

THE BIG PLAN



OUTCOMES, PRIORITIES & WORKSTREAMS

Creating positive outcomes for everyone
across Ards and North Down



Ards and North Down's
**Community
Planning
Partnership** ¹



Community planning is long-term partnership between public, private, and voluntary groups working together to make Ards & North Down a better place.

The Big Plan is the Community Plan for this area.

Ards and North Down Borough Council coordinate community planning, but every partner (like health services, police, schools, environment agencies, fire service) shares responsibility.

The plan sets a vision and outcomes, plus detailed projects ("workstreams") to deliver each priority.

Short videos that explain the Big Plan and each priority are available on Ards and North Down Borough Council's website.

The poster on page 3 shows what issues community planning and The Big Plan are going to prioritise in Ards and North Down.



THE BIG PLAN

CREATING POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR EVERYONE ACROSS ARDS AND NORTH DOWN

OUR VISION

“Ards and North Down is a vibrant, connected, healthy, safe and prosperous place to be”

The Big Plan aims to have empowered, resilient individuals and communities; to reduce inequality; to promote good relations and sustainability; and to improve accessibility of all public services. It is aspirational and sets out the future we want to achieve for people of Ards and North Down, explaining how we want to make life better for everyone over the next 15 years.

Outcomes, Priorities and Workstreams



Outcome 1

All people in Ards and North Down benefit from opportunities to fulfil their lifelong potential.

1. Participation

- Citizen Engagement (includes Over 50s Council, Youth Voice, Community Support Steering Group, Third Sector HUB (Community and Voluntary Organisations))
- Community Resuscitation Group
- Borough Reading Project

2. Infrastructure

- Public Estate and Lands Group



Outcome 2

All people in Ards and North Down benefit from being equipped to enjoy good health and wellbeing.

3. Determinants of Health

- Health and Wellbeing Group (incorporates emotional wellbeing, social isolation and loneliness)
- Whole Systems Approach to Healthier Weight



Outcome 3

All people in Ards and North Down benefit from communities where they are respected, are safe and feel secure.

4. Welcoming Spaces

- Age Friendly
- Dementia Friendly
- Multi-agency Support Hub



Outcome 4

All people in Ards and North Down benefit from a prosperous and inclusive economy.

5. Employment, Employability and Economic Inequality

- Labour Market Partnership
- Anti-poverty (via social supermarket, AND Poverty Forum)

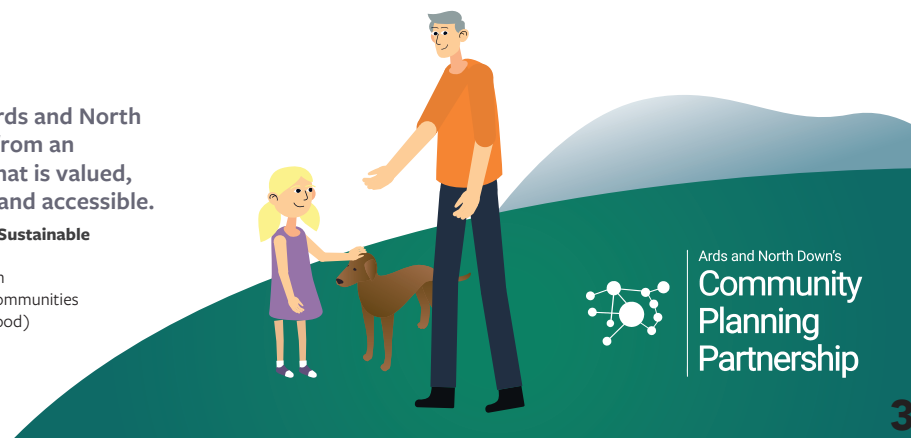


Outcome 5

All people in Ards and North Down benefit from an environment that is valued, well-managed and accessible.

6. Environmentally Sustainable Communities

- Sustainable Tourism
- Climate Resilient Communities (inc. Sustainable Food)
- Moved by Nature



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1. Participation

- Citizen Engagement (includes Over 50s Council, Youth Voice, Community Support Steering Group, Third Sector HUB)
- Community Resuscitation Group
- Borough Reading Project

2. Infrastructure

- Public Estate and Lands Group

Priority 1: Participation

This priority is about helping people in our community have a say in decisions. It includes groups like Youth Voice (for young people), the Over 50s Forum, the Third Sector Hub (for community and third sector organisations), and local volunteers.

Our Community Resuscitation Group is about encouraging people to learn lifesaving skills in case someone has a cardiac arrest.

Our Borough Reading Project Group aims to promote reading and literacy for people of all ages, often through events or reading challenges.

Priority 2: Infrastructure

This priority is about making the best use of land and buildings in our towns and neighbourhoods.

Our Public Estate and Lands Group looks at all public land and buildings to make sure they are used in the best way.



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3. Determinants of Health

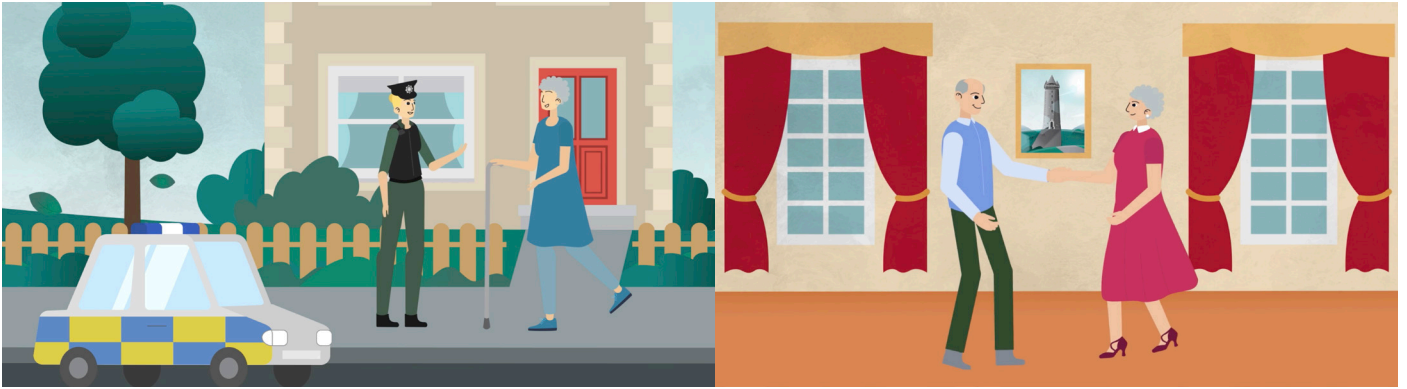
- Health and Wellbeing Group (incorporates emotional wellbeing, social isolation and loneliness)
- Whole Systems Approach to Healthier Weight

Priority 3: Determinants of Health

This priority is about helping people to live healthy, active lives to support them keep good physical and mental wellbeing. We want to work together to help people eat well, move more, and live healthier lives.

Our Health and Wellbeing Group brings partners together to promote healthier lifestyles, support mental health, reduce loneliness, and encourage physical activity.

Our Whole Systems Approach to Healthier Weight wants to bring schools, community groups, health workers, and others together to look at how to increase healthier weight across all ages—not just through food but also activity, education, and local environments.



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4. Welcoming Spaces

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- Dementia Friendly
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Priority 4: Welcoming Spaces

This priority is about making Ards and North Down a great place for people to live and grow older.

Our Age Friendly Alliance works to make sure older people feel included, supported, and able to get around safely in our towns and villages.

Our Dementia Friendly Partnership looks at how to improve support for people living with dementia and their carers by making public places more accessible and raising awareness in the community. We want to help people with dementia feel safe, welcome and understood in everyday life.

The Multi-agency Support Hub brings together different organisations (like the Council, health services and the police) to support people and families who are facing complex problems like crime, domestic abuse or mental health issues.



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5. Employment, Employability and Economic Inequality

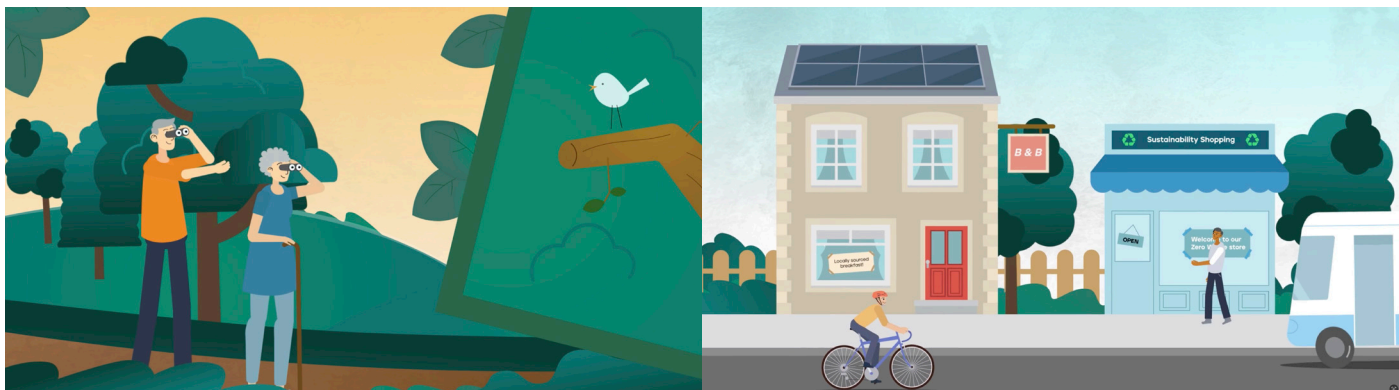
- Labour Market Partnership
- Anti-poverty (via social supermarket, AND Poverty Forum)

Priority 5: Employment, Employability and Economic Inequality

This priority is about considering all the support people need throughout their life to help them access jobs and have enough money to support themselves.

Our Labour Market Partnership helps people gain the skills they need to get jobs and supports employers to find the workers. This is about helping people find good jobs and supporting businesses to hire the right people.

Our Anti-poverty Work is focused on helping people who are struggling with money, food or heating. It includes things like social supermarkets (low-cost food shops for people in need), a Poverty Forum, and projects to reduce fuel and food poverty.



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6. Environmentally Sustainable Communities

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- Moved by Nature

Priority 6: Environmentally Sustainable Communities

This priority is about promoting the importance of caring for our environment so that people are safe and their wellbeing is improved.

Our Sustainable Tourism Group encourages tourism that protects nature, supports local communities and reduces harm to the environment. This is about attracting visitors in ways that are good for local people and the environment.

A Climate Resilient Communities (incl. Sustainable Food) will support local areas prepare for climate change (e.g. flooding, heat waves), reduce their carbon footprint, and grow or share food locally.

Our Moved by Nature Group works across other areas, using nature and the outdoors to support health, learning, tourism, and climate action. This project is about encouraging people to connect with nature for better health, learning, and wellbeing.





Ards and North Down's Community Planning Partnership



Third Sector HUB Members (Correct at March 2025)

Action Mental Health
AGEnda (AGE north down and ards)
Alzheimer's Society
Ards Community Network
Bangor and Lisburn Sure Start
Bryson Energy
Bangor Foodbank and Community Support
Community Advice Ards and North Down (CAAND)

County Down Rural Community Network
Holywood Shared Town
Kilcooley Womens Centre
Linking Generations NI
MINDWISE
Newtownards Foodbank
North Down & Ards Women's Aid
North Down Community Network
North Down YMCA

Open House Festival Ltd
Peninsula Healthy Living Partnership Ltd (PHLP)
Supporting Communities
The Cedar Foundation
The Link Family and Community Centre
Ulster Wildlife
Volunteer Now

Ards and North Down's Community Planning Partnership is facilitated by Ards and North Down Borough Council

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