



Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon
Community Planning Partnership

**Review of Connected: A Community Plan for Armagh
City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough**

Background Paper

THEME: COMMUNITY

Review of Community Plan

2024

Contents

Connected: A Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough 2017-2030	3
Statement of Progress	4
PART 1 - CONNECTED: Summary of Outcomes and Population Indicators	5
Confident Community	7
Healthy Community	9
Welcoming Community	12
PART 2 - Proposed revisions to Outcomes and Population Indicators	14
Connected Community	15
Healthy Community	19
Welcoming Community	25
PART 3 - Partnership Actions	31
Covid-19 Response and Recovery Action Plan 2022-2023	32
Sub-Committee's and Actions	33
ABC Community Planning Partnership Approach	38

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 for the period 2017-2030. 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 future¹. 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 weight². 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?

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.

¹ [Wellbeing - what's in a word? - Carnegie UK Trust](#)

² [Carnegie-UK-strategy-for-change-2021-1.pdf \(d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net\)](#)

Statement of Progress

Community Planning Partnerships are required to produce a Statement of Progress every two years on outcomes achieved and actions taken through the implementation of the community plan. To date, the partnership has produced 3 Statements of Progress in 2019, 2021 and the most recent which was published in November 2023.

As noted above, the Community Plan adopted an outcomes-based approach which encourages 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 – and each theme has three long-term outcomes. 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 outcomes³ which will help make our 2030 vision for our community a reality.

However, as the Partnership continues to advance its Data Development Agenda, the Community Planning Strategic Partnership decided to include an additional three population indicators in the more recently published Statement of Progress, two of which are related to poverty and one to mental health and emotional wellbeing which are two of the Partnerships four priorities for action in the Covid19 Response and Recovery Plan.

This mid-way review of Connected looks at each of the outcomes and the indicators we have used to measure progress towards achieving the outcome. We look at the relevance of the outcomes and consider additional outcomes which have become increasingly important in recent years and we look at the indicators to ask the question, are they the best way to measure the outcome we want to achieve.

We will have three separate reports, one for each theme – Community, Economy and Place. Each report will have three parts; Part 1 will present an update on the outcomes and indicators as they currently sit in the Connected Community Plan while Part 2 will present any proposed changes including information on new indicators which could potentially be used as a measure for our outcomes. Any proposed changes should relate to or incorporate the cross-cutting themes of connectivity, equality and sustainability which should be at the heart of all we do. Part 3 will present the partnership actions with a breakdown of the sub-committees and the actions that align to each outcome under the Community Theme and the proposed new outcome along with any regional strategies that the actions deliver upon.

³ This approach is known as ‘Outcomes Based Accountability’.

PART 1

CONNECTED: Summary of Outcomes and Population Indicators

OUTCOME	POPULATION INDICATORS
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.	<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.
Healthy Community: People are making positive lifestyle choices. They are more resilient and better equipped to cope with life's challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Welcoming Community: Our borough is a safe, respectful and peaceful environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % 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
ECONOMY	
Skilled Economy: Our borough is a centre for entrepreneurship, innovation and investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses. • Business birth rates. • Survival rates of newly born businesses.
Enterprising Economy: People are better equipped to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the dynamic economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % 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).
Tourism Economy: Our borough is the destination of choice for international visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of overnight trips made by visitors from outside Northern Ireland.
PLACE	
Creative Place: Our borough is an inspirational and creative place offering quality, inclusive arts and cultural experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of people (aged 16+) engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year.
Enhanced Place: Our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for current and future generations to enjoy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of buildings at risk saved. • No. of high quality parks/green spaces (those holding Green Flag Award Status®)
Revitalised Place: Our distinctive and vibrant urban and rural areas are at the heart of community and economic life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City and town centre vacancy rates. • Level of social housing need

CONFIDENT COMMUNITY

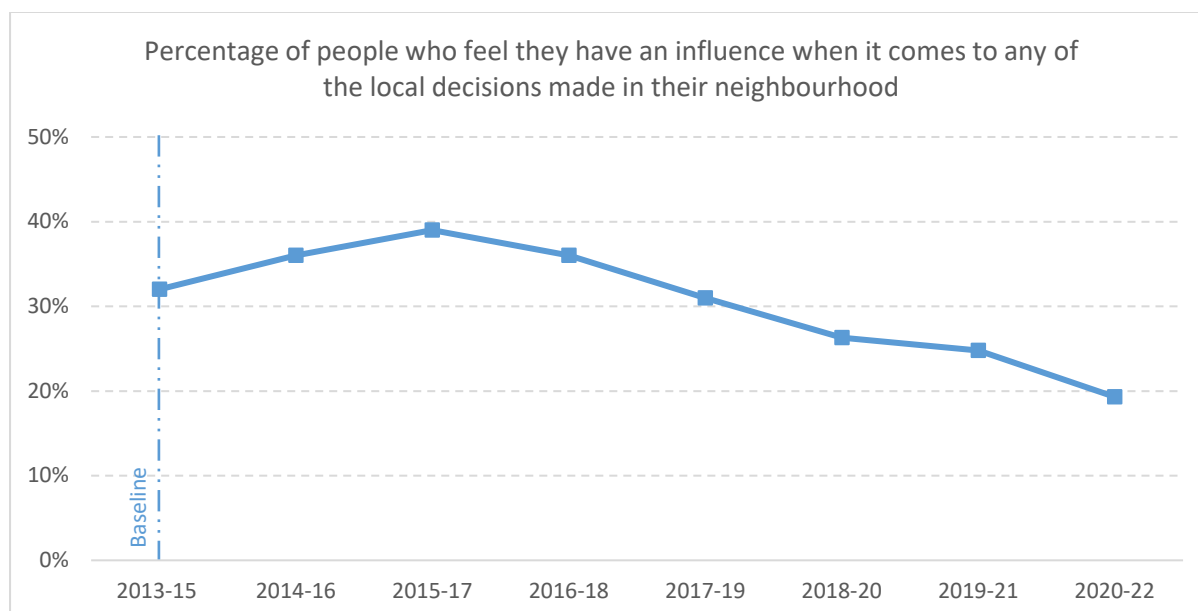
LONG TERM OUTCOME:

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.

What we currently report on:

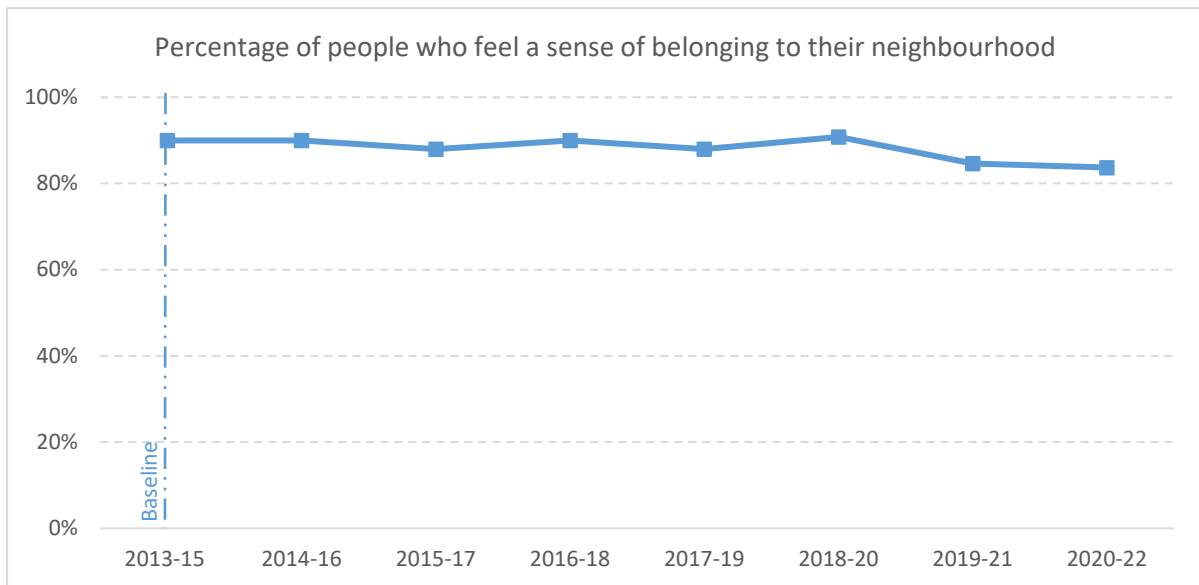
- % of people who feel that they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made in their neighbourhood.
- % of people who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood

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



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.

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



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.

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

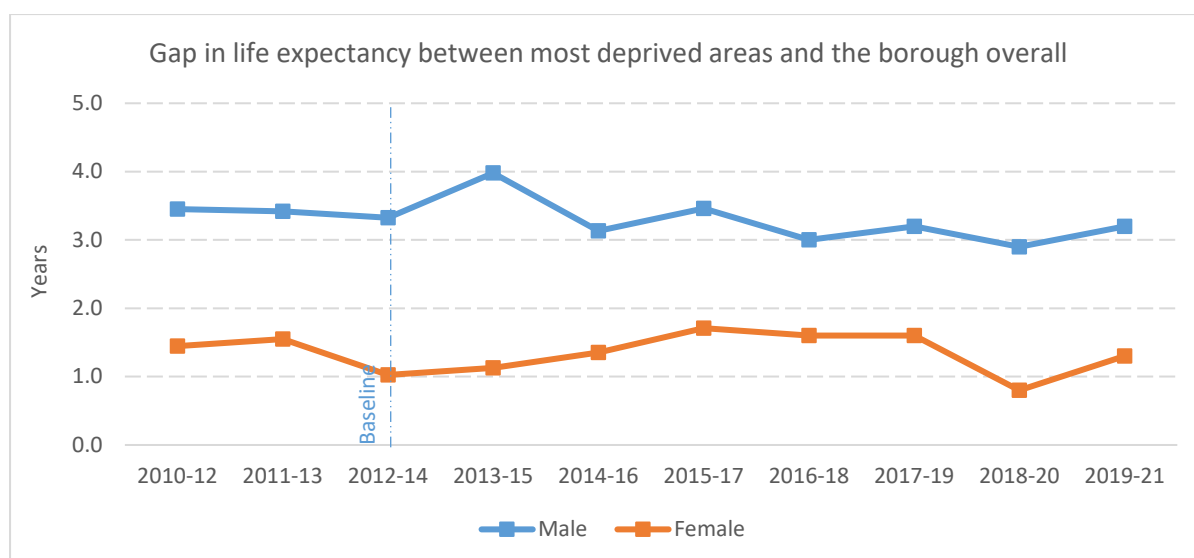
LONG TERM OUTCOME:

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

What we currently report on:

- **Gap in life expectancy between the most deprived areas and the borough overall.**
- **No. of preventable deaths per 100,000 population.**
- **% of people who participate in sport or physical activity on at least one day a week.**

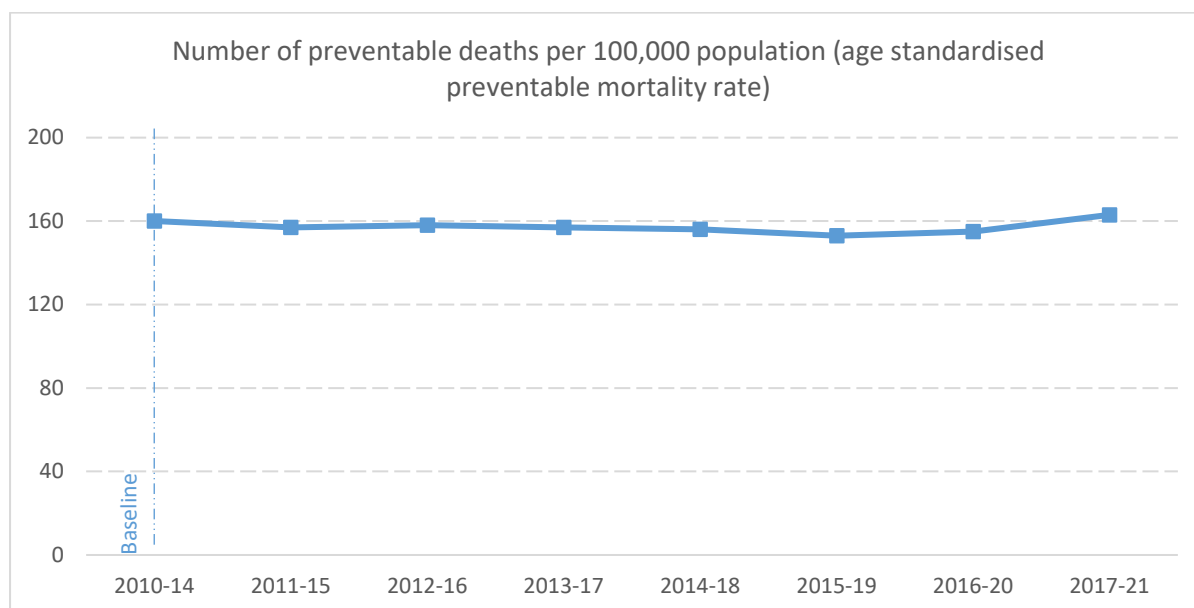
Gap in life expectancy between the most deprived areas and the borough overall.



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 the most deprived areas of the borough, the life expectancy is 1.3 years less at 81.7⁴. Life expectancy at birth for both males and females in the borough has been consistently above the Northern Ireland average.

⁴ While the gap has increased slightly for females, the health inequalities report records no change as it has not been a consistent trend.

No. of preventable deaths per 100,000 population.

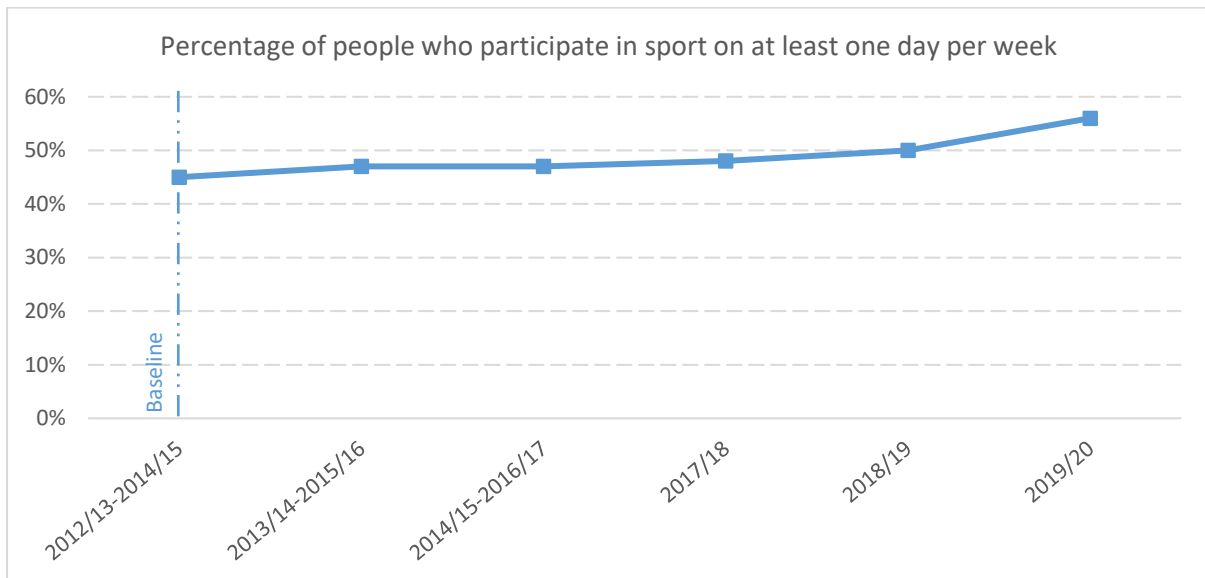


In 2010-14, preventable mortality in the borough was estimated at 160 preventable deaths per 100,000 population. By 2015-19, this had fallen to 153 per 100,000 however, the most recently published figures show an increase to 163 per 100,000. Preventable mortality is currently the highest of the years 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 deaths⁵ as well as the highest excess deaths⁶ 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.

⁵ "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 \(nisra.gov.uk\)](#)).

⁶ "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 \(nisra.gov.uk\)](#)).

% of people who participate in sport or physical activity on at least one day a week.



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.

WELCOMING COMMUNITY

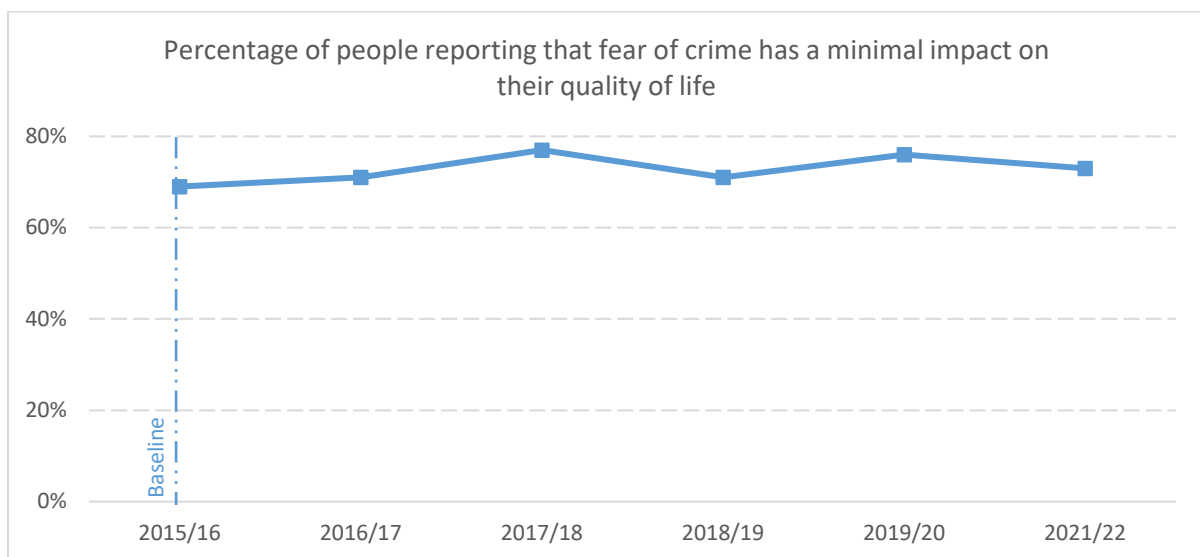
LONG TERM OUTCOME:

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.

What we currently report on:

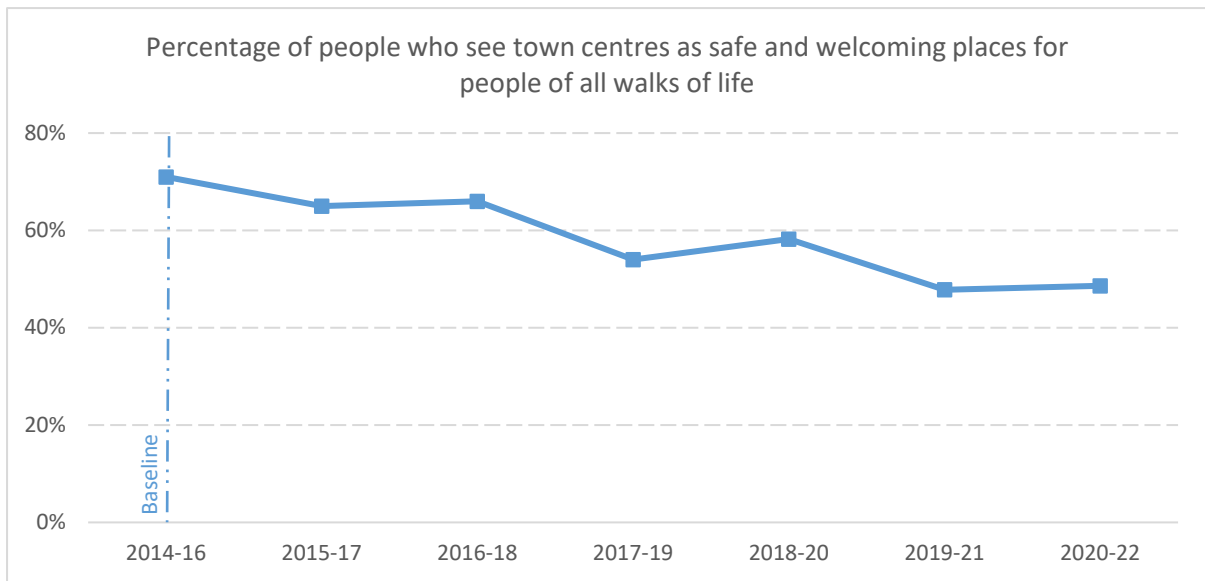
- % of people reporting that fear of crime has a minimal impact on their quality of life.
- % of people who see town centres as safe welcoming places for people of all walks of life.
- No. of accidental dwelling fires

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



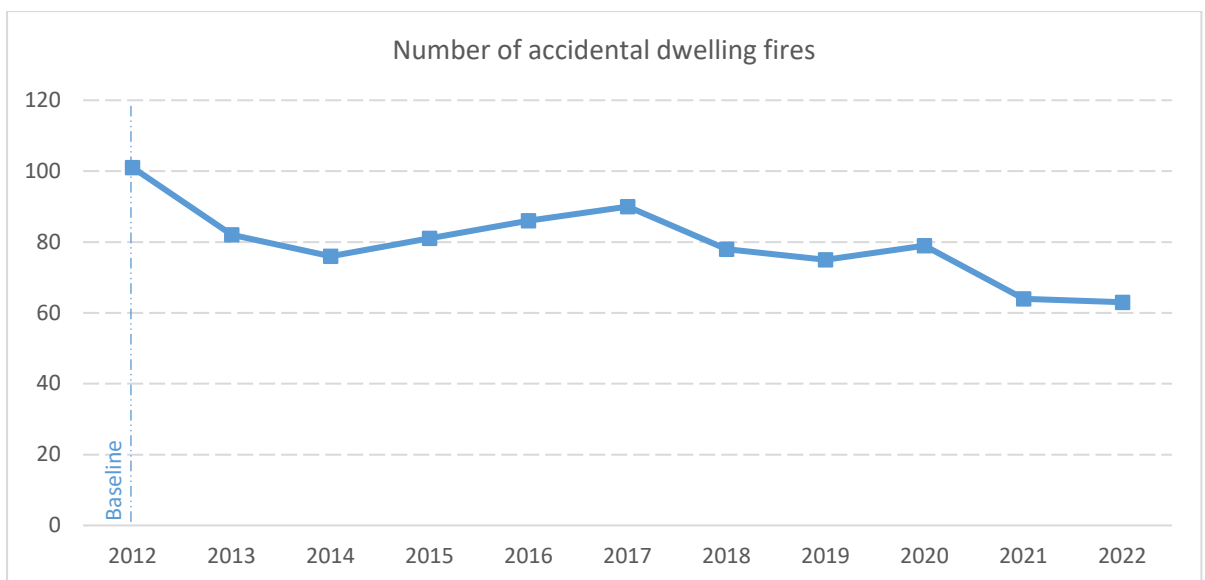
In both the borough and Northern Ireland overall, almost three-quarters of respondents (73%) felt fear of crime has a minimal effect on their quality of life. In the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, this represents an increase of 4 percentage points since it was first reported in the community 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.

% of people who see town centres as safe welcoming places for people of all walks of life.



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.

No. of accidental dwelling fires



In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, the number of accidental dwelling fires has decreased by almost 38% from 101 recorded in 2012 to 63 recorded in 2022. In Northern Ireland overall, there has been a decrease of 128 between 2012 and 2022 which accounts for a 15% reduction in the same period.

PART 2

Proposed revisions to Outcomes and Population Indicators

The table below presents a summary of the proposed changes to the outcomes and indicators within the Community Theme.

OUTCOME	POPULATION INDICATORS
COMMUNITY	
<p>Confident Connected Community: Everyone has opportunities to engage in contribute to 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. • % of people who reported feeling lonely at least some of the time.
<p>Healthy Community: People are making positive lifestyle choices. They are more resilient and better equipped to cope with life’s challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 people being prescribed medication for mood and anxiety disorders
<p>Welcoming Community: Our borough is a safe, respectful inclusive and peaceful environment. or Inclusive Community: Our borough is a safe, respectful and peaceful environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of people reporting that fear of crime has a minimal impact on their quality of life. • No. of accidental dwelling fires • Number of hate motivated incidents by type of motivation.

~~CONFIDENT~~ COMMUNITY

Options: **Active Community**

Connected Community

LONG TERM OUTCOME:

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

- % 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

Additional options

- **Percentage of people (aged 16+) who reported feeling lonely at least some of the time.**

Social connections provide us with a sense of belonging and enable us to do the things that we enjoy and that matter to us⁷. By giving everyone the opportunity to contribute to community life we can create more positive communities with a strong sense of community and somewhere where people don't feel isolated or lonely.

Loneliness and social isolation can not only impact our health, but it can also be a public health concern as people who are lonely tend to use more health and social care services for example, they're likely to visit their GP more often or to have emergency admissions to hospital. Taking this into consideration, % of people (aged 16+) who reported feeling lonely at least some of the time may also be considered for inclusion as an indicator for this outcome.

⁷ [A community response to loneliness - Local Trust](#)

Indicator 1: Percentage of people (aged 16+) who reported feeling lonely at least some of the time

Source: Continuous Household Survey (CHS), NISRA.

Released: Annually

Current availability: 2020/21 & 2022/23

Feelings of loneliness can negatively impact a person’s health, wellbeing and overall quality of life⁸. The measure reported here is based on the question ‘How often do you feel lonely?’ so it will measure the frequency with which people report feeling lonely but not the level of loneliness they experience.

There are five response options to the question - ‘often/always’, ‘some of the time’, ‘occasionally’, ‘hardly ever’ and ‘never’ and results are reported based on this five category split. Figure 1 presents the proportion of respondents who reported feeling lonely often / always or some of the time by LGD. As we can see, a higher percentage of people aged 16+ living in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon reported feeling lonely at least some of the time compared to the Northern Ireland average (19.4%). Only Belfast City (24.9%), Derry City & Strabane (22.8%) and Causeway Coast & Glens (22.6%) reported a higher proportion of people aged 16+ feeling lonely at least some of the time.

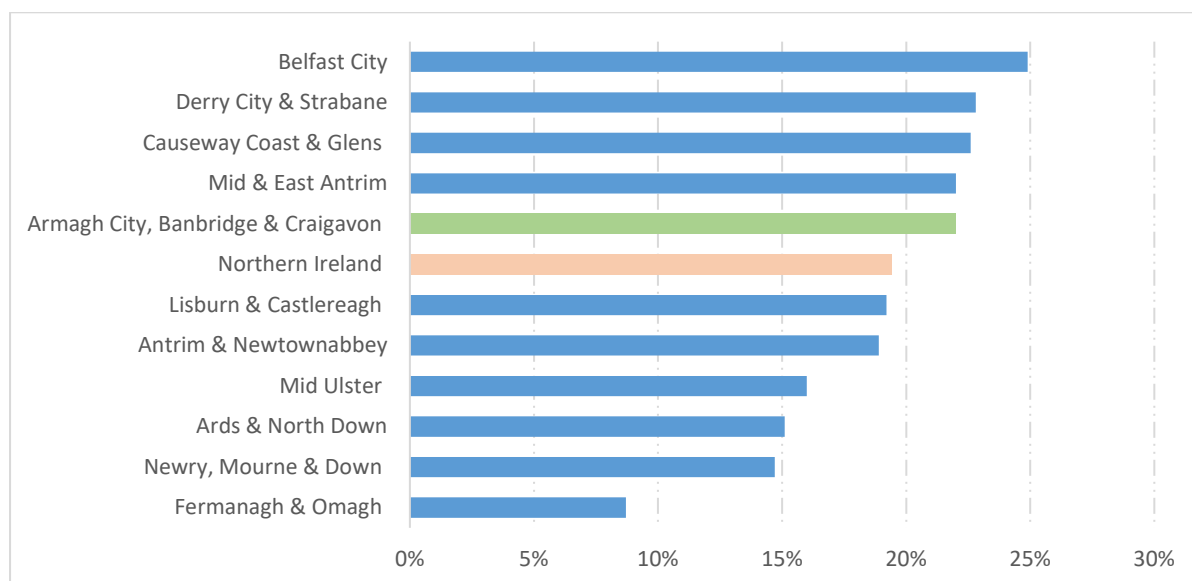


Figure 1: Percentage of people aged 16+ who reported feeling lonely at least some of the time by LGD, 2022/23. Source: Continuous Household Survey (CHS), NISRA.

The Wellbeing in Northern Ireland report was produced for the first time in 2020/21 and the table below presents the percentage of people aged 16+ who reported feeling lonely at least some of the time each year and the difference between 2021/22 and 2022/23 in each of the LGD’s and Northern Ireland overall.

⁸ [wellbeing-ni-report-2021-22.pdf](#)

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Difference 2021/22 - 2022-23
Antrim & Newtownabbey	20.1%	15.1%	18.9%	3.8%
Ards & North Down	15.8%	16.1%	15.1%	-1.0%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	21.6%	23.5%	22.0%	-1.5%
Belfast City	21.9%	25.0%	24.9%	-0.1%
Causeway Coast & Glens	20.1%	22.8%	22.6%	-0.2%
Derry City & Strabane	21.8%	20.7%	22.8%	2.1%
Fermanagh & Omagh	*	20.9%	8.7%	-12.2%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	15.4%	20.7%	19.2%	-1.5%
Mid & East Antrim	17.3%	17.6%	22.0%	4.4%
Mid Ulster	21.4%	16.6%	16.0%	-0.6%
Newry, Mourne & Down	19.1%	18.2%	14.7%	-3.5%
Northern Ireland	19.8%	20.2%	19.4%	-0.8%

Table 1: Percentage of people aged 16+ who reported feeling lonely at least some of the time by LGD, 2020/21 - 2022/23. Source: Continuous Household Survey (CHS), NISRA. Note: (*) denotes that the sample size is too small (less than 100) to allow sufficient analysis of this category.

Reports of feelings of loneliness increased in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon between 2020/21 and 2021/22 but fell again in 2022/23. Only three LGD's reported an increase in feelings of loneliness in 2022/23 with the greatest increase recorded in Mid and East Antrim at 4.4 percentage points. Fermanagh and Omagh reported the largest decrease at 12.2 percentage points.

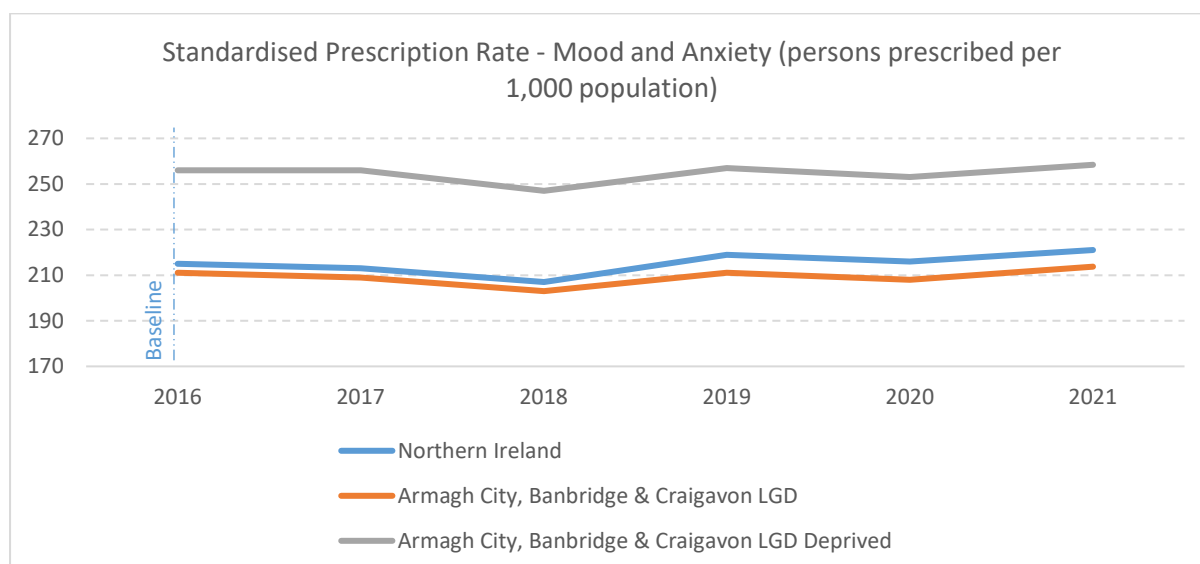
HEALTHY COMMUNITY

LONG TERM OUTCOME:

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

- Gap in life expectancy between the most deprived areas and the borough overall.
- No. of preventable deaths per 100,000 population.
- % of people who participate in sport or physical activity on at least one day a week.
- **% of people being prescribed medication for mood and anxiety disorders**

The % of people being prescribed medication for mood and anxiety disorders was included under this outcome in the 2021-23 Statement of Progress and we are recommending that it is included in the Community Plan going forward.



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.

Other options that were considered include:

- **Standardised admission rate for self-harm**
- **Crude suicide rate**
- **No. of suicides registered in the Borough**

Good mental health is at least as important as our physical health and it is critically important for everyone at every age as it can have a strong effect on our daily lives. Mental health is a basic human right.

The WHO have reported that mental health conditions are increasing worldwide and while needs are high, responses are insufficient and inadequate. To try and address this problem, the WHO sets out detailed global objectives in their 'Comprehensive mental health action plan 2013-2030'. In addition to this, the WHO published a 'World Mental Health' Report in June 2022 which 'calls on all stakeholders to work together to deepen the value and commitment given to mental health by transforming the environments that influence our mental health and by developing community-based mental health services capable of achieving universal health coverage for mental health'.

The Office for Statistics Regulation conducted a review of mental health statistics in Northern Ireland and this was published in September 2021. The report highlighted a scarcity of robust mental health data in Northern Ireland making it very difficult to get an accurate regional picture of mental health. The review found that there is a lack of official statistics and the statistics that are available are often difficult to locate.

Prior to the publication of the 2021-23 Statement of Progress, we undertook a review of the mental health indicators available at Borough level. The information was presented to the Good mental Health and Emotional Well-being sub-committee and the Community Planning Strategic Partnership, and it was agreed that we would include ***the % of people being prescribed medication for mood and anxiety disorders*** as a measure for mental health as it is presented as such in the Health Inequalities Annual Report. However, the following measures of suicide were also considered.

Indicator 1: Standardised admission rate for self-harm

Source: Health Inequalities Annual Report, Department of Health

Released: Annually

Current availability: 2012/13-2016/17 – 2017/18-2021/22

The Health Inequalities Annual Report includes the ‘standardised prescription rate – mood and anxiety disorders’, the ‘standardised admission rate for self-harm’ and the ‘crude suicide rate’ as mental health indicators.

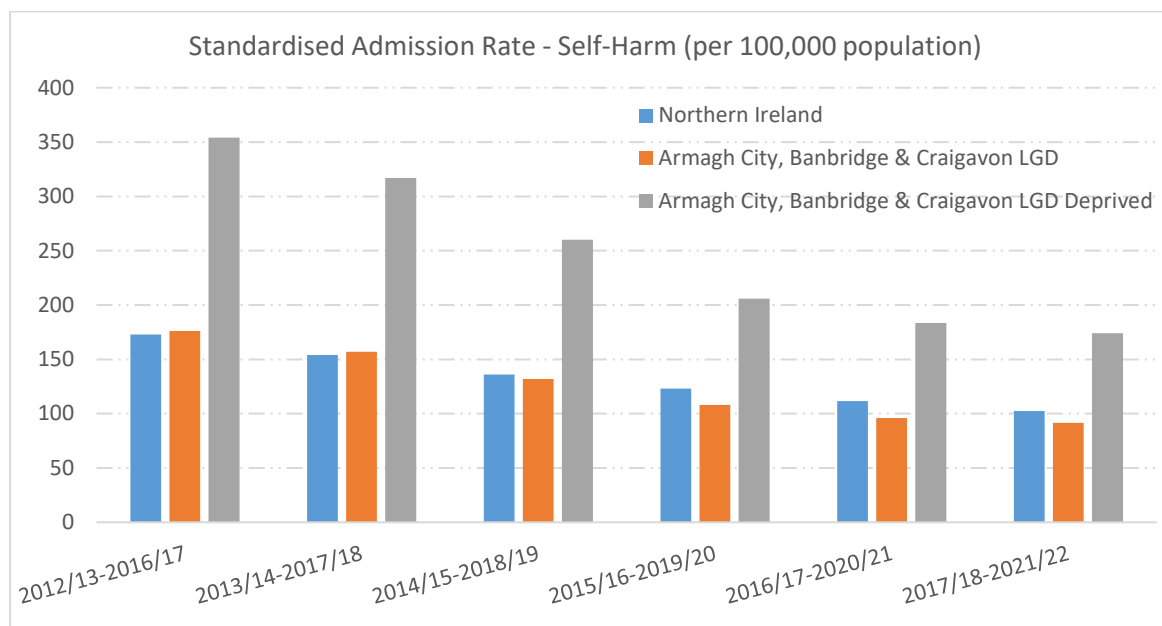


Figure 2: Standardised admission rate for self-harm – admissions per 100,000 population. Source: Health Inequalities Annual Report, 2023, Department of Health. Note: Indicator Stability - Due to random fluctuations in events over time, it is often necessary to aggregate more than one year of data for indicators in order to ensure stability. The number of years of information that are required to aggregate for each indicator is informed by both the number of events and also an assessment of its annual variability.

Over time there has been a positive change in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough and Northern Ireland overall with a gradual decline in the standardised admission rate for self-harm which is currently at its lowest at 92 per 100,000 population in the period 2017/18-2021/22. However, in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon deprived areas, the rate of self-harm admissions is almost double the borough average at 174 per 100,000 population.

Indicator 2: Crude suicide rate

Source: Health Inequalities Annual Report, Department of Health

Released: Annually

Current availability: 2015-19 – 2017/21

The Health Inequalities Annual Report includes the ‘standardised prescription rate – mood and anxiety disorders’, the ‘standardised admission rate for self-harm’ and the ‘crude suicide rate’ as mental health indicators.

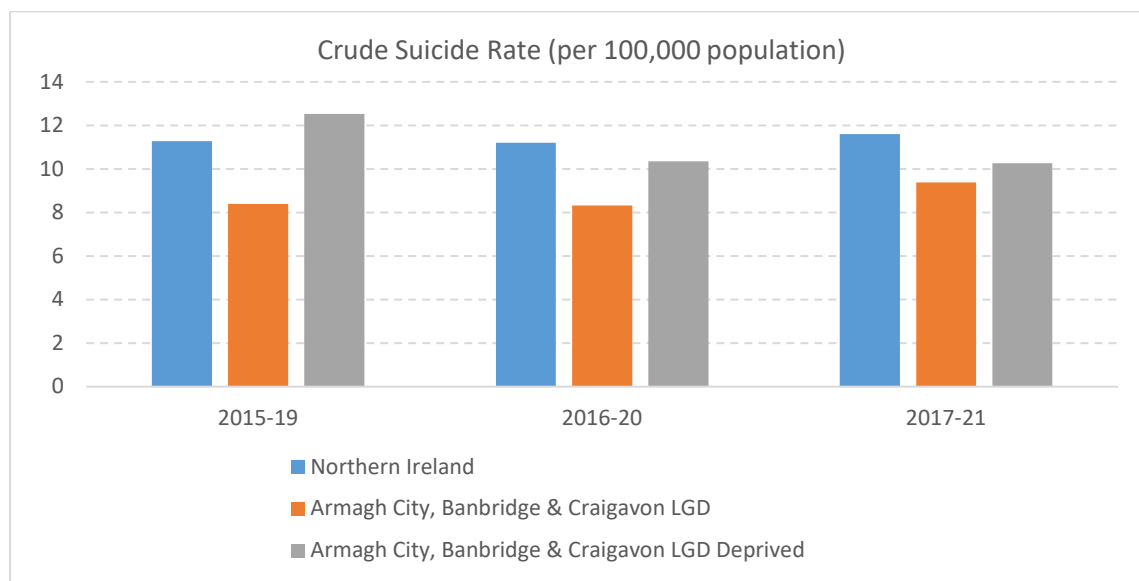


Figure 3: Crude suicide rate – deaths per 100,000 population. Source: Health Inequalities Annual Report, 2023, Department of Health. Note: Indicator Stability - Due to random fluctuations in events over time, it is often necessary to aggregate more than one year of data for indicators in order to ensure stability. The number of years of information that are required to aggregate for each indicator is informed by both the number of events and also an assessment of its annual variability.

The previous draft included the ‘Crude death rate – intentional self-harm’ as a potential indicator but the 2023 Health Inequalities Annual Report has replaced this with the Crude Suicide Rate.

Over the three periods presented, the crude suicide rate in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough has increased from 8.4 deaths per 100,000 population in 2015-19 to 9.4 deaths per 100,000 population in 2017-21. The rate has also increased slightly in Northern Ireland overall where it is currently 11.6 deaths per 100,000 population. In the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough deprived areas, the crude suicide rate is above the average for the borough overall but lower than the rate in Northern Ireland and unlike the borough and Northern Ireland, the rate has decreased over the period presented.

Indicator 3: Suicide Statistics

Source: Suicide Statistics in Northern Ireland, 2022, NISRA

Released: Annually

Current availability: 2012 – 2021

Suicide deaths in Northern Ireland are defined as deaths due to intentional self-harm as well as events of undetermined intent⁹. Suicide statistics provide an indicator of mental health and are important for monitoring trends in deaths resulting from intentional (and probable) self-harm¹⁰.

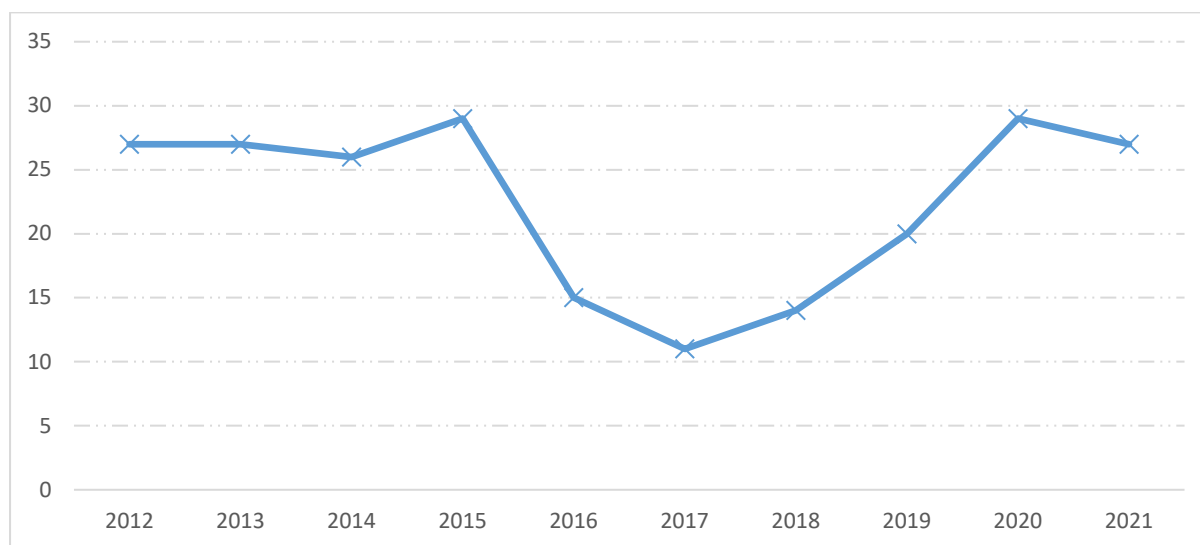


Figure 8: Number of Suicides Registered in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2012-2021. Source: Deaths Registered in Northern Ireland in 2021-2021, NISRA.

The number of suicides registered in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough between 2012 and 2021 is presented in Figure 8. Between 2015 and 2017 there was a sharp decline in the numbers but this was followed by a period of increasing numbers from 2017 to 2020. Data is available on the number of suicides in each LGD and Figure 9 presents the number of suicides in each LGD as a percentage of the total in Northern Ireland in 2012 and 2021.

Of the 11 LGDs, Belfast had the highest number of suicides accounting for 26.6% of the Northern Ireland total in 2021. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon and Newry, Mourne and Down had the next highest number accounting for 11.4% respectively. Lisburn and Castlereagh had the lowest number of suicides in 2021 accounting for 4.2% of the total in Northern Ireland.

Given the varying sizes of each LGD, the number of suicides per 100,000 population allows for more accurate comparatives. Using population figures from Census 2021 we can calculate the number of suicides per 100,000 population and this is presented in Figure 10. As we can see, Belfast still had the highest suicide rate at 18.2 deaths per 100,000 in 2021. This was followed by Derry City and Strabane (15.3 deaths per 100,000) and Newry, Mourne and Down (14.8 deaths per 100,000).

⁹ [Finalised Suicide Statistics in Northern Ireland 2015 to 2021 \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/finalised-suicide-statistics-in-northern-ireland-2015-to-2021)

¹⁰ [Suicide Deaths | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/suicide-deaths-northern-ireland-statistics-and-research-agency)

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon had a suicide rate of 12.3 deaths per 100,000 which was just below the Northern Ireland average of 12.5 deaths per 100,000.

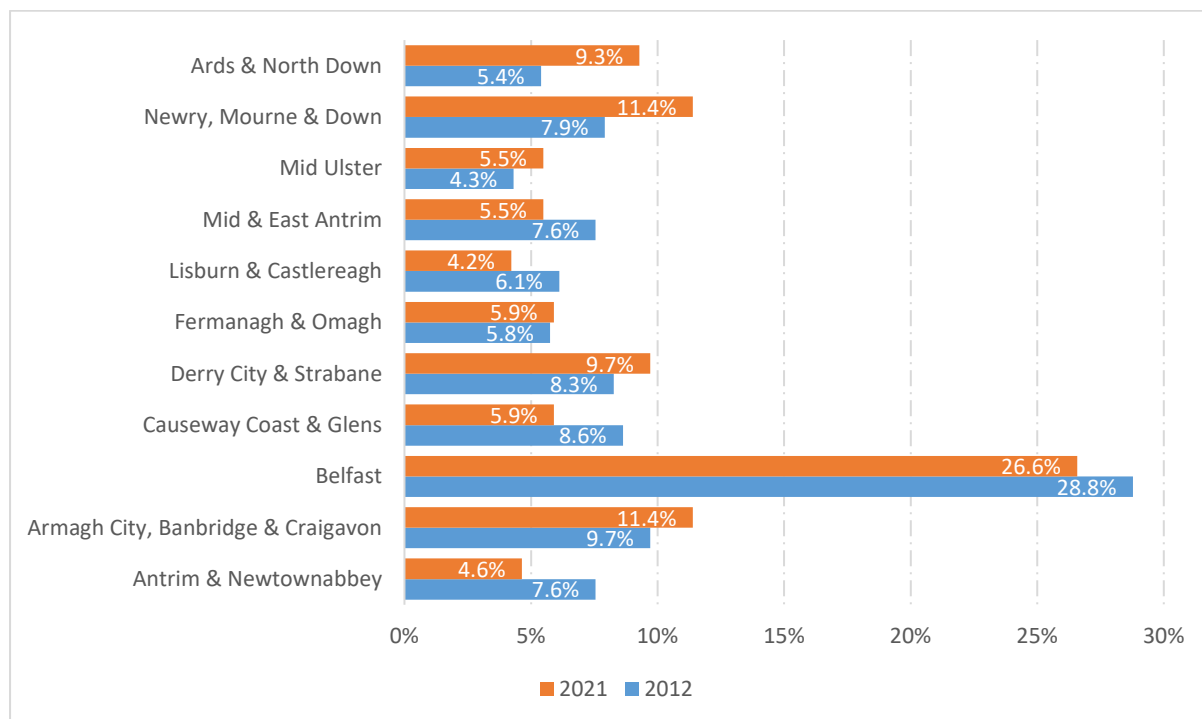


Figure 9: Number of Suicides Registered as a percentage of the total in Northern Ireland, by LGD, 2012 & 2021. Source: Deaths Registered in Northern Ireland in 2021-2021, NISRA.

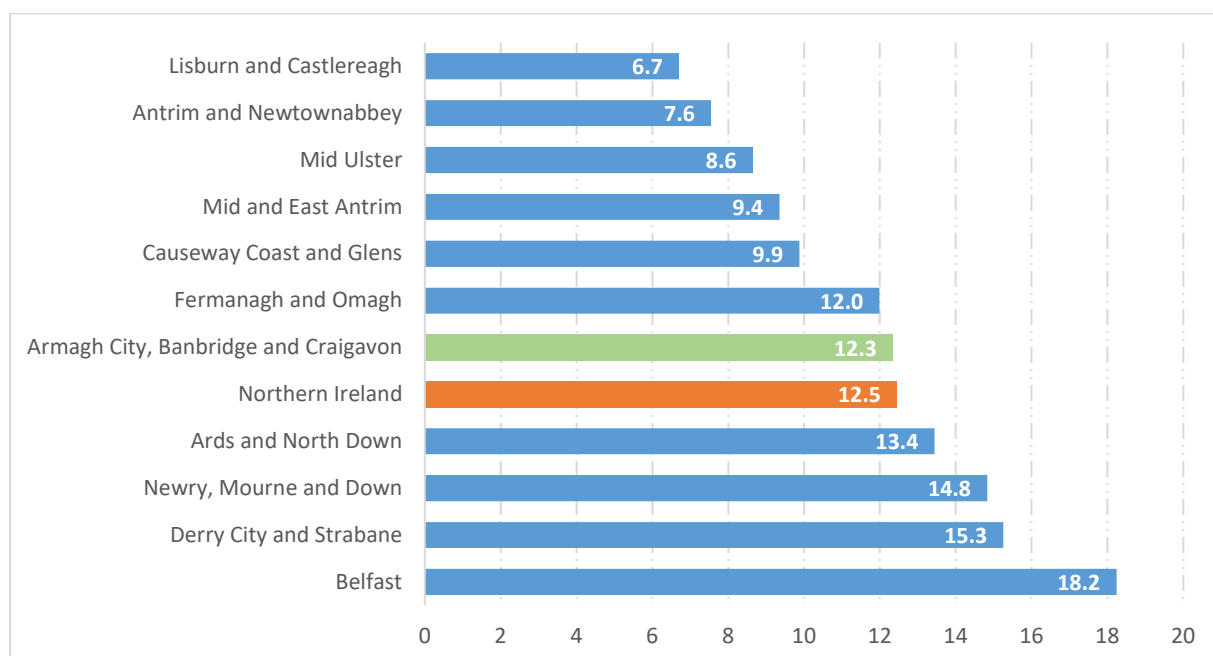


Figure 10: Number of Suicides per 100,000 population, by LGD, 2021. Source: Census 2021 & Deaths Registered in Northern Ireland in 2021-2021, NISRA. Note: Authors own calculations.

WELCOMING COMMUNITY

LONG TERM OUTCOME:

Our Borough is a safe, **inclusive**, respectful and peaceful environment.

- % 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.~~
[Move to revitalised place?](#)
- No. of accidental dwelling fires
- **No. of hate motivated incidents**

In a safe, inclusive and peaceful community, individuals from different backgrounds will feel welcomed, respected and valued and everyone will have the same opportunity to participate and engage in activities and events without fear of discrimination¹¹.

Hate motivated incidents and crimes are destructive to both individual freedoms and community safety. Such incidents don't just affect the victim and their families, but they can affect the whole community by instilling fear and creating tension in the community. Taking this into consideration, hate motivation and domestic abuse statistics have also been considered for inclusion.

¹¹ [Creating safe, diverse, inclusive, and accessible communities.](#)

Indicator 1: Number of hate motivated incidents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough

Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)

Released: Annually

Current availability: 2010/11 & 2022/23

The PSNI publishes figures on the levels and trends in police recorded incidents and crimes with a hate motivation. It is important to note that these figures only relate to those hate motivated incidents reported to the police and so, only provide an indication of the true extent of hate motivated incidents. The figures are reported by type of motivation (race, sectarianism, sexual orientation, faith/religion, disability, transgender identity) and the total is presented in the chart below. As we can see, total hate motivated incidents in the Borough have increased from 149 in 2010/11 to 289 in 2022/23. The breakdown of the type of incident is reported in Table 1.

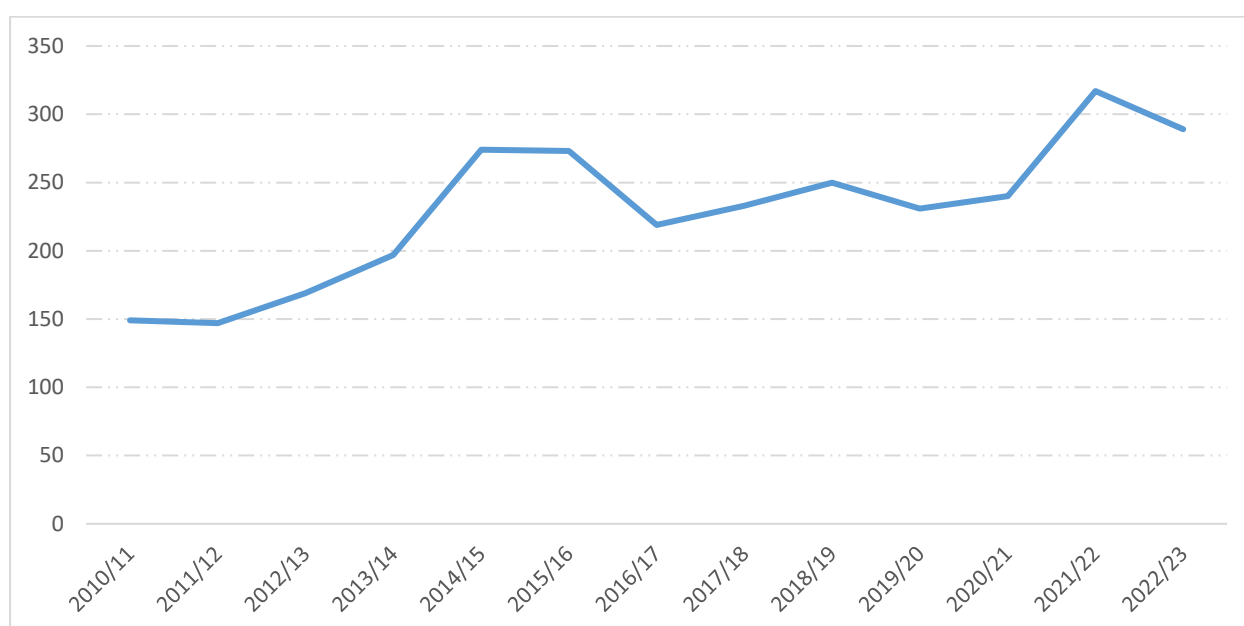


Figure 1: Total hate motivated incidents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2010/11 to 2022/23. Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland Statistics.

Hate motivated incidents¹² with a racist motivation stood at 95 in 2022/23 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough which was a decrease of almost 35% on 2021/22. Homophobic motivated incidents in the borough have also decreased by more than 30% since 2021/22. Sectarian motivated incidents have increased by almost 30% between 2021/22 and 2022/23. Sectarian motivated incidents are currently the highest of all the years presented and 56% higher than they were in 2012/13.

In 2022/23, there were 11 disability motivated incidents, 3 more than the previous year. Incidents with a transgender identity motivation doubled between 2021/22 and 2022/23 and at 22 incidents accounted for almost 31% of the total incidents recorded in Northern Ireland overall. Faith/Religion motivated incidents decreased between 2021/22 and 2022/23 and remained the lowest cause of hate motivated incidents in the borough.

¹² <https://www.psnipolice.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/hate-motivation-statistics/documents/hate-motivations-definitions.pdf>

	Racist	Sectarian	Homophobic	Disability	Transgender Identity	Faith / Religion
2010/11	57	70	10	9	1	2
2011/12	53	71	15	6	0	2
2012/13	68	77	11	11	1	1
2013/14	79	84	26	7	0	1
2014/15	133	92	36	10	2	1
2015/16	117	92	43	15	3	3
2016/17	118	67	21	8	2	3
2017/18	106	89	27	6	0	5
2018/19	126	77	34	6	4	3
2019/20	84	89	33	11	8	6
2020/21	103	86	36	11	3	1
2021/22	145	93	56	8	11	4
2022/23	95	120	39	11	22	2

Table 1: Hate motivated incidents by type of motivation in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2010/11 to 2022/23. Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland Statistics.

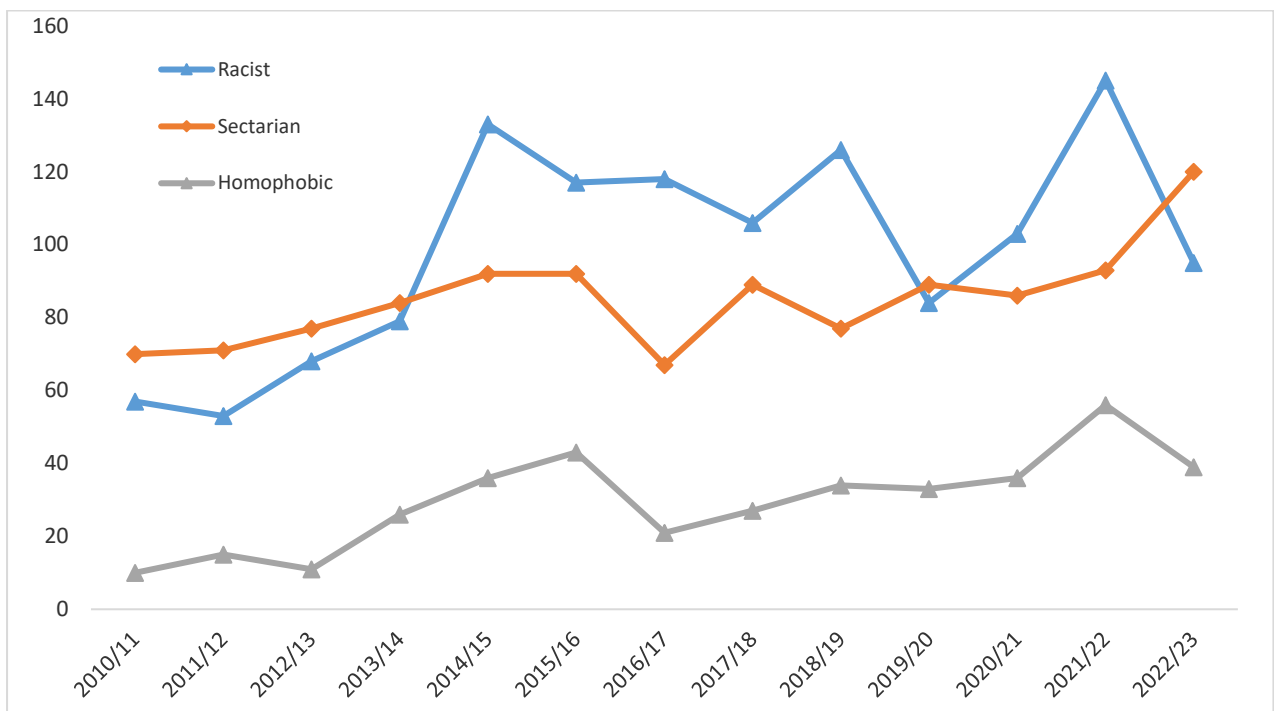


Figure 2: Racist, sectarian and homophobic motivated incidents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2010/11 to 2022/23. Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland Statistics.

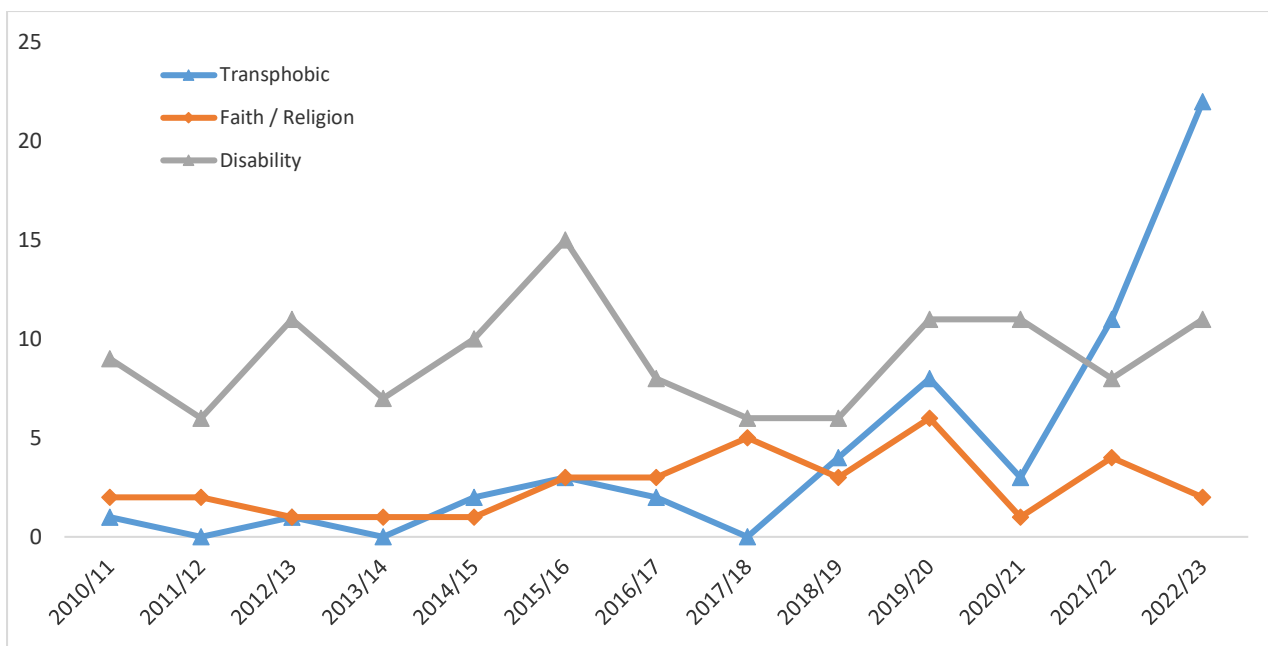


Figure 3: Transphobic, Faith/Religion and Disability motivated incidents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2010/11 to 2022/23. Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland Statistics.

We have seen that incidents with a race or sectarian motivation are the most common in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough so the table below presents the number of incidents and the percentage of the NI total for race motivated incidents and sectarian motivated incidents by LGD. The number of both race and sectarian motivated incidents in Belfast far exceeds every other LGD. However, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough has the second highest percentage of the total race motivated incidents and the fourth highest percentage of total sectarian motivated incidents in Northern Ireland.

	Incidents with a Race motivation		Incidents with a Sectarian motivation	
	Number	% of NI	Number	% of NI
Belfast City	557	45.6%	363	29.3%
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	61	5.0%	78	6.3%
Ards & North Down	79	6.5%	57	4.6%
Newry, Mourne & Down	83	6.8%	64	5.2%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	95	7.8%	120	9.7%
Mid Ulster	47	3.8%	149	12.0%
Fermanagh & Omagh	40	3.3%	42	3.4%
Derry City & Strabane	79	6.5%	139	11.2%
Causeway Coast & Glens	48	3.9%	87	7.0%
Mid & East Antrim	66	5.4%	50	4.0%
Antrim & Newtownabbey	66	5.4%	89	7.2%
Northern Ireland	1,221		1,238	

Table 2: Incidents with a Race and Sectarian motivation by LGD, 2022/23. Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland Statistics.

Indicator 2: Domestic Abuse Statistics

Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)

Released: Annually

Current availability: 2005/06 & 2022/23

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) publishes figures on the levels and trends in police recorded domestic abuse incidents and crimes¹³. As these figures only relate to those domestic abuse incidents reported to the police, they only provide an indication of the true extent of domestic abuse. The statistics are collated and produced by statisticians seconded to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)¹⁴.

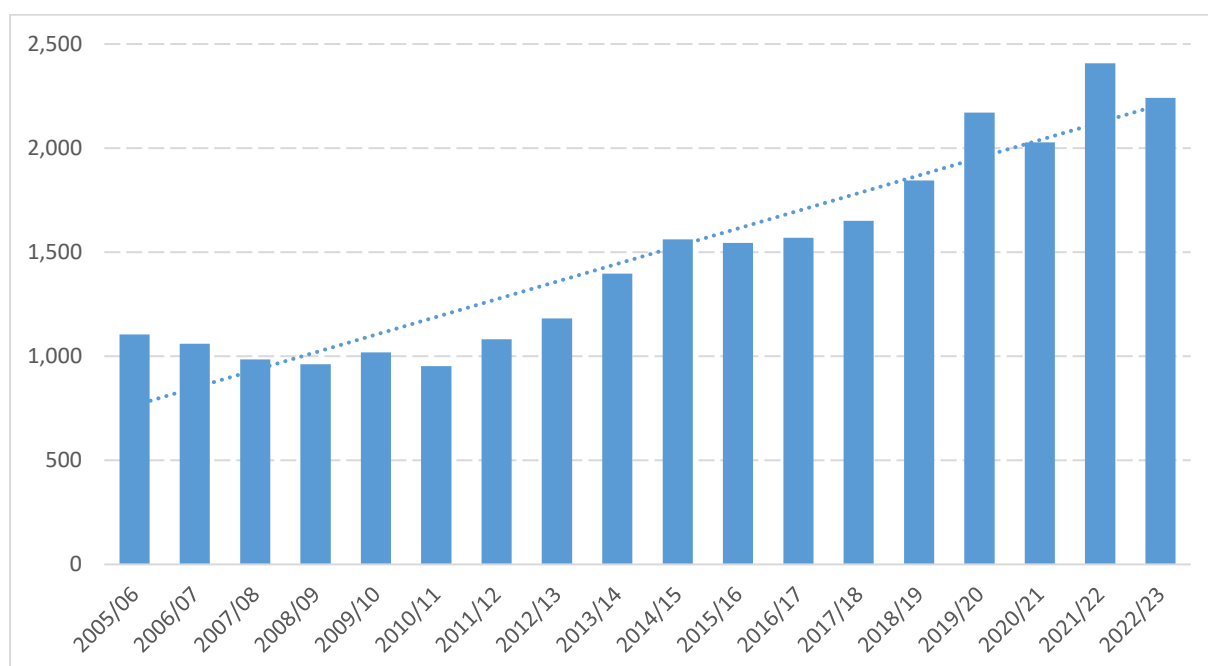


Figure 1: Recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2004/05-2022/23. Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland Official Statistics.

As presented in Figure 1, domestic abuse crimes have shown an increasing trend since 2005/06. The latest data shows that domestic abuse crimes have more than doubled in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough from 1,105 in 2005/06 to 2,241 in 2022/23. While we must be mindful that it

¹³ The PSNI has adopted the definition of domestic violence and abuse as outlined in the 2016 Northern Ireland Government Strategy ‘Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland’ as: ‘threatening, controlling, coercive behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, virtual, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability) by a current or former intimate partner or family member’. The following will assist in the application of this definition: (a) ‘Incident’ means an incident anywhere and not confined to the home of one of the partners/family members; (b) ‘Family members’ include mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparents, whether directly or indirectly related, in-laws or stepfamily. (c) ‘Intimate partners’ means there must have been a relationship with a degree of continuity and stability. The relationship must also have had (or reasonably supposed to have had) a sexual aspect, such as in the relationship between husband and wife or between others generally recognised as a couple including same sex couples.

¹⁴ [Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2022/23 \(psni.police.uk\)](https://psni.police.uk/trends-in-domestic-abuse-incident-and-crimes-recorded-by-the-police-in-northern-ireland-2004-05-to-2022-23)

could be the case that more people are reporting crimes now, it's still the current number we must pay attention to and at 2,241 in a 12 month period, this is too high.

Figure 2 presents the number of crimes with a domestic abuse motivation in each policing district in Northern Ireland and the number of crimes per 1,000 population. In terms of the number of crimes, at 2,241, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough has the third highest number of domestic abuse motivated crimes after Belfast and Derry and Strabane with 5,791 and 2,336 respectively. Given the varying sizes of the policing districts / LGD's, the number of crimes per 1,000 population allows for a better comparison. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2022/23, there were 10 recorded crimes for every 1,000 population. Belfast City had the highest at 17 per 1,000 while Fermanagh & Omagh and Lisburn & Castlereagh had the lowest at 8 per 1,000 population. In Northern Ireland overall, there was an average of 12 domestic abuse motivated crimes for every 1,000 population.

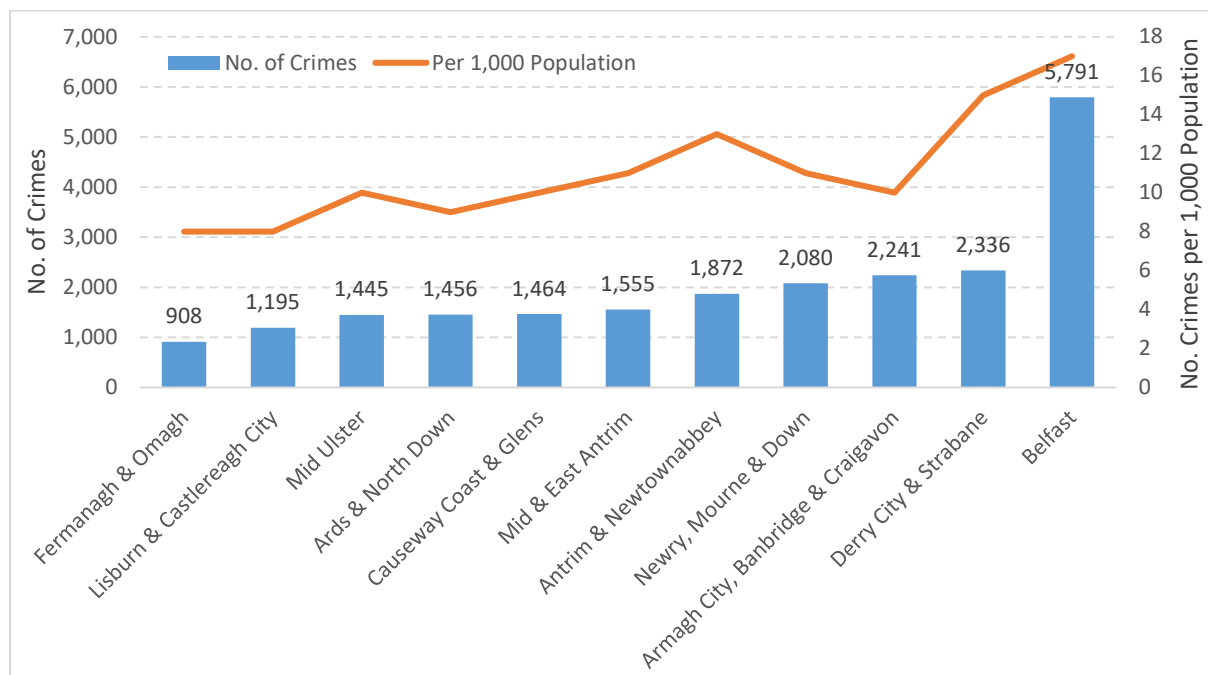


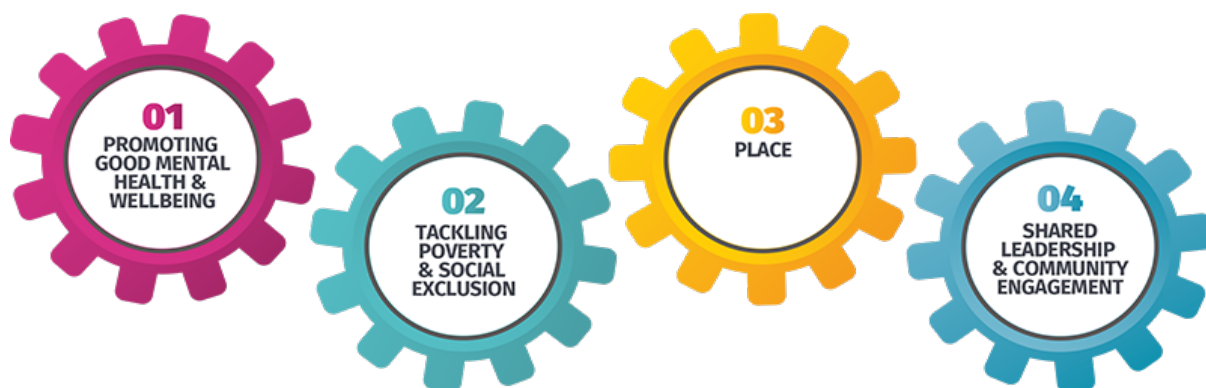
Figure 2: Recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation, 2022/23 and recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation per 1,000 population by policing district. Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland Official Statistics.

PART 3

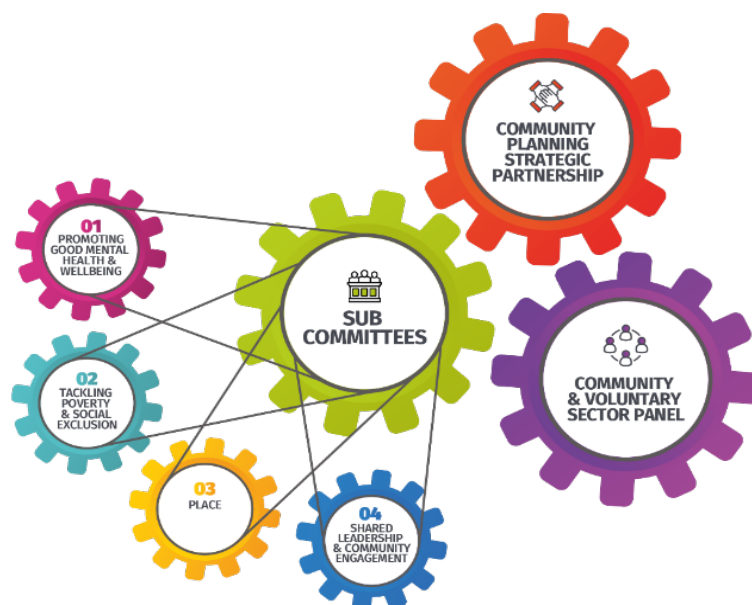
Community Planning Partnership Actions

Covid-19 Response and Recovery Action Plan 2022-2023

The Community Planning Partnership for the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough have a statutory duty to take forward actions that contribute to the outcomes in their community plans. Our community plan is called *Connected* and all community planning partners share an equal responsibility for the implementation and delivery of the plan. A refresh of the Community Planning Partnerships actions was undertaken as a result of the research and engagement undertaken as part of the Partnership's Statement of Progress 2019-2021. This Covid-19 Response and Recovery action plan is a multi-agency and cross sectoral response which builds on the extensive community action and partnership working that we saw during the pandemic and has continued into the current cost of living crisis. The four priority themes for action in the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Action Plan are-



The Community Planning Partnership has established four sub-committees to deliver the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Action Plan. There are 21 actions in the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Action plan and these are delivered through the four sub-committee's- Promoting Good Mental Health and Wellbeing, Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion, Place and Shared Leadership and Community Engagement.



Sub-Committee's and Actions

Each of the four sub-committee has broad membership from across the Community Planning partnership including action leads from the CPSP and the CVSP and during the past two years there has been further development with partners being supported to step into chair and vice-chair roles in the sub-committees. The Community & Voluntary Sector Panel are integral to the leadership of the partnership and this sector is crucial to the wellbeing of the Borough as their work is critically important in terms of responding quickly to any local crisis and for early intervention and prevention.

The actions in the Community Plan, which all align with the Draft Programme for Government 2021, are delivered by 27 action leads from 4 statutory organisations and 4 from community & voluntary sector organisations. Fourteen of the 21 actions are led or joint led by Council. In the last Statement of Progress 2021-2023, 90% of these actions were on track which is testament to the hard work of the sub-committees in their delivery of these actions. The partnership health check undertaken as part of the Statement of Progress highlighted that 11 partners are in Chair and Vice-Chair roles across these sub-committee's and 7 of these roles are held by 5 statutory partners and 4 are held by Community & Voluntary sector partners. In light of the review of Connected the partnerships actions will be revisited in the Autumn time to ensure that our collective efforts are targeted to where we can make the most difference.

This summary table below looks at the actions that align to each outcome under Community Theme and the proposed new outcome along with any regional strategies that the actions deliver upon.

PARTNERSHIP ACTION	CONNECTED OUTCOME	REGIONAL STRATEGIES
PROMOTING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING		
Take 5 Develop and promote Take 5 and mental health first aid resources and projects.	Confident Community or Connected Community Healthy Community Welcoming Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031, Dept of Health • Protect Life 2 Suicide Prevention Strategy, Dept of Health • Making Life Better 2012-2023, Dept of Health • Active Living- Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland 2020 – 2030, Dept for Communities • Join In, Get Involved: Build a Better Future A Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan for Northern Ireland 2012, Dept for Social Development
Be Active Deliver Get Moving ABC Framework	Confident Community or Connected Community Healthy Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Living- Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland 2020 – 2030, Dept for Communities • Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031, Dept of Health • Making Life Better 2012-2023, Dept of Health
Give Promote, champion and sustain Volunteering	Confident Community or Connected Community Healthy Community Welcoming Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join In, Get Involved: Build a Better Future A Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan for Northern Ireland 2012, Dept for Social Development • Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031, Dept of Health • Making Life Better 2012-2023, Dept of Health

PARTNERSHIP ACTION	CONNECTED OUTCOME	REGIONAL STRATEGIES
Connect Support and Grow the Loneliness Network	Confident Community or Connected Community Healthy Community Welcoming Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign to end Loneliness- Call for Loneliness Strategy, not yet actioned by Government • Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031, Dept of Health
Promote self-care of staff and volunteers within the CVSE sector.	Confident Community or Connected Community Healthy Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031, Dept of Health • Making Life Better 2012-2023, Dept of Health • Join In, Get Involved: Build a Better Future A Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan for Northern Ireland 2012, Dept of Social Development • Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Framework, Dept for Communities
TACKLING POVERTY & SOCIAL EXCLUSION		
Emergency Need Continue to provide food, energy and wraparound support to people experiencing poverty.	Confident Community or Connected Community Healthy Community Welcoming Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting People, Work and Health – DfC Operational Strategy 2020-2025, Dept for Communities • Northern Ireland Food Strategy Strategic Framework- Dept of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs • New Decade New Approach and the draft Programme for Government Outcomes Framework

PARTNERSHIP ACTION	CONNECTED OUTCOME	REGIONAL STRATEGIES
Housing Enhance mix of tenure, and improve accessibility and affordability across the Borough's Housing	Confident Community or Connected Community Healthy Community Welcoming Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Decade New Approach and the draft Programme for Government Outcomes Framework • Ending Homelessness Together 2022- 2027 strategy.-NI Housing Executive • Older People's Housing Strategy 2021/22- 2026/27- NI Housing Executive • Irish Travellers Accommodation Strategy-NI Housing Executive • Supporting People Programme- NI Housing Executive
Labour Market Partnership Implement the LMP scheme	Confident Community or Connected Community Welcoming Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximizing potential: A review of labour market outcomes for people with disabilities in Northern Ireland ULSTER University, Economic Policy Centre 2022 • 10X Economy: An economic vision for a decade of innovation – Dept for Economy 2021 • Employment Outcomes and challenges for the Disabled in N. Ireland Dept for Communities 2021 • NI Skills Barometer, Dept for Economy Supporting People, Work and Health – Dept for Communities Operational Strategy 2020-2025
Age Friendly Borough Create a Borough that is welcoming, accessible and friendly borough for people of all ages	Confident Community Or Connected Community Healthy Community Welcoming Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Ageing Strategy 2016-22, Depart for Communities • Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031, Dept of Health • Making Life Better 2012-2023, Dept of Health
People and Place Strategy Create a Borough that is welcoming, accessible and friendly for people of all ages	Confident Community Or Connected Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and Place – A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal- Local Co-Design process for review of People & Place Strategy -Dept for Communities

PARTNERSHIP ACTION	CONNECTED OUTCOME	REGIONAL STRATEGIES
	Healthy Community Welcoming Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10X Economy: An economic vision for a decade of innovation – Dept for Economy 2021 • Supporting People, Work and Health – Dept for Communities Operational Strategy 2020-2025
PEACEPLUS Delivery of the ABC Community PEACE action plan	Confident Community Or Connected Community Healthy Community Welcoming Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Decade New Approach and the draft Programme for Government Outcomes Framework • Together: Building a United Community Strategy- The Executive Office
PLACE		
Place Plans Implement, develop and roll out Place plans across the Borough	Confident Community or Connected Community Healthy Community Welcoming Community	A range of regional strategies focused on social, economic and environmental wellbeing.
SHARED LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT		
Tak£500+ PB Further develop participatory budgeting across the Borough	Confident Community or Connected Community Healthy Community Welcoming Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Places-PB Charter • Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031, Dept of Health
Further Embed the Partnership’s Community Engagement Strategy	Confident Community or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Decade New Approach

PARTNERSHIP ACTION	CONNECTED OUTCOME	REGIONAL STRATEGIES
	<p>Connected Community</p> <p>Way of working that contributes to all outcomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and Young People's Strategy 2020-2030, Dept for Education.
<p>Support CVSE Panel</p>	<p>Confident Community or Connected Community</p> <p>Way of working that contributes to all outcomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Join In, Get Involved: Build a Better Future A Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan for Northern Ireland 2012, Dept of Social Development Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Framework, Dept for Communities
<p>Use of data and evidence</p>	<p>Way of working that contributes to all outcomes.</p>	
<p>Shared Leadership Support</p>	<p>Way of working that contributes to all outcomes.</p>	

ABC Community Planning Partnership Approach

Community planning requires ways of working that include shared leadership, close collaboration and integration; evidence informed policies and programmes; and involving local people in decision-making and action. These ways of working overlap with each other and our partnership has adopted them as an approach to our work.

