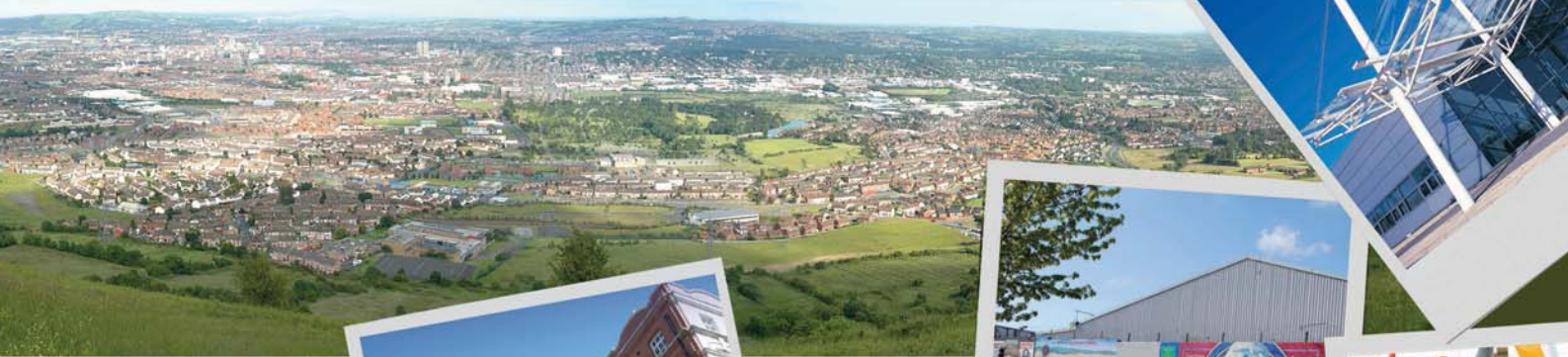


ANNUAL REPORT 2022



WEST BELFAST PARTNERSHIP PÁIRTÍOCHT FEIRSTE THIAR

Mission Statement

“To involve people who live and work in West Belfast in generating social, economic, physical and cultural development to ensure West Belfast makes a full contribution to and benefits equally from developments in the city as a whole.”



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Registered Charity Number: NIC 103564

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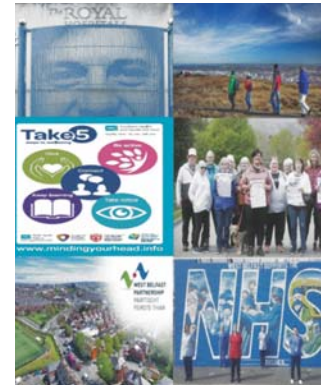
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Health & Wellbeing

West Belfast Population Health Plan

The work continues to develop a comprehensive Place based Health and Wellbeing population plan for West Belfast. Three task and finish groups have been established to begin a significant public engagement process that will engage residents across West Belfast.

The process will inform the outworking of a 10-year West Belfast Health Plan that will address health inequalities within the local population. The Framework development group continues to oversee the development of the process and have developed a range of surveys and focus groups & plan to organise public workshops as part of the engagement process.



Resilient West Belfast
Building Wellbeing Together

Drug and Alcohol Support Services

The health group attended a meeting on 23 March organised by Orlaithi Flynn MLA with PHA, Dept Health and community sector on the WB Drug panel recommendations. Officials were urged to co design a tailored response to the issue of drug addiction & prevalence in West Belfast.



The Health group have begun an engagement process with Addiction service providers & the Belfast Trust within West Belfast to develop an understanding of pathway referrals and the gaps in service. There have also been meetings with trauma & addiction counsellors exploring the idea of rehabilitation services for West Belfast. The WBPB Health group are also a member of the city-wide Belfast Drug and Alcohol Coordination Team meetings and continue to contribute to the complex lives' strategy.

Take 5 Benches

The WBPB are working with Belfast Health Development Unit in the rollout of the 'Take 5 Benches' project which will see the installation of 16 mental health wellbeing benches across Belfast City council parks. The benches promote engagement with other people, and will have information contained on the Public Health Agency's Minding Your Head website, accessible via a QR code visible on each bench.



Access to Services

WBPB have established a small working group alongside the West Belfast Integrated Care Partnership to examine issues with access to GP and wider services. This is an ongoing piece of work that will look at developing a strategy to enhance access to services and reduce bottle necks within GP practices.

Dementia Friendly West Group

The West Belfast Dementia Friendly Group provide strategic direction on agencies approach to Dementia within West Belfast. The group have developed an action plan to raise awareness of Dementia and develop support for carers. Funding has also been secured for 50 dementia friendly packs that will be distributed locally. The group are members of the city-wide Age friendly network. The group recently held a planning session to develop responses to issues faced by both carers and those living with Dementia. The group also recently facilitated the Dementia Bus training at Cullingtree Meadows.



Belfast Agenda – Living Here Board

The West Belfast Partnership Board are a member of the Belfast Agenda Living Here Board. The board take a community planning approach to addressing Health inequalities and delivering better Health outcomes for the city.



Making Life Better Strategy/Active Travel

The WBPB continue to lobby for a West Belfast Greenway which will provide safe cycling and walking infrastructure. The WBPB believe that embedding health and wellbeing within the built environment will develop healthy lifestyles. A consultant has been appointed by Department for Infrastructure to develop a feasibility study on the route.



The greenway will provide West Belfast with an interconnected cycle route that will link Lisburn and Belfast City centre through an accessible greenway. The route will also connect West Belfast with the existing Lagan tow route from the Colin area, providing a greater variety of travel routes for cyclists and walkers.



Enhancing the local environment and creating a community asset is key to the overall greenway project. The greenway will also link communities along the route in a physical sense but also involving them in an ongoing engagement process to enhance the route.

The Greenway will provide an open green space for residents & visitors to enjoy, nurture and develop for the enjoyment of everyone.

The benefits of connected greenways are considerable:

- Boosting the physical and mental health of the population of West Belfast.
- Protecting the environment
- Tackling climate change
- Improving cycling and walking networks – to promote active travel to work and school, and help reduce our carbon footprint.



Education

"West Belfast – a place where they have worked some educational magic!"



2,358

Children, Parents & Grandparents
taking part in
Nursery Parent & Child Programmes
Parents supporting their child's learning
Parents & children reading at home



193 educators city
wide received
training from WBPB

100% recommend our training to others

Support for pupils in Years 8– 10



Literacy
Supports



Numeracy
Supports



Better Subject
Understanding

**Sharing
the
Learning
with**

East Belfast
South Belfast
North Belfast
Greater Shankill
Belfast City Council
Derry
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council
Ards & North Down Council
Learning Cities Network

*A massive thank you for the help
that my son has received. His
confidence has grown in Maths and
English and I can see him enjoying
these subjects once again.
Thank you to all involved!*

3310 KS2 pupils taking part in
Accelerated Reader/Maths
Increase of 4.5 months in average reading age
Over 100 Word Millionaires

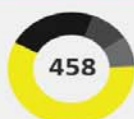
958 pupils in **Primary – Post Primary**

Transition Programme
100% of children felt happier moving from Primary
to Post Primary school

**GCSE Maths & English Supports
including Easter School & Community
Supports**



Students supported
in Maths



Students supported
in English



**Community After Schools
Literacy & Numeracy Supports**
377 children
123 parents

*"The West Belfast Partnership Board have been an invaluable resource and source of
support during this very challenging year"*

Aisling Bursaries 2021

On Thursday 9th September 2021 we were delighted to hold our 22nd Annual Aisling Bursaries Presentation Ceremony in the Devenish Complex. This year we were delighted to welcome Michelle McIlveen MLA, Minister of Education and Paul Maskey, MP as keynote speakers.

Speaking at the event, Jim Donnelly, Chair, West Belfast Partnership Board thanked new and existing sponsors, our independent scoring panel, Monica Culbert and Eilis Rooney, and recipients of this year's Aisling Bursaries.

We are delighted that in 2021, 74 students received an Aisling Bursary from wonderful sponsors who donated a total of £47,500.

Since the Aisling Bursaries were launched, 930 students of all ages from west Belfast have benefitted from donations amounting to £738,500, which really is exceptional, and a credit to all involved.



City Wide GCSE Programme

WBPB lead a successful consortium of community partners across the city to provide GCSE revision classes in Belfast on a cross community basis. The programme builds capacity and tackles educational inequality by providing city-wide revision classes to children on FSM & those who struggle to achieve Grades A-C in Maths & English. Partners include Eastside Learning, Forward South, and Greater Shankill Partnership, and BSCR with WBPB having responsibility for delivery in North Belfast. The work is led by WBPB and has been extended to August 2022.

A main focus of WBPB throughout the last year has been to continue to support this specific initiative to tackle inequalities in education through GCSE supports as the city-wide lead delivery agent. In doing so WBPB have actively engaged with all Belfast Area Partnerships (BAP's) colleagues across the city, participating post Primary schools and community organisations to recruit approximately 400 participating pupils across the city to the Project since its inception. As the project is entering its final stages, with completion of delivery to occur in June of this year, WBPB as the lead partner are ensuring all conditions of the contract have been met and that pupils have been provided with adequate out of school hours to raise educational attainment levels on a city-wide basis. Currently there are 5 WBPB staff and 10 colleagues from across BAP's working on this cross community, city wide project.

“ WBPB have actively engaged with all Belfast Area Partnerships (BAPs) colleagues accross the city, participating post Primary schools and community organisations to recruit approximately 400 pupils across the city to the project... ”

Neighbourhood Renewal

WBPB have delivered a neighbourhood renewal contract on behalf of the Community Empowerment Division (CED) of the Department for Communities. CED funding has enabled the employment of a core staff team to direct, manage and deliver a range of community, social, physical, and economic renewal initiatives locally and city-wide which help tackle poverty and disadvantage and contribute to community cohesion and good community relations. At WBPB we host the West Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Forum. The Forum brings together the Chairpersons and representatives from each Neighbourhood Partnership in west Belfast.



The Forum also includes two members of the West Belfast Partnership, and two seats are reserved for wider thematic interest groups in the west of the city.

The Forum provides practical support and assistance to those working on Neighbourhood Renewal in west Belfast and has been at the forefront of the Community Response in tackling Covid19 by assisting the most vulnerable and those deemed in need across west Belfast. In response to the Covid19 Pandemic, over the 12 months the Forum, which represents the collective voice for West Belfast Neighbourhood Partnerships regarding issues of Neighbourhood Renewal and regeneration has been instrumental in lobbying for funding, procuring, packaging and delivering much needed household supplies for those most in need across west Belfast and beyond.

As mentioned, Neighbourhood Renewal is the Government's policy to address urban regeneration and focuses on areas that fall within the worst 10 per cent in terms of multiple deprivation. The Department for Social Development is the primary driver of the policy, but it seeks to involve the co-operation of all government departments.

WBPB, continue to co-ordinate and lead the NR groups across west Belfast and in the reporting, period have held 10 meetings of the NR Forum in the reporting period April 2021-March 2022. WBPB continued to build community capacity and cohesion in terms of winter planning, and successfully lobbied for an additional £160k to support those most vulnerable and in need throughout west Belfast to assist with essential household items, food, and energy costs. Throughout the reporting period WBPB continued to build community capacity by working alongside DFC and BCC colleagues in assisting with the Regeneration Fund as well the new N/R applications as well as the small and medium micro grants from Belfast City Council.

Community Planning

WBPB are an active member and contributor to Belfast Community Planning Partnership alongside our BAPs and cross sectoral colleagues and are active advocates for promoting shared space.

One initiative that WBPB have continued to be extensively involved in has been the development of the Forth Meadow Greenway which will run from Glencrain onto the Springfield and Whiterock roads, through the Bog Meadows to the new Transport Hub at Weavers Cross. In the reporting period WBPB, have set up and coordinated consultation meetings with various stakeholders across west Belfast and have been directly involved in the initial discussions around the governance arrangements for the Greenway once it has been opened to the public.

In addition, as highlighted above WBPB have been developing community capacity and cohesion by, driving the development of a new and exciting west Belfast Greenway to advance derelict land, create access to open and green spaces, while provided safe active travel routes for leisure activities and as an alternative to the car for commuters. WBPB have also been lobbying various government departments, developers and the Catholic Church to adopt land and ensure cycling and walking infrastructure is put in place across West Belfast to link to existing networks/developments with the ultimate aim of creating more open green shared spaces across the west of the city and beyond.

In addition, we have attended community planning partnership and subsequent board meetings in the reporting period and are working towards the delivery of the Belfast Agenda through the thematic Living Here and Working and Learning Boards as well as the Jobs and Education task and finish group thereby developing community capacity to deliver the Belfast Agenda while promoting the effective use of shared space.

“ WBPB have been developing community capacity and cohesion by, driving the development of a new and exciting west Belfast Greenway... ”

Economic Development

In the reporting period, WBPB partnered with the Blackie River group and Fibre Contractors on employability initiatives such as Fibre Splicing, where the organisation assisted the Blackie River in successfully tendering to DFC and were subsequently awarded approximately £108k to deliver formal qualifications to approx 40 participants.

WBPB, also worked collaboratively with Belfast City Council and partnering organisations to train 25, 18-20 year olds in learner driver theory training to assist the young people into employment pathways. As a follow on WBPB also partnered with BCC and other local training providers to help and assist local residents secure a place on the BCC Employment academies and have been directly involved in providing training to over 30 local residents for transport specific training, namely within the taxi industry via theory and practical training to tackle the high levels of economically inactive workers by providing the necessary skills and support for local residents to move into self-employment. As alluded to above, WBPB are formal members of Belfast City Council Community Planning Partnership which has a remit to deliver the Belfast Agenda – Belfast's Community Plan. WBPB have helped shape this new structure and from Oct 21 have been active contributors to work streams including the Living Here Board, Working and Learning Board and the Resilience and Sustainability Board as well as the task and finish groups, most notably the Jobs, Education and Skills working group alongside statutory partners, with whom we collectively work together to help translate the Belfast Agenda into real targets and goals that will have an impact on communities and people's lives. In doing so WBPB work to ensure the needs and opportunities of west Belfast residents are reflected therein.

In addition, WBPB have continued to be instrumental in promoting the Employment Academies run by Belfast City Council and have been very active on the Stakeholders group, working alongside the Economic Development Unit in BCC to promote the Employability Academies, by organising and attending further workshops, online open days, meet the employer events, sharing of information and signposting local residents to the academies along with other supports. In support of this WBPB have been very actively involved in helping local businesses tender successfully for the academies.

Employability: The Fibre Training programme begun in West Belfast with a collaboration of groups including the Partnership Board, Blackie River Community Groups and Fibre Contractors Ltd. The Pilot saw 36 people from West Belfast trained in splicing and 10 on upskilling. On the back of this success BCC started its Fibre Employment Academy of which the Partnership Board is a partner and the academy has to date trained 38 participants 21 of whom live in West Belfast which equals 57 participants from West Belfast trained from December 2021 to now and 51 of these successful participants are now in employment.

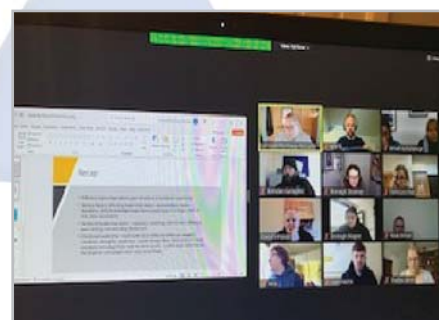


Transformative Leadership Programme

Within the past year 4 further courses of the Transformative Leadership Programme have been delivered by WBPB to 54 participants from across west Belfast and beyond. In improving community relations, the Transformative Leadership programme forms part of Belfast City Council's overall Transform for Change initiative across the city, of which WBPB are a delivery agent. This is an ILM accredited L3 leadership training programme funded by the PEACE IV programme through Belfast City Council (BCC) and spearheaded by NICVA as the lead partner.

As a valued training partner in the Transform for Change EU Peace IV programme headed up by NICVA on behalf of Belfast City Council, WBPB have worked collaboratively with other partner organisations across the city which include NICVA, East Belfast Community Development Association, Falls Community Council, and Forward South Partnership to improve community relations and in the new reporting period ahead, WBPB will spearhead student study visits across the city.

- It is currently being delivered in 15 interface areas across Belfast.
- It provides skills for building collaboration and new ways of working between people in the community and voluntary sector, the public sector and political sector who want to make life better in the target interface areas.
- The main aims of the programme are to build leadership skills and solution-focused approaches that can contribute to positive change in local communities and across Belfast.
- Delivered in an interactive and engaging way
- Covers a wide range of leadership topics including Creating an inspiring vision, transforming relationships, Leading and motivating, Innovation and change, Collaboration.
- For individuals, groups, staff, volunteers, board members, members of the public
- For community groups, political parties, public sector organisations
- Option of achieving an Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) level 3 Award qualification.
- Opportunity to be involved in a funded project / Option of study visits and networking events.



As the TLP course is part of BCC's wider Peace IV *Transform for Change* programme. This means that in addition to attending the course and being part of a collaborative project, participants have also been invited to take part in other PEACE IV events run by Belfast City Council. This included area and city-wide networking events, community engagement events and study visits across the North, ROI and UK.

Housing, Environment & Planning

Environment Awards 2021

Every year the West Belfast Partnership celebrates the work of local communities who have strived to improve, protect and enhance the environment in the west of the city. We believe our much coveted Environmental Awards encourage the community and public agencies to take ownership and responsibility for protecting the environment and making West Belfast a better place to live, work and play.



This was the 19th year of the West Belfast Partnership Community Environment Awards. The awards are held each year to celebrate those who have worked to improve, protect and enhance the environment in West Belfast.

We are very grateful to our sponsors for their contribution to the Awards, and it is only through your support that this event is possible.

This year's winners are as follows:

Ark Education Award:

St Theresa's Nursery School were awarded the Ark Education Award for their huge efforts with their Welcome Wall.

Bryson Recycling Award:

All Saints College were awarded the Bryson Recycling Award for Making our Communities a Better Place.

Translink Belfast Transport Hub Community Award:

Patrick Sarsfields GAC were awarded the Translink Belfast Transport Hub Community Award for their Mens Shed Revamp.

Translink Belfast Transport Hub Community Award:

Hold Trinity Primary School were awarded the Translink Belfast Transport Hub Community Award for their Sensory Garden Rejuvenation.

West Belfast Partnership Public Art Award:

All Saints College were awarded the West Belfast Partnership Public Art Award for their Mens Shed Revamp.



.....

Renee Crawford, Chair of the West Belfast Partnership Environment Sub Group, said of the Awards:

“ *I would like to thank the community groups and organisations who submitted an application for this year’s Community Environment Awards. I congratulate all of them for their enthusiasm, invention and dedication to improve the West Belfast environment, and in turn to help educate the younger generations on the importance of physical development, restoration, and regeneration of West Belfast.* ”

Bolder Vision Consultation

The housing environmental and planning group held consultations with Belfast City council regeneration officers on the Bolder vision for Belfast strategy. The consultations were held online due to the pandemic. The HEP submitted a consultation response to the plans and outlines a vision for inner city West Belfast that would allow regeneration to transcend Belfast city centre.

The consultation also pointed to the lack of investment in Castle Street and Grosvenor Road gateways to the city centre. Ongoing meetings with Council officials continue.



Forth Meadow Greenway

The HEP organised a public engagement in the Grosvenor community centre with consultants on the proposed Forth Meadow Greenway. The event was well attended with a variety of views exchanged on the proposals. Further engagement work was carried out throughout the year with BCC, consultants, and the West Belfast Cycle group as well as Ulster Wildlife on the intersection of Forth Meadow and the Bog Meadows. Several site visits were held with the consultants.



West Belfast Safe Cycling

The safe cycling group continues to meet and coordinated by the HEP group. Ongoing dialogue between DFI and Cycling champion Liz Loughran continue. The group held a constructive meeting with Department of Infrastructure minister John ODowd and DFI officials on the issue of safe Cycling.



Divis and Blackmountain

HEP facilitated a presentation from The National Trust on future plans for the site and developing transport links to offset traffic congestion.

Glen Ten Site

HEP have facilitated a number of presentations from developers Braidwater at the Glen 10 site on the ongoing work and environmental concerns. The group have proposed a site visit to a Braidwater site in Derry on a fact-finding visit.



Strategic Plan

The HEP have recently developed a strategic plan which it has circulated for consultation. The plan will take a long term approach to physical and environmental regeneration within West Belfast. The focus of the plan will be access to green space and making West Belfast an attractive and welcoming environment.



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