



# ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

LOVE LIVING HERE COMMUNITY PLAN



# **CONTENTS**

Introduction	03
Foreword	04
`Love Living Here' Community Plan	06
Advocacy and Engagement	80
Key Pillars	10
Poverty Indicators	11
Pillar: Employment and Skills	12
Pillar: Families and Wellbeing Support	13
Pillar: Energy Support	14
Pillar: Food Support	15
Pillar: Financial Support	16
Support Services	17



# INTRODUCTION

Poverty is an issue which is affecting an increasing number of people within the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough. The global pandemic and subsequent cost of living crisis have brought the varying forms of poverty to the forefront of many of our Statutory, Community and Voluntary sector partner's minds.

As part of the review of the `Love Living Here' Community Plan carried out in 2023, Anti-Poverty was identified as a key action area. A motion to establish a cross-party Steering Group to develop a coordinated, comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy for the Borough was approved by the Council in January 2024.

**Aim:** The establishment of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group aims to develop a single guiding strategic framework that provided but was not limited to:

- Agency for residents;
- Economic empowerment;
- Maximising stakeholder partnership opportunities;
- Enhance social inclusion;
- Improve access to essential services for residents.



# **FOREWORD**

# THE MAYOR OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council have a clear focus on reducing poverty and inequality across our Borough. The Council is committed to supporting its most vulnerable citizens and creating a fair Borough where services are tailored to help our people and communities thrive. The Council recognises that poverty affects everyone, directly or indirectly, and that everyone can play a role in supporting those who are less fortunate.

We as Council are committed to working with our Community and Statutory Partners to develop practical ways to support the most vulnerable citizens and to find ways of working more effectively together for the benefit of all. This Action Plan is part of this on-going process and aims to provide support across the five key areas outlined within the plan.



COUNCILLOR NEIL KELLY
Mayor of Antrim and
Newtownabbey

# CHAIRMAN OF THE ANTI-POVERTY STEERING GROUP

Poverty is a challenge that no individual or community should face alone. It undermines the potential of individuals, families, and entire neighbourhoods, creating barriers to opportunity and well-being. As a Council we have accepted that it is our responsibility, where it is within our gift, to tackle these barriers headon, ensuring that every person in our community has the support they need to thrive. This Anti-Poverty Strategy is a "working, living document" and it represents our collective commitment to making this vision a reality.

Poverty is not just about a lack of income, it is about the deprivation of opportunities, the erosion of hope and loss of a sense of agency. We recognise that poverty is multifaceted. Therefore, our strategy aims to be comprehensive, working with strategic partners, in addressing the root causes of poverty while also providing relief for those in need.

This is a very positive and welcome step from our Council and I believe it has the potential to be life-changing for many families. Many of our Council schemes are already changing lives and this joined-up strategic approach will further improve our support to those who need it most, and make our Borough a better place to live.



ALDERMAN JULIAN MCGRATH
Chairman of the Anti-Poverty
Steering Group

# **'LOVE LIVING HERE' COMMUNITY PLAN**

In 2023 the existing Love Living Here: Community Plan underwent a strategic review (2017-2023). This provided the platform to evaluate the successes achieved by the Partnership as well as to look to the future in supporting and refocussing our priorities, given the changing environment since the original plan was launched. The review provided the opportunity to explore the current structures, thematics, principles and more importantly the deliverable actions to ensure that the plan was both future proofed allowing for the development of new and emerging needs and trends.

Through the consultation work which was carried out as part of the strategic review, Anti-Poverty emerged as major theme for inclusion in the revised Love Living Here plan. Tackling poverty is an extremely complex and varied under-taking, which has many, factors and involves numerous stakeholders at all levels. As such, the Anti-Poverty agenda is cross cutting across a number of the key actions in the revised plan. The following Anti-Poverty Action Plan recognises this and has identified 5 key pillars. These 5 pillars will impact on multiple Actions contained within the Love Living Here plan and are highlighted in the diagram on the right.





# ANTI-POVERTY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

In the initial period, Anti-Poverty Local Delivery Groups will be created based on thematic and geographical need. These Delivery Groups will bring together a local network with a shared common purpose to address the challenges in a localised format. This will ensure greater connectivity and cooperation, in partnership with the communities they serve.

In conjunction with these, a Borough-wide stakeholder group will be established that will be representative of these Locality Groups. It will provide representation from those organisations whose core business is tackling poverty in the Borough. This will deliver a coordinated and collaborative approach that will in turn inform the overarching aims and objectives of the action plan.



Anti-Poverty is such a wide ranging and cross cutting thematic area that it has an impact on numerous actions within the Love Living Here Community Plan. The main Actions which are impacted by the work on Anti-Poverty are highlighted below

	ACTON 1.1	ACTON 1.2	ACTON 1.3	ACTON 1.4
PEOPLE	Creating a strong and vibrant community and voluntary sector – advocate, champion and maintain volunteering across the Borough.	Championing physical and mental wellness.	Improving the quality of life for our aging population – commitment to being an age friendly Borough following the world health organisation's eight domains.	Integrated approach to tackling poverty.

	ACTON 2.1	ACTON 2.2	ACTON 2.3	ACTON 2.4
PLACE	Improving access for all – supporting additional provisions for play and recreational facilities for all, including disabled people, across the Borough.	Increasing road safety – promoting safe travel across the Borough.	Sustaining safe, clean and vibrant places.	Developing housing led regeneration – supporting the delivery of additional social and affordable housing.

>	ACTON 3.1	ACTON 3.2	ACTON 3.3	ACTON 3.4	ACTON 3.5
PROSPERIT	Antrim and Newtownabbey is a leading and competitive place to start and grow a business.	Our Borough has a culture of entrepreneurship, skills develop- ment and voca- tional training.	Our Borough is a place to do business, developing transport, energy and broadband infrastructure.	Our Borough provides opportunities for all to enable and support people to reach their full potential.	The built heritage of our Borough is protected and sustainably regenerated to support economic prosperity.

	ACTON 4.1	ACTON 4.2	ACTON 4.3	ACTON 4.4
PLANET	Promoting greater sustainability - sustaining and resourcing a more resilient society through conscientious practices.	Improving education and awareness – creation of learning and upskilling that supports the green economy and environmental protection.	Tackling climate change – minimising our environmental impact across the Borough.	Improving access to green spaces – promoting regeneration and access to green spaces across the Borough.

# **ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT**

As part of creating lasting change the Anti-Poverty Steering Group will seek to influence policy decisions where possible. Influencing policy in government involves a multifaceted approach that includes advocacy, research, and collaboration. Effective influence often relies on building strong relationships with policymakers and stakeholders, providing evidence-based recommendations, and mobilising public support. There are a number of key areas that the Steering Group will seek to influence change through;

- 1. Research and Data: Presenting well-researched data to highlight the need for specific policies and their potential impacts.
- 2. Grassroots Advocacy: Engaging the community to raise awareness and demonstrate public support to impact policymakers' decisions.
- 3. Coalition Building: Partnering with like-minded organisations to amplify efforts and resources, creating a stronger voice.
- 4. Direct Engagement: Meeting with policy makers, attending public hearings, and participating in consultations to create opportunities to directly influence discussions.
- 5. Clear Communication: Crafting clear, compelling messages that resonate with both the public and policymakers.
- 6. Long-term Commitment: Policy change requires sustained effort and adaptability to shifting political landscapes.

By employing these strategies, the Anti-Poverty Steering Group can help to shape policies that align with the goals of this strategy and subsequently the needs of the community.







# **KEY PILLARS**



## **EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS SUPPORT**

39% of residents in the Borough are economically inactive - 56,807 people.

4,370 people in the Borough are currently unemployed (3%).



# **FAMILIES AND WELLBEING SUPPORT**

Antrim and Newtownabbey has the second lowest incidence in Northern Ireland of people over the age of 16 feeling more often lonely at 31.6%.



### **ENERGY SUPPORT**

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough has an estimated 7,967 households in fuel poverty, this accounts for 13.8% of all households.



### **FOOD SUPPORT**

In Antrim and Newtownabbey:

- 3.58% of Adults report as Hungry (Hungry is defined as having skipped food for a whole day or more in the previous month or indicated they were hungry but not eaten because they could not afford or get access to food).
- 8.25% of Adults report as Struggling (Struggle is defined as a positive response to at least one of the following: Sought help accessing food, skipped or shrank meal or gave a reason for not having enough food).
- 16.14% of Adults report as Worried (Worry is defined as choosing very worried or fairly worried about getting food).

University of Sheffield's research into local food insecurity of adults (Jan 2021).



### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The proportion for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough living in relative poverty before housing costs is 14%.

11% of the Borough's population are classified as being in 'absolute poverty'.

# ANTRIM & NEWTOWNABBEY POWERTY INDICATORS

LIVIN POOR H

LIVING IN RELATIVE POVERTY BEFORE HOUSING COSTS

14%

**7,967** (13.8%)

HOUSEHOLDS IN FUEL POVERTY

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN ANBC LIVING IN AN AREA OF DEPRIVATION

28.7%

**GOV.UK** 

4,922

CHILDREN (UNDER 16) LIVING IN RELATIVE LOW INCOME FAMILIES - ANBC

24.6%

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN ANBC ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

# **N.I. STATISTICS & RESEARCH AGENCY**



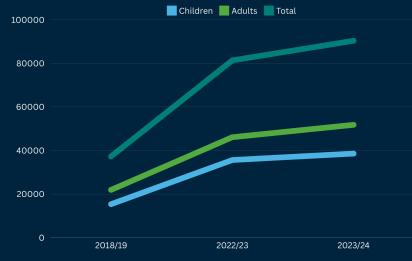
PARENTS WITH 1 OR MORE DEPENDENT CHILDREN

# **EMPLOYMENT**

- 59% EMPLOYED
- 3% UNEMPLOYED
  - 39% ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE



RUSSELL TRUST FOODBANKS



NUMBER OF FOOD PARCELS DELIVERED IN N.I. BY TRUSSELL TRUST

43% PROPORTION OF FOOD PARCELS ISSUED TO UNDER 16'S

TRUSSELL TRUST



OF PEOPLE WHO USED FOODBANKS HAD A DISABILITY

TRUSSELL TRUST



# **EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS**

ACTION 3.4 Our Borough provides opportunities for all to enable and support people to reach their full potential.

### **ACTION**

Promote employment opportunities through key stakeholder groups.

Collaborate with devolved administration where possible and appropriate.

Signpost to support programmes across the Borough.

Signpost to Antrim Enterprise Agency and Mallusk Enterprise Park who are on hand to support in developing new businesses.

# PROGRAMMES & PARTNERS

- Labour Market Partnership;
- Labour Market Academies;
- Work Experience Scheme;
- Apprenticeship Scheme;
- Go Succeed;
- Growth Hubs;
- Social Clauses in local businesses;
- Multiply Programme.

# PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Number of engagements through LMP;
- Number of enrolments and subsequent jobs attained through LMA;
- Number of workplace placements created and number of businesses engaged;
- Number of Apprenticeship schemes;
- Number of businesses engaged with Anti-Poverty workshops.











# **FAMILIES AND WELLBEING SUPPORT**

	ACTION	PROGRAMMES & PARTNERS	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
ACTION 1.1 Creating a strong and vibrant community and voluntary sector - advocate, champion and maintain volunteering across the Borough. ACTION 1.4 Integrated approach to tackling poverty.	Better support for families and people in need across the Borough by working in more efficient and collaborative ways with key stakeholders.  Through the Anti-Poverty Stakeholder group, work collectively to provide wrap around services to families and people in need.  Promote the work of key stakeholder groups across the Borough.  Liaise with key stakeholders to develop affordable ways for families to access Wellbeing facilities and resources.  Develop a key central resource which contains all relevant information for families in need as well as links to support services and groups (online and print).  Develop better links to people/ families with additional needs/ disabilities.	<ul> <li>School Uniform Reuse Scheme;</li> <li>Christmas Toy Scheme;</li> <li>Baby Banks;</li> <li>Volunteer Strategy/Action Plan;</li> <li>Warm and Well booklet;</li> <li>Warm and Well webpages;</li> <li>Funding secured for the Mums on the Move project – provision on support to new mums across the Borough by bringing them together for a walking group to reduce isolation and provide free of charge food for mums and children;</li> <li>Warm and Well Events – drop in advice sessions concentrating on energy, benefits, home security and safety etc.</li> <li>Money Guiders Programme.</li> <li>Partners:</li> <li>Community Advice;</li> <li>Northern Healthy Lifestyles Partnership;</li> <li>Northern Health and Social Care Trust;</li> <li>Community groups;</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Number of families supported through the family support programme;</li> <li>Number of items donated;</li> <li>Number of referrals;</li> <li>Number of people supported through the Christmas Toy Scheme and the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme;</li> <li>Webpages traffic and usage;</li> <li>Number of Warm and Well booklets distributed;</li> <li>Number of people supported by the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum.</li> <li>Number of stakeholders holding the Money Guiders Programme – foundation and tier 1 standard.</li> <li>Number of stakeholders using MoneyHelper.</li> </ul>

ACTION	PROGRAMMES & PARTNERS	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Better support community and voluntary stakeholders to build confidence to have money conversations with families/people and offer safe effective guidance in the unregulated space, through the use of MoneyHelper and the aim of the Money Guiders Programme and MoneyHelper resources.	<ul> <li>St. Vincent de Paul;</li> <li>PSNI;</li> <li>Other council departments ie. PCSP.</li> </ul>	



7	<b>ENERGY</b>	SUPPORT
V	EINERGY	SUPPORI

ACTION 4.1 Promoting greater sustainability sustaining and resourcing a more resilient society through conscientious practices.

ACTION 4.3 Tackling climate change - minimising our environmental impact across the Borough.

### **ACTION PARTNERS**

Signpost families to appropriate programmes to support with fuel poverty.

Build capacity with the sector to better support families in need.

Collaborate within the Anti-Povertv Stakeholder Group to identify and support people/families who are in need, and reduce the number being missed.

Promote the messaging around sustainability and the link to reducing waste and better household budgeting.

# **PROGRAMMES &**

- Fuel Poverty Strategy DfC;
- Oil Stamps Saving Scheme;
- Oil Clubs;
- Heater Lending Scheme;
- **Energy Saving** Schemes;
- **Energy Efficiency** Grant referrals to grant schemes;
- Energy Efficiency Booklet on available services and behaviours.

### Partners:

- DfC;
- Community Advice;
- St. Vincent de Paul;
- Oil stamp retailers and oil suppliers.

### **PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

- Number of referrals:
- Number of Oil Stamps issued;
- Number of families supported;
- Number of energy saving workshops held;
- Increase in overall number of people in Oil Clubs - Number of new Oil Clubs in Borough;
- Decrease in percentage of people across the Borough in Fuel Poverty.



ACTION 1.4 Integrated approach to tackling poverty.

ACTION 4.1
Promoting greater
sustainability sustaining and
resourcing a more
resilient society
through conscientious
practices.

# ACTION

Through the Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Group, promote a holistic approach to Food Support across the Borough.

Identify and signpost those in need of support to appropriate agencies.

Promote the concept of food security across the Borough.

Promote and support groups in working towards more sustainable means of food production.

Help develop financial resilience by building financial foundations

# PROGRAMMES & PARTNERS

- Social Supermarket;
- Food Banks;
- Community Fridges;
- Community Allotments;
- The Food
   Programme –
   healthy eating on a budget and utilising leftovers;
- Funding secured 24/25 to run a Social Eating Food Pilot – this is around utilising free meals to bring people together.
- MoneyHelper
- Money Guiders Programme

### Partners:

- · Community advice;
- Northern Healthy Lifestyles Partnership;
- Northern Trust;
- Community groups.
- MaPS

# PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Number of families supported through the Social Supermarket Programme;
- Number of referrals;
- Number of people supported through Community Fridges;
- Number of people attending the Social Eating programme;
- Number of people attending the Food Programme.
- Number of stakeholders holding the Money Guiders Programme – foundation and tier 1 standard



# FINANCIAL SUPPORT

### **ACTION**

# PROGRAMMES & PARTNERS

# PERFORMANCE MEASURES

ACTION 1.1 Creating a strong and vibrant community and voluntary sector advocate, champion and maintain volunteering across the Borough.

ACTION 1.4 Integrated approach to tackling poverty. Signpost appropriate people to new Universal Credit applications.

Collaborate with Anti-Poverty Stakeholder group to address the range of issues, creating the needs for financial support.

Collaborate with devolved administration where possible and appropriate.

Better support community and voluntary stakeholders to build confidence to have money conversations with families/people and offer safe effective guidance in the unregulated space, through the use of MoneyHelper and the aid of the Money Guiders Programme and MoneyHelper resources.

- Debt Advice:
- Health and
  Wellbeing team
  carry out referrals
  and signposting
  to benefit
  maximisation, debt
  management and
  grants through
  their home safety
  assessments,
  energy efficiency
  assessments and
  age friendly work;
- Oil stamp Saving Scheme – budgeting tool for households to budget and save for oil.
- Building financial resilience through money conversations with families/people.

### Partners:

- Community Advice;
- Christians Against Poverty;
- St Vincent de Paul;
- Make the Call DfC;
- Social Supermarket Programme.
- MaPS.

- Number of referrals to Debt Advice;
- Number of families supported;
- Number of community groups upskilled in providing debt advice;
- Number of public information sessions held around financial planning;
- Reduction in number of families in the Borough in financial hardship;
- Number of clients supported by Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey;
- Number of benefits taken up as a result of advice.
- Number of stakeholders holding the Money Guiders Programme – foundation and tier 1 standard





# **EMPLOYABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Bryson Training and Employability**

Bryson Pathways exists to make the greatest difference to the greatest need.

They develop and deliver a range of programmes to directly address Root Cause issues in relation to Income, Education, Health, Environment and Employment.

Stockman's House, 39-43 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7EH

T. 028 9043 8211

E. skills@brysonenergy.org

www.brysonpathways.org

### Newtownabbey Jobs and Benefits Office

39 - 41 Church Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 7LB

T. 0300 200 7822

E. newtownabbey.jobsandbenefits@dfcni.gov.uk

www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/newtownabbey-jobs-benefits-office

### Antrim Jobs and Benefits Office

20 Castle Street, Antrim, BT41 4JE

T. 0300 200 7822

E. antrim.jobsandbenefits@dfcni.gov.uk

www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/antrim-jobs-benefits-office



### **GENERAL SUPPORT**

### **Good Morning Antrim**

The Telephone, Befriending & Alert service, operational since April 2008, aims to alleviate fear and isolation among the elderly and other vulnerable community members by fostering social inclusion and local capacity.

Family Caring Centre, 2-5 Somerset Park, Rathenraw, Antrim, BT41 2TE

T. 028 9446 4619

www.familycaringcentre.com/general-9-1

### **Good Morning Crumlin**

Provides telephone support, enabling users to share worries and concerns, connecting them with local community activities and services to help reduce loneliness, isolation, ill health and fear of crime.

A Safe Space To Be Me, 28 Mill Road, Crumlin, BT29 4XL

T. 028 9620 8284

E. info@asafespacetobeme.co.uk

www.asafespacetobeme.co.uk

### **Good Morning Newtownabbey**

Support for members of the community by means of regular, friendly, telephone conversations.

Monkstown Community Centre, Cashel Drive, Newtownabbey, BT37 0EY

T. 028 9086 6385

E. goodmorningnewtownabbey@yahoo.co.uk

# Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum

Working together to provide opportunities for seniors (50+) across the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough.

The Barron Hall, 230 Antrim Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 7QX

T. 028 9083 8848

www.facebook.com/antrimandnewtownabbeysf

### **GENERAL SUPPORT**

### Lifeline

Lifeline is Northern Ireland's crisis response helpline for people experiencing distress or despair. Lifeline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. Calls to Lifeline are free. Lifeline will support everyone living in Northern Ireland regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability or sexuality.

T. 0808 808 8000 www.lifelinehelpline.info

### Samaritans

The Samaritans are available 24 hours a day to provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress, despair or suicidal thoughts.

T. 116 123

E. jo@samaritans.org www.samaritans.org

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

### **Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey**

Community Advice Antrim & Newtownabbey (formerly known as Citizens Advice) has been meeting the needs of the community by providing free, independent and quality advice to local people since 1966. They aim to provide you with the advice you need that will make a difference to the problem you face and to improve the policies and practices that affect the lives of local people.

Dunanney Centre, Rathmullan Drive, Newtownabbey, BT37 9DQ

E. advice@advicean.com

T. 028 9590 6505

www.communityadvicean.co.uk

# **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

### **NI Direct Finance Support Team**

The Finance Support Service supports people who live in Northern Ireland and need short-term financial help.

T. 0800 915 4604 www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/finance-support

### **Antrim Debt Centre**

Greystone Road, Antrim, Co Antrim, BT41 1HD

Appointments: 0800 3280 006 General info: 07938 247635 www.capuk.org/get-help

### **ENERGY SUPPORT**

# Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Health and Wellbeing Team - Energy Champion

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Health and Wellbeing Team offers free, impartial energy advice to all households on:

- Improving energy efficiency in your home;
- Heating your home more efficiently;
- Managing Fuel Bills;
- Making Savings through Oil Stamp Savings Scheme.

Mossley Mill, Carnmoney Road North, Newtownabbey, BT36 5QA

T. 028 9034 0160

E. envhealth@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/energy-efficiency

# **FOOD SUPPORT**

### **Antrim Foodbank**

Antrim Foodbank provides emergency food and support to people in crisis, through our Referral Partners. The kettle is always on, and we have time to listen, pray for you. We can also arrange for professional help and advice including counselling, advocacy, debt advice, budgeting, and housing support - all within a friendly, relaxing café environment.

Unit 33, Antrim Enterprise, 58 Greystone Road, Antrim BT41 1JZ

T. 028 9454 8555

E. info@antrim.foodbank.org.uk

www.antrim.foodbank.org.uk

### **Newtownabbey Foodbank**

Newtownabbey Foodbank provide three days' of nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis. They are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

258 Carnmoney Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 6JZ

T. 07581 179604

 $\hbox{E. in fo@new town abbey. foodbank.org.} \textbf{uk}\\$ 

www.newtownabbey.foodbank.org.uk

COMMUNITY FRIDGE	ADDRESS	CONTACT DETAILS	EMAIL ADDRESS
The Jam Store	1st Randalstown Presbyterian Church Hall, New Street, Randalstown	028 7965 0884	
Listening Ear	70 Rathmullan Drive, Newtownabbey, BT37 9DQ	028 9508 5934	listeningearnewtownabbey@outlook.com
A Safe Space To Be	28 Mill Road, Crumlin	028 9620 8284	info@asafespacetobeme.co.uk
Tidal Toome	55 Main Street, Toomebridge, BT41 3TF	028 7965 9199	tidal_toome@hotmail.com
United Parish, Ballyclare	St Johns Church of Ireland, Doagh Road, BT39 9BG	028 9335 4814	
Antrim Community Fridge	Unit 29-30, Castle Mall, Market Square, Antrim, BT41 4DN	028 9442 8269	antrimcommunityfridge@gmail.com



**ANTRIM CIVIC CENTRE** 50 Stiles Way, Antrim BT41 2UB

MOSSLEY MILL Carnmoney Road North, Newtownabbey BT36 5QA

T. 0300 123 4568antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.ukANBorough

