

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Background

Ards and North Down Borough Council is in the east of Northern Ireland, covering the Ards Peninsula, most of Strangford Lough and the southern shore of Belfast Lough. It comprises an area of 228 square miles, which combines attractive coastline with many pleasant open spaces. The borough has a population of 157,000. This Council's focus now, is moving beyond transitional change to the transformation of services to deliver the best services to our residents and visitors in this customer orientated environment. The Council provides a range of services to residents, as well as support for businesses and visitors. This new beginning for local government is reflected in the corporate plan for Ards and North Down Borough Council:

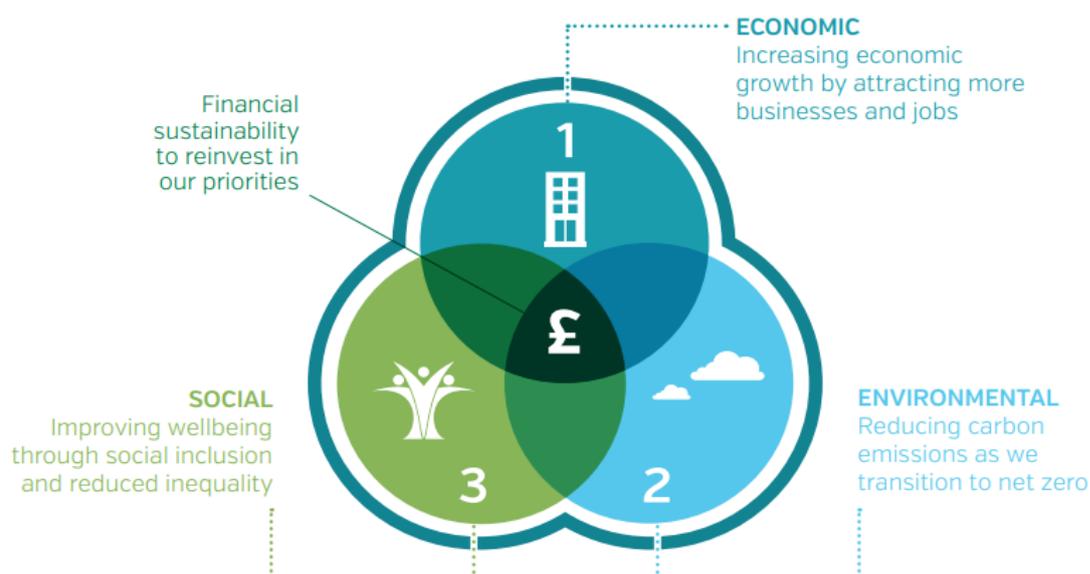
Our Vision

Our vision is that Ards and North Down will be a **Sustainable Borough**.

The Big Plan (Community Plan) uses an outcomes-based approach and seeks to enable all people in Ards and North Down to:

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

The Corporate Plan aligns with the Big Plan with a vision for the Council to become a **Sustainable Borough** by way of three pillars; **Economic, Environmental and Social**. Three **Corporate Priorities** align with these pillars of sustainable development:



Further information about the Council can be found on the Council's website at <http://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk>

Range of Services

The Council engages in a range of Local Authority activities including but not limited to, Leisure Services, Community Services, Parks and Open Spaces, Tourism, Cultural Facilities, Refuse Collection, Street Cleansing, Environmental Health/Technical, Registration of Deaths, Births and Marriages, Burial Grounds, Public Conveniences, Administration, Employment, Finance, Economic Development, Building Control, Planning (including local Development Planning functions), Local Roads, Public Realm, Rural Development, Urban Regeneration, Community Planning and Local Economic Development.

The **Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG)** Strategic Framework was launched by the Executive in September 2024. It intends to bring together a whole of society and whole of government response to address this issue which impacts the lives of far too many women and girls across our society. The main focus of this strategy is on prevention. This recognises that tackling the underlying causes of violence, abuse and harm towards women and girls and stopping it before it starts is vital.

For further information about the EVAWG Strategic Framework, please visit: <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/ending-violence-against-women-and-girls>

A key action within the current Delivery Plan includes launching and supporting the delivery and impact of a community focused **Change Fund** to:

- equip community groups to prevent violence against women and girls
- resource and mobilise regional community and voluntary sector (CVS) to drive society wide action so that everyone understands what violence against women and girls (VAWG) is and knows how to prevent it

The **Change Fund** will help to mobilise grassroots action, support innovative delivery and maximise the impact of community-led initiatives contributing to the **Prevention outcomes of the EVAWG Strategic Framework**. These are:

Outcome 1: Changed attitudes, behaviours, and culture - Everyone in society understands what violence against women and girls is, including its root causes, and plays an active role in preventing it

Outcome 2: Healthy, respectful relationships - Everyone in society is equipped and empowered to enjoy healthy, respectful relationships

Outcome 3: Women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere - Organisations and institutions across government and society embed the prevention of violence against women and girls in all that they do, so that women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere

All projects supported by the Change Fund must include a focus on Outcome 1 and specifically demonstrate how project proposals will increase awareness and understanding of what violence against women and girls is, including its root causes.

In addition to Outcome 1, applicants can also demonstrate how their project proposals contribute to Outcomes 2 and/or 3. Note that projects will not necessarily score higher if multiple outcomes are selected and/or have a higher budget, the assessment process will focus on the quality, proportionate impact, and investment effectiveness (including value for money) of the proposal – these can be considered high or low regardless of a project's budget or its focus on one or more outcomes.

Councils can provide grant funding up to a maximum of £25,000 to successful community groups operating within their local government district. The minimum grant awarded will be £1,000. Funding can be applied for within three tiers of support:

- Tier 1: grants between £1,000 and £5,000
- Tier 2: grants between £5,001 and £15,000
- Tier 3: grants between £15,001 and up to £25,000

All applications are assessed by each council against set criteria (see Section Assessment). This is a competitive process, and awards are subject to funds available to each council.

Delivery of successful projects and all grant funding must be incurred in full during the 2026-27 financial year (1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027).

EVAWG Change Fund aims to equip community groups to prevent violence against women and girls. This means ways to mobilise grassroots action and maximise the impact of community-led initiatives contributing to the **Prevention outcomes of the EVAWG Strategic Framework**.

To raise awareness of EVAWG and to maximise the impact of the Strategic framework Ards and North Down Borough Council would like to **support innovation** and invite

local groups to apply to the **Change Fund to Help raise awareness of Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.**

The successful applicants may include examples below (but not limited to):

- Increase Awareness and Understanding
- Promote Early Intervention
- How to make women and girls feel safe
- What are Healthy Relationships
- Cybercrime
- Supports Long-Term Societal Transformation

Eligible Expenditure

Tier	Funding Available	Description
1	Funding £1,000- £5,000	Proposals might be for one-off events, projects, workshops or small clusters of activity aimed at awareness raising and aligned with all or some of the prevention outcomes in the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Framework 1, 2 and 3. (Outcome 1 is mandatory) The organisation must be able to demonstrate a satisfactory understanding of what violence against women and girls is.
2	Funding £5,001- £15,000	Proposals might include expansion/enhancement of activities described in Tier 1, as well as planned programmes of activity, longer running initiatives, educational courses aligned with all or some of the prevention outcomes in the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Framework 1, 2 and 3. (Outcome 1 is mandatory) The organisation must be able to demonstrate a good understanding of what violence against women and girls is.
3	Funding £15,001 - £25,000	Proposals might be for planned programmes of activity, longer running initiatives, educational course aligned with some or all of the prevention outcomes in the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Framework 1, 2 and 3. (Outcome 1 is mandatory). Awards may also be for activities described in Tiers 1 and 2. and Proposals must demonstrate an aspect of mentoring or significant collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 'mentoring' we mean where a more experienced organisation with better developed capacity will assist another less experienced organisation or organisations in developing the skills and knowledge to perform more effectively. This may include sharing resources and networks. This is with a view to building the capacity of the mentored organisation. • Collaboration is defined as working with organisation(s) of a similar level/capacity and can include working with both voluntary and statutory organisations. • The organisation must be able to demonstrate a very good understanding of what violence against women and girls is.

Expenditure will potentially be considered eligible if clearly demonstrated by applicants that such expenditure will equip community groups to prevent violence against women

and girls. There must be clear linkage between proposed activities (and associated expenditure) and the EVAWG prevention outcomes: changing attitudes, behaviour and culture; healthy, respectful relations; women and girls feel safe and are safe everywhere. All projects supported by the Change Fund must include a focus on Outcome 1 and specifically demonstrate how project proposals will increase awareness and understanding of what violence against women and girls is, including its root causes.

- Examples of eligible expenditure might include event costs; design and publishing; filming/photography/animations, website and other digital content development (if directly supporting project activities); marketing and development and/or delivery and/or attendance at relevant training and resources; research; facilitation costs; counselling and related support services; small items of the equipment (under £1,000) essential to delivery of the project; development and delivery of relevant performances and creative initiatives.
- Other potential eligible expenditure includes proportionate administrative/staff costs and/or running costs directly and necessarily incurred in the delivery of the proposed activity and agreed in the Letter of Offer to the applicant.
- These examples are indicative only and not an exhaustive list. Projects and associated costs/expenditure will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- If your organisation reclaims VAT, only the net amount can be funded – we will fund net costs if you are VAT registered and gross costs if you are not VAT registered

Value for money

All eligible and approved expenditure must demonstrate value for money (VfM). Best value for money is defined¹ as the most advantageous combination of cost, quality and sustainability to meet customer requirements.

What can't be funded?

- Retrospective expenditure on services/items/other costs already obtained or incurred/paid for in advance of a successful applicant returning a signed Letter of Offer.
 - Costs that have been or will be submitted to another funder.
 - Capital expenditure, (including on equipment exceeding £1,000). Alcohol, membership fees or competition prizes.
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- Loan repayments.
- Any activity which is party political in nature.
- Core funding, other than for administrative/staff costs and/or running costs directly and necessarily incurred in the delivery of the proposed activity and agreed in the Letter of Offer to the applicant.
- Travel costs outside the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland (except in circumstances where there is a clear benefit to local communities);
- Any costs/activity not submitted and assessed in the organisation's application, and those outside of an approved budget set out in a Letter of Offer to successful applicants.
- Other costs councils and/or TEO consider to be ineligible.

Application Form

The level of grant funding applicants choose to apply for (Tier 1, 2 or 3) will determine how much information is needed for assessors to sufficiently consider project proposals. For example, a project proposal for Tier 1 support (e.g. £1,000) should require less information and associated evidence than a Tier 3 project (maximum of £25,000). The application form has therefore been designed to reflect this.

Assessment

TIERS 1 AND 2		Percentage weighting
1.	Support the prevention Outcomes of EVAWG and the Impact of the proposal (Outcome 1 is mandatory)	35
2.	Delivery Plan	35
3.	Budget (including Value for Money) of the proposal	20
4.	Monitoring and Evaluation	10

TIER 3		Percentage weighting
1.	Support the Prevention Outcomes of the EVAWG Strategic framework and Impact of the proposal (Outcome 1 is mandatory)	30
2.	Delivery Plan	30
3.	Budget (including Value for Money) of the proposal	20

4.	The impact of the mentoring or collaboration aspects of the proposal	10
5.	The organisation's understanding of Violence Against Women and Girls	10

Monitoring and Evaluation

All successful applicants will be required to monitor and evaluate their project using Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) as detailed in the application.

How much did you do? # of individuals engaged.

How well did you do it? # of participants with increased awareness of topic.

Is anyone better off? # and % of participants with increased awareness and understanding of the topic.

Expected Outcomes

At the end of the funding participants will have (but not limited to):

- Improved knowledge of what violence against women and girls is, the prevalence and the impact on individuals, their families and wider society.
- An in-depth knowledge of the dynamics of violence against women and girls including the pattern of behaviour and the subtleties that are harder to identify.
- Improved knowledge of specialist support agencies in NI to direct those who may want to access them.
- Ability to be part of a culture that is supportive and knowledgeable about violence against women and girls and can help break the cycle by calling out inappropriate behaviours.

Standard Eligibility Criteria

The fund is open to properly constituted community groups and voluntary organisations. Examples of these include Associations, Trusts, Companies limited by Guarantee, Community Interest Companies, Charitable Incorporated Organisations or Industrial and Provident Societies.

To be eligible for funding, your organisation **MUST**:

- Be legally able to operate in Northern Ireland;
- Be independent, not for profit, and have a constitution or set of rules defining your aims, objectives and operational procedures;

- Have a suitable management structure and appropriate financial controls; and
- Comply with relevant legislative requirements in respect of employment, health and safety, discrimination and equality of opportunity.

Organisations MUST have:

- A copy of the governing document of the organisation (constitution, rules or articles of association).

Projects with faith-based/religious outcomes will not be supported. However, faith-based/religious organisations may apply for support for projects that meet the objectives of the funding scheme.

Applications from individuals, statutory bodies, commercial organisations, academic institutions (schools), trade unions and political parties will not be considered.

The Fund does not fund capital projects; contracted services; competitions; or any activity which is party political in nature.

Where necessary, Ards and North Down Borough Council will make funding available on such terms and subject to such conditions as it considers necessary to ensure full additionality and EVAWG impact in respect of the funded activity.

A project/activity may not be funded if:

- It duplicates activity for which the group is already receiving funding from another source;
- It is to cover travel costs outside the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland (except in circumstances where there is a clear benefit to local communities);
- Alternative funding is available, appropriate and accessible from another statutory funding body;
- The aims of the project or activity are to promote any one religious or political viewpoint solely to one community or constituency;
- The application relates to activity that has taken place in the past (i.e. retrospective funding);
- The applicant has failed to supply all receipts or comply with monitoring requirements from a previous grant received from ANDBC.

- The application is to repay or service debts or interest on debts;
- There is no demonstrable evidence that public funding is required to implement the project; or
- The application is for core funding, other than for administrative and staff costs directly and necessarily incurred in the delivery of the proposed activity.

If your application for project funding is successful, you will be required to upload the following documents to the Government Funding Database:

- Copy of Constitution/Memorandum of Association;
- List of Office Bearers or Board of Governors;
- Organisation Chart;
- Copy of the most up-to-date Audited Accounts or Financial Statement; and
- Rental Agreement/Lease or evidence of ownership.

You will also be required to confirm that the following policies and procedures, if applicable, have been formally adopted, are regularly reviewed and are fit for purpose:

- Financial procedures;
- Strategic/Operational Plan;
- Procurement/tender procedures;
- Statutory requirements i.e. Equal Opportunities, Fair Employment, Disability Discrimination, Age Discrimination;
- Fraud Policy;
- Health and Safety Policy;
- Employer and Public Liability Insurance;
- Child Protection Policy; and
- Data Protection Policy We can add all these if necessary to the application form

You can register/log on to the Government Funding Database by accessing the following link: <https://govfundingpublic.nics.gov.uk/Login.aspx>

Failure to upload/provide these documents may result in the withdrawal of an offer of funding.