



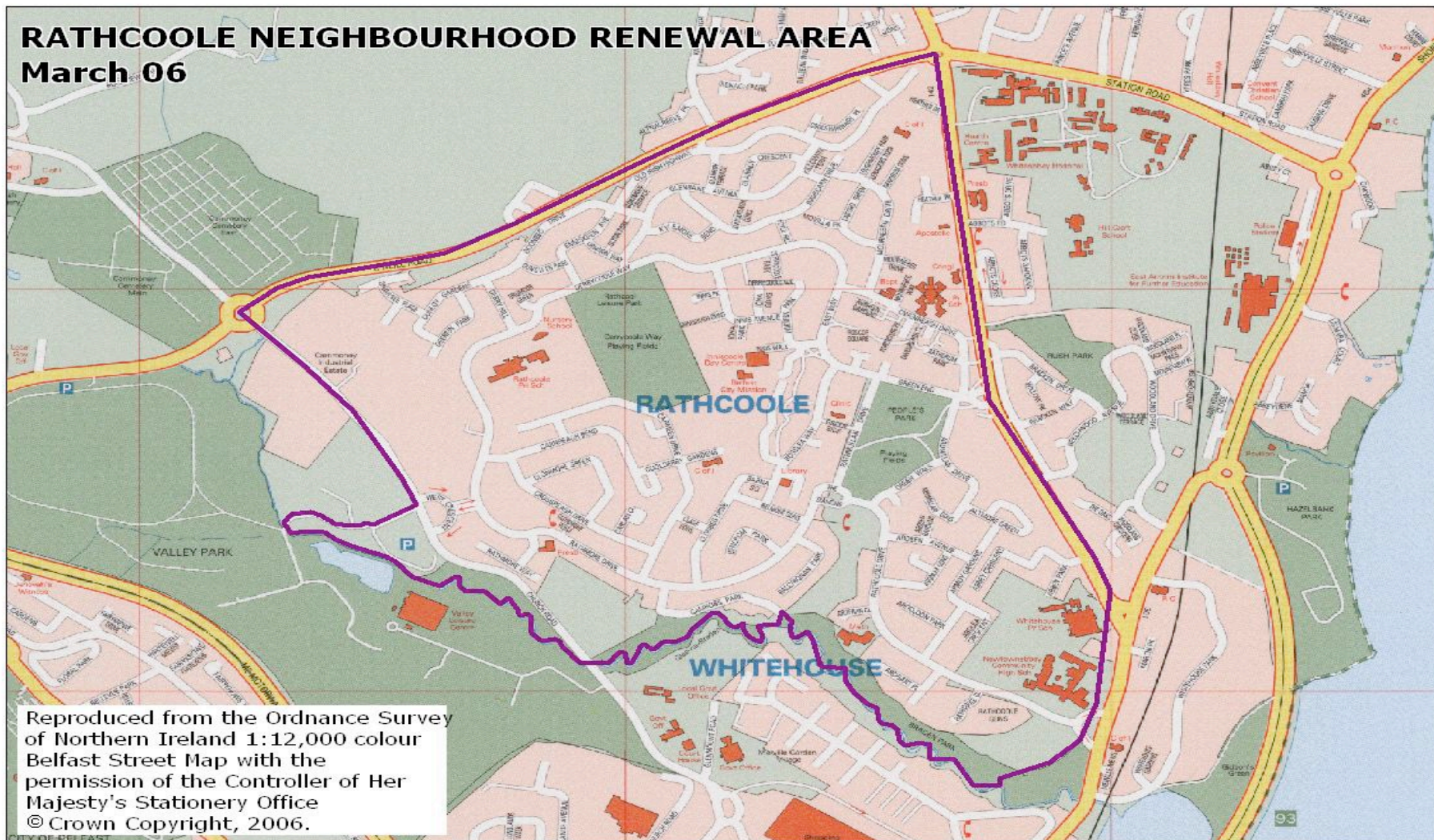
# Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Annual Report 2017/18

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Annual Report 2017-2018



Area Profile of Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA)



## 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.

The following information from NINIS shows highlights key points for residents living within Rathcoole:

## 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 2015 18.1% of residents in Rathcoole were on Employment and Support Allowance in comparison to 6.23% of the Northern Ireland population.

Jobseekers Allowance claimants are its lowest level since 2009, however in 2015 the percentage of Rathcoole residents on JSA was at 5.3% in comparison to 2.43% province wide.

## 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 issue of concern however is the increase in anti-social behaviour and the significant gap of 21.5. This equates to almost double the incidences per 1,000 of the population occurring in Rathcoole in comparison to non-NRA areas.

## Action Plan

The Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership completed a review of its original Action Plan in 2011 and published further updates in 2012, 2014, and 2016 to ensure that the actions required against all key priorities identified were sufficiently detailed. The

Neighbourhood Renewal 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 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 DSD through Belfast Regeneration Office and managed by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Structure and Membership:

Organisation	Name
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor David Hollis                      Chairperson
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor Billy Webb                      Vice-Chairperson
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor John Scott/Councillor Robert Foster*
ANBC - Elected Representative	Councillor Thomas Hogg
ANBC – Elected Representative	Alderman Billy De Courcy
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor Paul Hamill

ANBC – Community Services and Tackling Deprivation Manager	Elaine Manson
DFC - Belfast Regeneration Office	Michael Bradley
NIHE	Stephen Crawford
PSNI	Sergeant David Boyd (or representative)
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	Angela Denvir
Inniscoole Day Centre	Judith Mayne
Abbey Community College	Maria Quinn
Rathcoole Primary School	Emma Quinn
Youth Service	Francis Loughlin
Synergy	Adrian Smith
Breakaways	Joyce Campbell
Newtownabbey Women's Group	Wilma Lennox
Rathcoole Creative Memories	Annie Anderson
Mallusk Enterprise	Emma Garrett
North Belfast Area Partnership	John McCorry
Newtownabbey Family Connections	Claire Humphrey
Rathcoole Churches Group	Wendy Foster
Newtownabbey Methodist Mission	Rev Billy Davison
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Community Services Manager
RNR Co-ordinator/Tackling Deprivation Officer	Cathy Hall/Jen Cole

\*Councillor Robert Foster became a member of the Partnership in February 2018 after the resignation of Councillor John Scott in December 2017.

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 thematic 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.

The current membership of the sub groups is detailed below.

#### Learning, Health and Well-Being Sub Group

Organisation	Name
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor David Hollis
DSD - Belfast Regeneration Office	Michael Bradley
Education Authority	Francis Loughlin
NHSCT	Angela Denvir
PSNI	Serg. David Boyd
Inniscoole Day Centre	Judith Mayne
Synergy	Adrian Smith
Breakaways	Joyce Campbell
NRC	Arlene Watson
Open University	Janette Nhangaba
Newtownabbey Methodist Mission	Mary Henderson
Education Authority	Lynn Clyde
Start 360	Evelyn McGuigan
Newtownabbey Methodist Mission	Frances Hunter
Family Centre	Heather Caldwell
Newtownabbey Family Connections	Claire Humphrey
SureStart	Brenda Doherty
SureStart	Cathy Todd
Spark	Andrew Cuthbert

Rathcoole Primary School	Emma Quinn
Abbey Community College	Maria Quinn
RNR Co-ordinator	Cathy Hall
Tackling Deprivation Officer	Jen Cole

Economic and Physical Sub Group

Organisation	Name
ANBC Elected Representative	Councillor Billy Webb
ANBC Elected Representative	Councillor David Hollis
ANBC Economic Development	Seonaid Rooney
Department for Communities	Michael Bradley
Newtownabbey Jobs and Benefits Office	Jonathan Logan
Mallusk Enterprise	Emma Garrett
Community Representative	Annie Anderson
NIHE	Steven Crawford
The Princes Trust	Conor Turley
Abbots Cross CAP Jobs Club	William Elliot
Jobmatch Network Personnel	Nicolle Scroggie
Bryson Futureskills	Rab Guiney
People Plus	Jeanette McMurray
People Plus	Paula Barrett
RNR Co-ordinator	Cathy Hall
Tackling Deprivation Officer	Jen Cole

Communication and Events Sub Group

Organisation	Name
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ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor Thomas Hogg
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor John Scott
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor Billy DeCourcy
ANBC – Elected Representative	Councillor David Hollis
ANBC – Community Services Officer	Jonathan Henderson
Department for Communities	Michael Bradley
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
Tackling Deprivation Officer	Jen Cole
RNR Coordinator	Cathy Hall

The Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership’s vision identifies the following main objectives for each of the five sub groups:

#### Learning Health and Well-Being

- 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.

#### 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

- 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 deliver and maintain a drugs amnesty box.
- To support the Men's Shed Project
- To investigate the possibility of an 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 2017/18 contributed towards technical assistance, partnership development and developing best practice. 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. During the period of this report, a Councillor on the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership, Councillor Paul Hamill, was Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council 2017-2018.

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.

### Synergy Centre

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

The majority of the service users are men, which compliments the work of Newtownabbey Women's Group. Synergy currently caters to a large elderly population base, in line with the population profile for Rathcoole, and attempts to source activities which will cater to their particular needs.

The Synergy Centre has noticed a significant increase in service users manifesting with significant health problems and/or learning difficulties. This has included many users who require carer support on a daily basis. A number of individuals have also suffered significant bereavement, including bereavement by suicide. Many users' experiences are further complicated with significant mental health concerns. All of these circumstances have led to the need for additional support for service users outside of the activity programme schedule. To this end Synergy Centre provides the support available in-house, while signposting and encouraging users to utilise other services available to help them deal with their specific needs.

The organisation's Project Coordinator also provides support to local organisations by providing relevant outreach programmes such as a recent drugs and alcohol awareness course which was utilised by the NHSCT Inniscoole Day Centre. Synergy has worked with a variety of other organisations in the past year. These include Newtownabbey Women's Group,

Programmes delivered by Synergy in 2017/2018 include:

- Community Safety workshop in partnership with the PSNI
- Pre-employment programmes and support
- Genealogy
- History
- Book club
- Art classes for people with learning difficulties
- Therapeutic anti-stress colouring group
- Computers for leisure
- ICT skills development and training
- Cooking Programme
- Intergenerational Easter and Summer schemes
- Christmas Party for older people
- Alcohol and Medication Awareness programmes (in-house)

#### 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.



The project worked closely with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council on programmes aimed at inclusion and increasing community development. The Development Worker of the organisation chaired and facilitated Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership's Community and Physical subgroup before this was disbanded and now chairs the Communication and Events sub-group. The worker takes the lead on community engagement opportunities, liaising with the Council on community events and initiatives, with NIHE on matters relating to housing and with the Police and Community Safety bodies in the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour.

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 350 individuals. As part of their role in the Communications and Events sub-group, the group also helped to organise the Learning and Health Fair, funded through Neighbourhood Renewal Programme Costs, with an estimated footfall of between 125 and 150 throughout the session.

Newtownabbey Women's Group supports, develops and implements programmes of social, educational and recreational activities to increase community capacity and build positive and effective relationships between the community and statutory sectors.

Programmes delivered by Newtownabbey Women's Group in 2017/18 include:

- Social Enterprise training
- A daily drop in for women including social inclusion programmes and advice and signposting support
- Skills and hobby classes (crocheting, sewing, jewellery making, colouring-in)
- Multi-cultural and Inter-generational sessions delivered in association with the Dunanney Centre
- Personal development courses
- Provision of work placements for the unemployed

- A series of history courses looking at the history of Ireland from the Celts to the current day through Community Relations Forum
- A series of history courses looking at the Role of Women During WW1 through Training Women's Network
- A Cancer Health Awareness course through Women's Regional Development Network

Examples of other groups supported in the area

#### Breakaways

The Breakaways are a 60+ 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, go on a number of trips. The group are also always at hand to help out at any community events, prepared to do anything from dressing up, acting and singing to making the tea. The Breakaways Group supported the Christmas event in Rathcoole through dress making, acting in the event, and catering for volunteers.

#### Men's Shed

The Newtownabbey Men's Shed was originally set up with the support of Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal and has recently gone from strength to strength. 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 recently made wooden toys to be presented to the children's hospice.

#### Additional Projects and Initiatives

Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership has both led and supported many further programmes and initiatives during 2017/2018 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.

#### Barnardo's Newtownabbey Family Connections

The Barnardo's Newtownabbey Family Connections Project works towards improving educational outcomes for children and young people in Rathcoole.

Their key areas of work during the 2017/2018 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.

#### *Neighbourhood Renewal Additional Funding Programmes Support*

Barnardo's Newtownabbey Family Connections provided significant support to Antrim and Newtownabbey Council when sourcing programmes which would help to increase the educational attainment of children and young people in Rathcoole. Barnardo's organised Fingerprint Learning workshops for adults and children, additional tutoring support through the Edventurous Data Discovery programme and training for adults working with children and young people.

#### Newtownabbey Men's Shed

The men's shed has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 2015. A number of workshops currently exist including art, woodwork, wood turning, trips and education programmes to mention a few. Currently the shed is having to turn people away from their programmes due to lack of space. They are currently looking for a bigger and more viable venue to continue their work.

#### 2017 Christmas Event

The Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership has a long tradition of arranging Seasonal events which enable residents to feel included in community life. This year the theme was Beauty and the Beast. Volunteers from a range of Rathcoole's community and voluntary groups (such as the Breakaways, and Newtownabbey Women's Group) crafted costumes and props, rehearsed and delivered the event, with additional support in refreshments and external entertainment. Santa was also present with gifts along with amusements, and arts and crafts. It is estimated that approximately 400 people were in attendance throughout the day before the turning on of the Christmas tree lights.



### 2017 Bubbly Maths Workshops

The aim of Bubbly Maths workshop is to make Maths fun through the use of balloons and bubbles. The workshops help teach young children about their spatial awareness as well as shapes, counting and patterns. Sessions are delivered in a fun and engaging way, helping children to develop skills and confidence in maths. A series of sessions were delivered in Rathcoole Primary School involving the whole school: approx. 100 pupils.



### Parents and Tots Workshops

Four Parents and Tots Workshops were delivered in June 2017, and March 2018; aiming to support parents to develop confidence in engaging, and supporting their children through play. Jo Jingles and Moo Music provided educational sessions in The Newtownabbey Methodist Mission and Rathcoole Hall as part of each church's parents and tots programme. In March Mini Explorers supplied sessions during our Health and Well-being Fair and during the Dunanney handover event for young children.

### 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.

Throughout 2017-2018 ROC Care Rathcoole has received 17 referrals, with six clients being matched with a befriender and are enjoying their weekly visits. A number of the referrals did not meet the criteria, passed away or were moved into nursing care. There are currently have 5 referrals needing matched with a befriender, and a recruitment drive for volunteers befrienders has commenced in order to address this need.

Referrals were received from the Northern Health Trust, the Community Navigator, housing associations (Radius & APEX), local churches, charities and local pharmacy. 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. Since March 2017 ROC Care have trained 12 volunteers, the befriending team meet once a month for support and training. The team have welcomed special guests from local agencies including Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Health Team, the AGENI Community Navigator and AWARE NI. The ongoing support and training has raised awareness and knowledge of issues relating to older people as well as developing skills and capacity.

Additionally, ROC Care Rathcoole organised a health and wellbeing programme for ROC Care clients in partnership with the Well Pharmacy. The programme was supported by the Building a Community Pharmacy Partnership and aimed to encourage clients to build confidence in being outside the home as well as raise awareness of their health and well-being.

ROC Care's befriending scheme has also been used as a case-study for the Rural Community Network as part of their work in highlighting faith sector and social justice projects, one of only four projects in Northern Ireland to be recognised and commended in this way.

#### Sports Summer Scheme 2017

The Sports Summer Scheme was provided for two weeks during the summer and was split by age category. The first week catered to the 8-12 age group with taster sessions of a wide variety of sports and the second week was available to children aged 3-9, focusing on agility, balance and co-ordination. Sessions were well attended, with an aim to continue the scheme again in 2018.

#### SPARK Community Fun Day 2017

SPARK is an annual week-long event organised by local churches to encourage young people to volunteer in their communities. It provides a range of activities throughout the estate including pop up street parties, drop in for young people, football coaching, gardening support, tidy-ups etc. This year Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership supported a fun day organised for the Saturday before SPARK commenced. The event included inflatables, face-painting, jewellery making and a dog show, with the young people involved in SPARK volunteering throughout the day.

#### 2018 Health and Wellbeing Awareness Fair

On the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 a Health and Wellbeing Awareness Fair (HWAF) was launched in Newtownabbey Methodist Mission in Rathcoole. The launch included 32 information stalls from a variety of learning and health focused organisations including; ANBC Sport and Leisure, ANBC Environmental Health, Newtownabbey Jobs and Benefits Office, Bryson Future Skills, Action on Hearing Loss, Radox Health, Rathcoole Library, Northern Regional College, Springboard Opportunities, Action Cancer, Tesco, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Mini Explorers, Women's Tec, PIPs, Age NI, Contact NI, Men's Shed, Action Mental Health, Princes Trust, Alzheimer's Society, HERE

NI, Women's Aid, Newtownabbey Women's Group, Abbey Sure Start, Barnardos Family Connections, Belfast Samaritans, Parenting NI, Cancer Lifeline and Ellen Kay Associates.

Additional provision included Radox Health Checks including their specialised scales with an emailed breakdown of 16 different tests including BMI, fat round the heart, muscle weight etc.; also in attendance was a food intolerance tester, and BMI checks from ANBC Sport and Leisure.

An estimated 150 people attended the Health and Wellbeing Awareness Fair, with many receiving health checks and advice on how to improve their health as well as sourcing information on educational, and employment opportunities available to them within the local area.

The Health and Wellbeing Awareness Week also included a variety of activities delivered across the week which included; Emergency 1<sup>st</sup> Aid training, Community Sports Taster sessions in Rathcoole Youth Centre, Social Media training delivered by Mallusk Enterprise, and a Mindfulness Wood Turning Workshop delivered by Newtownabbey Men's Shed.

#### Community Safety Events

RNRP supported the planning and delivery of the PSNI Dunanney Day March 2018. PSNI Dunanney Day involved a variety of activities aimed at engaging with the local community and promoting home safety information. Activities included information stalls providing a range of information including Crime Prevention, personal safety, drug and alcohol awareness, mental health and wellbeing, and sports taster sessions in Rathcoole Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). This involved working collaboratively with the PSNI, and PCSP through; supporting the planning and delivery of PSNI Dunanney Day; which involved engagement between Community and PSNI, crime prevention, drug & alcohol awareness, and mental health support.



Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership 2017/2018 Expenditure (by Strategic Objective)

The following table details current projects funded via the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment fund. It also details the 2017/2018 individual spend for each project, the total amount of expenditure by strategic objective and the overall 2017/2018 total expenditure in the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding Amount 2017/18	2017/18 Spend (as at 31/03/18)
<b>COMMUNITY RENEWAL</b>			
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (in collaboration with Synergy/NWG) – Neighbourhood Renewal in Rathcoole	01/04/2017 - 31/03/2018	£80,651.62	£70,161.47

ACHIEVEMENTS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDING IN 2017/2018 YEAR

Community Renewal\*

	<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	18	76
CR7 Number of community/voluntary groups supported	11	5	11
CR8 Number of community relations projects supported	1	4	5
CR10 Number of people using existing community facilities	290	87	-

Social Renewal\*

	<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	-	-	104
SR(H)4 Number of health education/awareness initiatives provided/delivered	2	2	2
SR(C)2 Number of community safety initiatives implemented	0	0	3

## Economic Renewal\*

	<b>Synergy</b>	<b>Newtownabbey Women's Group</b>	<b>Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</b>
ER4 Number of people receiving job specific training	4	20	-
ER15 Number of FTE jobs safeguarded	0.5	0.5	1

## Targets specific to Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator

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 31/03/18.	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.
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 2016-17 provided October 2017.
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 partnership meetings, 26 sub group meetings.
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 at each partnership and sub group meeting.
NR Partnership to have 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 at each partnership meeting.
To raise awareness of Best Practice by ensuring Partnership members are involved in	Done on an ongoing basis at each partnership and sub group meeting.

<p>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.</p>	
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## Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership Conclusion

In the 2017/18 financial year, Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership total overall spend was - £70,161.47

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

Community Renewal	£ 35,080.74
Social Renewal	£ 14,032.29
Economic Renewal	£ 14,032.29
Physical Renewal	£ 7,016.15



**Community Empowerment Division  
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Gasworks Business Park  
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