

Grange Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan 2023 – 2024



Overview

According to the Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcomes Report 2018 the Ballyclare Neighbourhood Renewal had a population of 1,334 as of 2016, with approximately 56% of residents being of working age.

According to the report, approximately 84% of residents identified as having a 'Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religion or religion brought up in', with 6% identifying as having a 'Catholic religion or religion brought up in'.

The level of benefit uptake remains higher in the Ballyclare NRA than in Non-NRAs throughout the period 2003-2017, however there has been a slight closing of the gap for Job Seekers Allowance and Income Support claimants who are mostly lone parents. In the Ballyclare NRA there is a higher proportion of under 25's NEETs as well as those who are deemed as long term unemployed. Disability Living Allowance has stayed static with the main reasons given as mental health issues, learning difficulties and arthritis which is also reflected in the Employment Support Allowance results as well.

There has been a widening of the gap in terms of health indicators, except for the proportion of births to teenage mothers. Deaths under 75 in 2016 showed a sharp rise. Alcohol related deaths, drug related deaths and deaths from suicide with undetermined intent has also shown a raise in the years 2011-2015 currently at double the Non-NRA area rate.

Crime levels in Ballyclare have decreased across almost all categories, with the gap to Non-NRAs also closing. Total offences recorded for Ballyclare NRA have reduced substantially by 66% since 2003 and now has one of the lowest levels of recorded crime when compared to all other NRAs. Offences recorded with domestic abuse motivation has increased in 2015 and 2016.

The exception was the number of drug offences which has fluctuated over the period 2003-2016 and the gap to Non-NRAs has widened.

Strategic Objective: Community Renewal

To develop confident communities that are able and committed to improve the quality of life in the most deprived neighbourhoods

Priorities for 2023 - 2024:

- (1) Continue to improve relationships between residents in all areas of the Estate.
- (2) Ensure that local residents are kept well informed of what is happening in the NRA.
- (3) Continue to encourage all residents to become involved in activities within the Estate.
- (4) Continue to increase the number of local residents involved in decision making and related activities and build capacity within the Estate.
- (5) Specifically, develop an engagement / consultation mechanism to inform and shape an annual programme of community activities.
- (6) To attend meetings in terms of the Community Plan for Antrim/Newtownabbey eg. To attend meetings of the Ballyclare Place Shaping Forum etc. Encourage residents to take part in these meetings as well and when they are confident withdraw NRO participation.

Continuing needs / issues / opportunities

The following were noted as considerations for updating the 2023-2024 Community Renewal Actions:

- the opportunity for the community within Grange NRA to make more use of other community facilities in the Ballyclare area.
- the need to establish and deliver an annual rolling programme of community activities in a co-ordinated way which would create its own momentum (a progressive programme, as opposed to one-off, ad hoc activities).
- that the specific activities to be taken forward need to be identified in consultation with the wider community.
- the suggestion that community safety activities should include work to address the fear of crime.
- the need to improve communications with the community around activities and programmes.
- the opportunity to share out responsibilities and to continue to encourage volunteering.
- the need to promote further networking activity between organisations in the local area.
- the need for access to crèche facilities to support community programmes.
- To ensure the community know what is happening in the wider DEA area.

Output Measure	Target Description
CR4	45 people participating in community bonding/relations projects
<p>Continue to improve relationships between residents in all areas of the estate</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement Events including; Family Fun Day, Health Fair (Quarters 2 & 4). • Provide appropriate Community Engagement; 2 x weekly drop in engagement sessions in the Grange estate (Quarters 1 – 4). • Promotion of age-appropriate resources e.g. Age NI, Good Morning Newtownabbey, etc. (Quarters 3 & 4). • Hold an event / about Age NI Connect North and age-appropriate resources and how they can impact residents lives (Quarter 3). 	
CR6	25 people volunteering including unpaid voluntary work
<p>Continue to encourage all residents to become involved in activities within the Estate</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and recruitment of volunteers – explore possibility of a link with Volunteer Now to support the recruitment of new volunteers and the development of existing volunteers within the NRA (Quarters 1 – 4). • Litter Picks through Eco Grangers (Quarters 3 & 4). 	

- Support recruitment of Street Reps to promote events and advocate for residents in the Grange Neighbourhood Renewal Area. (**Quarters 1 – 4**).

Strategic Objective: Social Renewal

To improve social conditions for the people who live in the most deprived neighbourhoods through better co-ordinated public services and the creation of safer environments

Key Areas: Anti-social behaviour, crime, health.

There has been a substantial narrowing of the gap in relation to crime/Anti-Social Behaviour in most categories, however there has been an increase in drug related offences with the baseline gap rising from 0.5% to -1.4%.

The 2014 Census Comparison report highlights that the percentage of working age people with a long term illness increased to 27.4%, an increase of 7.4%; the greatest increase across all NRA's. The percentage exceeds that across all NRAs (25%) and in non-NRAs (15%).

Although there is a narrowing of the gaps in terms of teenage births, the gap remains high at -18.6 per thousand of the population. In 2016 21.1 of births in the Ballyclare NRA was to teenage mothers in comparison to 2.5 in Non-NRA areas.

Ballyclare NRA had a significant increase in the number of deaths under the age of 75 which, in 2011, was 16.7 per thousand population compared to 83.3 in 2016. Drug related deaths have increased from 0 per thousand population in 2008-2012 to 3.5% in 2011-2015. Deaths from Suicide and undetermined Intent or drug related deaths in Ballyclare NRA has also risen by the same extent.

Priorities for 2023 - 2024:

(1) To reduce the incidences of anti-social behavior.

Continuing needs / issues / opportunities

It was pointed out that while the incidence of crime within the Grange NRA appears to be low, it was acknowledged that there may be under-reporting of crime underlying this.

There is a need to continue work to address anti-social behaviour and the rise in drug offences, including further activities aimed at young people. It was felt that steps were required to engage with parents as a priority.

Education

Statistics relating to education continue to highlight a growing performance gap at GCSE Level.

In 2011/12 Ballyclare NRA primary school pupils were achieving higher than the Non NRAs at Key Stage 1. When comparing Key Stage 2, the gap starts to widen with only 66.7% of pupils achieving Key Stage 2 in Maths compared to 80.7% in Non NRA areas and 79.6% in Antrim & Newtownabbey Local Government District (LGD). The results are similar with English with only 66.7% of pupils from the Ballyclare NRA achieving Key Stage 2 compared to 79.3% in non-NRAs and 78.2% in the Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD.

In 2011/12 only 10% of school leavers achieved at least 5 GCSEs at grades A-C compared to 79% in Non NRAs. However, by 2016/17 this gap had started to close with 60% of pupils from

- (2) To provide recreational activities for children and young people.**
- (3) To help reduce the fear of crime through home security measures.**
- (4) To reduce the fear of crime through continued Police presence and involvement in key programmes.**
- (5) Promote the use of various methods of reporting crime and anti-social behaviour**
- (6) To help residents live healthier lifestyles.**
- (7) To improve awareness and access to better health services.**
- (8) Encourage promotion of organisations that promote awareness and understanding of various health conditions.**
- (9) To ascertain if the area would like a Neighborhood Watch scheme and link in with PSNI and PCSP.**

Ballyclare NRA leaving school with at least 5 GCSEs in comparison to 85.5% of Non-NRAs.

The number of pupils leaving school with no GCSEs was significantly higher at 30% in Ballyclare NRA compared to 1.4% in Non NRAs and 2.8% in Newtownabbey LGD. However this represents a decrease overall from 2010/11.

In 2016/17 the number of half days absent from school at Post Primary reduced from 12.6% in 2011/2012, however this remained higher than the two previous years and significantly higher than that of Non NRAs (6.2%).

Output Measure	Target Description
SR(H)2	45 people benefitting from health intervention services
<p>To help residents live healthier lifestyles.</p> <p>To improve awareness and access to better health services.</p> <p>Encourage promotion of organisations that promote awareness and understanding of various health conditions.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with walking groups and exercise groups in the area to engage with groups and encourage residents to get involved in healthy habits. (Quarters 3 & 4). • To improve awareness and access to health services through a Health Fair (Quarter 4). 	
SR(C)1	15 people supported through crime prevention initiatives/projects
<p>To help reduce the fear of crime through home security measures</p> <p>To reduce the fear of crime through continued Police presence and involvement in key programmes.</p> <p>Promote the use of various methods of reporting crime and anti-social behaviour</p> <p>To ascertain if the area would like a Neighbourhood Watch scheme</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-social behaviour activities and education programme: link with Bytes young people programme (Quarters 3 & 4). • Continue with supporting diversionary activities, link with Bytes young people programme (Quarters 3 & 4). 	

- Working in partnership with PCSP, EA, community organisations around ASB – home safety & Crime prevention talks / drop in sessions **(Quarters 3 & 4)**.

SR(C)3

15 young people benefitting from youth diversionary projects

To reduce the incidences of anti-social behaviour.

To provide recreational activities for children and young people.

Actions:

- Raise the profile of young people in the NRA in a positive manner, work with local youth providers to involve young people in a community project **(Quarters 3 & 4)**.

Strategic Objective: Physical Renewal

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

Key Areas:

Maintenance of Public Areas; Recycling, Housing.

Through the local survey in 2020, residents highlighted

Litter

Dog fouling

Dumping of rubbish

As their major concerns.

Through the Grange Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership decided to have an Eco approach which reflects the way of travel of many departments and organisations.

Priorities for 2023 - 2024:

(1) To improve the physical appearance of the Estate.

(2) Through the local survey, residents main concerns were litter and dog fouling,

(3) To address the issue of recycling.

(4) Promote links with NIHE for residents

Output Measure	Target Description
PR2	1 area of land improved
<p>To improve an area in the Grange estate and encourage sustainable activities.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco Improvement project – explore a project in Grange allotments (Quarters 3 & 4). • deliver initiatives which lead to raised awareness of healthy eating / benefits of ‘grow your own’ (Quarters 3 & 4). • Litter picks with Fairview primary Eco Grangers (Quarters 3 & 4). • Encourage more recycling on the estate through information in conjunction with litter picks (Quarters 3 & 4). 	

Budget Profile

Output Measure	Target Description	Budget
CR4	45 people participating in community bonding/relations projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to improve relationships between residents in all areas of the estate 	£1300
CR6	25 people volunteering including unpaid voluntary work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to encourage all residents to become involved in activities within the Estate 	£200
SR(H)2	45 people benefitting from health intervention services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To help residents live healthier lifestyles. - To improve awareness and access to better health services. - Encourage promotion of organisations that promote awareness and understanding of various health conditions. 	£400
SR(C)1	15 people supported through crime prevention initiatives/projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To help reduce the fear of crime through home security measures. - To reduce the fear of crime through continued Police presence and involvement in key programmes. - Promote the use of various methods of reporting crime and anti-social behaviour. - To ascertain if the area would like a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. 	-
SR(C)3	15 young people benefitting from youth diversionary projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To reduce the incidences of anti-social behaviour. - To provide recreational activities for children and young people. 	£800
PR2	1 area of land improved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To improve an area in the Grange estate and encourage sustainable activities. 	£500
	Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide training opportunities for residents of the Grange estate. 	£500
Total =		£3700

Appendix 1:

Composition of Grange Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (to be reviewed annually)

Chair	
Community Relations Forum	Kathy Wolff
Vice Chair	
Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey	Lorraine Adamson
Statutory Sector	
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	Stephen Gamble
Police Service Northern Ireland	Sgt. Julie Duncan
Education Authority	Francis Loughlin
Northern Regional College	Donna McCullagh
Department of Employment and Learning	Natasha Lamont
Northern Health and Social Care Trust	Denise McClenaghan
Community & Voluntary Sector	
Greater Ballyclare Youth for Christ	Hayley Cullen
Community Sports Network	Johnny McClurg
Ballyclare Comrades	Tim Duff
BYTES	Charlene Cowan
Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum	Robert McQuiston
Faith Sector	
St Johns Church	Francis Wilson
Local Councillor Representation	
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Councillor Michael Stewart
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Councillor Vera McWilliam

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Councillor Helen Magill
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Councillor Jeannie Archibald
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Alderman Lewis Boyle
Support	
Department for Communities	Patricia McLaughlin
Department for Communities	Niall Lynch
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Stacey Myles (Neighbourhood Renewal Officer)
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Amy Lynch (Tackling Deprivation Coordinator)
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Stefanie Buchanan (Community Development Manager)