

STATEMENT OF PROGRESS: 2021-2023

PART 1: POPULATION INDICATORS

CONNECTED **A COMMUNITY PLAN**

for Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough

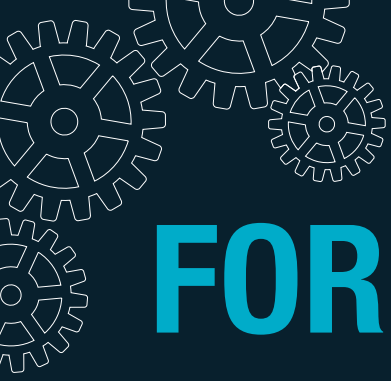






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FOREWORD



This Statement of Progress looks back at the last two years and reports on our progress towards realising the long-term outcomes in Connected, our community plan, along with our partnership’s impact through our collaborative actions.

As a partnership we remain committed to our 2030 vision:

“We have a happy, healthy and connected community, a vibrant and sustainable economy and appealing places for living, working and learning.”

Over half the population indicators we have used to track our progress, have shown improvement against the baseline. These include an increase in levels of physical activity and a reduction in both the number of accidental dwelling fires and fear of crime. Our economic indicators have also shown a positive change from the baseline in terms of the number of businesses, qualification

levels, the employment rate and town centre vacancy rates.

However, we also know that many people in the borough are negatively impacted by the current cost of living crisis. Although our indicators on poverty and mental health & wellbeing have shown improvement since 2016, our crisis charities are continuing to see more and more people who need help with “eating and heating” and are reporting the toll that is taking on people’s wellbeing.

We have also noticed, through the population indicators, that progress has stalled on health inequalities, the number of preventable deaths and prescription rates for mood and anxiety disorders.

The areas that have seen a worsening situation since the baseline was initially measured, are the proportion of people in the borough who feel they can influence local decisions and who feel a sense of belonging. Fewer





people see town centres as safe and welcoming and social housing need has continued to increase.

Our partnership will therefore review our actions, in light of this Statement of Progress, to ensure that our collective efforts are targeted to where we can make the most difference.

Our current priorities for action are:

Tackling Poverty & Social Exclusion: providing crisis support and looking towards more sustainable and participatory responses, such as social supermarkets and a poverty truth commission.

Promoting Good Mental Health & Wellbeing: presently focused on the preventative Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing public health message and providing opportunities to put it into practice.

Place: developing and implementing holistic place plans, initially for each of our urban centres, as locality

plans for the community plan.

Shared Leadership & Community Engagement: focusing on the development of our partnership through shared leadership support and growing Participatory Budgeting in the borough.

Part 2 of this Statement of Progress provides more information about our actions and presents our report cards on how we have performed over the past two years.

I would like to thank partners, especially those leading on our actions, for your continued dedication to working together to improve outcomes for people in the borough.

Part 3 of the Statement of Progress is an opportunity for us to reflect on our partnership development, on how far we have come in the last six years since its establishment in 2017, and any issues that we need to address.

Our partnership health check

shows that it remains a space of connection, learning and collaboration in the ABC area, with 158 partners from 84 organisations attending partnership meetings over the past two years.

Satisfaction levels of partners on the operation of the partnership remain high. We continue to develop an ethos of shared leadership, with more partners supported to step into leadership roles over the past two years.

It is important to us that members of the Community and Voluntary Sector Panel are included in our leadership. These sectors are crucial to the wellbeing of the borough. As well as responding quickly to any local crises, their work is critically important for early intervention and prevention.

Community planning is an opportunity for us to think differently, to plan for the long-term and to work together outside of our

silos to meet the needs of our local population across the Borough of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

I feel privileged to hold the position of current Chair of this partnership and am grateful and proud of the supportive and collective culture of working together which we have created. I also want to acknowledge the dedication and support of the ABC Council Community Planning Team and their continual efforts to make this partnership and our work a success.

Colette Rogers

Head of Health and Social Wellbeing Improvement (South), Public Health Agency

Chair of ABC Community Planning Strategic Partnership

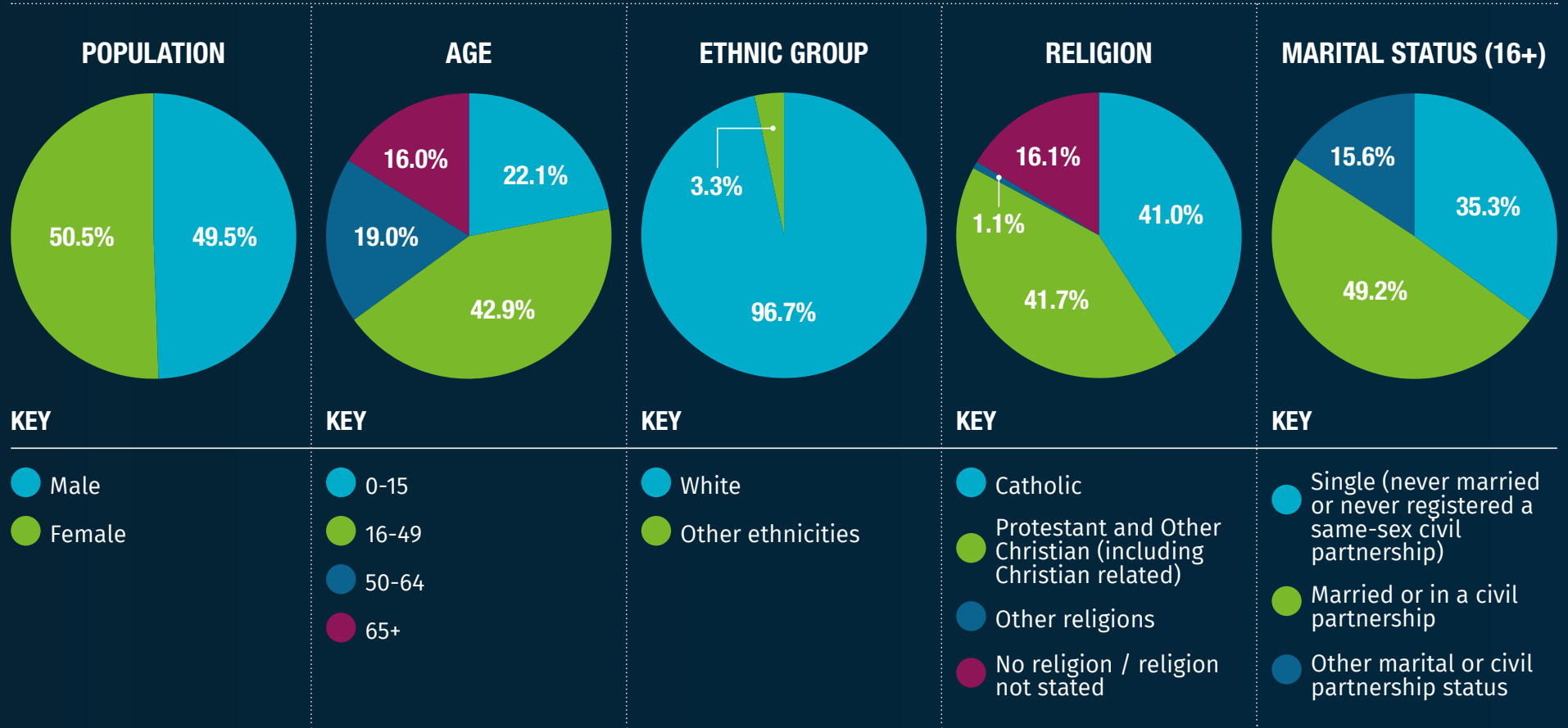


01 ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON BOROUGH: DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT¹

¹ Census 2021



POPULATION // 218,656



02

CONNECTED:

A Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough 2017-2030

Connected is the first Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Its purpose is to improve the wellbeing of the Borough. Wellbeing is about everyone having what they need to live well now and in the future.² Looking after the wellbeing of all citizens - our collective wellbeing - is a powerful way of creating a society where everyone can live well together. Carnegie UK Trust believes that collective wellbeing happens when social, economic, environmental, and democratic wellbeing outcomes are seen as being equally important and are given equal weight.³ If wellbeing is the goal, then we need to move away from measuring inputs to outcomes. An outcomes based approach starts with the aspiration we want to achieve and works back to what needs to be done to realise it. A wellbeing approach means that we measure the effect a policy or programme has on people's lives, rather than simply how much we spent on a policy or a programme.

Community planning takes an outcomes based approach. Connected is made up of nine long-term outcomes that we want to realise together by 2030 and the population statistics that we will use to measure progress over the long-term. We will also measure and report on the impact of what we do, answering the question, is anyone better off as a result?

² Wellbeing - what's in a word? - Carnegie UK Trust

³ Carnegie-UK-strategy-for-change-2021-1.pdf (d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net)

"We have a happy, healthy and connected community, a vibrant and sustainable economy and appealing places for living, working and learning"

Our 2030 Vision



01 COMMUNITY
 Confident
 Healthy
 Welcoming

At the heart
 of all we do...
Connectivity
Equality
Sustainability

03 PLACE
 Creative
 Enhanced
 Revitalised

02 ECONOMY
 Enterprising
 Skilled
 Tourism

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Throughout the development of the community plan, there were three things that were so important that they could not sit on their own and these are the cross-cutting themes of the plan:



CONNECTIVITY

We believe connectivity is integral to improving quality of life. Through our plan we will work to transform and connect all areas of our borough physically, digitally and socially through shared collaborative approaches.



EQUALITY

We are committed to promoting equality, good relations, and inclusion and believe them to be central to improving quality of life for everyone. A peaceful and inclusive society is vital to ensuring that we have a welcoming, confident and safe community.



SUSTAINABILITY

We will work to improve everyone's quality of life economically, environmentally and socially, without compromising our future generations' ability to develop, grow and flourish. We will screen our plan to ensure our outcomes and actions are sustainable.

03

CONNECTED: Connected uses population indicators to monitor progress towards realising outcomes.

OUTCOME	POPULATION INDICATORS
COMMUNITY	
<p>Confident Community: Everyone has opportunities to engage in community life and shape decisions - we have a strong sense of community belonging and take pride in our area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of people who feel that they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made in their neighbourhood. • % of people who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood. • No. of preventable deaths per 100,000 population. • Gap in life expectancy between the most deprived areas and the borough overall. • % of people who participate in sport or physical activity on at least one day a week. • % of children (aged under 16) living in relative low income families. • The standardised prescription rate - mood and anxiety disorders. • % of people reporting that fear of crime has a minimal impact on their quality of life. • % of people who see town centres as safe welcoming places for people of all walks of life. • No. of accidental dwelling fires.
<p>Healthy Community: People are making positive lifestyle choices. They are more resilient and better equipped to cope with life's challenges.</p>	
<p>Welcoming Community: Our borough is a safe, respectful and peaceful environment.</p>	
ECONOMY	
<p>Enterprising Economy: Our borough is a centre for entrepreneurship, innovation and investment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses. • Business birth rates. • Survival rates of newly born businesses. • % of the workforce in employment qualified to level 1 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above, and level 4 and above. • Employment rate (age 16-64). • GCSE attainment levels for students entitled to free school meals (FSME). • No. of overnight trips made by visitors from outside Northern Ireland.
<p>Skilled Economy: People are better equipped to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the dynamic economy.</p>	
<p>Tourism Economy: Our borough is the destination of choice for international visitors.</p>	
PLACE	
<p>Creative Place: Our borough is an inspirational and creative place offering quality, inclusive arts and cultural experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of people (aged 16+) engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year. • No. of buildings at risk saved. • No. of high quality parks/green spaces (those holding Green Flag Award Status®) • City and town centre vacancy rates. • Level of social housing need.
<p>Enhanced Place: Our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for current and future generations to enjoy.</p>	
<p>Revitalised Place: Our distinctive and vibrant urban and rural areas are at the heart of community and economic life.</p>	

04 PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES SUMMARY

COMMUNITY	Influencing decisions	▼	Decrease in the % of people who feel they have an influence on decisions made in their neighbourhood to 19% in 2020-2022 from 32% in 2013-2015.
	Sense of belonging	▼	Decrease in the % of people feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood to 84% in 2020-22 from 90% in 2013-2015.
	Preventable deaths	—	The number of preventable deaths per 100,000 population increased slightly to 163 in 2017-2021.
	Health inequalities - females	—	The gap in life expectancy between those living in the most deprived areas increased slightly from 1 year in 2012-2014 to 1.3 years in 2019-2021.
	Health inequalities - males	—	The gap in life expectancy between those living in the most deprived areas has remained relatively stable from 3.3 years in 2012-2014 to 3.2 years in 2017- 2019.
	Sport & physical activity	▲	The percentage of people who participate in sport on at least one day per week has increased from 45% in 2012/13-2014/15 to 56% in 2019/20.
	Poverty	▲	A decrease in the % of children (aged under 16) living in relative low income families from 20% in 2016 to 18.8% in 2022.
	Mental Health	—	21.4% are being prescribed medication for mood and anxiety disorders in 2021, up slightly from 21.1% in 2016.
	Fear of crime	▲	73% of people report that fear of crime has a minimal impact on their quality of life, up from 69% in 2015/16.
	Town and city centres	▼	The % of people who saw town centres as safe & welcoming for people from all walks of life decreased to 49% in 2020-2022 from 71% in 2014-2016.
ECONOMY	Accidental dwelling fires	▲	There were fewer accidental dwelling fires (63) in 2022 than in 2016 (86).
	Business numbers	▲	The no. of VAT &/or PAYE registered businesses increased to 9,390 in 2023.
	Business birth rates	▲	Business birth rates increased to 11% in 2021, up from 8% baseline in 2014.
	Business survival rates	▲	Business survival rates increased.
	Skill levels	▲	% of the workforce in employment and qualified in all 4 levels increased.
	Employment rate	▲	% of the workforce in employment increased from 69% in 2015 to 75.2% in 2022.
	Educational attainment	▲	58.4% of FSME school leavers achieved 5+ GCSE grades A*-C including GCSE English and Maths in 2021/22, up from 44% in 2015/16.
PLACE	Overnight trips	—	No new data available
	Arts and cultural participation	▼	The % of people (aged 16+) engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year has fallen to 64% in 2021/22 from 86% in base year.
	Buildings at risk	▲	The total number of buildings at risk saved has increased from 21 in 2016 to 30 in 2022.
	Parks & green spaces	▼	8 parks and green spaces were awarded the Green Flag Award in 2023.
	City & town centre vacancy rates	▲	City and town centre vacancy rates decreased in all centres except Craigavon where they increased, but remained lower than all other town/city centres in the borough.
	Social housing need	▼	Level of Social Housing Need has increased to 1,101 units for the period 2022-2027, an increase of 799 from 2015-20.

Relative to baseline: ▼ Negative Shift ▲ Positive Shift — No Change

05

POPULATION INDICATORS: TIME SERIES

As a Partnership we are committed to our vision for the borough. To help us achieve this vision, the Connected Community Plan has outlined three strategic themes – Community, Economy and Place – and each theme has three long-term outcomes. At the core of our plan, these outcomes are aspirational statements which set out what we want for our residents. To help measure progress towards these outcomes, Connected identified 19 population indicators. These indicators are relevant and useful and by monitoring them we can demonstrate progress towards the outcomes which will help make our 2030 vision for our community a reality.

The Partnership continues to advance its Data Development Agenda and after the last Statement of Progress was published in November 2021, the Community Planning Strategic Partnership decided to include an additional three population indicators in this Statement of Progress, two of which are related to poverty and one to mental health and

emotional wellbeing. Given that the baseline for all other indicators was established in 2016 we will take this as our 'baseline' for these additional indicators to demonstrate how the borough has been performing on each of these measures.

Taking each theme in turn, this report will highlight the progress made under each indicator. However, where data is no longer available in the same format as it was originally presented, an alternative may be used.



**“We have a happy,
healthy and connected
community, a vibrant
and sustainable
economy and appealing
places for living,
working and learning”**

Our 2030 Vision



CONFIDENT COMMUNITY

Confident Community:

Everyone has opportunities to engage in community life and shape decisions – we have a strong sense of community belonging and take pride in our area.

Indicators:

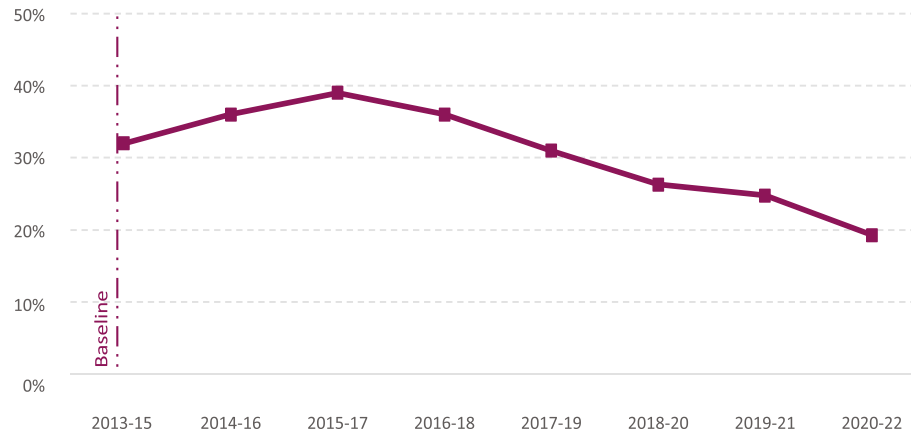
- Percentage of people who feel they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made in their neighbourhood
- Percentage of people who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood

Community life, social connections and having a voice in local decisions are all factors that have a vital contribution to make to health and wellbeing in the community⁴. An engaged and participative community will build and support networks, ventures and connections that help bring people together and so we want to encourage civic-mindedness across the borough and increase strong feelings of community spirit and belonging.

⁴ Health matters: community-centred approaches for health and wellbeing - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



Percentage of people who feel they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made in their neighbourhood



Baseline 2013-15		Where we were 2018-20		Where we are now 2020-22	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
32%	29%	26%	22%	19%	20%

Source: Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (ARK)

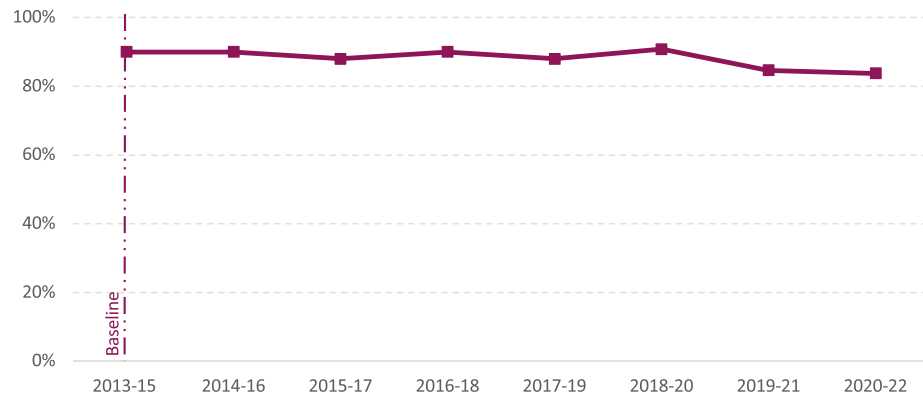
Giving people a voice and an influence in local decisions will lead to more informed decision-making and experience has shown that the best way to get services delivered effectively is for local people to take an active role in solving problems. Research has also found that persons who believe they can influence decisions affecting their local area also believe the local area has a strong sense of community⁵.

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, the percentage of people who feel they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made in their neighbourhood has fallen to 19% for the combined years 2020-22. When compared with the baseline figures in 2013-15 this represents a fall of thirteen percentage points and is the fifth consecutive year of decline in the borough. The percentage also fell in Northern Ireland overall from 29% in 2013-15 to 20% in 2020-22.

⁵ What factors are linked to people feeling able to influence decisions affecting their local area? (core.ac.uk)



Percentage of people who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood



Baseline 2013-15		Where we were 2018-20		Where we are now 2020-22	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
90%	86%	91%	86%	84%	82%

Source: Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (ARK)

A sense of belonging to a neighbourhood means a sense of closeness and connectedness to your community. For some this might be because they have things in common with other people living there, for example there might be other families with young children while for others it could be because they know their neighbours and people say hello to them in the street⁶.

People who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood are more likely to get involved with local clubs and schemes, to offer to help their neighbours and welcome new people to the neighbourhood⁷, all of which encourages a more enriching community life.

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, the percentage of people who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood has fallen to 84% in 2020-22 from the 90% recorded in 2013-15. The percentage of people in the borough who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood remains higher than Northern Ireland overall which has fallen from 86% in 2013-15 to 82% in 2020-22. However, it is important to note that the last two years presented in the chart include the pandemic years and it may be that lock-down and the isolation we all faced had an impact on people's sense of belonging.

⁶ Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey: 2021

⁷ 'Guidance on building a local sense of belonging', Department for Communities and Local Government, January 2009 (DCLG 2009)



HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Healthy Community:

People are making positive lifestyle choices. They are more resilient and better equipped to cope with life's challenges.

Indicators:

- Gap in life expectancy between most deprived areas and the borough overall
- Number of preventable deaths per 100,000 population (age standardised preventable mortality rate)
- Percentage of people who participate in sport on at least one day per week

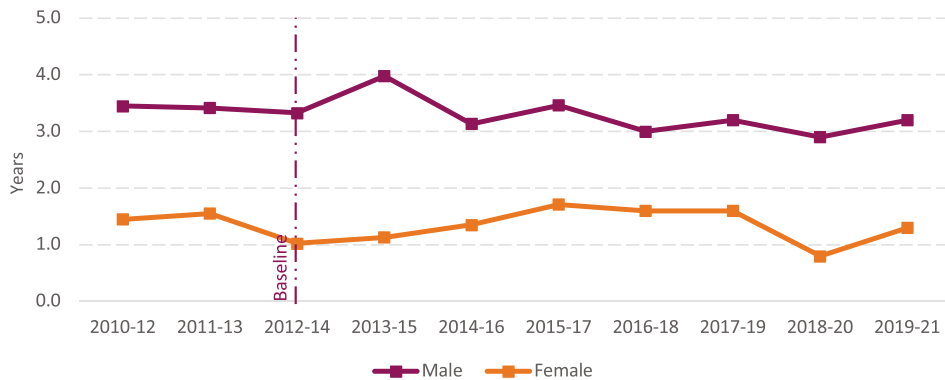
As noted earlier, we have included some additional indicators in this Statement of Progress:

- The percentage of children (aged under 16) living in relative low income families
- The standardised prescription rate – mood and anxiety disorders.

As set out in Connected, our aspiration for the borough is that everyone is equipped and supported to achieve the longest, healthiest and most fulfilling life possible. Encouraging and supporting residents to make more informed, healthy life choices will help improve physical and emotional health and wellbeing which should in turn, reduce the number of preventable deaths as well as improve quality of life.



Gap in life expectancy between most deprived areas and the borough overall



Baseline 2012-14		Where we were 2017-19		Where we are now 2019-21	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
Male 3.3 yrs Female 1.0 yrs	Male 4.2 yrs Female 2.6 yrs	Male 3.2 yrs Female 1.6 yrs	Male 4.1 yrs Female 2.9 yrs	Male 3.2 yrs Female 1.3 yrs	Male 4.5 yrs Female 3.1 yrs

Source: Northern Ireland Health Inequalities Annual Report, Department of Health

Life expectancy is the most commonly used measure to describe the health of the population and provides a useful measure of relative mortality and the extent of health inequalities⁸. Life expectancy at birth is based on the average death rates over a three year period and is presented separately for males and females.

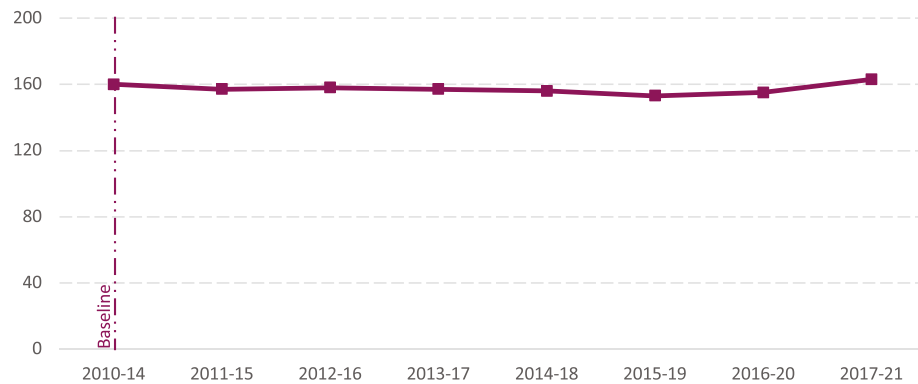
This indicator reports on the gap in life expectancy between the most deprived areas and the borough overall. For the combined years of 2019-21, male life expectancy for those living in the most deprived areas of the borough was 75.9 years which was 3.2 years less than the average for the borough (79.1 years). Average female life expectancy in the borough is higher at 83 years while for those living in the most deprived areas of the borough, the life expectancy is 1.3 years less at 81.7⁹. Life expectancy at birth for both males and females in the borough has been consistently above the Northern Ireland average.

⁸ Health and Well-being Baseline Report, Developing Our Plan 2016-2020

⁹ While the gap has increased slightly for females, the health inequalities report records no change as it has not been a consistent trend.



Number of preventable deaths per 100,000 population (age standardised preventable mortality rate)



Baseline 2010-14 ¹⁰		Where we were 2015-19		Where we are now 2017-21	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
160	173	153	170	163	180

Source: Northern Ireland Health Inequalities Annual Report, Department of Health

Preventable deaths are defined as deaths where the “causes of death can be mainly avoided through effective public health and primary prevention interventions (i.e. before the onset of diseases/injuries, to reduce incidence)”¹¹.

In 2010-14, preventable mortality in the borough was estimated at 160 preventable deaths per 100,000 population. By 2015-19, this had fallen to 153 per 100,000 however, the most recently published figures show an increase to 163 per 100,000. Preventable mortality is currently the highest of the years presented although overall, when compared with the baseline figures in 2010-14, preventable mortality has increased only very slightly in the borough.

The increase has been greater in Northern Ireland overall. Considering the borough had the largest proportion of Covid-19 related deaths¹² as well as the highest excess deaths¹³ as a proportion of average deaths in the previous five years, it is important to bear in mind that the most recent data for this indicator covers the pandemic years and COVID-19 has recently been included in the definition of preventable mortality.

¹⁰ Please note, the Baseline figures presented in the table above have been revised since the publication of the Connected Community Plan following an update to the mortality definition which was proposed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and adopted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in 2020. Recently COVID-19 has been added to the definition in the new category “Provisional assignment of new diseases.”

¹¹ Northern Ireland Health Inequalities Annual Report 2023, Department of Health

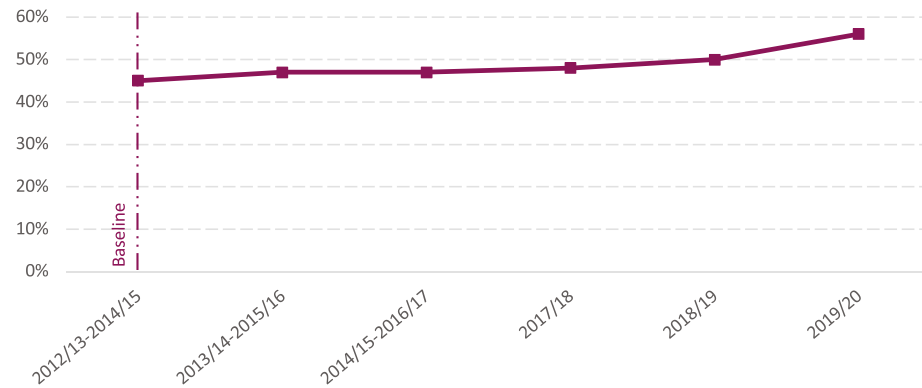
¹² Covid-19 related deaths’ reflects where Covid-19 or ‘suspected’ or ‘probable’ Covid-19 was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, including in combination with other health conditions” (Excess mortality and Covid-19 deaths in Northern Ireland - December 2022_0.pdf (nisra.gov.uk)).

¹³ “Excess mortality is considered to be a good measure of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, as it does not rely on the availability or interpretation of the (primary and secondary) causes of death. It captures deaths from all causes which may be related to a range of factors associated with the pandemic, for example, changes in the availability or uptake of health care services including screening and diagnosing, or the impact of ‘lock-down’ on health. Some of these effects may take months or years to be fully understood”. (Excess mortality and Covid-19 deaths in Northern Ireland - December 2022_0.pdf (nisra.gov.uk)).



HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Percentage of people who participate in sport on at least one day a week



Baseline 2012/13-2014/15		Where we were 2017/18		Where we are now 2019/20 ¹⁴	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
45%	48%	48%	49%	56%	52%

Source: Continuous Household Survey, Department for Communities

Whatever your age, there's strong scientific evidence that being physically active can help you lead a healthier and happier life¹⁵. Increasing physical activity has the potential to improve the physical and mental health of the nation, reduce all-cause mortality and improve life expectancy. People who exercise regularly have a lower risk of developing many long-term (chronic) conditions, such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stroke, and some cancers and so regular exercise can also save money by significantly easing the burden of chronic disease on the health and social care services.

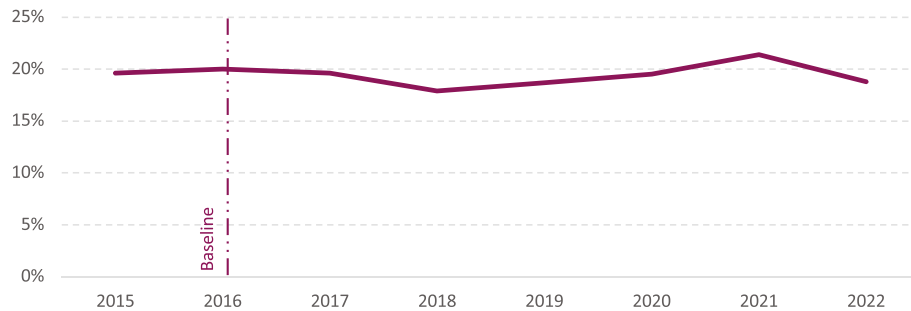
In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, the percentage of people who participate in sport on a least one day per week has increased by 11 percentage points from just 45% in 2012/13-2014/15 to 56% in 2019/20. The estimated increase in Northern Ireland overall has been slightly lower at just 4 percentage points and now a higher percentage of people in the borough are participating in sport on at least one day per week when compared with the NI average.

¹⁴ The CHS is a NI wide household survey of approximately 9,000 random addresses with a target response rate 55%. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the change from face-to-face to telephone survey mode, the achieved response rate for the 2020/21 survey was just 17% and as a result no LGD level analysis was published. LGD level analysis is not available for 2021/22 as due to the reduction of the size of the questionnaire, the days per week question was not included for 2021/22. However, it has since been re-instated.

¹⁵ Benefits of exercise - NHS (www.nhs.uk)



The percentage of children (aged under 16) living in relative low income families



Baseline 2016		Where we were 2019		Where we are now 2022	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
20.0%	21.0%	18.7%	19.6%	18.8%	18.8%

Source: Children in low income families: local area statistics, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Research has found that experiencing or growing up in poverty affects people’s lifelong decision-making style¹⁷ and so this indicator is important as it may affect a person’s ability to make the right lifestyle choices to enable them to achieve the longest and healthiest life possible.

Relative low-income measures families in low income in the reference year - a household is said to be in relative low income if their equivalised income is below 60% of median income. Income is before housing costs (BHC) and is equivalised to adjust for family size and composition¹⁸.

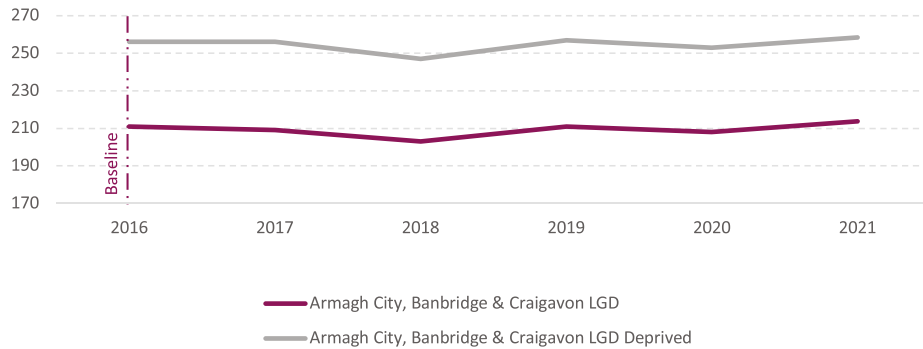
The chart presents the percentage of children aged 16 and under living in relative low-income families in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon and the NI average from 2015-2022. Following a gradual decrease between 2016 and 2018, the percentage had been increasing again in the borough and in 2021 was the highest of the years presented. Provisional figures for 2022 show a decrease and the percentage of children in relative low-income families in the borough is now the same as Northern Ireland overall. However, as members of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Community Planning Partnership have been working collaboratively to provide emergency food and fuel and other support to those in need, we know that the global cost of living crisis has had a considerable financial impact on families and individuals throughout the Borough. Rising prices has meant some families are having to choose between heating and eating and many have had to rely on support services. During 2022/23, a total of 18,153 people presented themselves to the main partner organisations (including Craigavon and Armagh Foodbanks, Advice Services, SVDP and Salvation Army) for general advice and support including food and fuel support. The partnership has reported a 78% increase in people presenting for support between 2021/22 – 2022/23.

¹⁷ How poverty affects people's decision-making processes (lse.ac.uk)

¹⁸ A family must have claimed Child Benefit and at least one other household benefit (Universal Credit, tax credits or Housing Benefit) at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics.



Standardised Prescription Rate - Mood and Anxiety (persons prescribed per 1,000 population)



Baseline 2016		Where we were 2019		Where we are now 2021	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
211	215	211	219	214	221

Source: Health Inequalities Report, Department of Health, Northern Ireland. Note: Figures in the table refer to the number of persons prescribed per 1,000 population

Good mental health is at least as important as physical health as it can have a big impact on everyday life. Having good mental health and wellbeing means we may be better equipped to cope with life’s challenges and able to make more positive lifestyle choices. The Health Inequalities Report includes the ‘standardised prescription rate – mood and anxiety disorders’ as a mental health indicator.

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon and Northern Ireland overall, there has been only a small change in the prescription rates for mood and anxiety disorders over the years presented, so it has remained the case that just over one fifth of the population of the borough are being prescribed medication for mood and anxiety disorders. The data also show that there remains a significant gap between the least and most deprived areas in the borough as the prescription rate remains significantly higher in the most deprived areas in the borough with more than one in every 4 people prescribed medication for mood and anxiety disorders.

The recently published Mental Health in Northern Ireland: Fundamental Facts 2023¹⁹ lists poverty as ‘a key driver of mental health problems’ so given that the most recent data available for this indicator is 2021, is it not likely that the impact of the pandemic and current cost-of-living crisis is reflected in these figures. The report also notes that surveys and research undertaken by other organisations have found that the cost-of-living crisis is affecting the mental health of many people so we may see an increase in these figures in the coming years.

¹⁹ Mental Health in MHF Northern Ireland Fundamental Facts 2023.pdf (mentalhealthchampion-ni.org.uk)



WELCOMING COMMUNITY

Welcoming Community:

Our borough is a safe, respectful and peaceful environment.

Indicators:

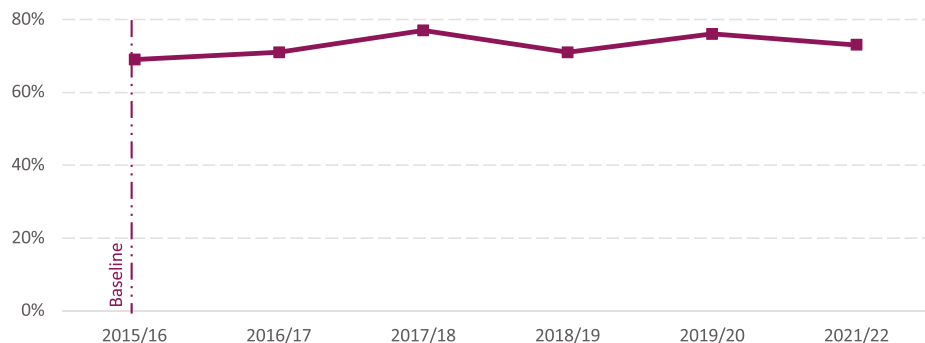
- Percentage of people reporting that fear of crime has a minimal impact on their quality of life
- Percentage of people who see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people of all walks of life
- Number of accidental dwelling fires

We all want to live in a place where people feel safe both within their homes and within their community. Reduction in crime levels, safety in the home, better social connections and good relations all play a significant role in creating a safe and welcoming community.



WELCOMING COMMUNITY

Percentage of people reporting that fear of crime has a minimal impact on their quality of life



Baseline 2015/16		Where we were 2019/20		Where we are now 2021/22 ²⁰	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
69%	73%	76%	71%	73%	73%

Source: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (previously known as the Northern Ireland Crime Survey), Department of Justice

In extreme cases, 'fear of crime' can impinge on quality of life causing paranoia or anxiety on a personal level and prejudice and segregation at a social level²¹.

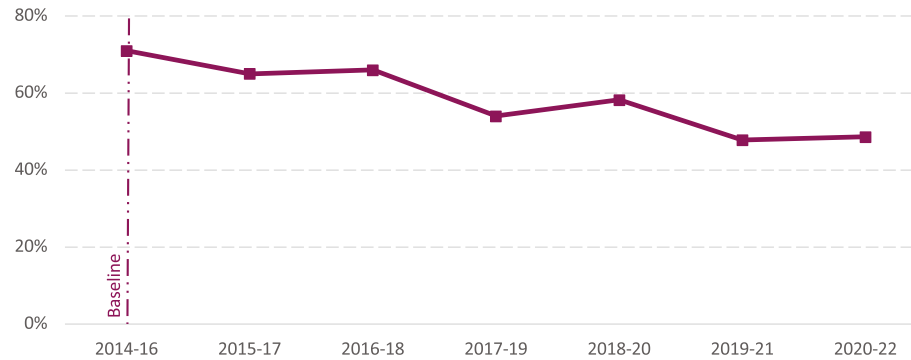
As part of the Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey, respondents are asked how much their quality of life is affected by their 'fear of crime'. In both the borough and Northern Ireland overall, almost three-quarters of respondents (73%) felt fear of crime has a minimal effect on their quality of life. In the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, this represents an increase of 4 percentage points since it was first reported in the community plan although the percentage has fallen by 3 percentage points since we last reported on it in November 2021. Nonetheless, since our baseline year 2015/16, 'fear of crime' is now affecting less people in the borough.

²⁰ As a result of the COVID19 pandemic, the NI Safe Community Survey moved to telephone interviews. In 2020/21, this move resulted in lower response rates and as a result, no LGD level results were published. The 2021/22 survey was still a telephone survey and the number of achieved interviews was higher.

²¹ Fear of crime: the impact of different distributions of victimisation | Humanities and Social Sciences Communications (nature.com)



Percentage of people who see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people of all walks of life



A safe and welcoming community is a place where residents feel safe, respected and comfortable in being themselves. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, for the combined years of 2020-22, almost half (48.6%) of those surveyed agreed that towns and city centres in Northern Ireland were safe and welcoming places for people of all walks of life. This is the same for Northern Ireland overall. While this is more than 20 percentage points lower than the base year figure of 71%, it has increased slightly from the 48% recorded in 2019-2021.

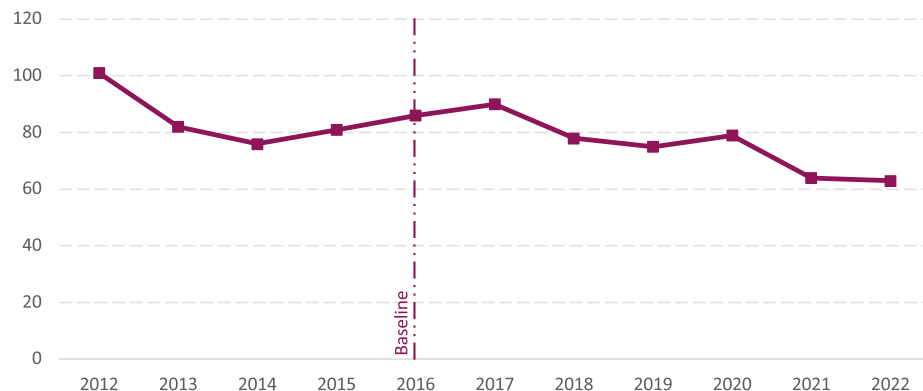
Baseline 2014-16		Where we were 2018-20		Where we are now 2020-22	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
71%	58%	54%	61%	49%	49%

Source: Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (ARK)



WELCOMING COMMUNITY

Number of accidental dwelling fires



Baseline 2016		Where we were 2020		Where we are now 2022	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
86	840	79	789	63	715

Source: Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Services (NIFRS)

Research has indicated that accidental dwelling fires are not distributed evenly across the socio-economic spectrum with increased deprivation being a strong predictor for accidental dwelling fires²².

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, the number of accidental dwelling fires has decreased by almost 27% from the 86 recorded in 2016 to 63 recorded in 2022. In Northern Ireland overall, there has been a decrease of 125 between 2016 and 2022 which accounts for a 15% reduction in the same period.

22 A-Public-Health-Approach-to-Accidental-Dwelling-Fires.pdf (kpho.org.uk)



ENTERPRISING ECONOMY

Enterprising Economy:

Our borough is a centre of excellence for entrepreneurship, innovation and investment.

Indicators:

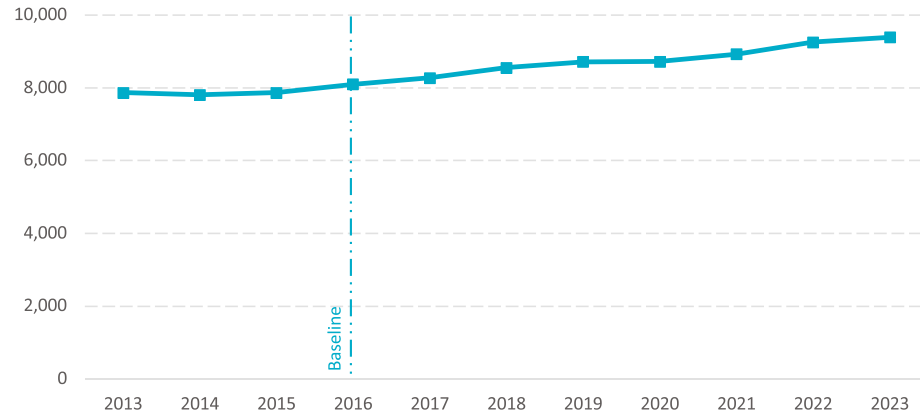
- Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses
- Business birth rates
- Survival Rates of newly born businesses

An innovative and entrepreneurial borough will mean we are open, ready and equipped for business. By encouraging and nurturing new business ideas we could help increase and sustain economic growth, attract higher levels of inward investment and ensure our borough has a range of quality employment opportunities. The data for each of these indicators is taken from the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) where a business is defined as one that is registered for VAT and/or PAYE with HMRC, and is operating in Northern Ireland²³.

²³ The data presented is taken from a snapshot of the Northern Ireland element of the IDBR on 14 March 2023.



Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses



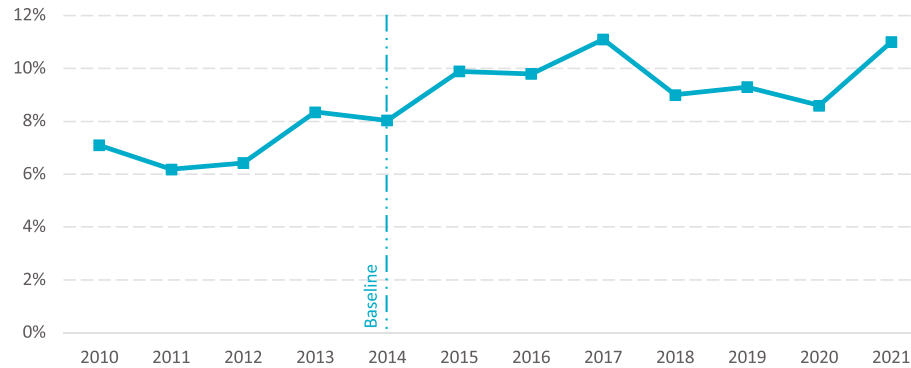
In March 2023 there were 9,390 businesses operating in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough which accounted for 11.9% of all VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in Northern Ireland. Since our baseline in 2016, this represents an increase of 1,290 businesses operating in the borough. The number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses in the borough has been growing steadily over the years presented, with the growth proportionate to the increase in Northern Ireland overall.

Baseline 2016		Where we were 2021		Where we are now 2023	
ABC	% of NI	ABC	% of NI	ABC	% of NI
8,100	12%	8,930	12%	9,390	12%

Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA



Business birth rates



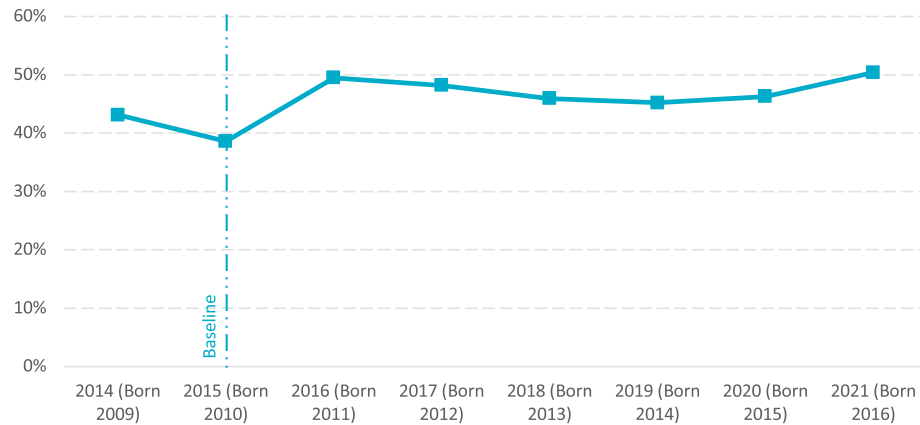
New business registrations (identified through registration for VAT and/or PAYE) are referred to as business births. The birth rate is calculated using the number of births as a proportion of the active businesses. In the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, the birth rate has increased over time although it hasn't been a steady increase. At 11% in 2021, this is the first time the birth rate in the borough has been above the Northern Ireland average.

Baseline 2014		Where we were 2019		Where we are now 2021	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
8%	9%	10%	10%	11%	10%

Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, Office for National Statistics and NISRA. Please note, figures for 2010-2014 are an aggregation of the 3 former council areas.



Survival rate of newly born businesses



Baseline 2015 (Born 2010)		Where we were 2019 (Born 2014)		Where we are now 2021 (Born 2016)	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
Armagh 36% Banbridge 43% Craigavon 38% ABC Avg 39%	39%	Armagh 49% Banbridge 42% Craigavon 44% ABC Avg 45%	45%	50.4%	47.3%

Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, Business Demography NI, 2021, NISRA. Please note, the estimates in the chart for businesses born between 2009 and 2014 have been calculated internally as a weighted average using the number of businesses in each of the three former council areas.

A business is deemed to have survived if it is active or activated (birth) in a given year and remains active in terms of employment and / or turnover in subsequent years. The five-year survival rate of newly born businesses was previously reported for the three former council areas. However, following the reform of local government, the 11 new local government districts became operational in April 2015 and survival rates are no longer reported for the former council areas. As a result, the data presented in this report differs to what was previously reported.

In 2015, the five-year survival rate for businesses born in 2010 was estimated at 36% in Armagh, 34% in Banbridge and 38% in Craigavon giving an average for the borough of 39% which is equal to the Northern Ireland average. By 2021, the five-year survival rate for businesses born in 2016 was estimated to be 50.4% in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough which is 3.1 percentage points higher than the Northern Ireland average.



SKILLED ECONOMY

Skilled Economy:

People are better equipped to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the dynamic economy.

Indicators:

- Proportion of the workforce in employment qualified to below level 2 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above and level 4 and above
- Employment rate (age 16-64)

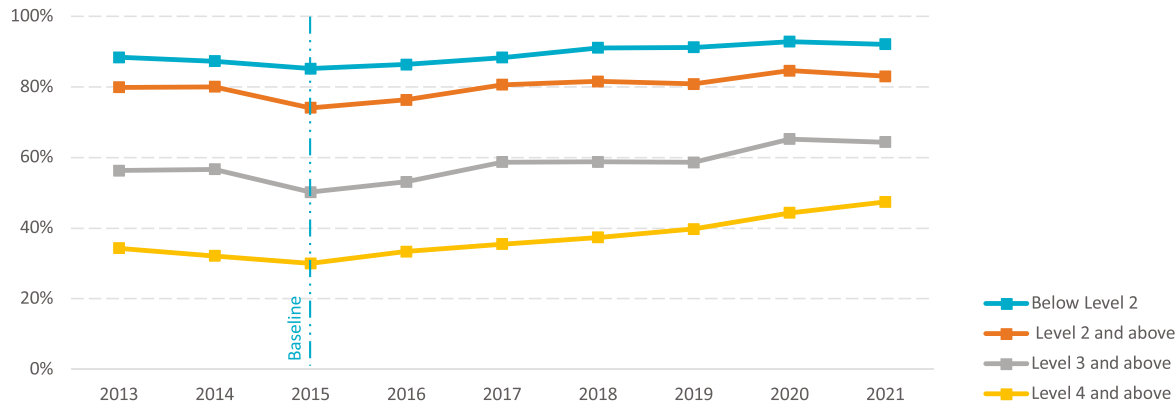
As noted earlier, we have included some additional indicators in this Statement of Progress:

- GCSE attainment levels for students entitled to free school meals (FSME)

One of the ambitions highlighted in Connected was that we would have a thriving and prosperous economy underpinned by the skills base of local people. Good businesses recognise that their people are their strongest asset and it is important that everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential with access to clear and relevant pathways to employment and progression.



Proportion of the workforce in employment qualified to below level 2 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above and level 4 and above



Baseline 2015		Where we were 2019		Where we are now 2021	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
Below Level 2+ 85%	Below Level 2+ 88%	Below Level 2+ 91%	Below Level 2+ 91%	Below Level 2+ 92%	Below Level 2+ 89%
Level 2+ 74%	Level 2+ 77%	Level 2+ 81%	Level 2+ 82%	Level 2+ 83%	Level 2+ 85%
Level 3+ 50%	Level 3+ 56%	Level 3+ 59%	Level 3+ 63%	Level 3+ 64%	Level 3+ 69%
Level 4+ 30%	Level 4+ 37%	Level 4+ 40%	Level 4+ 44%	Level 4+ 47%	Level 4+ 51%

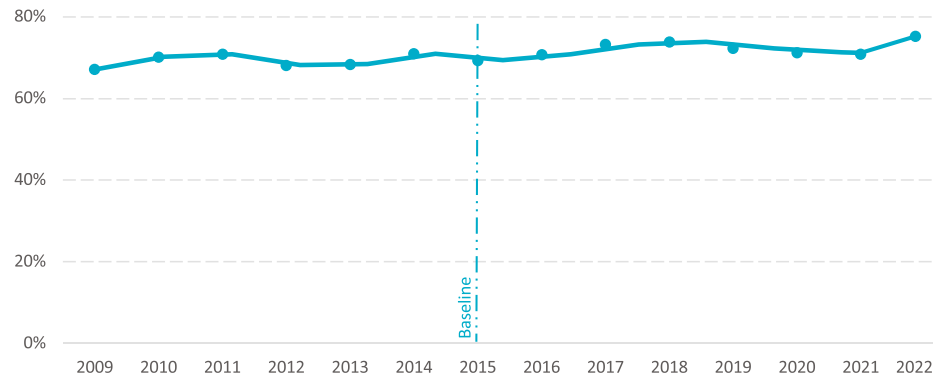
Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA. Note: There was a review of the methodology in 2020 which changes how certain qualifications are assigned to levels and treatment of responses which are unable to be classified into levels (including don't know responses)²⁴. In addition, LFS responses published from 15 July 2021 have been reweighted to new populations using growth rates from HMRC Real Time Information (RTI). This is to allow for different trends during the coronavirus pandemic. The reweighting gives improved estimates of both rates and levels. All figures in the table are based on the revised methodology and weighting so figures may differ slightly from those published in the previous Statement of Progress.

Qualifications are the most common approach to measuring skills as they can be seen to be both valuable to individuals (in terms of providing mobility in the labour market and enhancing self-esteem) and employers (for providing information when recruiting workers). The proportion of the workforce in employment and qualified to all levels has improved greatly since the baseline in 2015. In the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, the largest increase has been in the proportion of the workforce in employment and qualified to level 4 and above which has increased by 17.4 percentage points between 2015 and 2021. While this is slightly lower than the Northern Ireland average, it shows great progress has been made in getting people in the borough better equipped to take advantage of new opportunities.

²⁴ A methodology document on Highest Qualification Levels is available on the LFS background and quality page, which provides a fuller explanation of methodology and more detail on qualifications included in all levels. Qualification levels are broadly equivalent to:
 Below Level 2: O-level, GCSE grade A*-C - less than 5
 Level 2: O-level, GCSE grade A*-C - 5 or more
 Level 3: A-level - more than 1
 Level 4 to 5: Foundation degree, HNC/HND/BTEC higher
 Levels 6+: First or higher degrees
 Responses of Don't Know, or that were unable to be classified have been excluded. A-Public-Health-Approach-to-Accidental-Dwelling-Fires. pdf (kpho.org.uk)



Employment rate (age 16-64)



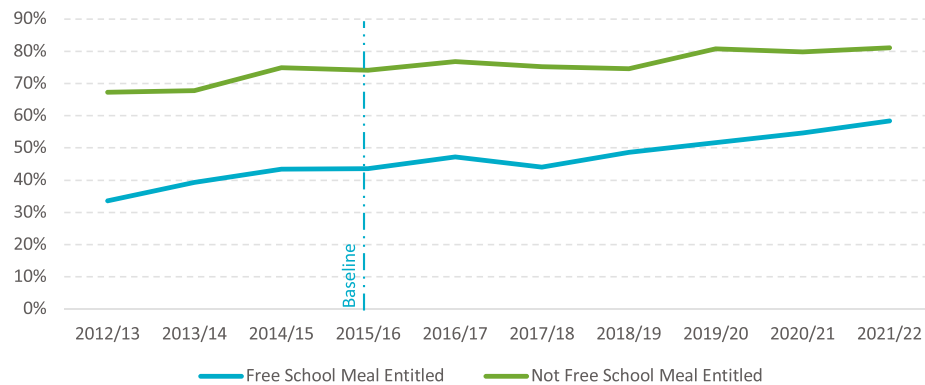
The employment rate measures the proportion of working-age persons employed in an economy. The Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough employment rate remained relatively stable over the period between 2009 and 2021 reaching a high of 73.9% in 2018 before falling gradually to 70.9% in 2021. Between 2021 and 2022, the employment rate increased by 4.3 percentage points (the largest annual change) and at 75.2% is currently the highest of all the years presented. The employment rate in the borough has been consistently above the Northern Ireland rate over the period presented.

Baseline 2015		Where we were 2019		Where we are now 2022	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
69%	68%	72%	72%	75%	72%

Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA.



GCSE attainment levels for students entitled to free school meals (FSME)



Baseline 2015/16		Where we were 2019/20		Where we are now 2021/22	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
44%	45%	52%	56%	58%	59%

Source: School Leavers Survey – Attainment, Department of Education, NISRA.

Free school meals are available to children from families meeting certain eligibility criteria and free school meal entitlement (FSME) is widely used as a proxy indicator for deprivation in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales²⁵. A study by the ONS found that education attainment was the most important predictor identified of the likelihood that someone will be in poverty or severe material deprivation in adulthood²⁶. This is therefore a more forward looking measure as it may influence the future likelihood of poverty and inhibit the opportunities for those students to reach their full potential.

As we can see in the chart, 81.1% of school leavers not entitled to free school meals achieve 5+ GCSE grades A*-C including GCSE English and Maths. However, for those children entitled to free school meals, just 58.4% of leavers achieve 5+ GCSE grades A*-C including GCSE English and Maths. For some this might mean the difference between getting a job and unemployment and then, as studies have also found²⁷, there's an increased risk of involvement in crime, substance abuse and welfare dependence for young people leaving school without qualifications. The attainment rate for FSME students in the borough is below the Northern Ireland average.

25 April 2009 (niassembly.gov.uk)

26 How do childhood circumstances affect your chances of poverty as an adult? - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

27 Ferguson, D., (2002) Outcomes of leaving school without formal educational qualifications



TOURISM ECONOMY

Tourism Economy:

Our Borough is the destination of choice for international visitors.

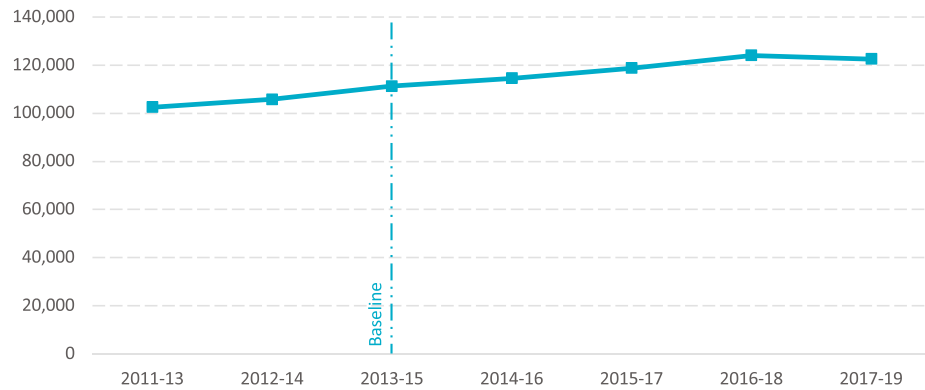
Indicators:

- Number of overnight trips made by visitors from outside Northern Ireland

We live in a beautiful part of the world which is steeped in history. The borough offers beautiful landscapes, historic places and architecture, rich biodiversity and unique cultures, celebrations and way of life. We want to capitalise on all our offerings and make Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon an internationally renowned destination on the island of Ireland.



Number of overnight trips made by visitors from outside Northern Ireland



Baseline 2013 – 2015		Where we were 2016-18		Where we were 2017-19	
ABC	% of NI	ABC	% of NI	ABC	% of NI
111,300	5%	124,000	4%	122,600	4%

Source: Tourism Statistics, NISRA

Tourism data is derived from a variety of sources and the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant effect on these sources. As a result, the most recent local government district tourism statistics published were for 2019 which were reported in the last Statement of Progress. At this time, the number of overnight trips made by visitors from outside Northern Ireland was just over 120,000 which accounted for just 4% of the Northern Ireland total. This proportion has been relatively unchanged over the period presented.

In the absence of the regular published data, NISRA have produced an alternative source publication containing a wide range of tourism related statistics produced by both NISRA and other sources. In this publication they report on the top ten participating country parks/ parks/forests/gardens/visitor attractions visitor numbers and three of the top ten in 2021 are parks in the borough. These locations had a combined footfall of over 1.7 million in 2021 with Lurgan Park ranking second with 809,000 visitors, Portadown People’s Park ranking in fourth place with 481,000 visitors and Tannaghmore Gardens and Farm ranking in sixth place with 423,000 visitors²⁸. While we have no information on the origin of these visitors, we know we have a beautiful borough which we can capitalise on to make the borough a target holiday destination.



CREATIVE PLACE

Creative Place:

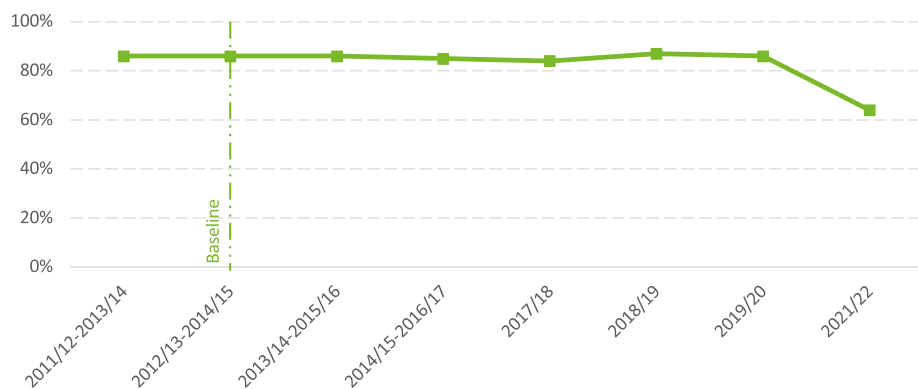
Our Borough is an inspirational and creative place offering quality, inclusive arts and cultural experiences.

Indicators:

- Percentage of people (aged 16+) engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year

Arts and culture play an important role in community life, enhancing our sense of place and improving wellbeing and quality of life. By working together to encourage and enable cultural engagement and artistic expression we can raise our profile as a region that champions creativity.

Percentage of people (aged 16+) engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year



Baseline 2012/13 - 2014/15		Where we were 2013/14-2015/16		Where we are now 2021/2022 ²⁹	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
86%	87%	86%	86%	64%	62%

Source: Continuous Household Survey, Department for Communities.

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, the percentage of people aged 16+ engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year had been relatively stable since 2011/12-2013/14. However, results from the 2021/22 survey show there has been a large drop in the percentage of people aged 16+ engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past couple of years from 86% in 2019/20 to 64% in 2021/22. The percentage of people engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year in Northern Ireland overall has also fallen and is now 2 percentage points below the borough average at 62%.

²⁹ Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the change from face-to-face to telephone survey mode, the achieved response rate for the 2020/21 survey was just 17% and as a result no LGD level analysis was published.



ENHANCED PLACE

Enhanced Place:

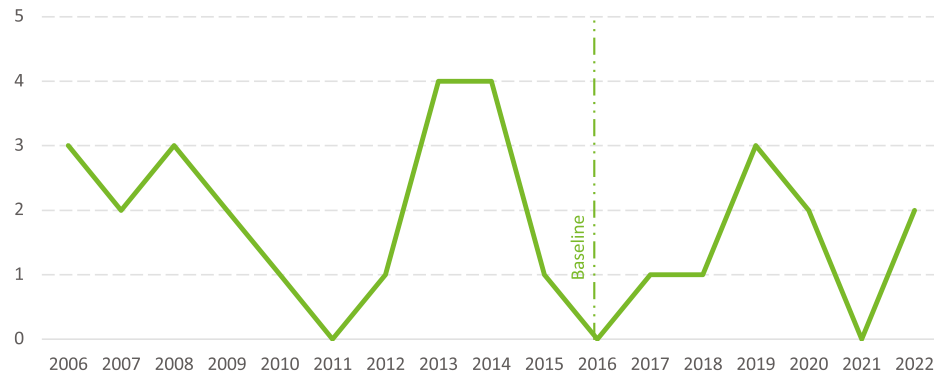
Our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for current and future generations to enjoy.

Indicators:

- Number of buildings at risk saved
- Number of high quality parks/green spaces (those holding Green Flag Award® status)

The protection, promotion and enhancement of our borough's landscape is a key priority. We have a rich heritage and many natural attributes and their conservation and enhancement is fundamental to the individual and collective wellbeing of our borough.

Number of buildings at risk saved



The Heritage at Risk Register for Northern Ireland highlights properties of architectural or historic merit throughout the region that are considered to be at risk or under threat. Between 2006 and 2016 (our base year), there were a total of 21 buildings at risk saved in the borough. In the six year period since then, a further 9 buildings have been saved and removed from the buildings at risk register.

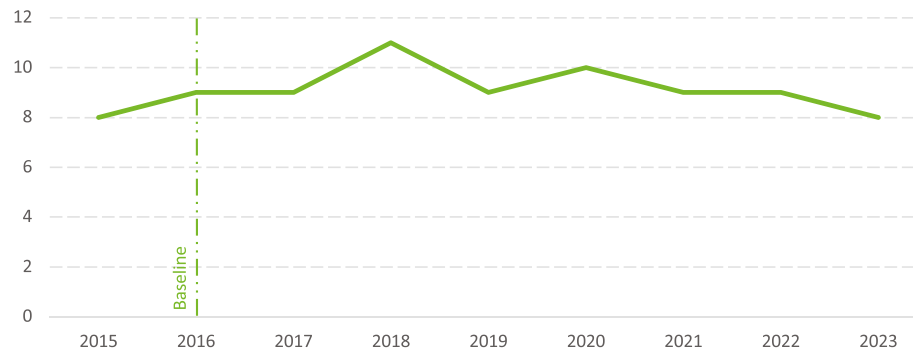
Between 2006 and 2022, there has been a total 297 buildings at risk saved in Northern Ireland overall of which 30 are located in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough (approximately 10%).

Baseline 2016		Where we were 2020		Where we are now 2022	
ABC	Total to date	ABC	Total to date	ABC	Total to date
0	21	2	28	2	30

Source: Ulster Architectural Heritage, Buildings at Risk Register Northern Ireland, Department for Communities



Number of high quality parks/green spaces (those holding Green Flag Award® status)



Baseline 2016		Where we were 2020		Where we are now 2023	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
9	51	10	78	8	76

Source: Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.

The Green Flag Award is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK. The scheme was first launched in 1996 to recognise and reward the best green spaces in the country and recognises excellence in the management of our public space. It is also seen as a way of encouraging others to achieve high environmental standards and excellence in recreational green areas.

In the base year, 2016, there were 9 parks/green spaces in the borough flying the Green Flag with a total of 51 parks having achieved this standard in Northern Ireland overall. In 2023 there was a total of 8 parks in the borough flying the Green Flag accounting for 10.5% of the Northern Ireland total. This consistency shows our commitment to the borough to maintain the parks to a high standard to ensure a clean and safe space for everyone to enjoy.



REVITALISED PLACE

Revitalised Place:

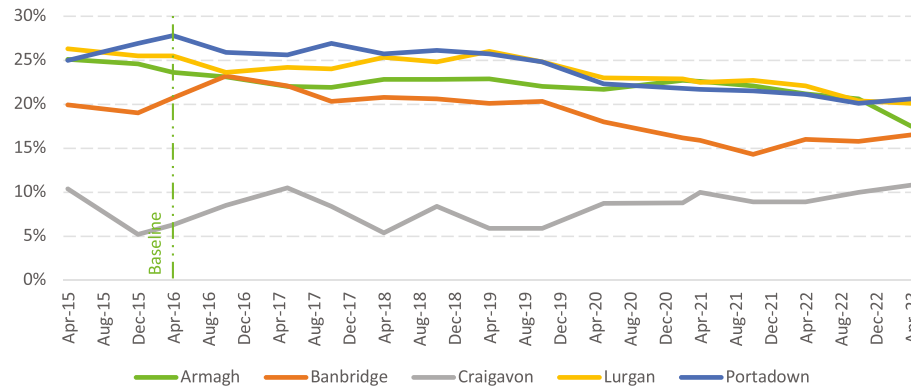
Our distinctive and vibrant urban and rural areas are at the heart of community and economic life.

Indicators:

- City and town centre vacancy rates
- Level of social housing need

Our population is growing and ageing and we want to ensure people live in sustainable and connected communities with access to quality, affordable housing and accessible services. Our city, towns, villages and rural areas need to be attractive places for living, learning, working, visiting and investing.

City and town centre vacancy rates



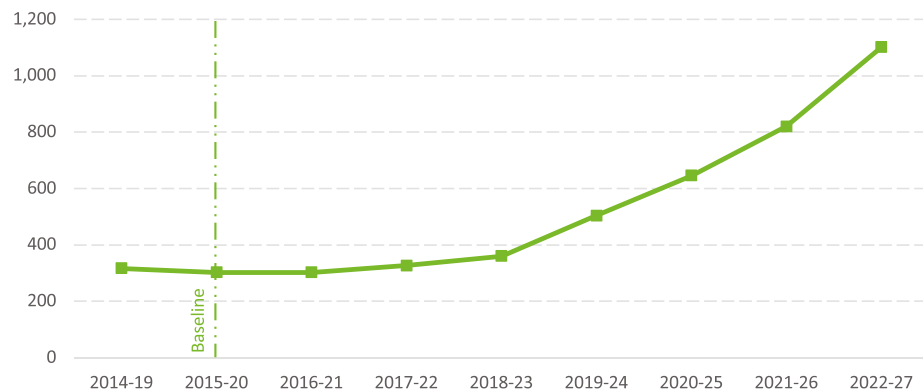
Baseline 2016		Where we were 2021		Where we are now 2023	
ABC	NI	ABC	NI	ABC	NI
Armagh 24%	25%	Armagh 23%	24%	Armagh 18%	22%
Banbridge 21%		Banbridge 16%		Banbridge 17%	
Craigavon 6%		Craigavon 10%		Craigavon 11%	
Lurgan 26%		Lurgan 23%		Lurgan 20%	
Portadown 28%		Portadown 22%		Portadown 21%	

Source: Town Centre Database (30th April 2023), Department for Communities

For many, the high street represents the heart of the community and social participation. With the rise in online shopping and the state of the economy, it's inevitable that there will be shop closures but the resultant empty storefronts may remove opportunities for people to connect as well as having a detrimental impact on surrounding businesses. To help combat this, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council are running an innovative regeneration programme which is a grant scheme that aims to encourage vacant commercial property owners to invest in their buildings, attract tenants and reduce long term vacancy.

When we first reported on city and town centre vacancy rates (April 2016), both Lurgan and Portadown had a vacancy rate above the Northern Ireland average. Since then, the vacancy rates in all our city and town centres, except Craigavon, have fallen and all have remained below the Northern Ireland average since October 2019. Craigavon has consistently had the lowest vacancy rates and still remains well below the other city and town centre vacancy rates although no doubt the pandemic years and enforced lockdowns have contributed to the increased vacancy rates in Craigavon over the past couple of years.

Level of social housing need



Baseline 2015-20	Where we were 2020-25	Where we are now 2022-27
ABC	ABC	ABC
302	646	1,101

Source: Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Social housing is intended for those on low incomes in need of a house who cannot afford to rent or buy a suitable home. The Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Housing Investment Plan Annual update for 2022-2023 notes that ‘despite sustained levels of investment in new social housing in Northern Ireland...the gap between housing demand and supply continues to widen’. This is evident in the borough where the five year assessment for the period 2022-2027 shows a need for an additional 1,101 units. While this accounts for just 4.7% of the current five year (2022-2027) projected need in Northern Ireland (23,557), this is more than treble forecast need for the period 2015-20 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough. As can be seen in the chart, the need for additional social housing units has been increasing steadily in recent years.

As part of a programme of work to increase the supply of affordable housing and complement the support already in place for social housing and shared ownership, the Department for Communities has produced a new affordable housing policy which aims to create an additional supply of homes, providing a new affordable “Intermediate Rent” housing option. Intermediate rent tenancies are a form of private rented tenancy which intends to provide an additional rental choice for lower to moderate income households, providing longer-term, higher quality, well-managed homes at below market rents³⁰.

³⁰ Intermediate Rent | Department for Communities
(communities-ni.gov.uk)



06 SUMMARY

The Community Plan adopted an outcomes based approach which encouraged a focus on the end goals and what we want our area to be like in 2030. We have three strategic themes – Community, Economy and Place – each with a long-term outcome setting out what we hope to achieve. Progress is measured using the 22 population indicators reported on in the previous chapter.

The table below summarises the number of indicators and how many are better, worse or the same as the base year. At this point it is

important to note that the indicators are long-term summary measures. By identifying a baseline and measuring their progress over time, we can ask relevant questions and deliver action plans which will focus efforts on areas we know need attention but we cannot make a causal link between our Partnerships actions and changes in the population indicators.

Theme	No. of Indicators	Better	Worse	Same	No Data
Community	10	4	3	3	0
Economy	7	6	0	0	1
Place	5	2	3	0	0
Total	22	12	6	3	1





As noted earlier in the report, we have included three additional indicators in the Statement this year. Of these 22 indicators, there is no updated data available for one, three are measuring the same as the base year and twelve are measuring better than they were in the base year. This leaves six indicators measuring worse than the base year which is quite encouraging considering much of the data covers the period 2020-2022, a period of time that has changed the world and one that many of us will never forget.

The COVID-19 pandemic has left a lasting impact in many ways. Not least for those who have lost loved ones and those still suffering from illness initially caused by COVID and the impact of the restrictions. The pandemic also took its toll on the workforce with claimant count and universal credit claimants reaching an all-time high; education systems and the economy. After all of that, we're facing a global cost-of-living crisis which has put severe pressure on families and individuals across the borough.

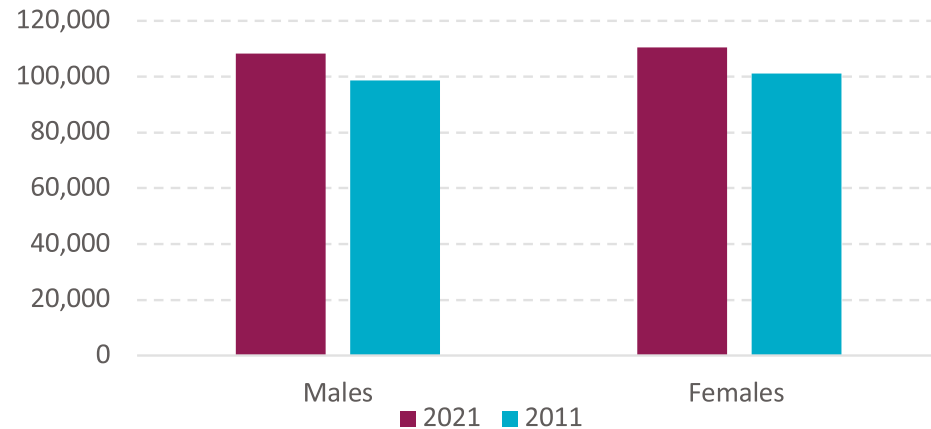
So, while the data presented in this report will provide a snapshot of how things are at a point in time, it won't tell us about the real-life experiences of some people and the effect on their every day lives. The additional indicators included in this Statement are related to poverty and

mental health and emotional wellbeing and in terms of the official data, our borough has performed relatively well with a positive shift identified for both poverty measures and no change reported for the measure of mental health and emotional well-being. However, the experiences of our members, who are working on the ground with individuals and families across the borough, would tell a different story. Support provided throughout the borough includes assistance with fuel costs, provision of crisis food support and social supermarket services which provides food at a low cost to enable the transition from crisis food support. Over the two year period, 1 September 2021 – 31st August 2023, an estimated 9,793 individuals across the borough were supported under the fuel support programme receiving emergency supplies of oil, gas and electric. In addition, it is reported that 5,104 individuals were provided with DfC emergency food parcels and that this figure would be much higher if food distributed from donations from the public was also included. Thus, the true impact of the cost-of-living crisis may not be reflected in the data and with poverty identified as a key driver of mental health problems, the true impact may be much more severe than anyone realises.

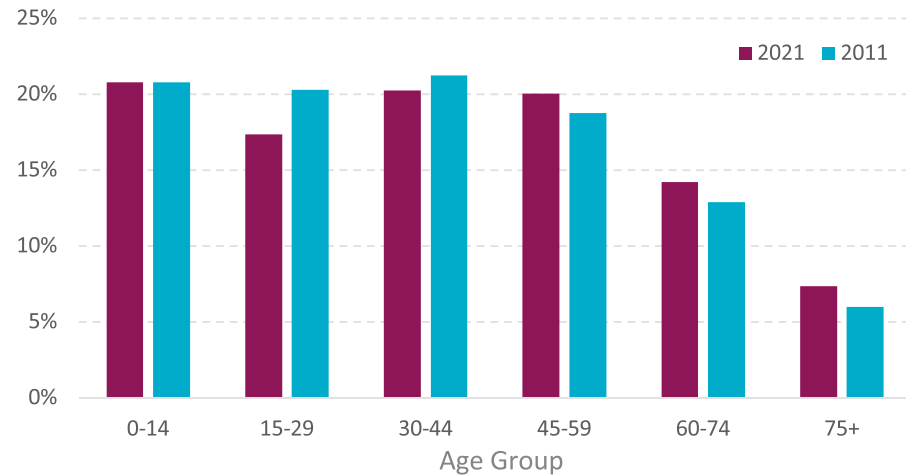
07

APPENDIX: BOROUGH DEMOGRAPHICS - CENSUS 2011 & 2021³¹

Total Population

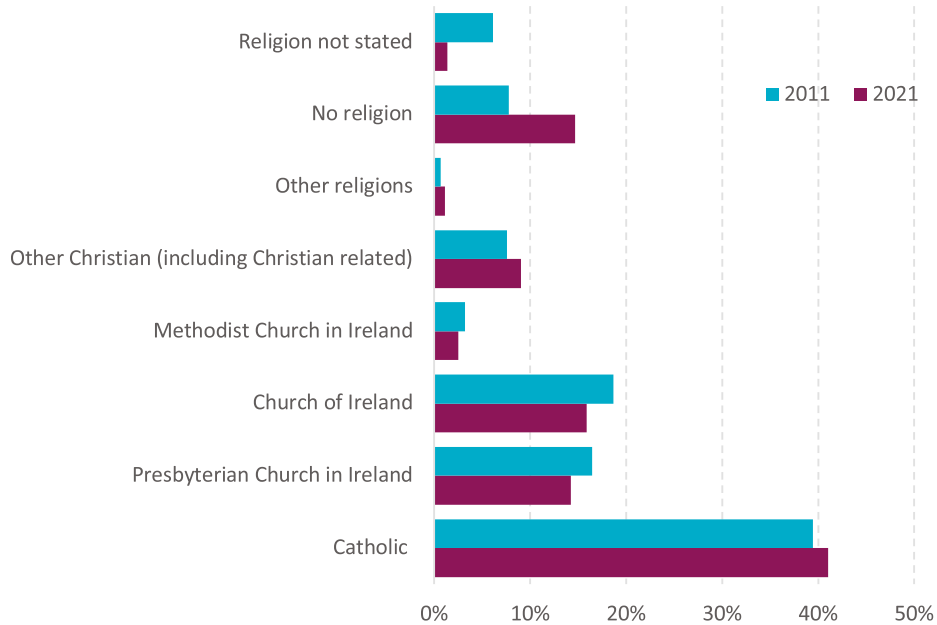


Age Distribution

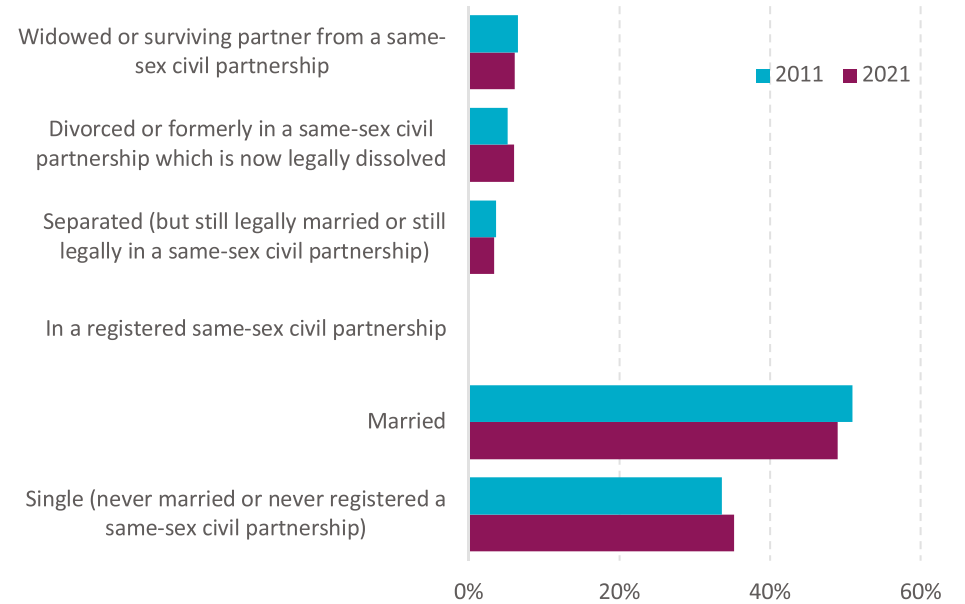


³¹ More detailed summary reports from Census 2021 are available on the Borough Statistics section of the website
(Borough Statistics - Population - Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk))

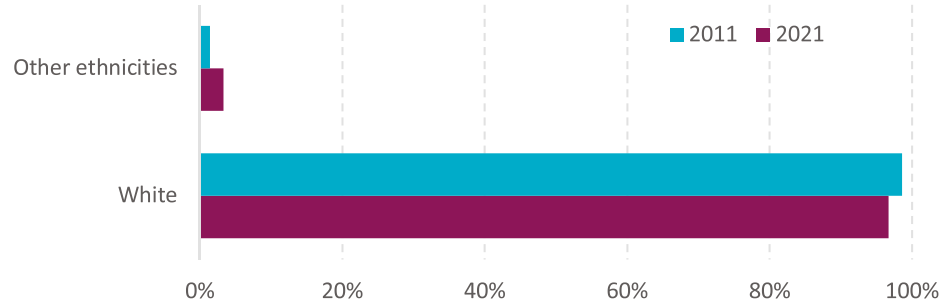
Religion



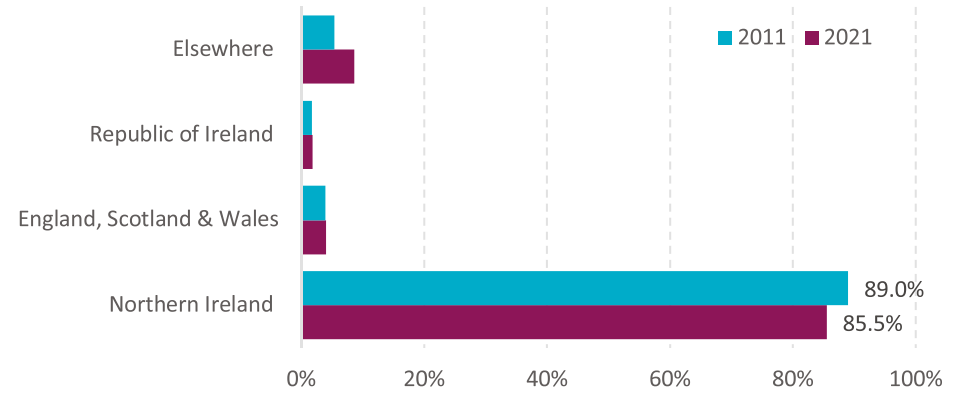
Marital Status



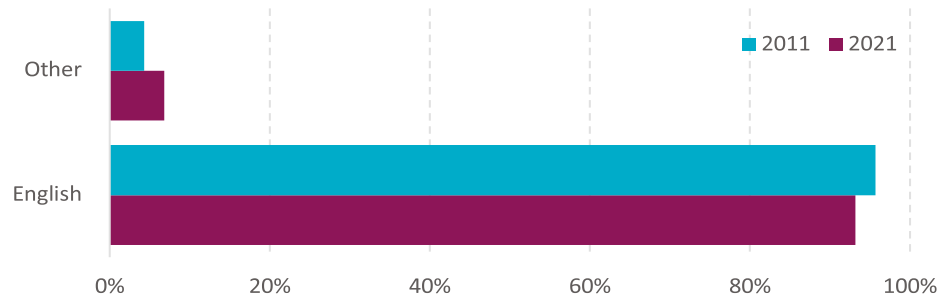
Ethnic Group



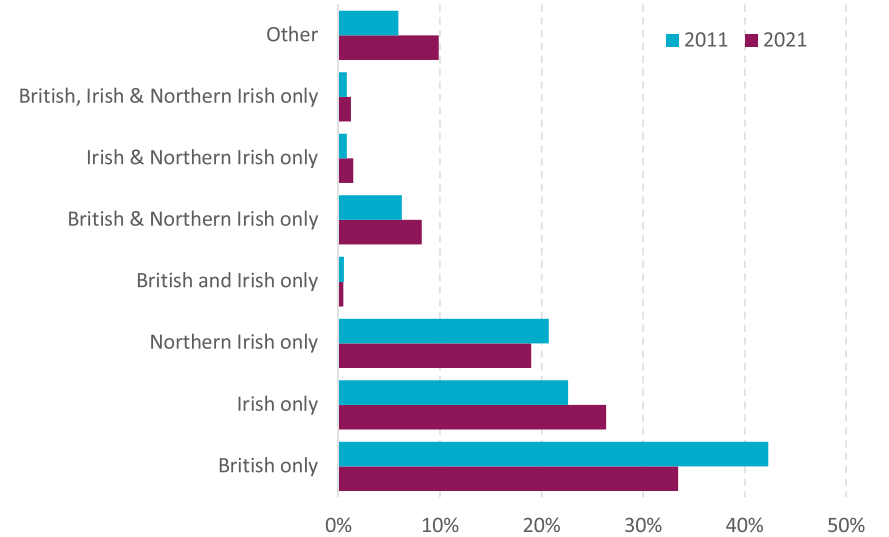
Country of Birth



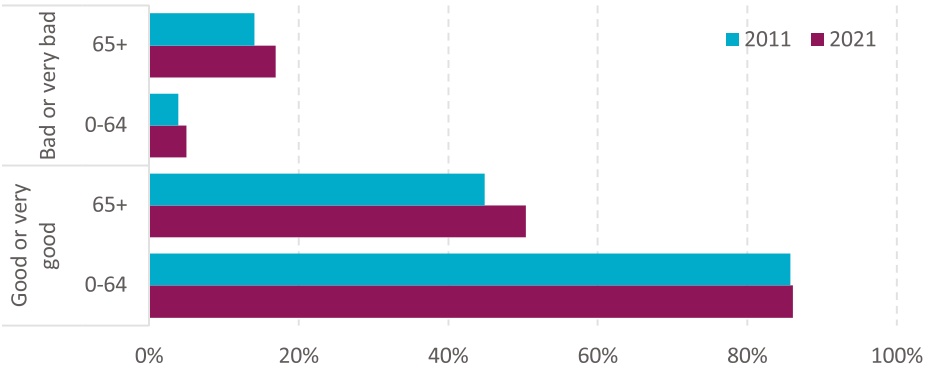
Main Language



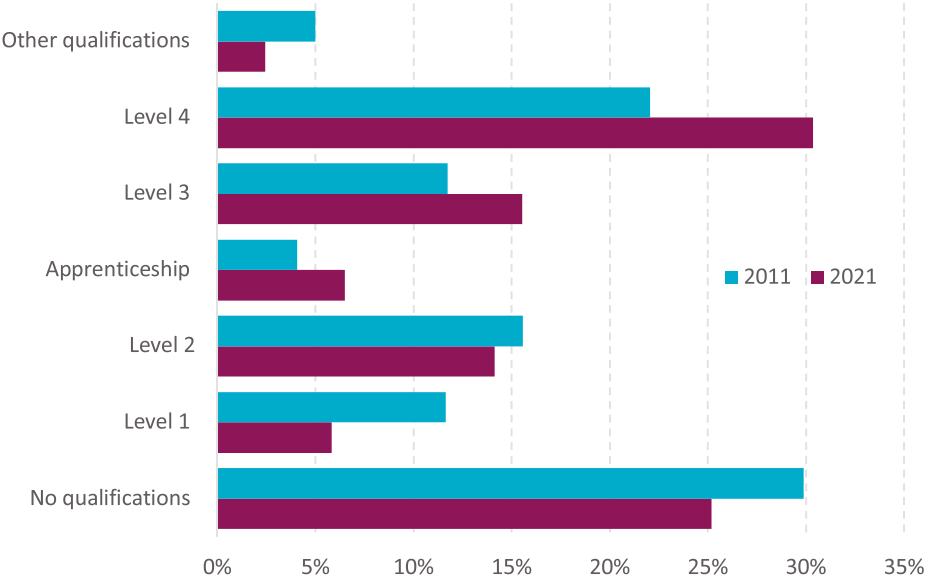
National Identity



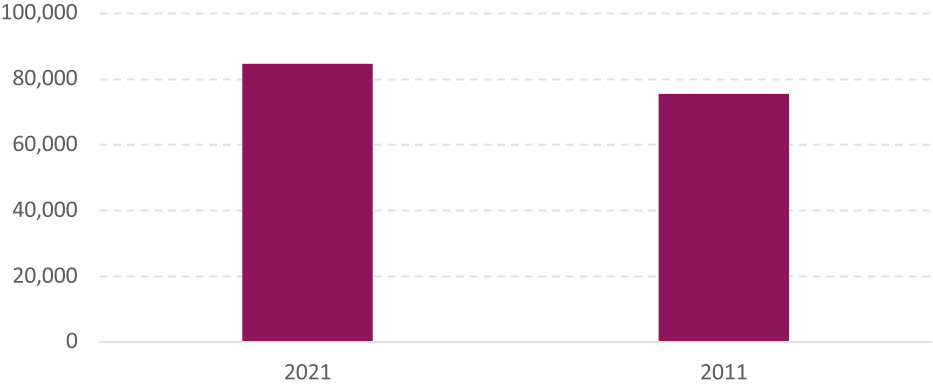
General Health



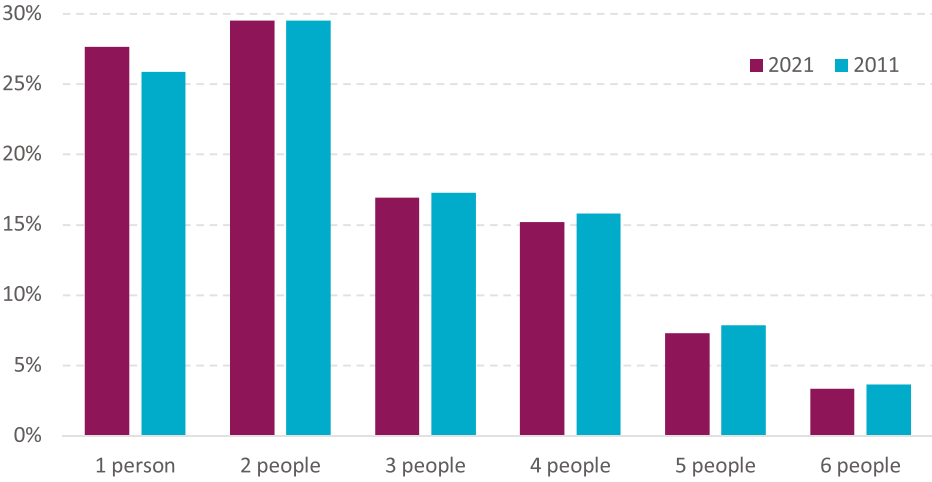
Qualifications



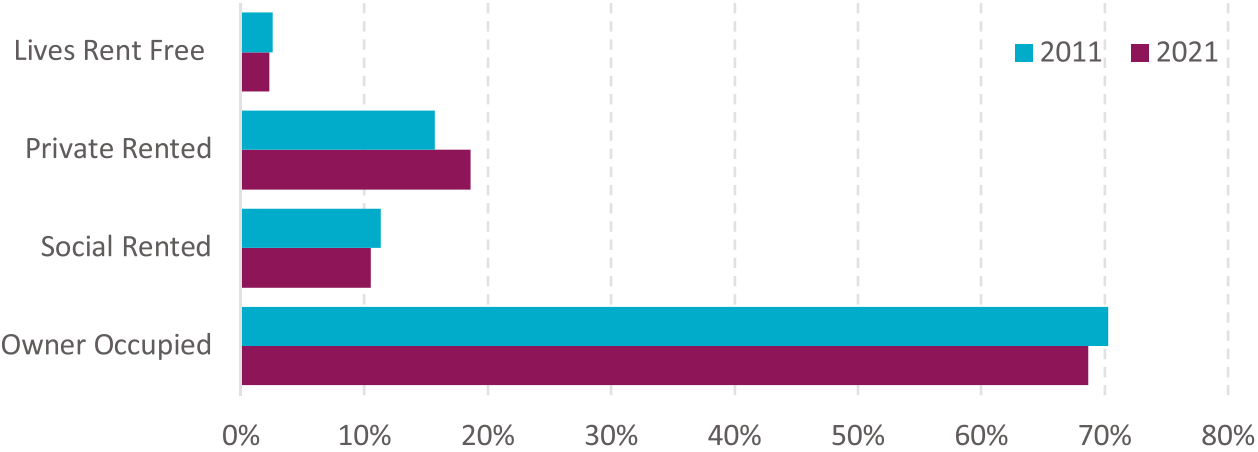
Number of Occupied Households



Household Size (% of total households)



Household Tenure (% of households)



INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY PLANNING

in the Armagh City,
Banbridge and
Craigavon Borough
Council area?

Please contact the Community Planning, Policy
& Research Department at Armagh City,
Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

- ☎ 0300 0300 900
- ✉ communityplanning@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk
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