

***“Putting People First:
Community Planning in
Mid and East Antrim “
Conference Report***

**Wednesday
25th March 2015**

The Braid, Ballymena

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Foreword

One of the key new powers given to Councils is Community Planning and Mid and East Antrim Borough Council will lead the process by working with our statutory and local partners together with the local community, voluntary partners to develop and implement a shared vision for the Mid and East Antrim area.

Together, we will develop a shared vision for the area, which relates to all aspects of community life and involves people working together to plan and deliver better services which will make a real difference to people's lives.

The new Community Plan will set out the long term vision for the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area and will set out the priorities for the Mid and East Antrim area including areas such as health, education, economic and social regeneration, good relations and safety.

One of the key areas regarding the community planning process is the involvement of the community sector and I will ensure that my officers work closely with our community representatives to ensure effective engagement and that they are wholly involved in all the governance partnerships.

The Council has its structures in place with a dedicated Council Committee and Community Planning Directorate established to lead the process together with a specific staff team to deliver the various components.

Over the last few months Council has delivered a number of community engagement events in order to begin the process of establishing the key themes for the new plan, which were well attended by a wide range of both statutory community and voluntary representatives.

In addition a key component in the effectiveness of the plan is ensuring there is a robust evidence base developed and Council is working with an independent company to analyse a wide range of the various data to inform the new plan.

Council has delivered a number of best practice visits and guest speakers to inform council staff, November 2014, to look at best practice together with a study visit to North Ayrshire for elected members in Scotland.

Council organised a strategic conference on Wednesday 25th March entitled "Putting People First: Community Planning in Mid and East Antrim," at the Braid, with over 100 people in attendance representing community and statutory stakeholders.

Continue reviewing the evidence gathering, develop the governance structures, continue to work with the community and statutory partners to develop the plan, develop the thematic working groups, establish all necessary structures and produce the first MEA plan.

Council is committed to the process as it starts out in its journey to develop a robust community plan in partnership with key stakeholders.

The following report includes the summary of the key outcomes and themes from the conference and themes from the day.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Donaghy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a green horizontal line through the middle of the word "Donaghy".

Anne Donaghy
Clerk & Chief Executive
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

***“Putting People First: Community Planning in
Mid and East Antrim” Conference,
Wednesday 25th March 2015
The Braid, Ballymena***

REPORT ON STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLANNING CONFERENCE

Draft report prepared by

Centre for Local Economic Strategies

Presented to

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council



INTRODUCTION

Introduction

This is a brief report on the Strategic Community Planning Conference for Mid and East Antrim Borough Council (MEABC). It is prepared by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies, who advised on the event. The CEO of CLES - Neil McNroy, facilitated the conference. The report is designed to report on the key outcomes and themes from the day and provide some general thoughts on next steps.

The event was held on the 25th March 2015, at The Braid in Ballymena. It was undertaken within the context of Local Government Reform and the establishment of a new Council – Mid and East Antrim Borough Council (MEABC) and the advent of community planning powers coming over to councils by April 2016. The move to greater austerity in the resourcing of public services was also an abiding context and frame for the event.

The event was attended by over 100 representatives straddling local government, public sector and community representation.

Aims and objectives of the event

The event took place in the context of some initial data work (which was presented) and followed on from a range of community workshops. The conference was designed to inform as well as sharpen and refine key issues toward the development of a Community Plan (CP). It was hoped that the event **would generally send out messages and create a 'head of steam' to community planning as regard:**

the 'end of the beginning' to the production of a full CP for Mid and East Antrim (MEA) by 2016;
facilitate greater collaboration across statutory partners;
create high levels of sharing across statutory partners;
be a 'plan of plans' for all of MEA.

The event was designed to be serious in intent, but relaxed and open. As such it was demonstrative of a new welcoming council and statutory partners who are open to greater sharing and collaboration and secure in facing greater challenge - key ingredients of an effective community planning process.



Panel with representatives from statutory agencies

THE CONFERENCE

The conference had a range of input from speakers (See programme in Appendix 1). It is not the intention to go through their contributions in detail here but the speakers highlighted:

key principles of community planning;
the commitment from MEABC, including the belief in shared outcomes and greater collaboration as a key driver of the CP in MEA;
the timetable;
the legislative drivers and support from NI Executive and the Department of Environment(DoE);
lessons from North Ayrshire, Scotland;
commitment to community planning from assembled statutory partners;
the emerging evidence base to inform the CP and the community planning process;
emerging ideas around governance of community planning process.

The workshops

There were six themed workshops. They covered;

Sustainable jobs - jobs which are quality, permanent and have opportunity for progression;
Good health - improving health, including the wider determinants and causes of ill health;
Improving aspirations for all - creating an area where aspirations can be realised through a range of opportunities within MEA;
Improving community safety and cohesion - reducing crime and creating good relations between people and communities;
Developing tourism potential - realising the tourism assets for economic and social benefits;
Progress in education - developing educational achievement and aspirations.

The workshops were designed to give a high level steer to the types of things the community planning process should be thinking about. In this, the participants were given 3 tasks:

Things we should stop doing. This was tapping into a sense that community planning was about doing things very differently and changing practice, not just about adding or starting completely new things. Thus, discussion looked at things which are already being done which may be inappropriate, not delivering or duplicating;

Things we should start doing. This was about things that the community planning process should seek to start or accelerate;

Key issues to be addressed to enable things to start or stop.

The workshops lasted 1 hour, with the first 40 minutes taken to answering the questions. After 40 **minutes the groups moved to another topic and 'stress tested' the answers from the previous groups** responses in the remaining 20 minutes. Each workshop had a facilitator and a scribe.

All original data gathered from the workshops are included in Appendix 2. The following represents a summary of each workshop theme, with particular attention paid to the key areas identified in the workshops.

Sustainable jobs

The sustainable jobs theme was embraced by an aspiration for MEA to provide decent jobs with the possibility for progression throughout the working life of citizens. This is in response to emerging evidence which suggests that the better quality, diverse and a larger range of jobs were required within MEA.

Things to stop doing

The dominant discussion was a desire to stop traditional and more generic training which is failing to adequately address needs.

This stop element has a clear community planning response in terms of *working with employers and training providers to develop more bespoke and intimate training*. This could include a greater focus on buddying and developing individual entrepreneurship.

The other thing which was strongly conveyed was the sense that we needed to stop thinking about individual old council areas and a jobs market solely centred around Larne, Ballymena or Carrickfergus.

This stop element represents an overall approach which indicates how a CP must start thinking about the MEA economy and jobs market as a whole, not just the individual locations within MEA.

Things to start doing

A range of things to start doing were highlighted as key. This included:

Governance - a skills development forum involving employers and their workforces. Linked to MEABC through a cluster approach including Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) and local colleges etc. This would help to steer actions and potentially the jobs/economy element of the community planning process;

Bespoke business and entrepreneurship advice - promotion of social entrepreneurship with a more creative, dynamic infrastructure and career advice;

New forms of Finance - alternative business finance including more small business grants, loan hybrid –aiding the social economy;

Public economy supply chains - social clauses in procurement for small businesses.

Clearly here we have the beginnings of a set of actions which provide the skeleton form and functions of a CP set of activities for this theme.

Key issues

These included the need for more cooperation and less individual agencies working in siloes. There was a sense that more work needed to be done in engaging the private sector in community planning. As it may be seen as a public sector dominated activity. This reinforces the need for an effective governance approach which weaves in the private sector.



Delegates at Sustainable Jobs Workshop

Good health

The good health theme was about the need to improve general health of the citizens of MEA. This is fed by a recognition that more needs to be done in early 'up-stream' preventative work on ill health and the social, economic, cultural and environmental determinants of ill health, thus reducing downstream demand and costs on the public sector. This is built on evidence surrounding significant levels of ill health including incidences of drug and alcohol addictions.

Things to stop doing

The dominant discussion was centred on stopping viewing health as a solely medical problem.

This stop element has clear CP response in terms of *working with a range of service providers who may have inputs into a person/community/family life*. This provides a steer on how community planning needs to stretch, into wider notions of well-being.

The other thing which was strongly conveyed was the sense that we needed to stop keeping rural dwellers in hospital when they could be discharged and how the timely provision of community care packages can achieve this aim.

This stop element represents a *community planning need for greater integration between health provision and social/community care*.

Things to start doing

A range of things to start doing were highlighted as key. This included:

Develop healthy living 'mindset' from an early age;

More resources for prevention and encourage GPs and pharmacies to help with prevention;

More community care and community based interventions;

More joined up working between hospitals and community care workers.

Clearly here we have the beginnings of a set of options which provide a basis and general direction in terms of actions within the community planning process.

Key issues

These included key decision makers needing to be at the table and needing to be wholeheartedly committed.



Delegates at Good Health Workshop

Improving aspirations for all

This is an overarching theme and is about improving the general aspirations of all citizens within MEA. This relates to MEA being a place which excels in being a desirable place to live and work throughout **the course of someone's life. This is built on evidence** which suggests that MEA has a growing elderly population with some younger people and working families deciding to leave the area in search of other opportunities.

Things to stop doing

The dominant discussion was centred on the role of statutory agencies which are seen as being not **joined up and working in 'silos'**. This is seen as **precluding a joined up approach to people's lives and their aspirations**.

This stop element represents a *need for greater joined up working which considers individuals and communities needs across education, work, health and community safety*.

The other area which was strongly conveyed was a need to ensure that community and social life was fully woven into the work of statutory agencies. In this, it was discussed that community life is a strength and a significant grounding in creating solid aspirations.

This element represents a need for a CP to be clear and robust as regards how citizens and the community and voluntary sector play a wedded role within the community planning process.

Things to start doing

A range of things to start doing were highlighted as key. This included:

Creating connections, communication, building relationships, trust and sharing resources;
Genuine sharing of information;
Joined up thinking on economic development:
Entrepreneurship;
Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME);
Social economy.

Key issues

These included the need for a clear 'one MEA' story, providing a clear and consistent approach. Also a need to plan with the community and for the community planning process to lead, inspire and think big. All of this reinforces the need for comprehensive and penetrative CP.



Delegates at Improving Aspirations For All

Developing the tourism potential

Developing the tourism potential was about realising and improving the significant tourism assets of MEA. This is built on evidence that suggests that tourist assets could bring more of a dividend and tourist numbers could be increased.

Things to stop doing

The dominant discussion was centred less on what needed to be stopped but much more on what **needed to be done**. However, it was indicated that we may need to stop just 'selling' the well-known places and concentrate more on the lesser known sights and activities and thus build up a deeper tourism offer.

This stop element represents a CP need for a clear MEA tourism offer.

Things to start doing

A range of things to start doing were highlighted as key. This included:

Think more about the night time economy;

Linking tourism to local economic development better;
Niche and targeted marketing;
Linking small business and small enterprise to tourism more;
Thinking through the independent tourist market;
Better marketing of area.

Key issues

These included the need for getting the right people 'around the table' tapping into the imagination of people more, improving public transport and tourist 'legibility' of MEA. All of this reinforces the need for a comprehensive tourism plan as part of the community planning process.



Delegates at Developing Tourism Potential

Improving community safety and cohesion

The improving community safety and cohesion theme was about reducing crime and create good relations between people and communities.

Things to stop doing

The dominant discussion was centred on the need to stop making assumptions about what people need and that people know what agencies do. In this, there is a sense of a need to listen more and to stop assuming people have knowledge and understanding. This is generated by a sense that citizens were confused as to who was responsible for what.

This relates to the CP informing a better communication of outcomes and who is responsible for them.

In addition, a strong sense that agencies must stop **working in silos and 'reinventing the wheel'**, with a CP process which formulates more joined up action.

Things to start doing

A range of things to start doing were highlighted as key. This included:

Understanding and communicating roles and responsibilities;
Being smarter on how resources are used;
Enhancement of community safety wardens;
Integrated work on fear of crime –environmental issues;
Diversionary projects to divert people from negative anti-social behaviour.

Key issues

These included the need for sustainable funding for community interventions, with a sense that the CP process should address the lack of knowledge.



Delegates at Improving Community Safety and Cohesion

Progress in education

This theme was about developing educational achievement and aspirations both pre, during and in-between employment.

Things to stop doing

The discussion focussed on stopping segregation from an early age and thus improving community integration. Also a key issue was to stop seeing education as the sole responsibility of trainers, teachers and lecturers but instead create a wider learning and education culture with employers and in the community more generally.

This relates to a **community planning process** which embeds a learning culture throughout statutory partner activity and points toward an education sub group which enjoys a wide set of partners to strategically direct this shift in education culture.

Things to start doing

A range of things to start doing were highlighted as key. This included:

- Provide training and education where people want it, what they want and need and can access;
- Broaden definition of education, training, academic, vocational, lifeskills and look at new environments and places which offer training;
- Use more role models;
- Emphasise value of integrated education.

Key issues

These included the need for improving perceptions of education with the wider environment seen as the classroom more. In addition, the need to improve outreach and extending the physical access to education opportunities were discussed.

General thoughts and way forward

Key principles

A number of key messages and emerging principles for CP in MEA came out of the day:

This is about MEA and its people. Community planning should be a meaningful, real means of improving the fortunes of MEA and its people. This requires mobilisation of existing, and potentially new forms of, engagement and empowerment. MEA is seen as being at the **'vanguard'**, with Ballymena having already mirrored the CP process before the national legislation;

Clarity at all times in what we mean by community planning. Some may perceive community planning as being about 'the community', with connotations of citizens, neighbourhoods and 'grass roots'. Others may see this as being about planning services for communities, taking a strong public service perspective. Others may see this as about spatial planning. Community planning should be about all of these, with emphasis on the former two. Therefore we need a solid shared understanding of what community planning means and what the MEA approach to it is;

It's led by MEABC as a whole corporate entity. All departments, all councillors and all officers should be involved in the CP. This means a unified and consistent approach which flows into all departmental activities;

One plan. This is not just another 'plan of plans'. It needs to fit into and 'declutter' existing plans and strategies;

Total MEA. We must think about the totality of public sector spend within MEA and seek to think how some of this is collectively pooled or attached to deliver shared outcomes across statutory partners. Outcomes must go beyond singular activity of statutory agencies;

It's an agreement of all statutory partners. This requires meaningful partnership and deep relationship building, which goes beyond just 'signing up';

It's about 'collaborative gain' and deep conversations. More needs to be done in collaboration than as individual departments or agencies, or individual statutory partners. For this to happen, meaningful conversations must take place;

It's about real, meaningful and shared outcomes. This means that the outcomes drive the process. In this, the developed outcomes should serve to instil greater levels of collaboration and lead to some collapsing and bending of existing structures and processes;

Simplicity. It can't add to complexity;

Key challenges

In the above principles there are a number of challenges and pitfalls which we must guard against.

It's complex. Community planning involves many partners. It needs to be aware of, cognisant to and linked with a range of other plans, policies and activities, including a dynamism which changes behaviours and practices. This includes a set of new relationships with citizens and communities. As such, community planning must simplify where it can and be honest in what is achievable;

Debates over structures and geography can dominate. The political and social context within the new council and with MEA generally means there are existing structures and partnership bodies with, at times, labyrinthine qualities. **In addition, geography and questions of 'where' and 'which' community have significant importance.** As such, outcomes (beyond geography or beyond structures) tend to lose focus. Implementation will need to shift this balance. We must sharpen the focus and raise the importance of outcomes, beyond mere geographies;

NI is process heavy. Community planning in MEA needs to set a new trend. NI already has many plans, strategies, programmes and policies. This activity has many 'owners' including NI government departments as well as other agencies. This has created a significant 'fog' of agency and activity. Whilst much of this activity is doing great things, it does represent a significant challenge for the community planning process. Therefore, we have an important **balancing act to perform.** On the one hand the process must 'fit in', with existing activity and not duplicate. However, at the same time it must be able to bend and shift pre-existing activity;

Expectations must be managed and understanding must be shared. Some have their own interpretations and understanding of what community planning offers. Simplistically some may be optimistic, perceiving this to be a process which creates a much needed overarching approach for MEA. Others may be more doubtful, and perceive it as being an additional plan with perhaps little relevance to existing activity. In this, the process must manage these expectations, including those of citizens, very carefully;

Default position is a plan on paper with little meaningful focus on outcomes or change in action. It is possible that the process, given the above, becomes a somewhat abstract and technical 'shuffling of the pre-existing strategy pack'. We must guard against the default.

Structures and governance

What is suggested below is a very brief outline of the possible tasks, with infrastructure required.

Internal MEA structures and processes in place. As an outline CP draft governance structure as developed by MEABC

Development of sub theme/ community groups. (See Appendix 3).

Review of existing plans and activity. This is an audit. Seeking understanding as to the pre-existing levels of coterminosity between existing plans and activity. This provides a grounding to the community planning process and a shared basis to the broad themes and areas to be covered in the CP.

Possible setting up of a performance management group (PMG). Ideally this would be cross agency and overseen by themed groups linked to Community Planning Operational Board, and involve key cross agency officers engaged in data/performance management. Informed by work being done by RSM McClure Watters, this would adopt an outcome based approach. This would be responsible for data sharing, collection, collating and ongoing monitoring. The group would be tasked with producing an accountability and performance Management Framework (APMF)

Possible focussed vision and outcome sessions. These will be more interview based and involve a discussion with key internal MEABC departments and other statutory partners. They would involve **'high level' discussions honing in on the priorities, now and in the future, and desired outcomes** for users and citizens targeted by key departments and agencies.

Delivery planning meetings. A follow on from above. A series of meetings on the draft delivery plan, would be had with various internal departments and external statutory partners. This would be tasked to secure commitment around activities and finalise resource, timeframes and action.

Setting up of vision and outcomes for outcome delivery plan. Working with the PMG, this would set the vision and outcomes.

Possible timeframe

Headline implementation plan which outlines the responsibilities, reporting mechanism and lines of accountability. By summer 2015

A strategic vision for the MEA. By end of summer 2015.

Bending of partner agency activity. It is an aspiration of community planning that agencies bend toward outcomes rather than being driven by priorities of their own individual departmental/agencies. There may be some key lessons to learn from pre-existing activity and **/or 'early wins' however, this will take time and considerable operational** trust and maturity. This will be ongoing through the lifetime of pre and post production of the community plan. Close monitoring and learning to be extracted and shared even at an early stage.

Headline outcomes and how individual themes relate to those outcomes. These will be discussed and they will make the required links with spatial planning, where applicable. These outcomes will be the goals of the MEA Community Plan. By autumn 2015

An outcome delivery plan. Including an accountability and performance management framework (APMF). This will link quantitative and qualitative evidence base. This APMF will have been set up ready to be operationalised. By autumn 2015.

Comprehensive and detailed set of outcomes and delivery plan for all themes. By early 2016

ASPIRATION. Significant pooling of budgets. The public funding arrangements in NI have long term aspirations of pooling of budgets which relate to shared outcomes. However, this represents in some instances a significant culture shift. Post April 2016

ASPIRATION. Formal binding 'outcome agreements'. Adopted in Wales and Scotland, these are agreements between the local authority and the respective devolved governments. These stipulate both what the local authority is aiming to do but also places an onus on the government to bend and flex according to local prioritisation. This was not a strong feature of the Local Government Act in NI however, successful community planning in NI and MEA will **need to instigate sophisticated dialogue and new forms of 'agreements', albeit less legally binding** than those in Wales and Scotland. This is most important where the success of local outcomes are significantly influenced/impinged on by the activity of government and its departments. Post April 2016.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST...

Community Planning in Mid and East Antrim

Wednesday 25 March 2015

The Braid, Ballymena 10.00 am – 4.15 pm

PROGRAMME

TIME	ITEM	COMMENT
9.00-10.00	Registration/Refreshments	
10.00-10.10	Welcome and Introduction	Cllr Timothy Gaston Vice Chair, MEA
10.10-10.15	What is Community Planning?	Neil McNroy, Chief Executive, Centre for Local Economic Strategies
10.15-10.35	Keynote Speaker	Ian Maye, Deputy Permanent Secretary, DOE
10.35-10.45	Putting People First: Community Planning in Mid and East Antrim	Anne Donaghy Clerk & Chief Executive Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
10.45-11.15	<u>Statutory Partners' Session</u> Role and contribution of statutory partners	Neil McNroy
11.15-11.30	Open mic – Facilitated Questions and Answer Session	
11.30 -11.40	COMFORT BREAK	
11.40 – 12.10	Good Practice Case Study The North Ayrshire Experience	Chief Inspector Tim Ross, Ayrshire Division, Irvine Police
12.10 – 12.40	Building for the Evidence Base for Mid and East Antrim	Declan Mackin/Keith Wilson RSM McClure Watters
12.40 - 1.30	LUNCH	
1.30 - 1.45	Helping Older People Enjoy (HOPE) Art Project	Elaine Agnew and Friends
1.45 - 1.55	Introduction to workshop sessions on the priorities for Mid and East Antrim	Neil McNroy
1.55 - 2.55	Mid and East Antrim priorities workshop (Do Less, Do Well)	<i>Delegates will break into respective groups – please follow respective group leader (as advised)</i>
2.55 - 3.10	BREAK	
3.10 - 3.20	Feedback from Workshops	Neil McNroy
3.20 - 4.00	Question Time Format	
4.00 – 4.10	Next Steps, Way forward	Karen Hargan, Director of Organisation Development and Community Planning, MEA
4.10 – 4.15	Closing Comments	Cllr Tommy Nicholl MBE Chair – MEA Community Planning Committee

SCRIBES NOTES FROM WORKSHOPS

SUSTAINABLE JOBS

Stop

Traditional forms of training and more at buddying and entrepreneurship
Widespread approach and training in generalities
Stop thinking of only our own council area/Silos/Parallelism in communities
Chasing grants and driven by available grants
Public sector guessing the needs of the private sector

Start

Consult with companies on their training needs
Consideration of vocational studies
Involve people as much as possible – community/voluntary sector
Skills development forum – employer/workforce
Promotion of Social Entrepreneurship
Engaging with the right people around the table – key partners
More creative/dynamic career advice
Explore opportunities of jobs through renewable energies (linked to traditional skills and trades)
Cluster approach – council facilitating – linked to SDF
DEL
Local colleges etc.
Economic development – as a cross cutting theme throughout community planning
Targeted education initiatives at local communities – like previous ace schemes etc
Social clauses in procurement 'local suppliers/services' – training in procurement for small businesses
De-centralisation/investment public sector jobs into MEA
Shared KPI's and outcomes – opportunity provided by community planning
Grant/loan hybrid – social economic/infrastructure
Outcome driven partnerships of businesses
Sustainable jobs in community/voluntary sector

Issues

Barriers, capacity, confidence, education and skills
Austerity/economic climate
Working in silos/isolation
Prevention of duplication
Transport/geographical challenges
Centralisation
Link to causeways tourism potential instead of trying to replicate
Scepticism of private sector to engage – also scepticism of comm/vol sector to engage
Area is vulnerable due to reliance on large employers

GOOD HEALTH

Stop

Stop looking at health as just medical
Stop keeping rural dwellers in hospital when they could be discharged – ensure care package in place quicker
Stop changing medical personnel/social workers so much
Stop being parochial
Stop seeing community and voluntary as poor relation

Start

Start looking at evidence of what works/what doesn't

Start setting the mind-set of healthy living from an early age
More community care needed
Prevention rather than cure – more resources to prevention
More community based interventions
Supporting local groups/with fitness/health programs – biggest losers – social enterprises with delivering health care
More joint up working – between hospital and community/care workers
Start supporting carers – to keep those who need assistance in their own homes – support locals to take people to medical appointments

Encouraging GP's and Pharmacy's to help with prevention

Start looking at NI health service – **can't afford to keep providing unsafe local services**

Issues

How do we measure prevention? – move away from targets – not everything can be measured
Key decision makers need to be at the table/part of community planning and we need their commitment
Need for integrated care centres
Budgets
Run innovative pilot
Ministers need to listen to grassroots to allow real change – council as lobbyist
People need to be brave

IMPROVING ASPIRATIONS FOR ALL

Stop

Stop taking communities for granted (dependency on volunteers)
Stop taking Community volunteers for granted
Stop charging so much for use of community centres/recreation
Silo mentality

Start

Celebrate success
Responsibility on voluntary sector to think strategically
Telling community how they fit into the community plan and valuing their input
Need to market the good things in the area
Develop a volunteer base (web based directory)
Communicating effectively – genuine sharing of info
Engaging with communities on waste management/recycling
Opportunities for sharing good practice
Start encouraging entrepreneurship (cross-cutting responsibility)
Start building trust across area

Joined up thinking on economic development/SME's

Consider needs of people with disabilities and all minority groups
Improved transport infrastructure across district

Issues

Stability/Consistency
Lead and inspire
Think Big – project and district
Planning with community (not top down)
Communication
Maximising resources

DEVELOPING THE TOURISM POTENTIAL

Stop

Stop being small minded – think beyond your own area

Not doing enough as it is – **don't feel there is anything we can stop in terms of activities/tourism sights** etc.

Stop being narrow minded – be more inclusive

Stop being negative in relation to tourism and things that are available to do in your area

Stop selling the already well known places and concentrate on and promote the lesser known sights/activities

Start

Start training staff to ensure tourists are given the best customer service/experience possible – including raising awareness/training around special needs

Small businesses could grow themselves by linking in and thinking about tourism ie farms, golf courses etc.

Need to think more about the night time economy, particularly outside of Belfast. Most towns don't have much on/open in the evening, not even a coffee shop open – what are our local attractions in the evening?

Entrepreneur/tourism links – food trails/local markets

Twin with/learn from another town or area that is already really good at tourism – this could speed up our learning

Good Tourism helps create an economy/more jobs

Start making resources/info available to all service users

Start thinking of needs of those who are using the service

Start getting info out there about what is available in our area

Specific packages linking sights/activities together

Get groups involved in what these packages could involve

Family history/heritage trails/genealogy

Start promoting the areas assets better – let people know what is out there

Develop places that are suitable for all service users and that are fit to cater for everyone i.e. wheelchair users

Market research into the area – identify what would sell/be appealing to people

Neighbourhood tourism – encourage all to promote/sell their area

Niche Marketing – i.e. the Dutch love Fermanagh because of its stunning natural rural beauty

Social enterprise for groups

Fire service/Police have worldwide partners and could be tapped into to offer packages

Mapping resources/local knowledge

Games of thrones filming tours

Support for small businesses

Issues

Have the right people around the table to make it work

Not tapping into the imagination of local people

Agree on a service strategy/action plan – this will help create vision

Customer focus

Public transport in rural areas needs improved – cycle lanes not respected/not enough of them

Know your audience and what they want

Focus on a smaller amount of things and do them well i.e. 3 things that we can be known for

PROGRESS IN EDUCATION

Stop

- Stop segregating provision at early age and beyond
- Stop seeing education as responsibility ONLY of schools/teachers/lecturers
- Stop seeing education as offered only in classrooms
- Redefine parent expectations of role of teachers
- Stop seeing education as age related stopping at 16/18
- Stop inward looking (for economy of our society) and look at countries that are doing well – Japan/China etc.

Start

- Provide education where people want it
- Research where and what people want/need
- Offer more vocational training
- Emphasise value of integrated education in the widest sense
- Look at innovative ways and environments to offer training i.e. intergenerational/community based
- Broaden definition of education – academic/vocational/life-skills
- Develop range of training matched to need and abilities across the ages
- Use role models e.g. business people/entrepreneurs etc/outside school hours/local champions
- Stem skills to drive learning
- Mental health promotion in schools/promote self-confidence and esteem
- Start mentoring/supporting for special needs of all ages

Issues

- Lack of joined up thinking from the top down across organisations
- Perception of education environment as only classroom or formal environment (should be also community/peer groups/intergenerational)
- Lack of championing education/training for all ages
- Providing skills training matched to employment opportunities
- Access to information/adult and others (what EGSA used to do)
- Outreach/physical access
- Impact of austerity/affordability
- Better design and use of facilities to incorporate school/community needs
- Aspirations for education from pupils/parents

BUILDING COMMUNITY SAFETY & COHESION

Stop

Stop assuming

People know who are the lead agency – issues for PSNI/BIEF (people ringing the PSNI for things not relevant)

Stop assuming understanding/knowledge

Stop working in isolation (in silos)

Stop assuming we know what people need – not always about solutions, sometimes its simple things

Stop re-inventing the wheel

Start

Education around agencies actual roles – who even within council do we talk re forward planning (and communicating – education amongst agencies too)

Web based directory suggested to achieve above

Diversions projects to divert people from negative anti-social behaviour

Enhancement of community safety wardens

Be more creative/innovative

I.e. grow private sector with projects/initiatives that can be delivered in line with community planning e.g. public sector reduces their role

Integrated working to environmental issues – invest in private/voluntary sector

I.e. fear of crime – street lighting – working with the community

Information resource – recognise this a dedicated role/job – e.g. online directory of all aspects of community/statutory population/service

Intergenerational Focus – social enterprise/upskilling young people/job benefits/self-worth

More study of real good practice models – look locally – community cluster model

Being smarter on how resources are being used

Building capacity within the communities to drive things forward in their areas – simplify things, more creativity in recording monitoring info – this can be off putting to community involvement

Issues

Lack of knowledge/info regarding current capacity/structures – lack of comprehensive directory

People would have to sign up to community directory to overcome data protection issues

Slowed down by partnership approach sometimes (whilst recognising partnership is good)

Confusion of who is responsible for what

Huge MEA structure – how do we manage that? – can be overwhelming for stat/community groups

Lack of sustainable funding for communities for interventions

Appendices

Appendix 1	Welcome Speech, Cllr Timothy Gaston
Appendix 2	Keynote speaker, presentation by I Maye, Deputy Permanent Secretary, DOE
Appendix 3	Putting People First: Community Planning in Mid and East Antrim – Anne Donaghy, Clerk & Chief Executive, MEA
Appendix 4	Statutory Partners – Role and Contribution of Statutory Partners - List of participants and comments from Conference
Appendix 5	Good Practice Case Study The North Ayrshire Experience – Presentation by Chief Inspector Tim Ross, Ayrshire Division, Irvine Police
Appendix 6	Building the Evidence Base for Mid and East Antrim - Summary Presentation by RSM McClure Watters
Appendix 7	HOPE Project – Photographs
Appendix 8	Next Steps/Way Forward Presentation by Mrs Karen Hargan – Director of Organisation Development and Community Planning
Appendix 9	List of Attendees
Appendix 10	Photos of Top Table Participants
Appendix 11	Photo of Statutory Partners who participated in the Conference
Appendix 12	Photos of attendees at Conference
Appendix 13	Draft Community Planning Governance Structure

Appendix 1

Cllr Timothy Gaston

Wed 25th March

Ladies and Gentlemen, MLAs, fellow councillors, invited guests, It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all today to our first community planning conference which we have entitled "Putting People First Community Planning in Mid and East Antrim". I would like to thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedules to be here today and I hope like myself you are all looking forward to a very productive event.

At last night's historic AGM it was an honour and privilege to be elected as the very first Deputy Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.

Last night I set out my top 3 priorities for the year ahead, which are:

- having a strong focus on growing our economy,
- pushing for more efficient and improved frontline Services; and
- using community planning to maximum effect in Mid and East Antrim.

It is my hope that we as Elected Members will grasp these opportunities with both hands to help push Mid and East Antrim Borough Council on, to be a leading Council in Northern Ireland

I would like to especially welcome Mr Ian Maye, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the DOE, who is representing Mark Durkan, who is unable to attend today but has sent his best wishes for a successful conference. Ian, you are very welcome and we look forward to hearing from you in a few moments.

I am also pleased to welcome Sharron Carlin, Deputy Director of Central Social Policy within DSD, who is representing Mervyn Storey who is also unable to be with us but sends his best wishes.

I would like to give a very special welcome to Chief Inspector Tim Ross, from the Ayrshire Division of the Irvine Police Department. A number of councillors here today were privileged to be part of a delegation that visited North Ayrshire last November on a Study tour designed to learn about how Community Planning has been implemented in Scotland.

I am looking forward to hearing from Chief Inspector Tim Ross later this morning about how community planning has made a difference to their work. Tim is going to tell us about some of the projects that he has been involved in as part of the community planning process in North Ayrshire.

Today's event will be facilitated by Neil McInroy, Chief Executive of The Centre for Local Economic Strategies, based in Manchester.

Neil, you are very welcome.

Today's Conference has been organised as a first step in bringing together our community, the elected members, and the statutory agencies to look at the local emerging issues that have been identified from our early data gathering exercise.

The Council has been pulling together a range of data and stats on the new Borough.

We have also had a series of community engagement events, which took place right across Mid and East Antrim. The feedback from these events is currently being analysed to allow us to identify the priorities for the new council area.

This information is very much "hot off the press" and I am looking forward to hearing more about it from 'RSM McClure Watters', who are supporting council in this aspect. Council strongly believe that the new Community Planning process should be based on the evidence of what are the real issues that need to be addressed in Mid and East Antrim.

RSM McClure Watters will bring us up to date on the progress they have made analysing this data and what still needs to be done to source the key stats to support Community Planning in Mid and East Antrim.

Community Planning is about setting a long term vision and plan for Mid and East Antrim. This is merely the start of the process and we have begun to engage with the wide range of community representatives and partners, who will be important stakeholders in making this process a success for our people.

Council are committed to working with our partners to develop a Community Engagement and Communication Strategy. This will ensure that ensure that we hear the voice of our communities. We need structures in place that support a two way communication and that we keep all stakeholders up to date with what is happening.

Council are committed to working with a wide range of partner organisations in developing our vision and plan for the Borough of Mid and East Antrim. With that in mind we are looking forward to receiving the DOE's final guidance on who our Statutory Partners will be.

However we recognise that there are many other groups and organisations who will make very valuable contributions to the Community Planning process in this area. With this in mind, our Chief Executive Anne Donaghy, will be meeting with a wide range of organisations in the coming months to secure their support for this process.

Today we will also share with you our initial thoughts on the governance structures that Council propose to put in place to ensure the effective delivery of the community plan. We are keen to hear your feedback on these structures, so that we can make them as effective as they can be. We know this is work in progress, and we will keep this under review in the first year.

Later in the day, we will be entertained by the Mid and East Antrim area - "Helping Older People Enjoy Art Project", known as the Hope Project , and I look forward to hearing from them.

We very much welcome the new power of community planning, and we are looking forward to leading the implementation of the first plan for the new Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area.

We have our internal structures in place, with a dedicated Council committee and Community Planning Director established to lead the process together with a specific staff team to deliver the various elements.

I am pleased today that so many community, statutory and other partners are present with us, as we all start our journey together. This will ensure Mid and East Antrim has a robust Community Plan that will deliver, with and for, the people of this Borough.

Over the past 10 months, the Community Planning Committee has led this work to build the foundations for what will become our new Community Plan.

At the same time as developing our Community Plan, we are doing the groundwork for our new Area Plan. It is a very exciting time as we really begin to make sure the two dovetail together.

I'd like to pay tribute to the vision of the Chief Executive, Anne Donaghy, for driving this work forward.

I'd also like to acknowledge our new Director of Organisation Development and Community Planning, Karen Hargan, for all her work, as well as the staff from across the three legacy councils who make up the project team who have done a huge amount of work to get to this point today.

I trust you will enjoy today's event and will hand over to Neil.



Welcome Speech, Cllr Timothy Gaston

Appendix 2



“Putting People First: Community Planning in Mid and East Antrim” Conference
Local Government Reform in Northern Ireland

Ian Maye
25th March 2015



Executive's Vision for Local Government

“...a strong, dynamic local government creating communities that are vibrant, healthy, prosperous, safe, sustainable and have the needs of all citizens at their core.”

Central to this vision is the provision of high quality, efficient services that respond to the needs of people and continuously improve over time.



Reform: *It is not just about doing things differently, its about doing things better.*

'transition' and 'transformation'

- Transfer planning, urban regeneration, local economic development and local tourism – new central-local relationship.
- Community planning framework – collaboration to improve planning and delivery of services.
- Strengthens role of councils – local decision-making closer to those that will be impacted.



Partnership Panel



Community Plan process



- **Partnership Structure** – representative group, optimise expertise, integrate existing partnerships, appropriate personnel from organisations, keep structure under review to ensure effectiveness
- To develop **long term strategy** – vision for improving social, economic and environmental well-being and contribute to sustainable development – **1 year timeframe** recommended
 - Identify vision, outcomes and actions
- **Community involvement** – range of views, inclusiveness
- Address **equality, good relations and social inclusion**
- Statutory link to **local development plan**
- Monitoring, review and **public reporting**
- Link to **performance improvement**



Local Place Shaping

Community Planning
framework
↓
Integration of reformed
planning system and
urban regeneration
↓
Spatial strategy and
policies set out in local
development plan



Reform: Contact

- http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/local_government.htm
- lan.maye@doeni.gov.uk
- Nichola.creagh@doeni.gov.uk



Keynote speaker, presentation by I Maye, Deputy Permanent Secretary, DOE

“Putting People First: Community Planning in Mid and East Antrim “ Conference Report

**Anne Donaghy
Clerk & Chief Executive
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council**

Welcome

- I would like to thank Ian for his update on the direction of Department and thank Neil for sharing his thoughts on Community Planning and his guidance and hopefully Neil we will be able to follow through on some of the suggestions you have made and continue to work with you.
- Certainly for me Local Government Reform has been worthwhile because Community Planning excites me and I hope in this room today we end up with a clear view of the themes and priorities not just from a Council perspective but from all the partners. I am very pleased to see the Police, Health, NIFRS, DoE, DSD, Housing Executive. This is a great start.
- For me Community Planning is a very simple concept. It is about stretching the public pound and the Elected Members of Mid and East Antrim consider every public pound in our area to be precious whether its spend by Health or by Council. It is about making sure we are joined up enough that we are spending the public pound in

the most effective way to meet the needs of the citizen. It makes good economic sense and it also makes for better services.

- I once heard the longest journey starts with a single step, and today is a major step in what will be a long journey. In my head producing a shiny document in the next year or two is not the important thing what is important to me and to this Council is to build relationships and true partnerships and for me partnerships is not about money, for me partnership is about shared outcomes against the 137 programme for Government outcomes and to be holding each other to account for delivery on the public pound. It is about shared information and communication and shared interventions and the earlier we get these interventions the better and then of course finally it is about shared resources but in the next few years if we can do the first three of these this would be huge progress.

- Key to making all of this happen is the community and ensuring they are

(a) actively engaged and

(b) actively participating and have real ownership of the Community Plan.

It is our job to get close to our citizen through the communities and to building their capacity alongside our own.

- All of this is not about a process, it is much more, it is about a new way of thinking, behaving and a new way of delivering services. It

is less about a plan and more about how we deliver for the citizen in the most efficient and effective way and therefore it is only right it is outcome focused and all that we do as the public sector whether be it in Health or Housing or Policing links right through to the Corporate Plan and its delivery not within a legislative framework but within a partnership framework. In a framework where we all as public service buy into the ethos that every penny counts and we account for every penny and to the ethos of citizens centered services where the community help lead us to do the right things at the right time for all.

- Community Planning must deliver a step-change in Public Sector performance and will require us all to be strong and sustain leaders and that we share a clear and compelling vision that is the driver within Mid and East Antrim and all that we do for our citizen.



Anne Donaghy, Clerk & Chief Executive, MEA

Appendix 4

STATUTORY PARTNERS

Role & Responsibilities of Statutory Partners

The following statutory partners participated in a panel session, outlining their organisation's commitment to the community planning process in the Mid and East Antrim area. Please see below for some of the comments, including a statement from the Public Health Agency who were unable to field a member of staff, due to unforeseen circumstances.

1. Public Health Agency

"The Public Health Agency (PHA) was set up in 2009 as part of the Review of Public Administration in Health and Social Care. The PHA remit is to protect and improve health and social wellbeing and reduce health inequalities through strong partnerships with individuals, communities and other key public, private and voluntary organisations. The PHA works across all sectors – engaging individuals, communities, the business sector and community and voluntary organisations to think about their health and wellbeing, including how to sustain and maintain it when it is good, and how to improve it when it is not.

Clearly this all fits well with the community planning agenda.

Initiatives we fund in the Mid and East Antrim area include; poverty initiatives; accident prevention programmes, suicide prevention programmes; support for emotional health and wellbeing; drug and alcohol prevention services; smoking cessation programmes; teenage pregnancy prevention and support programmes; sustainable communities; obesity, nutrition and physical activity programmes.

As an example of further detail on one of these areas of work, for the past number of years we have worked closely with councils, DSD and others to reduce the impact of fuel poverty. This has included funding a part time energy efficiency adviser in each legacy council area to provide advice to vulnerable clients and to signpost them to existing programmes. We have also worked closely with councils to support the development of oil buying clubs and the distribution of keep warm packs. We have supported and worked in partnership with CABs to support particularly vulnerable clients, including those with addictions and mental health issues, to maximise their benefit entitlement. Recently we have broadened out our approach in working with councils, CABs and others to also support those in our communities who are living in food poverty.

We also support interventions that take a lifecourse approach including focusing on early years and older people.

The strategic context for our health improvement and tackling inequalities work and for setting out areas which link with community planning is Making Life Better, A Whole Systems Strategic Framework for Public Health, which was launched late 2014. It is a cross departmental/government framework which highlights the need to

support joint working at local level between councils, statutory bodies, community and voluntary sectors and others to optimise opportunities to plan and shape services around the needs of local communities in order to create communities that are healthy, safe, united and thriving. The framework recognises the need to promote better use of all public resources in order to achieve better health and wellbeing. The framework acknowledges there are existing partnerships with a remit for the wider determinants of health and social wellbeing. It sets out a regional structure to link with and feed into these partnerships:

At Strategic Level there is a Ministerial Committee for Public Health which provide strategic leadership, direction and coherence with other strategic programmes and structures; an All Departments Officials Group of senior officials from all departments and a Regional Project Board which will be informed by and support local partnerships. The framework highlights how these arrangements should link into and align with local community planning arrangements over time.”

Hilary Johnston
Health & Social Wellbeing Improvement Manager

2. Northern Health & Social Care Trust

“Transforming Your Care and Making Life Better set a strategic direction of developing early intervention, prevention and enabling people to live independently in their community. For this to work, people need to experience independence across all aspects of their lives. Community Planning provides an opportunity for innovative working across public and third sectors based on an improved understanding of community needs. Initially, we need to do more of what we know works best when we work together. From such platform projects we build successful ways of working for more ambitious projects, such as aiming to end social isolation for older people or building the contribution of social enterprise to both the local economy and to the health and wellbeing of local people. Community planning provides a place for collective public and third sector dialogue, for taking decision-making closer to the community and for transformative commitments. The NHSCT is committed to this partnership and we are working hard to prepare the organisation for community planning in order that our contribution be active, imaginative and effective.”

Hugh Nelson
Planning & Improvement

3. Invest NI

Invest NI has been working closely with Mid & East Antrim council to provide input to the community planning process where it relates to economic development.

Following the recent review of Public Administration and the subsequent Local Government Reform it has been agreed that some functions currently delivered by Invest NI will transfer to local councils, specifically this involved responsibility for:

- Enterprise Awareness
- Start a business activity
- Social entrepreneurship; and
- Start-up activity for under-represented groups.

This will, of course, fit within the economic strand of the community plan and because Councils will have these responsibilities, more so than ever it is crucial that we have a partnership approach in the Mid and East Antrim region.

Small businesses and micro-enterprises are at the heart of the Northern Ireland economy and Invest Northern Ireland, as well as all the organisations here today, are responsible for ensuring that the right support and mechanisms are in place to ensure greater levels of business start-up, development, growth and export activity.

The Community Planning process provides all organisations here today with an opportunity to work together, in a joint cohesive manner. Through this proactive approach, we can successfully rebuild our local economy and seek to ensure that Mid & East Antrim will ultimately benefit from economic growth.

Moira Loughran
Regional Business Manager

4. Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service

“On behalf of Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to be part of the Putting People First Conference. I look forward to working along with many partners who attended the conference, to target our resources towards those most ‘at risk’ in Mid and East Antrim and making our community safer”.

Fergal Leonard
Group Commander

5. The Northern Ireland Commissioning Group

The Northern Local Commissioning Group is the local committee of the Health and Social Care Board made up of GPs, a dentist, a pharmacist, voluntary and community representatives, local elected representatives, Public Health Agency and HSCB officers. It has responsibility for assessing local health and social care needs; planning health and social care to meet current and emerging needs; and supporting

the HSCB to secure the delivery of health and social care to meet assessed needs. In fulfilling this role the NLCG faces significant challenges presented by the growing demand for services and changing demography, set against the backdrop of constrained resources.

The NLCG welcomes community planning as an opportunity to reach out to and develop our understanding of other statutory partners and to work more closely with the voluntary and community sector. In sharing resources we will, through an integrated approach and more effective collaboration, be enabled to deliver good outcomes for local citizens in a variety of projects.

Pat Smyth
The Northern Local Commissioning Group

6. Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Housing in Community Planning

Austerity measures across public services means there has never been a better time for more collaborative working across the public sector. The introduction of RPA in April 2015 and Community Planning in particular, provides the opportunities necessary for agencies to work together to better deliver services for all our customers.

A key challenge for the Housing Executive over the next year will be to work closely with the eleven new councils through a “comprehensive conversation” for each of the individual councils for the preparation of their Community Plans. This will be an important aspect of our “people, property and places” approach, and working towards our overall vision:

In Mid and East Antrim during 2013/14 we spent £17m on various housing related programmes as detailed in table below. Our anticipated spend for 2014/15 is at least £11.29m (excluding new build and Warm Homes expenditure), the actual spend will be available late May 2015.

In addition to the above we have a budget in the North Region of £2.45 million for adaptations in 2014/15.

In Mid and East Antrim we will continue to:

- provide housing services to our 5,900 tenants
- carry out repairs and planned maintenance to our properties
- provide Supporting People services to the wider public
- assist the private sector through grant aid

- pay housing benefit to the private rented sector
- support new build proposals in those areas of housing need

Local demographics suggest the population for Mid & East Antrim will continue to grow, increasing by around 3% over the next 10 or so years. This, together with an increasing older population and the potential impact of Welfare Reform, would suggest there is likely to be a growing need for more social housing and related services in the council area.

In 2013/14, 59 units of social housing new build were provided across Mid & East Antrim. A further 130 units were on site at 31st March 2014 and a further 400 units of social housing are programmed for 2014/19.

Esther Christie
Assistant Director of Strategic Planning & Research

Putting People First – Community Planning Seminar

Wednesday 25th March 2015

Statutory Partners

	Statutory Organisation	Name of Officer
1	NHSCT	HUGH NELSON HEAD OF PLANNING
2	Northern Local Commissioning Group	▪PAT SMITH , DEPUTY COMMISSIONING LEAD ▪EILEEN KENNEDY
3	PSNI	INSP ALISON FERGUSON
4	NI Fire and Rescue Service	FERGAL LEONARD GROUP COMMANDER
5	NIHE	ESTHER CHRISTIE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CORPORATE PLANNING
6	Invest NI	MOIRA LOUGHRAN REGIONAL BUSINESS MANAGER

Appendix 5



Community Planning in North Ayrshire: 'Safe and Secure' case studies

Tim Ross
Chief Inspector
Director of Community Safety



Community Planning

Community Planning: Context

Community Planning: North Ayrshire

A Safe and Secure North Ayrshire

- Who?
- What?
- How?
- Case Studies

Community Planning: The future

Community Planning: Context



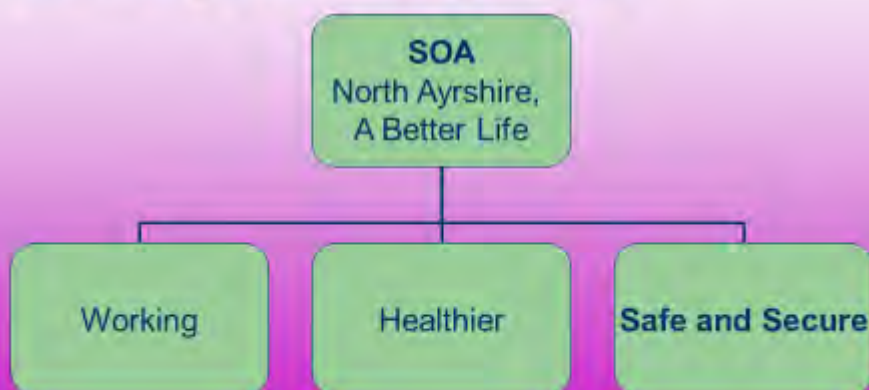
Local Government in Scotland Act 2003

- All local authority areas to have a 'Community Planning Partnership'
- Councils have a statutory obligation to lead the Partnership:
 - North Ayrshire Council
- Other public agencies have a statutory obligation to participate in the Partnership:
 - NHS Ayrshire and Arran
 - Police Scotland
 - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
 - Scottish Enterprise/ Skills Development Scotland
 - Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)

Community Planning: North Ayrshire



What? Single Outcome Agreement



SOA Priority: Safe and Secure



'Safe and secure' high level and intermediate outcomes

- North Ayrshire is a safer place to live
 - Violent crime and ASB ↓
 - Re-offending ↓
 - Harmful effects of drug and alcohol ↓
 - Domestic abuse ↓, improved support for victims
 - Road safety ↑
 - Fire safety ↑
- North Ayrshire residents feel safer and communities are empowered
 - Fear of crime and ASB ↓
 - Residents engaging in community activities and volunteering ↑

A Safe and Secure North Ayrshire



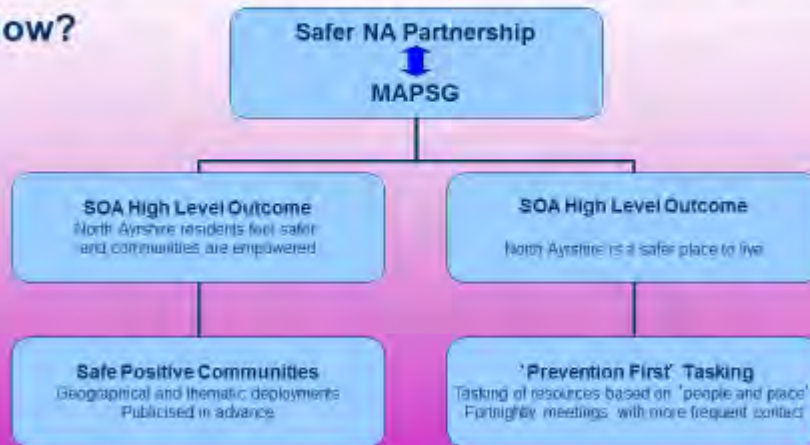
Who?

ADP	NAC/HSCP	SCRA
Ayrshire College	Children and Families; Criminal Justice; Road Safety; Education;	MSYP
Third Sector	Adult Support & Protection; Connected Communities	SWS CJA
Elected members		SFRS
Women's Aid	Police Scotland	NHS (Health promotion)

A Safe and Secure North Ayrshire



How?



A Safe and Secure North Ayrshire



Safe Positive Communities

- Safer, empowered communities
- Multi-agency approach
- Geographic deployments, 6-12 wks
- Diversionary activities and early intervention
- Community events
- Alcohol
- Community wardens – engagement and reassurance
- Environmental Visual Audits – Community and Youth (p4)



A Safe and Secure North Ayrshire



Safe Positive Communities - EVAs



A Safe and Secure North Ayrshire



Safer North Ayrshire Partnership (SNAP)

→ Social Media

→ FB - Safe Positive Communities

→ <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Safe-Positive-Communities/1499652936978469>



A Safe and Secure North Ayrshire



A Safe and Secure North Ayrshire



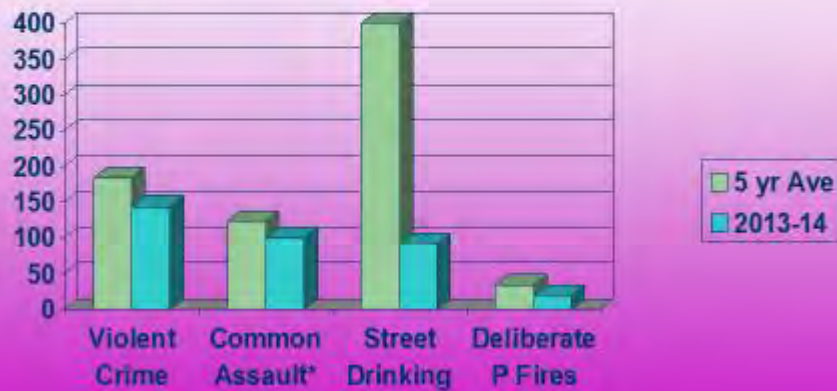
Prevention First Tasking

- Local policing and partnership initiative
- Builds on and develops existing structures/processes
- Multi-agency working at operational level
- Based on a real understanding of shared goals and knowledge of area
- Identification and reduction of repeat victims, locations and offenders
- Most appropriate single or multi-agency response agreed

A Safe and Secure North Ayrshire



Is it working?



A Safe and Secure North Ayrshire



Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Response Team (MADART)

- Significant problem (e.g. 35% of assaults in 2011/12)
- Partnership - social work, housing and police are co-located; wider links to NHS, Women's aid and SCRA
 - Reduce the number of children referred to SCRA – 48% reduction in the number of children referred and a 53% reduction in the overall number of referrals
 - Reduce the number of formal report requests – 20% reduction in the number of report requests relating to domestic abuse incidents
 - A faster response to the needs of children impacted by the effects of domestic violence – Average follow-up response time reduced from 10.7 days to 3 days.

Healthy/Safe and Secure



Jump2it

A pr
deliv
pro
Fun



A Safe and Secure North Ayrshire



Community Planning

Partnership – it's not all hard work!

- [FB Video](#)
- <https://www.facebook.com/AyrshirePoliceDivision/videos>



Appendix 6



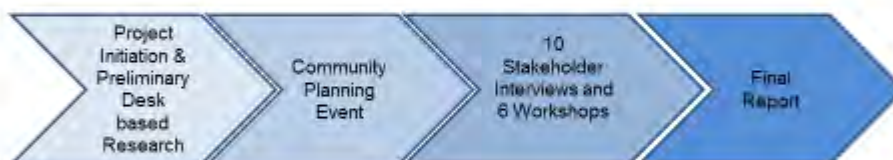
1. Report Context & Requirements

- The Interim Baseline report aims to inform the first Community Plan for the new Council and is the first stage of a wider consultation exercise; and
- The Baseline Report will present key findings against each District Electoral Area and/or ward under the following 6 Community Planning Themes:
 - Safety and Good Relations;
 - Health, Leisure and Well-being;
 - Education;
 - Economic Regeneration (Top Priority for Council);
 - Community and Social Regeneration; and
 - Environment.

1. Report Context and Requirements (cont'd)

Our Approach

Activities



Timescale



2. Overview of the Borough

- Population of 137,025 (7.5% of NI total) and has increased 8% since 2001 against growth of 9.5% for NI;
- Population projected to be 145,912 by 2030 (a growth rate of 6.4% as opposed to NI growth of 7.4%);
- Population growth mainly due to decreasing death rate, rather than in-migration and increased birth rate; and
- Principally rural, with a population density of 1.29, just below the NI average of 1.34.

2. Overview of the Borough

- Population of 137,025 (7.5% of NI total) and has increased 8% since 2001 against growth of 9.5% for NI;
- Population projected to be 145,912 by 2030 (a growth rate of 6.4% as opposed to NI growth of 7.4%);
- Population growth mainly due to decreasing death rate, rather than in-migration and increased birth rate; and
- Principally rural, with a population density of 1.29, just below the NI average of 1.34.

3. Environment

Headline Statistics

- 17% increase (2001-14) in no. of vacant homes;
- NI average increase in similar properties: 2.3%;
- 12.3% of households claiming HB (NI: 7%);
- Ballymena has 4th largest town centre in NI; and
- MEA does not have significant 'out of town' retail provision.

Qualitative Feedback

- Recent health and education investment all outwith of area;
- No major infrastructure investment planned for future;
- Retail Capital of the North East;
- Opportunities to reinvent town centres; and
- Historical townscape of Carrickfergus, potential access point for tourists to wider region.

3. Safety and Good Relations

Headline Statistics

- Criminal damage, burglary and theft and anti social behaviour all slightly below the NI average;
- All hate crimes (racist, homophobic and sectarian) significantly below the NI average; and
- In common with rest of NI, significant increase in reported domestic violence.

Qualitative Feedback

- Perceptions of crime don't reflect the statistics;
- Community tensions: a perceived rise in paramilitary activity;
- Impact of continuing high level of substance misuse;
- Comparatively low rate of crime should be promoted; and
- Opportunity to build on 'cluster' approach to community.

3. Health, Leisure and Well-Being

Headline Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced lifespan and quality of life; • MEA scores significantly higher than the UK and NI average for Life satisfaction and happiness (Population Survey, 2014); • Slightly higher incidence of Obesity, Teenage births and Death by Suicide across MEA, however concentrations in deprived areas (Ballymena and Braid); and • 30% higher incidence of road traffic accidents (rural areas).
Qualitative Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to services: A&E and many health care services Outwith of the Council area; • High incidence of mental health problems (social isolation); • Potential to use more community based/out of hours health care solutions; and • Potential to promote MEA as a pleasant location to live, work and play in.

3. Community and Social Regeneration

Headline Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area ranks 6th (out of 11) in terms of extent of multiple Deprivation; and • Homes in fuel poverty, slightly above NI average (43%, 44% for NI).
Qualitative Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hidden deprivation, particularly in mature privately owned residential estates (Knockagh) and rural areas (exclusion); • Enhanced community capacity providing a clearer voice of emerging needs and opportunities; and • Opportunity to use the DEA Community Plan to articulate the needs of wider community (access to services).

3. Economic Regeneration

Headline Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparatively weak business start up and death rates leading to low business density rate (too few companies); • Job Density is below NI average (0.65, 0.71) (too few jobs); • MEA rates only in 8th place for number of tourists; • Wage and GVA per head slightly above NI average; and • NEETs, Economically Inactive and Unemployed slightly below NI average.
Qualitative Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of world class companies providing opportunities for knowledge exchange/supply chain diversification; • Good tradition of manufacturing; • High level of professional jobs retained in MEA; • Concerns over recent job losses; and • Insufficient business space for start ups.

3. Education

Headline Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School leavers at 16 and 18 underperforming NI average; • 52% with 2 or more A Levels, NI:54% • 61% with less than 5 GCSE, NI:62% • Above average percentage of working age population with NVQ Level 4+ (29% as opposed to NI 27%); • Below average percentage of working population with no qualifications (28% as opposed to NI 29%).
Qualitative Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential skills mismatch due to loss of factory jobs; • Intergenerational underperformance prevalent in specific communities (Ballymena and Braid); • The high concentration of professional level jobs attracts and retains highly qualified workforce; and • Opportunities for targeted interventions in specific underperforming communities.

Appendix 7

HELPING OLDER PEOPLE ENJOY (HOPE)

This project which is facilitated by the Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership and led by artist Elaine Agnew, was developed as a way of enabling old and new friendships to flourish, helping to alleviate isolation and loneliness, and to encourage older people to remain involved in their community, and most importantly feel supported by their local community. Through this project, participants can exercise their memory and vocal chords as well as create rhythm and express themselves through sound and music.

This group entertained the Conference participants and provided excellent musical pieces which the audience thoroughly enjoyed – as can be seen by the pictures below.





Appendix 8



What happens next?

Karen Hargan

Director of Organisation Development
and Community Planning

Realising our Potential

Next steps on developing the Community Planning



- **Continue Evidence Gathering**
 - Focus Groups
 - Community Survey
 - Engagement with statutory partners
 - Refine data and findings
 - Baseline report by September 2015



Realising our Potential

Working together



- **Statutory Partners, Local Partners and the Community**

- Guidance to confirm Statutory Partners
- Identify and Confirm Local Partners
- Relationship building
- How do we communicate?
- Consideration of Governance Structures



Realising our Potential

Building the Plan



- **Thematic Working Groups**
 - Open call for groups and organisations to become involved in working up proposals
 - Informed by baseline report
 - Involving statutory partners, local partners, council and community
 - begin work on developing proposed actions in respect of identified priorities
- **Operational Board established to steer and support the work of the Thematic Groups**
- **Draft Outputs by Feb March 2016**
- **EQIA / Consultation on Draft plan April – June 2016**

Realising our Potential

Draft Community Planning Governance Structure



Appendix 9

Putting People First: Community Planning in Mid and East Antrim Area Attendance List 25th March 2015

Community/Voluntary Groups – The Braid, Ballymena

Name	Organisation
Martina Luiten	Home Start Ballymena
Nathena McCloy	Home Start Ballymena
Brian Holmes	Ballee & Harryville Community Enterprises
Kevin Hegarty	Forest Service
Ann Bacon	Smithfield Association
Patricia Brennan	Harbour Community Group
Christine Mulvenna	Mencap
Robert Heron	BTDA
Mary Watson	Carnlough Community Association
Ivy Goddard	Ballymena Inter Ethnic Forum
Melanie Christie Boyle	Ballymena Business Centre Ltd
Gillian Forrest	Ballymena South Cluster
Norman Worthington	Portglenone Enterprise Group
Tony Morrison	Ballymena East Rural Community Cluster
Kelli Bagchus	Carrickfergus Enterprise
Chris Bowyer	Ballykeel Together
David McGookin	Doury Road Development Group
Austin Herron	Carrickfergus Central Residents
Pauline Whittle	Carrickfergus Central Residents
Deirdre McCloskey	Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership
PJ Whyte	Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership
Jack Johnston	Broughshane & District Community Association
Sandie Clyde	Grange Cross Community Association
Mae Black	Smithfield Association
Mary McCormick	Larne Harbour Community Group
Valerie Blake	NACN
Orla Black	NACN

Statutory Partners

Name	Organisation
Esther Christie	NIHE
Hugh Nelson	NHSCT
Brendan Forde	HSCB

Michael Owen	PHA
Kim Boal	DOE Planning
Eileen Kennedy	HSCB
Fiona Molloy	Development Trusts NI
Joy Hammond	NHSCT
Trevor Robinson	Invest NI
Ian Maye	DOE
Helen Hegarty	PSNI
Alison Ferguson	PSNI
Pat Smyth	HSCB
Johanne Mullan	DOE
Mairead Myles-Davey	NIHE
Lyndsay Craig	DOE Planning
Tracey Colgan	Public Health Agency
Fergal Leonard	NIFRS
Maira Loughran	Invest NI
Una McConnell	DSD
Roy McGivern	DSD
Ailbhe Hickey	NIHE
Michael Francey	DOE, Planning
Claire Gordon	DOE
Doris Peden	NRC
Arlene Watson	NRC
Hilary Johnston	PHA
Colin Dickson	NIFRS
Keith Wilson	RSM McClure Watters
Declan Mackin	RSM McClure Watters
Arthur Acheson	MAG DCAL

Councillors

Name
Cllr Maureen Morrow
Cllr Paul Maguire
Cllr Ruth Wilson
Cllr Tommy Nicholl, MBE
Cllr Patrice Hardy
Cllr Beth Clyde
Cllr Oliver McMullan
Cllr Audrey Wales, MBE
Cllr Mark McKinty
Cllr Paul Sinclair
Cllr Beth Adger, MBE
Cllr Robert Logan
Cllr Paul Reid
Cllr James McKeown
Cllr Noel Jordan

Cllr Donna Anderson
Cllr Lindsay Millar
Ald Maurice Mills, MBE

Council Staff

Name	Council
Rosemary McCormick	Ballymena Borough Council
Phillip Thompson	Mid and East Antrim
Sandra Cole	Mid and East Antrim
Louise Kennedy	Mid and East Antrim
Neil Herron	Carrickfergus Borough Council
Alison Marsh	Carrickfergus Borough Council
Pat Mulvenna	Ballymena Borough Council
Aidan Donnelly	Ballymena Borough Council
Jayne Clarke	Ballymena Borough Council
Andrew McAllister	Ballymena Borough Council
Lisa Adair	Carrickfergus Borough Council
Sean Trainor	Ballymena Borough Council
Colette Kelly	Mid and East Antrim
Sean Lavery	Ballymena Borough Council
Anne Donaghy	Mid and East Antrim
Karen Hargan	Mid and East Antrim
Jackie Patton	Mid and East Antrim
Sandra Michael	Ballymena Borough Council
Jane Dunlop	Ballymena Borough Council
Andrew Millar	Ballymena Borough Council
Caroline Erwin	Mid and East Antrim
Claire Duddy	Carrickfergus Borough Council
Paul Carr	DSD
Roisin Miller	DSD
Marie Clarke	DOENI
Catherine Black	Larne Borough Council
Neil Heron	Carrickfergus Borough Council
Karen Moore	Ballymena Borough Council

Appendix 10



Top table guests at the “Putting People First: Community Planning in Mid and East Antrim” Conference, held on 25th March, 2015, in The Braid.

From left to right -

Cllr Tommy Nicholl, MBE, outgoing Chair of MEA Community Planning Committee; Chief Inspector Tim Ross, Ayrshire Police Division; Ian Maye, Deputy Permanent Secretary, DOE; Anne Donaghy, Chief Executive MEA; Neil McInroy, Chief Executive, Centre for Local Economic Strategies; Karen Hargan, Director of Organisation Development and Community Planning, MEA; Roy McGivern, Department for Social Development; Cllr Timothy Gaston, Deputy Mayor, MEA.

Appendix 11



Statutory Partners who participated in the Conference -

From left to right –

Inspector Alison Ferguson; Esther Christie, NIHE; Fergal Leonard, NIFRS; Hugh Nelson, NHSCT; Pat Smith, Northern Local Commissioning Group; Moira Loughran, Invest NI and Eileen Kennedy, Northern Local Commissioning Group.

Appendix 12



Appendix 13

