

# THE BIG PLAN

PART  
for Ards and North Down II

Creating positive outcomes for everyone



Ards and North Down's  
Community  
Planning  
Partnership



# Our Big PRIORITIES

The Big Plan runs from 2017 – 2032  
Part II published April 2022





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This plan is available in alternative formats\* upon request by emailing:  
[communityplanning@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:communityplanning@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)

\*Except in exceptional circumstances a print version of this document is not available. This follows our recognition of the climate emergency and a desire to move towards net zero carbon emissions.

Published April 2022



## Foreword

Much has happened since the publication of Ards and North Down's first Community Plan five years ago. Never could we have guessed that two of those years would be spent social distancing and moving much of our work to remote online platforms. However, the value of the partnerships developed during the initial phase of community planning came into their own as everyone pulled together to provide support to communities, businesses, and individuals.

We were fortunate to have completed our review of community planning prior to Covid-19. It was fortuitous that many of the priorities identified pre-pandemic such as poverty, mental health, isolation, and skills shortages were highlighted as some of our most pressing issues during the pandemic. This demonstrated the value, and reliability, of the evidence used to identify priorities and showed how important the knowledge of local people can be. While our method of addressing the issues may have changed, we remain committed to considering how our collective actions can make a difference to individual and community wellbeing.

While the virus has not gone away, the last 12 months have been spent reviewing the priority issues and workstreams and trying to re-establish our more formal community planning structures. Online platforms have been valuable, but they cannot replace the importance of face-2-face engagement and relationship building.

We as a Strategic Partnership have learnt much since the publication of the Big Plan in 2017. We have increased our understanding of each other's remits and feel clearer about focusing on issues that require collaboration and demonstrating added value to improve outcomes for everyone in Ards and North Down.

We are still on a journey, and we hope that every year we can demonstrate the value of community planning – both within our own organisations and to the residents and businesses of Ards and North Down.



# Our Big PRIORITIES

Creating positive outcomes for everyone  
2017-2032

Updated April 2022



## Summary of Our Big Priorities Outcomes, priorities & workstreams

### Our Vision

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

The overarching, cross-cutting  
ambition of the Big Plan is:

**To have empowered,  
resilient individuals and  
communities; to reduce  
inequality; to promote  
good relations and  
sustainability; and to  
improve the accessibility  
of all public services.**

The Big Plan is aspirational and  
sets out the future we want to  
achieve for the people of Ards  
and North Down; explaining how  
we want to make life better over  
the next 15 years.



#### Outcome 1 | All people in Ards and North Down fulfil their lifelong potential

Help people participate in civic life and influence  
how decisions that affect them are made

Develop a sustainable infrastructure that  
supports our other Big Plan outcomes

Provide space for people to be healthy, safe,  
belong, prosperous and supported within our  
natural environmental limits

**Priority 1: Participation**  
Community resuscitation  
Citizen engagement

**Priority 2: Infrastructure**  
Public Estate and Land

We have an agile approach to workstreams and these will evolve according to identified need





## Outcome 2 | All people in Ards and North Down enjoy good health and wellbeing

Empower people to take control of their personal wellbeing

Increase the opportunities for people to adopt more active lifestyles.

Make it easier for people to access support services and develop infrastructures that make it harder for people to be overlooked.

**Priority 3: Emotional wellbeing**  
AND Wellbeing Hub/ Take 5  
Social isolation and loneliness

**Priority 4: Health Equity**  
Whole system approach to obesity



## Outcome 3 | All people in Ards and North Down live in communities where they are respected, are safe and feel secure

Make Ards and North Down a great place to grow older and where support is available to people who need it.

Make this a welcoming place with increased amounts of shared spaces, where there are growing levels of respect among communities and cultures and where people are safe in their homes, within their communities and in all public spaces.

**Priority 5: Welcoming to everyone**  
Age friendly  
Dementia friendly

**Priority 6: Vulnerable people**  
Multi-agency Support Hub



## Outcome 4 | All people in Ards and North Down benefit from a prosperous economy

Address deprivation and ensure that people have the financial resources to meet their everyday needs.

Help grow our local economy by developing a skilled workforce

Help those who are furthest away from the labour market by increasing access to employment

**Priority 7: Better jobs and skills**  
Labour Market Partnership

**Priority 8: Economic inequalities**  
Social Supermarket/ Poverty



## Outcome 5 | All people in Ards and North Down feel pride from having access to a well-managed sustainable environment

Enrich people's enjoyment of and respect for the natural and historic environment

Identify ways to increase community management of local assets

Increase our understanding of the impacts of climate change

**Priority 9: Sustainability**  
Sustainable tourism  
Sustainable food

**Priority 10: Valuing our environment**  
Moved by Nature (Outdoor learning)  
Nature recovery



## PART ONE | About the Big Plan (A reminder)

Community planning is where organisations come together, in a formal partnership, to work together to improve locally identified issues. A Community Plan is a long term strategy document. It explains the outcomes the partnership aim to achieve by focusing on the BIG strategic issues they will work together on to have a better, and more significant, impact.

Legislation on Community Planning was introduced within the Local Government (NI) Act 2014. This gave Councils across Northern Ireland a legal remit to facilitate the development of a Community Plan, via the establishment of a Community Planning Partnership.

The Big Plan for Ards and North Down (also known as the Community Plan) did not contain lots of detail about what was going to be done to address the issues identified as being important. Rather, it set out the shared vision and ambition of Ards and North Down's Strategic Planning Partnership. The delivery of the Big Plan is via a multi-layered partnership (See Part FIVE, page 41 for more information on partnerships).

The content of the original Big Plan is still relevant, and its five outcomes remain the same. What has evolved over the past five years are the shared issues, prioritised for attention, under each outcome. Greater emphasis has been given to issues where partnership actions add value and cannot be viewed as 'business as usual' activities. Issues within previous action plans that were considered the statutory remit of individual organisations have been removed.

Ards and North Down's Big Plan aspires to work towards five outcomes by 2032

### All people in Ards and North Down ...

1. **Fulfil their lifelong potential**
2. **Enjoy good health and wellbeing**
3. **Live in communities where they are respected, are safe and feel secure**
4. **Benefit from a prosperous economy**
5. **Feel pride having access to a well-managed sustainable environment**

The illustration on page 7 explains how Our Big Priorities and their associated workstreams fall under the Big Plan outcomes. The 5 outcomes are now supported by 10 priorities and more issue-focused workstreams.





# Creating positive outcomes for everyone

Programme for Government & Regional Policy/ Strategy



Ards and North Down's Strategic Community Planning Partnership



Ards and North Down's Community Planning Partnership



Ards and North Down's 3rd Sector Community Planning Forum

Other Partnerships & Collaborative Networks

## All people in Ards and North Down

1



Fulfil their lifelong potential

2

Enjoy good health and wellbeing

3

Live in communities where they are respected, safe and feel secure

4

Benefit from a prosperous economy

5

Feel pride having access to a well managed sustainable environment



10

# Our Big PRIORITIES

10+

## Our Big Priority Workstreams





## What has happened since the Big Plan was published?

The Big Plan (2017-2032) was published on 31 March 2017. This was followed by the formation of social, economic and environmental thematic groups to start developing action plans. Using a co-design approach, a 3rd Sector Community Planning Forum was also established.

A series of action plans were developed, and monitoring arrangements established. The Big Plan for Ards and North Down was initially supported by 48 headline actions over 250 contributory actions.

Each headline action had a Performance Scorecard Lead Partner with responsibility for co-ordinating a 6-monthly update of their Scorecards and organising the communication and partnership working between all contributory partners. The first Performance Update Report, written for the Strategic Partnership, noted that many of the actions identified within the Performance Scorecards could be considered 'business as usual' and that future meetings of the Thematic Wellbeing Groups would consider the impact collective actions could have and make recommendations on changes to service delivery or new initiatives.

While these action plans were not perfect, they did allow partners to become more familiar with each other's work priorities and practices. It also enabled relationships and trust to be developed.

The 1st Statement of Progress (a legislative requirement) was published in November 2019, 2 years after the Big Plan was published.

This initiated a review of the implementation of the Big Plan. The purpose of the review was to progress from 'business as usual' actions to activities that required collaboration between community planning partners and that would ultimately demonstrate the added value of taking a 'community planning approach'.





## The route from the Big Plan to Our Big Priorities

2017

**The Big Plan for Ards and North Down** published  
Social, Economic and Environmental Thematic Groups agreed  
3rd Sector Community Planning Forum established via a co-design process

2018

Actions planning and data collection across **Thematic Groups**  
**Performance reporting** to Strategic Community Planning Partnership established

2019

**1st Statement of Progress** Published  
**Review** of implementation of Big Plan initiated and concludes that the partnership should focus on collaboration and added value rather than 'business as usual'  
Revised list of 10 key priorities presented to Strategic Partnership

2020

Covid-19 – Community planning takes a central role in managing the local Community Response programme. Community Planning Partners work together to support people in AND access food, fuel and essential supplies

A **Covid-19 Multi Agency Support Group** is established to continue to support people through Covid -19 (after the end of the first lock down)

Priorities agreed by the Strategic Partnership in 2019 are reviewed to ensure their continued relevance. From these, mental health, social isolation and poverty are agreed as the initial focus for re-establishing formal community planning structures.

**Big Conversation Panel** used to gather feedback from residents on the impacts of Covid-19 and other Big Plan priority workstreams

2021

**Assessment of Wellbeing** review commences  
2nd Statement of Progress Published – **Together we Made a Difference**  
4th Performance Update report for Strategic Community Planning Partnership aligned to new priorities and workstreams

2022

**Big Plan Part II – Our Big Priorities** published  
Second Assessment of Wellbeing published  
Monitoring arrangements for workstreams established



## Part TWO | Reviewing the Big Plan and Emerging Issues

At the heart of community planning is the need for partners to work together to improve local services to ensure that they meet the needs of local people. It should drive public service reform by providing a focus for partnership work targeting specific local circumstances, while aspiring towards long-term outcomes.

### Why have we reviewed the Big Plan?

Part 10, sections 69 and 70 of the Local Government (2014) Act stipulates that the community plan should be reviewed before the fourth anniversary of the date on which the community plan was published.

The legislation requires community planning partners to consider any statement (of progress) published since the community plan was produced to consider the extent to which the objectives in the plans have been met. A review should be completed before the fourth anniversary of the date on which the community plan was published and, if necessary, an amended community plan published soon after. The Big Plan was published on 31st March 2017 meaning that a review must be completed before 31st March 2021.

While Ards and North Down's Strategic Community Planning Partnership started its review in December 2019, and had completed it by the following year, the coronavirus pandemic delayed the production of this document by 12 months.

### What our review entailed

A mapping exercise of the statutory functions of partners against Big Plan outcomes

- Assessing the added value of the Big Plan action plans
- A review of existing collaborative networks (other partnerships), what they do and how their activities are reported
- Collating information on other funded programmes and their remit.

This information was reviewed against the existing set of Big Plan actions and Thematic Wellbeing Groups. The review enabled the Partnership to avoid duplicating actions that were either the statutory remit of an individual organisation or were already being dealt with via another collaborative network. For example, Ards and North Down's Locality Planning Group focuses on outcomes for children and young people, the Police and Community Safety Partnership focus on criminality and interventions that encourage people towards lawfulness. Therefore, it is not necessary to also focus on these issues in the Community Planning Partnership. But it is important to recognise they are being considered elsewhere as they do contribute to the aspirational outcomes of the Big Plan.



The review recognised that the wide scope of the Big Plan, across all 5 outcomes, meant that it was difficult to know what information should be measured and reported on. It demonstrated that statutory actions taken forward by an individual partner do contribute to the Big Plan outcomes, but they don't always demonstrate added value. It was agreed that while organisations should look to the Community Plan to align their own strategic direction, the Council's Community Planning Service should focus on a refined list of priorities.

The TEN Big Plan Priorities were identified based on the following assessment:

- The level of collaboration required
- Community planning would add value to the issue
- The Assessment of Wellbeing (need identified)
- A willingness by partners to participate
- The issue was not the remit of a sole organisation
- It was not duplicitous of an existing partnership

***The Big Plan Part II | Our Big Priorities*** does not replace the Big Plan. It sits alongside it and shows how the 10 priorities and their associated workstreams contribute to the five Big Plan outcomes. The indicators used to measure population wellbeing have been updated to reflect the evolution of priorities and workstreams (see page 22 for more information).





## The impact of COVID-19

The 10 Big Plan priorities were presented to the Strategic Community Planning Partnership in December 2019. In March 2020, the world effectively shut down for 16 weeks.

Prior to Covid-19 and the resulting lockdown, considerable work had been done to identify a refined list of collaborative priorities that would be the focus of the Community Planning Partnership. However, during the first phase of the pandemic the Council's Community Planning Service took a lead role in developing and implementing the Community Response Support Plan and the delivery of emergency food parcels.

However, this was a practical form of community planning and involved working with community planning partners. The further building of relationships, increased levels of trust and confidence in partnership work that should strengthen the work of the Community Planning Partnership.

Even with Covid-19, the five long-term aspirational outcomes of the Big Plan are still relevant. However, in light of the pandemic a further review of the priorities confirmed that the evidence we used to select the priorities in 2019 had correctly identified issues that were made worse by the pandemic. Some additional work was undertaken to ensure the relevance of the workstreams, and a few additional ones were set up.

A Big Conversation Panel was run to gather feedback from residents about the issues that were affecting them. While we wish that mental health, social isolation and poverty were not issues we had to consider, it is reassuring that even before Covid-19 our review had already identified these as community planning priorities.

Covid-19 has reinforced the value that community planning can bring as it helps to create the networks necessary to support collaboration and joint activities.







## WE MADE A DIFFERENCE

This publication (our 2nd Statement of Progress) recognised the valuable contribution that statutory partners, community & voluntary sector organisations and communities themselves made in order to support people who were vulnerable during the Covid-19 pandemic.



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



## Overarching interests of the Big Plan

The value of community planning is the emphasis on not considering issues in isolation. This means looking widely at the reasons why issues exist and the inter-relation between economic, social, and environmental wellbeing. It also means considering other events, such as climate change, and future impacts on Our Big Plan Priorities.

## Global Sustainable Development goals

Environmental, social, and economic wellbeing, the corner stones of sustainable development, are at the heart of community planning.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet. They recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health, and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

In recognition of the importance of embedding sustainable development within the Big Plan priorities, the relevant global Sustainable Development Goals have been aligned to their appropriate priority workstream.

This demonstrates the value of the community planning approach to make connections across all priorities and workstreams. This results in the Partnership adopting a holistic approach to action planning.





## Climate change

While climate change has not been identified as one of the ten priority issue, a climate crisis has been declared. If we do not act with urgency, the ability to achieve any of the outcomes of the Big Plan will be severely compromised.

Climate adaptation and mitigation actions have been included in all appropriate community planning workstreams such as sustainable food, sustainable tourism and moved by nature.

<b>Big Plan Outcome All people in Ards and North Down</b>	<b>As a Partnership, we must consider the potential Climate Change Impacts on the Big Plan, Our Big Priorities and our ability to have a positive impact on the wellbeing of our communities.</b>
<b>Outcome 1</b> <i>Fulfil their lifelong potential</i>	Climate-related risks, either due to physical effects of climate change or the transition to a lower-carbon economy (and the opportunities these may bring) need to be considered by strategic decision makers. In addition to this, building resilience among local communities may result in reducing the emotional impacts of climate change.
<b>Outcome 2</b> <i>Enjoy good health and wellbeing</i>	Severe weather events and increased flooding may lead to poor emotional wellbeing as people are constantly having to deal with the physical impacts on their living accommodation. Mortality rates may be both positively and negatively affected due to a different temperature profile and disease prevalence.  Sea level rise and increased flooding cutting off communities disrupts supply chains and people are also separated from vital social connections leading to increased levels of social isolation.
<b>Outcome 3</b> <i>Live in communities where they are respects, are safe and feel secure</i>	Increasing resources may have to be diverted to address climate impacts such as road closures and storm clean ups. This may lead to less community support being available and vulnerable people receiving less support. Regularly scheduled maintenance may also be interrupted as climate impact response is prioritised.
<b>Outcome 4</b> <i>Benefit from a prosperous economy</i>	To thrive, businesses need to understand the potential impacts (positive and negative) that climate change may have on how they operate. While climate change may repeatedly interrupt business supply chains, opportunities for environmental technology and new businesses may arise. Climate change may also create economic opportunities. We may need to identify how to live well with coastal change and the permanent implications on infrastructure and transport routes.
<b>Outcome 5</b> <i>Take pride from having access to a well-managed sustainable environment</i>	Access routes may be repeatedly cut off due to falling trees and damage by additional volumes of water. Natural environments that offer protection struggle to cope with the amount of excess water they must absorbed leading to increased flooding and overflowing storm drains resulting in raw sewage discharge into recreationally important environments. Nature based solutions will need investigated to increase tree and woodland provision as well as Sustainable Urban Drainage schemes and exploring blue carbon solutions.







## Part THREE | Our Big Priorities



### Vision

*"Ards and North Down is a vibrant, connected, healthy, safe and prosperous place to be"*

### Ambition

*"To have empowered, resilient individuals and communities; to reduce inequality; to promote good relations and sustainability; and to improve the accessibility of all public services"*

We will measure progress towards our vision, ambition and outcomes using a defined list of population indicators that we will review to ensure their relevance (see page 22).

OUTCOMES	PRIORITIES	WORKSTREAMS
<b>Outcome 1</b> - All people in Ards and North Down ...		
Fulfil their lifelong potential	<b>1. Participation</b>	1.1 Community resuscitation
		1.2 Citizen engagement
	<b>2. Infrastructure</b>	2.1 Public estate and lands
<b>Outcome 2</b> - All people in Ards and North Down ...		
Enjoy good health and wellbeing	<b>3. Emotional wellbeing</b>	3.1 AND Mental Wellbeing Hub/ Take 5
		3.2 Social isolation and loneliness
	<b>4. Health equity</b>	4.1 Whole system approach to obesity
<b>Outcome 3</b> - All people in Ards and North Down ...		
Live in communities where they are respected, are safe and feel secure	<b>5. Welcoming to everyone</b>	5.1 Age friendly
		5.2 Dementia friendly
	<b>6. Vulnerable people</b>	6.1 Multi-agency Support Hub
<b>Outcome 4</b> - All people in Ards and North Down ...		
Benefit from a prosperous economy	<b>7. Better jobs and skills</b>	7.1 Labour Market Partnership
	<b>8. Economic inequalities</b>	8.1 Social Supermarket/ poverty
<b>Outcome 5</b> - All people in Ards and North Down ...		
Feel pride having access to a well-managed sustainable environment	<b>9. Sustainability</b>	9.1 Sustainable tourism
		9.2 Sustainable food
	<b>10. Valuing our environment</b>	10.1 Moved by Nature (Outdoor learning)
		10.2 Nature recovery

Workstreams are fluid and will evolve as they are based on need and capacity to deliver. Each workstream operates differently and Terms of Reference, membership and reporting information varies according to need.



## Outcome 1

### All people in Ards and North Down fulfil their lifelong potential

We will work towards this outcome by ensuring that people are able to participate in civic life and influence how decisions that affect them are made. We will work in partnership to develop a sustainable infrastructure that supports our other Big Plan outcomes by providing space for people to be healthy, safe, belong, prosperous and supported within our natural environmental limits.

This is the overarching outcome of the Big Plan and is currently supported by two priorities and three workstreams.

Links to Global Sustainable Development Goals

### Priority 1: Participation



The first part of the Big Plan's ambition is to have "empowered, resilient individuals and communities". For this to happen we need to provide people with the tools they need to look after their own wellbeing, and the wellbeing of others. The final part of the Big Plan's ambition is to "improve the accessibility of all public services". We believe that by increasing the opportunities that our residents and other stakeholders have to co-design and provide feedback on public services and their own wellbeing is essential to deliver the services that the public need and want.

#### Workstream 1.1

##### Community resuscitation

By giving people the knowledge and infrastructure to respond to out-of-hospital cardiac incidents we are working in partnership to empower people to use the Chain of Survival to increase survival rates.

Workstream lead  
**NI Ambulance Service**

#### Workstream 1.2

##### Citizen engagement

The Big Conversation Panel, Youth Voice, Older Person's Council (in development) and health partnerships are just some of the ways we seek feedback on services. We will continue to look at opportunities to talk to services users and measure this across all Community Planning Partners.

Workstream lead  
**Ards and North Down Borough Council**





Links to Global  
Sustainable Development Goals

## Priority 2: Infrastructure



Community Planning Partners own lots of 'assets' across Ards and North Down. We are committed to make better decisions about the management and improvement of these assets by working in partnership with each other to develop shared initiatives and make sustainable decisions about how public money is invested to increase its positive impact on communities.

### Workstream 2.1 Public estate and land

Future plans and ideas on the development of land and buildings is shared and there is a desire to identify joint projects with pooled budgets and more sustainable use of public monies.

Workstream lead  
**Ards and North Down Borough Council**





## Outcome 2

### All people in Ards and North Down enjoy good health and wellbeing

We will work towards this outcome by empowering people to take control of their personal wellbeing and make better life choices by increasing opportunities for people to adopt more active lifestyles by developing a 'health by stealth' approach. We will work in partnership to make it easier for people to access support services and develop infrastructures that make it harder for people to be overlooked.

This outcome of the Big Plan is currently supported by two priorities and three workstreams.

Links to Global Sustainable Development Goals

### Priority 3: Emotional wellbeing



Our moods, physical health, and social connections help us cope better with adversity and unexpected hurdles. Together, they contribute to our sense of wellbeing and our mental health. By taking a proactive stance of improving, maintaining, and nurturing our mental health, we can ensure that we live healthy, productive, and meaningful lives.

#### Workstream 3.1 AND Wellbeing Hub/ Take 5

Northern Ireland has higher levels of mental ill health, and significantly higher levels of depression than any other region in the UK. In Ards and North Down we need a Mental Health & Wellbeing Hub to ensure that our residents have the support they need and have access to talking therapies and other referral pathways.

Workstream lead  
**South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust**

#### Workstream 3.2 Social isolation and loneliness

Social participation has been identified by the Age Friendly Alliance as a priority. However, it is not just older people who may be isolated, and it is important to look across all age profiles and how services can be developed to be inclusive for everyone. The first Big Conversation Panel survey indicates high levels of loneliness especially among younger people.

Workstream leads  
**Ards and North Down Borough Council with  
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust**





Links to Global Sustainable Development Goals



## Priority 4: Health equity

The social determinants of health, such as employment, local environment and access to health services, influence a person's health outcomes. Individuals are significantly disadvantaged from health inequity, and face worse health outcomes, than those who are not. It is not equity to simply provide every individual with the same resources; that would be equality. To achieve health equity and change current outcomes, resources must be allocated based on an individual need.

### Workstream 4.1 Whole system approach to obesity

While individually partners focus on key aspects of health and wellbeing, collectively we can work together to consider a 'whole system approach'. Evidence suggests that only looking at diet and exercise does not make a difference and that we need to look at the wider determinants of health, such as environment, infrastructure and education to help people make long term changes. This is a workstream with a regional, Northern Ireland wide focus as many of the actions that will be required go wider than just local influence.

Workstream lead  
Public Health Agency





### Outcome 3

#### All people in Ards and North Down

#### live in communities where they are respects, are safe and feel safe

We will work towards this outcome by making Ards and North Down a great place to grow older and where support is available to people who need it. We will work in partnership to make this a welcoming place with increased amounts of shared spaces, where there are growing levels of respect among communities and cultures and where people are safe in their homes, within their communities and in all public spaces.

This outcome of the Big Plan is currently supported by two priorities and three workstreams.

Links to Global  
Sustainable Development Goals

### Priority 5: A welcoming place



An aspiration of the Big Plan is to create and sustain a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment where people actively care for each other. This is equally applicable to people who were born in the borough and those who for many reasons have relocated to it.

#### Workstream 5.1 Age friendly

Ards and North Down has an ageing population and we need to future proof services by considering the demographic profile of the borough in 10, 20 and 30-years' time. When you ensure that the needs of older people are considered when designing services and developing infrastructure you are also considering the needs of all age groups.

*Workstream leads*  
**Ards and North Down Borough Council with  
Public Health Agency**

#### Workstream 5.2 Dementia friendly

Dementia can affect anyone at any age. It is more prevalent among older people and therefore the population demographics explain why high levels of dementia are recorded for this area. There are different types of dementia and it is important that we consider how we can use a dementia friendly lens to make Ards and North Down welcoming to everyone.

*Workstream lead*  
**Community & Voluntary Sector Partner**





Links to Global Sustainable Development Goals

## Priority 6: Vulnerable people



The Big Plan focuses on equity over equality as it is important that help is provided to people who need it, when they need it. The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the vulnerability that exists, and it is important that we understand why people become vulnerable and how we can support people when this happens.

### Workstream 6.1 Multi-agency Support Hub

Ards and North Down's Support Hub has been established to enable vulnerable people to get help from a range of organisations. The hub supports people who may be experiencing a range of problems by providing, with the individual's consent, sharing of information with the agencies involved to agree the most appropriate and time critical referral pathways.

*Workstream leads*  
**Police Service of Northern Ireland with**  
**Police and Community Safety Partnership**





## Outcome 4

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

We will work towards this outcome by addressing deprivation and ensuring that people have the financial resources to meet their everyday needs. We will work in partnership to help grow our local economy by developing a skilled workforce, helping those who are furthest away from the labour market, increasing access to employment and investing in our infrastructure to support sustainable economic prosperity.

This outcome of the Big Plan is currently supported by two priorities and two workstreams.

Links to Global Sustainable Development Goals

### Priority 7: Better jobs and skills



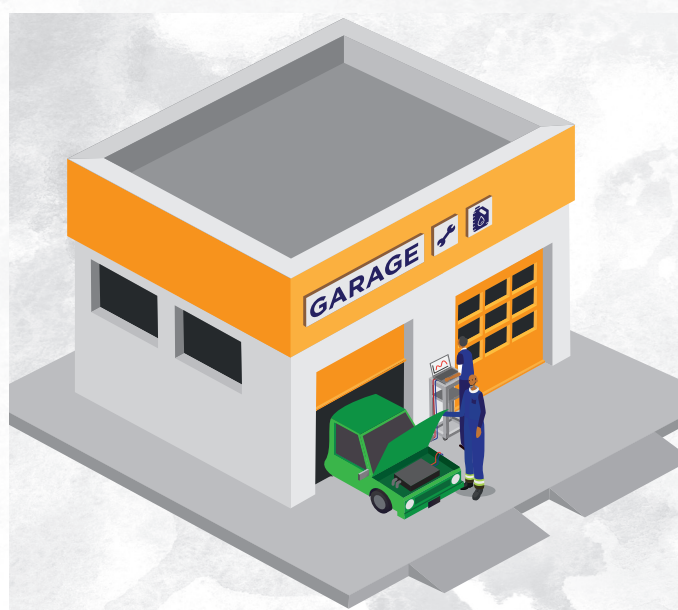
While many people who live in Ards and North Down are highly skilled, they often must look outside the borough for work. In addition to this, local employers are increasingly finding it difficult to find suitable employees to fill their job vacancies. There is a need to improve the quality of local jobs and encourage businesses requiring skilled labour to locate in the borough. There is also a need to match training and skills development opportunities to the needs of existing businesses to create a vibrant labour market and workforce.

#### Workstream 7.1

##### Labour Market Partnership

This workstream aims to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multi-agency partnerships, achieving regional objectives whilst being flexible to meet the needs presented by local conditions and helping to connect employers with employees.

Workstream lead  
**Ards and North Down Borough Council**







Links to Global Sustainable Development Goals

## Priority 8: Economic inequalities (poverty)



Covid-19 highlighted absolute poverty, hidden poverty and working poverty issues that unfortunately exist in Ards and North Down. Economic inequality exists for many reasons and poverty is not just a symptom of the pandemic. These issues, while made worse over the past 21 months, had been steadily getting worse over recent years and our local Food Banks have all reported increased level of demand for their service.

### Workstream 8.1 Social Supermarket

A social supermarket (SSM) provides clients with access to food whilst requiring them to take up wraparound services. Rather than being used as an emergency response to need, a SSM model can provide people with a pathway out of poverty by recognising that food is only one factor and access to and uptake of a wraparound service to address advice needs, training and skills provides a more holistic and sustainable transition out of poverty.

*Workstream leads  
Ards and North Down Borough Council with  
Department for Communities*





## Outcome 5

All people in Ards and North Down

**feel pride having access to a well-managed sustainable environment**

We will work towards this outcome by enriching people's enjoyment of the natural and historic environment by increasing access to connected green spaces, promoting responsible recreation, and facilitating community ownership. We will work in partnership to increase our understanding of the impacts of climate change and consider how both mitigation and adaptation measures can be enacted.

This outcome of the Big Plan is currently supported by two priorities and four workstreams.

Links to Global  
Sustainable Development Goals

### Priority 9: Sustainability



While the global sustainable development goals focus on the balance needed between economic, social and environmental wellbeing to support sustainable planetary systems, this priority of the Big Plan focuses on environmental sustainability. However, social and economic issues are still relevant as environmental sustainability cannot be achieved in isolation.

#### Workstream 9.1 Sustainable tourism

To establish a sustainable tourism destination, we need to take a holistic view across the three aspects of sustainability – social wellbeing, economic wellbeing and environmental wellbeing. Local communities are important stakeholders who should benefit from tourism opportunities.

*Workstream leads*  
**Ards and North Down Borough Council with  
Tourism Northern Ireland**

#### Workstream 9.2 Sustainable food

Creating a sustainable and equitable food system involves working together to improve how people access affordable, nutritious, environmentally sustainable and local food. This workstream takes a holistic view of food and will operate alongside other workstreams such as nature recovery, social supermarket and participation.

*Workstream lead*  
**Ards and North Down Borough Council**





Links to Global Sustainable Development Goals

## Priority 10: Valuing the environment



The importance of access to the environment was highlighted during the pandemic. Unfortunately, irresponsible access was also highlighted and with increased use of outdoor spaces came increased disturbance of wildlife, littering and damage to fragile habitats. We need to make space for people and nature to successfully coexist and benefit from what the environment does.

### Workstream 10.1 *Moved by Nature (Outdoor learning)*

Establish an outdoor learning partnership to promote the value of the environment and provide an opportunity to improve connectedness to nature for individuals and communities through co-ordinated approach to training and development opportunities.

Workstream leads  
**National Trust with  
Sport NI**

### Workstream 10.2 *Nature recovery*

By prioritising nature recovery and developing a network of important spaces we will develop actions that support nature recovery, where habitat area, habitat quality and connectivity between places are protected and enhanced.

Workstream lead  
**Ulster Wildlife Trust**







## Part FOUR | Assessment of Wellbeing

To identify the indicators included within the Big Plan for Ards and North Down a review of the statistical evidence took place. As part of the review of the Big Plan, the statistical baseline has been reviewed and updated.

The collection of data has created a comprehensive Assessment of Wellbeing. The Assessment of Wellbeing is a series of living documents (chapters) that will be updated as new data is released.



### Ards and North Down's Assessment Of Wellbeing

The Assessment of Wellbeing alongside the emergence of the Big Plan priority issues has helped review the Big Plan indicators and suggest some amendments.

### What is an indicator?

An indicator does not provide a complete picture of specific issues relevant to individual outcomes, priorities or workstreams. Rather each indicator acts as a barometer that can be used by the Community Planning Partnership to assess whether an issue is getting better or worse. It helps show if things are going in the right direction or whether additional interventions are needed. Indicators can be used to provide an overview of wellbeing across Ards and North Down.

### Indicators, Outcomes, Priority Issues and Workstreams

Indicators in the Big Plan are grouped by outcome. In reality, the same indicators can be used to determine progress towards multiple outcomes, priorities and workstreams.

The Big Plan for Ards and North Down identified 22 indicators. The Big Plan Part II | Our Big Priorities contains 28 indicators.

8 new indicators have been included

2 indicators have been removed due to lack of data since 2017.

1 indicator will be amended as the definition has changed and figures are reported differently across NINIS (official statistics), Programme for Government and the Department of Health.

Indicators will be reviewed annually and amended as necessary.



The Big Plan | Our Big Priority indicators (updated 2022)

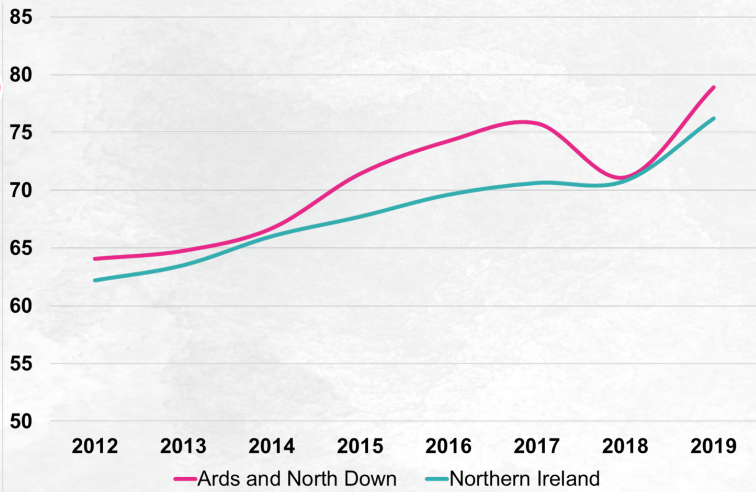
Outcome 1 All people in Ards and North Down fulfil their lifelong potential

1.1a

New Indicator

% of school leavers achieving at least level 2 or above; including English and Maths

Source: NISRA, Department of Education

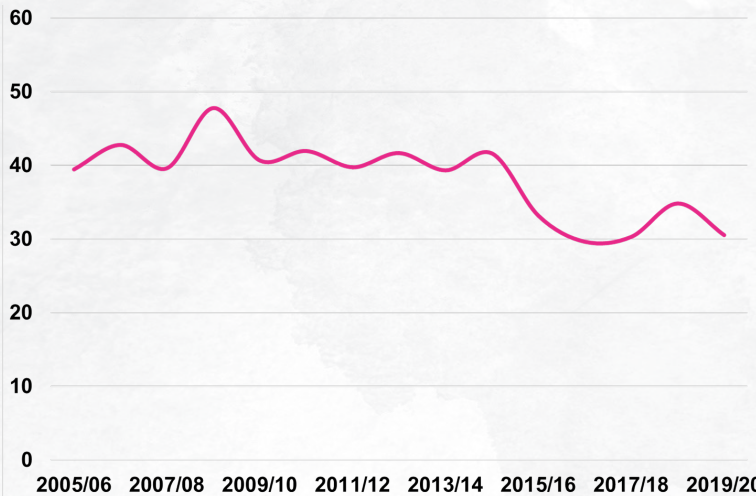


This dataset (indicators 1.1) highlights the skill level of the general population in AND while the gap datasets (indicator 1.1b) highlighted the equality issue.

1.1b

Gap between % of non-free school meal entitlement school leavers and % of FSME school leavers achieving level 2 or above (in English and Maths)

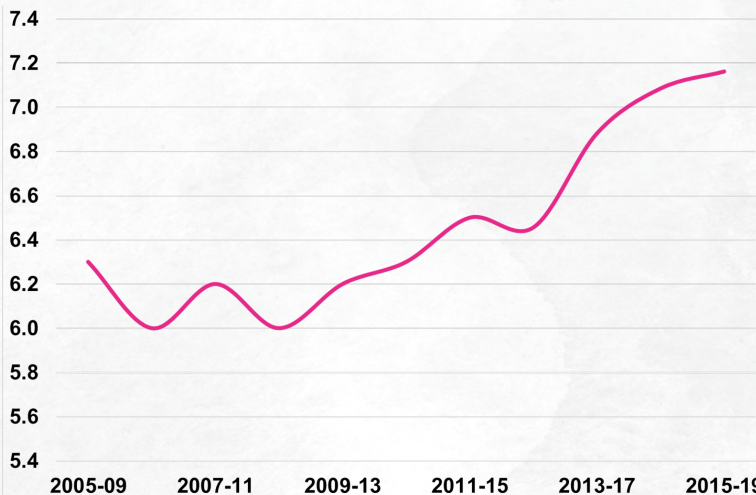
Source: NISRA, Department of Education



1.2

% of babies born at low birth weight

Source: NISRA, Department of Health

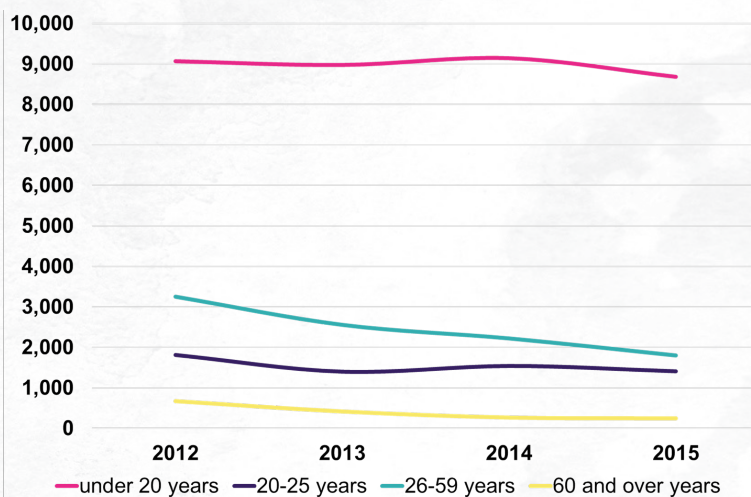




## 1.3

### Number of further education regulated enrolments by age

Source: NISRA, Department for the Economy

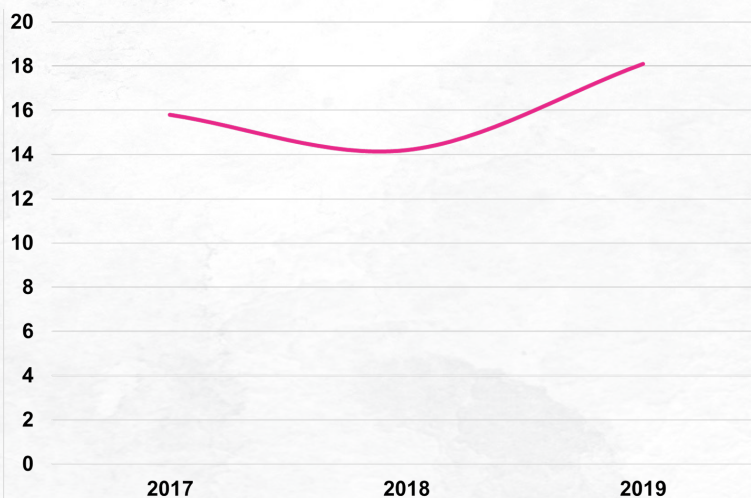


## 1.4a

### New Indicator

% of population who were low self-efficacy (persons aged 16+)

Source: NISRA



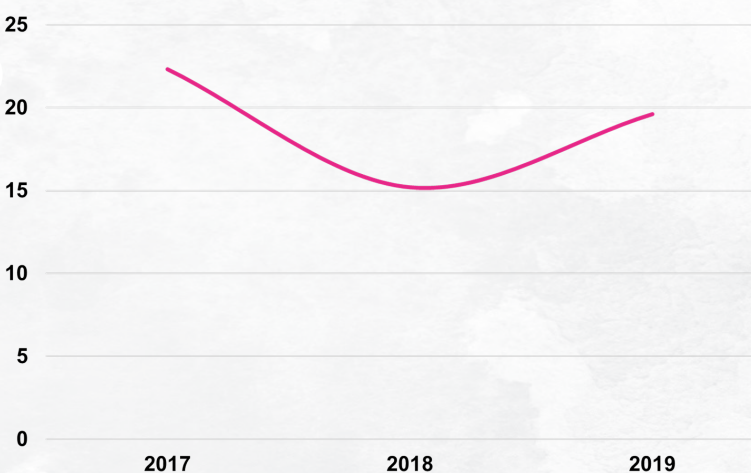
Self-efficacy is a person's belief or confidence about their capabilities to exercise influence over events that affect their lives.

## 1.4b

### New Indicator

% of population who were low self-efficacy (persons aged 60+)

Source: NISRA



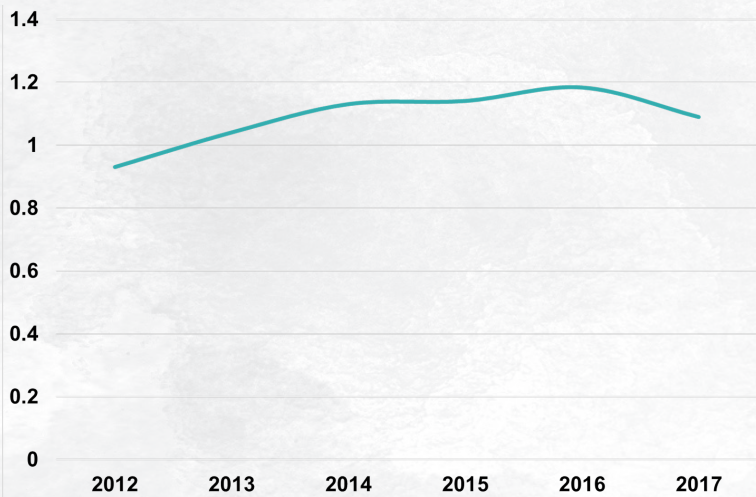


Outcome 2 All people in Ards and North Down enjoy good health and wellbeing

2.1

Number of anti-depressant drug items dispensed per head of registered population

Source: NISRA, Business Services Organisation

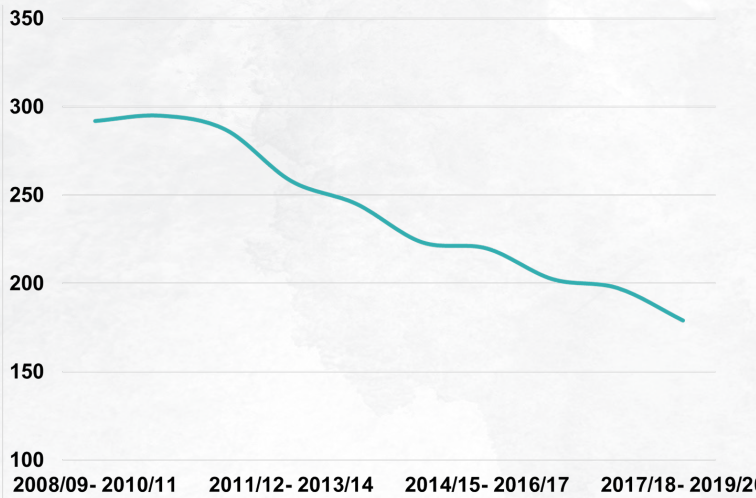


While we still recognise that this is not an ideal indicator to consider emotional wellbeing, an alternative at local government district is not available. When GHQ12 scores are available by council area this will be replaced.

2.2a

Number of admissions to hospital per 100,000 for drugs related causes

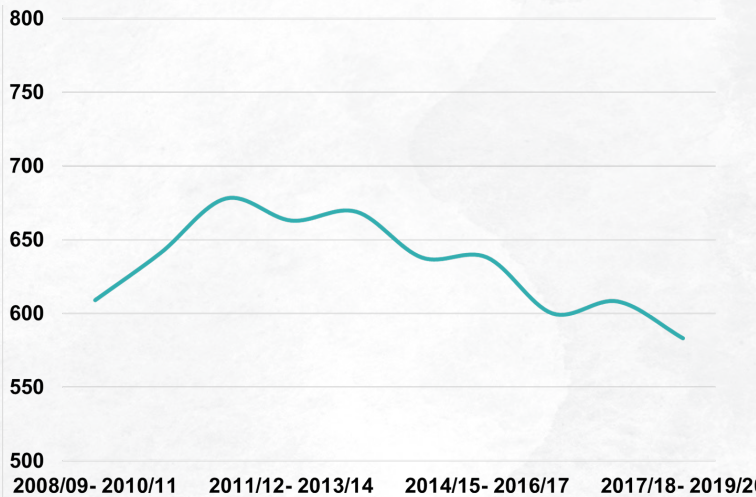
Source: NISRA, Public Health and Research Branch



2.2b

Number of admissions to hospital per 100,000 for alcohol related causes

Source: NISRA, Public Health and Research Branch



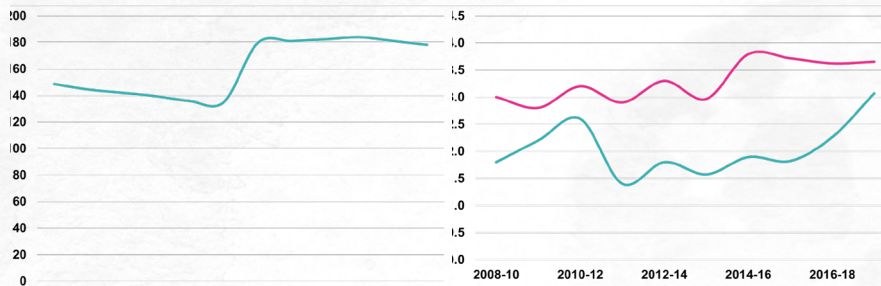


## 2.3

### Number of preventable deaths per 100,000 population

Source: NISRA, Public Health and Research Branch

## Definition Change



## 2.4

### Gap in life expectancy between most and least deprived areas

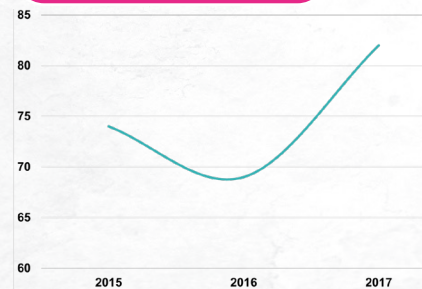
Source: NISRA, Public Health and Research Branch

## 2.5

### % of persons spending leisure time outdoors; once a week or more\*

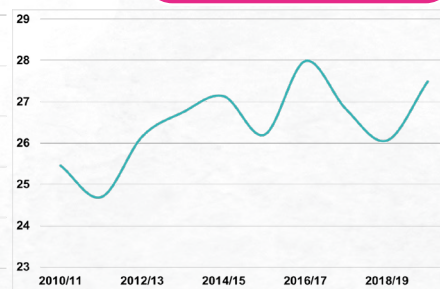
Source: NISRA, Continuous Household Survey via Central Survey Unit

## New Indicator



\*This indicator will be kept under review to ensure it is updated and is the best source of data on leisure activities

## New Indicator



## 2.6a

### Adult obesity rate in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Source: NISRA, Project Support and Analysis Branch, DoH

This dataset also links to Big Plan Priority 10 which is focused on residents benefiting from outdoor time for learning and wellbeing purposes.

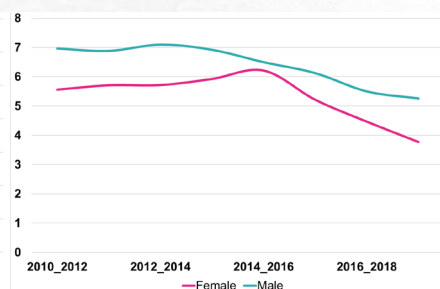
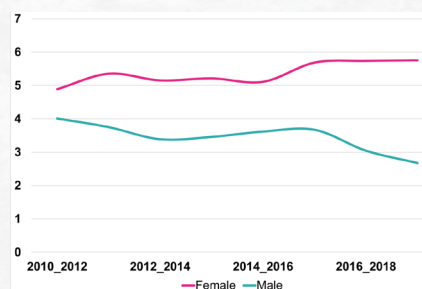
Adult obesity rates are only available at Trust level. The data shows that the obesity rate is higher in SEHSCT compared to NI. The gap narrowed in 2019/20.

## 2.6b

### Childhood obesity rate (BMI) in Primary 1

Source: NISRA, Public Health Information & Research Branch, DoH

## New Indicator



### Childhood obesity rate (BMI) Year 8

Source: NISRA, Public Health Information & Research Branch, DoH

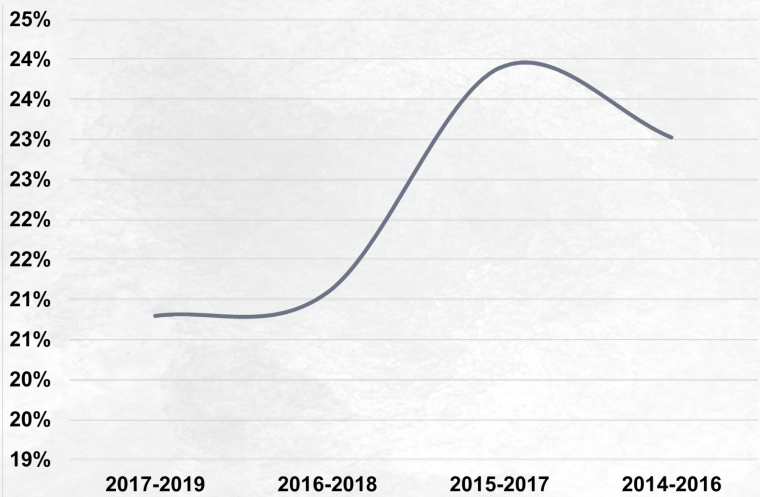


**Outcome 3 All people in Ards and North Down live in communities where they are respects, are safe and feel safe**

**3.1**

**Level of influence people feel they have over local decision making**

Source: Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey

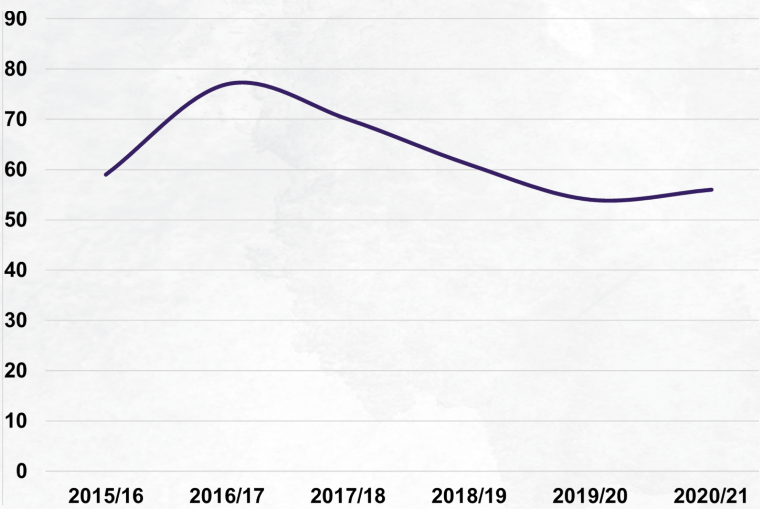


The chart illustrates the percentage of respondents who answered "Yes, definitely" and "Yes, probably".

**3.2**

**Number of dwelling fires**

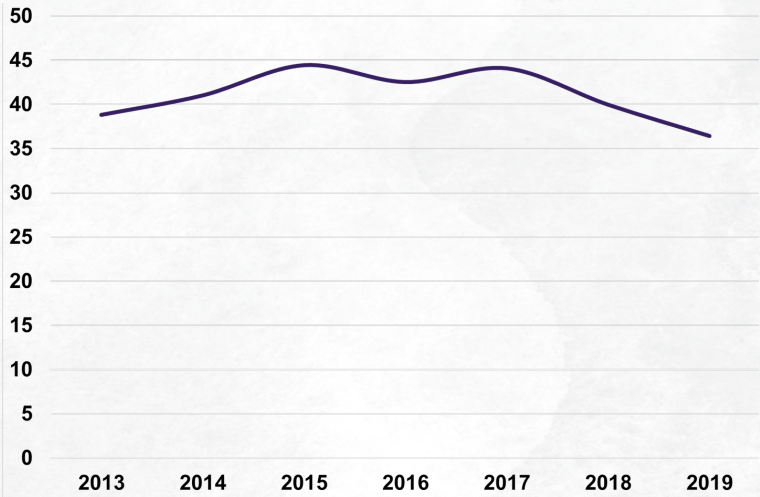
Source: Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service



**3.3**

**Number of road traffic casualties per 10,000**

Source: NISRA, Police Service of Northern Ireland

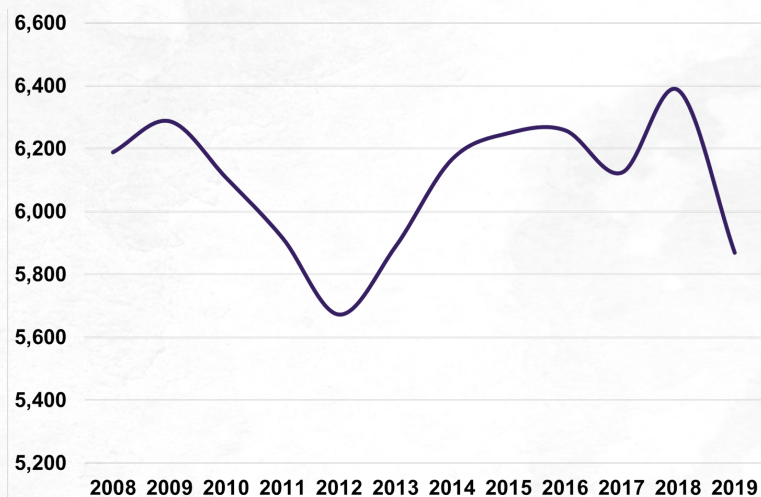




## 3.4

### Number of recorded crime offences

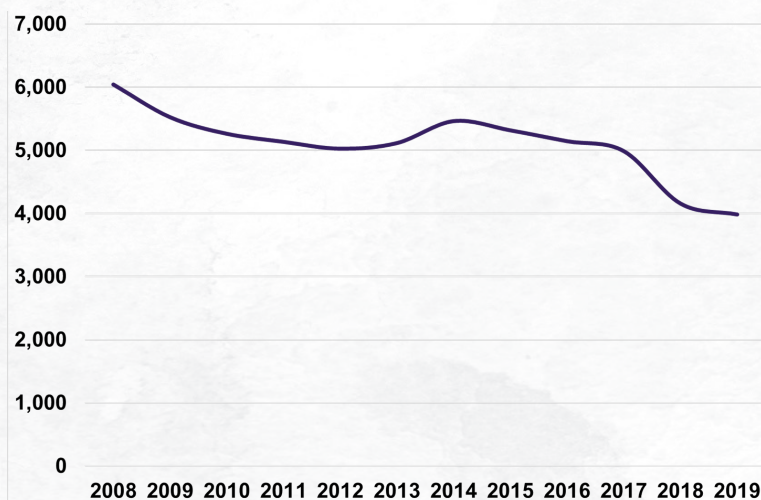
Source: NISRA, Police Service of Northern Ireland



## 3.5

### Number of anti-social behaviour crime offences

Source: NISRA, Police Service of Northern Ireland



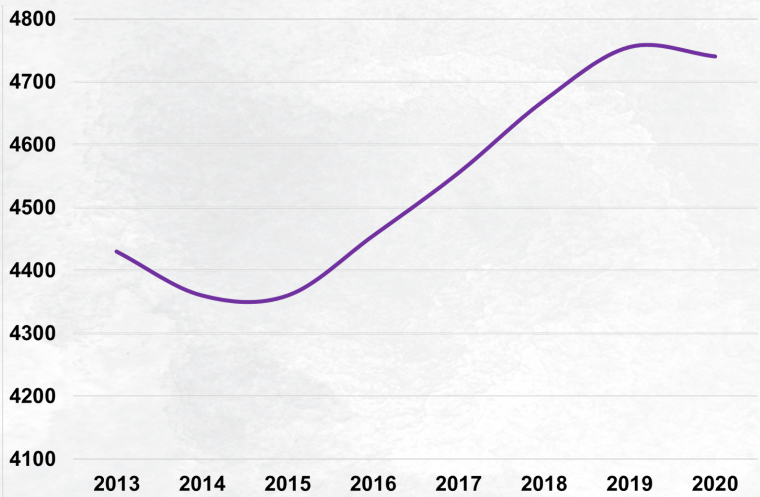


Outcome 4 All people in Ards and North Down benefit from a prosperous economy

4.1

Number of VAT and PAYE registered businesses

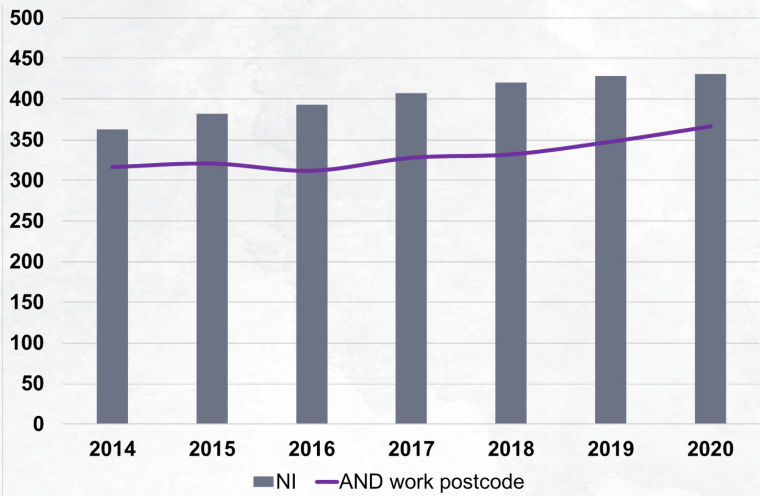
Source: NISRA, Inter-departmental Business Register



4.2

Medium gross weekly earnings

Source: NISRA, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

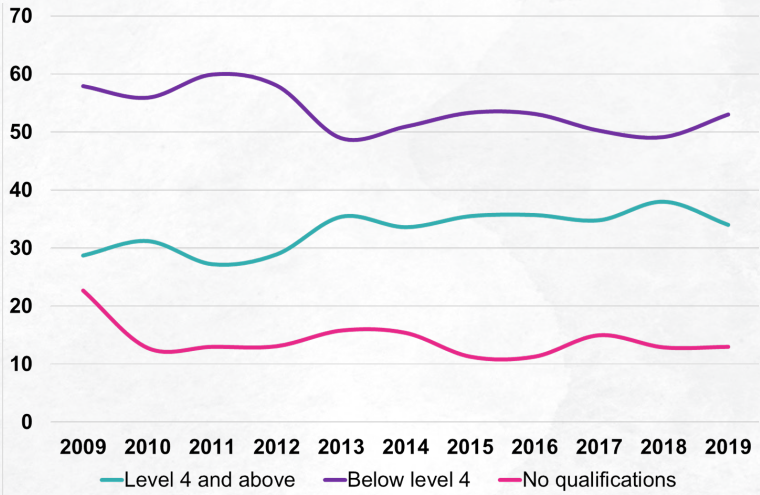


This indicators compares medium gross weekly earnings of Ards and North Down **residents** and medium gross weekly earnings of **jobs located** in Ards and North Down.

4.3

Working age population - skills levels

Source: NISRA, Department for the Economy



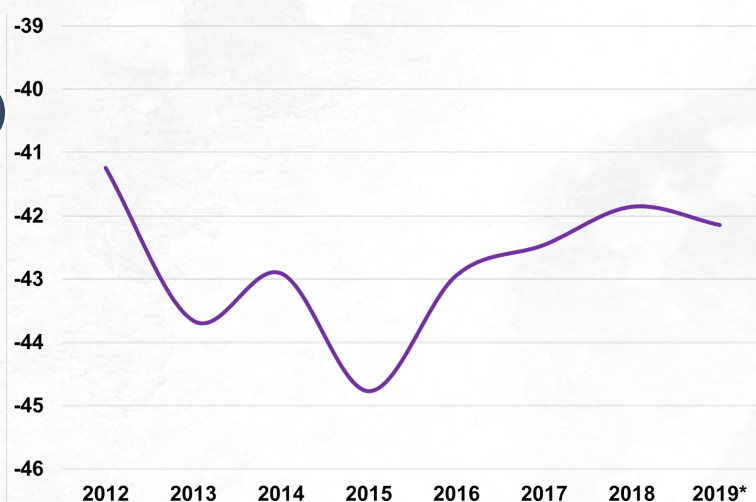


4.4

## Amended

**Gross Value Added (GVA) per head of population in AND against NI average**

Source: NISRA, Business Services Organisation

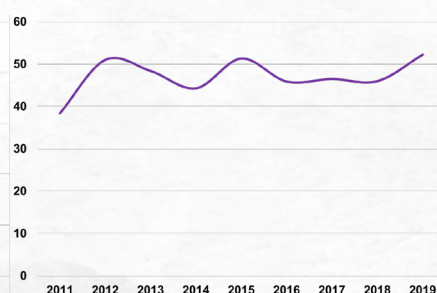
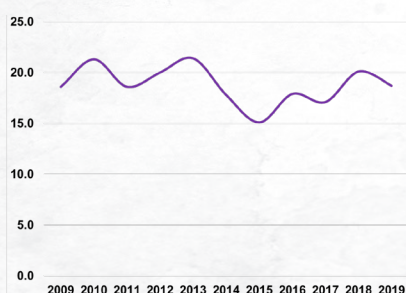


Percentage difference between AND and NI in GVA per head is used due to the constant change in the raw GVA. The percentage difference also aligns with other targets used in AND to achieve GVA per head comparable to the NI average (percentage difference = 0%) by 2030.

4.5

**Proportion of working age population who are economically inactive (excluding students)**

Source: NISRA, Department for Economy



4.6

**Total spend (£m) during overnight trips**

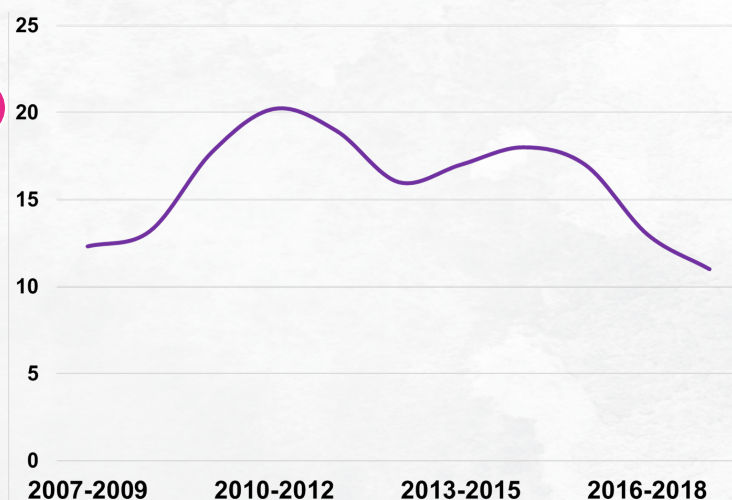
Source: NISRA, Department of Finance

4.7

## New Indicator

**% of individuals in relative poverty**

Source: NISRA, Professional Services Unit, Department for Communities



A person is considered to be in Relative Poverty if they are living in a household with an equivalised income below 60% of the UK median income for that year in question. Child Poverty is not analysed at Local Government District level due to high levels of uncertainty surrounding estimates.

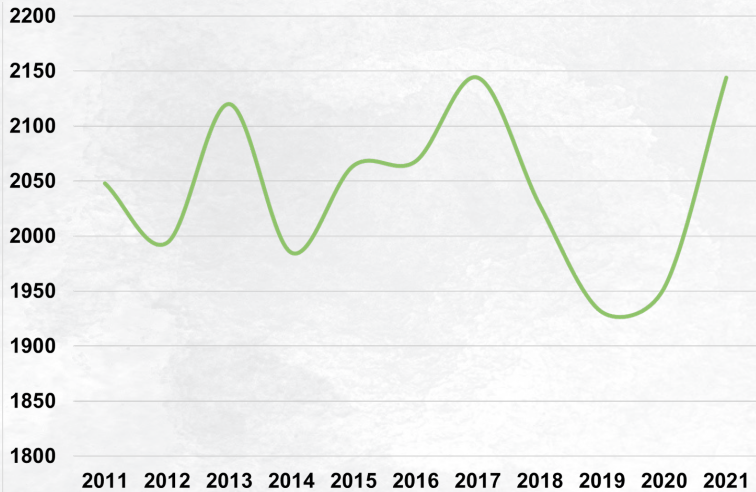


**Outcome 5 All people in Ards and North Down feel pride from having access to a well-managed sustainable environment**

**5.1**

**Number of applicants on Social Housing Stress list**

Source: Northern Ireland Housing Executive

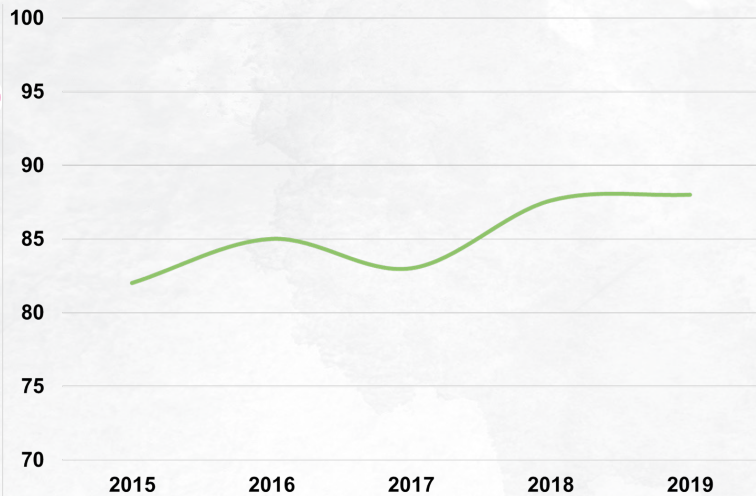


**5.2**

**New Indicator**

**% of households with home broadband access**

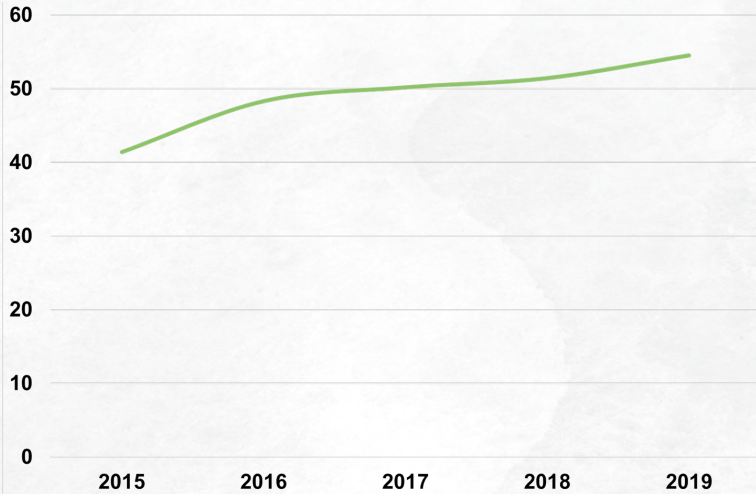
Source: NISRA, Continuous Household Survey via Central Survey Unit



**5.3**

**% of municipal waste preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting**

Source: NISRA, Statistics and Analytical Service Branch, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs



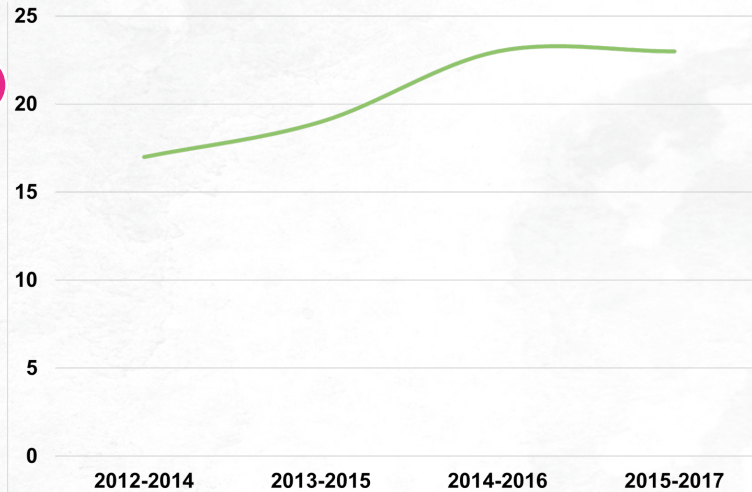


5.4

### New Indicator

% of journeys made by walking, cycling and public transport

Source: NISRA, Analysis Statistics and Research Branch, Department for Infrastructure



5.5

### New Indicator

kt of Carbon Dioxide emissions per km<sup>2</sup>

Source: Office for National Statistics



The CO2 estimates used include those emitted within a local authority area, including from large industrial sites, railways, land use and motorways that pass through but are not within the control of local authorities. We have used emissions estimates per km<sup>2</sup> to show change over time as these are not affected by population change if a per capita rate was used.

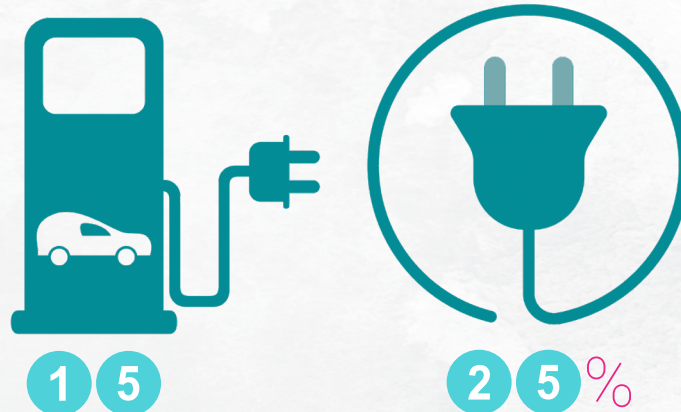
5.6a

### New Indicator

Number of e-car charging points

Source: zap-map.com (2022)

BT18 - 2 chargers  
BT19 - 4 chargers  
BT20 - 4 chargers  
BT22 - 2 chargers  
BT23 - 3 chargers



5.6b

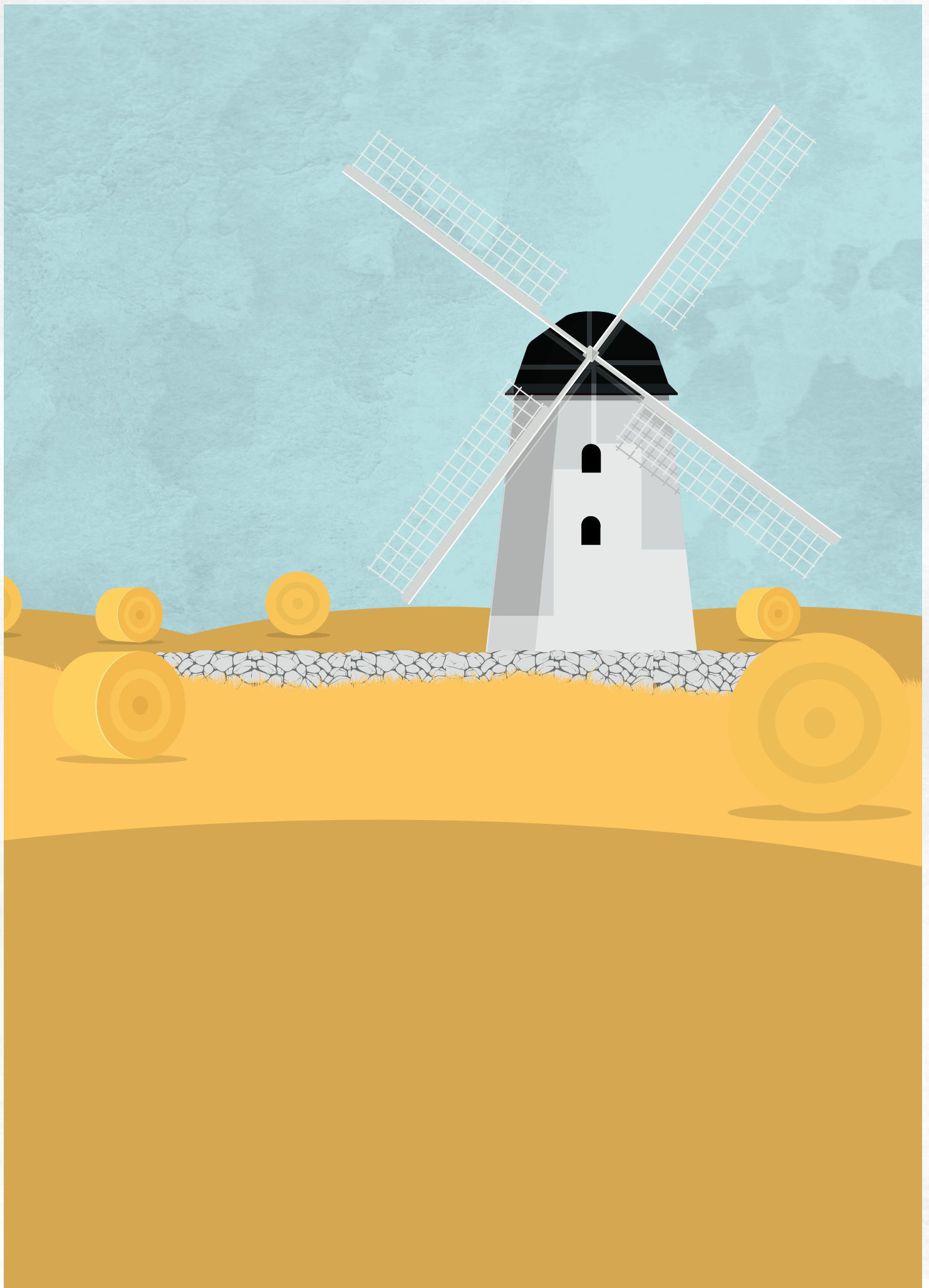
### New Indicator

% of residents who said they would 'definitely' or 'strongly consider' buying an electric vehicle for their next purchase

Source: Department of Infrastructure (2019/20)

2 5%







## Part FIVE | The role of the Community Planning Partnerships

Terminology can be confusing and over the past five years we have heard community planning referred to by different sectors in numerous different ways. Community planning can mean all things to all people which can make it difficult to manage expectations.

On the one hand, community planning is meant to increase collaboration among strategic partners to result in better outcomes for people. On the other, it is also meant to provide new channels for residents to be able to co-design, co-produce and influence the implementation of new services. It is also meant to give the community and voluntary sector a voice and to have greater influence and collaboration with decision makers.

The added complication is that increased collaboration, involvement, and co-design does not all have to be done through community planning channels. A community planning approach means that organisations should be engaging others and collaborating to produce better outcomes. Not all activities by partners, especially those for their own service users, need to be channelled through the Community Planning Partnership.

Ards and North Down Borough Council, for example, has developed its own Corporate Plan around the five Big Plan outcomes. Therefore, everything it does should contribute to the Big Plan and it should also adopt a community planning approach in how it engages and uses co-design processes with residents and businesses.







Everyone involved in community planning in Ards and North Down is considered a member of our Community Planning Partnership. The Partnership is underpinned by six guiding principles:

**Inclusion** – we will ensure that our actions improve all people's ability to access our services and will take account of all factors that create a barrier to this. We will do all we can to ensure equality or equity.

**Accountability** – we will make ourselves answerable to the communities and people of Ards and North Down and keep them informed of, and seek their view on, what the Community Planning Partnership is doing

**Partnership** – we will work together with all our stakeholders and citizens to achieve our visions and will encourage communities to recognise their important contribution to the Community Plan and their role in its delivery.

**Evidence-based** -We will ensure that our actions, where possible, are based on clear evidence and information are derived from what the community needs

**Sustainability** – we will work to ensure that our actions meet the needs of the current generation and enhance their lives without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

**Efficiency** – we will aim to remove any wasteful overlaps and make the best use of our key resources to deliver our strategic priorities



Ards and North Down's Strategic Community Planning Partnership is composed of statutory partners, government departments, invited support partners and the chairperson of the 3rd Sector Community Planning Forum. It is compliant with the Local Government (Community Planning Partners) Order (NI) 2015.



The community planning process aims to strengthen the voice of individuals and the community by influencing priorities and ultimately improving the delivery of public services. Members of the 3rd Sector Community Planning Forum are primarily from the community and voluntary sector and was co-designed by its initial members.

It operates with its own Terms and Conditions and while Ards and North Down Borough Council provides the secretariate it is independent of the Council and the Strategic Community Planning partners. Its chairperson represents the Forum at Strategic Community Planning Partnership meetings.



## Strategic Community Planning Partners



## Workstream Groups

The workstream groups that are mentioned in this document all operate differently. Some are more formal than others. Some have their own terms of reference and some only come together on an ad-hoc basis. Members of workstreams are identified from strategic partners, 3rd Sector Community Planning Forum members and other relevant organisations who have a speciality or interest in addressing the issue identified.

It is important that workstreams are agile and can quickly be formed and disbanded to respond to emerging need. Workstreams should also not work in isolation of each other and the actions undertaken within one group may also deliver against the aspirations and priorities of another workstream group.



## The Big Plan and other Collaborative Partnerships

The review of community planning assessed the statutory functions of community planning partners and considered existing collaborative partnerships operating in Ards and North Down. This clarified how organisations can work individually, using their own statutory responsibilities and powers, to help us achieve the aspirational outcomes of the Big Plan.

Existing collaborative partnerships can also do this. The following partnership contain community planning partners are help contribute to the outcomes of the Big Plan:

***Police and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)***

***Children and Young Persons Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) Locality Planning Group***

***Education Authority (Youth Service) Local Advisory Group***

***Town Centre Partnerships***

***Village Partnerships***

***Rural Partnership***

***Anti-social behaviour Forum***

***Integrated Care Partnership (and replacement commissioning model)***

***PeacePLUS Partnership (To be established)***

Many of these Partnerships existed prior to community planning and outcomes-based reporting mechanisms already exist. Community planning partners also are represented on these groups. To report on their activities to the Community Planning Partnership would be resource intensive, repetitive and provide no additional value to residents.

The review, therefore, recommended that Ards and North Down's Community Planning Partnership concentrate on priorities and workstreams that require new levels of collaboration and can demonstrate how taking a community planning approach adds value.





## Glossary of Terms

Below is a collection of terms you may hear in connection to community planning. Some of these are included in this document and others are commonly used within the Community Planning Partnership.

**Community Planning** | Where organisations come together, in a formal partnership, to try and collectively solve a problem

**The Community Plan** | A long-term strategy document outlining the outcomes the partnership will address to focus on specific issues. In Ards and North Down this is called the Big Plan

**Local Government Act (NI) 2014** | Legislation that gave local councils a legal remit to facilitate the development of a community plan in their geographical area

**The Big Plan for Ards and North Down** | Also known as the Big Plan or the Community Plan. A document setting out a 15 year vision for Ards and North Down that all members of the Strategic Community Planning Partnership are working towards

**Big Plan Outcome** | A long-term aspiration the Community Planning Partnership has agreed is important

**Big Plan Priority** | A topic area that has been identified as important for Ards and North Down

**Big Plan Workstream** | A focused way of bringing partners together to try and improve a specific issue that relates to a priority

**Community Planning Partnership** | A mix of public sector and community and Voluntary organisations who are working together to deliver the Big Plan for Ards and North Down

**The Big Conversation** | A survey associated with the Big Plan and Our Big Priorities to gather feedback from the public on issues that are important to them

**A Community Planning Approach** | involves more than one organisation and considers the feedback and experiences of stakeholders to design programmes or take decisions

**Co-design/ Co-production** | A method of designing a programme or service that considers input from different people (often service users) or organisations (public as well as community and voluntary sector)

**Outcomes Based Accountability** | A performance measurement tool that tries to assess the impact of actions rather than just that the action has taken place

**Performance Scorecard** | A method of recording and reporting on actions using an Outcomes Based Accountability method

**Statement of Progress** | A report outlining the impact of community planning by reviewing outcomes and indicators





# Our Big PRIORITIES

**Community Planning Service**

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