

# Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal Area Annual Report 2015 – 2016



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**EAST  
SIDE  
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# 1. Neighbourhood Renewal

## a. Background

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 through Northern Ireland suffering the highest levels of deprivation. Neighbourhood Renewal is a cross government strategy, which aims to bring together the work of all Government Departments in partnership with local people to tackle disadvantage and deprivation in all aspects of everyday life.

Neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% of wards across Northern Ireland were identified using the Noble Multiple Deprivation Measure. Following extensive consultation, this resulted in a total of 36 areas, and a population of approximately 280,000 (1 person in 6 in Northern Ireland), being targeted for intervention. The areas include:

- 15 in Belfast
- 6 in the North West (including 4 in Derry/Londonderry)
- 15 in other towns and cities across Northern Ireland.

Neighbourhood Partnerships were established in each Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA) as a vehicle for local planning and implementation. Each Neighbourhood Partnership should include representatives of key political, statutory, voluntary, community and private sector stakeholders. Together, they have developed vision statements and action plans designed to improve the quality of life for those living in the area.

The four strategic priorities for Neighbourhood Renewal, identified by DofC, are:

- 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 connect them to the wider urban economy
- Physical Renewal – to help create attractive, safe and sustainable environments in the most deprived neighbourhoods
- 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

## 2.Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership

### a. Background

Established in March 2005, the Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership (IENP) has met regularly to carry out the task outlined in the Department of Communities (DofC) 'People and Place' document: 'to develop an action plan for Neighbourhood Renewal for the area'. IENP covers the Short Strand, Lower Newtownards Road, Albertbridge Road, Albertbridge/Beersbridge, The Mount, Woodstock Road and Lower Ravenhill Road areas in East Belfast. These areas are contained within the four Inner East electoral wards of Island, The Mount, Ballymacarrett and Woodstock and they are representative of the two main traditions/communities working on a cross-community basis to address regeneration.

The IENP identified high level objectives, which it believed were fundamental to addressing the four strategic priorities in Inner East Belfast. These objectives then formed the basis of action planning and an outline action plan was produced in November 2006. The action plan has been refined and improved since then as a result of targeted consultation with relevant government departments, Belfast City Council, local community organisations and a series of open community meetings across the area. The most recent review took place in August 2015 and the updated action plan reflects the outcome of this process, until March 2016.

The action plan is guided by a needs assessment, which is continuously updated as new information becomes available from NISRA. In relation to most issues, the situation in Inner East remains largely unchanged from that described in East Belfast Partnership's (2003) Statement of Need, despite the investment from Neighbourhood Renewal and significant European funding.

The action plan takes account of NINIS statistics, statutory priorities and lessons learned from the Neighbourhood Renewal Mid-term review report. The Mid-term review highlighted the following in relation the Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA):

- The population in Inner East is increasing, particularly in The Mount and Island wards
- The Population Pyramid shows the largest proportion of people are aged between 30-50
- Education performance is poor in comparison with other NRA's and has declined further over the period
- The current life expectancy for males in the NRA is 77.5 which is lower than the Northern Ireland male average of 78.1 years. For females, life expectancy is 81.5, which is lower than the Northern Ireland female average of 82.4 years.
- While crime rates have been falling across the NRA, Belfast East is the constituency with the fifth highest recorded crime rate.

The action plan has been regularly updated to ensure that the actions required against all the key priorities identified were sufficiently detailed. The 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 members of the Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership and subgroups all signed up to and abide by the Neighbourhood Renewal Code of Practice, Guiding Principles and subsequent subgroup terms of reference.

**b. Membership**

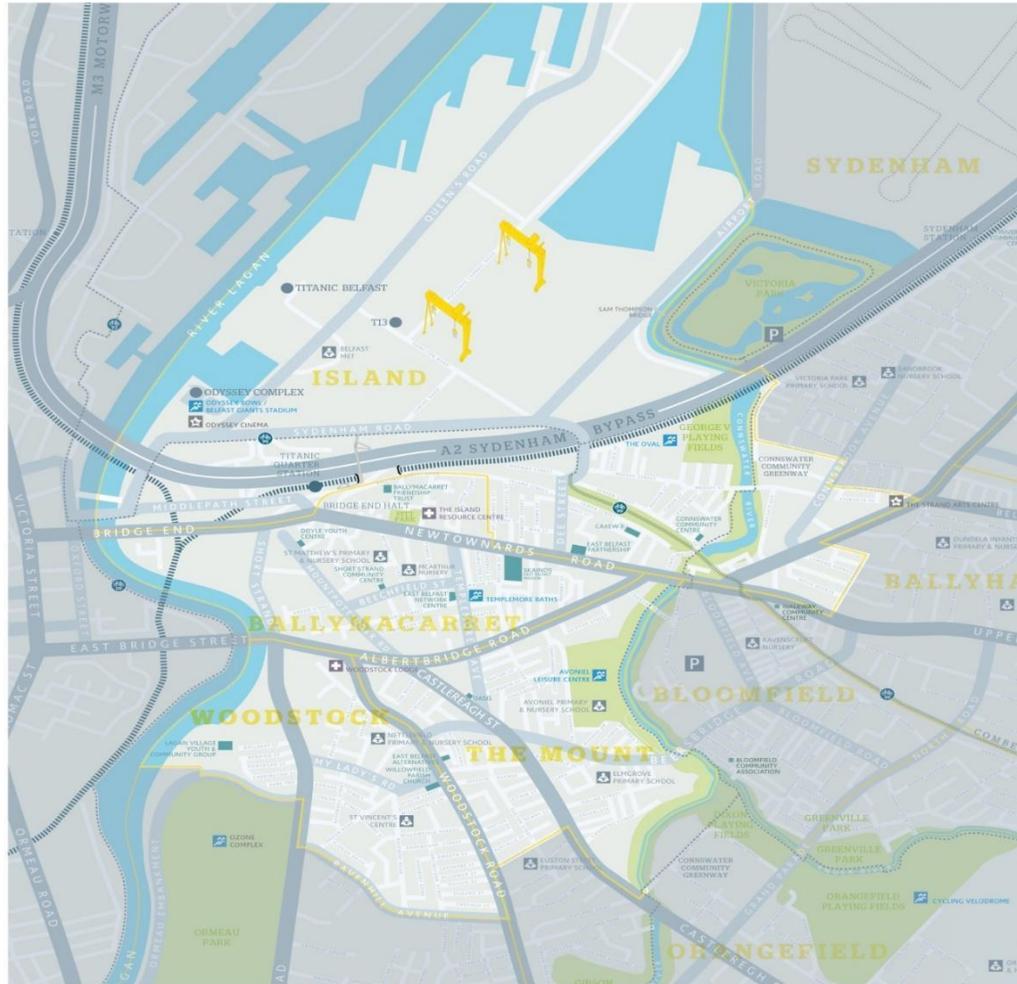
To take forward the Neighbourhood Renewal programme for the area, Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership (IENP) was established in 2005 to oversee the development and delivery of the action plan. From April 2015 to March 2016, the Partnership was composed of 29 members, which included representatives from the local community, voluntary organisations, elected representatives and statutory organisations. It met bimonthly with facilitation and administration services being provided by the Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator post, which was established in December 2013, and works out of East Belfast Partnership.

<b>Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation/Sector</b>
Michael Briggs (Chair)	EBCDA
Maggie Andrews	ESP
Geraldine Millican	BRO (Observer)
Yvonne Cowan	South & East Belfast Health & Social Services
Rachael Davison	Walkway Community Association
Sammy Douglas	Elected Rep
Rev. Mervyn Gibson	Westbourne Presbyterian Church
Rosheen Heath	Short Strand Community Forum
Chris Lyttle	Elected Rep
Sara Houston until Sept. 2015	ESP
Patricia Johnston	Short Strand Partnership
John Keery	Ballymac Friendship Trust

Cliff Kennedy	Oasis
John Kyle	Elected Rep
Raymond Laverty	Inner East Youth Project
Bernie McConnell	Short Strand Community Forum
Heather McMurray	Carew II Family Centre
Davy Moore	PSNI
Andy Moorehead	East Belfast Alternatives
George Newell	Lagan Village Youth and Community Group
Niall O'Donngaile	Elected Rep
Jenny Oliver	Belfast City Council Community Services
Barbara McAtamney	DOJ
Alana Porter	NIHE
Stephen Powell	BRO (Observer)
Jim Rodgers	Elected Rep
Pauline Smart	Belfast Education & Library Board
David Stitt	Charter NI
Glenn Thomas	Belfast City Council Community Safety

### **3. Map of Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal Area**

**4.Inner East  
Partnership Action Plan**



**Neighbourhood**

Inner East

 **eastBELFAST**  
PARTNERSHIP  
Neighbourhood Renewal area

The Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership agreed the following Vision Statement in August 05:

**“Inner East Belfast will be transformed into a safer, attractive, healthier community in which people choose to live, learn, work and invest.”**

The Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership’s action plan can be found in Annex 3.

#### **a. Physical Renewal – Context**

Three of the Inner East wards are placed within the ten worst in NI in relation to Noble’s living environment domain. The poor quality of housing within the private sector, difficulties accessing mortgage finance and the shortage of social housing have combined to put additional pressure on young people trying to get onto the housing ladder. While the Neighbourhood Partnership has welcomed the positive influences that the regeneration of the city centre and the ambitious development of the Titanic Quarter have brought to the area, they are acutely aware of the need for these developments to provide real benefits for people in Inner East. The economic recession has presented further challenges and progress is expected to take much longer than anticipated.

The more visible change in Inner East over recent years in relation to the physical environment has been as a result of environmental improvements schemes initiated by BRO, with schemes delivered on the Woodstock Link, Castlereagh Street, Beersbridge Road, Newtownards Road, Hollywood Road/Belmont Road and the Albertbridge Gateway at Short Strand. In addition, Belfast City Council carried out improvements in Castlereagh Street as part of their ‘Renewing the Routes’ Programme and has also completed the Shop Front Improvement Scheme on the Newtownards Road. The NP has committed in recent years to promoting new streetscape improvements in areas that not previously benefitted in the NRA; identifying the Avoniel/Beersbridge and Woodstock/Ravenhill areas. While there have been few physical improvements in Ravenhill/Woodstock area the Avoniel/ Beersbridge area continues to benefit from the BCC investment in the Diamond Project, with significant improvements planned including the provision of a new school building for Elmgrove on the Avoniel site.

The Newtownards Road 2020 group was stood down to enable stakeholders to concentrate their efforts on the ‘Urban Village’ initiative. This programme has just completed several improvements including the provision of artwork to complement the new surgery at Bryson Street, a public realm scheme at Fraser Pass and refurbishment of the Ballymac Centre. Projects including a mural for the EastSide Visitor Centre, Short Strand Walkway and an outdoor classroom adjacent to the Community Centre in Short Strand should be completed in the coming months.

The physical renewal objectives identified by the IENP seek to:

- Encourage a more strategic approach to physical development in the area
- Support the development of local masterplans, as appropriate
- Address dereliction on the interface
- Improve the quality of the physical environment, developing open spaces and arterial routes.

The five strategic priority areas for the regeneration of Inner East Belfast remain the same:

- Linkage with Titanic Quarter – to ensure that residents of the NRA have every opportunity to access jobs and recreation in this important development
- Linkage with City Centre – to capitalise on the fact that the NRA is located beside Belfast City Centre and key regional services and organisations
- Civic Provision (Templemore Avenue) – to reinstate Templemore Avenue as the civic spine of Inner East, protect its landmarks and address dereliction on the interface
- Heart of East Belfast (Holywood Arches) – to build on the investment made in Holywood Arches by the Belfast Trust and the work being undertaken by the Connswater Community Greenway; re-establishing the area as the Heart of East Belfast
- The High Streets (Newtownards Road and Albertbridge Road) – to reclaim the high streets for the local community; focusing on the adjacent communities rather than their external perception as arterial routes.

The continued delivery of the Connswater Community Greenway by EastSide Partnership has been a significant boost to IENP's plans for Neighbourhood Renewal. The considerable physical benefits are already having an impact beyond the area adjacent to the river. The opening of the Sam Thompson Bridge has provided a new gateway into the NRA from Titanic Quarter; with over 700 crossings a day on average the opportunities to connect and provide benefits for communities within the Neighbourhood Renewal area are extensive. The Neighbourhood Partnership is committed to ensuring that every opportunity is taken to add value to the Greenway project for residents of the NRA.

Several new sections of the project were opened this year and an ambitious project is underway to provide CS Lewis inspired sculptures for the new C.S Lewis square, due for completion in Nov 16. Work engaging local communities with this process has already been taking place.

The Neighbourhood Partnership is committed to support the plans and implementation of new facilities to widen the availability of accessible support services for local communities. The run-down Bryson Street Surgery was replaced by Bridges Family Practice after £1 million was

secured from The Northern Ireland Executive's Social Investment Fund by Landmark East. This state-of-the art surgery now has enhanced facilities to ensure health practitioners can provide improved services to the community. The new Visitor Centre for East Belfast, located at C.S. Lewis Square, is opening in August 2016; financed by Tourism Northern Ireland, Belfast City Council through the Local Investment Fund and Landmark East: this project illustrates the capacity for achieving a 'cocktail' of investment, when a project meets a number of regeneration objectives. The Visitor Centre will include a coffee shop, interactive information points, high tech displays celebrating local legends and an opportunity to purchase locally made merchandise.

More broadly the Action Plan recognises the importance of improving all our open spaces throughout the area and ensuring that appropriate levels of community and recreation facilities are available to all the NRA residents.

#### **b. Social Renewal – Context**

The effective delivery of the key public services of education and health is a critical factor in the success of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme; how this can be achieved has been a particularly challenging element of developing the Action Plan. The Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership's objectives for Social Renewal were identified as:

- Targeting low educational attainment
- Creating 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning environments (addressing issues in relation to the fabric of school buildings)
- Supporting a strategic approach for education planning in Inner East Belfast
- Addressing health inequalities for people in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods
- Providing support for improved ways of providing health information in local communities

The East Belfast Health Framework continues to deliver outcomes relating to five priority themes: Healthy hearts; Healthy bodies; Healthy minds; Healthy relationships; Healthy neighbourhoods. Members of the Neighbourhood Partnership ensure their local activities are aligned with the Framework as appropriate, and that groups within the NRA are working collaboratively on this shared purpose. Moreover, members of the Neighbourhood Renewal are also contributing to various stakeholder groups.

The Health Hub in the Network Centre continues to provide local individuals, groups and organisations information about local health programmes and services. The NP is committed to supporting the work of health forums in Inner East; the East Belfast Health Forum, Mental Health Forum and the East Belfast Physical Activity Forum. It is hoped through wider promotion of services, the participation levels will increase, with more people in the NRA committed to supporting and tackling mental health issues.

People in Inner East continue to be challenged by poverty, with the potential impact of welfare reform becoming a priority issue for some groups. The NP is committed to new cross-cutting initiatives aimed at improving information sharing and collaboration around advice services and crisis provision. EastSide Partnership, with EBCDA and EBIAC, produced a directory of crisis support services in East Belfast last year, which was distributed across a range of settings in East Belfast. This has been followed up with further collaboration resulting in the production and circulation of a postcard offering advice on tackling debt and where practical and advice support can be found in east Belfast. 10,000 homes within inner East Belfast, Tullycarnet and Ballybeen received a copy. This work was supported with funding from the business sector.

Making progress in relation to educational attainment and aspiration remains a significant problem for the NRA as inequalities in education remain high. EastSide Learning (ESL), established by ESP continued to roll out of initiatives described in their Framework which was launched in March 2015. The final phase of the DE Community Education Initiatives programme took place in this year – this included an Easter School for GCSE pupils, community based GCSE revision, family learning visits, a transition programme for schools involving Moving Image Arts and literacy support for schools. While the DENI funded programme had made significant progress in improving connections between school and community the project ended in March 16.

ESL is seeking to develop strands of this work despite this setback, as the issue is too important to the NRA to ignore. It is hoped that it may be possible to continue the work started within the SIF funded education programme planned for east Belfast – the invitation to tender for delivery of this programme is expected to be issued in July 16.

Providing more efficient youth provision in the NRA is another objective and EBCDA continues to provide facilitation for the East Belfast Youth Practitioners Forum, that has increased its membership. The Forum provides an opportunity for youth workers to share good practice and skills, ensures that staff employed in this area are supported and well trained and work is coordinated more effectively. They have undertaken a number of successful collaborative projects, one being the Street Team.

### **c. Community Renewal - Context**

The Neighbourhood Partnership has acknowledged that a key challenge within community renewal is to build participation and the capacity of local communities to become more involved in decision-making. While there are several community based groups in the Neighbourhood Renewal area whose work is recognised as first class there remain neighbourhoods where little is happening and new groups struggle to get

established in what is a shrinking community sector. An additional challenge is the interface where at times the pressure on local people is immense; this has been great putting additional strain on already disadvantaged communities.

The IENP's objectives for community renewal were identified as:

- Building leadership
- Building trust and creating confident communities
- Addressing community division and building cohesion
- A commitment to maximising participation
- Cooperation
- Recognising quality
- Sharing resources

The Neighbourhood Partnership is committed to ensuring that all communities have equal access to opportunities arising from Neighbourhood Renewal and other key government programmes aimed at improving quality of life for people in disadvantaged communities. Without well informed and connected local leadership some communities are at a distinct disadvantage. Key groups supported within the NR programme contribute significantly to keeping residents connected to developments and benefitting from new opportunities.

There have been significant delays in the transfer of regeneration powers to local councils. Consequently, making progress in understanding community planning and its potential impact on Neighbourhood Renewal has been challenging; the future remains uncertain.

The importance of addressing issues associated with the Interface has been referred to earlier as part of the physical renewal agenda under Neighbourhood Renewal. The Neighbourhood Partnership is acutely aware that improving relations between the communities along the interface will be the key to success. Despite the political progress that has been made, there remain some very marginalised communities on the interface. Provision has been made in the action plan to secure resources to support joint activities and programmes between the communities on the interface. These activities will need to be well resourced and coordinated if sustainable progress is to be made.

The final action outlined within the Community Renewal theme relates to local delivery of the Belfast Community Safety Partnership Strategy. While considerable resources are being deployed in the area for community safety initiatives and community safety staff; communication is at

times poor and not all communities within the NRA could articulate their issues. The NP plans to work more closely with Belfast City Council on this issue to ensure that activities supported are both well targeted and link effectively with other local projects and plans.

#### **d. Economic Renewal - Context**

While the Inner East area was historically the location of Belfast's key industries, this is no longer the case and the area experiences disproportionately high levels of unemployment within East Belfast. Ballymacarrett and The Mount are placed within the 10% of worst wards in NI and Woodstock and Island are well within the 20% of most deprived places. Income deprivation is also evident throughout the NRA.

The 2011 Census indicates that average weekly earnings within East Belfast are the lowest in the city, with a difference of forty-five pounds per week between the East Belfast average and that found in West Belfast. This suggests that while the level of employment in East is good in relative terms, the nature of that employment may be characterised by more part-time and low paid work when compared with other places. The Census also illustrated that 20.72% of unemployed people were aged 50 or over in East Belfast compared to 16.71% in North, 14.32% in South and 13.10% in West. This suggests that there is a large pool of people living in East Belfast who could benefit from reskilling and an employer base that welcomes older workers.

The withdrawal of ESF funding from local groups and the reconfiguration of targeted employability programmes presented many challenges during the year. A number of NR funded groups highlighted a lack of information, fewer opportunities for clear progression routes and the closure of previously successful projects responsible for collating case studies of people impacted on by these changes. The group collated a number of case studies to highlight these issues and bring to the attention to the Minister; this is now planned to take place after the May elections when a new Minister will be in place.

The NP recognises that elements of economic renewal could be better connected in terms of employability and economic development. There have been several attempts to support a more collaborative approach to employability and economic development, with limited success. However, the NP recognises that there is a need for this to continue, particularly due to the changes in Council's responsibility for economic development, under reform of local government. Moving forward the NP plans to support more inter-agency working to enhance the delivery of economic development within the NRA. Attempts to re-establish an economic development subgroup achieved little success as groups became challenged by the reduction in European Social Funding and the new contractual arrangements with external service providers.

The IENP's objectives for economic renewal were identified as:

- Creating opportunity for investment and increasing prosperity
- Maximising employment potential
- Undertaking a skills audit
- Articulating barriers to employability including transport and childcare
- Taking a proactive approach – possibly using a model of economic 'hubs' in key places
- Ensuring that appropriate Further and Higher Education opportunities exist

It is hoped that in the incoming year a mapping exercise will be undertaken in order to provide better understanding of the current levels of provision for young people NEET. This will then allow the NP to ensure better targeted recruitment into the available opportunities.

A new group involving traders has been established for Holywood Arches to maximize the opportunities arising from the development of the Greenway, CS Lewis Square and the Visitor Centre. ESP is working closely with the UV initiative to develop more opportunities – particularly in relation to sites which have been made available by DRD since the removal of the road protection lines.

The importance of developing the Social Economy within the NRA is also recognised in the Action Plan, particularly in light of the reducing funding environment. While a significant number of people are employed within the social economy sector there are concerns that many groups are unaware of opportunities and incentives that exist to grow this sector. The work of East Belfast Social Enterprise Hub seeks to tackle this and the Hub is promoted amongst NP groups as an option to explore to improve their sustainability.

## 5.Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal Funded Projects

The Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund is currently supporting **8 community renewal** projects in the Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal Area as follows:

### a. Carew II Family Centre

Neighbourhood Renewal Investment of £88,420.09 for 2015/2016 financial year was awarded to Carew II to secure and sustain the following service delivery. The aim of this project is to provide high quality, affordable and accessible childcare and family support services within the Inner East Belfast area which focuses on the following:

Crèche (both planned and respite)	0 – 1 year old
Mother/Father and Toddler(s)	1 – 3 year old
Playgroup	3 year old
Pre-school	3 – 4 year old
After-school	5 – 11 year old
Homework clubs	5 – 11 year old (Primary )

This programme of activities is supported by childcare staff and volunteers. The following staff members are employed to oversee, deliver and develop these essential services:

- Operation Manager: ensures that strategic and operational plans for the organisation are adhered to
- Development Manager: determines future service planning and looks at ways of securing fund to take this work forward
- Finance Administrator: responsible for agreed financial recording systems
- Childcare Leaders (3): manages and coordinates activities of the crèche, toddlers groups, after school club and summer scheme
- Childcare Workers (3): offers a stimulating, progressive and varied programme of child care services within the Centre
- Receptionist: public face of Centre and provides administrative support to staff

The Project provides the children and their families with a designated and professional high quality service, aimed at improving the child's opportunity to a secure start in life and access to learning and development from an early age; this is essential for holistic development of the child. It also offers newcomer families a sense of belonging and helps their children adapt to their new environment. The child care services are an integral part of the success of the Centre providing much needed support for parents who may be in employment or training.

Feedback from families has indicated that this has improved the family as a unit and promoted family cohesion. The centre has been able to identify children with complex needs and developmental delay conditions and work with parents in receiving additional help and services to meet their needs.



**b. East Belfast Community Counselling – Open Door Project**

Neighbourhood Renewal Investment of £47,272.97 for 2015/2016 financial year was awarded to the East Belfast Community Counselling's (EBCC) Open Door Project theme to secure and sustain the following service delivery. Please see EBCDA Annual report for further information.

**c. EastSide Partnership– Delivering Effective Regeneration Locally and Citywide**

Neighbourhood Renewal Investment of £159,308.00 for 2015/2016 financial year was awarded to the EastSide Partnership to secure and sustain the following service delivery. Please see EastSide Partnership Annual report for further information.

**d. EastSide Partnership – Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator**

Neighbourhood Renewal Investment of £24,059.59 was awarded for the 2015/2016 financial year to EastSide Partnership to support the Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator post. Please see EastSide Partnership Annual report for further information.

**e. Inner East Community Development Programme**

Neighbourhood Renewal investment of £304,081.08 for 2015/2016 financial year was awarded to the Community Development programme to secure and sustain the following service delivery. Please see EBCDA Annual report for further information.

Outcomes achieved by Community Development Programme in 2015/2016:

- 1593 people participating in community relations projects
- 1682 people participating in community bonding projects
- 516 people volunteering for community development activities
- 294 people engaged/involved in unpaid voluntary work
- 552 people receiving training in community development skills/capacity building
- 253 community relations projects supported
- 107 people receiving job-specific training
- 200 childcare places supported
- 88 people attaining a formal qualification from participation in Adult education
- 1111 people attending Health Education/Awareness Initiatives
- 56 crime prevention initiatives implemented



#### **f. Inner East Youth Development Programme**

Neighbourhood Renewal Investment of £147,673.22 for 2015/2016 financial year was awarded to the Youth Development theme to secure and sustain the following service delivery. Please see EBCDA Annual report for further information.

#### **g. Willowfield Parish Community Association – Soul Sisters Project**

Neighbourhood Renewal Investment of £29,928.56 for 2015/2016 financial year was awarded to Willowfield Parish Community Association to secure and sustain the following service delivery. The Willowfield 'Soul Sisters Family Support Project' is a community based service using existing networks and venues to provide family support to people in the Inner East Belfast area. It particularly targets families in need who have not taken up or sustained uptake of other services which are available and issues for which there is a local shortage of provision or a growing need, e.g. families where English is a second language.

The project started in November 2013. The third year of the project has seen growth in the number of service users and also in complexity of issues presented by families using the service. This reinforces the need for this one on one, needs based and family lead model of working. Such methods we have found really help families (and therefore communities), develop healthy and ongoing internal relationships as well as being able to interact constructively with the statutory and voluntary agencies designed to support them also. As a result many clients availing of the Family Support Service are beginning to show positive progress in dealing with the difficulties that they face and in interacting with the statutory organisation involved in their situation. These families have also availed of other services within WPCA such as the Food store and children and youth programmes. In addition those families attending Ethnic Minority Mums and Tots have used other services in WPCA such as CAP Job Club, computer classes, English language classes and parenting and welfare advice. The project continues to be informed and supported by the various relevant local networks such as Inner East Family hub and the Early Years Network.

The programme is delivered by two part time workers. The posts facilitate various services such as:

- Home visits to clients
- Accompanying clients to statutory or legal meetings where they feel unable to attend by themselves i.e. family court, social service meetings etc.
- Supporting clients through emotional and sensitive personal/ family issues
- Supporting clients to attend weekly appointments i.e. GP, CPN, support groups - Directly referring families to other support services in the local area
- Providing parenting programmes /focusing on parenting skills
- Initiatives to help parents support their children in education

- Support group for young mums
- Health lifestyle programmes for mums and children
- Support via a listening ear and someone to meet regularly with them
- Food Store, to help families when in food poverty.
- Social Inclusion and interaction. Meeting up with other local parents, especially positive for mums and tots from an Ethnic minority background
- Ethnic minorities' mums and tots groups. Providing a service for Ethnic minority mums and tots to socialise and interact with each other and receive advice from WPCA staff
- Summer Scheme for Mums and tots - An opportunity for local parents and children from 0-4 to attend and participate in a fun interactive summer programme.
- August 2016 - Tuesday Takeaway project - to tackle the issue of holiday hunger during the summer schools holidays.

#### **h. East Belfast Community Development Association - Areas at Risk - Ballybeen BIG Project**

Neighbourhood Renewal Investment of £31,255.38 for 2015/2016 financial year was awarded. Please see EBCDA Annual report for further information.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund is currently supporting **2 physical renewal** projects in the Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal Area as follows:

##### **a. Ballymac Friendship Centre – Essential Repairs**

Neighbourhood Renewal Investment of £42,000.00 for 2015/2016 financial year was awarded to the Ballymac Friendship Trust to enable essential repairs to their facility at Ballymac Friendship Centre. The essential repairs supported to make Ballymac Friendship Centre 'fit for purpose' and DDA compliant. The works included replacing windows and part of roof, internal restructuring, installing, lift, new kitchen and heating system as well as interior decoration.

##### **b. Skainos Limited - Mixed Community Facility**

Neighbourhood Renewal Investment of £104,651.31 for 2015/2016 financial year was awarded to Skainos Limited. The monies received by Skainos Ltd. were to meet the cost overruns on building works and I.D.T. encountered by the project.

## Annex 1: Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan

### Physical Renewal

Desired Outcome	Action Sought	Delivered by
Strategic co-ordination of physical improvements across the NRA	Ensure that the NP is regularly updated re. physical developments in the NRA including PREI schemes, UDG and other government funded initiatives.	East Belfast Partnership Belfast Regeneration Office DSD
	Ensure the Neighbourhood Partnership is a key partner re implementation of physical developments in the area.	Belfast City Council OFMDFM NIHE DRD
	Co –ordination with the OFMDFM Urban Village initiative and other relevant plans impacting in the NRA	EBP Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership Key stakeholders as and when they emerge
	Support for streetscape improvements in areas that have not previously benefited in NRA	IENP EBP

	<p>Secure resources and support the development of for neighbourhood based environmental improvements across the NRA</p> <p>Facilitate and support groups to emerge with a focus on tackling local dereliction – target areas Avoniel/Beersbridge, Woodstock Ravenhill.</p> <p>Support the improvement of existing community and youth facilities in the NRA and the development of new facilities where needed.</p> <p>Identify new areas and projects that could benefit from BRO Physical Developments funding</p>	<p>IENP IENP Physical Development Sub Group</p> <p>The Diamond Project Lower Castlereagh Community Association Lagan Village Community Association</p> <p>BELB – East Belfast Area Project East Belfast Youth Practitioners Forum East Belfast Community Development Workers Forum</p> <p>IENP</p>
<p>Effective application of the BCC Investment Fund to support strategic interventions</p>	<p>Provide advice and support to projects for BCC Local Investment Fund within the NRA as required</p>	<p>IENP</p>
<p>Establishment of improved physical links with Titanic</p>	<p>Support for the construction of the Fraser Pass/Titanic Quarter link.</p>	<p>EBP Ballymac Friendship Trust</p>

Quarter and the City Centre		
Strategic development of Templemore Avenue to support new civic facilities	Support the development of Templemore Avenue Baths as an important leisure facility for the area	EBP IENP
Comprehensive regeneration of Hollywood Arches	Support stakeholders to deliver the Hollywood Arches Development Strategy  Provide support for community use of the 'pocket park' at Connswater Street and the adjacent DSD Community Garden  Civic Square fully developed as part of the Connswater Community Greenway Project including façade art project.	EBP  EBP  EBP
Improved accessibility to railway/rapid transit network	Provide support for local consultation and liaise with DRD re proposed Rapid Transit route and infrastructure changes that are taking place  Facilitate input from local communities	EBP  EBCDA
Increased provision of good quality affordable housing	Support stakeholders to develop and maintain good quality housing for NRA residents.	NIHE
Development of Connswater Community Greenway & component parks	Provide support for the completion of the CCG programme	EBP

<p>Development of open space /derelict sites</p>	<p>Map and support local initiatives' (if appropriate) sites within the NRA for short to medium term interim improvements.</p> <p>Work with local communities to secure interim uses</p> <p>Sites developed on ongoing basis</p>	<p>IENP</p> <p>Local Groups?  Short Strand Comm. Forum  Short Strand Partnership  Walkway CA  Lagan Village CA  Oasis  LCCA</p>
<p>To make the NRA a cleaner environment</p>	<p>Provide support for local initiatives aimed at improving the cleanliness and appearance of neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>IENP</p>

## Social Renewal

Desired Outcome	Action Sought	Delivered by
Shared vision for education across agencies and schools	<p>Provide on-going input and support to Education Group</p> <p>Support stakeholders to secure resources and provide support for initiatives identified in the Education Strategy for east Belfast.</p> <p>Contribute to the local area planning process and discussions with BELB/DE re future provision for the area</p> <p>Develop new programmes of support that link schools and communities – resourced by DE Community Based Initiatives Programme and others as appropriate</p>	<p>EBP</p> <p>EBP</p> <p>EBP</p> <p>EBP</p>
Increased provision and co-ordinated and accessible support for early years provision and after schools	<p>Support the work of the early Years Network to improve outcomes for pre- school children in the NRA</p> <p>Provide strategic advice to the East Belfast Locality Planning Group and the Inner East Family Hub</p> <p>Ensure all children in the NRA have access to high quality, affordable early years and after schools provision</p>	<p>EBP</p> <p>EBP</p> <p>East Belfast Early Years Network</p>
Strategic co-ordination of family support services in the NRA	<p>Promote collaboration among groups working with families in the NRA</p> <p>Support groups to develop services and secure resources to deliver these.</p>	<p>EBP</p> <p>EBP</p>

Consolidation and improvement of Primary School provision in the NRA	Facilitate local discussions on future development of primary school provision in the NRA	EBP
	Provide support for schools to access additional resources	EBP
Raising the value of education – improved engagement of parents/children and schools  Extended services – delivered in partnership with local communities	Engage community groups in activities focused on raising aspiration and promoting learning communities	Local Groups?
	Support families to improve parenting skills and secure their involvement in their children’s education	Local Groups
	Identify good practice and disseminate this information across the area.  Support schools and local groups to deliver extended schools programmes and develop innovative approaches to involve parents in their children’s education	EBP  EBP
Increased provision for Adult Education	Provide support for adult education and essential skills initiatives (numeracy, literacy and ICT)	Oasis
Improved collaboration across the youth sector	Support Youth Practitioners Forum to develop new opportunities for young people and workers in the NRA through a collaborative approach	EBCDA
Development of the Youth sector	Support key stakeholders to identify gaps and weaknesses in youth provision in the NRA and develop plans to address these.	EBCDA
A shared vision and strategy for Health Improvement	Implementation of the East Belfast Health Framework in the NRA	EBCDA
Residents of the NRA living longer healthier lives	Support the actions developed under East Belfast Health Framework 5 themes: Healthy Hearts Healthy Minds	EBCDA

	<p>Healthy Bodies Healthy Neighbourhoods and Healthy Relationships</p> <p>Increase engagement in and the capacity of community based health clinics addressing priority issues.</p>	EBCDA
<p>Accessible and early referral to support services</p>	<p>Support the development of a mental health referral hub and promote collaborative working among agencies focussed on mental health.</p> <p>Ensure that groups within the NRA are accessing programmes offered by health agencies – voluntary and statutory responsible for citywide initiatives and that higher levels of participation are evidenced.</p>	<p>EBCDA</p> <p>EBCDA</p>
<p>Improved access to high quality advice and advocacy services for residents in the NRA</p>	<p>Co-ordinate a response in the NRA to tackling poverty – connecting stakeholders and producing a plan for more effective support.</p> <p>Support for accessible advice services</p> <p>Develop a directory of services of those delivering advice/crisis management within NRA</p>	<p>IENP EBIAC EBCDA</p> <p>IENP</p> <p>IENP</p>

## Community Renewal

Desired Outcome	Action Sought	Delivered by
Strengthen community infrastructure, community development and capacity to engage in the transition to Community Planning	Arrange and facilitate opportunities to develop collaborative work within and between communities.	EBCDA
	Keep local groups informed of developments re. community Planning	EBCDA
	Identify and facilitate events to highlight and share good practice	EBCDA Groups
	Support local groups to develop good practice in Community Development	EBCDA
	Provide support for projects focused on building capacity and reinvesting in communities	EBCDA
A new generation of skilled community leaders	Provide support for the delivery of a Community Leadership programme.	EBCDA
	Provide support for the EBCDA Mentoring support programme for community and youth workers and encourage participation.	IENP EBCDA Groups
	Develop and support a programme to support university students in the NRA	IENP
	Secure resources to support an ongoing professional development programme for community and youth work staff in the NRA	EBCDA IENP
Increased numbers of people volunteering and getting involved in their communities	Develop a Volunteer Strategy for East Belfast with an Action Plan for training and support.	EBCDA
	Promote volunteering opportunities in the NRA	EBCDA IENP Groups

	<p>Arrange events to recognise, celebrate and co-ordinate the role of volunteers in local groups</p> <p>Support groups to access internships and work placement opportunities to build local capacity among individuals and groups</p>	<p>EBCDA</p> <p>EBCDA</p>
<p>Improve relationships across the interface</p>	<p>Support the work and agenda of the inter-community forum</p>	<p>IENP</p> <p>Short Strand Community Forum</p> <p>Inner East Forum</p>
<p>Improve Community safety initiatives in the NRA</p>	<p>Identify local priorities to inform the BPCSP strategy development</p> <p>Ensure that appropriate communication and or representation is provided to the DPCSP</p> <p>BCC Community Safety to attend NP Board meeting 2/3 times per year as an opportunity to update and discuss gaps/current issues</p> <p>Support the formation/development of a Community Safety Forum or NP sub group</p> <p>Reduction of levels of anti-social behaviour in the NRA</p> <p>Facilitate local communities to articulate community safety issues and access support to address these.</p> <p>Increase awareness of crime prevention initiatives operating in the NRA</p>	<p>DOJ</p> <p>Belfast City Council</p> <p>DPCSP</p> <p>Local Groups?</p>

## Economic Renewal

Desired Outcome	Action Sought	Delivered by
Effective networks and mechanisms to ensure that new opportunities for employment and training are communicated to target groups	Development of an economic sub-group to ensure that the relevant actions on the plan are delivered	IENP Groups
Increased numbers of residents within the NRA accessing employment	Ensure that employability resources received from DEL to target unemployed in the NRA are effectively targeted	DEL ILM IENP economic subgroup Stepping Stones Oasis GEMs
A reduction in the number of young people aged 16-24 who are not in Education, Employment or Training	To improve co-ordination of existing opportunities relevant to those NEETS living in the NRA  To develop new initiatives as appropriate, including training and secure resources to deliver	'Youth' groups  IENP 'Youth' groups
More people from the NRA training in business skills and	Securing representation from and to the NP on East Belfast Enterprise  Support groups within the NRA to disseminate information on employability and business development programmes offered by BCC and EBE	IENP economic subgroup  IENP economic subgroup

engaging in new business initiatives	Support traders' associations to promote, support and increase economic activity and tackle dereliction within the NRA	IENP economic subgroup
Increased level of social economy activity in the NRA	Support groups to explore and develop social economy ideas; reducing dependency on short term funding.	IENP economic subgroup
	Facilitate events to promote the social economy in the area	IENP economic subgroup
Development of the tourism product in the NRA	Support the future development and encourage participation of NRA communities and organisations in the east Belfast 'Brand'	EBP IENP
	Provide support for the development of the Titanic People project	EBP
	Develop heritage and social history based walking trails	EBP
Increased numbers of visitors to the area	Support the development of east Belfast events and festivals that present a positive image and encourage visitors.	EBP



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