)
- Windsor Women's Centre. (WWC)

#### **Social Renewal (Community Safety/ Crime/ ASB)**

- Greater Village Regeneration Trust. (GVRT)
- Southcity Resource and Development Centre. (SCRDC)



- Belfast South Community Resource. (BSCR)

### **Social Renewal (Health and Wellbeing)**

- Greater Village Regeneration Trust. (GVRT)
- Sandy Row Community Forum (SRCF)
- Windsor Women's Centre (WWC)

### **Physical Renewal**

- Greater Village Regeneration Trust. (GVRT)
- Belfast South Community Resource. (BSCR)

Each of the five community groups is responsible for:

- Delivery of the agreed outputs and outcomes as set out in thematic contracts for 2019 - 2020.
- Providing information on expenditure and project outputs on a quarterly basis.
- Complying with programme recording procedures to enable SWBNRP to
- Determine outputs and outcomes of the overall programme.

### **SWBNP Strategic Managers' Working Group**

Under the umbrella of the SWBNP, all five delivery partners of the South West Belfast Service Delivery Model are represented on a Strategic Managers Working Group (SMWG).

This SMWG meets to discuss a range of topics including:

- Activities.
- Proposed work plans.
- Collaborative opportunities.
- Project outcomes.
- Local challenges and opportunities.

The ongoing collaboration provided by the SMWG ensures that:

- Where possible, projects are developed and delivered in partnership.
- Enables Strategic Managers to investigate the potential for more efficient deployment of delivery services.

The Managers group also supports effective communication between SWBNP and the local and wider community.

## Project Funding

A funding package from the DFC Neighbourhood Investment Programme was made available to enable the delivery of the 5 thematic contracts. The funding was allocated between the strategic themes as set out in the table below. The allocations are consistent with Action Plan identified needs and priorities.

<b>Strategic Theme</b>	<b>2019-20 NR Funding</b>
Community Renewal	£141,289.89
Economic Renewal	£209,078.81
Social Renewal	£35,997.14
Physical Renewal	£39,295.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>£425,660.95</b>

## SWBNRP Financial Management

Each of the strategic groups are responsible for the financial management and accounting for their individual projects.

## SWBNR Action Plan Staffing

Within the annual budget allocation for each strategic theme is an amount for direct service delivery by frontline staff. There is also a separate sum for backroom costs.

Costs associated with direct service delivery by frontline staff account for a significant proportion of the total budget allocation for each strategic theme. This proportion is consistent across all strategic objective/ themes (approx. 80/20).

There are 17 staff members, both full-time and part-time paid frontline staff working for the five Delivery Partner organisations providing services that deliver the Outputs and Outcomes in line with contractual requirements

Additional working partners.

Delivering a joined up approach to Neighbourhood renewal across a very diverse community structure required the involvement of a number of existing and emerging groups. The strategic group worked with a range of groups and individuals with particular expertise in various themes.

**South Belfast Alternatives.**

This is an organisation which seeks to embrace the diversity of the South Belfast area and works to increase dialogue, build bridges of understanding, and break down stereotypes / misunderstandings. Focus areas of their work include hate crimes advocacy and awareness, cultural education, schools work and family support.

**TREE**

Training provision for young people in preparation for full time work associated with the construction industry.

**M.O.V.E. Community Housing Co-operative.**

Updating the skills and capacity of their members and providing financial knowledge to allow them to expand.

**Sandy Row Residents.**

Taking part in a range of consultation processes and input into the development of the strategic plan for 20-21.

**Local Churches**

The provision of space for meetings and training sessions. Distribution of information that is relevant to their members in relation to neighbourhood renewal.

**Local schools.**

The participation of pupils in a range of learning activities to increase educational achievement-attainment.

**Fit for Life**

The provision of accommodation to deliver a range of health promotional activities and training facilities. Distribution of information in relation to good health awareness.

**PSNI.**

Assisting with training projects and advice into community safety initiatives, crime prevention and reducing the fear of crime.

**Empire Residents Association**

Assisting with consultation throughout the community. The provision of facilities to deliver a number of projects on behalf of the community.

## Project Achievements against Agreed Outputs

As previously outlined, the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy consists of a number of core strands. Within each strand a number of agreed outputs have been measured against. This is broken down as follow:

### Community Renewal Output Measures

Agreed Output	Southcity Resource & Development Centre	Sandy Row Community Forum
CR1.7 – Number of people participating in community relations projects		8
CR1.360 – Number of people participating in Community Relations Project	382	
CR2.34 – Number of people participating in community bonding projects		37
CR3.14 – Number of people volunteering for community development activities		18
CR3.100 - Number of people volunteering for community development activities	207	
CR5.20 – Number of people receiving training in community development skills/capacity building	228	21
CR6.528 – Number of people using new or improved community facilities		79
CR7.6 – Number of community/voluntary groups supported		6
CR7.12 – Number of community/voluntary groups supported	12	
CR8.5 – Number of community relations projects supported		6
CR8.16 – Number of community relations projects supported	16	
CR11.100% - Residents aware of NR activities and facilities available	100%	

**Social Renewal Crime Output Measures**

<b>Agreed Output</b>	<b>Southcity Resource &amp; Development Centre</b>	<b>Greater Village Regeneration Trust</b>	<b>Belfast South Community Resource</b>
SR C 1 – Number of people receiving advice on crime prevention		2516	2500
SR C 2 – Number of community safety initiative implemented		16	12
SR C 4 – Number of crime prevention initiatives implemented		33	
SR C 6 – Number of young people benefitting from youth inclusion/diversionary projects		196	100
SR C 7 – Number of victims of crime supported		10	36
SR C 2.7 – Number of community safety initiatives implemented	7		
SR C 4.4 – Number of crime prevention initiatives implemented	4		
SR C 6.60 – Number of young people benefitting from youth inclusion/diversionary projects	64		
SR C 7.8 – Number of victims of crime supported	9		

**Social Renewal Education Output Measures**

<b>Agreed Output</b>	<b>Southcity Resource &amp; Development Centre</b>	<b>Belfast South Community Resource</b>	<b>Windsor Women's Centre</b>
SR Ed 1 – Number of childcare/nursery school places created/safeguarded	72		52
SR Ed 5 – Number of people engaged in parenting skills/development programme	196	62	55
SR Ed 14 – Number of pupils benefitting directly from the project (youth services)	357	180	

<b>Agreed Output</b>	<b>Southcity Resource &amp; Development Centre</b>	<b>Belfast South Community Resource</b>	<b>Windsor Women's Centre</b>
SR Ed 18 – Number of pupils benefiting directly from the project (Extended schools)	60	192	43
SR Ed 20 – Number of children & young people having access to specialist support to enhance their emotional health & wellbeing	11		116
SR Ed 22 – Increased number of children/young people taking part in regular physical activity	73	25	43

### Physical Renewal Output Measures

<b>Agreed Output</b>	<b>Belfast South Community Resource</b>	<b>Greater Village Regeneration Trust</b>
PR 1 – Area of land improved for open space	7	4
PR 3 – Area of land improved and made ready for developments	8	4
PR 5 – Number of buildings improved	3	4
PR 6 – Number of community facilities improved	3	7
PR 7 – Number of traffic calming schemes	1	
PR 8 – Number of trees planted	26	24
PR 10 – Area of land improved and made ready for shared space		1
PR 11 – Number of people/volunteers involved in physical development/and or environment projects	12	80

### Economic Renewal Output Measures

Agreed Output	Belfast South Community Resource	Greater Village Regeneration Trust
ER 2 = Number of residents going into employment	10	14
ER 3 – Number of people receiving careers advice	25	93
ER 4 – Number of people receiving job specific training	80	74
ER 9 – Number of new/existing businesses requiring advice/support	2	
ER 11 – Number of social enterprises created/supported	2	
ER 14 – Number of people attaining a formal qualification from participation in adult education	50	52

### Community Renewal:

- Lead responsibility for the project “Community Renewal” delivery lies with:
- Southcity Resource and Development Centre. (SCRDC)
- Sandy Row Community Forum. (SRCF)
- As part of the Community Renewal programme a number of successful community activities to achieve the deliverables were held. These included:
- Assisted local groups in the promotion and delivery of Ulster Day Celebrations. Also worked with visitors from non-loyalist areas to bring a broader understanding of the significance of the celebration [CR1]
- Met with representatives from Grosvenor Community Centre to discuss future working relationships and new projects [CR1]
- Hosted a St Patricks day celebration event[CR2]
- Worked with Belfast South to arrange a family day trip to Scarva [CR2]
- Provided support to local residents when organising the 11<sup>th</sup> July Cultural Celebration events [CR2]



- A range of training was provided for local volunteers which included Health & Safety Awareness, Child Protection and Paediatric First Aid Training. All this training will have a direct and positive impact on community activities [CR3]
- An “audit” of local volunteers was undertaken to ensure that there is a current and accurate database of local skills, capabilities and resources [CR3]
- 96 Sandy Row Project Board received formal Procurement & Tendering Practice training to support this key project [CR5]
- The MOVE Housing Co-operative received training on committee skills and community engagement [CR5]
- Continued to support local groups by physically facilitating the meetings. This has involved the re-configuration of spaces to maximise capacity [CR6]
- A number of community groups such as a resident’s association and a project board were given administrative support while other organisations were provided with volunteer resource [CR7]
- Community relations were supported in a number of ways which included working with resident’s groups from St James and Lower Iveagh to discuss key issues, groups of younger people to explore cultural differences or supporting bonfire management planning [CR8]
- The partnership was able to maintain the high numbers of people using community facilities by adopting a targeted contact strategy with the audience. Brochures and leaflets detailing events and activities as well as the use of social media ensured that locals were able to take full advantage of community facilities [CR10]
- The transition to the new PIP benefit payment has generated a large volume of calls as individuals try to navigate the process [CR12]

### **Community Confidence**

Lead responsibility for Social Renewal (Community Safety/ Crime/ ASB) delivery lies with:

Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT)

Belfast South Community Resources (BSCR)

Southcity Resource and Development Centre. (SCRDC)

Deliverables: A range of activities providing advice and support to the community were successfully delivered. For example:

- An awareness campaign was delivered in conjunction with Translink & the PSNI focusing on the correct use of Bus Lanes [SR(C) 1]

- ASB diaries were given to local residents to log unacceptable behaviour regarding fly tipping, burning of dumped material and associated ASB such as underage drinking. This provided clear evidence to the associated bodies which led to the appropriate action taking place [SR(C) 1]
- The Community Safety Initiatives delivered included “Safe in the Summer”, the Roden Street Bonfire Committee and the Broadway Summer Intervention, which focused on making the holidays fun, inclusive and safe [SR(C)2]
  - Delivered safety talks to local schools on ASB and Bonfire Safety, held Safeguarding day trips and the Friday Night Early Intervention programme to engage and educate young people [SR(C)2]
  - Facilitating the monthly meeting of South/West Belfast Community Safety Forum with PSNI, Radius Housing, Translink, NIHE, Southcity Resource Centre, South Belfast Alternatives, GVRT and BCC (ASB/Parks/Sharps). Ongoing [SR(C) 3]
  - Working along with Ex-Combatants, Ex-Prisoners, local community, Ulster Political Research Group and PSNI on a local Flags Protocol Initiative in Sandy Row/Donegall Road/Roden Street/ Village and Lisburn Road, which will see flags erected in June and removed at the end of September from main arterial routes. This will see a reduction of paramilitary type flags in sensitive areas and tattered flags not being an eyesore and being left on lamp posts [SR(3) 4]
  - In conjunction with the PSNI & the BCC the “Beat The Burglar” campaign was launched providing targeted information for local residents,
    - information packs and alarmed door stoppers [SR(C) 4]
    - Attending the M1/Broadway/Westlink South Belfast/West Belfast PCSP led initiative to help curb tensions along these interface areas during the lead-up to both July and August Bonfires. This is to insure adequate funding is available for diversionary activities on these date. Letting community reps liaise with local businesses and others in a multi-agency approach. With BCC, GVRT, Willowbank YC, Falls Community Council, Sinn Fein, PSNI, Iveagh Centre (Health Trust), Donegall Road UPRG, Southcity Resource Centre, Youth Justice, Probation Board, NIFRS, Park Centre and McDonalds.
- The Partnership supported residents who had been subject to a variety of criminal activity. Support was provided to help individuals’ deal with ASB, theft, burglary, criminal damage paramilitary threats, drug dealing and intimidation [SR(C) 7]
- On 20th, 21st and 22st January, 2020 due to large number of complaints, leafleting was carried out on nuisance, pavement, illegal and dangerous parking within Sandy Row, Mid Donegall Road and Lower Lisburn Road. This was done in conjunction with local volunteers and PSNI local policing team. 800 homes contacted.

- Due to the increase of scams through, post, e-mail and telephone, a leaflet drop was carried out, 27th and 28th January, 2020, in conjunction with PSNI within Mid-Donnegall Road and Sandy Row, including local businesses, elderly care facilities. In the past up to 4 vulnerable women have been targeted in different scams, resulting in the loss of a substantial amount of money. 1000 leaflets.
- Working along with International Committee of the Red Cross and Resolve NI, AIMS Project and AYE PR Project, which included training in Trauma Informed Intervention and
- Restorative Practices 10th-11th June 2019 which we hope will highlight the benefits of restorative practices within this area of South Belfast. The visit included conversations and training from Khulisa UK a charity working with at risk youth (11-18), rehabilitating young offenders. This will aid with future collaborations within restorative practices both working and educational.
- A number of initiatives have taken place in Sandy Row, Lisburn Road and Donnegall Road on the issue of illegal, dangerous and nuisance parking within these areas, leafleting of cars by both staff of BSCR along with our local policing team have taken place. Site visits from Department for Infrastructure have taken place and double yellow lines have been added in some areas and ticketing of offending cars when necessary. This is an ongoing problem because of the proximity to both the town centre and Belfast City Hospital.
- Working closely with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and PSNI we have been working on the problem of nuisance neighbours within the Mid-Donnegall Road area. Up to five or six properties (from 7 streets) containing people who had been housed and were causing problems such as late-night parties, drug abuse, noise, fighting (including stabbing). These were people with drug and alcohol problems. Leafleting was carried out on noise, home visits from BSCR, PSNI, NIHE, Belfast City Council (ASB Officer) SCRDC and GVRT. A lot of these properties had been damaged by the people living in them and a number were targeted by disgruntled neighbours. Working together we have been able to get most of the offenders moved and people local to the area moved in. This has made life easier for local residents (ASB), NIHE (saving money) and PSNI (less callouts) and has settled this part of the Donnegall Road.

## Children's Programme

Lead responsibility for the Children's Programme delivery lies with:

- Belfast South Community Resources. (BSCR)
- Southcity Resource and Development Centre. (SCRDC)
- Windsor Women's Centre (WWC)

Examples of activity from BSCR, SCRDC & WWC:

- Childcare places were safeguarded by ensuring that parents were engaged in the educational journey and understood how to best use the resources available to them and their children [SR(ED)1]
- Raising awareness of the educational journey also played a key role in engaging parents in the skills and development programmes offered. These included providing information on understanding homework, schooling transition process, parenting and childcare skills, children's mental health and anti-bullying awareness [SR(ED)5]
- Parents also partook in a range of development activities ranging from dance classes, Cook It! and baby yoga to therapeutic art [SR(ED)5]
- Participation in the various initiatives provided by youth services remained strong. Activities such as Summer Schemes / Diversionary Activities, Minefest, "What's the Future?" were all popular, as were Halloween and Christmas festivities [SR(ED)14]
- Extended support for pupils took on various forms including NUEADA Digital workshops, study support & GCSE revision sessions. 1:1 support was also offered to students in specific areas [SR(ED) 18]
- Specialist support was required in a small percentage of cases, which included referral to agencies, providing supporting statements or reports for medical purposes, and signposting parents to appropriate bodies where necessary [SR(ED) 20]
- The focus on ensuring that the younger members of the community take regular exercise remained strong and was achieved via a range of activities. These included a Soccer Camp, IFA level 1 coaching awards, volleyball, badminton, scavenger hunts and nature walks. [SR(ED) 20]
- Parents group were involved in a number of innovative programs over the course of the year, in particular our transitions program which saw us delivering programs into 8 schools across south Belfast in addition to working with the Arellian Nursery parents.
- All the partner groups had to realign their services due to the onset of social distancing and lockdown advice from the government.

- All groups worked in a more secure partnership and provided support to parents and families through the beginning of the pandemic. We combined to provide educational packs for all primary school children during February and March.
- Online teaching and educational resources were made available to those school children through BSCR and Southcity.

## **Physical Renewal & Health Programme**

Lead responsibility for Physical Renewal and Housing delivery lies with:

- Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT)
- Belfast South Community Resources (BSCR)
- Southcity Resource and Development Centre deliver portions of Physical renewal although not part of the targets for the contract.

Examples of work was completed in relation to Physical Renewal:

- We have added a state of the art BN-20 Roland Versa Studio Sign Maker at a cost of £8000, to the equipment in the digital hub + Adobe illustrator. This enables our clients to produce much more complex digital designs etc.
- Through liaison with NIHE, BCC Planning Department and Hagan Homes, local residents have been able to register expressions of interest in the development of 76 properties within The Village [PR3]
- Discussions have been ongoing with the relevant representatives of the Monarch site to discuss planning options.
- Ongoing discussions with Douglas & Graham on sites in their ownership as to the possible future use [PR(3)]
- A number of units in Sandy Row were improved either by changes to their frontage, or by occupation [PR5]
- A range of community facilities were improved. These included external work to Arellian Nursery, creating a patio area and playhouse, a community clean-up of Natures Nook.
- While no traffic calming schemes were necessary in 2019/20, parking issues are still monitored and reported to the PSNI, BCC and DVLNI [PR7]
- Hanging baskets were created for display along the Donegall Road, and 6 fruit trees were planted as part of the “How does your garden grow” project [PR8]

- The number of individuals who were involved in either physical development work or environmental projects remained on target, whether it was participating in clean up days for community areas, building benches or providing administrative support for projects [PR11]
- We have been working with Andras house on the problems with rubbish, vermin and anti-social behaviour in the derelict shops on the front of Sandy Row at the entrance to Wellwood Street. The owner has now agreed that these should be knocked down and we would work with him on plans for the site. Demolition completed.
- We have worked with the developer of the former Gilpins site on a vermin extermination plan before demolition in preparation for its development.
- The new Blythfield Primary School Welcome Point and Parents Room Upgrade costing £100,000 has now completed, BSCR manager chairs the Urban Villages capital projects steering group.
- The Arellian Nursery's new outdoor play area is now complete – this was achieved with funding from Urban Villages.

Lead responsibility for Health and Wellbeing delivery lies with:

- Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT) although not funded directly through Neighbourhood renewal the strategic managers believe health promotion is an integral part of the renewal process and wish some of the activities to be recorded.

Examples of completed activities:

- Fit4Life continue to provide a wide range of options to mobilise residents into adopting a healthier lifestyle. Whether it be classes focusing on improving strength and mobility for older people or strength and conditioning classes, numbers of participants continue to exceed target [SR(H)1]
- Delivery of the ISwim children's awareness initiative, Fitness 8 children's programme, and the Social Running programme has meant the number of individuals attending health education / awareness initiatives remains high and exceeds the target [SR(H)2]
- The GP referral programme, as well as the Diabetes programme have remained important initiatives which provide opportunities for intervention and treatment within the community [SR(H)3 & 4]
- The completion of work on the 3G pitch at Blythfield and its subsequent use has meant that local schools, football teams and other sporting groups have all benefited from the significantly improved facilities [SR(H)10]
- Southcity provide a range of support and guidance to older people who wish to improve their quality of life.



Older and Active Tournament



Fit for Life circuit training

## Economic Renewal

- Lead responsibility for Economic Renewal delivery lies with:
- Greater Village Regeneration Trust. (GVRT)
- Belfast South Community Resources. (BSCR)
- Achievements in this area:
- The number of residents who went into employment comfortably exceeded the annual target. These individuals found employment in a number of areas including security, childcare, retail, hospitality, facilities, administration and the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector [ER2]
- Providing careers advice remains an important element of economic renewal. During 2019/20 this was facilitated in a number of ways. Co-ment provided tailored individual support and mentoring for individuals. “Geek Week” also provided advice around employment opportunities within the digital sector, as did a digital youth event in February at QUB. Translink Career Sessions and the Titanic Employability & Careers Event also provided a structured pathway into possible employment [ER3]
- In addition to qualifications in ECDL, MOS and text processing BSCR is now an OCN registered centre and we are now delivering qualifications in digital fabrication
- We engaged with 15 young people who are registered in our comment project up to participate at the crescent arts centre to the BCC employment academies recruitment day on the 10th September. We also provided them with help with CVs, job Search and applications. [ER9]
- Support for Social Enterprises such as 96 Sandy Row and TREECO was ongoing. This took the form of recruitment support and marketing and business development [ER11]
- Adult education in the form of essential skills in maths and English proved popular. Leadership and Management uptake was also strong as was OCR. The target was comfortably exceeded [ER14]
- The target for safeguarded jobs was achieved during 2019/20 [ER15]



SWBNP Annual Report 2019/20



Adult training in BSCR



Vocational training in TREE

## **Partnership Conclusion**

### **Key Investment Priorities**

#### **Community renewal**

During the year 817 people participated in a range of activities to assist with their own capacity and promoting inclusion. 12 community groups including Churches were supported during this time. 16 projects that encouraged good relations were promoted and delivered; all being very successful.

#### **Community confidence**

(Crime, safety and supporting people) The sub group continued to meet on a regular basis with participation from all the community organisations and statutory partners. There was a great deal of integrated working and support between the delivery groups. Which allowed for 35 community safety initiatives to be promoted. 37 crime prevention projects delivered. 55 victims of crime supported through a range of interventions. 360 Young people were provided with diversionary activities and support to enable them to remain outside the Justice system. 5016 people were provided with a range of advice relating to a number of crime prevention methods.

#### **Children's program. Educational promotion, supporting parents, children, young people and families**

The partnership approach delivered by the group's ensured maximum deliver and reduced duplication. 1537 people benefitted from a range of intervention and support initiatives throughout the year including early years, preschool, after an extended school projects. Youth delivery, outdoor and healthy exercise initiatives. Specialist and emotional support was provided to 127 children and young people through a range of intervention projects and support groups.

#### **Physical renewal.**

Engagement with a number of statutory agencies and government departments were ongoing throughout the year; which resulted in a number of areas being prepared for development, over 100 volunteers were involved in planting trees and a number of other environmental projects. A number of open green spaces were created and maintained. The groups provide support and assistance in response to a number of proposed private sector developments.

### Economic Renewal and creating employment

The combined initiatives around training, support and placements has proved very successful throughout 2019 – 20, with 412 residents benefiting from this activity. This included 154 people supported with job specific training, 24 people to direct employment. 118 people provided with careers advice and 102 people attaining a formal qualification. This activity will continue and be expanded in the year ahead as a result of activities and consultation into poverty and its causes.

## Year End conclusions / Way forward

### Year End expenditure

Strategic Theme	2019-20 NR Funding	2019-20 Expenditure
Community Renewal	£141,289.89	£141,289.89
Economic Renewal	£209,078.81	£209,078.81
Social Renewal	£35,997.14	£35,178.80
Physical Renewal	£39,295.11	£29,155.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>£425,660.95</b>	<b>£414,602.71</b>

The strategic areas achieved well against their targets. On a number of occasions programmes were able to be extended as a result of opportunistic funding.

During the course of 2019 – 20 the SWBNP has continued to deliver an extensive range of services despite funding and resource challenges. For example:

- Continued delivery of Neighbourhood Renewal in the SWBNRA on a collaborative basis.
- Delivery of extensive range of services which support strategic deliverables
- Delivering the SWBNP Neighbourhood Programme within budget.
- In the context of a challenging funding environment, securing substantial non- Neighbourhood Renewal funding from a range of funding sources thus enabling the delivery of a large number of Action Plan related projects.

As a result of the Covid pandemic all the groups enhanced and modified their projects to react to the changing circumstances. The agreed response plan to emergencies was initiated in February with details being collated on potential older vulnerable people and families who may require support. This included a consortium being formed to bring together other concerned groups and individuals to respond to issues being brought forward. The group included the current partners GVRT, BSCR, WWC and Southcity. This was enhanced by South Belfast Act, Village Festival Committee, local Churches, and fit for life. This initiative was also supported by CFNI, NIHE and the Community Pharmacy project.

### **Windsor Women's Centre**

Were able to maintain emergency service provision during the pandemic providing day-care for 27 children of NHS Frontline and Key services staff and working as part of the N.R community response effort to support vulnerable families in the area. Alternative arrangements were made for delivery of some services such as Counselling and the Family Support Hub CASA along with providing on-line service user support through online platforms. The education programme went on line with Zoom physical activity classes and Zoom learning sessions. Staff were involved in community volunteering efforts e.g. offering to pick up shopping for those isolating and collecting shopping orders placed via click and collect. Food parcels donated by Fare share were distributed and staff facilitated the roll out of support from other agencies.

- Our Family Hub CASA sourced and provided 10 iPad to children to support their learning needs at home also 10 Art Packs and 26 Dream a Little Dream Children's Relaxation Book. Dream a Little Dream Children's Relaxation Book to help children to connect to their breath, and process emotions in a safe and creative way.
- We made-up and shared with NR groups 40 self-care packs containing information and items such as hand-wash, relaxing oil blends, books and plants which were distributed locally.
- We made 70 mother and baby packs with nappies, wipes and other essential items
- 40 Activity packs for children
- 50 Science packs which contribute to the school curriculum distributed.

### **GVRT**

Throughout February and March had to think differently to how we delivered some of our key services, we also worked closely with the other groups within the partnership in order to ensure that the best and most worthwhile services were delivered to the local community. Throughout this period, we assisted in the food parcel programme with BSCR and we also accessed funds from

Southcity in order to deliver NHS Care Packages to front line staff and Fresh Boxes to the most vulnerable within the community. In addition, we delivered Health and Wellbeing Bags to young boys and girls across the area as well as 300 Easter Eggs to primary school children. Through Fit for Life we delivered and provided exercise sheets to over 200 older people who were advised to shield and stay home during this period.

## **BSCR**

The current working arrangements during February and March have dramatically changed. Like every community organisation, we have had to reshape our operational plan to meet the current needs of the community. We have changed completely our working conditions with most of the team working from home and only a few of us coming into the centre (and socially distancing). Nowadays meetings with statutory agencies and our funders are via Zoom. We have set up staff and community volunteer WhatsApp groups to liaise with those we are working with on a daily basis. Doing everything online is not easy but in the times we are in, we just have to get on with it. Like the saying goes, "We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails" Our offices are still open 6 days a week, albeit not to the public but as an emergency response coordinating hub. BCC, Doctors, pharmacies and the general public can contact us via phone in order to request help for those in greatest need within the community. BSCR is also helping to coordinate some of the essential food supplies for Sandy Row and south west Belfast as a whole. We are working very closely with our colleagues in South City, GVRT and WWG to ensure that no one is left out of this response.

## **Southcity**

We have distributed 3000 Covid information leaflets during March so far. BSCR are producing an additional leaflet as well. We have instigated phase one of our community response plan, moving to phase 2. So far in response to our information leaflet we have assisted 27 older people with Prescription medication collection, 14 with shopping assistance. We have registered an additional 37 community volunteers to assist in going forward should the need arise. Although not direct NR we have assisted 59 people with Universal Credit claims and have provided advice to a number of people and employers in relation to Furloughed staff (although HMRC need to be clearer on this). We have distributed healthy eating sacks to over 50 children whose families may have cash flow issues. South Belfast ACT and the Village festival committee were able to access food from a local restaurant that was closing, over 70 food parcels were delivered to older people who had difficulty in getting out for shopping. We to co-ordinating and recording activity in the community. We have a list of volunteers who are prepared to cook food for older people when and if the

need arises and transport to deliver. We have delivered a cleaning service to the homes older people whose families are in isolation.



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