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Connected for Success

Evaluation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

Neighbourhood
Renewal

Department for
Social
Development

Table of Contents

Appendices

APPENDIX A: MAP OF NRAS APPENDIX

B: TERMS OF REFERENCE APPENDIX C:

POLICY OVERVIEW APPENDIX D:

OUTPUT & IMPACT DATA

APPENDIX E: COUNTERFACTUAL ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX F: CASE STUDIES

APPENDIX F1:   WATERSIDE NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA

APPENDIX F2:   BALLYMENA NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA

APPENDIX F3:   COALISLAND AND DUNGANNON NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA

APPENDIX F4:   CRAIGAVON NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA

APPENDIX F5:   GREATER SHANKILL NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA

APPENDIX F6:   OUTER WEST DERRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA

APPENDIX F7:   UPPER SPRINGFIELD/WHITEROCK NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA

APPENDIX F8:   INNER EAST BELFAST NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

1.1 RSM McClure Watters was appointed by the Department for Social Development (DSD) to undertake a Programme Evaluation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy 'People and Place'.

1.2 "*People and Place – A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal*" was launched in June 2003. The 10 year strategy aimed to target those communities throughout Northern Ireland (NI) suffering the highest levels of deprivation by bringing together the work of all Government Departments in partnership with local people to tackle disadvantage in all aspects of everyday life.

1.3 The Neighbourhood Renewal (NR) Strategy had four interlinking Strategic Objectives to tackle the complex, multi-dimensional nature of deprivation in an integrated way, namely:

a. **Community Renewal** – to develop confident communities that are able and committed to improving the quality of life in the most deprived areas of NI;
b. **Economic Renewal** – to develop economic activity in the most deprived neighbourhoods and connect them to the wider urban economy;
c. **Social Renewal** – to improve social conditions for the people who live in the most deprived neighbourhoods through better co-ordinated public services and the creation of safer environments; and
d. **Physical Renewal** – to help create attractive, safe, sustainable environments in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

1.4 Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs) were identified from the most deprived 10% of wards in NI as defined in the 2001 Multiple Deprivation Measure. 34 NRAs were identified using this method. The Multiple Deprivation Measures were revised in 2005 using the Super Output Area geography, which resulted in a further two NRAs being created.

1.5 As the NR strategy comes to a conclusion there is a requirement to carry out an impact evaluation of the programme. The Terms of Reference for the evaluation sets out three key contractual requirements for the study, namely:

a. An assessment of the overall impact of the NR Strategy against its stated purpose, key issues, overall aim, goals and objectives;
b. An assessment of the effectiveness model for the operational delivery of NR as set out in People and Place; and
c. Consideration of the lessons learned from NR that can be provided to Councils in the context of their new statutory duty to produce community plans for their areas.

1.6 The following paragraphs highlight our findings against each of the above Terms of Reference requirements.

NR Performance/Impact

1.7 Table 1.1 summarises our key conclusions on the performance and impact of the NR Strategy against its stated purpose, key issues, overall aim, goals and objectives. N.B. the extent to which robust conclusions can be determined is significantly constrained by the absence of key input, output and impact data. Issues relating to monitoring and evaluation are detailed below.

Table 1:1: Summary of Key Conclusions on NR Performance/Impact

Element of Strategy	Conclusions
Overarching Goals	
Ensure that the people living in the most deprived neighbourhoods have access to the best possible services and to the opportunities which make for a better quality of life and prospects for themselves and their families	Some Partnership members suggest that the goal of delivering access to the best possible services for those living in NRAs has not been achieved because of a lack of meaningful engagement from key statutory agencies. However, there is a lack of baseline data and monitoring information that would allow a conclusion to be drawn either way on this. If we look at the trends across economic and social indicators, NR might not have closed the gap in performance between NRAs and Non NRAs, but there has been improvement from the baseline position in relation to a significant number of indicators, particularly those relating to educational attainment. Feedback from NIHE surveys also suggest relatively high level of local pride (see below), which indicates positive perceptions about the NRAs and of the quality of life that they offer.
Improve the environment and image of our most deprived neighbourhoods so that they become attractive places to live and invest in.	The strategy has contributed significantly to improving the physical infrastructure of NRAs, making them more attractive places to live. Feedback from NIHE staff noted that they now have waiting lists for houses in NRAs, where there were previously empty houses. NIHE surveys also found reasonably high levels of local pride, with an average of 64% of respondents stating that they are proud of their area. Whilst approximately one quarter of Partnerships noted that the NR monies allowed them to lever additional funds from other sources to contribute towards large scale capital projects, this leverage was from philanthropic organisations or other public bodies.
Overall Aim	
To help close the gap between the quality of life for people in the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of NI.	In broad terms, NR performance in helping close the gap against key educational indicators has been positive, change has been mixed in relation to economic indicators and crime indicators, and change has been poor in relation to health (with the exception of a reduction in births to teenage mothers). Overall, the data suggests that the Strategy did not substantially deliver on its overall aim of helping to close the gap in the quality of life between those in NRAs and the rest of society. Whilst the gap has not been closed, data highlights that relative improvements have taken place in relation to a number of key social and economic indicators, which have the potential to contribute to an

Element of Strategy	Conclusions
	improved quality of life for people in deprived neighbourhoods. For example, the data highlights positive change across all of the profiled measures of educational performance. Improved performance in these areas has the potential to contribute to other positive social and economic impacts in the longer term (e.g. improved employment prospects, increased earning potential, reduced levels of poor health and reduced incidence of crime).
Stated Purpose/ Key Issues	
We must target the most acute deprivation	In addressing this issue DSD created 36 defined NRAs and in doing so targeted NIs most deprived communities. The principle of focussing resources on those areas most in need is also widely accepted as being appropriate. However, feedback from a significant minority of Partnerships members and the results of other research suggests that the NRAs were too small and/or not coterminous with natural communities.
	Our analysis suggests that any future programme aiming to tackle spatial deprivation should focus on populations in the region of at least 10,000 in order to be more effective.
	In addition, other jurisdictions have combined both a geographical and thematic approach to tackling disadvantage. This provides the programme with greater flexibility to focus activity on the most deprived individuals, families and groups.
We must take a long-term view	The Strategy was intended to be a seven to ten year approach and all Partnerships were required to develop long-term visions for their area. However:
	a) while the area plans/visions represented a long-term view, Partnerships were required to seek annual or bi-annual funding to implement activities under their Action Plan;
	b) where recurrent funding was made available over a longer time frame, there was not sufficient monitoring or evaluation processes in place to assess the effectiveness of these activities; and
	c) budget uncertainties and the restriction of funding cycles limit the extent to which responses to deep seated issues such as poverty and deprivation can be developed and implemented.
We must take an integrated approach	Feedback from V&C and Statutory Partnership members highlighted that this did not take place as intended.
	All Partnerships noted a lack of buy-in or engagement from at least one statutory agency, meaning that most Partnerships could not implement the fully integrated approach. All Partnerships also noted a degree of frustration that other statutory bodies had not contributed financially to NR, as was expected at the start of the Strategy.
	Notwithstanding issues relating to statutory body engagement, the extent to which integration was represented within local Vision Frameworks and Actions Plans was variable across the NRAs.
	Statutory representatives highlighted that uncertainties associated with

Element of Strategy	Conclusions
	the RPA (and a resulting moratorium on recruitment) and reduced budgets impacted on the extent to which staff and funding could be allocated to NR.
We must address community divisions	An absence of baseline data and relevant impact data for 2003/4 – 2012/3 means that the strategy's impact on community division cannot be robustly addressed. The pattern of residential segregation in NI means that the approach to NR support to the most deprived communities inevitably resulted in the majority of NRAs being single identity. The NR process was inward looking, it did not require Partnerships to look beyond their NRA boundaries and it did not actively promote inter-community working. Nor did DSD set up any formal networking arrangements or process to extend NR learning/activity across cities, sub-regions or regions, and therefore the inward looking approach of NR was not mitigated. Feedback from Partnership members has highlighted that the NR Partnerships often provided a forum for local representatives to meet and discuss the issues contributing to social unrest. Over the lifetime of the strategy there has been sporadic social unrest in many of the NRAs/their neighbouring communities. Despite the community tensions associated with these events, all NR Partnerships have continued to function during periods of unrest, even in those areas experiencing the greatest levels of interface conflict. This highlights the resilience and stabilising effect of these Partnership structures.
We must work in partnership	Feedback from all those involved in the NR Partnerships, suggests that there was a long lead-in time before the Partnerships were working together effectively. Furthermore, fit for purpose codes of practice and guidance for Partnership members were not drawn up for all NR Partnerships until after the MTE in 2010. That said, the majority of Partnerships have stated that they are now working together effectively across and within sectors. As highlighted above, partnership working was often constrained by the lack of engagement from relevant statutory agencies and partnership working between Government Departments and Agencies.
We must empower local communities	NR encouraged high levels of community consultation/engagement, particularly in the development of Visions and Action Plans. The creation of the Partnerships themselves has also developed capacity in local areas, as V&C sector representatives have received training and guidance from DSD in their role as Partnership members and they have also developed their own networks with other V&C and statutory sector members. There is also evidence (albeit only for 2012/13) that the activities implemented under NR have also stimulated volunteering in local areas e.g. 22,000 people engaged in volunteering opportunities in NRAs. The 2012/13 impact data also shows that over 3,400 people

Element of Strategy	Conclusions
	receiving training in community development skills/capacity building.
We must make a difference	Prior to 2012/13, the NR Programme did not have a common set of meaningful output/outcome indicators. The failure of DSD to adequately resource and implement an effective monitoring and evaluation system during the majority of the programme period has resulted in an inability to determine whether NR has made a difference.
	A review of the socio-economic and deprivation data shows that whilst there has been progress in relation to aspects of community and social renewal (particularly in relation to improved educational outcomes) there has not been significant progress in relation to economic renewal.

1.8 As identified above:

a. analysis of statistical indicators identifies that, on the whole, the gap between NRA and non NRAs has not narrowed;

b. data highlights that whilst the gap has not been closed, relative improvements have taken place in relation to a number of key social and economic indicators. These improvement have the potential to contribute to an improved quality of life for people in deprived neighbourhoods; and

c. a review of the relative measures of deprivation shows that there has been little change in the top 50 most deprived urban wards. During the lifetime of the strategy only 8 wards located within the NRAs have moved out of the top 50 most deprived wards.

Key Challenges Impacting on Performance

1.9 It is recognised that a range of external and internal factors impacted on the effectiveness of the strategy. These 'challenges' included:

a. political instability (including the suspension of the NI Assembly prior to launch of the Strategy, the return to devolution in 2007);

b. the RPA process, which identified that the responsibility for community planning (and NR) was to move to local government. Consultation with DSD staff suggests that the uncertainty over the future 'ownership' of the strategy impacted upon the extent to which robust monitoring and reporting procedures were put in place;

c. a challenging economic climate over the period 2008 – 2013;

d. constrained public sector budgets from 2008 onwards;

e. sporadic periods of social unrest in in many of the NRAs and neighbouring communities on issues such as parades and dissident paramilitary activities[1]; and

f. the fact that some Partnerships required a long lead-in time for them to learn how to work together. These long lead-in times were also noted in the evaluation of the English programme (as noted in Section 8 Benchmarking); the short-term nature of funding, which made it difficult for NR Partnerships to be strategic and prioritise actions to meet the needs of their area.

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[1] This has also been noted in the NI Peace Monitoring Report: Number 3. CRC; Paul Nolan March 2013.

Reasons for Variance in NR Partnership Performance

1.10   Given the lack of impact data it is not possible to directly compare the effectiveness of each Partnership against each other. However, feedback from key stakeholders highlights that the most effective NR Partnerships tended to have one or more of the following characteristics:

   a.   pre-existing community capacity in the area and previous experience of working with statutory agencies;
   b.   an ability to form collaborative working relationships, within reasonably short timescale;
   c.   access to necessary skills and experience (either within the partnership or, from external bodies);
   d.   strong/effective leadership within the NR Partnership; and
   e.   effective representation and buy-in from relevant statutory bodies.

Effectiveness of the Model for Operational Delivery

1.11   The Partnership model provided an effective basis for tackling social and economic disadvantage within deprived communities, providing a structure whereby community and public sector organisations could work together and learn from each other. However, as highlighted above, a lack of buy-in from key statutory stakeholders and the short term nature/frequent uncertainty over funding impacted negatively on the effectiveness of the model, particularly the extent to which it delivered integrated programmes and services at a local level.

1.12   The principle of focussing resources on those areas most in need is also widely accepted as being appropriate. However, in many cases, the NRAs were not coterminous with natural communities and were too small to affect underlying problems/issues.

1.13   There was no evidence of any formal arrangements for Partnerships to share best practice.

Reporting and Monitoring

1.14   Our key conclusions relating to monitoring and reporting are as follows:

   a.   Although DSD provided the Partnerships with the best statistical data that was available to them at the outset of the Strategy, this quantitative data was limited. There was little or no qualitative data made available to, or collected by, the Partnerships, to contribute to a more comprehensive assessment of a baseline position (e.g.   in relation to 'quality of life' - the extent to which neighbourhoods were regarded as being attractive and safe places). The absence of a robust baseline meant that the assessment of performance against the goals/aim and objectives of the Strategy was undermined;
   b.   There was no consistent approach put in place at the outset of the Strategy to monitor its outputs and impacts;
   c.   Partnership representatives received conflicting advice from DSD staff on a number of reporting and monitoring issues;
   d.   Prior to 2012/13, the Programme did not have a common set of meaningful output/outcome indicators to monitor progress against;
   e.   Whilst the Mid Term Evaluation (MTE) resulted in the implementation of a number of process improvements (e.g. the development of statistical baseline data, common indicators, reporting templates, codes of practice and guidance for the Partnerships), the MTE was conducted very late in the strategy (Year 7) and as such, the benefit of these improvements has been limited; and
   f.   Given the absence of a robust monitoring framework for the Programme, it is impossible to accurately determine the impacts that are attributable to NR.

Lessons Learnt and Recommendations for the Future

1.15   Table 1.2 highlights what we consider to be the key lessons learnt from NR and the associated recommendations for taking forward future policy and practice in relation to tackling spatial deprivation.

Table 1:2: Lessons Learnt and Recommendations

Key Learning	Rationale	Recommendation(s)
The need for robust baseline data	The new local councils will need robust and reliable statistics relating to the new council areas to allow them to make funding decisions based on identified need. Guidance provided by the Department of the Environment[2] (DOE) notes that a rigorous analysis of existing conditions in the new council areas is required. It is also important that this data is kept as up to date as possible.	1. Those designing future programmes to tackle deprivation should work with NISRA statisticians in the first instance to understand what data is/will be available to them and how to use it effectively to monitor and evaluate their programmes. 2. In addition to the use of available statistical data, a robust analysis of local conditions will require independent baseline surveys of the local population and other key stakeholder groups.
The need for evidence based programmes/projects	The Councils will need to identify/consider evidence based interventions that are effective in addressing need.	3. The efficacy of future programmes/projects should be researched and clearly evidenced i.e. future interventions should be based on a clear understanding of what works/what doesn't work within a comparable context.
The need for effective monitoring and evaluation processes	The assessment of impact of NR has been impeded by the absence of a robust monitoring and evaluation system.	4. DoE should consider developing a common set of indicators for Community Planning across all of the new councils. This has been done in Scotland (co-ordinated through Audit Scotland). 5. SMART impact targets, which are consistent with regional level indicators, should be developed and built into any future programmes to tackle spatial deprivation. These targets should form the core of the monitoring system and it should be a requirement for all funded organisations to measure against these targets and report back on an on-going basis. Progress against targets should be reviewed periodically and action taken where targets are not being met.

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[2] Community Planning Foundation Programme. DoE (2013)

Key Learning	Rationale	Recommendation(s)
Ensuring on-going and effective engagement of local communities is essential	Effective community engagement is essential to determining community needs and achieving local buy-in to future initiatives. With the transfer of responsibility for community planning to the new local government structures, the new Councils may require existing networks and partnerships to be streamlined. Surveys of NRAs conducted by NIHE demonstrated very low levels of awareness of the strategy by local people.	6. Local Government should engage with current NR Partnerships and other stakeholders to determine the structures required to continue to drive improvements in areas of social and economic need. 7. Communication and marketing strategies should be developed to enhance community awareness/buy-in of future funding programmes.
Provision of sufficient lead-in times	Feedback has identified that new structures require a long lead-in time to bed-in and to work effectively.	8. If new structures or partnerships are created in the future, sufficient time should be allocated to allow the new structures to bed-in, develop accurate baselines/needs analyses and to allow the development of meaningful working relationships. N.B. in DSDs experience, up to 3 years is required to establish any new programme that involves creating new structures or partnerships.
The need for effective resourcing of and political neutrality within future delivery models	Feedback from Partnership members highlighted that one of the positive factors of the NR structure was the lack of political influence in funding decisions. Our analysis highlights that one of the key factors influencing the effectiveness of NR Partnerships was their ability to access necessary skills and experience (either within the partnership or, from external bodies).	9. Those designing future programmes to tackle deprivation should consider the provision of mechanisms /processes to ensure: a) The provision of an independent (i.e. politically neutral) honest broker function. This resource should ensure that selected programmes/projects and priorities are chosen only on the basis of evidenced based need and the potential to achieve maximum impact; and b) Regular review of the skills and experience available to Partnerships/the decision making body and augmentation of these skills when required.
The need for longer term funding cycles.	Feedback highlights that although NR was strategic by design, funding uncertainties	10. Those designing future programmes to tackle deprivation should consider mechanisms to secure funding for key

Key Learning	Rationale	Recommendation(s)
	and the need to bid annually or biannually for funding undermined a strategic approach to tackling deprivation.	strategic priorities over the medium to long term.
The need for flexibility in targeting areas for support.	Whilst it is recognised that there are very clear, statistical reasons for how the NRA boundaries were established, during the implementation of the strategy it became apparent that some of these boundaries did not work in practice. Some areas were too small to be effective and were amalgamated with neighbouring areas and others were not reflective of natural neighbourhoods or communities. Evaluations of the Welsh and English programmes also noted that these fixed boundaries impaired delivery in some circumstances.	11. Any organisation proposing an area based intervention should ensure that: a) any boundaries that are applied make sense to the local area; b) the size of areas targeted for support are large enough for meaningful interventions to be delivered and impacts measured. N.B. stakeholder feedback and previous research highlights that the NR areas were too small to be effective. Our research suggests that any future programme aiming to tackle spatial deprivation should focus on populations in the region of at least 10,000 in order to be more effective; c) Any future programme should provide the flexibility to include other areas and/or the inclusion of themes/specific groups where it would result in a more effective targeting of need.
The need for increased focus on self-sustaining projects	Community based projects and services in NRAs remain highly dependent on grant funding. The ability of communities to develop self-sustaining projects requires further attention.	12. Future funding allocations should be linked to the provision of robust evidence of a projects capacity to be self-sustaining. 13. On-going project monitoring should determine the extent to which self-sustainability is being achieved and the need for any correction action. 14. Consideration should be given to the provision of support to groups to develop sustainability strategies.
Statutory Representation on Partnerships	All Partnerships noted a lack of buy-in from one or more statutory agency which limited the extent to which they could implement activities against their action plans and develop a fully integrated approach.	15. Whilst it is noted that it will be a mandatory requirement for all statutory bodies to be represented in Community Planning, in order for it to be most effective, statutory representatives should be senior enough to engage and contribute meaningfully to the discussion within the Partnership.

Key Learning	Rationale	Recommendation(s)
Approaches to future funding	The transfer of additional powers (including community planning) to the new Councils[3] provides Councils with an opportunity to re-assess the best approach to funding community based initiatives. Furthermore, our research has identified that areas with a well-developed community infrastructure sometimes delivered a less diverse range of projects. The funding to an area is finite, and where a high proportion is used to fund worker posts, less is available to invest other interventions.	16. Local Councils should also assess the overall pros and cons of continuing to fund posts compared to those associated with an output based Service Level Agreement model. 17. Local Councils should consider the balance of funding between revenue and capital and which type of funding best suits the needs of the area.

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[3] It should be noted that responsibility for and ownership of the strategy/policy for tackling deprivation will remain with DSD, whilst local councils will have responsibility for delivery.

2   BACKGROUND & TERMS OF REFERENCE

2.1   RSM McClure Watters was appointed by the Department for Social Development (DSD) to undertake a Programme Evaluation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy 'People and Place'.

2.2   In this section we set out the background to the evaluation, the terms of reference, a summary of our methodology and the structure of this report.

Background to Neighbourhood Renewal

2.3   In June 2003, Government launched "*People and Place – A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal*". This long term (7 – 10 year) Strategy targets those communities throughout NI suffering the highest levels of deprivation. Neighbourhood Renewal (NR) is a cross government Strategy and aims to bring together the work of all Government Departments in partnership with local people to tackle disadvantage and deprivation in all aspects of everyday life.

Purpose and Key Issues

2.4   The purpose of the NR Strategy was to address the social and economic inequalities which characterise the most deprived areas. It sought to do so by making a long term commitment to communities that Government would work in partnership with them to identify and prioritise needs and co-ordinate interventions designed to address the underlying causes of poverty.

2.5   Drawing on lessons learned from previous regeneration initiatives, the results of a consultation exercise and available information about the problems facing the most deprived people and places, the Department identified certain key issues that it considered would have to be addressed if deprivation was to be successfully tackled:

   a.   **Targeting of the most acute deprivation –** the Department considered that the problems of deprived neighbourhoods combine together in ways that turn individual issues into much more serious problems that affect the whole community;
   b.   **A long term view –** the Department considered that many years would be required to meaningfully address the various symptoms and causes of multiple deprivation and help deprived families and neighbourhoods break the cycle of deprivation;
   c.   **An integrated approach –** the Department considered that people living in deprived neighbourhoods were likely to be more dependent on public services and that it was important for those people that public services were made more effective by Government working collectively in an integrated way;
   d.   **Addressing community divisions –** the Department considered that in many neighbourhoods, deprivation was made much worse by religious segregation and community conflict;
   e.   **Working in partnership –** the Department considered that efforts to regenerate the most deprived neighbourhoods must be based on real partnerships, both within and between communities and with Government;
   f.   **Empowering local communities –** the Department considered that community capacity building must be strengthened to enable local people to shape, and then drive, renewal initiatives in their areas; and
   g.   **Making a difference –** the Department considered that too much of what had been measured had been about short-term inputs which had not made any fundamental impact on the deep seated problems of deprived communities.

Overall Aims, Goals and Strategic Objectives

2.6   The overall aim of NR was to help close the gap between the quality of life for people in the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of society.   This aim was to be pursued through two overarching goals:

a.   To ensure that the people living in the most deprived neighbourhoods have access to the best possible services and to the opportunities which make for a better quality of life and better prospects for themselves and their families; and

b.   Improve the environment and image of our most deprived neighbourhoods so that they become attractive places to live and invest in.

2.7   The NR Strategy had four interlinking Strategic Objectives to tackle the complex, multi-dimensional nature of deprivation in an integrated way:

a.   **Community Renewal** – to develop confident communities that are able and committed to improving the quality of life in the most deprived areas of NI;

b.   **Economic Renewal** – to develop economic activity in the most deprived neighbourhoods and connect them to the wider urban economy;

c.   **Social Renewal** – to improve social conditions for the people who live in the most deprived neighbourhoods through better co-ordinated public services and the creation of safer environments; and

d.   **Physical Renewal** – to help create attractive, safe, sustainable environments in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

Delivery of Neighbourhood Renewal

2.8   The NR Strategy set out a model of operational delivery designed to achieve the purpose, overall aims, goals and strategic objectives and thereby tackle the key issues. The main components of that model were as follows:

a.   **Targeting the most acute deprivation** – In order to make a real difference, the Department targeted NR at those neighbourhoods which were within the worst 10% of urban areas as measured by the Noble Deprivation Measures;

b.   **Working in partnership** – An NR Partnership was to be established in each NRA as the vehicle for local planning and implementation.   Partnerships were to involve those political, statutory, community, voluntary and private sector representatives who were most important in the neighbourhood;

c.   **Long term view** – Neighbourhood Vision Frameworks were to be produced to set down the aspirations for each area over a 7 - 10 year period;

d.   **Integrated approach** – Each Vision Framework would generate a rolling 3 year Neighbourhood Action Plan containing integrated community, social, economic and physical programmes that reflected the specific needs of the local community. These programmes would seek to maximise the effectiveness of public services and resources, although it was noted that they could be delivered through a range of statutory, private and community organisations; and

e.   **Making a difference** – Baseline information was to be developed for each NRA so that progress could be measured from a definitive starting position and best practice disseminated between neighbourhoods and to other areas.

Area Selection

2.9   NRAs were identified from the most deprived 10% of wards in NI as defined in the 2001 Multiple Deprivation Measure. 34 NRAs were identified using this method. The Multiple Deprivation Measures were revised in 2005 using the Super Output Area geography. This resulted in a further two areas being created (Coalisland and Ligoniel), resulting in a total of 36 areas which included:

a. 15 neighbourhoods in Belfast;
b. 6 neighbourhoods in the North West; and
c. 15 neighbourhoods in other towns and cities across NI.

2.10   Three principles were developed to guide the process for identifying NRAs and establishing Neighbourhood Partnership Boards:

a. They must be a workable size. The areas had to be large enough to allow integrated regeneration measures to be developed and to prevent available resources from being spread too thinly between too many neighbourhoods. At the same time, they must not be so large that they lose meaning for the people who live there.
b. They must make sense to the people who live there. The wards and enumeration districts used by the Noble Index are administrative boundaries that do not always match up to people's perceptions of their neighbourhoods. Therefore, neighbourhood boundaries were to be agreed through a process of local consultation facilitated by the relevant Development Offices.
c. They must complement and build upon existing initiatives. NRAs would be shaped taking account of appropriate area based initiatives already in place.

2.11   A map of the 36 NRAs is set out in Appendix A.

Responsibilities of the Department

2.12   The Department's Urban Regeneration and Community Development Group (URCDG, or 'the Group') has responsibility for:

a. The establishment and development of policy and strategic direction in relation to NR;
b. The implementation of programmes reflecting targeting social need, by addressing the social, economic, community and physical renewal of the 36 NRAs;
c. The monitoring of the progress of the Strategy as well as ensuring that relevant data collection and website development required for the delivery of the NR Strategy will be updated and maintained;
d. Produce an Annual Report for each of the NR Partnerships detailing expenditure activities and progress against outcome indicators;
e. Assess all proposed funding to ensure grant conditions have been met and funding is targeting an evidenced need. Allocate and account for DSD funding to the various appointed providers delivering the projects, programmes and activities;
f. Assist Partnerships and provide Technical Assistance funding for the preparation, implementation and review of action plans, as well as running costs and secretariat functions; and
g. Ensuring the commitment of all parts of Government in NI to the purpose and delivery of Neighbourhood Renewal.

2.13   Financial assistance is provided by way of grants directly to voluntary and community groups, statutory departments and/ or local councils.

Responsibilities of the Area Development Offices

2.14   The delivery of NR has been administered primarily through DSD's Belfast, North West and Regional Development Offices. The main responsibilities of the Development Offices in the delivery of NR were:

    a.   Leading the geographical identification of the physical boundaries of the NRAs;

    b.   Leading the establishment of the NR Partnerships within the identified areas;

    c.   Initiating the drawing up of Neighbourhood Vision Frameworks and Neighbourhood Action Plans for each area, and providing assistance to the Partnerships to enable them to do this;

    d.   Assisting in the development of projects within each area and assessing, appraising and approving the use of DSD resources;

    e.   Leading discussions with other agencies, departments and organisations on projects to be delivered;

    f.   Ensuring each NRA has adequate monitoring systems in place while also monitoring the progress of individual projects, as well as the collation of all monitoring data relating to the Neighbourhood Action Plan; and

    g.   Initiating the review of Neighbourhood Action Plans and Vision Frameworks, and the provision of technical assistance for the review and evaluation of these.

2.15   Under the changes to Local Government being made as part of the Review of Public Administration, the power and responsibility of community planning and tackling deprivation will be transferred to the new larger Councils.

Responsibilities of Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships

2.16   NR Partnerships were established for each NRA in NI in order to achieve the required community and voluntary, statutory and political involvement for each area. The key responsibilities for each Partnership were:

    a.   Analysis and prioritisation of needs within their respective area;

    b.   The development of a Neighbourhood Vision Framework and Neighbourhood Action Plan for their area encouraging the involvement and participation of the local community and business sector in the development of these;

    c.   Consulting and engaging with the local communities in order to implement NR, while also publicising and building awareness of NR by informing and updating the local communities of progress made on a regular basis;

    d.   Securing agreement between local service providers in facilitating integrated working in their area;

    e.   Taking decisions on individual projects and activities to be undertaken in their area;

    f.   Establishment of systems to monitor the progress of individual projects as well as monitoring the overall progress of NR within their area; and

    g.   Leading on the process of evaluating the Neighbourhood Vision Framework and Action Plan for their area.

Mid Term Review Recommendations

2.17   In January 2011, the Department completed a mid-term review of the Strategy, which considered the overall impact of the Strategy for those who reside in the NRAs. In order to facilitate the measurement of the impact of the Strategy, the review introduced a number of key indicators to establish the baseline position of the areas.

2.18   The review concluded that while there had been some narrowing of the gap between the NRAs and the rest of NI on a range of outcome indicators, the Areas remained a long way behind in both relative and absolute terms.

2.19   The Review made 21 recommendations, all of which have been cleared. As a result a number of key policy documents were introduced. These include a Code of Practice for Partnerships, a requirement for the Department to produce an Annual Report in consultation with the Partnership concerned and the production of Outcomes Reports for each area.

Evaluation Terms of Reference and Approach

2.20   The Terms of Reference for the evaluation stated; As the NR strategy comes to a conclusion there is a requirement to carry out an impact evaluation of the programme. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the evaluation sets out three key contractual requirements for the study, namely:

a.   An assessment of the overall impact of the NR Strategy against its stated purpose, key issues, overall aim, goals and objectives;
b.   An assessment of the effectiveness model for the operational delivery of NR as set out in People and Place; and
c.   Consideration of the lessons learned from NR that can be provided to Councils in the context of their new statutory duty to produce community plans for their areas.

2.21   The main output of the evaluation is to be a comprehensive written evaluation of the Programme which addresses all of the points set out in the Terms of Reference. The full Terms of Reference for the evaluation are set out in Appendix B.

2.22   In order to meet the requirements of the terms of reference, the following evaluation methodology was utilised:

a.   Stage 1: Project Initiation;
b.   Stage 2: Desk Based Research and Preliminary Analysis of relevant Programme/Policy Information, including Programme Input, Output and Outcome indicator data;
c.   Stage 3: Benchmarking and Best Practice Review against relevant neighbourhood interventions in comparable jurisdictions;
d.   Stage 4: Stakeholder Consultation, involving 36 NR Partnership workshops, three statutory body workshops and up to 10 key stakeholder interviews;
e.   Stage 5: Case Study Development, utilising and augmenting information obtained from previous stages to profile the inputs, activities, outputs, impacts and lessons learned from   9 NR Partnerships;
f.   Stage 6: Counterfactual Analysis, analysis of socio-economic statistics relating to 15 non NRAs and the analysis of three counterfactual case studies; and
g.   Stage 7: Analysis and Report Development using evidence gathered in previous stages in order to draw conclusions on each of the areas identified in the Terms of Reference exploring and explaining differences in the impacts/success of the programme between areas.

Report Structure

2.23   The rest of this report is comprised of the following sections:

- a.   Section 3: Policy, Economic and Political Context;
- b.   Section 4: Programme Expenditure;
- c.   Section 5: Programme Outputs;
- d.   Section 6: Programme Outcomes and Counterfactual Analysis;
- e.   Section 7: Case Studies;
- f.   Section 8: Benchmarking;
- g.   Section 9: Consultation Findings;
- h.   Section 10: Conclusions, Lessons Learnt and Recommendations; and
- i.   Appendices.

3 POLICY, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

Introduction

3.1 It is important to recognise that the NR Strategy operated in a wider social, economic and political context and that all of the NRAs were affected by other central government initiatives. The following section provides an overview of:

   a. Key milestones impacting on the delivery of the strategy;
   b. The economic environment in which the Strategy has operated over the past 10 years; and
   c. Key changes in policy/strategy over the lifetime of the Strategy.

Key Milestones

3.2 Figure 3.1 overleaf illustrates key events impacting on the delivery of the Strategy and milestones/issues associated with its implementation. It is important to note that:

   a. the Strategy was published in 2003 by a direct rule Minister following the suspension of the NI Assembly in 2002 and that NR was operated under direct rule until devolution was restored in 2007;

   b. the Review of Public Administration (RPA) was launched the year prior to NR and that decisions (an indecision) over RPA created a high degree of uncertainty over future NR delivery structures during the Strategy period;

   c. the implementation of NR was impacted by a high degree of budget uncertainty (highlighted within Figure 3.1 by the term 'funding cliff edge'), which resulted from an increasing restrictive public sector environment and associated spending reviews; and

   d. the Mid Term Evaluation (MTE) of the Strategy was not carried out until 2011 (i.e. 7 years after its launch) and consequently, recommendations emanating from the MTE were not adopted until after this date.

Policy and Strategy Context

3.3 The key policy and strategy documents, which provide the current context to NR, are summarised in Appendix C.

3.4 A review of relevant policies highlights that there are a number of Departmental policies and strategies that are specifically targeted at vulnerable individuals and deprived areas. Each of the key central government departments has in place or developed policies or programmes that were aimed at tackling disadvantage and inequality. For example, the Department of Education (DE), had two key policies which were relevant to the strategy, Extended Schools Programme (2006) and Sure Start (2005) both took a targeted approach to providing additional support to children in deprived areas. Specifically, the criteria for schools to be included in the Extended Schools Programme is that at least 51% of pupils must come from NRAs.

3.5 Other Departments have either delivered, or are in the process of delivering, policies designed to address inequalities during the time as the NR strategy. OFMDFM introduced the anti-poverty strategy, Lifetime Opportunities (2011), which also has the objective of having a joined up approach and a priority to tackle area based deprivation. The Investing for Health Strategy (DHSSPS, 2002), aimed to reduce health inequalities and focused on the most disadvantaged in society.

3.6   In addition to Central Government programmes, a number of large scale EU funding programmes were implemented during the life of the Strategy. Peace II and then Peace III operated from 2000 – 2006 and 2007 – 2013, respectively. In total under the two programmes over €1,300 million was available.   Like the NR Strategy, these programmes aimed to create social and economic regeneration and to develop the capacity within local communities.

Figure 3.1: Key Events
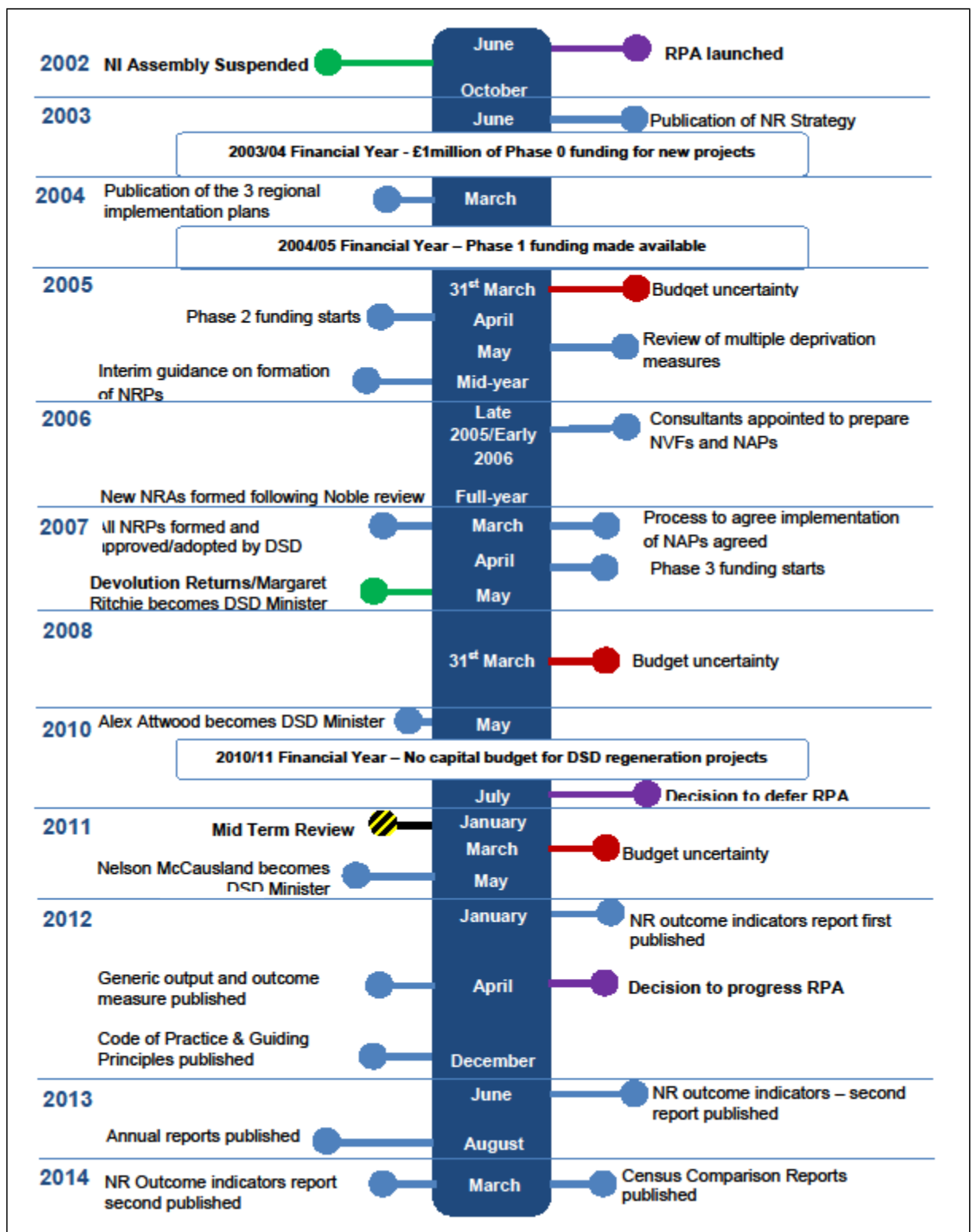
The Wider Socio-Economic Context in Northern Ireland

3.7 NR strategy was developed during an extended period of economic growth within NI and expectation of the continued economic growth/stability will have created a level of optimism within the original specified targets and outcomes from the strategy.

3.8 However, the global financial crisis of 2008, the subsequent economic downturn (2008 – 2013) and the associated restricted public sector expenditure environment significantly changed the context in which NR was being implemented.

3.9 Section 6, Programme Outcomes and Counterfactual Analysis, of this report provides detailed socio-economic data relating to the NRAs. However, for the purposes of illustrating this wider economic context, it should be noted that:

3.10 The NI population increased by over 121,000 (7.2% growth) from 2001 to 2011 and by 2011, it was 1,810,863;

   a. The NI unemployment rate has increased slightly over the 2001 - 2011 period (0.9%);
   b. The rate of long term unemployed in NI has increased by 4.6 percentage points over the 2001 – 2011 period; and
   c. The total number of Job Seekers Allowance Claimants in NI has increased significantly over the 2001 – 2011 period (57%).

Summary

3.11 The above highlights that the NR Strategy was developed and implemented over a period of time that witnessed a significant level of change and uncertainty within the political, social and economic aspects of NI society. This section also highlights the fact that a range of other interventions adopted the NR approach in providing target support to deprived communities and key target groups within those communities.

4   NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE

Introduction

4.1   In this section we have set out a summary of the financial expenditure to the strategy since 2003/4. This data is set out by Revenue and Capital and, where possible, by strategic objective and NR Region:

   a.   Belfast Regeneration Office (BRO);
   b.   North West Development Office (NWDO); and
   c.   Regional Development Office (RDO).

Total Expenditure

4.2   As set out in the following table the total expenditure under the Strategy from 2003/4 to 2012/3 has been £194m. This equates to average expenditure of just over £19m a year.

Table 4:1: Total Programme Expenditure (2003/4 – 2012/3)

	Revenue	Capital	Total	% by Year
2003/04 - 2008/09 (6 year period)	£61,565,857	£29,364,689	£90,930,546[4]	46.8% (averaging 7.8% per year)
2009/10	£13,554,073	£13,276,090	£26,830,163	13.8%
2010/11	£11,477,329	£10,872,158	£22,349,488	11.5%
2011/12	£12,560,847	£12,571,995	£25,132,842	12.9%
2012/13*	£20,245,551	£8,794,733	£28,985,283	14.9%
Total	**£119,296,439**	**£74,879,665**	**£194,238,322**	
% of Total	**61.4%**	**38.6%**		**100%**

*From 2012/13, DSD has reported expenditure information under each of the strategic objectives. Expenditure reported under 'physical regeneration' has been used a proxy for capital spend.

4.3   As shown in the table above, 61% of the funding was revenue funding from 2003/4 to 2012/3. This shows that over one third of the total expenditure was spent on one objective (Physical Renewal).[5]

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[4] average annual spend across these six years was £15,155,090
[5] Caution is advised in making comparisons of expenditure across areas. Expenditure is influenced by factors such as the population of an area; the historic expenditure and/ or proposed capital investment in an area from other initiatives or mainstream sources, geographical location and proximity to existing services; as well as revenue investment in an area from lead Departments or from other initiatives.

Table 4:2: Total Expenditure by Regional Office 2003 - 2013

Area	Revenue (2003/04 – 11/12)	Capital (2003/04 – 11/12)	2012/13	Total	% of Total
BRO	£46,585,999	£34,916,416	£15,321,176	£96,823,591	49.9%
NWDO	£29,023,054	£6,353,436	£4,909,636	£40,286,126	20.7%
RDO	£23,549,053	£24,815,080	£8,764,472	£57,128,605	29.4%
Total	**£99,158,106**	**£66,084,932**	**£28,995,283**	**£194,238,322**	**100%**
% of Total	**51%**	**34%**	**15%**	**100%**	

4.4   The table above shows expenditure by the three Regional Offices over the lifetime of the strategy. This should be considered in the context of historical spend and the number of NRAs in each Region.

Expenditure by Strategic Objective

4.5   From 2012/13 the total expenditure data was also collated by lead strategic objective[6], as summarised below.

Table 4:3: 2012/13 Expenditure Data by Strategic Objective

Strategic Objective	Expenditure	% of total spend
Community Renewal	£9,688,595	33%
Economic Renewal	£2,696,762	9%
Social Renewal	£7,815,194	27%
Physical Renewal	£8,794,733	31%
Total	**£28,909,636**	**100%**

Summary

4.6   The total spend over the course of the NR programme up to March 2013 was £195,238,322. It is evident that spend in the post mid-term period of the strategy was more intensive. The lesser level of spend in the earlier stages is likely due to a low level of expenditure as the processes and Partnerships 'bedded in', and as activity concentrated on identifying the priorities for area investment rather than project delivery itself.

4.7   Unsurprisingly, the BRO region saw the highest level of investment through the programme, accounting for 50% of overall programme expenditure. Interestingly, within the BRO and NWDO area there was more revenue than capital expenditure, while within RDO, capital/physical spend represented the greatest level of expenditure. This would appear to suggest that within the regional NRAs, there was a pre-existing deficiency in the provision of community infrastructure, something which was not as significant an issue in the city areas.

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[6] Expenditure was recorded under the lead objective that the project related to.

5 PROGRAMME OUTPUTS

Introduction

5.1 Following the development of a Neighbourhood Vision Framework, which set out the aspirations of an NRA for the period, each Partnership developed a three year Action Plan (which was to be reviewed annually). The Actions Plans were to prioritise the needs of the areas. Section 5 of the NR Strategy notes that it was expected that the Neighbourhood Partnership Boards would be responsible for monitoring their own activities and reporting their performance against the targets set out in their Action Plans. It was anticipated that DSD would collate output and outcome data, for all NRAs, and regularly channel this information to the Ministerial Group.

5.2 Annex 3 of the Strategy also provided an illustrative set of output indicators for use by individual NRAs. The list was not viewed as being definitive, and alternative or additional output indicators could be used in individual NRAs to reflect their individual circumstances and needs.

5.3 The Strategy also set a number of high level targets for NR at a regional level that are also appropriate at a NRA level these targets were those already included in The New Targeting Social Need (TSN) Action Plans and Public Service Agreements and Service Delivery Agreements.

5.4 It was anticipated that if additional targets were needed, these would be agreed by all Departments at the Ministerial Group and included into their Departments' new TSN Action Plans, Public Service Agreements and Service Delivery Agreements.

Monitoring arrangements prior to 2012

5.5 NR's Mid-Term Evaluation (2011) examined the monitoring systems in place within each Development Office. It highlighted that the three offices used three distinct and separate systems to project manage and monitor the activities supported under the Strategy. It was noted that the only common data held by the three systems was very basic.

5.6 Our discussions with DSD staff have indicated that as a result of this disparate monitoring system output data was only available at a Partnership or, Development Office level. Each of the Development Offices collected similar but different output data, as no specific guidance on developing further meaningful output indicators was put in place. This resulted in a wide and varied range of indicator data being used by each of the Development Offices. In addition, there was no mechanism put in place to collect output data at an overall Strategy level, which compounded the use of wide ranging output indicator data.

5.7 This is consistent with a DSD internal review of Contracts for Funding and Post Project Evaluations[7] which noted a lack of agreed generic outputs and inconsistencies in setting outputs and recording progress against them. The following tables therefore provide an overview of outcomes data for 2012/13 using both pre April 2013 and post April 2013 output indicators, by strategic objective, a full list of all output data is set out in Appendix D.

5.8 DSD collated output data annually for all the NRAs and provide this to the Partnerships in the form of an annual report. The intention was that this would support Partnerships to monitor progress against their Action Plan. Discussions with Partnership members indicates that the extent to which this was done in a meaningful way varied greatly across the Partnerships.

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[7] Neighbourhood Renewal review of Contracts for Funding and Post Project Evaluations. (DSD, 2013)

5.9   Discussions with staff also indicated that whilst it was anticipated that high level targets would be established in line with those within the New Targeting Social Need (NTSN) Strategy, however it proved difficult to get cross-departmental buy-in.

Monitoring Arrangements Post 2012

5.10   Following the mid-term evaluation, a new set of common indicators were introduced that were measureable.   The following tables provide examples of indicator data collected across the four strategic objectives. Output indicator data is collected at project level. Projects are supported based on the evidence based needs set out in the NR Partnership Action Plans.

Community Renewal

5.11   The following table provides examples of the output indicator data under the community renewal objective, relating to activity in 2012/13.

Table 5:1: Overview of community output indicators (2012/13)

Output Indicator	BRO	RDO	NWDO	All
Number of people participating in community relations projects[8]	68,284	6,630	196,549	271,463
Number of people volunteering for community development activities	6,905	N/A[9]	N/A	6,905
Number of people receiving training in community development skills/capacity building	3,478	N/A	N/A	3,478
Number of people using new or improved community facilities	34,447	N/A	N/A	34,447
Total	**113,114**	**6,630**	**196,549**	**316,293**

Source: DSD

5.12   As indicated in the above table, the monitoring data suggests that there were a significant number of people involved in community projects within the NRAs. There were also large numbers of people making use of new or improved community facilities in the BRO area.

5.13   It should be noted that individuals can participate in more than one activity or project, therefore the number of unique individuals participating in each NRA cannot be established.

5.14   As noted above the indicators used prior to 2012/13 were slightly different and whilst some common indicators were transferable, it was not possible to merge all the previous indicators into the framework. For example prior to 2012, it was noted that 76,125 people had benefitted from projects to promote personal and social development, over half of whom were in the NWDO region.

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[8] Including inter and intra community relations projects
[9] N/A denotes 'Not Applicable'

Economic Renewal

5.15   The key indicators relating to economic renewal related to job creation and training. Examples of the 2012/13 outputs are set out in the following table.

Table 5:2: Overview of Economic Output Indicators

Output Indicator	BRO	RDO	NWDO	Total
Number of FTE jobs created (pre and post 2012/13)	111.92	21	81.5	214.42
Number of new business start-ups (pre and post 2012/13)	21	14	23	58
Number of business receiving advice / support (pre and post 2012/13)	223	260	2,899	3,382
Number of FTE permanent jobs safeguarded	307.77	35.6	142.4	485.66
Number of residents going into employment (post 2012/13)	429	N/A	N/A	429
Number of people receiving job specific training (post 2012/13)	2,832	N/A	N/A	2,832

Source: DSD

5.16   The above table provides an overview of some of the economic outputs in 2012/13, showing that majority of jobs were safeguarded in the BRO. It should be noted that majority of jobs created and safeguarded across all Development Offices are those that have been supported by the NR funding.

5.17   As noted in the mid-term evaluation it is often difficult to link the outputs of the funded activities to outcomes[10]. For example, as noted, almost 3,000 people received job specific training in 2012/13 and there is no evidence that these people entered into employment. However, there are a wide range of external factors that will impact upon employment prospects of people in NR areas and also it is not possible to record instances of participants who did enter into employment as a result of training if there was a time lag between the training and the employment.

Social Renewal

5.18   A number of indicators were established to monitor outputs relating to the Social Renewal indicator, including health education and crime, a summary of the activity against key output indicators in 2012/13 is set out in the following table.

Table 5:3: Overview of Social Output Indicators

Output Indicator	BRO	RDO	NWDO	Total
Number of pupils whose attainment is measurably enhanced/improved (pre and post 2012/13)	10,669	452	14	11,135
Number of people accessing intervention/treatment services (pre and post 2012/13)	2,499	2,078	4,975	9,552
Number of people attending health education/awareness initiatives (pre and post 2012/13)	26,248	11,900	69,687	107,835
Number of community safety initiatives implemented (pre and post 2012/13)	959	27	311	1,297

Source: DSD

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[10] Mid-term evaluation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, People and Place. DSD 2011.

5.19 As illustrated in the previous table, large numbers of people participated in health awareness and health education initiatives particularly in NWDO during 2012/2013. Furthermore, significantly more community safety initiatives were implemented in the BRO area than in the other areas during 2012/13. This differing level of provision of differing activities across the various NRAs is as a result of the prioritisation of area needs, and projects to address this, through the Action Plan.

Physical Renewal

5.20 Examples of the output indicator data used to monitor activity under the physical renewal objective are set out in the following table.

Table 5:4: Overview of Physical Output Indicators

Output indicator	BRO	RDO	NWDO	Total
Area of land improved for open space (hectares)	76.21	N/A	N/A	76.21
Area of land reclaimed for open space (hectares)	7	N/A	N/A	7
Number of buildings improved (pre and post 2012/13)	83	8	1	92
Number of people/volunteers involved in physical development and/or environmental improvement projects (pre and post 2012/13)	3,491	935	20	4,446

5.21 The above table shows that projects in BRO and RDO involved large numbers of volunteers in environmental or physical improvement projects. Two Partnerships within the BRO area accounted for just over 2,300 of these volunteers.

5.22 A high level review of Post Project Evaluations (provided by DSD) noted that the range of activities recorded under the 'buildings improved' indicator shows that this covered a wide range of projects, from total refurbishments of old buildings to provide new and additional community facilities to upgrading existing community facilities to improve access and comply with health and safety guidelines.

Summary

5.23 At the outset of the Strategy it was anticipated that the individual Partnerships would report progress against their Action Plans to DSD, it is apparent that this did not happen.

5.24 At the outset of the programme, there were no specific baselines set by which the impact of the strategy would be assessed. The only quantitative data available which would allow some form of measuring of the successes of the programme was in socio-economic data across a range of indicators ranging from economic activity to health statistics. While useful as a measure of the area's progress over the period of the strategy, the range of external factors impacting on these indicators, outside of NR investment, does not allow for their use as an absolute measure of the success or failure of the strategy in that area.

5.25 Prior to the mid-term evaluation, each of the three DSD area offices were using separate monitoring systems and discussion with DSD representatives has indicated that the quality and consistency of the data being input into these systems was, at best, variable. Consequently, there is no meaningful output data collated at a Strategy level between 2004 and 2012. Following the mid-term evaluation DSD undertook an exercise to create one set of meaningful indicators which were aligned (where possible) to existing ones.

5.26 Since the Mid Term Evaluation[11] was only carried out three years before the end of the Programme, output data relating to each of the four strategic objectives has been collated at a Partnership, region and Strategy level for 2012/13. An overview of this data shows large numbers of people involved in a range of activities including job related training, health education initiatives and environmental improvement projects.

5.27 A review of the outputs across the Development Offices highlights the varied focus that each local Partnership has taken. For example, only the BRO Partnerships recorded job focused training outputs, which may have resulted in residents going into employment.

5.28 All the Development Office areas had a predominant lack of focus on the Economic objective. It is not clear the extent to which the Department influenced the Partnerships in identifying the deep-seated, inter-generational issues impacting on their area. The lack of strategic monitoring meant that it was difficult to identify areas of under-activity. This is also highlighted in the proportion of funding that was spent under each objective.

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[11] People and Place: A strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. Mid Term Review. DSD (2012)

6   PROGRAMME OUTCOMES & COUNTERFACTUAL ANALYSIS

Introduction

6.1   Following the MTE, DSD established a set of output indicators to monitor progress and changes to the socio-economic circumstances within NRAs. This was established in the absence of an evaluation and monitoring framework at the start of the Strategy to the Department to measure the absolute impact of the Strategy, rather measuring relative changes to the NRAs against non-NRAs.

6.2   A baseline was also established using the available data closest to the implementation of the strategy (2003). The MTE examined the changes across each of the NRAs using these statistical indicators.

6.3   In this section we have examined changes to NRAs at a strategy level and examined changes in the gap between NRAs and non NRAs.   A detailed overview of the statistical indicators is set out in Appendix D.

6.4   The aim of the strategy is to help close the gap between NRAs and non-NRAs. Following the Mid-term evaluation DSD developed a number of baseline outcome indicators relating to the Economic, Social and Physical strategic objectives. However, it was noted that no baseline had been established at the start of the strategy to measure progress against the Community objective.

6.5   This Gap Analysis developed by DSD uses data from NINIS and Census data published in 2001 and 2011. A baseline figure has been used to show the percentage of those in NRAs who fall under each specific category between the periods of 2001 to 2004. The most recent data collected ranges from 2011 to 2012 to show how the percentages have changed since the baseline figures. Finally a percentage change has been calculated to show whether there has been an increase or decrease in the percentage of the population in each category.

Relative Deprivation Rankings

6.6   The NRAs were originally designated on the basis of a core set of urban wards in the most deprived decile of the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure. While it is useful to look at change on the rankings over time it should be noted that Ward boundaries have changed over time. Furthermore, the NIMDM use a relative ranking of deprivation and as such there will always be a bottom and top 10% of wards.

6.7   Appendix D provides details of the comparative ranks of the core wards in 2001 and 2010. Due to boundary changes and the termination of some wards (as shown in the following table) the 2010 ranks are based on wards which are either the same as the 2001 ward, or the closest proxy based on the population of the 2001 ward now residing in the 2010 ward. On this basis 38 out of the 50 wards had over 90% of the population in the 2010 ward and a further 3 over 80%.

6.8   The following tables summarise the variances between 2001 and 2010 position in terms of the wards constituting the top 10% most deprived urban wards in NI. Table 6.1 demonstrates those that moved out of the top 10% most deprived between 2001 and 2010 while Table 6.2 sets out the wards that have moved into the top 10% most deprived.

Table 6:1: Urban Wards moving out of Top 10% Most Deprived 2001-2010

Ward Name	Constituent NRA	MDM Rank 2001	MDM Rank 2010	Change
St. Anne's		4	Discontinued	n/a
St. Peter's		17	Discontinued	n/a
Binevenagh	Limavady	24	Discontinued	n/a
Flying Horse	Downpatrick	25	Discontinued	n/a
Glen		42	Discontinued	n/a
Braden		56	Discontinued	n/a
Tullycarnet	Tullycarnet	53	109	+56
Island	Inner East Belfast	37	92	+55
Ballykeel	Ballymena	55	74	+19
Ballysally	Coleraine East	46	72	+26
Churchland	Coleraine Churchlands	54	65	+11
Drumgor	Brownlow	50	63	+13
Beechwood	Triax - Cityside	52	62	+10
Shantallow West	Outer North Derry	27	57	+30

Source: NINIS MDM Measure 2001 and 2010

6.9 As summarised above eight wards within NRAs have now moved out of the top 50 most deprived urban wards according to the 2010 NIMDM. A further six no longer exist due to changes in boundaries.

6.10 The following table summarises ward areas that have moved into the most deprived status since the implementation of the NR strategy.

Table 6:2: Urban Wards moving into Top 10% Most Deprived 2001 – 2010

Ward Name	Constituent NRA	MDM Rank 2001	MDM Rank 2010	Change
Greystone	Limavady	New Ward	15	n/a
Ballymote	Downpatrick	New Ward	24	n/a
Coolessan	Limavady	62	26	-36
Dunanney	Rathcoole	60	27	-33
Ballycolman	Strabane	New Ward	27	n/a
Devenish	Enniskillen	128	28	-100
Coalisland South	Coalisland	104	29	-75
Old Warren	n/a	84	30	-54
Northland	n/a	105	37	-68
Ballee	Ballymena	64	38	-26
Glen Road	Andersonstown	71	43	-28
Drumnamoe	Lurgan	97	46	-51
Strand	Outer West Derry	65	47	-18
Central	Coleraine Churchlands	211	53	-158

Source: NINIS MDM Measure 2001 and 2010

6.11   When the ward rankings are compared, 23 wards have become relatively less deprived, 5 have the same ranking and 22 have become relatively more deprived. Eight wards have moved out the most deprived decile. While this provides an interesting perspective, it should be highlighted that this analysis involves comparing relative and does not reflect absolute changes to the NRAs.

6.12   The remainder of this section examines changes over time for all NRAs on a series of absolute measures using the most up to date data available.

Demography

6.13   Between 2001 and 2011 the population of NI increased by 7.5%, over the same period the population within the NI NRAs increased by 3.2%. In 2001 the total population of the NRAs within NI was estimated as 277,774 which consisted of 119,213 residing within the BRO area, 53,665 in the NWDO area and the remaining 104,896 within the RDO area. The largest NRA population was in Inner East Belfast at 20,524, in contrast to the smallest NRA population Dungannon with a population of 778. A full breakdown of the population change for each Partnership can be found in Appendix D.

Table 6:3: Population Change 2001 – 2011

	2001	2011	% Shift
NI	1,685,267	1,810,863	+7.5%
Non-NRA	1,407,493	1,524,222	+8.3%
NRAs	277,774	286,641	+3.2%
BRO	119,213	121,968	+2.3%
NWDO	53,665	49,840	-7.1%
RDO	104,896	114,833	+9.5%

Source: NISRA, NI Census of Population 2001 and 2011

6.14   As summarised above and set out in detail in Appendix D from 2001 to 2011, of the 36 NRAs, 17 experienced a fall in population between 2001 and 2011. The largest percentage decreases were in Strabane (-19.6%) and Limavady (-17.1%) and also in Coleraine East (-11.1%). The areas which experienced the largest growth over this period were Dungannon (102.4%), Ligoniel (65.3%) and Coalisland (45.6%).

6.15   NRAs within the NWDO region saw an overall population decrease of 7.1% over this period while the BRO region saw an increase of 2.3%, with the population in the RDO region increasing by 9.5%.

Figure 6:1: Percentage Population Change 2001 - 2011
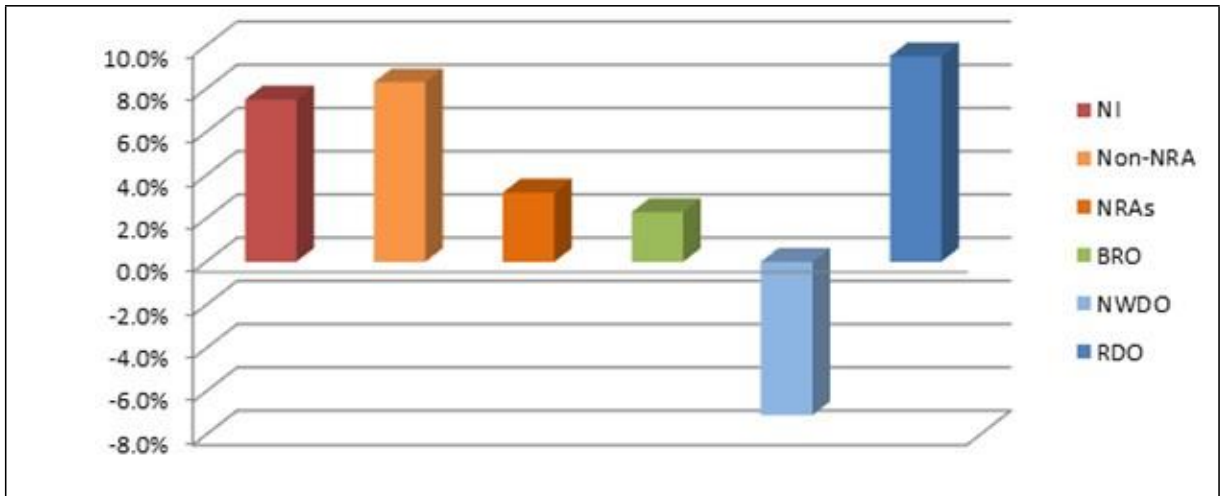
Source: NISRA, NI Census of Population 2001 and 2011

Community Renewal

6.16 The aim of the Community Renewal objective is to "develop confident communities that are able and committed to improving the quality of life in the most deprived areas of NI"[12]

6.17 It has not been possible to review the progress in relation to the Community Renewal objective due to a lack of quantifiable baseline data and targets at a Strategy level, this was also highlighted in the MTE.

6.18 There are, however, figures that have been taken from each Partnership Annual Report (2012/13) relating to Community Renewal achievements as set out below. The way which community activities were recorded changed following the Mid-term evaluation, therefore the following tables provide an overview of activities which took place in 2012/13 but were recorded using 'old' and 'new' indicators.

Table 6:4: Community Renewal Objectives Post April 2013

Community Renewal Objectives	Total[13]
Number of people participating in community relations projects	271,463
Number of people participating in community bonding projects	2,157
Number of people volunteering for community development activities	6905
Number of people engaged/involved in unpaid voluntary work	22,319
Number of people receiving training in community development skills/capacity building	3478
Number of people using new or improved community facilities	34,447
Number of community/voluntary groups supported	1459
Number of community relations projects supported[14]	459
Number of people involved in projects that promote shared space	2164
Total	**344,851**

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[12] People and Place Mid Term Review 2011
[13] It should be noted that these totals reflect participants and not unique individuals. Individuals can participate in more than 1 project.
[14] Reflecting both inter and intra community relations projects

Table 6:5: Community Renewal Objectives Pre April 2013

Community Renewal Objectives	Total
Number of private/public dwellings built/improved	1,159
Number of people benefitting from projects to promote personal and social development	76,125
Number of feasibility or research projects carried out	8,068
Number of strategic development plans carried out	36
Number of people involved in capacity building/citizenship projects	4,074
Total	**89,462**

Economic Renewal

6.19   The Economic Renewal objective, under the People and Places Strategy, was put in place to develop economic activity in the most deprived neighbourhoods and connect them to the wider urban economy.

6.20   The baseline indicators relating to Employment and Economic Activity were based on the Gap Analysis provided by the Department for Social Development. This Gap Analysis has been developed with the figures taken from NINIS and the Census published in 2001 and 2011. The baseline figure has been used to show the percentage of the NRA population that falls under the specific indicator. This is compared with the most recent data available to show the percentage change, showing whether there has been an increase or decrease for each indicator.

Economic Activity

6.21   The following table shows the Economic Activity of both the Non-NRAs and the NRAs recorded in the 2001 and 2011 Census surveys.   It highlights that both the NRAs and Non NRAs witnessed an increase in economic activity between the periods of 2001 to 2011. Overall the rate of economic activity increased in the NRAs by 7.4% over the decade compared to an increase of 3.2% for the Non-NRA areas. (Economic Activity rate includes the following sub-groups: Full-Time/Part-Time, Self-Employed; Unemployed; Full-Time Student).

Table 6:6: Rate of Economic Activity (2001 & 2011)

	Baseline – 2001 (%)	Most Recent – 2011 (%)	Percentage point change (%)
Non-NRA	64.7	67.9	+3.2
NRAs	49.7	57.1	+7.4

Source: NI Census of Population 2001 and 2011

6.22   Figure 6.2 shows that the gap in the percentage of economic activity has reduced between the NRAs and non-NRAs over the intervening period by 4.2 percentage points as a result of larger increase in percentage of economic activity in the NRAs then in the Non-NRAs.

Figure 6:2: Relative Difference in Economic Activity Levels in NRAs and non-NRAs (% of total population)
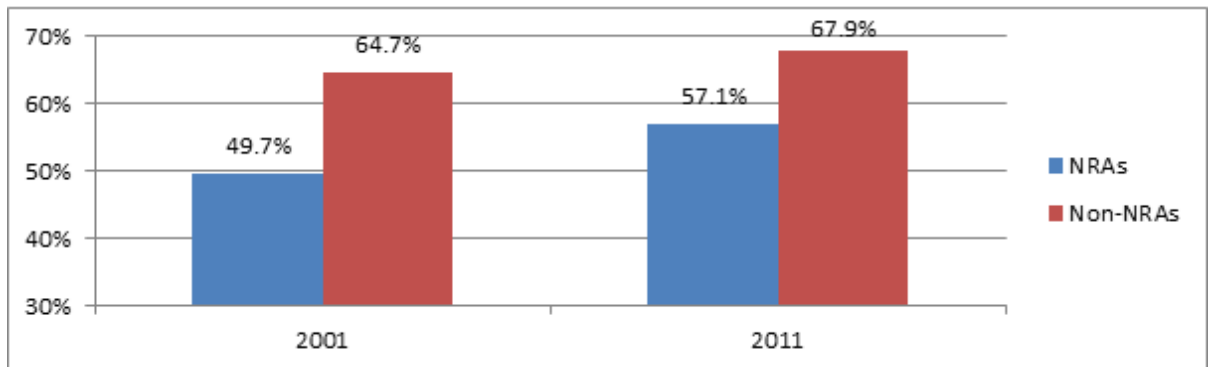
Source: NI Census of Population Survey 2001 and 2011

Unemployment

6.23 Percentage unemployed in this respect refers to the percentage of the working age (16-74) population of the stated area who are considered as economically active who are unemployed. It does not include those recorded as economically inactive.

6.24 From 2001 to 2011 there has been an overall increase of 0.9% in the percentage of unemployment amongst the working age resident population within the Non-NRAs. This is slightly higher than the percentage point increase of 0.2 within the total NRAs.

Table 6:7: Summary of Unemployment Levels (% of working age population)

	Baseline – 2001 (%)	Most Recent – 2011 (%)	Percentage point change (%)
Non-NRA	3.4	4.3	+0.9
NRAs	8.1	8.3	+0.2

Source: NI Census of Population Survey 2001 & 2011

6.25 Figure 6.3 highlights that the gap in percentage unemployment has reduced between the NRAs and non-NRAs over the intervening period by 0.7 percentage points as a result of the larger increase in the percentage unemployment in the non-NRAs.

Figure 6:3: Relative Difference Unemployment rates in NRAS and non-NRAs (% of working age population)
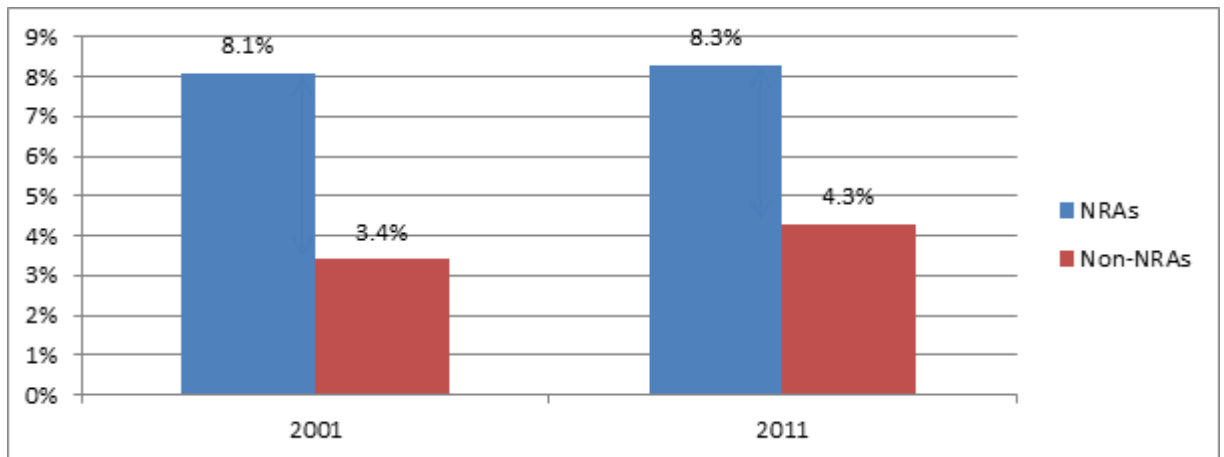
Source: NI Census of Population Survey 2001 & 2011

Long Term Unemployed

6.26   Long term unemployment, in this respect, refers to the percentage of the economically active unemployed population who are considered as being long term unemployed.

6.27   From 2001 to 2011 there has been an overall percentage points increase of 6.5 in the percentage of long term unemployment amongst the working age resident population of Non-NRAs. This is in comparison to slight increase of 0.6 percentage points in the total NRA's population.

Table 6:8: Summary of Long Term Unemployed

	Baseline – 2001 (%)	Most Recent – 2011 (%)	Percentage point change (%)
Non-NRA	37.6	44.1	+6.5
NRAs	46.7	47.3	+0.6

Source: NI Census of Population Survey 2001 & 2011

6.28   The following figure illustrates that the gap in the percentage of the population considered to be long term unemployed has reduced between the NRAs and non-NRAs over the 2001 to 2011 period by 5.9 percentage points as a result of the larger increase in percentage of long term unemployment in the non-NRAs.

Figure 6:4: Relative Difference in Long Term Unemployment
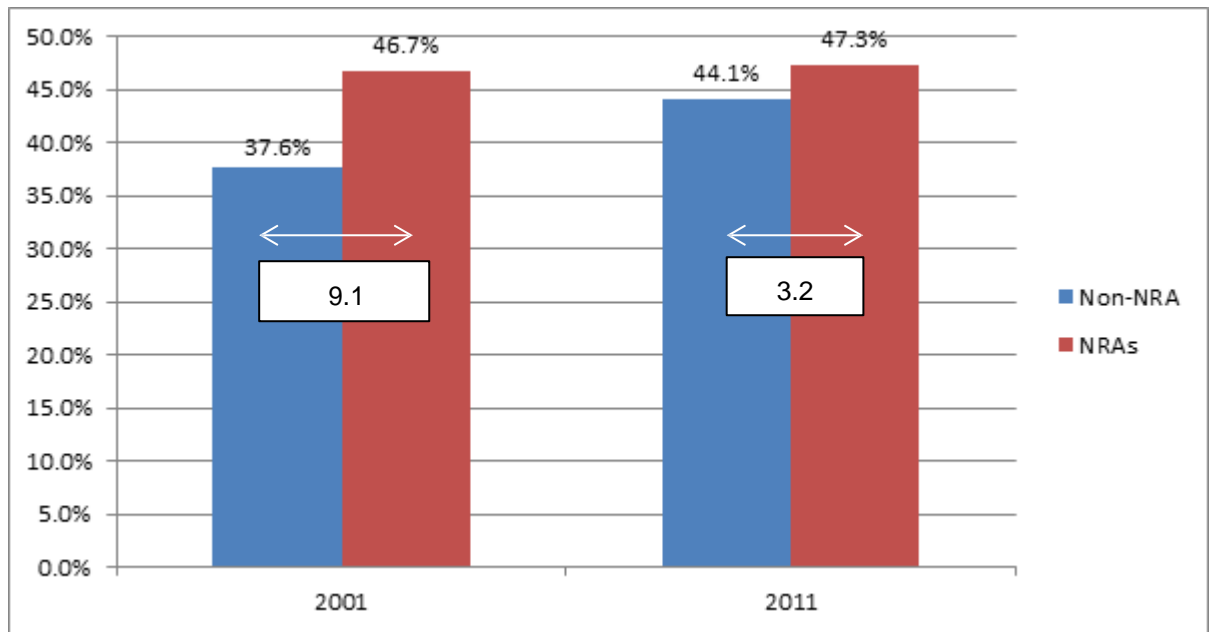
Source: DSD

Income Support

6.29   Between 2004 and 2012 there has been a significant decline in the number of Income Support claimants across NI and in the NRAs. The figures from 2004 have been used as the baseline because of a number of technical changes to the benefit system in 2003. The major event being in 2003, which resulted in the migration of a large number of pensioner claimants off Income Support on to Pension Credit. However, despite this the number of Income Support claimants continues to fall.

Table 6:9: Income Support Claimants Summary (% of eligible population claiming IS)

	Baseline – 2004 (%)	Most Recent – 2012 (%)	Percentage point change (%)
All NRAs	25.5	17.5	-8.0
Non-NRAs	6.7	5.0	-1.7

Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

6.30   There has been an 8.0 percentage point decrease in the number of people from NRAs claiming Income Support. This could be as a result of the increase of economic activity rates which also occurred during the same period. This is in comparison to a smaller decrease of 1.7 percentage points in the Non-NRAs throughout NI.

6.31   Overall the gap in the percentage of Income Support claimants has decreased between the NRAs and non-NRAs over the intermittent period by 6.3 percentage points as a result of a larger decrease in income support claimants in the NRAs.

Figure 6:5: Difference in numbers of Income Support Claimants in NRAs and non-NRAs
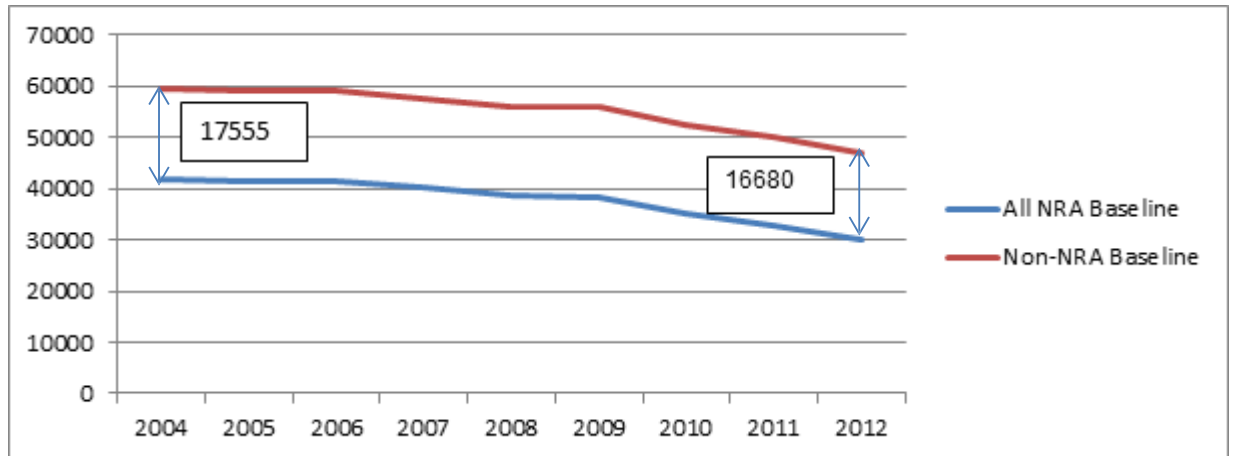
Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

Pension Credit

6.32   Pension Credit was introduced in 2003 and a substantial number of people moved from claiming Income Support to the new benefit. Between 2004 and 2012 there has been a slight decrease in the number of Pension Credit claimants within the Non NRAs (-0.8%).

Table 6:10: Pension Credits Claimants Summary (% of eligible population)

	Baseline – 2004 (%)	Most Recent – 2012 (%)	Percentage point change (%)
All NRAs	54.2	54.6	0.4
Non-NRAs	28.2	27.4	-0.8

Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

6.33   As set out in the above table there has been a 0.4% increase overall in the percentage of people aged over 65 years claiming Pension Credit within NRAs.

6.34   Overall the gap in the percentage of Pension Credit has increased between the NRAs and non-NRAs over the intermittent period by 1.2 percentage points as a result of the small decrease in Pension Credit claimants in the non-NRAs.

Figure 6:6: Difference in numbers of Pension Credit Claimants in NRAs and non-NRAs
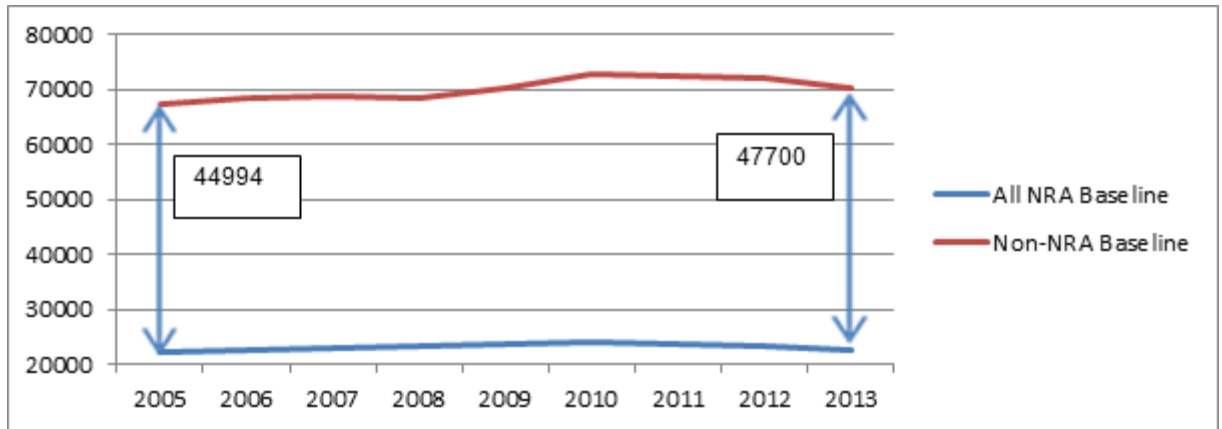
Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)

6.35 In the period 2004 to 2012 there was an overall increase in the number of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimants within the NRAs and across NI in general. JSA is payable to those who are aged 18 to 65 years and who are actively seeking work[15].

Table 6:11: Job Seekers Allowance Claimants rates

	Baseline – 2004 (%)	Most Recent – 2012 (%)	Percentage point change (%)
All NRAs	6.5	10.5	+4.0
Non-NRAs	2.5	4.5	+2.0

Source: NISRA Neighbourhood Renewal Data

6.36 The above table shows a 2.0 percentage points increase in the Non-NRAs during the period of 2004 to 2012. This is in comparison to a 4.0 percentage point increase in JSA Claimants in the NRAs during the same period.

6.37 Overall the gap in the percentage of JSA claimants has increased between the NRAs and non-NRAs over the intermittent period by 2.0 percentage points as a result of the larger increase of JSA claimants in all NRAs.

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[15] http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/jobseekers-allowance

Figure 6:7: Relative Difference in Job Seekers Allowance Claimants in NRAs and non-NRAs
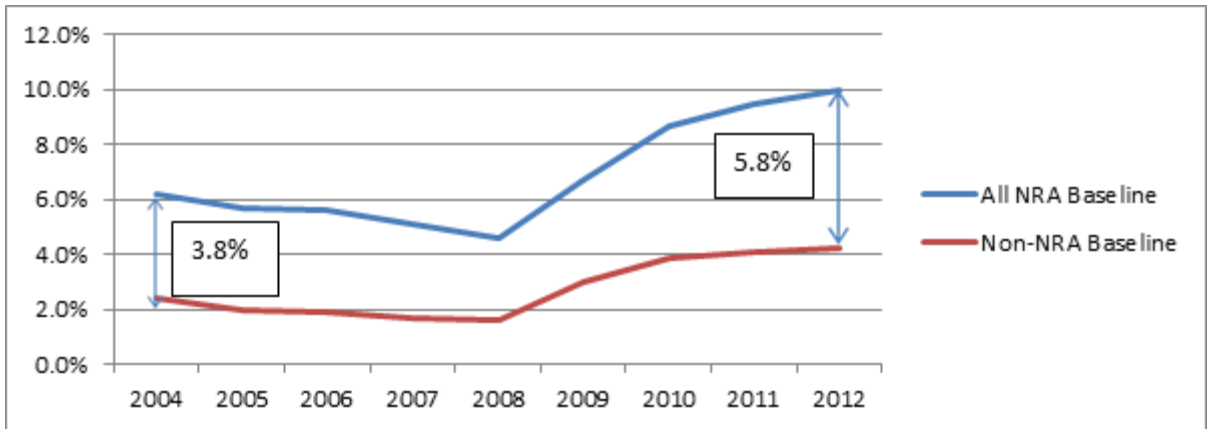
Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

Disability Living Allowance

6.38   From 2004 to 2013 there has been a steady increase in the number of DLA claimants within NRAs, with an overall increase of 1.2 percentage points. The rate of increase in non-NRAs over the same period has been slightly more with a 1.4 percentage point increase in these regions. DLA is a benefit for children and adults aged under 65 years with a disability[16]. DLA claimant rates are based on the proportion of the population aged under 65 years who are claiming this benefit.

Table 6:12: Disability Living Allowance Claimants rates

	Baseline – 2004 (%)	Most Recent – 2012 (%)	Percentage point change (%)
All NRAs	17.1	18.3	+1.2
Non-NRAs	7.7	9.1	+1.4

Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

6.39   Overall the gap in the percentage of DLA claimants has decreased between the NRAs and non-NRAs by 0.2 percentage points as a result of a larger increase in DLA claimants in the non-NRAs.

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[16] http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/index/information-and-services/people-with-disabilities/financial-support-for-people-with-disabilites/disability-living-allowance/disability-living-allowance-introduction.htm

Figure 6:8: Relative Difference in DLA Claimants in NRAs and non-NRAs
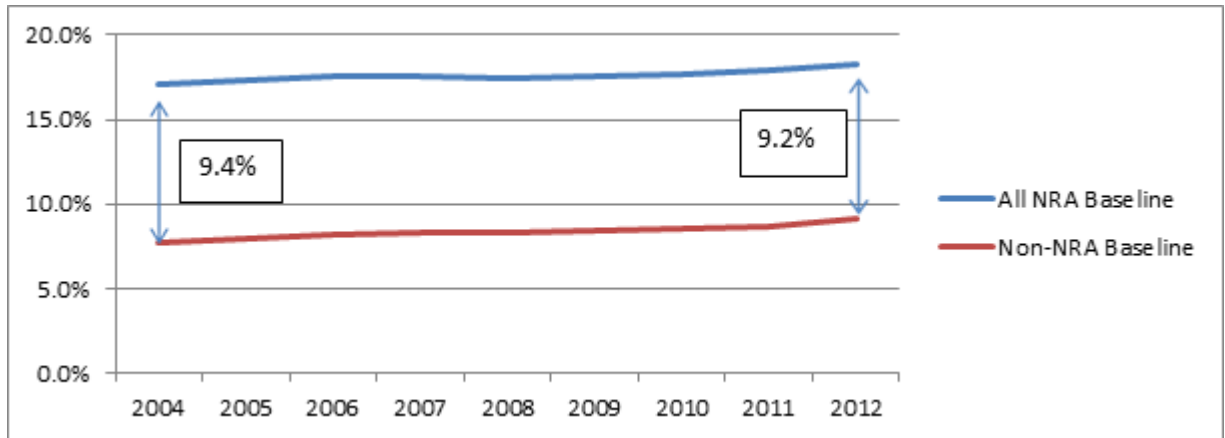
Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

Social Renewal

6.40   The Social Renewal objective, under the People and Place Strategy, was put in place to improve social conditions for the people who live in the most deprived neighbourhoods through better co-ordinated public services and the creation of safer environments.

6.41   A number of baseline indicators relating to Education, Health and Crime were based on the Gap Analysis provided by the Department for Social Development. This Gap Analysis has been developed with the figures taken from NINIS and the Census published in 2001 and 2011. The baseline figure has been used to show the percentage of the chosen population that falls under the specific indicator. This is compared with the most recent data available to show the percentage change, showing whether there has been an increase or decrease for each indicator.

Education

Key Stage 2, Level 4 English

6.42   The following table shows that from 2004 to 2011 the achievement of Level 4 English increased by 9.1 percentage points in all the NRA's. This was in comparison to a 4.7 percentage points increase in KS2 level 4 English in Non-NRA's during the same period.

Table 6:13: Percentage Achieving KS2 Level 4 English Summary

	Baseline – 2004 (%)	Most Recent – 2011 (%)	Percentage point change (%)
All NRAs	64.1	73.2	+9.1
Non-NRAs	79.7	84.4	+4.7

Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

6.43   The following figure shows that the overall gap in the percentage of both the NRA and the Non-NRA's population obtaining a KS2, Level 4 in English has decreased by 4.4 percentage points as a result of the larger increase in the NRA population obtaining this qualification. However as displayed in Figure 6.9 below, the small sample size for NRAs has created a level of volatility from year to year in the level of KS2 attainment which impacts upon the statistical validity of the data on display and the extent to which conclusions can be derived from it.

Figure 6:9: Relative Difference in Achievement of KS2 Level 4 English in NRAs and non-NRAs
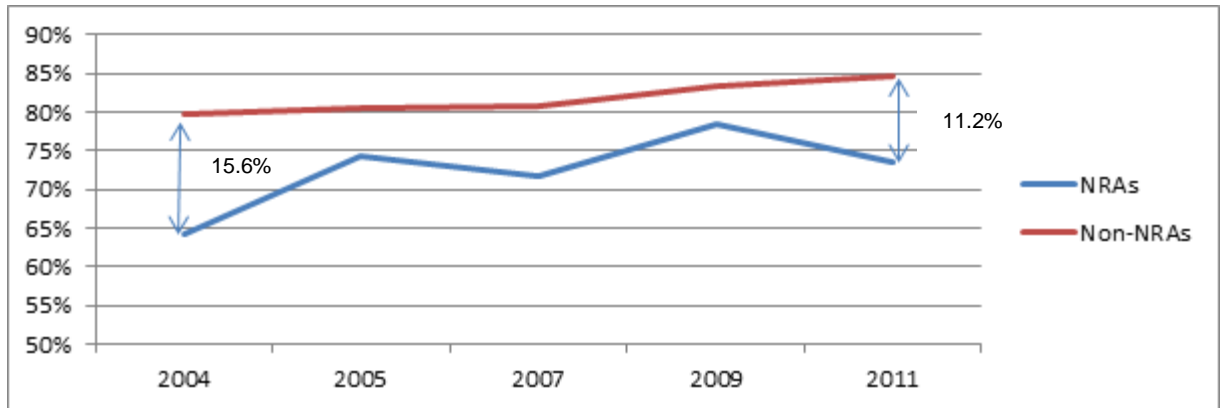
Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

Key Stage 2, Level 4 Maths

6.44   The table below shows that from 2004 to 2011 the achievement of KS2 Level 4 Maths increased by 7.4 percentage points in all the NRAs. This was in comparison to a 2.8 percentage points increase in KS2 level 4 Maths in Non-NRA's during the same period.

Table 6:14: Percentage Achieving KS2 Level 4 Maths Summary

	Baseline – 2004 (%)	Most Recent – 2011 (%)	Percentage point change (%)
All NRAs	67.6	75.0	+7.4
Non-NRAs	81.9	84.7	+2.8

Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

6.45   The following figure shows that the overall gap in the percentage of both the NRA and the Non-NRA's population obtaining a KS2, Level 4 in Maths has decreased by 4.6 percentage points as a result of the larger increase in the NRA's population obtaining this qualification. However as displayed in Figure 6.10 below, the small sample size for NRAs has created a level of volatility from year to year in the level of KS2 attainment which impacts upon the statistical validity of the data on display and the extent to which conclusions can be derived from it.

Figure 6:10: Relative Difference in Achievement of KS2 Level 4 English in NRAs and non-NRAs
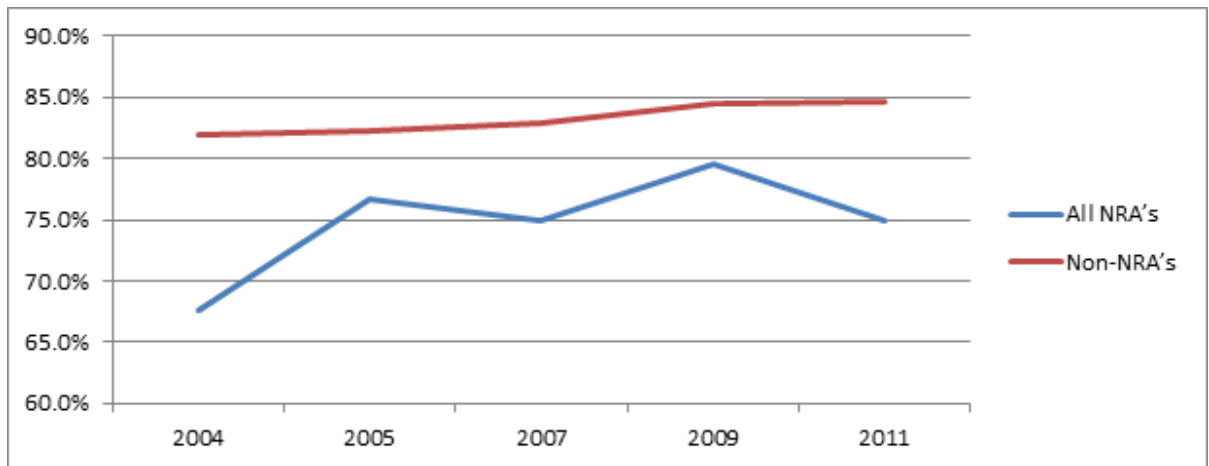
Source: NISRA Neighbourhood Renewal Data

School Leavers with 5 or more GCSEs A*-C

6.46 The table below shows that from 2004 to 2011 school leavers achieving 5 or more GCSE's at A* to C increased by 13.3 percentage points in NRAs. This was in comparison to a 9.3 percentage points increase in school leavers achieving 5 or more GCSE's at A* to C in Non-NRAs during the same period.

Table 6:15: School Leavers achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C inc. equiv.

	Baseline – 2004/05 (%)	Most Recent – 2010/11 (%)	Percentage point change (%)
All NRAs	43.8	57.1	+13.3
Non-NRAs	66.9	76.2	+9.3

Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

6.47 The following figure shows that the overall gap in the percentage of both the NRA and the Non-NRA's population leaving school with 5 GCSE's at A* to C decreased by 4.0 percentage points as a result of the larger increase in the NRA's population obtaining these qualifications.

Figure 6:11: Relative Difference in Achievement of 5 GCSEs A*-C in NRAs and non-NRAs
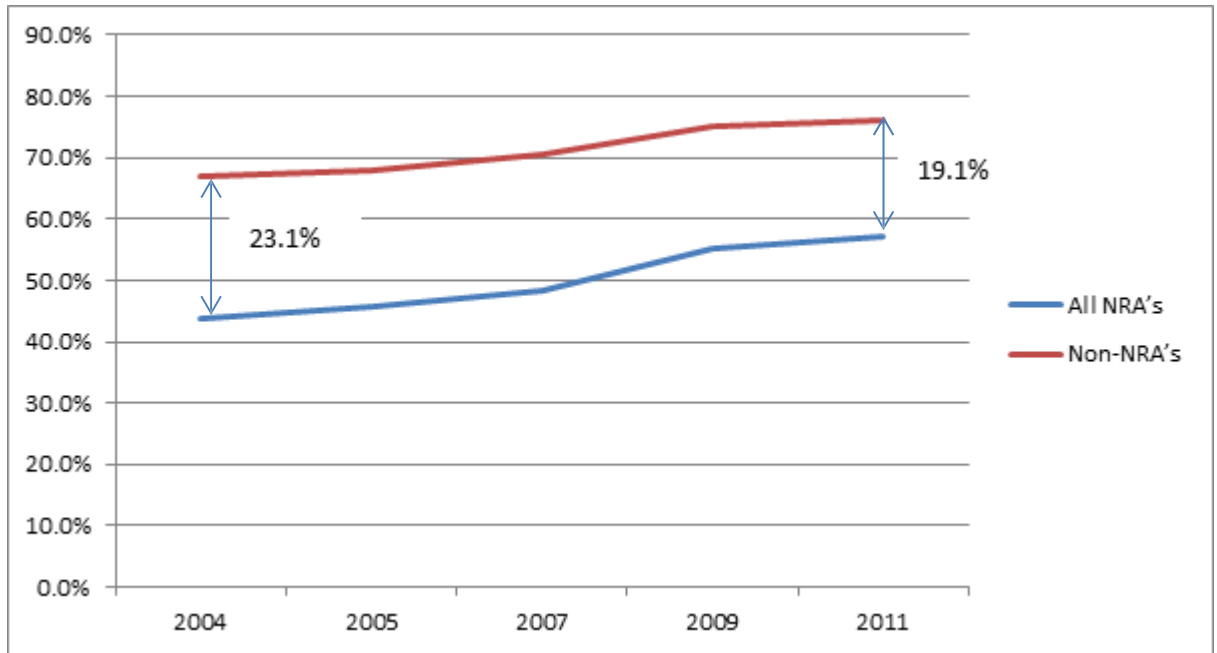
Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

School Leavers with No GCSEs

6.48   The table below shows that from 2004 to 2011 school leavers achieving no GCSE's decreased by 6.1 percentage points in NRAs. This was in comparison to a 1.9 percentage point decrease in school leavers achieving no GCSE's in Non-NRAs during the same period.

Table 6:16: School Leavers achieving no GCSEs or equivalents

	Baseline – 2004 (%)	Most Recent – 2011 (%)	Percentage point change (%)
All NRAs	11.0	4.9	-6.1
Non-NRAs	3.7	1.8	-1.9

Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

6.49   The following figure shows that the overall gap in the percentage of both the NRA and the Non-NRA's population leaving school with no GCSEs decreased by 4.2 percentage points as a result of the larger increase in the NRA population obtaining these qualifications.

Figure 6:12: Relative Difference in School Leavers with no GCSEs in NRAs and non-NRAs
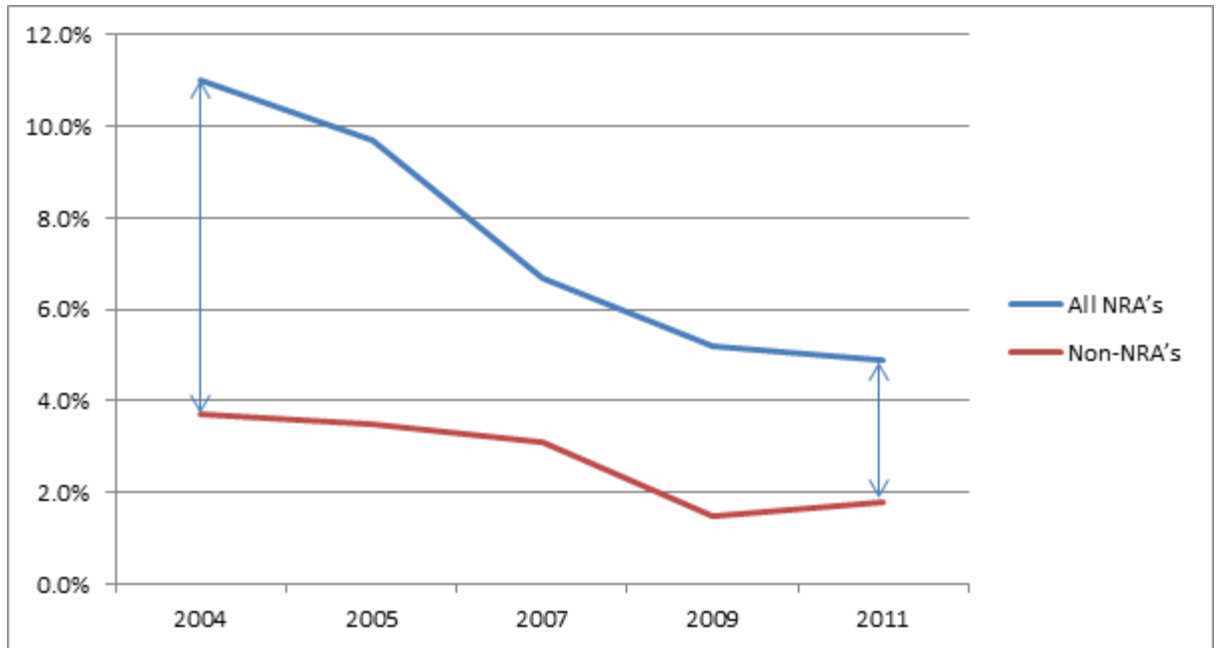
Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

Health

Percentage of Deaths under the age of 75

6.50 The table below shows that from 2004 to 2011 the percentage of deaths under the age of 75 increased by 1.6 percentage points in NRAs. This was in comparison to a 10.4 percentage point decrease in deaths under 75 in Non-NRAs during the same period.

Table 6:17: Percentage Deaths under 75 Summary

	Baseline – 2005 (%)	Most Recent – 2010 (%)	Percentage point change (%)
All NRAs	48.2	49.8	+1.6
Non-NRAs	47.3	36.9	-10.4

Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

6.51 The following figure shows that the overall gap in the percentage of both the NRA and the Non-NRA's population that died under the age of 75 increased by 12.0 percentage points as a result of the larger decrease in the Non-NRA's population dying under 75.

Figure 6:13: Relative Difference in Percentage Deaths under 75 in NRAs and non-NRAs
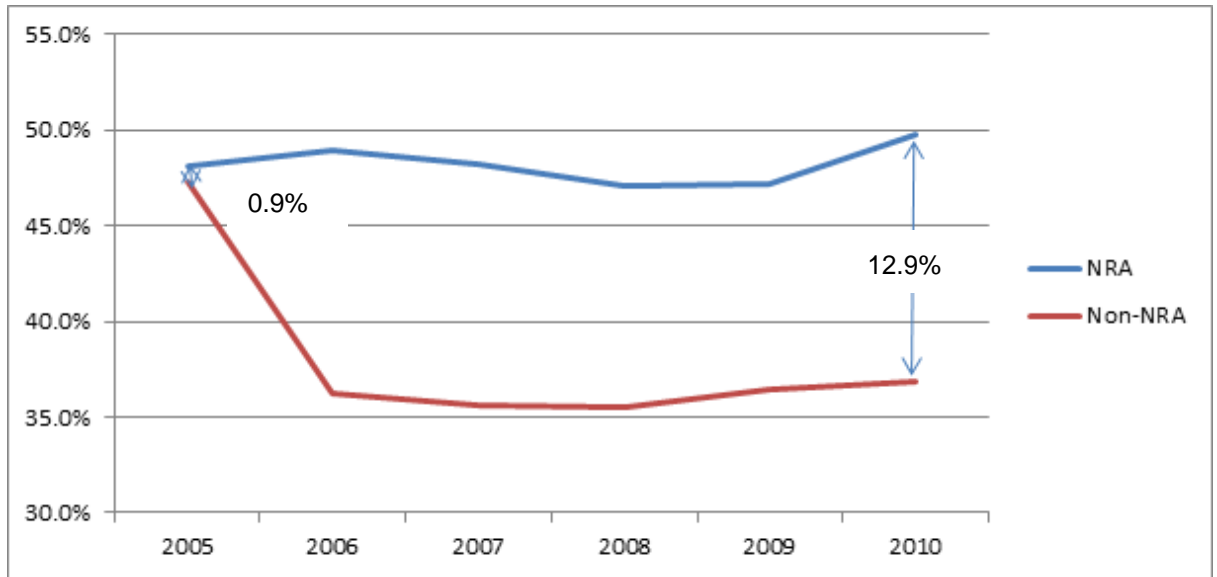
Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

Alcohol related Deaths

6.52 The table below shows that from 2004 to 2011 the percentage of alcohol related deaths increased by 0.1 percentage points in NRAs. This was the same in Non-NRAs during the same period.

Table 6:18: Percentage of Alcohol related Deaths

	Baseline – 2004/05 (%)	Most Recent – 2010/11 (%)	Percentage point change (%)
All NRAs	3.6	3.7	+0.1
Non-NRAs	1.4	1.5	+0.1

Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

6.53 The following figure shows that the overall gap in the percentage of alcohol related deaths in both the NRAs and the Non-NRAs remained constant during the period of 2005 to 2011.

Figure 6:14: Relative Difference in Percentage of alcohol related deaths in NRAs and non-NRAs
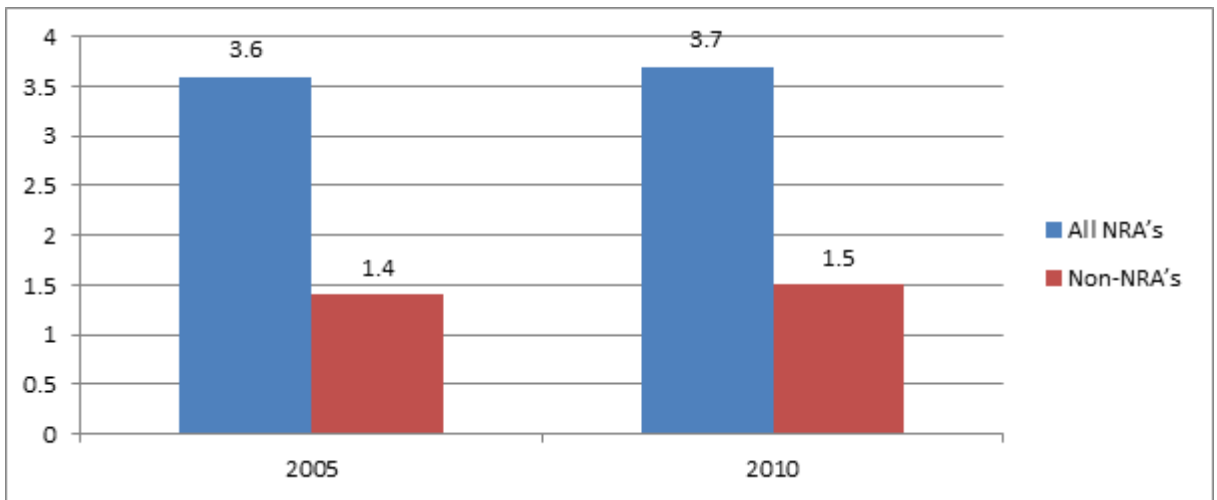
Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

Drug Related Deaths

6.54 The table below shows that between the period of 2005 to 2011 there was no variation in the percentage of drug related deaths in both the NRAs and Non-NRAs

Table 6:19: Percentage of Drug related Deaths

	Baseline – 2005-09 (%)	Most Recent – 2006-10 (%)	Percentage point change (%)
All NRAs	1.2	1.2	0.0
Non-NRAs	0.5	0.5	0.0

Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

6.55 The following figure shows that the overall gap in the percentage of drug related deaths in both the NRAs and the Non-NRAs remained constant during the period of 2005 to 2011.

Figure 6:15: Relative Difference in Percentage of Drug related deaths in NRAs and non-NRAs
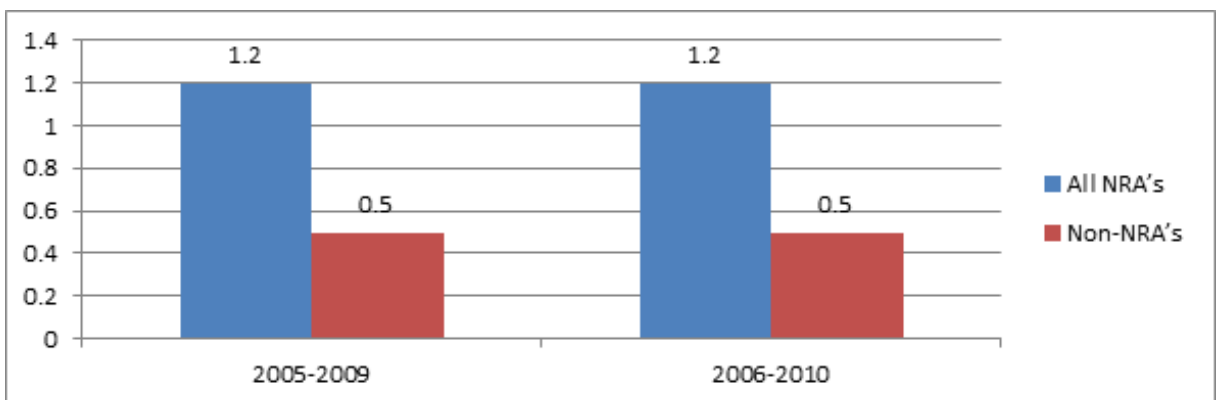
Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

Suicide

6.56   The following table shows that between the period of 2005 and 2011 there was a 0.3 percentage points increase in the number of deaths by suicide in the NRAs. The table also shows that there was no variation in the percentage of deaths by suicide in the Non-NRAs as is remained at 1.6% of the specific population.

Table 6:20: Percentage of Deaths from Suicide and Undetermined Intent

	Baseline – 2005-09 (%)	Most Recent – 2006-10 (%)	Percentage point change (%)
All NRAs	2.7	3.0	+0.3
Non-NRAs	1.6	1.6	0.0

Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

6.57   The following figure shows that the overall gap in the percentage of deaths by suicide in both the NRAs and the Non-NRAs increased by 0.3 percentage points due to an increase in All NRAs during the period of 2005 to 2010.

Figure 6:16: Relative Difference in Percentage of deaths by suicide in NRAs and non-NRAs
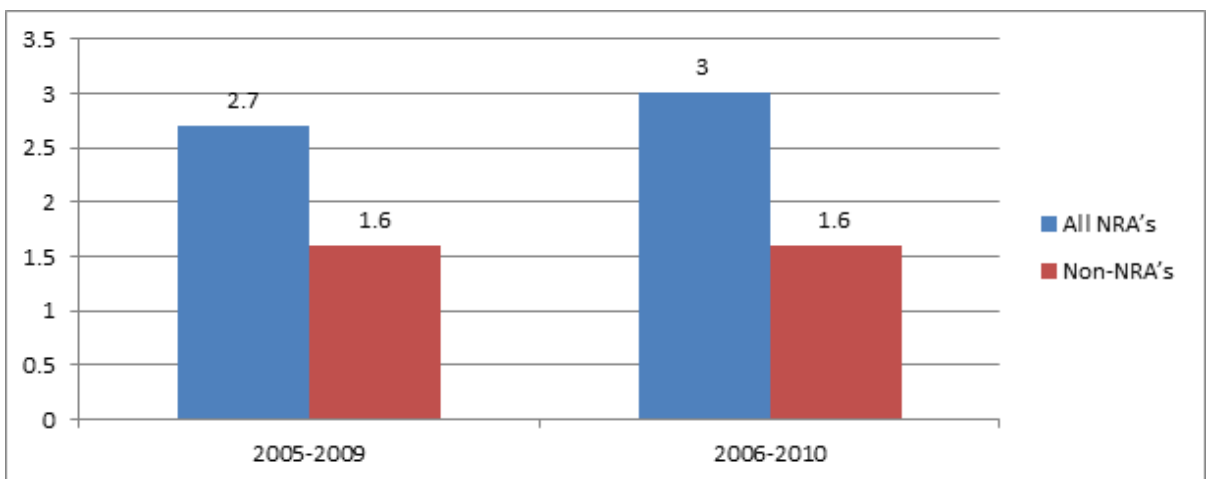
Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

Births to Teenage Mothers

6.58 The following table shows that between the period of 2005 and 2011 there was a 4.2 percentage point decrease in the number of births to teenage mothers in the NRAs. The table also shows that there was 0.5 percentage points decrease in the number of births to teenage mothers in the Non-NRAs.

Table 6:21: Percentage of Teenage Births

	Baseline – 2005 (%)	Most Recent – 2010 (%)	Percentage point change (%)
All NRAs	13.5	9.3	-4.2
Non-NRAs	4.6	4.1	-0.5

Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

6.59 The following figure shows that the overall gap in the percentage of births to teenage mothers in both the NRAs and the Non-NRAs decreased by 3.7 percentage points due to a greater decrease in All NRAs during the period of 2005 to 2011.

Figure 6:17: Relative Difference in Percentage of Births to Teenage Mothers in NRAs and non-NRAs
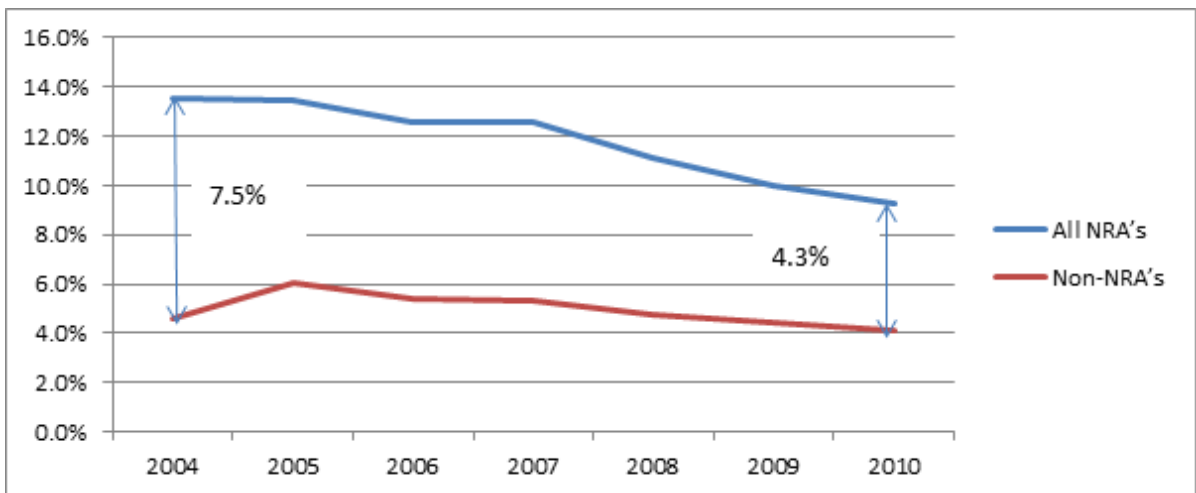
Crime

Overall Recorded Crime

6.60   The following table shows that between the period of 2005 and 2011 there was a 15.0 rate point decrease in the total number of offences in the NRAs. This is in comparison to a 17.7 points decrease in total number of offences in the Non-NRAs.

Table 6:22: Offences per 1,000 of Population Summary

	Baseline – 2004	Most Recent – 2011	Rate point change
All NRAs	147.3	132.3	-15.0
Non-NRAs	61.4	43.7	-17.7

Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

6.61   The figure below shows that the overall gap in the total crime rate in both the NRAs and the Non-NRAs increased by 2.7 rate points due to a greater reduction in the crime rate in Non-NRAs during the period of 2005 to 2011.

Figure 6:18: Relative Difference in Overall Recorded Crime in NRAs and non-NRAs
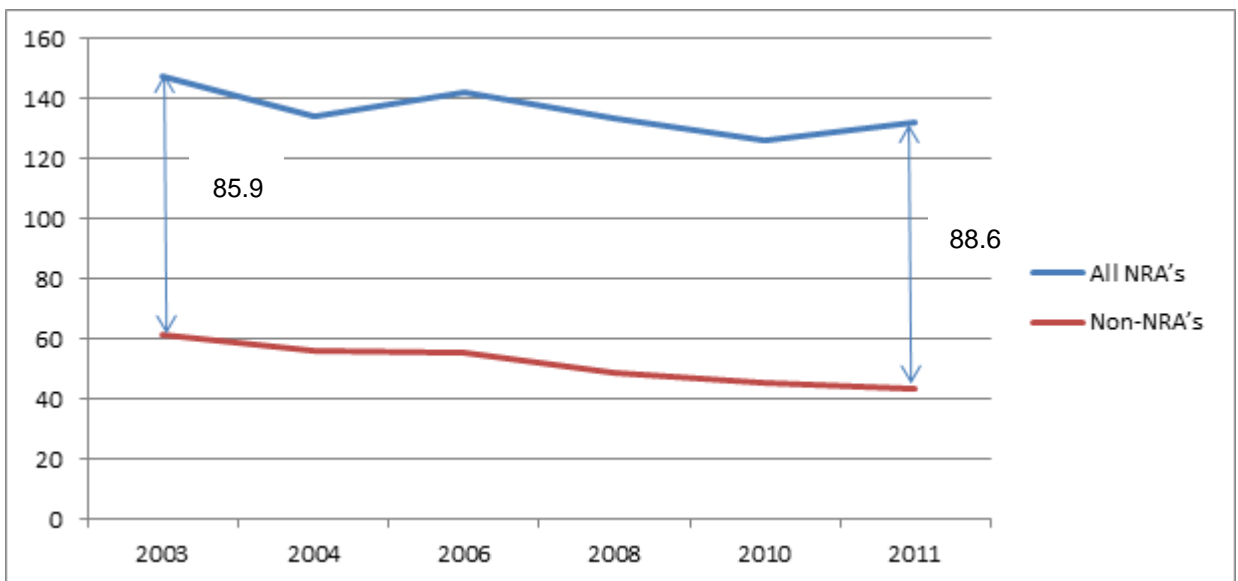
Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

Burglaries

6.62   The following table shows that between the period of 2005 and 2011 there was a 2.9 rate point decrease in the total number of burglaries in the NRAs. This is in comparison to a 3.7 rate point decrease in the number of Burglaries in the Non-NRAs.

Table 6:23: Burglaries per 1,000 of Population Summary

	Baseline – 2003	Most Recent – 2011	Rate Point change
All NRAs	12.7	9.8	-2.9
Non-NRAs	8.9	5.2	-3.7

Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

6.63   The following figure shows that the overall gap in the percentage of Burglaries in both the NRAs and the Non-NRAs increased by 0.8 rate points due to a greater reduction in the percentage of Burglaries in Non-NRAs during the period of 2005 to 2011.

Figure 6:19: Relative Difference in Burglaries in NRAs and non-NRAs
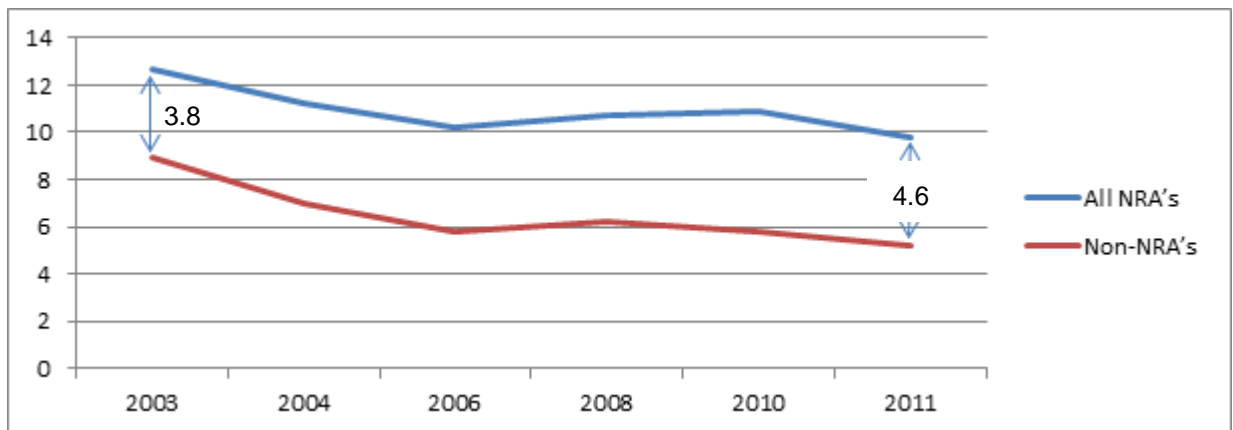
Source: NISRA, Neighbourhood Renewal Data

Thefts

6.64   The table below shows that between the period of 2005 and 2011 there was a 1.6 rate point increase in the total number of Thefts in the NRAs. This is in comparison to a 0.8 rate point decrease in the number of Thefts in the Non-NRAs.

Table 6:24: Thefts per 1,000 of Population Summary

	Baseline – 2003	Most Recent – 2011	Rate Point change
All NRAs	24.9	26.5	+1.6
Non-NRAs	9.0	8.2	-0.8

Source: NISRA. Neighbourhood Renewal Data

6.65   The following figure shows that the overall gap in the percentage of Thefts in both the NRAs and the Non-NRAs increased by 2.4 rate points due to a greater increase in the NRAs during the period of 2005 to 2011.

Figure 6:20: Relative Difference in Rate of Theft in NRAs and non-NRAs
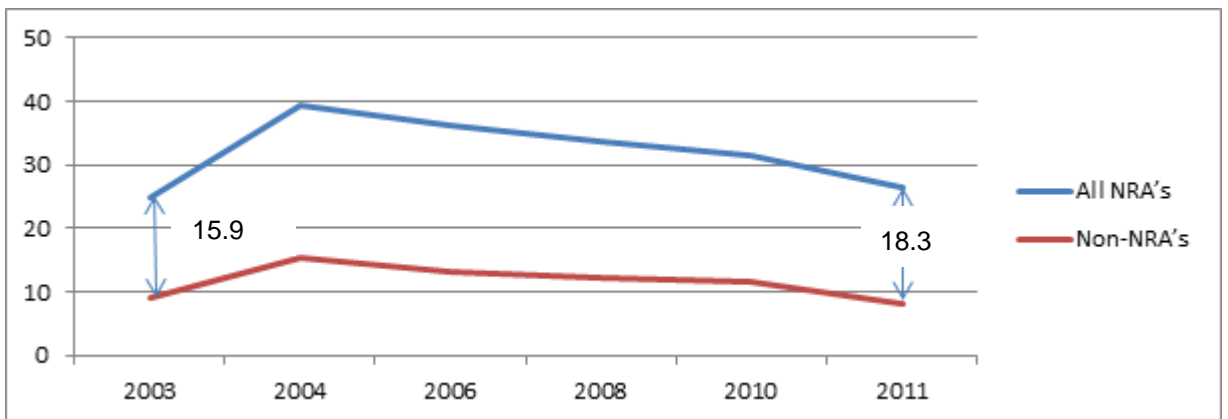
Source: NISRA. Neighbourhood Renewal Data

Violent Crime

6.66   The table below shows that between the period of 2003 and 2011 there was a 4.5 rate point increase in the total number of Violent Crimes in the NRAs. This is in comparison to a 0.6 rate point decrease in the number of Burglaries in the Non-NRAs.

Table 6:25: Violent Crime Incidents per 1,000 Population

	Baseline – 2003	Most Recent – 2011	Rate Point change
All NRAs	38.0	42.5	+4.5
Non-NRAs	13.2	12.6	-0.6

Source: NISRA Neighbourhood Renewal Data

6.67   The figure below shows that the overall gap in the number of Violent Crimes in both the NRAs and the Non-NRAs increased by 5.1 rate points due to a greater increase in the NRAs during the period of 2005 to 2011.

Figure 6:21: Relative Difference in Rate of Violent Crimes in NRAs and non-NRAs
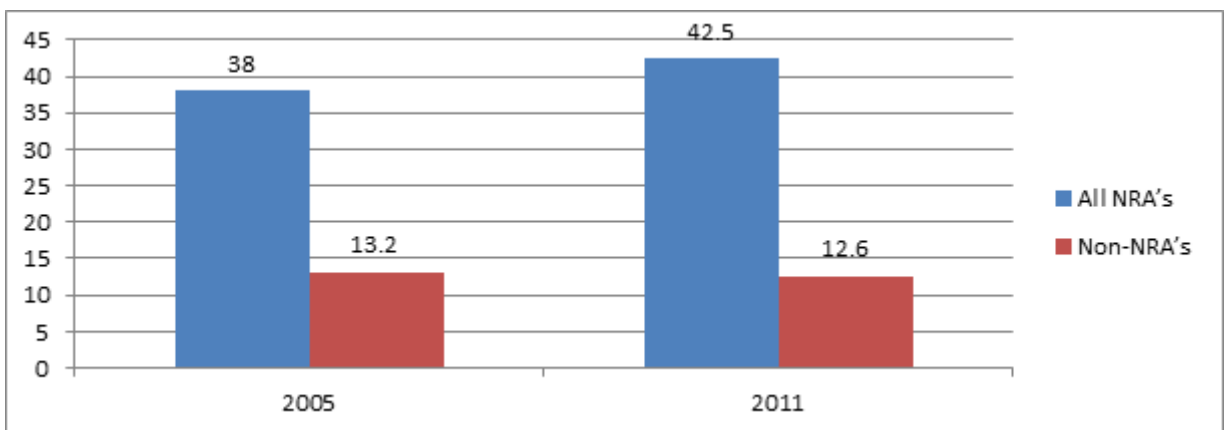
Source: NISRA Neighbourhood Renewal Data

Physical Renewal

6.68   This objective was set out to help create attractive, safe, sustainable environments in the most deprived neighbourhoods. It is noted in the Mid Term Evaluation that there was no readily available baseline on which to base a comparison so the evidence base comprises of tangible improvements in relation to a broad range of physical developments in the areas.

Summary of Trends Emerging from Gap Analysis

6.69   The following tables provide a comparative analysis of the changes in the gap between NRAs and non-NRAs across a number of socio-economic indicators relating to the Strategic Objectives of the programme. The analysis provides a summary of the extent to which the gap between NRAs and non-NRAs has either increased or decreased across key indicators over the course of the strategy.

Economic Renewal

6.70   The table below demonstrates changes in the gap between NRAs and non-NRAs across a number of key socio-economic indicators relating to the NR strategic objective of economic renewal.

Table 6:26: Gap Analysis for Economic Renewal Indicators

Economic Renewal	2004/05 (Baseline)			2012			
(% of eligible population)	NRA	Non-NRA	Gap	NRA	Non-NRA	Gap	Gap Change
Jobseekers Allowance	6.5	2.5	-4	10.5	4.5	-6	+2
Employment Support Allowance	3.6	1.9	-1.7	5.7	2.8	-2.9	+1.2
Disability Living Allowance	17.1	7.7	-9.4	18.3	9.1	-9.2	-0.2
State Pension Credit	54.2	28.2	-26	54.6	27.4	-27.2	+1.2

Source: DSD

6.71   Between the baseline year (2004/5) and 2012, the gap between NRAs and non-NRAs has increased in terms of the percentage of the eligible area population claiming Jobseekers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, and State Pension Credit. Over the same period there was a slight decrease in the relative gap for rates claiming Disability Living Allowance. Across all indicators, excluding State Pension Credit, the actual rate of claimants for other welfare supports showed an increase across NRAs and non-NRAs.

Social Renewal (Education)

6.72   The following table demonstrates changes in the gap between NRAs and non-NRAs across a number of key socio-economic indicators relating to the education aspect of the NR strategic objective of social renewal.

Table 6:27: Gap Analysis for Social Renewal (Education) Indicators

Social Renewal (Education)	2004/05 (Baseline)			2010/11			
% of Pupils	NRA	Non-NRA	Gap	NRA	Non-NRA	Gap	Gap Change
Level 4, Key Stage 2 Maths	67.6	81.9	-14.3	75	84.7	-9.7	-4.6
Level 4, Key Stage 2 English	64.1	79.7	-15.6	73.2	84.4	-11.2	-4.4
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C	43.8	66.9	-23.1	57.1	76.2	-19.1	-4
No GCSEs	11	3.7	7.3	4.9	1.8	3.1	-4.2

Source: DSD/NINIS

6.73 Between the baseline year and 2010/11, the NRAs have demonstrated significant improvements across all the key indicators of performance at both Key Stage 2 and GCSE level. Furthermore, the gap between NRAs and non-NRAs has decreased by 4.3 percentage points on average. This is despite non-NRAs exhibiting an improvement across all indicators over the same period.

Social Renewal (Health)

6.74 The following table demonstrates changes in the gap between NRAs and non-NRAs across a number of key health indicators.

Table 6:28: Gap Analysis for Social Renewal (Health) Indicators

Social Renewal (Health)	2005 (Baseline)			2010			
% of total	NRA	Non-NRA	Gap	NRA	Non-NRA	Gap	Gap Change
Death under age of 75	48.2	47.3	-0.9	49.8	36.9	-12.9	+12
Alcohol Related Deaths	3.6	1.4	-2.2	3.7	1.5	-2.2	0
Suicide/Undetermined Intent Deaths	2.7	1.6	-1.1	3	1.6	-1.4	+0.3
Births to Teenage Mothers	13.5	4.6	-8.9	9.3	4.1	-5.2	-3.7

Source: DSD

6.75 Between the baseline year and 2010, there have been variances in the extent to which the NRAs have improved, in terms of health outcomes, relative to non-NRAs. In terms of the proportion of total deaths under the age of 75, there has been a significant increasing of the gap between NRAs and non-NRAs. Over this period non-NRAs exhibited a significant decrease from 47.3% to 36.9%. Over the same period the rate within NRAs increased by 1.6%.

6.76 There was no change in the gap in terms of deaths related to alcohol with both NRAs and non-NRAs exhibiting a very slight increase over the period. There was a slight increasing in the gap in terms of rates of suicide. While the rate in non-NRAs remained unchanged over the period at 1.6%, the rate within NRAs increased from 2.7% to 3%.

6.77 In terms of births to teenage mothers, both NRAs and non-NRAs have exhibited a significant decrease in the rates, however the decrease was more significant within NRAs with a decrease in the gap of 3.7%.

Social Renewal (Crime/Community Wellbeing)

6.78 The following table summarises key changes in the gap between NRAs and non-NRAs across a number of key socio-economic indicators relating to the crime and community well-being aspect of the NR strategic objective of social renewal.

Table 6:29: Gap Analysis for Social Renewal (Crime) Indicators

Social Renewal (Community Wellbeing)	2003 (Baseline) / 2006 (ASB)			2010/11			
per 1,000 of population	NRA	Non-NRA	Gap	NRA	Non-NRA	Gap	Gap Change
Total Recorded Offences	147.3	61.4	-85.9	132.3	43.7	-88.6	+2.7
Total Violent Crime	38	13.2	-24.8	42.5	12.6	-29.9	+5.1
Burglary	12.7	8.9	-3.8	9.8	5.2	-4.6	+0.8
Anti-Social behaviour	87.1	53.2	-33.9	71.1	29.2	-41.9	+8

Source: DSD

6.79   Despite recording significant decreases across most of the indicators relating to crime, the gap between NRAs and non-NRAs has increased over the period between the baseline and 2010/11.

6.80   The most significant increasing of the gap related to rates of anti-social behaviour. Despite rates per 1,000 population decreasing from 87.1 to 71.1 in NRAs, the gap to non-NRAs still increased by 8 over the period. The same trend of decreases in rates being unable to close the gap was evident in terms of total offences and burglary.

6.81   In terms of violent crime, the rate within NRAs increased over the period from 38 to 42.5. In non-NRAs there was a slight decrease over the same period from 13.2 to 12.6.

6.82   What is not clear from the statistics set out above is if the actual incidence of crime has increased or, whether residents in NRAs are now more likely to report crime.   It is possible, in areas with improved political stability, that community leaders are more likely to encourage residents to report crimes. Therefore, not clear if the actual number of crimes has increased or just reporting. This was highlighted during consultation with the Outer West Derry NR Partnership, who felt they had a conflict of priorities with the PSNI who wanted to see a decreasing rate of crimes reported. The Partnership felt there was a high rate of crimes not being reported as a result of mistrust and other reasons. The Partnership felt an increasing rate in the level of reported crime would actually be more reflective as a successful outcome on their efforts to reconcile and build trust between much of the area population and the police service.

Counterfactual Analysis

6.83   In order to compare the changes that have occurred in NRAs to changes to those in non NRAs, a counterfactual analysis was conducted using key socio-economic statistics relating to the strategic objectives of the NR strategy. Full details of this analysis are attached as Appendix E.

6.84   The counterfactual analysis was carried out by analysing changes to socio-economic statistics in 15 deprived non-NRA wards in comparison to changes in the NRAs over the course of the strategy. All statistical analysis is based on the data for the latest year available provided to us by DSD statisticians and supplemented with additional data from the NI Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS).   A further in-depth review was conducted on 3 selected wards (Castle Demesne, Enler and Cross Glebe) in order to gather a more holistic view on factors that may have contributed to change in the area.

6.85   The evaluation steering group agreed that the counterfactual analysis should focus on relatively deprived ward areas that are in the vicinity of NRAs, but were not eligible for NRA funding at the start of the Strategy. The 15 selected wards are set out in the table below.

Table 6:30: Non-NRA Wards for Counterfactual Assessment

Ward	Location	2001 MDM Rank	2010 MDM Rank	↑ ↓
Northland	Carrickfergus	105	37	↓
Old Warren	Lisburn	84	32	↓
Farranshane	Antrim	69	51	↓
Cross Glebe	Coleraine	91	54	↓
Bessbrook	Newry and Mourne	72[17]	60	↓
Ballyloran	Larne	121	61	↓
Love Lane	Carrickfergus	158	81	↓
St. Mary's	Newry and Mourne	103	111	↑
Enler	East Belfast	123	142	↑
Craigy Hill	Larne	140	70	↓
Fair Green	Ballymena	100	133	↑
Dunclug	Ballymena	163	83	↓
Castle Demesne	Ballymena	182	106	↓
Gortalee	Carrickfergus	109	152	↑
Drumglass	Dungannon	200	127	↓

6.86   A summary of our key findings from the counterfactual analysis are detailed below:

a.   11 out of the 15 wards selected for a counterfactual analysis have become relatively more deprived from 2001 to 2010. Dunclug, Castle Demesne and Drumglass all became significantly more relatively deprived, moving up 80, 76 and 73 places in the deprivation ranking, respectively;

b.   the socio-economic indicators for the counterfactual wards and the NRAs showed similar rates of increase in relation to key economic data. For example, both the proportion of those claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Disability Living Allowance has increased in both the NRAs and counterfactual wards at a similar rate. However, the counterfactual wards tended to start from a lower baseline and therefore whilst they fared worse than the NI average, they are still performing better economically than the NRAs;

c.   Educational attainment in the 15 counterfactual wards and the NRAs improved over the lifetime of the strategy. The proportion of pupils achieving 5 A*-C grade GCSEs improved in both the NRAs and the counterfactual wards.   However, there was a 21 percentage point increase in the counterfactual wards compared to 13 percentage points in the NRAs.   Likewise, the counterfactual wards improved at a greater rate for pupils leaving school with no GCSEs, which is now lower than in the NRAs. Both had twice the rate of pupils leaving school with no GCSEs than the NI average (excluding NRAs);

d.   The counterfactual wards showed very marginally better health outcomes than the NRAs. The rate of deaths under 75 decreased between 2005 and 2010 by 0.8 percentage points to 41% in the counterfactual areas, whereas the rate increased in the NRAs by 0.3% to 49.8%. However, both rates are substantially greater than the NI average of 36.9% (excluding NRAs); and

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[17] MDM rank in 2005. Rank in 2001 not available

e. The rate of recorded crime in counterfactual wards decreased at a greater rate than the NRAs. For example the total crimes per 1,000 head of population decreased by 39.2 in the counterfactual wards compared to a decrease of 15 in the NRAs. However, both areas remained at more than double the average NI (excluding NRAs) rate of 43.7 in 2011.

6.87 Interviews with local stakeholders and a high level review of funding databases for the three case study areas showed that although the 15 counterfactual areas did not receive NR funding, the voluntary and community sector organisations in these areas did access other sources of support from the EU, other central government departments and local government. Furthermore, additional funding and support was provided to schools, youth groups and pre-schools in these areas, through initiatives such as Extended Schools and Sure Start. Therefore, whilst they could not access NR there were a number of other targeted supports available in the counterfactual areas.

Overall Summary

6.88 An analysis of the Strategy's outcomes highlight that:

a. Only eight wards within NRAs have moved out of the top 50 most deprived wards within NI;
b. At an overall level, the gap between outcomes in NRAs and non NRAs has not improved and, in many instances has got worse, particular in relation to health and crime outcomes. However, it should be noted that, across many of the statistical indicators, the outcomes for the NRAs were positive and improving. In many cases, the increases in the gap between NRAs and non NRAs is due to more substantial improvements across the same indicators in non-NRAs;
c. The greatest area of improvement within NRAs related to education. The gap between NRAs and non NRAs narrowed in relation to the rate of pupils achieving Key Stage 2 English and Maths and pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs (A-C);
d. In some incidences (e.g. in relation to Long Term Unemployed levels and numbers of Disability Living Allowance claimants) the gap has not closed as a result of an improvement in the NRA performance, but as a result of a worsening in non-NRAs performance. Our review of economic statistics suggests that the NRAs were not as impacted by the recession as much as non NRAs, as economic inactivity and unemployment rates were already very high.

6.89 When economic and social performance indicators for a selection of 15 deprived (but non NRA) wards are compared to the NRAs, the nature and level of change in the non-NRAs is either broadly in line or more favourable than the change observed in the NRAs. This counterfactual analysis suggests that NR did not have a discernible additional impact on the economic and social performance of the NRAs. However, it should also be noted that the non NRA performance developed from a more favourable baseline position and that other (non-NR) funding helped to support the development of these communities during the lifetime of the NR strategy.

7   CASE STUDIES

Introduction

7.1   In order to explore in more detail the nature, operation and success of NR across different areas nine cases studies were completed and detailed findings are set out in Appendix F.   The case studies considered changes in the area that can be solely attributed to NR and the reasons for any variation in the effectiveness and factors that may have inhibited effectiveness in some areas.   In doing so members of the evaluation team analysed socio-economic data on the area, undertook additional interviews with members of the NR Partnerships and local stakeholders and reviewed DSD Post Project Evaluations (where available) and other documentation relating to the progress of NR in the area.   The nine NR areas were chosen by DSD staff to provide a reasonable representation of all 36 NR areas, they were:

   a.   Coalisland and Dungannon;
   b.   North West Portadown, Lurgan and Brownlow (Craigavon);
   c.   Inner East Belfast;
   d.   Waterside;
   e.   Outer West Derry;
   f.   Ballymena;
   g.   Upper Springfield/Whiterock; and
   h.   Greater Shankill.

7.2   In the rest of this section we have examined in more detail reasons for variances in the achievements of NR across these areas and the nature and operation of the Partnerships.

Effectiveness of the model

7.3   There was general agreement from V&C and statutory representatives across all nine case study areas that the Partnership approach was important and that it helped to encourage greater integration of services and activities across and within various sectors.

7.4   It is also important to consider how the Partnership model was implemented across the nine case study areas.   It was apparent that two key factors affected the impacts achieved by the Partnership; the demography of the area and the pre-existing capacity, experience and composition within the V&C sector in the area.   In the areas where the V&C sector was already highly developed the NR funding tended to focus more on funding community based posts, than those with relatively low levels of community infrastructure. The projects that were supported in the areas with less community capacity tended to be more varied and changed more frequently.

7.5   Coalisland and Dungannon were initially two separate Partnerships operating in close proximity of each other and both serving very small populations (1,841 and 778). The Partnerships merged in 2009 with aim of achieving greater impacts by serving a larger population. Likewise the Portadown, Lurgan and Craigavon areas also recognised that greater efficiencies could be achieved by working together.   Although, not formally merged as one Partnership, the Portadown, Lurgan and Craigavon Partnership meetings are held together and projects and activities are implemented in a co-ordinated approach over the three NRAs.

7.6   In most of the case study areas, the V&C sector and the statutory sector had relatively little experience of working together or of forming partnerships with others to identify local need and to deliver projects prior to the implementation of the Strategy.   Feedback from some Partnership members within NRAs with the least experience in partnership working suggested that this contributed towards longer lead in times than expected, as it took a while for the Partnership to 'bed-in'.   There

was an overall agreement from V&C and statutory representatives that the Partnership model was most effective when there was a strong and effective Chair who could bring out the best in all the partners.

7.7   In those areas with more established networks, V&C sector organisations were often already working on identifying need in their area and as such were able to 'hit the ground running'. For example, in Inner East Belfast a profile of the needs of the area had already been developed by the East Belfast Partnership, immediately prior to the implementation of NR. NR Partnership members noted that this work by the East Belfast Partnership formed the basis of their action plan.

7.8   Another factor associated with the lack of capacity was the delivery mechanisms used. For example, in the Portadown, Lurgan and Craigavon areas, many projects that were developed by the Partnership at the start of the strategy were delivered by statutory sector bodies. Statutory sector representatives noted that this was due to the lack of V&C sector experience in delivering large scale projects at the start of the strategy.   This was not necessarily regarded as a negative factor by those on the Partnership, but it was noted that it was different to the approach taken by most other Partnerships. However, as experience within the V&C sector developed and relationships within the Partnership were established, the delivery of projects gradually shifted to the V&C sector.

7.9   One of the Belfast Partnerships noted that they have recently restructured their partnership, as they believed that it was not as effective as it could be. The Partnership structures were streamlined and the number of sub-groups reduced and new members were brought on to the Partnership to make it more inclusive and representative of the local area. This Partnership believed that it was important to review their structures to maximise the impacts that can be achieved for the area. This approach is in line with the recently published code of practice and guiding principles.

Impacts and achievements

7.10   In addition to gathering feedback from V&C and statutory sector representatives on the impacts achieved by their Partnership, the evaluation team reviewed all available documentation such as Post Project Evaluations and Outcome Reports provided by DSD.

7.11   All but one of the case study areas reported very positive impacts achieved through the strategy. A review of the feedback from Partnership members indicated that, to some extent, achievements in each area were partly dependent on the level of engagement from individual statutory bodies. For example, there were high levels of engagement from the Education and Library Board (ELB) in some areas, which facilitated the successful implementation of education focused projects in the area. Other areas stated that they would have liked to have implemented more education focused projects but that they did not have sufficient levels of engagement from the ELB. The educational outcomes in the areas where the ELBs and schools were actively involved improved over the lifetime of the strategy.

7.12   An analysis of how the NR funding allocation was spent by each of the nine case studies areas shows that the Partnerships within the RDO area saw capital projects as their priority, as set out in the table below. These projects ranged from supporting the implementation of ICT equipment in schools to large scale capital infrastructure projects to create additional community facilities. In general, there were much fewer posts funded in the RDO area than other areas.

Table 7:1: Proportion of Revenue and Capital Expenditure in Case Study Areas (2004 – 2013)

Area	Revenue		Capital		Total
Ballymena	£3,133,288.84	59%	£2,219,157	41%	£5,352,446
Coalisland & Dungannon	£1,912,115.40	49%	£1,980,743	51%	£3,892,858
Craigavon, Lurgan, Portadown	£6,824,225.11	44%	£8,499,982	56%	£15,324,207
Greater Shankill	£8,617,696.07	79%	£2,225,580	21%	£10,843,276
Inner East Belfast	£5,914,047.24	37%	£10,132,462	63%	£16,046,510
Outer West Derry	£5,135,816.00	96%	£221,875	4%	£5,357,691
Upper Springfield/ Whiterock	£7,667,174.03	96%	£283,715	4%	£7,950,889
Waterside	£6,741,415.00	94%	£458,912	6%	£7,200,327
Total (%)	**£45,945,777.69**		**£26,022,428.18**		**£71,968,205.87**

7.13 Feedback from those Partnerships that did spend more on physical infrastructure noted that, physical redevelopment projects were seen as a quick win and a way to get wider community buy-in, as local people could immediately see the benefits of NR. However, there is a perception among some Partnership representatives that much of this work should have been done anyway, by the relevant agency (e.g. local councils and DRD) and should not have been part of the NR allocation. Statutory sector representatives noted that these capital projects would not have taken place without NR due to budget restrictions, but in many cases councils have agreed to maintain the new facilities. However, the Public Realm works that took place in NRAs were in addition to the NR allocation, which was not always recognised by those in the community.

7.14 The areas with high levels of revenue spend tended to have more funded posts (new and pre-existing). There were mixed views about the funding of pre-existing posts, whilst it was recognised that often these posts can provide stability and continuity to an area, it was also recognised that by tying up the majority of the allocation in funded posts left little scope to develop and implement innovative projects or to try new approaches to addressing local need.

7.15 One Partnership with mostly revenue spending noted that the majority of their projects were aimed at community development, community safety and youth diversion activities. They also noted that the youth work developed under NR has been recognised as good practice[18]. Partnership members believed that the youth work has reduced anti-social behaviour and that there has been a reduction in the number of call-outs to the police in the area. They also noted that they conducted a residents' survey which highlighted that residents are now happier to live in the area since the youth diversion activities have been implemented.

7.16 The availability of and ability to attract significant amounts of funding from other sources also had an impact on the achievements of the various Partnerships. For example, the Inner East Partnership was able to develop a new community facility at the old Templemore Avenue School and attract a significant level of funding from other funders. The NR element of the funding was reported to be in the region of 7% of all the funding received.

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[18] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6150/2088494.pdf

7.17   A common theme across all the case study areas is that it was difficult to assess the impact of the funded interventions, especially in the funding period. That was particularly true of those that focused on long-term health outcomes. Furthermore, in areas with particularly small populations it is often difficult to ascertain the real impacts of the strategy as very small fluctuations in raw data can create seemingly significant fluctuations on an annual basis. This is another reason why it is important to gather meaningful baselines in order to monitor trends over the long term and mitigate against short-term fluctuations.

Challenges

7.18   All of the Partnerships noted a number of challenges in the delivery of the strategy, they included:

a.   The economic downturn: - Almost all of the case study areas noted at least one large scale employer in their area that closed down during the lifetime of the strategy which increased the number of those in the area facing hardship. Economic statistics show that the rate of JSA claimants increased by 4% points in NRAs compared to 2% points in the rest of NI; and

b.   Lack of buy-in from statutory bodies: – All of the case study areas noted that they did not have the level of engagement they would have liked from one or more statutory agencies.   However, the agency(ies) varied by area, and as noted above, this impacted on the type of projects implemented and the achievements of the Partnership.

c.   In all case study areas there was a perception from V&C sector representatives that the level and extent of buy-in from statutory representatives was down to the individual staff involved and their individual level of commitment to NR.   Statutory representatives noted that often V&C sector representatives did not always understand that the statutory agencies were working in an environment of budget cuts and the impending implementation of the Review of Public Administration, both of which caused increased pressures such as vacant posts and an increased workload for the remaining staff, which in turn reduced the extent to which they could be involved in initiatives (such as NR) that were not a core element of their job role.

d.   Changes to local demography: - As with many areas in NI the population of six case study areas increased.   It was the perception of Partnership members in three of these areas that the population increase was primarily due to an increase in the number of migrant workers in the area.

e.   Feedback from around half the case study areas noted that social unrest in recent years has limited the extent to which they could build community participation and local capacity and made aspects of partnership working more difficult. For example, one Partnership noted that during the recent social unrest the members of the Partnership continued to meet and engage with each but it was very difficult to get residents to engage in cross community activities during this time.

Conclusions

7.19   The case studies highlighted that the NR Partnerships operated in different social, economic and political backgrounds. This variance confirmed the need for a flexible programme that can be adapted to meet local needs.

7.20   However, factors which impacted on what the Partnerships implemented and achieved were more likely to be related to the skills and experience available to the Partnership (both internally and via statutory body partners) than the environment in which they operated. The Partnerships were heavily reliant upon the experience and expertise on the Partnership members, there was very little evidence of the use of external expertise. For example a small number of Partnerships noted that they would have liked to have been able to access expertise and advice from local business men but, they were unable to attract them onto the Partnership. It is likely that the Partnerships would have benefitted from more support to find external expertise where it was required or, to commission advice and support from relevant experts if necessary.

7.21   As would be expected, the areas with more funded posts also spent significantly more of their funding allocation on revenue projects. Areas that were less well established prior to the implementation tended to have fewer funded posts and spent more of their allocation on capital projects.

8   BENCHMARKING

Introduction

8.1   In order to compare the impacts that NR has had in NI against the impacts of similar strategies elsewhere, we have benchmarked with the equivalent English and Welsh Programmes.

Wales: Communities First Programme

8.2   Communities First was the Welsh Assembly Government's flagship programme to tackle deprivation and improve the living conditions and prospects for people in the most disadvantaged communities across Wales.

8.3   The Communities First Programme was launched in April 2001 following a pilot initiative 'People in Communities' and two rounds of consultation. Following further consultation in 2011, it was decided to realign Communities First as a community-focused Tackling Poverty Programme, continuing to build on the achievements of the original programme, but with an amended delivery model. New structures for the management of the programme locally, regionally and nationally aimed to provide more consistent governance and financial accountability across the programme, with clear and consistent demarcation of roles and responsibilities.

8.4   Communities First aims to contribute, alongside other programmes, to narrowing the education/skills, economic and health gaps between the most deprived and more affluent areas in Wales. The Programme has three strategic objectives helping to achieve these outcomes:

a.   Prosperous Communities (Economic);
b.   Learning Communities (Education/Skills, in particular through employability); and
c.   Healthier Communities (Health).

Model of Delivery

8.5   The Welsh Assembly Government has overall responsibility for managing and implementing the Communities First programme. Altogether, 142 Communities First Partnerships were designated and announced during the summer of 2001, consisting of the 100 most deprived wards in Wales, as measured by the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000 which used the 1998 Electoral Division boundaries and 32 sub-pockets of deprivation.

8.6   The new programme continues to have a geographic focus, concentrating on the most deprived communities in Wales, but with an increased emphasis on ensuring that the most vulnerable individuals, families and groups in those communities are supported. More communities than before are included, with 24% of the population of Wales now living in a Communities First area, but there is a very clear expectation that the programme's resources will be devoted primarily to those in most need of them. In some cases this will include people living outside Communities First boundaries who can properly benefit from specific projects or activities supported by the programme.

8.7   There are now fewer larger Communities First areas, known as Clusters - 52 in total. Between them these Clusters (that are made up of Lower Super Output Areas) include all of the communities which are considered eligible for inclusion in the new programme. Most Clusters cover areas with populations of between 10,000 to 15,000 people. Most Clusters include a number of distinct communities, but each one is centred on the most deprived areas in Wales according to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2011. The exact geographic boundaries, focus of work and levels of funding for each Cluster were based on applications received from local stakeholders. All 52 Clusters were approved by the end of January 2013.

8.8 Partnership working between communities and key service providers, including the voluntary and private sectors, is supported and encouraged throughout the Communities First programme. In the new programme the focus is on working with partners to support delivery rather than partnerships.

8.9 A Lead Delivery Body (LDB) has been designated for each Cluster. Funding passes directly from Government to the LDB. The LDB has overall responsibility for the governance and management of the programme in the designated areas and is accountable to the Government, including reporting against agreed outcomes that are detailed within funding application forms.

8.10 Local Authorities (LAs) have been appointed as LDB for the majority of Clusters, but not for all. Whether or not the LA is the LDB for one or more Clusters, each LA has a number of important roles in supporting and working with Communities First. Although there is no statutory requirement for LAs to work with LDBs, each LA has a wealth of experience and expertise to contribute, and can help to overcome barriers and support community-led initiatives. Crucially the LA is responsible for many of the key services which each Cluster will need to engage with to carry out its Delivery Plan.

8.11 In the past, the majority of Communities First areas have benefitted from the active support and encouragement of local Elected Members – including County (Borough) Councillors and Community Councillors – and this is strongly encouraged to continue under the new programme arrangements.

Targeting

8.12 When first launched, the Communities First Programme was restricted to specific geographic areas. However, it was recognised that these fixed areas impaired delivery in some circumstances. For example, where neighbouring areas faced significant levels of deprivation on certain issues, e.g. health, but were not able to get support under the programme. Key partners, such as local authorities and health providers, also found it more difficult to engage effectively because their own structures and resources could not easily be aligned to the Communities First boundaries. It was also recognised that the focus on geographic areas with fixed boundaries, detracted from the intention to focus activity on helping the most deprived individuals, families and groups, as not everyone living in Communities First areas was equally in need of support and not all activity was equally effective in reducing poverty.

8.13 The re-launched programme, therefore, had greater flexibility to determine both the geographic and thematic scope of Communities First in each area through local and regional discussion. The aim of this is to ensure that pre-determined boundaries do not exclude people or organisations wishing to participate and to allow more support to go to individuals and groups who are most at need, wherever they live.

8.14 The local programme areas are based on clusters of deprived Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). The main focus will be LSOAs which feature in the most deprived 10% as defined by WIMD. However, Clusters may also include neighbouring LSOAs which are somewhat less deprived though resources must be concentrated on areas and people with the greatest need. The target population for each local programme area is around 10,000-15,000 residents (circa 7-10 LSOAs). Other considerations of local relevance, such as local school catchment areas, location of local health services, major employment centres and rurality, were also taken into account when identifying local programme areas.

Community Involvement

8.15 The LDB and its partners are responsible for identifying the key priorities for the Cluster in terms of tackling poverty. The agreed approach is then set out in the Cluster's Delivery Plan, designed to determine how resources are used to achieve agreed outcomes. In particular, it includes a staffing structure for the Cluster and shows how resources will be used by the LDB and shared with partners and local communities. The Welsh Government considers that the programme will be most effective if Cluster Delivery Plans are fully integrated into wider work within the communities and by key partners, including other key government programmes. It is expected that Delivery Plans will require further strengthening and updating during the funding period and there is an expectation that this improvement work will be done in discussion with communities and other partners.

8.16 In addition to the Delivery Plan, each LDB is expected to work with its partners to agree how the wider community can contribute to the work of the Cluster. The agreed approach is then set out in the Cluster's Community Involvement Plan (CIP). The aim of the CIP is to ensure that local people and community organisations play a full part in the programme and are kept fully informed of its activities.

Measuring Impact

8.17 A Communities First Outcomes Framework was developed in order to measure what is being achieved by each Cluster and by the Programme overall. The Outcomes Framework is based on Results Based Accountability and uses two sets of indicators to measure progress towards strategic goals:

a. Population Indicators: relate to things which have an impact on major issues which affect the lives of people, for example improved health, better education or more jobs. Population Indicators have been set for the programme, most of which are linked to the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation. However, it is recognised that many factors influence these issues so Communities First alone cannot take full responsibility for how they change;

b. Performance Indicators: relate to the local activity directly supported by the programme. The Welsh Government developed a common set of Performance Indicators to be used by all CF Clusters. The indicators reflect the variety of work in each community, but the aim is to ensure that a range of similar work is being undertaken in different Clusters and measured in the same way so that the overall impact of the programme can be seen.

8.18 It is too early in the second phase of the Programme to report on progress against Outcomes Framework. However, a report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) looked at the impact of Communities First up to 2008. The table below, which is taken from the JRF report shows the mean values for the key indicators for the Communities First neighbourhoods and the comparator group of similar neighbourhoods in 2001 and 2008 as well as the overall change in the mean values. The following impacts were observed:

a. Communities First areas exhibited higher levels of economic inactivity compared to similar neighbourhoods in both 2001 and 2008;

b. Both Communities First and similar neighbourhoods experienced a similar overall decline in the percentage of inactive working age population over this seven year period, by 3.7 percentage points and 3.8 percentage points respectively. By 2008, the difference in the mean percentage of inactive working age population between the two neighbourhood types was just two per cent, suggesting that both neighbourhood types have improved to the same degree in terms of reducing the levels of inactive working age population;

c. Both the Communities First and the similar neighbourhoods saw an increase in the mean percentage of the working age population claiming JSA between 2001 and 2008. However, the increase was higher for Communities First neighbourhoods, at 1.3 percentage points, compared

to the similar neighbourhoods that experienced a mean increase of just 0.3 percentage points; and

d. Communities First neighbourhoods had slightly higher levels of unemployment compared to similar areas in both 2001 and 2008. However, the mean increase in the percentage of the unemployed working age population was significantly lower in Communities First areas than other similar areas and is similar to the increase seen across Wales in the same period. Unemployment in Wales rose by 0.9 percentage points from 5.4 per cent in 2001 to 6.3 present in 2008 at the height of the economic downturn.

Table 8:1: Mean change statistics for neighbourhood indicators

Indicator	Communities First			Similar Neighbourhood		
	Overall mean 2001	Overall Mean 2008	Mean change (2001-08)	Overall mean 2001	Overall Mean 2008	Mean change (2001-08)
Percentage change in working age population claiming JSA	12.7	14.0	+1.30	13.3	13.6	+0.33
Percentage change in working age population who are economically inactive	26.5	22.8	-3.7	24.6	20.8	-3.8
Percentage change in unemployment rate of working age population	6.2	7.1	+0.9	5.5	6.7	+1.2
Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2010): Regenerating Communities First Neighbourhoods in Wales						

Conclusions

8.19   The Communities First programme, announced by the Welsh Assembly Government in April 2001, was initially a ten year programme aiming to improve the opportunities and quality of life for people living and working in the most disadvantaged communities in Wales. The eligible Communities First areas were the 100 most deprived electoral divisions as identified by the 2000 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, 32 areas at sub ward level where pockets of deprivation had been identified and 10 Partnerships based on proposals from local groups. Following a re-launch of the programme it was noted that the boundaries that were first applied were too restrictive, greater flexibility was introduced to help ensure that those who were in need were included in the Programme.

8.20   Over the period 2001 – 2010 the Welsh Communities First Programme spent £214 million. The population within its target area was c728,900. This results in spend per capita of £294 within the target area over the 9 year period. Circa £140 million of the £214 million (65%) was spent on staff and project costs within the partnerships.

England: New Deal for Communities Programme

8.21 The New Deal for Communities (NDC) Programme was announced in 1998 as part of the government's National Strategy for NR. The NDC Programme's primary purpose is to *'reduce the gaps between some of the poorest neighbourhoods and the rest of the country'*[19].

8.22 The NDC model was based on the following underlying principles:

a. Achieving strategic transformation: previous small area programmes were thought to have been limited in scope and of too short a duration to achieve fundamental and lasting change; NDC Partnerships were given a 10-year funding guarantee, longer than any of their predecessors, and had the freedom to develop locally appropriate 'holistic' schemes, embracing both 'people' as well as 'place' objectives;

b. Creating dedicated agencies for neighbourhood renewal: the Programme was to be run locally by largely independent agencies that would operate with the co-operation of, but at arm's length from, their parent local authorities; and would focus on clearly defined and identifiable neighbourhoods;

c. A commitment to community engagement: a central part of the explanation for the continued existence of large numbers of disadvantaged neighbourhoods was the failure of previous regeneration programmes to listen to local people: community engagement was expected to play a pivotal role in the NDC Programme;

d. Engaging partner agencies: government (after 1997) stressed the need for 'joined-up thinking'. NDC Partnerships were expected to engage with, and influence, the main service providers covering all outcome areas: crime, education, health, community, worklessness and housing and the physical environment;

e. Learning and innovation: the NDC Programme was intended to provide lessons of wider applicability, thereby improving understanding of 'what works'; and

f. Between 1999-00 and 2007-08, £1.56bn was spent on some 6,900 projects or interventions, leveraging in a further £730m from other public, private and voluntary sector sources.

Model of Delivery

8.23 The Programme was implemented by dedicated area-based agencies (NDC Partnerships) designed to coordinate and manage delivery at a local level, operating at arm's length from the parent local authority. This approach, it was believed, would allow local communities greater influence over partnership strategy, and would also encourage greater involvement by other public sector agencies.

8.24 Although NDC Partnerships were free to develop their own locally appropriate delivery arrangements, most chose to operate in the manner of independent companies. Ultimate authority for the NDC Partnership in most cases rested with a board composed of a combination of local residents and representatives of the main service agencies. In most partnerships there were also theme and/or working groups, responsible to the board for developing thematic strategies and commissioning projects. The local authority was the accountable body for most of the NDC Partnerships. It was the responsibility of the accountable body to ensure that the NDC Partnerships established and maintained robust operating procedures, including the use of competitive tendering for contracts, procedures for managing conflicts of interest, and appropriate systems for monitoring, project appraisal, and financial management. Partnerships were given the flexibility to fund packages of interventions best suited to meet the needs of their local areas.

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[19] DETR (2001) New Deal for Communities: Financial Guidance.

8.25   Partnerships were to formalise their strategies through delivery plans. These were to set out an understanding of local needs across the policy areas (i.e. health, education, housing and physical environment, worklessness, and crime), to identify a series of baselines against which progress could be measured, to outline a strategy for addressing local needs, and to indicate how the programme was to be managed locally. The delivery plan also needed to be locally agreed, to provide a strategic 10 year plan, and to provide an outline of how communities were to be involved in its implementation.

Targeting

8.26   In 1998 the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) invited 17 local authorities to prepare bids for NDC funding, followed by a further 22 in 1999. The choice of local authority districts was largely driven by deprivation indices, but the selection of neighbourhoods within these districts was left to local discretion and criteria varied locally. Each of the 39 areas accommodated about 9,900 people on average.

8.27   That NDC Partnerships were genuinely amongst the most deprived neighbourhoods is confirmed by a few selected indicators. For instance:

   a.   The level of deprivation in NDC areas is such that a combined rank for all NDC areas would place them collectively in the most deprived decile on the 2004 indices of multiple deprivation;
   b.   The NDC aggregate worklessness rate at August 2002 (21%) was over double that for England as a whole (10%);
   c.   The NDC employment rate in 2002 was 51%, 24%lower than the figure nationally (75%);
   d.   In 2002, 26%of NDC residents taking GCSEs achieved five or more at grades A* to C; this compared with 49% nationally;
   e.   33% of working age NDC residents had no formal qualification in 2002 compared with 16% nationally;
   f.   23% of NDC residents in 2002 reported that their health had been not good over the previous 12 months; the equivalent national figure was 14%; and
   g.   In 2002, 40% of NDC residents smoked compared to 26% nationally.

Community Involvement

8.28   Community engagement was one of the key principles underpinning the Programme. It was always the intention that the NDC Programme would ensure communities were given a central voice in decisions regarding resource allocation and programme delivery. The local community was also intended to be involved in devising and implementing strategies. This was affected through a range of policies including direct elections to Boards, a prominent role for residents in Board decisions, and a focused effort on the part of Partnerships to enhance capacity amongst all groups in the community.

8.29   Two processes underpinned community engagement across the Programme:

   a.   Consultation and communication: A number of mechanisms by which NDCs consulted, and communicated with communities were put in place as part of community engagement in order to provide communities and groups with an indication of what NDCs and other agencies are doing; to help publicise opportunities for all forms of community involvement available to residents, businesses and voluntary groups; and to give a sense of progress to the wider community; and
   b.   Equalities and diversities: Whilst processes of communication and consultation are targeted at the whole community, initiatives designed to enhance equality and diversity were intended to ensure NDCs reach all parts of the community, with particular regard to Black and Minority Ethnic BME groups, disability and gender.

8.30   Partnerships introduced a wide range of interventions to help engage with communities. Some used dedicated staff resources to help in this process e.g. by consulting with residents about project ideas, to discuss concerns and to help organise projects.

8.31   Some projects were designed to both engage residents and also help build capacity by directly involving the community in project design and delivery e.g. Project development tasks such as design, management, implementation and evaluation.

Measuring Impact

8.32   NDC Partnerships were required to establish a baseline in order to fully understand what was going on in their neighbourhoods. To do this, NDC partnerships drew on census information and most also carried out household surveys. However, the national evaluation still concluded that*"…Partnership level strategic planning was rarely informed by accurate baselines"*

8.33   NDC Partnerships were then expected to produce a comprehensive 10 year delivery plan setting out issues, overall and thematic strategies, lifetime outcome targets and spend profiles. The 10 year delivery plans that Partnerships were required to produce were expected to set out lifetime outcome targets across the whole range of policy themes on which the Programme focused. Many NDC Partnerships also produced three yearly plans which took a more strategic view.

8.34   In addition, a set of 36 core indicators were set to measure impact across the areas of education, worklessness, health, crime, housing and the physical environment, and community. The evaluation of NDC[20] looked at progress made against these indicators at a Programme level. There was evidence of a statistically significant difference between the rates of change in following core indicators:

    a. Education:

-   Key stage 2 English, level 4;
-   Key stage 3 English, level 5; and
-   Key stage 4 five GCSEs at A* to C.

    b. Worklessness:

-   Taken part in education or training in the past year;
-   Workless household;
-   Health;
-   Health somewhat/much worse than a year ago; and
-   SF 36 mental health index, high score.

    c. Crime:

-   Been a victim of criminal damage in the last year;
-   Been a victim of any crime in the last year; and
-   Lawlessness and dereliction index, high score.

    d. Housing and the physical environment:

-   Very/fairly satisfied with area;
-   Area got much/slightly better in the past two years; and
-   Problems with environment index, high score.

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[20] A national evaluation of the NDC Programme was carried out between 2001-2010 by a consortium led by the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University.

e. Community:

- Neighbours look out for each other;
- NDC improved the area a great deal/a fair amount; and
- Involved in NDC activity.

Summary of NDC

8.35   The creation of locally based, semi-autonomous partnerships to deliver the Programme was a central and defining characteristic of this intervention. The evaluation found that the scale and nature of the task of establishing new delivery bodies was underestimated by central government, and complicated the launch of what was already a complex and challenging Programme. However, once these initial problems were overcome, the NDC Partnerships were found to have operated reasonably effectively in most areas.

8.36   Between 1999-00 and 2007-08 the 39 Partnerships spent a total of £1.56bn on some 6,900 projects or interventions, levering in a further £730m from other public, private and voluntary sector sources. In the process of doing so, the model also:

a.   Allowed local communities a significant degree of influence over the design and delivery of neighbourhood services;

b.   Exposed (senior) representatives of most service delivery agencies to conditions in and the needs of disadvantaged neighbourhoods; and

c.   Created a locally based community-led organisation that should be able to continue to influence services in the neighbourhood, in the longer term, after NDC funding has come to an end (though of course time will tell how sustainable NDC Partnerships' successor bodies really are).

8.37   On average, the spend per capita over the lifetime of the New Deal for Communities Programme (99/00 – 08/09) was £4,743, ranging for £1,850 to £9,714. 44% of this funding was spent on capital projects[21].

8.38   Despite a significant investment in community resources the evaluation of NDC found no evidence that the Programme resulted in stronger and more cohesive communities.

Conclusions

8.39   There are many commonalities between the Welsh and English Programmes and NR in NI. Both the Communities First (Wales) and New Deal for Communities (England) Programmes were highly targeted, spatial approaches to tackling the impacts of deprivation. Following a review of the first phase of Communities First the size of the areas included in the programme was increased to populations of over 10,000. The evaluation of the English Programme found that the boundaries used to define the Programme areas were not always recognisable local neighbourhoods or coterminous with functional administrative units, this made it difficult to gather data on need in the areas.   This would suggest that the statistical approach in NI to define the NRAs helped to ensure that statistical data sets were available to identify need.

8.40   Community involvement was central to both the Welsh and English Programmes. Similar to NI, the Programmes in England and Wales were rolled out through the use of a wide range of statutory and community sectors to identify need and deliver projects.

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[21] Source: "The New Deal for Communities Programme: Assessing impact and value for money. Final Report, V.6" Communities and Local Government (2010).

8.41   Unlike NI, in England Local Authorities (LAs) were the accountable body, although the Programme was delivered at a local level by independent, area based agencies. In Wales, Lead Delivery Bodies (LDBs) were appointed who received the funding directly and were required to report against agreed outcomes. In many cases the LA was also the LDB.

8.42   One of the key findings from the English evaluation was that the time taken to establish the independent, area based agencies was severely under estimated, which impacted on their ability to spend funding in the early years of the Programme.

8.43   The amount spent by NR over the period 2003/4 to 2012/13 equated to £677 per head of its target population[22]. This compares favourably to £294 of expenditure per head by the Welsh Communities First Programme (2001 – 2010), although it is significantly less than the £4,743 per head spent by the English New Deal for Communities Programme (99/00 – 08/09). It is acknowledged that English Programme operated at a significantly larger scale, with total expenditure exceeding £1.5 billion over a nine year period.

8.44   As with NR both the Communities First (Wales) and New Deal for Communities (England) Programmes, noted positive changes in targeted areas particularly in relation to economic indicators such as economic activity and unemployment rates.   Both Programmes also noted that they have succeeded in making the targeted areas better places to live, through significant physical and environmental investment. However, the English evaluation noted that there is no evidence that the communities are more cohesive as a result of the funding.

8.45   Interestingly, the JRF report[23] on the Welsh Communities First Programme, also noted that it can be difficult to assess the impact of the Programme on an area, as residents who have progressed within the labour market may move out to less deprived areas and new residents may move in from more deprived areas. It was noted that it is important to understand population turnover in the Communities First areas to understand if the Programme itself was responsible for changes to the area.

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[22] £194,238,322/a target population of 286,641
[23] Regenerating Communities First Neighbourhoods in Wales - Joseph Rowntree Foundation, (2010)

9   CONSULTATION FINDINGS

Introduction

9.1   This section details key findings from consultations with key stakeholders. Our consultation process involved:

    a.   Workshops with V&C sector representatives of each NR Partnership - 35 of the 36 Partnerships participated in this process;

    b.   3 workshops with statutory representatives from the Partnerships (in BRO, NWDO and RDO);

    c.   Interviews with relevant officers of 9 Local Councils; and

    d.   Interviews with 12 DSD staff.

9.2   The key themes arising from the consultations are set out in the following paragraphs under the key points of the terms of reference for the evaluation.

Partnership Members (Voluntary and Statutory Representatives)

Impacts and achievements of Neighbourhood Renewal

9.3   A number of common themes emerged regarding the overall impact and achievements of NR, namely:

    a.   That NR has made a positive impact in the areas and is now working well. Consultees noted a number of key factors which they believed indicated that the Strategy has made a positive impact; these included the development of positive working relationships between the V&C sector, statutory representatives and political representatives, and that the level of volunteering in NRAs has greatly increased since the beginning of the strategy. Almost all of those consulted with noted that extensive levels of community capacity had been developed because of the Strategy;

    b.   There was a perception that health and education standards have improved within the majority of the Partnerships across the three regions. This was considered to be a result largely of the NR funded projects, programmes and facilities, rather than other influences such as Extended Schools, Sure Start or, other education initiatives; and

    c.   The physical regeneration funded by the Programme has increased the overall attractiveness of the NR areas. NR funded a large amount of physical regeneration projects, which improved the public realm, installed play parks and sports pitches. A number of Partnership representatives believed that the physical regeneration of areas has also helped to generate greater levels of community engagement as local people could see the immediate positive impacts of the Strategy. One Partnership carried out a Residents Survey pre and post-intervention, which demonstrated a remarkable positive change in the attitudes of residents toward the appearance of the area. This finding is similar to the results of the NISRA survey of Partnership members[24] which noted that 67% of respondents agreed that the Physical Renewal objective had created measurable change in their area. Only one Partnership commented that they believed that the physical improvements that had been achieved would have happened without NR, as they would have been able to attract other funders.

9.4   Overall there has been a common agreement that the funding and structures put in place due to the NR Strategy have resulted in positive outcomes for each NRA. Positive working relationships have been built between each of the Partnerships and their community, and political representatives, which has helped to contribute towards community stability. It was perceived that developments in regards to Physical, Educational, Health and Social renewal have reduced the level of deprivation and increased the overall living standards of the majority of residents within the Partnerships.

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[24] Neighbourhood Renewal Survey Report. NISRA (2012)

9.5 The majority of Partnership representatives were keen to stress that most of the achievements of NR are qualitative and are hard to measure, such as an improved sense of ownership of community facilities, the area looking more attractive or, local people feeling safer.

9.6 Circa one third of the Partnerships noted that the NR funding had provided a great deal of leverage, meaning that local community groups had been able to access significantly more funding due to the NR support. For example, around one quarter of Partnerships noted that because they have a fully funded NR post this allows them the time to develop and source funding for other initiatives to address need in the area. This meant that it was very difficult to disaggregate the direct impacts of NR investment with those from other sources of support.

Effectiveness of the Partnership Model

9.7 Feedback from V&C representatives indicated that overall the Partnership Model has been effective. Around two thirds of the Partnerships noted that the Partnership model took time to 'bed-in' and to develop working relations between the V&C representatives and the statutory representatives, but that they are now working together very well. The Partnership structure has allowed relationships to develop and has created a better understanding of the processes and procedures of the different sectors among Partnership members.

"It is hard to segregate out the direct impacts of NR as it didn't work in isolation".

"A lot of the good work is not measurable; there are a lot of very qualitative impacts".

"The leverage achieved from NR was huge. It was the lynch pin funding for many projects".

9.8 Not all feedback on the partnership structure was positive. The majority of Partnerships stated that there was an extensive level of bureaucracy particularly regarding the allocation of funds to NR activities. There was a perception among these Partnerships that a lot of the funding decisions were made by DSD staff without any regard to the NR Partnership Action Plans/Priorities, which undermined the role of the Partnership and its accountability to local people.

9.9 The overall process of how each area was chosen for funding caused some confusion within the Partnerships. Around one third of the Partnerships noted that the NR areas where not coterminous with local neighbourhoods, e.g. a Partnership highlighted that one house, out of an entire estate, was not included within the NR Area due to its postcode not meeting the criteria.

9.10 Circa one third of Partnerships believed that deprivation was not being addressed as effectively as it could be due to the boundary restrictions within NR, highlighting the presence of disadvantaged areas close to NRAs which were not entitled to NR support.

9.11 Two thirds of Partnerships noted that the lack of engagement from some statutory bodies hampered the effectiveness of the Partnership or, restricted what could be achieved in their area. Whilst most Partnerships recognised the commitment from some statutory representatives, almost all Partnerships noted that either, not all relevant statutory bodies were represented on their Partnership, or that there was not sufficient buy-in to the Partnership process by specific statutory bodies.

9.12 There was a general perception amongst the Partnerships that the lack of buy-in from other statutory agencies, also meant that public services were not as integrated as they could have been. Around one quarter of the Partnerships noted that whilst the Partnership structure improved communication within the community sector and between the community sector and the statutory sector, there was no enhanced networking between statutory agencies and that the statutory sector were still working in

silos. A small number of the Partnerships (circa 10%), noted that they believed that not only was the Strategy not effective in maximising the effectiveness of public services in NRAs through the creation of an integration approach to planning but that in some cases NR was providing services or implementing activities that should have been delivered by other statutory agencies anyway, without NR.

9.13 Another theme arising from the consultations was the lack of strategic funding processes. Almost all of those consulted (V&C and statutory sector representatives) noted that whilst the Partnerships were asked to develop long term Action Plans and Vision Frameworks, the associated funding was usually short term, meaning in practice it was not possible to have a long term plan for the NRA.

9.14 The Partnerships had a mixed view on the usefulness of the background data provided by DSD to support the development of Action Plans and Vision Frameworks. Around two thirds of the Partnerships noted that they used the statistical data, but also supplemented it with their own local area statistics. Around half of the Partnerships stated that they believed the statistics were somehow flawed or did not accurately reflect the needs in their area. Much of the concern was with the overly quantitative focus of the process and that the 'intangibles' were lost. It was felt that much of the qualitative impact of NR, and the individual stories, would be lost with success being measures in statistical outcomes alone.

"What initially sounded tantalising about the idea was its intention to redirect existing resources toward alleviating deprivation, resources additional to the Neighbourhood Renewal funding. This never happened, it never came close to this selling point of the programme. In fact the opposite happened. Funders came to the NR table seeking funding for programmes they should have been funding anyway."

9.15 There was a wide spread agreement across all Partnerships consulted with that there was almost no formal arrangements to share good practice and learning across Partnerships. A number of those consulted with (less than ten) noted that a Partnership Forum was formed at the very start of the Strategy and only met once or twice. The Belfast Partnerships were more likely to note that they had informal relationships with other Partnerships, than those in RDO or NWDO areas.

9.16 In summary, the majority of consultees stated that the Partnership model is in theory a good model and that it has been reasonably effective. However, a number of key factors have constrained the effectiveness of the partnership approach, specifically:

a. A lack of buy-in from some key statutory agencies;
b. The lack of clarity on the processes used for allocating funding;
c. Locally identified needs (as set out in the Action Plan) were not always prioritised by DSD as the Partnerships thought they should be (i.e. at times the Partnerships were over ridden); and
d. The short term and uncertain nature of funding allocations.

Summary of feedback from Partnership members

9.17   Statutory and V&C representatives from each of the NR Partnerships all noted that NR had achieved very positive impacts within their area.   They highlighted that many of these achievements are very qualitative and therefore difficult to measure, such as, the area is now more pleasant to live in or, has a 'feel good factor', local people are more engaged with each other and their levels of community capacity have increased significantly in the area.

9.18   A lack of robust baseline data makes it almost impossible to measure progress against qualitative impacts. A number of NR Partnerships also noted that the NR funding generated significant amounts of leverage from other funders which has allowed them to re-develop community building or to implement new activities. One of the key themes running through the consultations is that it is difficult to separate the achievements of NR from other activities that are happening in the area.

"the NRAs have definitely, improved. It is difficult to measure the quality of life of residents, but there are now housing estates with waiting lists, where before there were empty houses".

9.19   On the whole the NR Partnerships considered that in theory the NR Partnership model is a good one and should be considered by councils going forward as a useful vehicle for Community Planning. However, there were a number of factors that impacted on what the Partnerships could achieve, such as the level of commitment from other statutory bodies and the lack of clarity around funding decision making and monitoring and reporting processes.

Consultation with DSD Staff

9.20   Consultations were held with staff with an operational, policy and management responsibility for NR in DSD. A number of key themes arose from these consultations including:

   a.   The strategy was implemented in a very different economic environment than it now operates in. By 2008 NI entered into recession and subsequent comprehensive spending reviews (CSR) have impacted on NR budgets and limited the extent to which other strategy bodies also provided resources;

   b.   The delay in the full implementation of the Review of Public Administration also impacted on the extent to which more robust measures were in place to measure the impacts of NR.   The Assembly first signed off the agreement that the responsibility for community planning (and therefore NR) should move to local government in 2010. It was unclear when this was actually due to occur and was cited as one of the main reasons why the mid-term evaluation was not conducted earlier;

   c.   The areas that NR operates in have definitely improved; it is sometimes difficult to measure the absolute improvement, as the deprivation statistics are measured as a relative against other areas;

   d.   Lack of robust monitoring and evaluation processes from the very start have limited the extent to which impacts can be measured;

   e.   The Partnerships and DSD staff have had to be very flexible to react to local needs and changes to allocations;

   f.   NR has not been good at publicising its success, some good projects have not been publicised and the NIHE surveys show that not enough residents know they lived in a NRA. There was no communication strategy with NR, which meant it did not have a focus on publicity. This finding

was also highlighted in the NISRA survey[25] which noted that the Strategy did not have a high enough profile in all the NRAs; and

g. Any future programmes need to be evidence based. There is a need to ensure that local councils have sufficiently, robust and detailed socio-economic statistics to allow them to make informed decisions.

Consultation with other Key Stakeholders

9.21 Interviews were completed with representatives from local councils. A number of common themes arose from these interviews, including:

a. Some Partnerships took a long time to learn how to work together. For many of the Partnership representatives it was their first time of working with staff from another sector, in some areas this created tensions and the relationships within the Partnerships were fraught. However, in all cases, over time, working relationships improved and at the time of this evaluation all Partnerships were working well together;

"Relationships within the Partnership were very strained at the start of the strategy. It took a long time to learn to work together"

b. Some council representatives suggested that the V&C sector had unrealistic expectations about what staff from statutory sector bodies could do for the Partnerships, which could at times create tensions;

c. A number of consultees noted that an effective chairperson can help provide the Partnership with strategic direction and encourage the development of effective working relationships;

d. There was a wide range of skills and expertise within the Partnerships themselves, some Partnerships sought advice from external experts (from the statutory and private sectors) and others did not;

e. It was noted that NR is operating in an increasingly cluttered landscape – NR is one of many issues that needs to be addressed and adds to the number of meetings to attend and networks to participate in;

f. Many areas are too small to deliver meaningful programmes, some programmes require large numbers of people to make them value for money and to be effective;

g. The boundaries were not coterminous with natural neighbourhoods and were often very restrictive as they did not enable the Partnerships to maximise the impact of the resources they were allocated for example by allowing those in need in non NRAs to participate;

h. The strategy was right thing to do at the time but the socio-economic circumstances and demographics have changed across NI and as such a strategy that is entirely focused on relatively small geographical areas may no longer be the best option; and

"Whilst the boundaries chosen for the NRAs helped to focus activities they were, at times, divisive and also created difficulties operationally".

i. The model (i.e. the Partnership approach) was effective. There is a need for the V&C and statutory sectors to work together to address deprivation and need, in a co-ordinated manner. There was clear feedback from the local government representatives that the evidence base that was provided to support NR was very strong and objective. This helped to ensure that funding decisions were based on identified need. The new local councils will need to have robust, reliable evidence on which to make funding decisions.

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[25] Neighbourhood Renewal Survey Report. NISRA (2012)

Summary of Key Issues Arising from Stakeholder Consultation

9.22 Our consultation process highlighted a number of 'lessons learned', which should be considered for the remainder of the strategy and by Councils post 2015, namely:

a. Both statutory and V&C sector representatives noted the lack of clarity in relation to funding decisions and reporting processes. In addition, a significant number of Partnerships noted that they were not aware of the amount that they had been allocated or how effective their funded activities have been. The Partnerships have reported that this has meant that they are unable to determine if the activities have been effective and if they should remain on their Action Plans. Furthermore, the Partnerships have also stated that the lack of financial information has restricted their ability to plan or to prioritise actions in their area. This would suggest that there are deficiencies in the reporting processes between DSD and the Partnerships;

b. Consultations also indicated that there are inconsistencies in the reporting processes between DSD and the Partnerships. There was an overall sense from the Partnerships that different Partnerships were receiving different guidance and advice from different DSD offices. It is recognised that following the mid-term evaluation DSD started to address this through the publication of guidance documents, although it was also noted that many Partnership members were not aware of these. Therefore, clear reporting and communication processes should be further developed between Partnerships and DSD to ensure that Partnerships are aware of the processes for allocating funding and the impact of the funded activities;

c. Almost two thirds of the Partnership members consulted noted that one of the positive factors with the designation of NRAs was the lack of political influence in funding decisions and they believed that this helped to ensure that the NR activities were focused on those most in need. DSDs role as an 'honest broker' in the process was also highlighted as being a positive factor. The majority of Partnerships voiced concern that when responsibility is transferred to Councils, funding decisions will become politicised. The Partnerships have highlighted that the Partnership model provides a good structure to identify local need and to direct funding or, influence funding decisions to meet these needs;

d. It has been highlighted throughout the consultation process that there needs to be a clearer definition or description of the criteria used to select an area to become part of a Partnership. A lot of Partnerships made the analogy of the "line drawn on the map" which they thought was the decider for whether or not an area was chosen to become a Partnership;

e. Around two thirds of Partnerships noted that they were concerned that going forward councils would not be sufficiently engaged with local communities and/or community representatives to understand local needs and therefore to implement appropriate activities. On the whole V&C representatives from the Partnerships believed that the transfer of responsibility to local councils will have a negative impact on their area; and

f. The availability of timely and robust data will be very important for local Councils post 2015 to ensure that funding decisions are based on need and that resources are only used for the most effective interventions.

10 CONCLUSIONS, LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

10.1 In this section we detail our conclusions on the performance of the NR Strategy against its stated purpose, key issues, overall aim, goals and objectives. This is followed by an assessment of the effectiveness of the delivery model and identification of key lessons learnt.

10.2 Please note, the extent to which robust conclusions can be determined is significantly constrained by the absence of key input and output data, specifically:

a. programme expenditure information by strategic objective prior to 2012/13; and
b. meaningful baseline data and output/outcome indicator data by strategic objective prior to 2012/2013.

10.3 Deficiencies in programme monitoring and reporting processes are discussion in detail below.

Performance Against Strategic Objectives

10.4 The four NR strategic objectives were intended to address the complex and multi-dimensional nature of deprivation in an integrated way. The findings relating to the extent to which the Strategy has performed against its strategic objectives are summarised in Table 10.1 below.

Table 10:1: Performance Against Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objective	Commentary on Performance
Community Renewal	The absence of quantifiable baseline and progress data prior to April 2013 means that we can only rely on qualitative data to comment on the performance of NR against this strategic objective.
	Feedback from Partnership representatives highlights that investment under this objective supported the development of community capacity in areas where it was relatively low and provided a significant degree of stability in areas where community capacity was already developed, thereby allowing community workers to focus on develop new projects to address needs identified in the Action Plans.
	Feedback also highlighted that NR was instrumental in developing structures, which didn't previously exist, that provided the basis for regular communication between public sector organisations and local communities. The development of these relationships helped build confidence, knowledge and skills within the communities, thereby enabling them to work collaboratively with public sector organisations on developing regeneration projects.
	Although it is clear that NR funding has made a significant positive contribution to community capacity in many NRAs, it was also highlighted by a number of statutory and community representatives that the communities/NR Partnerships remain highly dependent on grant funding and that the ability of communities to develop self-sustaining projects requires further attention.
Economic Renewal	The review of socio-economic data, the strategy's spending profile and stakeholder consultation indicates that the NR Strategy has not performed well against the economic renewal objectives.
	When measured against key economic indicators, the gap between NRAs and non-NRAs has not closed over the lifetime of the strategy, except in relation to

Strategic Objective	Commentary on Performance
	economic activity and income support claimants.
	Feedback from Partnership members also highlights that the NR Partnerships struggled to develop and implement meaningful projects under this objective.
	There have been a range of studies that have shown that those in deprived areas face a number of social, physical and cultural barriers when attempting to access employment and are more likely to experience isolation[26]. A number of the city centre Partnerships (in both BRO and NWDO) commented that residents in their area, were not likely to access employment opportunities in the city centre, as they felt excluded from commercial centre of the city. They noted that issues like this made it difficult to develop projects under the economic renewal objectives.
Social Renewal	A review of the socio-economic statistics and feedback from key stakeholders suggests that there has been some success by the Strategy under this objective. For example, the educational attainment of pupils in NRAs has improved significantly over the lifetime of the strategy and the gap in the educational attainment in NRAs and non-NRAs has narrowed. Improved educational performance has the potential to contribute to other positive social and economic impacts in the longer term (e.g. improved employment prospects, increased earning potential, reduced levels of poor health and reduced incidence of crime).
	Performance against key health and crime indicators has not improved, except in relation to the level of teenage births which has decreased in NRAs.
	Despite no improvement in official crime indicators, Partnership members reported that they perceived their area to be a safer place to live due to increased community capacity and partnership working between community groups and statutory bodies.
Physical Renewal	Feedback from Partnership members suggests that overall NR was successful in relation to physical renewal. Partnership members highlighted that there was a strong focus on physical renewal in the early stages of the strategy and that creating physical improvements in neighbourhoods helped to get local people engaged.
	Furthermore, feedback from Partnership members highlighted that local people feel that their area is now a more attractive place to live, some NIHE staff also noted that they now have waiting lists for houses in NRAs, where there was previously empty houses.
	A number of Partnership members reported a "feel good factor" in their area. However, Surveys conducted by NIHE in of eight NRAs noted that only 29% of respondents were aware of physical changes in their area in the past 12 months;
	Quality public realm is recognised as important aspect of regeneration and feedback from community representatives indicates that local people are now more inclined to take ownership and responsibility for their environments, because of the physical improvements delivered through the NR strategy. The NIHE surveys also found reasonably high levels of local pride, with an average of 64% of respondents stating that they are proud of their area.

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[26] Urban Regeneration and Community Development: Literature Review. DSD (2010)

Success Against Overarching Goals

10.5   The overarching goals of the strategy were to:

   a.   Ensure that the people living in the most deprived neighbourhoods have access to the best possible services and to the opportunities which make for a better quality of life and prospects for themselves and their families; and

   b.   improve the environment and image of our most deprived neighbourhoods so that they become attractive places to live and invest in.

10.6   Some Partnership members suggest that the goal of delivering access to the best possible services for those living in NRAs has not been achieved because of a lack of meaningful engagement from key statutory agencies. However, there is a lack of baseline data and monitoring information that would allow a conclusion to be drawn either way on this.

10.7   Socio-economic data and feedback from Partnership members suggest that, in some respects, the quality of life for those in NRAs has improved due to improved environments. The improvements highlighted by Partnerships representatives and other key stakeholders include:

   a.   Aesthetic improvements to local neighbourhoods;
   b.   New or improved community facilities;
   c.   Increased confidence and / or capacity within communities;
   d.   Increased pride in the neighbourhood; and
   e.   Local people feeling safer in the area where they live.

10.8   Socio-economic data also highlights that the prospects for children and teenagers in NRAs have improved to due to improved educational attainment and lower levels of births to teenage mothers.

10.9   Feedback from NIHE staff noted that they now have waiting lists for houses in NRAs, where there were previously empty houses. NIHE surveys also found reasonably high levels of local pride, with an average of 64% of respondents stating that they are proud of their area.

10.10 Whilst data has been collected on the number of public realm schemes completed and the size of areas that have been improved within NRAs, there is no evidence to suggest that this has encouraged any additional private sector investment. Although approximately one quarter of Partnerships noted that the NR monies allowed them to lever additional funds from other sources to contribute towards large scale capital projects, this leverage was from philanthropic organisations or other public bodies.

Success Against the Overall Aim

10.11 The overall aim of the Strategy was to:

   "help close the gap between the quality life for people in the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of Northern Ireland".

10.12 A review of relevant socio-economic data has highlighted progress against some impact indicators. Whilst some show improvement, others show deterioration in performance, for example:

   a.   The gap in the educational achievements in pupils from NRAs and the rest of NI has narrowed, due to an improvement in attainment in pupils from NRAs;
   b.   The gap in unemployment rates between NRAs and the rest of NI has also narrowed because the rate in the rest of NI has got worse at a greater level than the NRAs; and
   c.   The percentage of deaths under the age of 75 increased by 1.6 percentage points in NRAs (between 2004 and 2011), compared to a 10.4 percentage point decrease in deaths under 75 in Non-NRAs during the same period.

10.13 In general, NRA performance against key educational indicators has been positive, performance has been mixed in relation to economic indicators, and performance has been poor in relation to health (with the exception of teenage births) and crime indicators.

10.14 Overall, the data suggests that the Strategy did not substantially deliver on its overall aim of closing the gap in the quality of life between those in NRAs and the rest of society. The analysis of the counterfactual areas shows a similar picture of some improvements in absolute terms but, a relative increase in deprivation against NI averages.

Success in Achieving Stated Purpose/Tackling Key Issues

10.15 The purpose of the NR strategy was to address social and economic inequalities which characterise the most deprived areas. It sought to do so by making a long term commitment to communities that Government would work in partnership with to identify and prioritise needs and co-ordinate interventions designed to address the underlying causes of poverty.

a. Addressed social and economic inequalities
b. Made a long term commitment;
c. Ensured that government has worked in partnership with communities to identify and prioritise needs; and
d. Co-ordinated interventions to address causes of poverty

10.16 This purpose was further articulated by the identification of seven key issues that the Strategy considered would have to be addressed if deprivation was to be successfully tackled.

10.17 The key issues and our assessment of the extent to which they have been addressed are detailed in Table 10.2 below.

Table 10:2: Assessment of Success in Tackling Key Issues

Key Issue	Programme Effectiveness
We must target the most acute deprivation	In addressing this issue DSD created 36 defined NRAs and in doing so targeted NIs most deprived communities. The principle of focussing resources on those areas most in need is also widely accepted as being appropriate. However, feedback from a significant minority of Partnerships members suggested that the NRAs were too small or, were not coterminous with natural communities. This view is consistent with the evaluation of Communities First Programme in Wales which also found that the areas originally selected were too small and the programme was altered to take account of those in need in other areas.
	In Wales, the Programme was re-focused to concentrate on a smaller number of larger areas, moving from 142 areas to 52 areas with populations of between 10,000 to 15,000 (based on Lower Super Output Areas). The population size is also consistent with the English New Deal for Communities Programme, with average populations in targeted areas of 9,900. In Northern Ireland the average population in the NRAs was 7,962 (see Appendix D), ranging from 1,575 to 18,557.

Key Issue	Programme Effectiveness
	A review of Urban Regeneration policy in NI which also found that: *"the size of the NRAs are too small to affect underlying urban problems linked to environment, labour and housing markets and connectivity"[1].* The above suggests that any future programme aiming to tackle spatial deprivation should focus on populations in the region of at least 10,000 in order to be more effective. The Welsh programme also recognised that a purely spatial approach limited the ability of the programme to focus activity on the most deprived individuals, families and groups. Consequently, its re-launch allowed for both geography and thematic scope to be considered in each area. The application of this combined approach should also be considered in any future NI based programme.
We must take a long-term view	The Strategy was intended to be a seven to ten year approach and all Partnerships were required to develop long-term visions for their area. However: a) while the area plans/visions represented a long-term view, Partnerships were required to seek annual or bi-annual funding to implement activities under their Action Plan; b) where recurrent funding was made available over a longer time frame, there was not sufficient monitoring or evaluation processes in place to assess the effectiveness of these activities; and c) budget uncertainties and the restriction of funding cycles limit the extent to which responses to deep seated issues such as poverty and deprivation can be developed and implemented.
We must take an integrated approach	Feedback from V&C and Statutory Partnership members highlighted that this did not take place as intended. All Partnerships noted a lack of buy-in or engagement from at least one statutory agency, meaning that most Partnerships could not implement the fully integrated approach. All Partnerships also noted a degree of frustration that other statutory bodies had not contributed financially to NR, as was expected at the start of the Strategy. Notwithstanding issues relating to statutory body engagement, the extent to which integration was represented within local Vision Frameworks and Actions Plans was variable across the NRAs. Statutory representatives highlighted that uncertainties associated with the RPA (and a resulting moratorium on recruitment) and reduced budgets impacted on the extent to which staff and funding could be allocated to NR.
We must address community	An absence of baseline data and relevant impact data for 2003/4 – 2012/3 means that the strategy's impact on community division cannot be robustly

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[1] Urban Regeneration and Community Development: Regional Policy Context (DSD, 2011/12)

Key Issue	Programme Effectiveness
divisions	addressed. The pattern of residential segregation in NI means that the approach to NR support to the most deprived communities inevitably resulted in the majority of NRAs being single identity. Stakeholder feedback also highlights that local Partnerships were asked to concentrate on the needs of their own area and to find local solutions. Consequently, the NR process was inward looking, it did not require Partnerships to look beyond their NRA boundaries and it did not actively promote inter-community working. In addition, DSD did not set up any formal networking arrangements or process to extend NR learning/activity across cities, sub-regions or regions, and therefore the inward looking approach of NR was not mitigated. Feedback from Partnership members has highlighted that the NR Partnerships often provided a forum for local representatives to meet and discuss the issues contributing to social unrest and that without these structures the unrest might have been worse or lasted longer. Over the lifetime of the strategy there has been sporadic social unrest in many of the NRAs/their neighbouring communities on issues such as parades and dissident paramilitary activities. Despite the community tensions associated with these events, all NR Partnerships have continued to function during periods of unrest, even in those areas experiencing the greatest levels of interface conflict. This highlights the resilience and stabilising effect of these Partnership structures.
We must work in partnership	Feedback from all those involved in the NR Partnerships, suggests that there was a long lead-in time before the Partnerships were working together effectively. Furthermore, fit for purpose codes of practice and guidance for Partnership members were not drawn up for all NR Partnerships until after the MTE in 2010. That said, the majority of Partnerships have stated that they are now working together effectively across and within sectors. As highlighted above, partnership working was often constrained by the lack of engagement from relevant statutory agencies and partnership working between Government Departments and Agencies.
We must empower local communities	NR encouraged high levels of community consultation/engagement, particularly in the development of Visions and Action Plans. The creation of the Partnerships themselves has also developed capacity in local areas, as V&C sector representatives have received training and guidance from DSD in their role as Partnership members and they have also developed their own networks with other V&C and statutory sector members. There is also evidence (albeit only for 2012/13) that the activities implemented under NR have also stimulated volunteering in local areas e.g. 22,000 people engaged in volunteering opportunities in NRAs. The 2012/13 impact data also shows that over 3,400 people receiving training in community development skills/capacity building.
We must make a difference	Prior to 2012/13, the NR Programme did not have a common set of meaningful output/outcome indicators. The failure of DSD to adequately resource and implement an effective monitoring and evaluation system during the majority of the programme period has resulted in an inability to determine

Key Issue	Programme Effectiveness
	whether NR has made a difference.
	A review of the socio-economic and deprivation data shows that whilst there has been progress in relation to aspects of community and social renewal (particularly in relation to improved educational outcomes) there has not been significant progress in relation to economic renewal.

Programme Effectiveness, Challenges and Reasons for Variance between NR Partnerships

10.18 As identified above:

a.   analysis of statistical indicators identifies that on the whole, the gap between NRA and non NRAs has not narrowed although relative improvements have taken place in relation to a number of key social/economic indicators; and

b.   A review of the relative measures of deprivation shows that there has been little change in the top 50 most deprived urban wards. During the lifetime of the strategy only 8 wards located within the NRAs have moved out of the top 50 most deprived wards.

10.19 It is recognised that a range of external and internal factors impacted on the effectiveness of the strategy. These 'challenges' included:

a.   political instability (including the suspension of the NI Assembly prior to launch of the Strategy, the return to devolution in 2007);

b.   the RPA process, which identified that the responsibility for community planning (and NR) was to move to local government. Consultation with DSD staff suggests that the uncertainty over the future 'ownership' of the strategy impacted upon the extent to which robust monitoring and reporting procedures were put in place;

c.   a challenging economic climate over the period 2008 – 2013;

d.   constrained public sector budgets from 2008 onwards;

e.   sporadic periods of social unrest in in many of the NRAs and neighbouring communities on issues such as parades, and dissident paramilitary activities[27]; and

f.   the fact that some Partnerships required a long lead-in time for them to learn how to work together. These long lead-in times were also noted in the evaluation of the English programme (as noted in Section 8): the short-term nature of funding, which made it difficult for NR Partnerships to be strategic and prioritise actions to meet the needs of their area.

10.20 Given the lack of impact data it is not possible to directly compare the effectiveness of each Partnership against each other. However, feedback from key stakeholders highlights that the most effective NR Partnerships tended have one or more of the following characteristics:

a.   pre-existing community capacity in the area and previous experience of working with statutory agencies;

b.   an ability to form collaborative working relationships, within reasonably short timescale;

c.   access to necessary skills and experience (either within the partnership or, from external bodies);

d.   strong/effective leadership within the NR Partnership; and

e.   effective representation and buy-in from relevant statutory bodies.

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[27] This has also been noted in the NI Peace Monitoring Report: Number 3. CRC; Paul Nolan March 2013.

10.21 Pre-existing capacity and V&C infrastructure in an area also impacted on how the Partnerships operated and the type of projects that were implemented. For example, in both the BRO and NWDO areas a large number of pre-existing community posts were funded, this in-turn impacted on the level of funding that was available to deliver other projects. For example, in some partnerships in BRO and NWDO over 90% of the funding allocation was spent on revenue whereas in some RDO partnerships over 50% was spent on capital. This balanced approach meant that there was more variety in the type of projects that were implemented.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the Model for Operational Delivery

10.22 There was general agreement amongst all those consulted that the Partnership model provided an effective basis for tackling social and economic disadvantage within deprived communities. Importantly, it created a structure whereby community and public sector organisations could work together and learn from each other.

10.23 That said, a lack of buy-in from key statutory stakeholders and the short term nature/frequent uncertainty over funding impacted negatively on the effectiveness of the model, particularly the extent to which it delivered integrated programmes and services at a local level.

10.24 The principle of focussing resources on those areas most in need is also widely accepted as being appropriate. However, feedback from a significant minority of Partnerships members suggested that the NRAs were too small or, were not coterminous with natural communities. This view is consistent with the evaluation of Communities First Programme in Wales which also found that the areas originally selected were too small and the programme was altered to take account of those in need in other areas.

10.25 This finding was also noted in a review of Urban Regeneration policy in NI which also found that:

"the size of the NRAs are too small to affect underlying urban problems linked to environment, labour and housing markets and connectivity; Per capita funding allocation is too low to lever significant investments from public, private and voluntary agencies"[28].

10.26 There was no evidence of any formal arrangements for Partnerships to share best practice. A small number of representatives noted that a network was established and a conference was held at the outset of the Programme, but that there had been no formal activities since. A small number of Partnership members also noted that there was no incentive to share good practice, as at times it felt that Partnerships were "competing" for the funding. A small number of Partnerships noted that they did share information with other NR Partnerships, but that it was on an informal basis.

10.27 The effectiveness of the strategy was also impacted by limited baseline data and inadequate monitoring and evaluation. These issues are addressed in further detail below.

Reporting and Monitoring

10.28 Although DSD provided the Partnerships with the best statistical data that was available to them at the outset of the Strategy, this quantitative data was limited. There was little or no qualitative data made available to, or collected by, the Partnerships, to contribute to a more comprehensive assessment of a baseline position (e.g. in relation to 'quality of life' - the extent to which neighbourhoods were regarded as being attractive and safe places). The absence of a robust baseline meant that the assessment of performance against the goals/aim and objectives of the Strategy was undermined.

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[28] Urban Regeneration and Community Development: Regional Policy Context (DSD, 2011/12)

10.29 There was no consistent approach put in place to monitor the outputs and impacts of the strategy at the outset. A common theme amongst those consulted was the lack of consistent reporting mechanisms between Partnerships and DSD.

10.30 Partnership representatives reported receiving conflicting advice from DSD staff on a number of reporting and monitoring issues including the impacts of activities that had been funded in their area and the processes for selecting activities to be funded. Whilst it is noted that Post Project Evaluations were completed on funded projects/activities, the evaluations provided to our team did not provide any evidence of the impact of the investment provided.

10.31 Prior to 2012/13, the Programme did not have a common set of meaningful output/outcome indicators to monitor progress against. This has significantly limited the extent to which the effectiveness of the overall Strategy's activities can be assessed and, the Programme's impact can be determined.

10.32 Whilst the MTE resulted in the implementation of a number of process improvements (e.g. the development of statistical baseline data, common indicators, reporting templates, codes of practice and guidance for the Partnerships), it was conducted very late in the lifetime of the Strategy (Year 7) and as such, the benefit of these improvements has been limited.

10.33 It should be noted that NR did not operate in isolation and, as with other areas in need, the NRAs received large amounts of financial support from other sources, such as the social security system (as paid directly to individuals), EU funding programmes, philanthropic organisations, local government and other NI departments.

10.34 Given the absence of a robust monitoring framework for the Programme, it is impossible to determine the impacts that are attributable to NR.

Lessons Learnt and Recommendations for the Future

10.35 Table 10.3 highlights what we consider to be the key lessons learnt from NR for future policy and practice relating to tackling spatial deprivation.

Table 10:3: Lessons Learnt and Recommendations

Key Learning	Rationale	Recommendations
The need for robust baseline data	The new local councils will need robust and reliable statistics relating to the new council areas to allow them to make funding decisions based on identified need. Guidance provided by the Department of the Environment[29] (DOE) notes that a rigorous analysis of existing conditions in the new council areas is required. It is also important that this data is kept as up to date as possible.	1. Those designing future programmes to tackle deprivation should work with NISRA statisticians in the first instance to understand what data is/will be available to them and how to use it effectively to monitor and evaluate their programmes. 2. In addition to the use of available statistical data, a robust analysis of local conditions will require independent baseline surveys of the local population and other key stakeholder groups.
The need for evidence based programmes/	The Councils will need to identify/consider evidence based interventions that are effective in	3. The efficacy of future programmes/projects should be researched and clearly evidenced i.e.

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[29] Community Planning Foundation Programme. DoE (2013)

Key Learning	Rationale	Recommendations
projects	addressing need.	future interventions should be based on a clear understanding of what works/what doesn't work within a comparable context.
The need for effective monitoring and evaluation processes	The assessment of impact of NR has been impeded by the absence of a robust monitoring and evaluation system.	4. DoE should consider developing a common set of indicators for Community Planning across all of the new councils. This has been done in Scotland (co-ordinated through Audit Scotland). 5. SMART impact targets, which are consistent with regional level indicators, should be developed and built into any future programmes to tackle spatial deprivation. These targets should form the core of the monitoring system and it should be a requirement for all funded organisations to measure against these targets and report back on an on-going basis. Progress against targets should be reviewed periodically and action taken where targets are not being met.
Ensuring on-going and effective engagement of local communities is essential	Effective community engagement is essential to determining community needs and achieving local buy-in to future initiatives. With the transfer of responsibility for community planning to the new local government structures, the new Councils may require existing networks and partnerships to be streamlined. Surveys of NRAs conducted by NIHE demonstrated very low levels of awareness of the strategy by local people.	6. Local Government should engage with current NR Partnerships and other stakeholders to determine the structures required to drive improvements in areas of social and economic need. 7. Communication and marketing strategies should be developed to enhance community awareness/buy-in of future funding programmes.
Provision of sufficient lead-in times	Feedback has identified that new structures require a long lead-in time to bed-in and to work effectively.	8. If new structures or partnerships are created in the future, sufficient time should be allocated to allow the new structures to bed-in, develop accurate baselines/needs analyses and to allow the development of meaningful working relationships. N.B. in DSDs experience, up to 3 years is required to establish any new programme that

Key Learning	Rationale	Recommendations
		involves creating new structures or partnerships.
The need for effective resourcing of and political neutrality within future delivery models	Feedback from Partnership members highlighted that one of the positive factors of the NR structure was the lack of political influence in funding decisions. Our analysis highlights that one of the key factors influencing the effectiveness of NR Partnerships was their ability to access necessary skills and experience (either within the partnership or, from external bodies).	9. Those designing future programmes to tackle deprivation should consider the provision of mechanisms /processes to ensure: a) The provision of an independent (i.e. politically neutral) honest broker function. This resource should ensure that selected programmes/projects and priorities are chosen only on the basis of evidenced based need and the potential to achieve maximum impact; and b) Regular review of the skills and experience available to Partnerships/the decision making body and augmentation of these skills when required.
The need for longer term funding cycles.	Feedback highlights that although NR was strategic by design, funding uncertainties and the need to bid annually or biannually for funding undermined a strategic approach to tackling deprivation.	10. Those designing future programmes to tackle deprivation should consider mechanisms to secure funding for key strategic priorities over the medium to long term.
The need for flexibility in targeting areas for support.	Whilst it is recognised that there are very clear, statistical reasons for how the NRA boundaries were established, during the implementation of the strategy it became apparent that some of these boundaries did not work in practice. Some areas were too small to be effective and were amalgamated with neighbouring areas and others were not reflective of natural neighbourhoods or communities. Evaluations of the Welsh and English programmes also noted that these fixed boundaries impaired delivery in some circumstances.	11. Any organisation proposing an area based intervention should ensure that: a) any boundaries that are to be applied make sense to the local area; b) the size of areas targeted for support are large enough for meaningful interventions to be delivered and impacts measured. N.B. stakeholder feedback and previous research highlights that the NR areas were too small to be effective, Our research suggests that any future programme aiming to tackle spatial deprivation should focus on populations in the region of at least 10,000 in order to be more effective; c) Any future programme should provide the flexibility to include other areas and/or the inclusion of themes/specific groups where it would result in a more

Key Learning	Rationale	Recommendations
		effective targeting of need.
The need for increased focus on self-sustaining projects	Community based projects and services in NRAs remain highly dependent on grant funding. The ability of communities to develop self-sustaining projects requires further attention.	12. Future funding allocations should be linked to the provision of robust evidence of a projects capacity to be self-sustaining. 13. On-going project monitoring should determine the extent to which self-sustainability is being achieved and the need for any correction action. 14. Consideration should be given to the provision of support to groups to develop sustainability strategies.
Statutory Representation on Partnerships	All Partnerships noted a lack of buy-in from one or more statutory agency which limited the extent to which they could implement activities against their action plans and develop a fully integrated approach.	15. It is noted that it will be a mandatory requirement for all statutory bodies to be represented in Community Planning. In order for this to be most effective, statutory representatives should be senior enough to engage and contribute meaningfully to the discussion within the Partnership.
Approaches to future funding	The transfer of additional powers to the new Councils[30] provides Councils with an opportunity to re-assess the best approach to funding community based initiatives. Furthermore, our research has identified that areas with a well-developed community infrastructure sometimes delivered a less diverse range of projects. The funding to an area is finite, and where a high proportion is used to fund worker posts, less is available to invest other interventions.	16. Local Councils should also assess the overall pros and cons of continuing to fund posts compared to those associated with an output based Service Level Agreement model. 17. Local Councils should consider the balance of funding between revenue and capital and which type of funding best suits the needs of the area.

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[30] It should be noted that responsibility for and ownership of the strategy/policy for tackling deprivation will remain with DSD, whilst local councils will have responsibility for delivery.

APPENDIX A: MAP OF NRAS

Figure A: NRAs in Northern Ireland
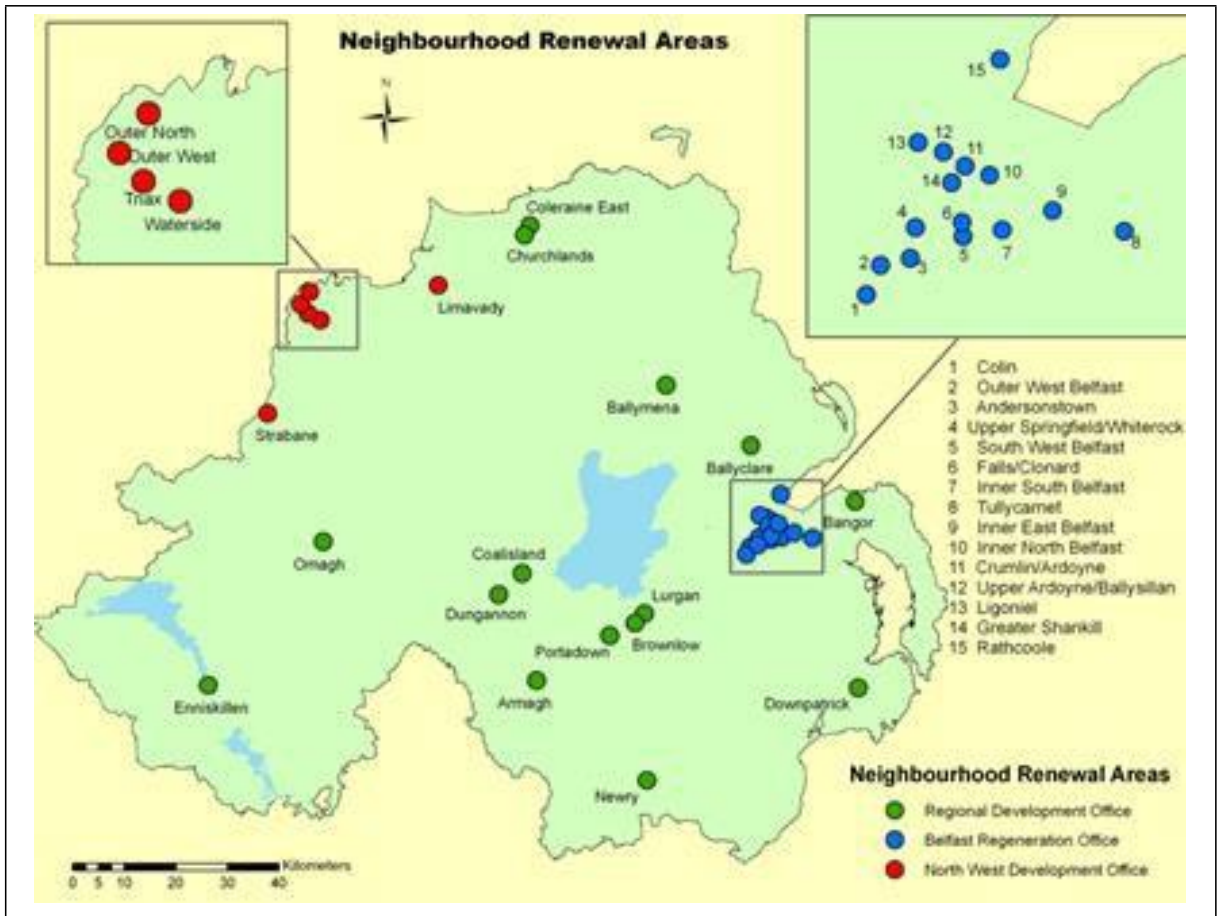
(Source: DSD)

APPENDIX B: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Evaluation Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the evaluation sets out three key contractual requirements for the study, namely:

- An assessment of the overall impact of the NR Strategy against its stated purpose, key issues, overall aim, goals and objectives;
- An assessment of the effectiveness model for the operational delivery of NR as set out in People and Place; and
- Consideration of the lessons learned from NR that can be provided to Councils in the context of their new statutory duty to produce community plans for their areas.

The ToR also required Assessment of the Overall Impact of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy:

- Using all evidence currently available to identify the impact of and cost-benefits arising from NR both at regional level and at the level of the 36 NRAs.
- Undertaking a comparative analysis to explore and explain the changes which can be attributed to NR, including drawing conclusions about why some areas have seen better outcomes than others.
- Considering the degree to which NR can be considered to be a success in relation to:

  - The four strategic objectives;
  - The two overarching goals;
  - The overall aim;
  - The seven key issues;
  - The stated purpose of the strategy; and
  - Identifying the implications of this assessment for the future direction of policy around tackling spatial deprivation.

The requirements for the assessment of the effectiveness of the model for operational delivery were set as:

a. Consideration of whether the decision to target the most deprived 10% of wards and Super Output Areas (SOAs) and the process for identifying NR Areas has resulted in the most acute deprivation being effectively targeted;

b. Exploring the effectiveness of the partnership model that underpins the programme which should include:

  - An examination of the rationale, operation and consequences of the Strategy's emphasis on placing the community at the heart of NR; and
  - Consideration of which Neighbourhood Partnerships have operated most effectively and the reasons for any variation in effectiveness.

a. Consideration as to whether the operation of NR has taken a long term view and moved away from a focus on short-term outputs and inputs including a consideration of whether Neighbourhood Vision Frameworks provided a suitable vehicle to set down the aspirations for an area over a 7 to 10 year period;

b. Consideration of whether NR has resulted in an integrated approach. This should include consideration of whether Neighbourhood Action Plans have:

  - Managed to integrate community, social, economic and physical programmes; and
  - Succeeded in maximising the effectiveness of public services and resources in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.

c. Consideration of whether the baseline information developed for each NRA was adequate to inform the preparation of Vision Frameworks and Action Plan and allow progress to be measured;

d. Consideration of whether adequate arrangements were put in place to allow best practice to be disseminated between neighbourhoods and to other areas; and

e. Consideration of the nature, operation and successes and otherwise of NR interventions designed to improve the 36 Areas and the outcomes for people living in the 36 Areas.

An additional analysis of socio-economic data of non- Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (non NRAs), was also required to established the counterfactual position.

The requirements for the consideration of the lessons learned for local government were set as:

a. The conducting of a fact finding exercise, leveraging the existing knowledge of the consultant team with input from DSD policy and operational staff drawing upon the Mid Term Review, the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit Key Policy documents, Survey findings and Measurement of Outcome Indicators reports;

b. Consulting NR Partnerships for their views; and

c. Establishing the level of knowledge and understanding within Local Government of interventions designed to tackle disadvantage.

APPENDIX C: POLICY OVERVIEW

Policy / Strategy	Relevance to Neighbourhood Renewal
The European Commission's 'Europe 2020' Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth (2007-2013/2014-2020)	This Strategy outlines a number of targets, under the priority for Inclusive Growth, aimed at reducing poverty, increasing participation in employment and increasing educational attainment within the population. Overall, the priority aims to have 20 million fewer people at risk of poverty and social exclusion by 2020. The goal of NR is to help close the gap between the quality of life for people in the most deprived neighbourhoods and the quality of life for the rest of society. An overarching goal is to ensure that people living in the most deprived neighbourhoods have access to the best possible services and to the opportunities which make for a better quality of life and prospects for themselves and for their families.
NI Executive, Programme for Government 2011 – 2015	The NI Executive Programme for Government 2011-15, sets out five overarching Priorities of the Executive which include 82 commitments with a focus on growing the NI economy and tackling disadvantage so to deliver "a shared and better future for all". The Programme states it is recognised that actions to address poverty and tackle disadvantage are prerequisites for social progress and are intrinsic to the creation of a peaceful, fair and prosperous society in Northern Ireland. NR makes a direct contribution to three Priorities within the PfG.
NI Executive, Economic Strategy 2012	The Northern Ireland Economic Strategy was developed in order to meet the specific needs of the Northern Ireland economy. The overarching goal of the Strategy is to improve Northern Ireland's economic competitiveness and build a strong economy to deliver on building a safe, peaceful, fair and prosperous society where everyone can enjoy a better quality of life. By 31st March 2013, a total of £654million had been invested of the target of £925million set for 2015.
NI Executive, Economy and Jobs Initiative (2012)	The Executive announced a £200million Economy and Jobs Initiative to support people, business and investment. This initiative is a short-term strategy that was introduced as a result of the state of the global economy at the time. The actions outlined by the initiative are designed to, 'provide further support to those individuals and businesses that have been impacted by the sluggish recovery in our key markets.'
Improving Children's Life Chances – The Child Poverty Strategy, (OFMdFM) (2011)	The Child Poverty Strategy sets out the NI Executive's proposed actions to child poverty in Northern Ireland under the Child Poverty Act 2010. The ultimate aim under the Act is the eradication of child poverty within the UK by 2020. The Strategy advocates the targeting of housing neighbourhoods so that a child's environment supports them to thrive, with neighbourhoods one of a number of key policy areas being focused on.
Lifetime Opportunities: Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland, (OFMdFM) 2006	The objective of this strategy is tackling of poverty and social exclusion in order to work towards their elimination by 2020 through a joined up approach at a departmental level reflected in a co-ordination of services at a local level. The Lifetime Opportunities strategy is based around a number of challenges which form the basis of future policy and action; specifically it noted Tackling Area Based Deprivation a priority within the overall strategy.
Department for Social Development, Corporate Plan 2011	The Corporate Plan sets out the approach of the Department to social development up to 2015. The Corporate Plan is the link tying in the activities and priorities of the Department together with the five priorities of

Policy / Strategy	Relevance to Neighbourhood Renewal
– 2015	the NI Executive as set out in the Programme for Government over the same period.
	The activities of the Department contribute to the achievement of all five priorities either directly or indirectly. The Corporate Plan sets out the Department's approach to delivering on their commitments set out in the PfG.
	The Department set itself three objectives to focus activities over the period of the plan. The activities of NR are directly relevant and make a direct contribution to two of these objectives:
	a) Meet the needs of the most vulnerable by tackling disadvantage through a transformed social welfare system, the provision of focused support in the most disadvantaged areas and encouraging social responsibility; and
	b) Bring divided communities together by creating urban centres which are sustainable, welcoming and accessible to live, work and relax in peace.
DSD, Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework, 2013	The Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework sets out the policy objectives of the Department for the next decade. The policy framework was developed taking the priorities and objectives of the PfG 2011-15, Europe 2020 Strategy and DSD Corporate Plan 2011-15 into account. The framework sets out four policy objectives informing future policy and programme development in urban regeneration and community development:
	a) Tackle area based deprivation;
	b) Strengthen the competitiveness of towns and cities;
	c) Improve linkages between areas of need and areas of opportunity; and
	d) Develop more cohesive and engaged communities.
Investing for Health (DHSSPS, 2002)	The Northern Ireland public health strategy, Investing for Health (IFH), was published in 2002. The strategy contains a framework for action which is based on multi-sector partnership working amongst government departments, public bodies, local communities, voluntary bodies, district councils and social partners.
	The key aims of the strategy are to improve life expectancy across the population and to reduce health inequalities. The strategy has a particular focus on the most disadvantaged in Northern Ireland. The total investment by DHSSPS in the IFH Partnerships and Health Action Zones from 2002-03 to 2008-09 was £23.55m.
Every School a Good School (DE, 2009)	Every School a Good School was launched on 30 April 2009. The focus of the policy is to improve outcomes for pupils and young people. The policy sets out the core characteristics of a successful school:
	a) child-centred provision;
	b) high quality teaching and learning;
	c) effective leadership;

Policy / Strategy	Relevance to Neighbourhood Renewal
	d) a school connected to its local community.
	A key element of the policy is that schools, through rigorous self-evaluation, are best placed to identify areas of improvement and to drive changes that can bring about better outcomes for all of their pupils.
	The main aim of the policy is to support schools and teachers in their work to raise standards and help pupils overcome any barriers they may face.
EU Funding Programmes (Peace II, Peace III and URBAN II)	Peace II was designed to consolidate the peace process in Northern Ireland by channelling finance under Objective 1 of the Structural Funds from 2000-06. The programme sought to encourage progress towards a peaceful, stable society and promote reconciliation in the region. A total of €978m (£655m) was invested.
	Peace II had two general strands:
	a) economic and social development;
	b) addressing the legacy of the conflict in Northern Ireland, as part of the region's peace process.
	Urban II (2000-06) sought to regenerate North Belfast, and was specifically focused on 11 wards in lower North Belfast. The strategy had three main objectives:
	c) to develop the physical and social resources of the area;
	d) to develop the resources of local people especially to gain access to lasting employment opportunities;
	e) to develop and apply the technical competencies required ensuring that the programme is implemented effectively and efficiently.
	The total value of Urban II was €17,125,244. Of this total, €10,623,932 (62%) came from the ERDF, €3,541,312 (21%) from the expenditure of Northern Ireland Government Departments, €2,050,000 (12%) from other public sector agencies (with development responsibilities in the designated area) and €910,000 (5%) from private sources, trust and donations.
	Peace III is a programme part-funded by the European Union (€225 million from the EU with further national contributions of €108 million) through its Structural Funds programme. The programme covers the period 2007-2013.
	The main aims of the Peace III programme are to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society and to promote reconciliation by assisting operations and projects which help to reconcile communities and contribute towards a shared society for everyone.
	The programme is divided into two main priorities:
	a) reconciling communities;
	b) contributing to a shared society.
	It delivers these priorities through four themes:
	a) to build positive relations at the local level;

Policy / Strategy	Relevance to Neighbourhood Renewal
	b) to acknowledge the past;
	c) to create shared public spaces;
	d) to develop key institutional capacity for a shared society.
DEL – New Deal Programmes	New Deal programmes were introduced in 1998 with the aim of reducing unemployment by providing training, subsidised employment and voluntary work to the unemployed. There were two main New Deal programmes in Northern Ireland, New Deal for 18 to 24 Year Olds and New Deal 25+.
	Statistics show that, from 1998 to 2008, New Deal for 18 to 24 year olds had 74,661 participants and New Deal 25+ had 80,838.
	On 29 September 2008 Steps to Work, DEL's new flexible approach to helping people to find work, was introduced in Northern Ireland. The Steps to Work programme subsumes the main New Deal programmes in Northern Ireland.
DEL – Employment Strategy – skills for Life	The Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) launched the Essential Skills for Living Strategy and action plan in April 2002. The Essential Skills for Living Strategy aims to improve adult literacy and numeracy (and now Information & Communication Technology (ICT)) in Northern Ireland.
	Since the start of the strategy there have been just over 383,000 enrolments (just over 161,000 individuals) in Essential Skills courses. Since the start of the Essential Skills Strategy (October 2002) there have been, in total, 219,213 qualifications. This equates to 113,422 individuals who have received an Essential Skills qualification from an Awarding Organisation.
Community Safety Strategy (NIO, 2003)	In 2003, a five year Community Safety Strategy was published, which set out the direction for reducing crime, the fear of crime and tackling anti-social behaviour. The strategy identified nine crime types for priority action, including youth offending, business crime, domestic violence, and anti-social behaviour. Community Safety Partnerships also developed their own strategies at a Council level.
	In 2008, proposals for a new Community Safety Strategy (Together. Stronger. Safer) for Northern Ireland were published. However, with the prospect of devolution at that time, it was agreed that work on a new strategy should be the responsibility of the devolved Justice Minister. In January 2011, the Department of Justice published Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities. This consultation document stated that the overall goal of the community safety strategy was to help build:
	a) safer communities with lower levels of crime and anti-social behaviour;
	b) shared communities where everyone's rights are respected in a shared, and cohesive community;
	c) confident communities in which people feel safe and have confidence in the justice agencies that serve them.
	Community Safety Partnerships and District Policing Partnerships were replaced on 1 April 2012 by Policing and Community Safety Partnerships

Policy / Strategy	Relevance to Neighbourhood Renewal
	(PCSPs).
NIHE Strategies-community strategies	The Community Involvement Strategy provides a framework for the Housing Executive and residents to work together toward mutually agreed outcomes. The NIHE recognises that community involvement can take many forms, from involving communities by providing information through consultation, feedback on services, input to policy and participation in performance management to the community delivery of the service.
	Since 2001, the NIHE have also implemented a range of housing management services to address anti-social behaviour (ASB) and have forged partnerships with a range of other agencies to lever in expertise and funding to deliver improvements to Northern Ireland's most disadvantaged areas. To help continue this work, the NIHE has drafted a three year Community Safety Action Plan across three key headings:-
	1. **Enforcement:** The NIHE will work with other agencies and, where appropriate, use its legal powers to stop ASB.
	2. **Prevention:** The Housing Executive will adopt a more holistic approach to tacking ASB by using a range of early interventions to offset the potential for serious ASB developing.
	3. **Support**: In appropriate circumstances the Housing Executive will work with other agencies to provide access to support and diversionary programmes to reduce the risk of offending/reoffending.
Good Relations OFMdFM (2005)	The OFMDFM published Policy and Strategic Framework for Good Relations in Northern Ireland, in March 2005 The overall aim of the strategy is to develop a shared society defined by a culture of tolerance: a normal, civic society, in which all individuals are considered as equals, where differences are resolved through dialogue in the public sphere and where all individuals are treated impartially. A society where there is equity, respect for diversity and recognition of our interdependence.
	The Central Good Relations Funding Programme supports the achievement of the Executive's strategic objectives relating to good relations. Funding is available in the form of Project Funding or Small Grants.
Extended Schools Programme Department of Education (DE, 2006)	The Extended Schools programme provides additional financial support to schools operating in areas of social disadvantage. In 2013/14, £12million of extended schools funding was made available to nearly 500 eligible schools to provide for a range of activities to help meet the needs of the pupils in the school and the wider community. Extended Schools funding is targeted at schools which serve the most disadvantaged communities, to ensure those in the greatest need receive additional support. DE set a number of eligibility criteria which schools must meet in order to receive support, which includes having at least 51% of pupils from Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.
Sure Start. (DE / DHSSPS)	Sure Start is a targeted intervention, for children under four years and their families, who live within the 20% most disadvantaged wards in Northern Ireland. There are 37 Sure Start centres across Northern Ireland. Sure Start has a particular focus on the healthy development of disadvantaged children. In 2011/12 Sure Start was allocated funding of

Policy / Strategy	Relevance to Neighbourhood Renewal
	£22.5million by DE. It is delivered through a range of V&C sector organisations. The responsibility for Sure Start transferred from DHSSPS to DE in 2006.
Community Planning Foundation Programme, Preparations in Advance of 2015 (DoE, 2013)	Under the Review of Public Administration it was proposed that local government should be given more responsibilities, including the need to undertake Community Planning. Community Planning constitutes an integral element of the local government reform programme which will see the integration of the 26 current local councils into 11 new council areas.

APPENDIX D: OUTPUT & IMPACT DATA

Table D1: Comparison of NRA Ward MDM Rankings 2001 – 2010

Ward Name	Constituent NRA	MDM Rank 2001	MDM Rank 2010	Change
Whiterock	Upper Springfield/Whiterock	3	1	-2
Falls	Falls/Clonard	2	2	0
New Lodge	Inner North Belfast	8	3	-5
Shankill	Greater Shankill	10	4	-6
East	Strabane	21	5	-16
Crumlin	Crumlin/Ardoyne	1	6	5
Clonard	Falls/Clonard	20	7	-13
Creggan Central	Triax - Cityside	22	8	-14
Ardoyne	Crumlin/Ardoyne	12	9	-3
Twinbrook	Colin	28	10	-18
Upper Springfield	Upper Springfield/Whiterock	11	11	0
The Diamond	Triax - Cityside	15	12	-3
Collin Glen	Colin	38	13	-25
Duncairn	Inner North Belfast	19	14	-5
Water Works	Crumlin/Ardoyne	16	16	0
Ballymacarrett	Inner East Belfast	5	18	13
Woodvale	Greater Shankill	7	19	12
Shantallow East	Outer North Derry	23	21	-2
Shaftesbury	Inner South Belfast	14	22	8
Westland	Triax - Cityside	31	23	-8
The Mount	Inner East Belfast	9	25	16
Coolessan	Limavady	62	26	-36
Dunanney	Rathcoole	60	28	-32
Devenish	Enniskillen	128	29	-99
Coalisland South	Coalisland	104	30	-74
Glencairn	Greater Shankill	35	31	-4
Glencolin	Outer West Belfast	48	33	-15
Beechmount	Falls/Clonard	29	34	5
Drumgask	Brownlow	45	35	-10
Ballybot	Newry	40	36	-4
Ballee	Ballymena	64	38	-26
Woodstock	Inner East Belfast	26	39	13
Victoria	Waterside	18	41	23
Blackstaff	South West Belfast	32	42	10
Glen Road	Andersonstown	71	43	-28
Rosemount	Outer West Derry	43	44	1
Daisy Hill	Newry	33	45	12
Drumnamoe	Lurgan	97	46	-51
Strand	Outer West Derry	65	47	-18
Carn Hill	Outer North Derry	49	48	-1
Callan Bridge	Armagh	51	49	-2
Court	Lurgan	41	52	11
Coole	Rathcoole	90	55	-35
Ligoniel	Ligoniel	86	56	-30

Source: NINIS MDM Measure 2001 and 2010

Table 02: Population Change within each Partnership

Partership Area	Total Population (2001)	Total Population (2011)	%change
A.ndersonstown	9,627	8,952	-7.0%
A.rmagh	4,565	5,372	17.7%
Ballyclare	946	1,247	31.8%
Ballymena	4,655	4,199	-9.8%
Bangor	2,818	2,644	-'6.2%
Brow nlow	6,665	8,658	29.9%
Coal island	1,841	2,681	45.6%
Coleraine Churchlands	2,502	3,055	22.1%
Coleraine East	3,754	3,339	-11.1%
Colin	15,693	18,557	18.3%
Crumlin /Ardoyne	14,629	14,493	-0.9%
Downpatrick	5,218	6,080	16.5%
Dungannon	778	1,575	102A%
Enniskillen	2,955	3,115	5.4%
Greater Falls	16,281	16,877	3.7%
Greater Shankill	18,788	18,089	-3.7%
Inner East Belfast	21,124	23,799	12.7%
Inner North Belfast	12,093	12,444	2.9%
Inner South Belfast	6,704	8,688	29.6%
Ligoniel	1,409	2,329	65.3%
Limavady	2,851	2,364	-17.1%
Lurgan	9,718	8,919	-8.2%
Newry	10,111	10,559	4.4%
Omagh	2,794	2,594	-7.2%
Outer North Derry	15,281	15,255	-0.2%
Lenadoon	8,203	7,897	-3.7%
Outer West Derry	9,213	8,640	-'6.2%
Portadown North West	2,624	2,704	3.0%
Rathcoole	7,315	7,408	1.3%
South West Belfast	6,545	6,369	-2.7%
Strabane	6,941	5,583	-19.6%
Triax - Cityside	17,379	16,109	-7.3%
Tullycarnet	2,180	2,092	-4.0%
Upper Ardoyne /Ballysillan	2,987	3,051	2.1%
Upper Springfield /Whiterock	11,831	11,327	-4.3%
Waterside	8,756	9,577	9.4%
Total	277,774	.286,641	3.2%

Table 03: Outcome Indicators (2012-2013)

Objective	Participate No's
COMMUNITY	
CR(1)/01 - Number of people participating in community relations projects	271463
CR(2) - Number of people participating in community bonding projects	2157
CR(3) - Number of people volunteering for community development activities	6905
CR(4)/06 - Number of people engaged/involved in unpaid voluntary work	22319
CR(5) - Number of people receiving training in community development skiDsfc:apacify building	3478
CR(6) - Number of people using new or improved community facilities	34447
CR(7) - Number of communitylvolunlary groups supported	1459
CR(8) - Number of community relations projects supported	459
CR(9)1E15 - Number of people involved in projects that promote shared space	2164
ECONOMIC	
ER11A1 - Number of FTE jobs created	214.42
ER2 - Number of residents going into employment	429
ER3 - Number of people accessing careers advice	4412
ER4 - Number of people receiving job specific training	2832
ERS - Number of weeks (per participant) of job specific traning provided	2571
ERG - Number of people receiving non job specific training e.g. first aid	814
ER7 - Number of weeks (per participant) of non job specific training provided	112
ER8/A8 - Number of new bus.iness start ups	58
ER9/A7 - Number of new/existing businesses requiring/receiving advice/support	3382
ER10 - Number of people becoming self employed	29
ER11 - Number of social economy enterprises created/supported	11
ER12 - Nurnber of new business start ups surviving 52 weeks	0
ER13 - Number of nev./existing childcare places supported to facilitate !raining and/or employment	210
SOCIAL- EDUCATION	
SR(Ed)1/B5 - Number of childcare/nursery school places created/safeguarded	16932
SR(Ed) 2 / 87 - Number of pupils whose attendance is measurably enhanced/improved	896
SR(Ed) 3 181 - Number of pupils whose attainment is measurably enhanced/mproved	11135
SR(Ed) 4 - Number of pupils whose behaviour is measurably enhanced/improved	705
SR(Ed) 5 188 - Number of people engaged in parenting/skills development programmes	14668
SR(Ed) 6 /86 - Number of pupils directly benefitting from !he project	3149
SR(Ed)7 /8 - Number of pupils whose attainment is measurably enhanced/improved	1431
SR(Ed) 8 /86 - Number of pupils directly benefitting from the project	24490
SR(Ed)9 / 8'1 - Number of pupils whose attainment is measurably enhancedlimproved {n STEM subjects)	1095
SR(Ed) 10 /66 - Number of pupils directly benefitting from the project	514
SR(Ed)11 / 61 - Number of pupils Whose attainmenti is measurably enhanced/improved aga nst baseline position *to* ensure pupils reach full potential	119
SR(Ed) 12 / 67 - Number of pupils whose attendance is measurably enhanced/improved	116
SR(Ed)13 / 61 - Number of pupils Whose attainmenti is measurably enhanced/improved aga nst baseline position	670
SR(Ed) 14 - Number of young people drectly benefitting from the project	99
SR(Ed)15 - Number of young people experiencing improvements against baseline position of assessed needs	10
SR(Ed)16 - Number of young people having access to specialist support to address assessed needs	10

Objective	Participate No's
SR(Ed)17 - Type and number of accredited qualifications completed	0
SR(Ed} 18/ 66 - Number of pupils directly benefitting from/being supported by the project	29019
SR(Ed)19 / 61 – Number of pupils wtlose attainment is measurably enhanced/improved against baseline position	984
SR(Ed}20 - Number of children and young people having access to specialst support to enhance their physical and emotional wellbeing	23()
SR(Ed)21 - Impact on enhanced learning environmenl	0
SR(Ed}22 - Increased number of young people and adults taking part in regular physical activity	2()
SR(Ed)23/B1 - Number o.f pupils whose attainment is measurably enhanced/improved (in ICT related subjects)	12
SR(Ed}24/B3 - Nurnber of residents in an area who obtain a (ICT-related) qualificalion on completion offom1altraning	27
SR(Ed}25 / 66 - Number of pupils direcUy benefr!ting from the project	2438
SOCIAL - HEALTH	
SR(H)1 - Number of peope benefitting from healthyllifestyle projects	31599
SR(H)2/C1 - Number of people attending heaHh education/awareness initiatives	107835
SR(H)&C4 - Number of people accessing intervention/treatment services	9552
SR(H)4 - Number of health education/awareness initiatives provided/delivered	4617
SR(H)5JC3 - Number of people benefitting from new or improved health facities	36064
SR(H)6 - Number of peope partic patingin suicide prevention projects	3487
SR(H)7 - Number of new/improved sports facities provided	175
SR(H)S - Number of peope using new sports facilities	1339
SR(H)9 -Increase (nf<A.) in the number of people using improved sports facities	9
SOCIAL– CRIME	
SR(C)1 - Number of people receiving advice om crime prevention	17693
SR(C)<2J01 - Number of community safety initiativesimplemented	1297
SR(C)3JD2 - Number of people participating/attending community safety initiatives	99948
SR(C)4104 - Number of crime prevention initiativesimplemented	789
SR(C)5105 - Number of people participating/attending crime prevention initiatives	25263
SR(C)6 - Number of young peope benefitting from youth inclusion/diversionary projects	21524
SR(C)7J06 - Number of victims of crime supported	4534
SR(C)S - Number of homes with increased security	1619
SR(C)9 - Number of neighbourhood wardens supported	136
SR(C)10 - Number of people involved in dealing with the impact of interface issues	304
PHYSICAL	
PR1 - Area efl and improved for open space	75.21
PR2- Area o land reclaimed for open space	6
PR3JE6 - Area of landimproved and made ready for development	22
PR4 - Area of and improved and made ready for shared space	1
PRSJE7 - Number of buidings improved	92
PR6 - Number of community facities improved	8
PR7 /E8- Number of traffic calning schemes	13
PRS - Number of trees planted	591
PR9 - Number of projectsimprovng community facilities	46
PR10/E11/OS - Nurnber of peoplelvolunteers involved in physicalldeveopment and/or envronmental improvement projects	4446

APPENDIX E: COUNTERFACTUAL ASSESSMENT

Counterfactual Analysis

Introduction

In order to compare the changes that have occurred in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs) to changes to those in non NRAs, a counterfactual analysis was conducted using key socio-economic statistics relating to the strategic objectives of the NR strategy. The counterfactual analysis was carried out by analysing changes to these socio-economic statistics in 15 deprived non-NRA wards in comparison to changes in the NRAs over the course of the strategy. All statistical analysis is based on the data for the latest year available provided to us by DSD statisticians and supplemented with additional data from the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS). A further in-depth review was conducted on 3 selected wards (Castle Demesne, Enler and Cross Glebe) in order to gather a more holistic view on factors that may have contributed to change in the area.

Selected Wards for Assessment

The evaluation steering group agreed that the counterfactual analysis should focus on relatively deprived ward areas that are in the vicinity of NRAs, but were not eligible for NRA funding at the start of the Strategy. The 15 selected wards are set out in the table below.

Table E.1: Non-NRA Wards for Counterfactual Assessment

Ward	Location	2001 MDM Rank	2010 MDM Rank	↑ ↓
Northland	Carrickfergus	105	37	↓
Old Warren	Lisburn	84	32	↓
Farranshane	Antrim	69	51	↓
Cross Glebe	Coleraine	91	54	↓
Bessbrook	Newry and Mourne	72[31]	60	↓
Ballyloran	Larne	121	61	↓
Love Lane	Carrickfergus	158	81	↓
St. Mary's	Newry and Mourne	103	111	↑
Enler	East Belfast	123	142	↑
Craigy Hill	Larne	140	70	↓
Fair Green	Ballymena	100	133	↑
Dunclug	Ballymena	163	83	↓
Castle Demesne	Ballymena	182	106	↓
Gortalee	Carrickfergus	109	152	↑
Drumglass	Dungannon	200	127	↓

As shown above, 11 out of the 15 wards selected for a counterfactual analysis have become relatively more deprived from 2001 to 2010. Dunclug, Castle Demesne and Drumglass all became a lot more relatively deprived, moving up 80, 76 and 73 places in the deprivation ranking.

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[31] MDM rank in 2005. Rank in 2001 not available

Population

Data from the 2001 and 2011 Census highlighted changes in the population within the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards from 2001 and 2011, as set out in table below.

Table E.2: Populations

Area	2001	2011	% change
All NRAs	277,656	286,641	+3.2%
15 counterfactual Wards	30,140	29,905	0.8%

Source: DSD

As shown in the above table there has been a slight decrease (0.8%) in the population of 15 non NRA wards compared to a 3% increase across NRAs.

Economic Renewal Indicators

The table below sets out changes in economic indicators between the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards from 2004 to 2012.

Table E.3: Changes to Key Economic Indicators 2004 – 2012

Indicator	NRAs (% points change)	Counterfactual (% points change)	Change in the gap between NRAs and Counterfactual
Job Seekers Allowance rate change (2004 /12)	+4.0%	+3.3%	+0.7% points
DLA claimant rate	+1.2%	+1.3%	-0.1% points
Pension credit claimant rates	+0.4%	+0.3%	+0.1% points

As set out in the above table, the key economic indicators for the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards show that the rate of people claiming particular social security benefits has increased at a similar rate in both the NRAs and counterfactual areas. However, as demonstrated in Appendix E, the JSA claimant rate was 2.7 percentage points higher in the NRAs than the counterfactual wards. The DLA claimant rate was also 5.3 percentage points in the NRAs than in the counterfactual wards in 2012, with only a minor reduction (0.1 percentage points) between the two since 2004.

Social Renewal Indicators

The following tables set out a number of key indicators relating to the Social objective of the Strategy

Table E.4: Changes to Educational Achievement rates 2004/05 – 11/12

Indicator	NRAs (% points change)	Counterfactual (% points change)	Change in the gap between NRAs and Counterfactual
School Leavers with 5 GCSEs (A-C)	+13.3%	+21.6%	+8.3%
School leavers with no GCSEs	-6.1%	-8.2%	-2.1%

Over the course of the strategy the 15 counterfactual wards changed from having a lower rate of attainment of 5 GCSEs to having a higher level of attainment than the NRA average by 5.8 percentage points, as demonstrated in Appendix E. This is resulting from a 21.6 percentage point increase in the rate of attainment of 5 or more GCSEs within the counterfactual wards.

The rate of pupils leaving school with no GCSEs decreased at a faster rate in the counterfactual wards between 2004/5 and 2011/12. The gap between NRAs and the counterfactual wards did however decrease from 1.3 percentage points to 0.8 percentage points. Despite significant improvements in both the NRAs and the counterfactual wards there are significantly more pupils leaving school with no GCSEs, in these areas compared to the rest of Northern Ireland. As set out in section 6, the average rate (all Northern Ireland excluding NRAs) of those leaving school with no GCSEs was 1.8% in 2011.

The rates of deaths for those aged under 75 were also considered as part of the counterfactual assessment, as set out below.

Table E.5: Rate of Deaths of under 75s from 2005 – 10

Area	2005	2010	Change
NRAs	48.2%	49.8%	1.6%
Counterfactual Wards	41.8%	41.0%	-0.83%

Source: DSD

Within the counterfactual wards, between 2005 and 2010, there was a slight decrease in the rate of deaths to under 75s. This is in contrast to the rate across NRAs which demonstrated an increase, indicating that poorer health outcomes were an increasing issue within NRAs over the programme timescale.

The following table sets out trends between the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards, between 2003 and 2011, in the rate of total recorded crime per 1,000 head of population. The table also sets out the trends relating to anti-social behaviour incidents per 1,000 head of population between 2006 and 2011.

Table E.6: Crime and Rates per 1,000 head of population (2003/06 – 2011)

Indicator	2003 / 06	2011	Change
Total Crime			
NRAs	147.4	128.7	-18.7
Counterfactual Wards	127.7	89.9	-37.8
Anti-Social Behaviour			
NRAs	85.1	69.1	-16
Counterfactual Wards	96.7	63.2	-33.5

Source: DSD

While both the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards experienced a reduction in the rate of total recorded crime between 2003 and 2011, the decrease was more significant within the counterfactual wards over this time period. The total recorded crime rate for both areas was significantly higher than the rest of Northern Ireland (excluding NRAs), which was 43.7 in 2011 (as set out in section 6). There are a number of potential reasons, for the less significant reduction in recorded crime in the NRAs, for example it is possible that people with the NRAs are now more likely to report a crime to the Police than they were in the past. Research undertaken by Ipsos Mori[32] shows that people (particularly in Catholic areas) reported that they were much more likely to report crime and that there is more less serious crime being reported than in the past. Therefore, as the NRAs are over represented with Catholic populations it is possible that people in these areas are reporting more crime to the Police than in the past, hence this may have an impact of offsetting reductions in recorded crime as some areas begin to report pre-existing levels of crime to a greater extent.

Economic Renewal

Job Seekers Allowance

The table below displays changes in rate of claimants of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) between the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards from 2004 to 2012.

Table E.7: Claimant Rate of JSA 2004 – 2012

Area	2004	2012	Change
NRAs	6.5%	10.5%	4.0%
15 Counterfactual Wards	4.5%	7.8%	3.3%

Source: DSD

There was an increase in the rate of people claiming JSA across the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards. However, the increase was slightly greater within the NRAs, which increased by 4 percentage points from 6.5% to 10.5%. The rate of those claiming JSA, also increased in the counterfactual wards in the same period, by 3.3 percentage points to 7.8%. This indicates that in relation to JSA the gap between the NRAs and the counterfactual wards increased from 2004 to 2012, as set out in the following figure.

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[32] Research into Crime Trends in Northern Ireland. Ipsos Mori on behalf of PSNI. (2007).

Figure E.1: Claimant Rate of JSA 2004 – 2012
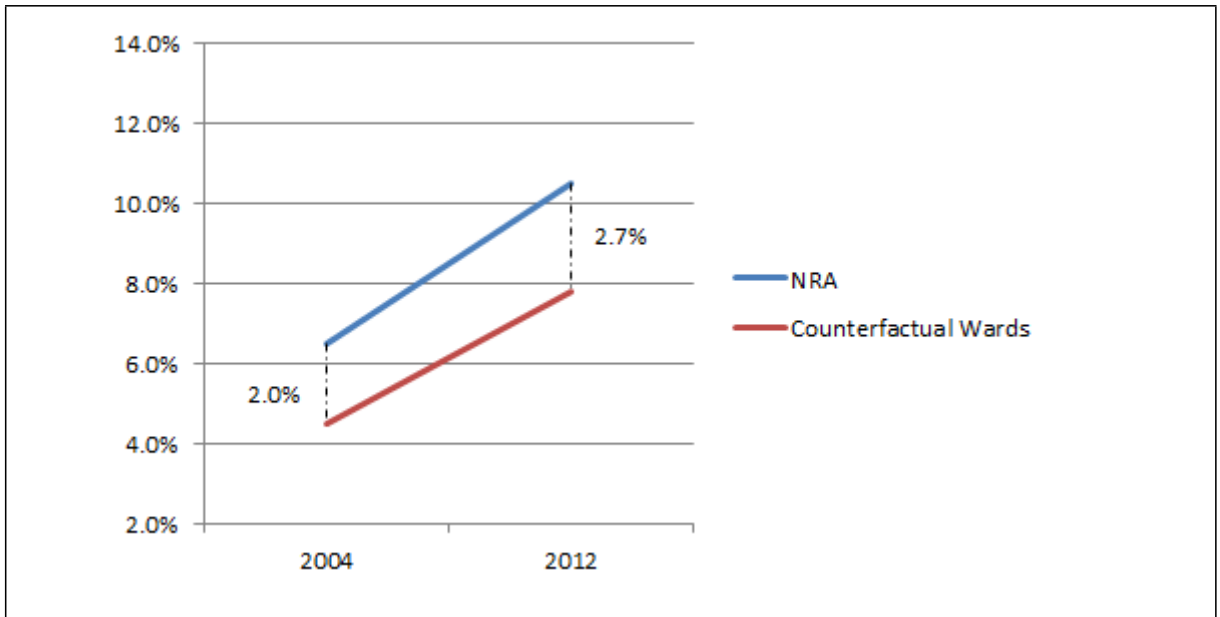
Source: DSD

Disability Living Allowance

The table below displays changes in the rate of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants between the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards between 2004 and 2012.

Table E.8: Claimant Rate of DLA 2004 – 2012

Area	2004	2012	Change
NRAs	17.1%	18.3%	1.2%
Counterfactual Wards	11.7%	13.0%	1.3%

Source: DSD

The rate of those claiming DLA has increased generally across Northern Ireland. In both the NRAs and the counterfactual wards there was a slight increase in the rate of those claiming DLA. The rate of increase was greater in the NRAs than the rest of NI and the counterfactual wards, and the gap between the counterfactual wards and the NRAs decreased from 2004 to 2012, as set out in the following figure.

Figure E.2: Claimant Rate of DLA 2004 – 2012
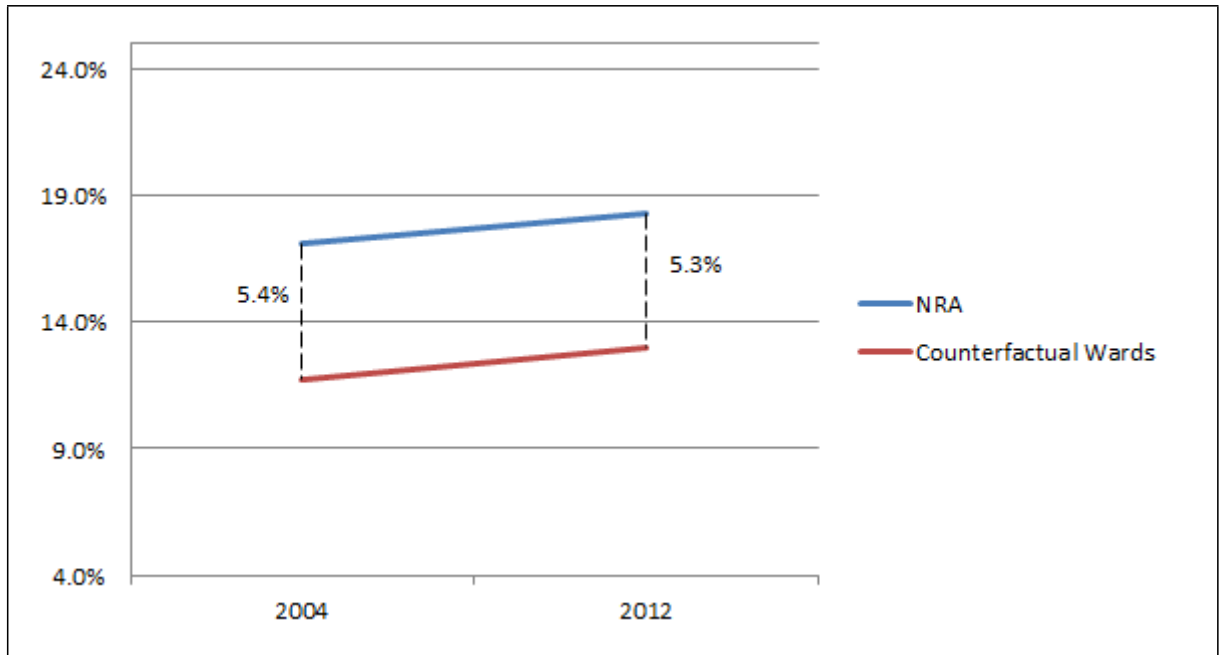
Source: DSD

Pension Credit

The table below displays the trends in rate of claimants of Pension Credit between the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards between 2004 and 2012.

Table E.9: Claimant Rate of Pension Credit 2004 – 2012

Area	2004	2012	Change
NRAs	54.2%	54.6%	0.4%
Counterfactual Wards	49.9%	50.2%	0.3%

Source: DSD

Across the 15 counterfactual wards there was a marginal increase in the proportion of the population who were claiming Pension Credit between 2004 and 2012 of 0.3 percentage points compared to an increase of 0.4 percentage points in NRAs. The rate of Pension Credit claimants remains over 4 percentage points higher than in the counterfactual wards. This is demonstrated in the figure below.

Figure E.10: Claimant Rate of Pension Credit 2004 – 2012
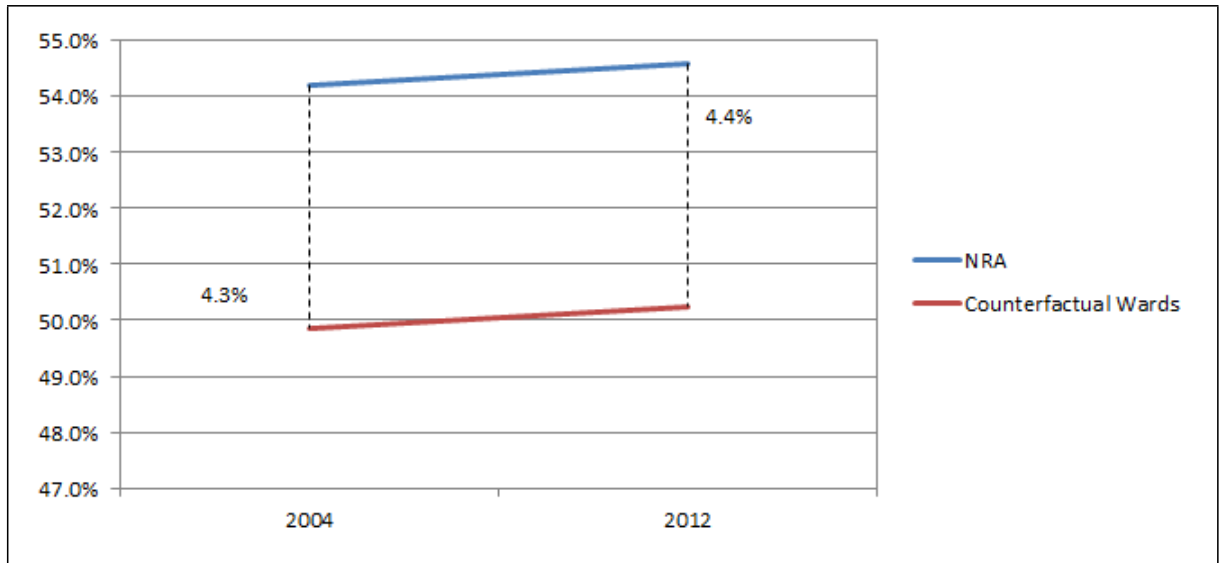
Source: DSD

In 2012 the rate of Pension Credit claimants in both the NRAs and the counterfactual wards is around twice that of the Northern Ireland average (excluding NRAs) of 27.4%.

Social Renewal (Education)

Attainment of 5 GCSEs A-C*

The table below displays trends between the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards between 2004/05 and 2011/12 in relation to the rate to which school leavers had attained 5 GCSEs from grade A*-C.

Table E.11: Attainment of 5 GCSEs A*-C among School Leavers 2004/05 – 11/12

Area	2004/05	2011/12	Change
NRAs	43.8%	57.1%	13.3%
Counterfactual Wards	41.3%	62.9%	21.55%

Source: DSD

Over the course of the strategy the 15 counterfactual wards changed from having a lower rate of attainment of 5 GCSEs to having a higher level of attainment than the NRA average by 5.8 percentage points. This is resulting from a 21.5 percentage point increase in the rate of attainment of 5 or more GCSEs within the counterfactual wards.

Figure E.4: Attainment of 5 GCSEs A*-C among School Leavers 2004 - 12
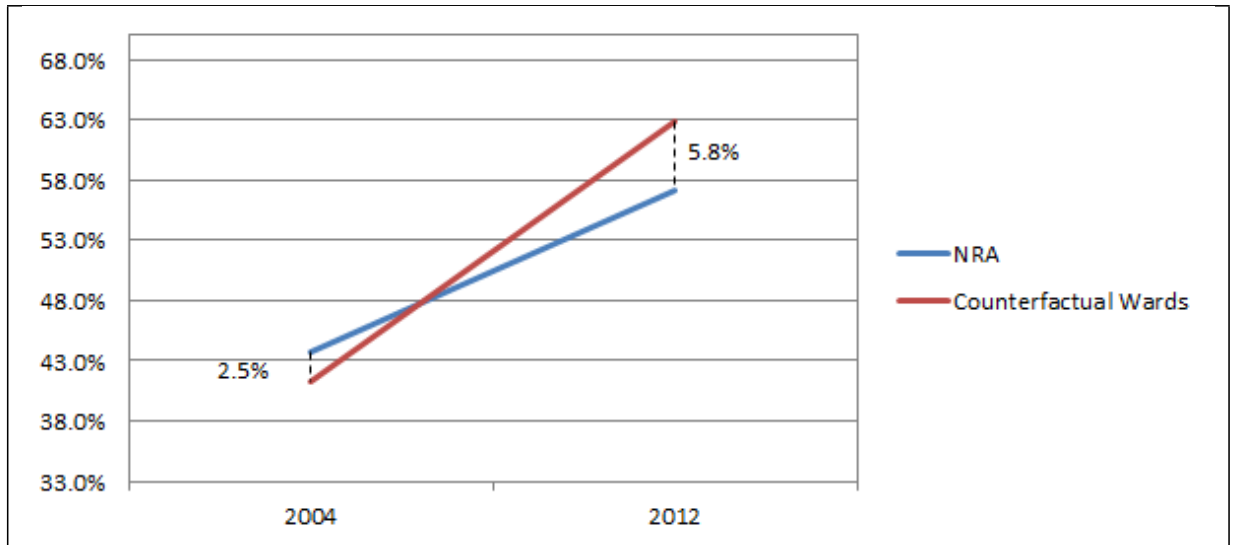
Source: DSD

No GCSEs

The table below displays trends between the NRAs and the counterfactual wards, between 2004/05 and 2011/12, in the rate to which school leavers left school with no GCSEs.

Table E.12: Rate of School Leavers with no GCSEs 2004/05 – 11/12

Area	2004/05	2011/12	Change
NRAs	11.0%	4.9%	-6.1%
Counterfactual Wards	12.3%	4.1%	-8.22%

Source: DSD

The rate of pupils leaving school with no GCSEs decreased at a faster rate in the counterfactual wards between 2004/5 and 2011/12. The gap between NRAs and the counterfactual wards did however decrease from 1.3 percentage points to 0.8 percentage points, as set out in the figure below. Despite significant improvements in both the NRAs and the counterfactual wards there are significantly more pupils leaving school with no GCSEs, in these areas compared to the rest of Northern Ireland. The average rate (all Northern Ireland excluding NRAs) of those leaving school with no GCSEs was 1.8% in 2011.

Figure E.5: Rate of School Leavers with no GCSEs 2005 – 11
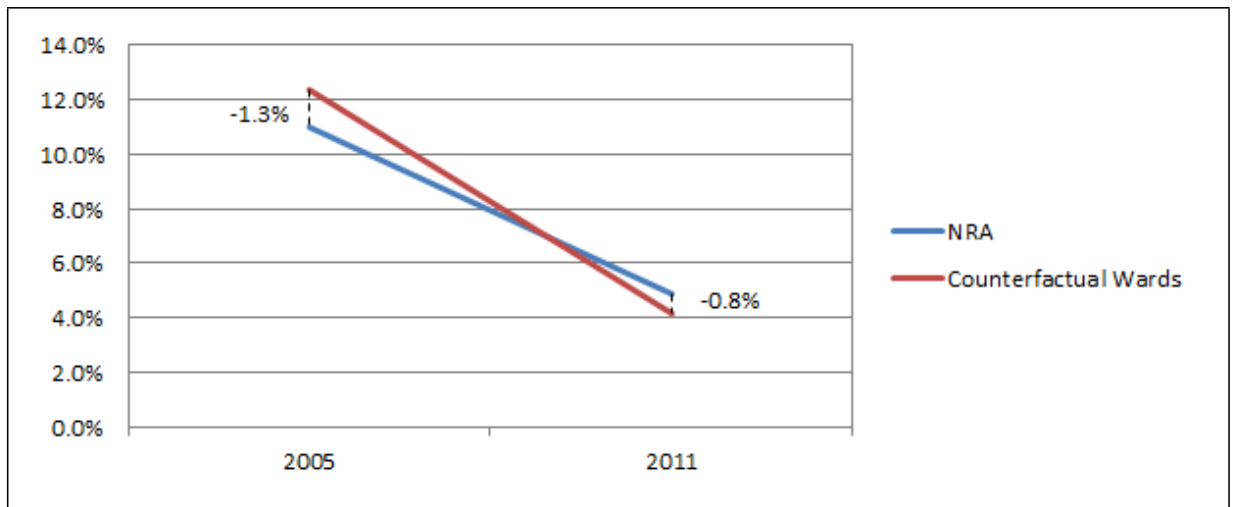
Source: DSD

Social Renewal (Health)

Rate of Deaths under 75

The table below displays trends between the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards, between 2005 and 2010, in the proportion of deaths occurring in people under the age of 75.

Table E.13: Rate of Deaths under 75 from 2005 – 10

Area	2005	2010	Change
NRAs	48.2%	49.8%	1.6%
Counterfactual Wards	41.8%	41.0%	-0.83%

Source: DSD

Between 2005 and 2010 the rate of deaths of those aged under 75 has remained higher in the NRAs than in the 15 counterfactual wards. The rate of deaths in those aged under 75 decreased slightly in the counterfactual areas, compared to a slight increase in NRAs over the same timeframe, as shown in the figure below. In both the NRAs and the counterfactual wards the rate of deaths occurring in those under 75 was higher than the Northern Ireland rate of 36.9% (2010).

Figure E.6: Rate of Deaths under 75 from 2005 – 10
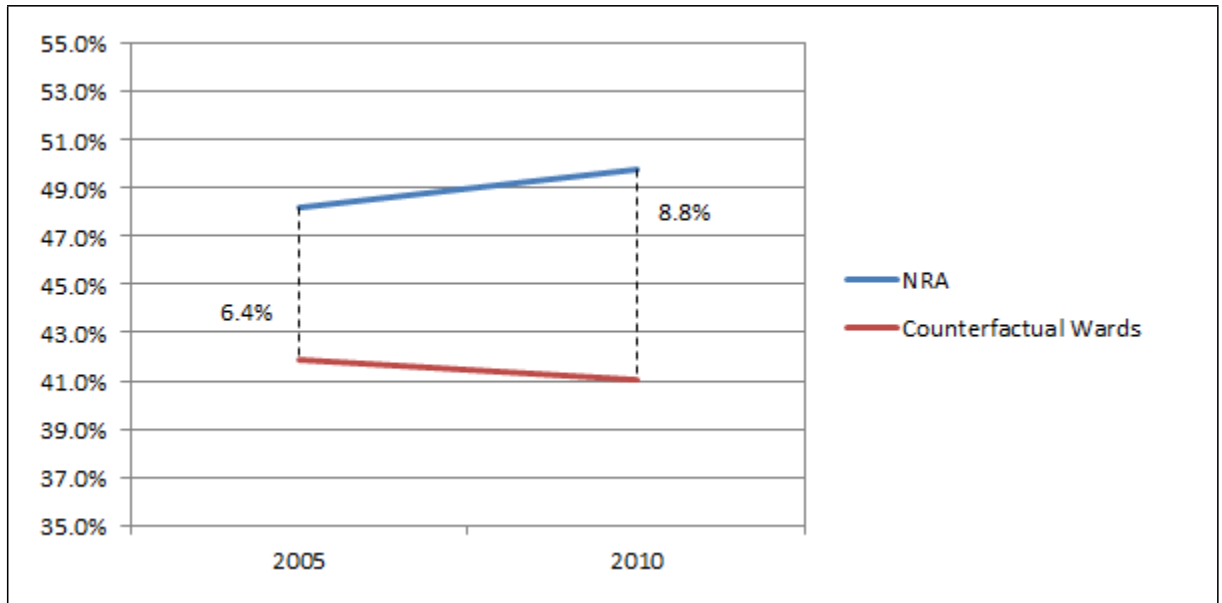
Source: DSD

Social Renewal (Crime/Community Well-being)

Total Recorded Crime

The following table displays trends between the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards, between 2003 and 2011, in the rate of total recorded crime per 1,000 head of population.

Table E.14: Total Recorded Crime per 1,000 head of Population (2003-2011)

Area	2003	2011	Change
NRAs	147.3	132.3	-15%
Counterfactual Wards	129.3	90.1	-39.2%

Source: DSD

While both the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards experienced a reduction in the rate of total recorded crime between 2003 and 2011, the decrease was more significant within the counterfactual wards over this time period. The total recorded crime rate for both areas was significantly higher than the rest of Northern Ireland (excluding NRAs), which was 43.7 in 2011. The changes in NRAs and counterfactual wards are set out in the figure below.

Figure E.7: Total Recorded Crime per 1,000 head of Population (2003-2011)
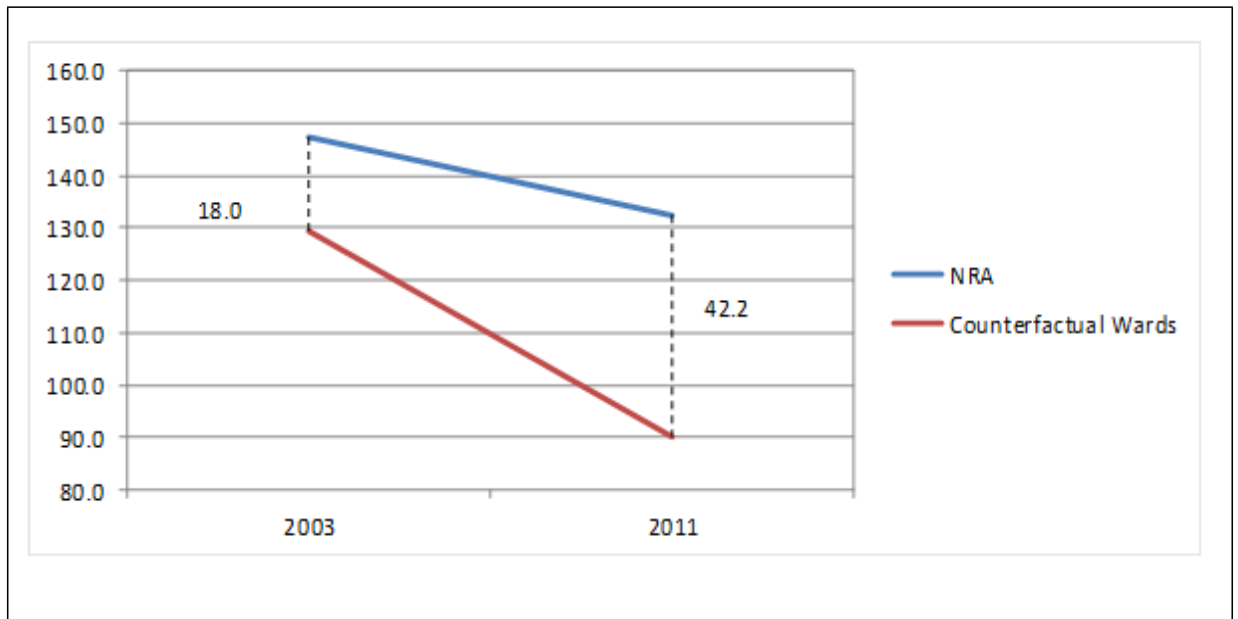
Source: DSD

Anti-Social Behavioural Offences

The table below displays trends within the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards, between 2006 and 2011, in the rate of anti-social behaviour offences (ASBOs) per 1,000 head of population.

Table E.15: Total ASB Offences per 1,000 head of Population (2006-2011)

Area	2006	2011	Change
NRAs	87.1	71.1	-16
Counterfactual Wards	97.2	63.4	-33.8

Source: DSD

There has been a decrease of 16, in the per 1,000 population rate of ASB offences within the NRAs. However, there has been a much more significant decrease in the level of ASB offences within the 15 counterfactual wards. As a result by 2011 the 15 counterfactual wards had fewer Anti-social behaviour offences than the NRAs. Both the NRAs and the counterfactual wards had higher rates of ASBOs, than the Northern Ireland average (excluding NRAs) of 29.2. The changes in rates between NRAs and the counterfactual wards are displayed further in the figure below.

Figure E.8: Total ASB Offences per 1,000 head of Population (2006-2011)
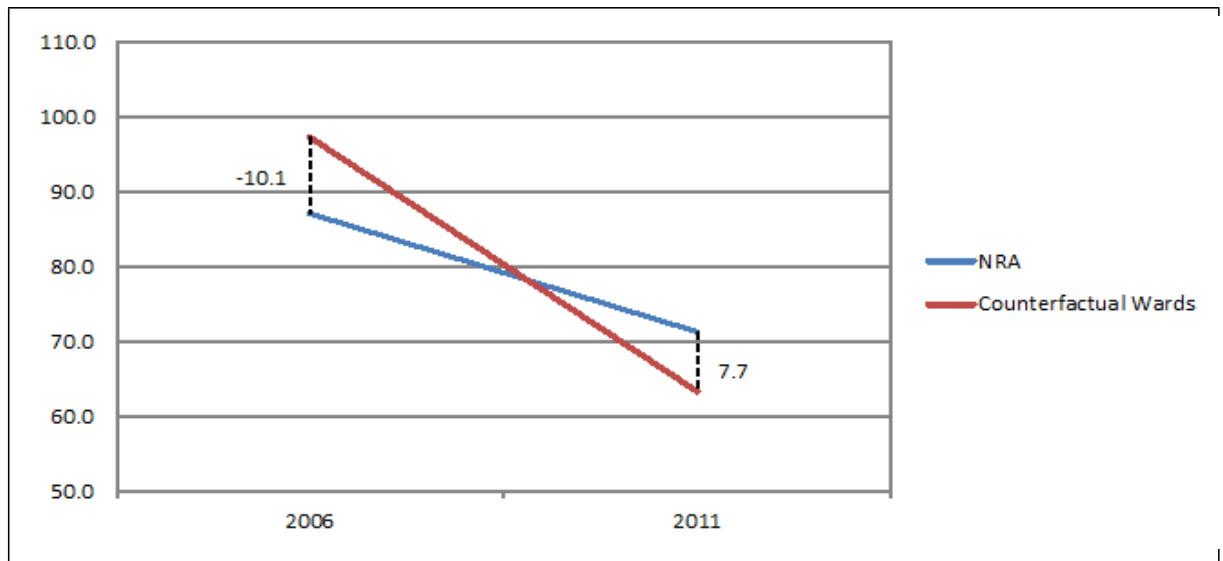
Source: DSD

Counterfactual Case Studies Areas

Introduction

Three of the wards noted above were selected as cases to illustrate the range of factors that can influence the outcomes of an area. In doing so we examined the range of other sources of funding provided to community and voluntary sector groups in the area[33] and talking to key stakeholders such as community and voluntary sector representatives and local council officers[34].

Enler Ward

Enler is a ward of the district of Castlereagh in East Belfast and includes part of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) estate, Ballybeen. In 2001, Enler was ranked 300 out of the 566 wards in Northern Ireland (where 1 is the most deprived) in the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 Super Output Area ranks for Local Government Districts. In 2010, Enler's rank had fallen to 246, meaning it had become more deprived over this time period.   In 2011 the population of Enler was 2,592, with 18.3% under 16 years old and 22.2% over 65 years old[35].

The location and boundaries of Enler are shown in the map below.

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[33]   This was conducted by analysing the statutory sector funding database, www. govfundingpublic.nics.gov.uk/GrantFinder.aspx
[34] Whilst are aware that there are a wide range of philanthropic bodies who may support the community and voluntary sector in these areas, it was not possible within the available timescales to completed a detailed analysis of all potential sources of funding.
[35] Source: NINIS. Northern Ireland Census data 2011.

Map 1: Enler Ward - location and ward boundaries
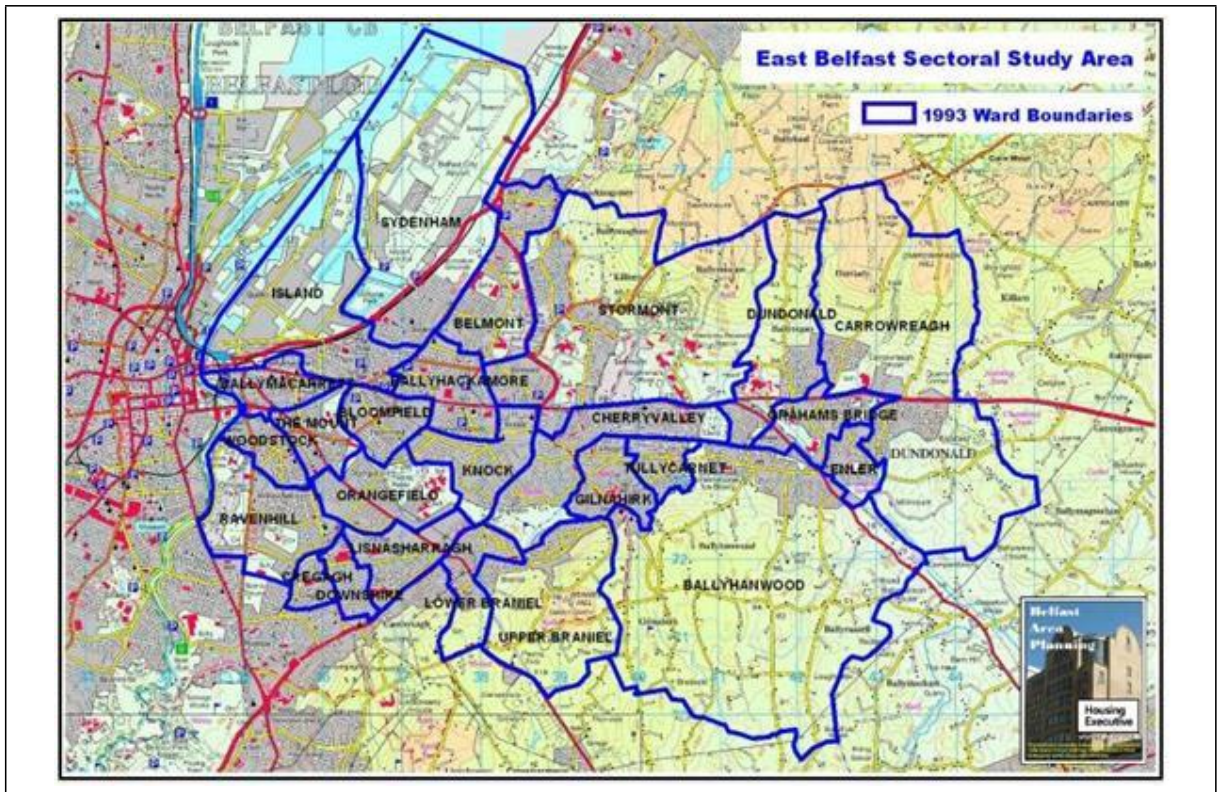
Economic Renewal

The following section analyses the changes in the key economic renewal indicators in Enler and compares this to performance in the NRAs and the counterfactual wards over the same time period.

Job Seekers Allowance

The table below sets out the change in the rate of claimants of Job Seekers Allowance in Enler, all NRAs and the average for all15 counterfactual wards from 2004 to 2012. As, would be expected (given the economic recession which began in 2008), the claimant rate for Job Seekers Allowance Areas, increased in all areas. However, the proportion of JSA claimants in Enler was lower in both 2004 and 2012 than in NRAs and the other counterfactual wards.   The proportional increase in claimant rates was also lower in Enler; an increase of 1.9 percentage points, compared to 4 in the NRAs and 3.3 in all counterfactual wards.

Table E.16: Claimant Rate of JSA 2004 – 2012

Area	2004	2012	Change
Enler	3.6%	5.5%	+1.9%
NRAs	6.5%	10.5%	+4%
15 Counterfactual Wards	4.5%	7.8%	+3.3%

Source: DSD

Although the rate of Job Seekers Allowance claimants was lower than in NRAs, feedback from key stakeholders indicates that there are a number of factors which may have contributed to the increase.

A number of businesses have closed in neighbouring ward areas which were regarded as major sources of employment for the area. These included one large company and at least two medium sized companies.

Disability Living Allowance

The table below sets out the rate of claimants of Disability Living Allowance between Enler, the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards in 2004 and 2012. There was an increase in the claimant rate in Enler, NRAs and counterfactual wards, however this increase was smallest in Enler at 1.6 percentage points compared to 2 percentage points for the NRAs. The Disability Living Allowance claimant rate in Enler was 4.1 percentage points lower than the NRAs in 2012, and 1.2 percentage points higher than the counterfactual wards.

Table E.17: Claimant Rate of DLA 2004 – 2012

Area	2004	2012	Change
Enler	12.6%	14.2%	+1.6%
NRAs	17.1%	18.3%	+1.2%
Counterfactual Wards	11.7%	13.0%	+1.3%

Source: DSD

Pension Credit

The table below displays the changes in rate of claimants of Pension Credit in Enler, the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards between 2004 and 2012. This shows that the claimant rate did not vary significantly in NRAs. An increase of just over 3 percentage points was seen in Enler while there was a significant increase of 7 percentage points in the counterfactual wards.

Table E.18: Claimant Rate of Pension Credit 2004 – 2012

Area	2004	2012	Change
Enler	39.6%	42.7%	+3.1%
NRAs	54.2%	54.6%	+0.2%
15 counterfactual wards	43.2%	50.2%	+7%

Source: DSD

Social Renewal

The following section analyses the changes in the key social renewal indicators (namely education, health and crime/community wellbeing) in Enler and compares this to performance in the NRAs and counterfactual wards over the same time period.

Attainment of 5 GCSEs A-C*

The table below displays trends between Enler, the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards between 2004/5 and 2010/11 in the rate of school leavers attaining 5 GCSEs from grade A*-C. Enler performed better than the average counterfactual wards and NRAs as the proportion of pupils achieving 5 GCSEs from grade A*-C increased by 29.1 percentage points compared to 18.4 and 19.2 percentage points in the NRAs and the counterfactual wards respectively. The overall proportion of pupils

achieving this level was also higher in Enler in 2011 than both the other counterfactual wards and NRAs.

Table E.19: Attainment of 5 GCSEs A*-C among School Leavers 2004/05 – 10/11

Area	2004/05	2010/11	Change
Enler	38.9%	68.0%	+29.1%
NRAs	43.8%	57.1%	+13.3%
Counterfactual Wards	43.7%	62.9%	+19.2%

Source: DSD

Rate of Deaths under 75

The table below displays trends between Enler, the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards, between 2005 and 2011, in the proportion of deaths occurring in people under the age of 75. The rate of deaths in the under 75s was higher in Enler than in the both the counterfactual wards and NRAs in 2010. The rate had also increased in Enler at a faster rate; a 4.8 percentage point increase compared to 1.6 percentage point increase in the NRAs and a 0.8 percentage point decrease in the across all 15 counterfactual wards.

Table E.20: Rate of Deaths under 75 from 2005 – 11

Area	2005	2011	Change
Enler	45.2%	50.0%	+4.8%
NRAs	48.2%	49.8%	+1.6%
Counterfactual Wards	41.8%	41.0%	-0.8%

Source: DSD

Total Recorded Crime

The table below displays changes in the rate of recorded crime, for Enler, the NRAs and all 15 counterfactual wards, between 2003 and 2011.   The averages for the counterfactual wards and the NRAs saw significant falls in the rate of recorded crime. However, the crime rate in Enler increased during the same time period by 20 per 1,000 head of population. Despite, this increase, the total recorded crime per 1,000 head of population was still lower in Enler in 2011 than in both the counterfactual wards and NRAs, although higher than the Northern Ireland (excluding NRAs) of 43.7 (per 1,000 population).

Table E.21: Total Recorded Crime per 1,000 head of Population (2003-2011)

Area	2003	2011	Change
Enler	52	72	+20
NRAs	147.3	132.3	-15
Counterfactual Wards	125.4	81.2	-44.2

Source: DSD

Anti-Social Behavioural Offences

The table below displays trends between the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards, between 2006 and 2011, in the rate of anti-social behaviour offences per 1,000 head of population. The rate of anti-

social behaviour offences (ASBOs) decreased by the same amount in Enler as the average for all counterfactual wards (a decrease of 35 per 1,000 head of population). However, the rate still remained higher in Enler in 2011 than in the counterfactual wards and NRAs (77 per 1,000 head of Population compared to 73.6 and 59.3 for the NRAs and the counterfactual wards respectively).

Table E.22: Total ASB Offences per 1,000 head of Population (2006-2011)

Area	2006	2011	Change
Enler	112	77	-35
NRAs	81.7	71.1	-10.6
15 counterfactual wards	94.8	59.3	-35.5

Source: DSD

Current social / community provision

Enler Health and Community Centre in Ballybeen opened 22nd March 2011. The overall cost of the project was £3.7m. The funding package was made up of Department for Social Development £1,599,750, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety £1,726,531 and the International Fund for Ireland £413,310. The new complex, of around 3,100 square metres, provides a facility to deliver a range of community services including a day care centre for the elderly and retail facilities.

The Ballybeen area was also included in the DSD Areas at Risk as part Programme (phase II 2007).

Local Primary Schools

Enler is included in the catchment area of the East Belfast Sure Start, which provides a range of services to young children and their families. Sure Start is funded through the Department of Education.

The South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) Youth Service provides support to a number of community and voluntary organisations to facilitate increased opportunities for young people within the Enler area. This is facilitated through the sponsorship scheme using either a Service Level Agreement (SLA) or Curriculum Delivery Agreement.

SEELB and Department of Education funding supports facilities, curriculum development, transport and employment of staff in. Level 2 Units in the Ballybeen Youth Club. Level 3 Youth Service funding is also provided to the local (Brooklands) Youth Centre which provides the following centre-based programmes for juniors and seniors:

a. Sports and creative arts
b. Health education
c. Residentials
d. Inclusion work
e. Youth participation
f. Community Relations Equality and Diversity

An analysis of the government funding database shows that just over £2.972 million was issued within the Enler area from a range of funders, including EU and central and local government.

Therefore, whilst Neighbourhood Renewal was not available directly to the Enler ward a significant number of other sources of funding has been available and a wide range of other government support activities have been implemented in the area since 2004.

Castle Demesne Ward

The Castle Demesne ward is situated in the Ballymena Borough Council and has a resident population of 2,126. The area was ranked 354th on the NIMDM in 2001 and 106th in 2010 (where 1 is the most deprived and 582 is the least deprived), indicating that the area has become relatively more deprived.   Data from the 2011 census shows that 13.36% were aged under 16 years and 20.04% were aged 65 and over. The ward primarily consists of Ballymena town centre and has a main road running through the middle of it, as shown in the map below.

Map 2: Map of Castle Demesne, Ballymena

Source: Mapit.

There are 27 primary schools with a total of 5,426 pupils and 8 Secondary Schools with a total of 4,498 pupils in the area.   Therefore, the primary schools in the area have a much wider catchment than just Castle Demesne. The Ballymena South Sure Start centre also includes Castle Demesne within its target wards.

Job Seekers Allowance

The table below sets out changes in rate of claimants of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) between Castle Demesne, the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards between 2004 and 2012. The JSA claimant rate was lower in Castle Demesne in 2012 than in both the NRAs and the counterfactual areas. In addition, the proportion of claimants increased at a slower rate in Castle Demesne than in the counterfactual wards and NRAs (an increase of 1.7 percentage points compared to an increase of 4 and 3.3 percentage points in the NRAs and the counterfactual wards respectively). However, the rate of JSA claimants was still considerably greater in Castle Demesne than the Northern Ireland average (excluding NRAs) of 4.4%.

Table E.23: Claimant Rate of JSA 2004 – 2012

Area	2004	2012	Change
Castle Demesne	5.4%	7.1%	+1.7%
NRAs	6.5%	10.5%	+4%
Counterfactual Wards	4.5%	7.8%	+3.3%

Source: DSD

Disability Living Allowance

The table below sets out changes in rate of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants in Castle Demesne, the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards between 2004 and 2012. Again, the rate of DLA claimants in 2012 was lower in Castle Demesne than the average for the 15 counterfactual wards and NRAs. The rate of change in the proportion of claimants was also much slower in Castle Demesne with a very marginal increase of 0.1 percentage points.

Table E.24: Claimant Rate of DLA 2004 – 2012

Area	2004	2012	Change
Castle Demesne	9.9%	10%	+0.1%
NRAs	17.1%	18.3%	+1.2%
Counterfactual Wards	11.9%	13.0%	+1.1%

Source: DSD

Pension Credit

The table below displays the trends in rate of claimants of Pension Credits between Castle Demesne, the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards between 2004 and 2012. Therefore, in 2011, just over 50% of the resident population aged 65 years and older were claiming Pension Credit. This claimant rate was very slightly higher; than the NRA average but less than the average claimant rate for the 15 counterfactual wards. The change in the rate over time did not vary significantly in the NRAs at only 0.2 percentage points, while there was an increase of 7 percentage points in the counterfactual wards. However, the claimant rate in Castle Demesne increased significantly (23.2 percentage points) between 2004 and 2012.

Table E.25: Claimant Rate of Pension Credit 2004 – 2012

Area	2004	2012	Change
Castle Demesne	31.5%	54.7%	+23.2%
NRAs	54.2%	54.6%	+0.2%
Counterfactual Wards	43.2%	50.2%	+7%

Source: DSD

Social Renewal (Education)

Attainment of 5 GCSEs A*-C

The table below sets out changes in the rate of pupils achieving 5 GCSEs from grade A*-C in Castle Demesne, the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards between 2004/5 and 2010/11. The proportions of pupils achieving this level was broadly the same for the NRAs and the counterfactual areas in both 2004/5 and 2010/11 (44% and 57/63% respectively) with both seeing an increase of 10-20% over this time. However, the proportion of school leavers 5 GCSEs from grade A*-C in Castle Demesne decreased over the same time period by over 12 percentage points and the overall proportion achieving this level in 2011 was 21 percentage points lower than the counterfactual wards and 19 percentage points lower than all NRAs. . Furthermore, the percentage of pupils achieving 5 GCSEs from grade A*-C in Castle Demesne is now significantly lower than the Northern Ireland average (excluding NRAs) of 76.2%.

Table E.26: Attainment of 5 GCSEs A*-C among School Leavers 2005 - 11

Area	2004/05	2010/11	Change
Castle Demesne	53.6%	41.2%	-12.4%
NRAs	43.8%	57.1%	+13.3%
Counterfactual Wards	43.7%	62.9%	+19.2%

Source: DSD

Social Renewal (Health)

Rate of Deaths under 75

The table below sets out changes in the proportion of deaths occurring in people under the age of 75 in Castle Demesne, the NRAs and the counterfactual wards, between 2005 and 2011. The rate of deaths in those aged under 75 increased significantly in Castle Demesne between 2005 and 2011 (an increase of 25 percentage points). This compares to very minor changes in the NRAs and the other counterfactual wards. Furthermore, this rate is now almost twice that of the Northern Ireland average (excluding NRAs) of 36.9%.

Table E.27: Rate of Deaths under 75 from 2005 – 11

Area	2005	2011	Change
Castle Demesne	40.0%	65.0%	+25.0%
NRAs	48.2%	49.8%	+1.6%
Counterfactual Wards	41.8%	41.0%	-0.8%

Source: DSD

Social Renewal (Crime/Community Well-being)

Total Recorded Crime

The table below displays changes in the rate of total recorded crime per 1,000 head of population in Castle Demesne, the NRAs and the counterfactual wards, between 2003 and 2011. The rate of recorded crime saw a significant decrease in Castle Demesne over time. However, the overall rate of total recorded crime per 1,000 head of population remained significantly higher in Castle Demesne in

2012 than in both the NRAs and counterfactual wards (702 per 1,000 head of population compared to 127 and 81 per 1,000 head of population in the NRAs and the counterfactual wards respectively).

Feedback from key stakeholders in the local area indicated that as the ward area consisted of large parts of Ballymena town centre, a large proportion of the crimes would relate to offences in and around public bars, particularly at the weekend.   This is also reflected in the rate of Anti-Social Behavioural Offences, as set out in table 7.24.

Table E.28: Total Recorded Crime per 1,000 head of Population (2003-2011)

Area	2003	2011	Change
Castle Demesne	429.8	341.1	-88.7
NRAs	147.3	132.3	-15
Counterfactual Wards	125.4	81.2	-44.2

Source: DSD

Anti-Social Behavioural Offences

The table below displays trends for Castle Demesne, the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards, between 2006 and 2011, in the rate of anti-social behaviour offences (ASBOs) per 1,000 head of population. The rate of ASBOs decreased in Castle Demesne from 2006 to 2011. However, the overall rate of anti-social behaviour offences per 1,000 head of population remained significantly higher in Castle Demesne than in 2011 than in both the NRAs and counterfactual wards (165 per 1,000 head of population compared to 71 and 59 per 1,000 head of population in the NRAs and the counterfactual wards respectively).

Table E.29: Total ASB Offences per 1,000 head of Population (2006-2011)

Area	2006	2011	Change
Castle Demesne	208	165	-43
NRAs	81.7	71.1	-10.6
Counterfactual Wards	94.8	59.3	-35.5

Source: DSD

Other services, providers and funders

Consultations with key stakeholders in the Ballymena area indicated that there is very little community infrastructure in the Castle Demense area, as a large part of the area consists of shops, restaurants and public bars in the town centre. An analysis of the government funding database shows that a range of community and voluntary sector organisations in the ward received just over £2.2 million in funding since 2004. They included Citizen's Advice, Women's Aid and the YMCA. However, as the addresses for these organisations were offices based in the town centre it is not clear if services or projects were also being delivered in the area.

Cross Glebe

Cross Glebe is within the Parliamentary Constituency of East Londonderry and on the eastern side of Coleraine town. The ward population is 2,665 and consists of the areas, Harpur's Hill, Newmills, Grasmere, Ashdale, Beechfield and parts of The Crescent, Ballycastle Road and Bushmills Road.

In 2001, it was ranked 156th in the Multiple Deprivation Indices and 116th in 2010, (where 1 is the most deprived and 582 is the least deprived), indicating that the area had become relatively more deprived. Data from the 2011 census shows that, 23.6% were aged under 16 years and 13.8% were aged 65 and over.

Map 3: Map of Cross Glebe, Coleraine
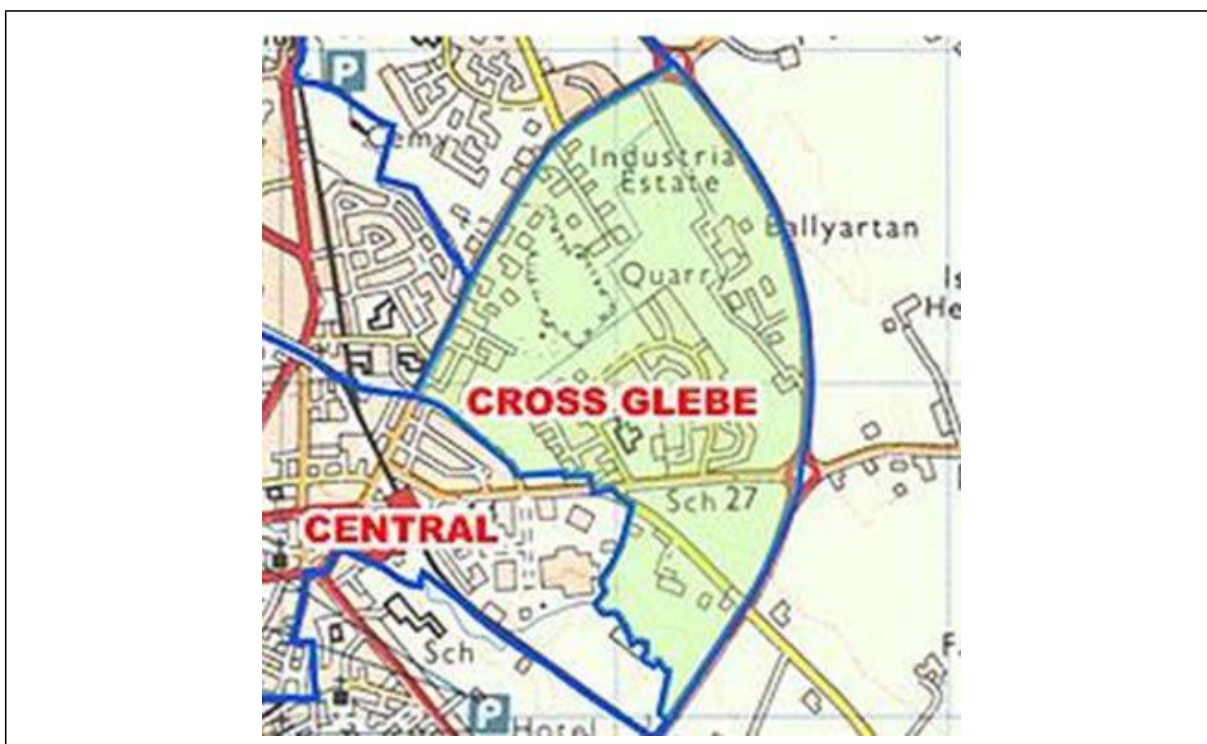
Source: NINIS

Job Seekers Allowance

The table below displays the trends in rate of claimants of Job Seekers Allowance between Cross Glebe, the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards between 2004 and 2012. There was an increase in the claimant rate across all the areas during this time period, although this increase was lowest in Cross Glebe; 2.1 percentage point increase compared to 4 and 3.3 percentage point increases in the NRAs and counterfactual areas respectively. The JSA claimant rate in Cross Glebe in 2012 was 2.6 percentage points lower than the NRAs, and 0.1 percentage points higher than in the average for all 15 counterfactual wards.

Table E.30: Claimant Rate of JSA 2004 – 2012

Area	2004	2012	Change
Cross Glebe	5.8%	7.9%	+2.1%
NRAs	6.5%	10.5%	+4%
Counterfactual Wards	4.5%	7.8%	+3.3%

Source: DSD

Disability Living Allowance

The table below displays the trends in rate of claimants of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) between Cross Glebe, the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards between 2004 and 2012. The claimant rate increased slightly in all the areas. However, the rate increased by the greatest proportion in Cross Glebe, although only slightly. The overall DLA claimant rate in Cross Glebe was lower in 2012 than both the NRAs and the average of the counterfactual wards at 12.9% compared to 18.3% in the NRAs and 13.0% in the counterfactual wards.

Table E.31: Claimant Rate of DLA 2004 – 2012

Area	2004	2012	Change
Cross Glebe	10.2%	12.9%	+2.7%
NRAs	17.1%	18.3%	+1.2%
Counterfactual Wards	11.9%	13.0%	+1.1%

Source: DSD

Pension Credit

The table below displays the trends in rate of claimants of Pension Credit between Cross Glebe, the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards between 2004 and 2012. The pension credit claimant rate did not vary significantly over this time period. There was a small increase in the claimant rate in Cross Glebe (2.8 percentage points), a more significant 7 percentage point increase in the counterfactual and an incremental change of 0.2 percentage points in the NRAs.

Table E.32: Claimant Rate of Pension Credit 2004 – 2012

Area	2004	2012	Change
Cross Glebe	64.2%	67%	+2.8%
NRAs	54.2%	54.6%	+0.2%
Counterfactual Wards	43.2%	50.2%	+7%

Source: DSD

Although the rate of Pension Credit claimants did not vary significantly from 2004 to 2012, the number of people claiming increased, as the proportion of the population aged 65 years and over increased by 67.2%.

Social Renewal (Education)

Attainment of 5 GCSEs A*-C

The table below displays changes in Cross Glebe, the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards between 2005 and 2011 in the rates 5 GCSEs from grade A*-C attainment. Significant improvements were noted in all the areas, as the proportion of school leavers achieving this level increased. The rate of improvement in Cross Glebe was an increase of 27.1 percentage points, compared to an increase of 18.4 and 19.2 percentage points in the NRAs and the counterfactual wards respectively. The rate of those leaving school in Cross Glebe with 5 or more GCSEs grades A-C is now close to the Northern Ireland average (excluding NRAs) of 76.2%.

Table E.33: Attainment of 5 GCSEs A*-C among School Leavers 2005 - 11

Area	2004/05	2010/11	Change
Cross Glebe	44.7%	71.9%	+27.1%
NRAs	43.8%	57.1%	+18.4%
Counterfactual Wards	43.7%	62.9%	+19.2%

Source: DSD

Social Renewal (Health)

Rate of Deaths under 75

The table below displays trends between Cross Glebe, the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards, between 2005 and 2011, in the proportion of deaths occurring in people under the age of 75. The rate of deaths in the under 75s changed very slightly in the NRAs and the counterfactual wards over the time; a 0.3 percentage point increase in the NRAs and a 0.8 percentage point decrease in the counterfactual wards. The proportion of deaths in the under 75s decreased at a faster rate in Cross Glebe over the same time period (by 8.1 percentage points) and the death rate was lower in Cross Glebe in 2011 than in both the NRAs and the counterfactual wards; 27.6% compared to 48.5% and 41.0% in the NRAs and the counterfactual wards respectively.

Table E.34: Rate of Deaths under 75 from 2005 – 11

Area	2005	2011	Change
Cross Glebe	35.7%	27.6%	-8.1%
NRAs	48.2%	49.8%	+0.3%
Counterfactual Wards	41.8%	41.0%	-0.8%

Source: DSD

Social Renewal (Crime/Community Well-being)

Total Recorded Crime

The table below sets out changes in crime rates in Cross Glebe, the NRAs and the counterfactual wards, between 2003 and 2011. The rate of crime decreased in each of the areas across this time period. Cross Glebe saw a significant decrease of 134 recorded crimes per 1,000 head of population. However, it should be noted that the rate in 2003 was significantly higher in Cross Glebe than in both the NRAs and the average for the 15 counterfactual wards, and the rate also remained higher in 2011 and significantly higher than the Northern Ireland average (excluding NRAs) of 43.7.

Table E.35: Total Recorded Crime per 1,000 head of Population (2003-2011)

Area	2003	2011	Change
Cross Glebe	278	144	-134
NRAs	147.3	132.3	-15
Counterfactual Wards	125.4	81.2	-44.2

Source: DSD

Anti-Social Behavioural Offences

The table below displays trends between the NRAs and the 15 counterfactual wards, between 2006 and 2011, in the rate of anti-social behaviour offences per 1,000 head of population. Again, the rate decreased in all areas and Cross Glebe saw the largest decrease. But again, the rate in 2006 was significantly higher in Cross Glebe than in both the NRAs and the counterfactual wards, and the rate also remained higher in 2011.

Table E.36: Total ASB Offences per 1,000 head of Population (2006-2011)

Area	2006	2011	Change
Cross Glebe	293	212	-81
NRAs	81.7	73.6	-8.1
Counterfactual Wards	94.8	59.3	-35.5

Source: DSD

Other Services and funders

Between 1995 and 2013 the Big Lottery awarded 500 grants totalling £14,748,587 to the Coleraine District Council area. Between September 2005 and January 2009, the Cross Glebe ward received 4 grants directly totalling £502,725.[36] The money was all directed at community based projects to improve the health, wellbeing and access to services for locals. The nearby Harpur's Hill's family centre also received £102,573 from the Big Lottery fund in 2002 to help create 2 new clubs that can accommodate for out of hours care for up to 40 pupils in total.

The NI Direct website indicates that between 2007 and 2013 community groups and schools within the Cross Glebe ward received at least £370,000 of funding from DSD and the Department of Education. Furthermore, in 2012 Cross Glebe was included in the DSD Areas at Risk programme.

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[36] Breakdown Available

Schools

There are 29 primary schools with a total of 4,721 pupils in the Coleraine local council district and 9 secondary schools with 4,311 pupils.

The local primary school is Harpur's Hill Primary School which had 171 pupils enrolled in 2012/13. Harpur's Hill is part of the extended schools programme and this year received £27,626. It also received £14,073 from big lottery between 2002 and 2012

Milburn Community Primary School is also very close but slightly larger with 370 pupils last year. Like Harpur's Hill, Millburn receives extended school funding and this year the school was allocated £35,426 by the Department of Education. In addition to this, Millburn received £15,000 between 2005 and 2007 from Big Lottery to help build an outdoor training facility.

Cross Glebe is also within the catchment area for the Coleraine Sure Start which is funded by the Department of Education.

APPENDIX F: CASE STUDIES

APPENDIX F1: WATERSIDE NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA

Description of NRA

The Waterside NRA is located within the Greater Derry area on the east side of the River Foyle. It encompasses six specific areas; Top of the Hill, Irish Street, Tullyally, Currynierin, Clooney and Caw. There are two interface areas within the Waterside, notably, Irish Street with the Top of the Hill and Currynierin with Tullyally which are located predominantly within the Victoria electoral ward however there are also areas within the Altnagelvin, Clondermot, Caw, Ebrington, Holly Mount and Lisnagelvin electoral wards.

Socio Economic Context and Changes[37]

The following section outlines the key socio-economic changes within the Waterside NRA over the duration of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

Population

The population of the Waterside Neighbourhood Renewal Area was 9,577 at the time of the Census in 2011. The demographic profile of the area is presented in the table below.

Table F1.1: Age Demography of Waterside NRA using Census Data (2001-2011)

	Persons aged 0-15 years	Persons aged 16-59/64 years	Persons aged 60+ years	Total
2001	2,106	5,033	1,617	8,756
2011	1,941	5,810	1,826	9,577
Percentage change (%)	-7.83%	15.45%	12.93%	9.38%

Source: NISRA Census of Population Survey 2011

From the above table it is apparent that the population within the Waterside NRA has experienced a notable increase over the course of the strategy of just under 10%. This increase occurred despite a decrease of circa 165 individuals in the youth population and is mostly accounted for by an increase of over 15% in the working age population.

Economic Renewal

The table below details trends relating to economic activity across the Waterside NRA in comparison to the average rates across all NRAs and all non-NRAs in Northern Ireland.

Table F1.2: Economic Activity Indicators

	Economically Active (%)		Unemployed (%)		L/T Unemployed (%)	
	2001	**2011**	**2001**	**2011**	**2001**	**2011**
Waterside NRA	52.1%	58.1%	8.5%	9.5%	42.5%	49.2%
All NRAs	49.7	57.1	8.1	8.3	46.7	47.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	64.7	67.9	3.4	4.3	37.6	44.1

Source: NISRA Northern Ireland Census of Population Survey 2001 and 2011

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[37] Statistics Courtesy of NINIS unless stated otherwise

As set out in the previous table, the rate of economic activity within the Waterside NRA showed a significant increase, 6 percentage points, over the course of the strategy. The rate of economic activity within the Waterside NRA remains above the all-NRA average. Despite this, the area did see an increase of 1 percentage point in its rate of unemployment while the rate of long-term unemployment increased to almost 50%.

The following table sets out the changes within the Waterside NRA in relation to other indicators of economic renewal from 2003 to 2013.

Table F1.3: Age Key Economic Renewal Indicator Changes

	Income Support (%)		JSA Claimants (%)		DLA Claimants (%)	
	2004	**2012**	**2003**	**2013**	**2003**	**2013**
Waterside NRA	22.7	14.7	7.1	11.7	15.4	15.6
All NRAs	25.5	17.5	6.5	10.5	17.1	18.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	6.7	5.0	2.5	4.5	7.7	9.1

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (Waterside) 2013

As set out in the above table, the rate of income support decreased significantly across all NRAs and across the rest of NI between 2004 and 2012. This is considered to be attributable to benefit eligibility changes by central government as part of a concerted effort to move people off Income Support. Consistent with a rising rate of unemployment, there was a marked increase in the number of JSA claimants within the Waterside NRA of 4.6 percentage points. There was little change in the claimant rate of DLA over the same period.

Social Renewal

The table below details the trends relating to educational achievement within the Waterside NRA over the course of the strategy.

Table F1.4: Social Renewal: Education Indicators

	KS2, Level 4 English %		KS2, Level 4 Maths %		5 GCSEs (A* - C) %		No GCSEs %	
	2004	2011	2004	2011	2004	2011	2004	2011
Waterside NRA	79.2	81,.8	75.0	76.5	37.6	53.3	10.6	2.8
All NRAs	64.1	73.6	67.6	74.8	43.8	62.3	12	3.1
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	79.7	84.4	81.9	84.7	66.9	76.2	3.7	1.8

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (Waterside) 2013

The table above highlights an overall improvement in the levels of educational attainment within the Waterside NRA over the course of the strategy. This is especially evident at GCSE level where attainment of 5 or more GCSEs A*-C increased by 15.7 percentage points over the lifetime of the strategy while the rate of school leavers with no GCSEs decreased by 7.8 percentage points. The rate of GCSE attainment, however, remains 9 percentage points lower than the average NRA attainment rate.

The table below details the trends within the Waterside NRA relating to health outcomes.

Table F1.5: Social Renewal: Health Indicators

	Deaths under 75 (%)		Alcohol Related Deaths (%)		Births, Teenage Mothers (%)	
	2005	**2010**	**05-09**	**06-10**	**2005**	**2010**
Waterside NRA	52.0	59.8	0.9	1.1	8.0	13.0
All NRAs	48.2	49.8	3.6	3.7	13.5	9.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	47.3	36.9	1.4	1.5	4.6	4.1

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (Waterside) 2013

The table above demonstrates poorer outcomes, relating to key health indicators, in the Waterside NRA over the course of the strategy compared to all NRAs and the rest of NI. The rate of deaths under 75 has increased by 7.8 percentage points and is 10 percentage points higher than the all NRA average. Alcohol related deaths have also increased marginally, however these remain below the average rate for all NRAs and also the rest of NI. There has also been a 5 percentage point increase in the rate of births to teenage mothers.

The table below details trends relating to crime and community wellbeing outcomes in the Waterside NRA.

Table F1.6: Social Renewal: Crime and Community Wellbeing Indicators

(per 1,000 population)	Total no. offences		Drug Offences		Anti-Social Behaviour	
	2003	**2011**	**2003**	**2011**	**2006**	**2011**
Waterside NRA	99.4	100.3	1.8	1.8	86.0	60.2
All NRAs	147.3	132.3	2.8	4.7	87.1	71.1
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	61.4	43.7	1.3	1.6	53.2	29.2

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (Waterside) 2013

The table above demonstrates little change in the Waterside NRA, in terms of incidence of crime, over the lifetime of the strategy. The rate of total offences increased slightly by 0.9 per 1,000 of population over this time period. This is still significantly lower than the average rate of 132.3 per 1,000 of population across all NRAs. Over the same period, the rate of drug offences remained static at 1.8 per 1,000 of population. Consistent with other areas and the rest of Northern Ireland, the rate of anti-social behaviour incidents showed a significant decrease.

Funding and Expenditure[38]

The table below, details the capital and revenue project expenditure in the Waterside NRA over the course of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme.

Table F1.7: Revenue and Capital Expenditure in Waterside NRA 2003-2013

	Revenue		Capital	
Waterside	£6,741,715	93.6%	£485.912	6.4%
Overall Neighbourhood Renewal Programme Spend	£99,158,106	60%	£66,084,932	40%

Source: DSD

In terms of the split between Revenue and Capital projects, there is a large deviation in the Waterside NRA away from the average overall split across Neighbourhood Renewal programme. The vast majority of NR funding in the Waterside area was utilised for revenue related activities with only 6.4% being utilised in capital projects to contribute toward physical regeneration.

Capital and Revenue projects funded through the NR Programme are aimed toward relieving poor outcomes resulting from deprivation across the four strategic objectives. The following table illustrates the breakdown of allocation and expenditure of funds in the financial year of 2012/13 across the strategic objectives. This is compared to the proportional spend across each objective across the entire Neighbourhood Renewal Programme for the same time period.

Table F1.8: Allocation and Expenditure for Waterside NRA for 2012/13

Strategic Objective	Waterside NRA		Overall Programme	
	Spend	% total	Spend	% total
Community Renewal	£639,648	64.3%	£9,688,595	33.5%
Social Renewal	£71.874	7.2%	£7,815,194	27%
Physical Renewal	£214,385	21.6%	£8,794,733	30.4%
Economic Renewal	£68,471	6.9%	£2,634,544	9.1%
Total	**£994,378**	**100%**	**£28,933,065**	**100%**

Source: Waterside NRA Annual Report 2012/13

Within the Waterside NRA, spend over 2012/13 followed a similar pattern to overall programme spend, across all NRAs for the same year, with spending predominantly focused on the community and physical renewal objectives, however there was a significantly reduced level of spend on social renewal compared to previous years. The lowest level of investment across the overall programme was toward targeting economic renewal within the area.

Here are some key Achievements for 2012/13 from Neighbourhood Renewal funded projects:

- 24.4 FTE Permanent jobs safeguarded;
- 152 residents obtaining a qualification on completion of formal training;
- 1135 accessing new/improved health facilities;
- 4604 people achieving crime prevention initiatives; and
- 3700m^2 improved business/commercial floor space.

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[38] DSD Annual Report Waterside 2012/13

These achievements were realised through a number of varying projects and area interventions. Some of the key projects that took place across the Waterside NRA, and spend on them as of March 2013, include:

- Lapwing Way Park Regeneration – c.£159,500; A project aiming to ensure that people living in deprived neighbourhoods have access to services and opportunities which make for a better quality of life. The regeneration is to make this site cleaner, greener and safer while building community cohesion within and ownership of the area.
- Upgrading of street lighting on Foyle Embankment – c.£54,900; Providing safer streets for all road users and pedestrians while enhancing the physical daytime and night time appearance.
- Derry 2020 – c.£45,500; A citywide collaborative approach to community development incorporating a combination of activities enabling people to access all available opportunities to gain the education and skills to find sustainable employment and make them inclusive in economic society.
- WHSCT Neighbourhood Health Improvement Project – c.£32,300; Development of an integrated and collaborative approach to addressing health improvement. Enables each community in the Waterside NRA to improve their health and wellbeing. Aimed to add value to existing work by developing new ways of addressing health improvement in NRAs through a collaborative integrated approach.
- Salaries and running costs for various community activities – c.£327,200; Various projects offering a comprehensive range of services and activities addressing issues ranging from crime and anti-social behaviour, health and well-being, worklessness and education, social inclusion etc.

Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Nature and Structure

The Waterside Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership was established in October 2007 and is made up of 24 members including one strategy manager employed full time to manage the Waterside Partnership Board and the Neighbourhood Renewal Process in the area. The Partnership meets on a six weekly basis.

The Partnership Annual report (2012/13) notes that the existence of the interface has created a number of issues within the NRA. According to the annual report as a result of this the Partnership has begun to, 'engage with the community to put in place projects as identified within the Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) that increase confidence and build capacity in the Waterside Neighbourhood Renewal Area' to minimise the impacts of community tensions and to encourage engagement between the communities involved, particularly within the Tullyalley area.

Themes Emerging from Consultation with NR Partnership

Area Improvement

The Partnership felt that the whole impact and level of improvement within the area was hard to gauge given the dispersed nature of the neighbourhoods within the Waterside. They felt this may have contributed toward limiting the effectiveness of the Programme.

Major health improvement and awareness programmes have also been rolled out and it was felt the community was starting to see the benefits of this with some real positive outcomes now beginning to emerge. Part of the success is the ability for Neighbourhood Renewal to tie into wider citywide projects, in order to deliver massive impacts across the City.

It was felt that the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme has been the primary catalyst for many of these impacts and that they simply would not have been attainable in the absence of the Programme.

One Community representative felt that, to a large degree, positive impacts were derived simply from the increased capacity provided through increased level of staff enabling more effective delivery of Projects. It was felt that, at the present time, the area was only at the stage where the foundations had been laid and it was now a required to move forward and to build on these foundations.

The Partnership did feel, however, that the Development Office was overly obsessive about numbers and quantitative results from programmes, a lot of positive individual stories get lost in this.

Area Achievements through Neighbourhood Renewal

Physical Renewal

The regeneration of Lapwing Way Playpark has contributed toward the provision of new play facilities in the area for a better quality of life for children deprived of such facilities before.

One of the key improvements made to the area included the redevelopment of 4 derelict flats into a new Community and Cultural centre. It was stated that demand for this facility has been such that an extension to the centre is likely to be a requirement in the near future.

Social Renewal

The activities being delivered through the WHSCT health and well-being project, it was felt, were beginning to have a major impact with a high level of demand and enthusiasm for the programmes. The NIHE also delivered a Social Education Programme for young people in order to foster good community relations and build a sense of civic pride in the area.

The Waterside NRA also benefitted from schemes being delivered across all areas of the city including the Community Safety Wardens Programme, which aims to reduce the level of ASB and graffiti in the area, as well as a Breast Cancer Support Programme being delivered across the city which offers support, counselling and guidance along with health promotion and awareness.

Economic Renewal

Activities relating to economic renewal are, in the main, delivered through the Derry 2020 initiative which functions across all 4 Neighbourhood Renewal Areas in the Derry City area. Provided through this are personal development opportunities, workshops to improve employability, accredited courses and job sampling opportunities. The Active Citizenship through Sport project also aims to allow people from a range of backgrounds to avail of opportunities for both accredited and non-accredited training opportunities in sport and physical activity.

The accredited Tourism and Arts Ambassador project run through Enterprise North West has also been aiding people in the area to gain employment within the leisure, transport and tourism sectors.

Community Renewal

One of the major stated improvements had been in the building of capacity within the community as a result of neighbourhood renewal. The provision of salaries for dedicated workers within the community had boosted their capabilities to deliver their Neighbourhood Renewal project centrally and more effectively as a result. This included the provision of salaries and core costs for the Irish Street Community Assoc., Currynierin Community Assoc., Clooney Estate Residents Assoc., and Hillcrest House Ltd. One of the most significant areas of intervention was the provision of a full time welfare rights officer through Curryniernin Community Assoc. to ensure people were not suffering through lack of knowledge of welfare entitlements.

Partnership Model of Delivery

The Partnership model in Waterside is one that shifting as the Partnership strived to find the optimum mechanism for delivery. Currently, it was stated, the Partnership has co-chairs representing each side of the split communities within the NRAs contained within Waterside. It was hoped that in the near future the Partnership would be able to get beyond this.

The Partnership has also been seeking to build its capacity throughout the time of the Programme and had recently been provided with administration support which has aided it in this regard enormously. The Partnership is now seeking to build its influence and gain an increased measure of control in what is happening and being delivered.

Up to now, the Partnership perceived itself to be largely an approval body. It felt a community driven partnership developing programmes based on their own experiences of needs within the community would be a much more effective mechanism for the delivery of interventions that will make a difference.

Factors of Success and Key Challenges

Key success factors highlighted by the Partnership representatives:

- The Partnership was keen to emphasise the importance of the community driven nature of identification and prioritisation of needs was key to the Programme now the community needed to be given the opportunity to develop the necessary projects to address this.
- The Partnership also highlighted the importance of the change in attitude from the statutory bodies. Whereas before they used to be sitting outside statutory meetings, the same bodies are now actively utilising the Partnership. While in some areas statutory involvement is still nowhere near the Partnership would ideally like it to be, it is an important development regardless.

Key challenges/constraints highlighted by Partnership representatives:

- The key constraint within Waterside was identified as the disjointed nature of the NRA. Having around 9 small neighbourhoods within a larger area resulted in a patchwork delivery of services which were difficult to join up. It was felt this also fostered a *"them v us"* mentality between NRAs and non-NRAs in the Waterside, which could ultimately be destructive to efforts to achieve the overall aims of Neighbourhood Renewal.
- Problems were also highlighted in the poor rates of attainment of staff delivering on projects as a result of the short term nature of funding, which it was felt ran contrary to the long term vision of Neighbourhood Renewal, as well as poor working entitlements in relation to any other Civil Service worker, specifically sick leave, maternity leave etc. This posed a real hinderance to groups trying to deliver positive outcomes on the ground.

Other Key Issues

The Partnership were in agreement that while many positive impacts and stories were emerging in the area, many of which would have been unattainable in the absence of Neighbourhood Renewal funding, there was still a long way to go to fully address the prevailing causes and poor outcomes of deprivation in the Waterside area. It was felt the period of the NR strategy had been useful in laying the foundations for this, but it was essential the areas were now provided with the opportunity to push on and really deliver positive outcomes.

The Partnership were aware that NR funding would not be available forever and for that reason it was felt a greater level of central delivery in the area was required in order to provide the area with an

increased capacity to access other sources of funding. This would also provide them with the flexibility to provide services to in the Waterside which are also experiencing deprivation.

A key concern highlighted, and a key recommendation for going forward, centred on the short-termism of Neighbourhood Renewal funding. The 9 month – 1 year funding periods which had predominated much of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme had prevented organisations from maintaining their capacity and prevented them from forward planning in such a way which could have greatly increased the effectiveness of projects delivered. It was suggested going forward funding periods of 3 years minimum and 5 year optimum would be required.

While the Partnership agreed on the need for the requirement for funding to be targeted, it was felt there should have been a greater level of community engagement to allow for the identification and addressing of smaller pockets of need as the current delivery didn't make much sense to people on the ground and had caused friction. This was hard for outside groups delivering services in the area who found themselves caught up in the middle.

It was felt that Neighbourhood Renewal had resulted in a noticeably better joined up approach to service delivery between statutory agencies whose remits were inextricably linked. While there had been debate about the youth programme and health improvement programme, the Partnership could see a definitely better joined up approach. It was felt the Partnerships themselves had played a key role in facilitating this.

With the transfer of responsibility into Councils the Partnership expressed some concerns. These were based on what they knew about the Council as they were not yet aware of specific information regarding the transfer. The Partnerships were concerned how targeted funding could be fitted with the Council's 'Equality for All' responsibilities, and whether the targeted nature of the funding could be lost. The Partnership also perceived there to be a higher level of bureaucracy within the Council compared to the NW Development Office while none of the existing staff in the Council come from a community background.

The Partnership felt that "all Partnerships should be allowed greater level of consultation on the changeover than has been evident to date so issues at a local level can start to be discussed".

RSM McClure Watters (Consulting)
Connected for Success

Department for Social Development
Evaluation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
Final Report - September 2014

APPENDIX F2: BALLYMENA NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA

Location of NRA

The Ballymena NRA is chiefly comprised of two estates namely Ballee and Ballykeel. These estates are situated on the south-east periphery of the town and include area contributions from the Ballee, Ballykelly, Harryville and Moat electoral wards.

Socio Economic Context and Changes[39]

The following section outlines the key socio-economic changes within the Ballymena NRA over the duration of the Neighbourhood Renewal strategy.

Population

The population of the Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Areas was 4,199 at the time of the Census in 2011. The demographic profile of the areas is presented in the table below.

Table F2:1: Age Demographics from Census data (2001-2011)

	Persons aged 0-15 years	Persons aged 16-59/64 years	Persons aged 60+ years	Total
2001	1,244	2,863	616	4,631
2011	927	2,622	754	4,199
Percentage change (%)	-25.48%	-8.42%	22.40%	-9.80%

Source: NISRA Census of Population Survey 2001 and 2011

From the table, above, it is apparent that the population within the Ballymena NRA has experienced a significant decline, of just under 10%, over the course of the NR Strategy. While the overall population decreased there was a significant increase in the proportion of those over the age of 60 in the area. This trend is likely to produce further future challenges in addressing issues relating to deprivation and poverty in the area.

Economic Renewal

The following table details trends relating to economic activity across the Ballymena NRA in comparison to the average rates across all NRAs and all non-NRAs in Northern Ireland.

Table F2.2: Economic Activity Indicators

	Economically Active (%)		Unemployed (%)		L/T Unemployed (%)	
	2001	**2011**	**2001**	**2011**	**2001**	**2011**
Ballymena NRA	58.2	60.2	6.9	7.5	44.6	43.5
All NRAs	49.7	57.1	8.1	8.3	46.7	47.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	64.7	67.9	3.4	4.3	37.6	44.1

Source: NISRA Northern Ireland Census of Population Survey 2001 and 2011

As set out in the above table, the rate of economic activity increased marginally within the Ballymena NRA over the course of the strategy. The rate still remains above the average across all NRAs, but

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[39] NINIS unless stated otherwise

also behind the rest of NI average. Percentage unemployment increased by 0.6 percentage points within the Ballymena NRA over the lifetime of the strategy.

The following table sets out the changes within the Ballymena NRA in relation to other indicators of economic renewal from 2003 to 2013.

Table F2.3: Key Socio-Economic Changes

	Income Support (%)		JSA Claimants (%)		DLA Claimants (%)	
	2004	**2012**	**2003**	**2013**	**2003**	**2013**
Ballymena NRA	17.6	12.5	5.5	10.6	9.8	11.9
All NRAs	25.5	17.5	6.5	10.5	17.1	18.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	6.7	5.0	2.5	4.5	7.7	9.1

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (Ballymena) 2013

As set out above, the rate of income support decreased significantly across all NRAs and across the rest of NI between 2004 and 2012. This is considered to be attributable to benefit eligibility changes by central government as part of a concerted effort to move people off Income Support. There has been a significant increase in the uptake of JSA within the area consistent with the increase across all NRAs.

Social Renewal

The table below details the trends relating to educational attainment within the Ballymena NRA.

Table F2.4: Social Renewal: Education

	KS2, Level 4 English %		KS2, Level 4 Maths %		5 GCSEs (A* - C) %		No GCSEs %	
	2004	**2011**	**2004**	**2011**	**2004**	**2011**	**2004**	**2011**
Ballymena NRA	44.4	71.1	55.6	75.6	26.9	46.2	15.4	1.8
All NRAs	64.1	73.6	67.6	74.8	43.8	62.3	12	3.1
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	79.7	84.4	81.9	84.7	66.9	76.2	3.7	1.8

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (Ballymena) 2013

The table above highlights that educational attainment within Ballymena has demonstrated substantial improvements over the lifetime of the strategy. In terms of attainment at Key Stage 2 level, the area has improved from being significantly behind the all NRAs to almost parity. Attainment at GCSE level has also improved, however it still lags behind the average for all NRAs.

The table below details the trends within the Ballymena NRA relating to health outcomes.

Table F2.5: Social Renewal: Health

	Deaths under 75 (%)		Alcohol Related Deaths (%)		Births, Teenage Mothers (%)	
	2005	**2010**	**05-09**	**06-10**	**2005**	**2010**
Ballymena NRA	50	77.8	4.8	5.4	17.5	3.7
All NRAs	48.2	49.8	3.6	3.7	13.5	9.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	47.3	36.9	1.4	1.5	4.6	4.1

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (Ballymena) 2013

The Ballymena NRA has experienced an increase in the mortality rate of under 75s and alcohol related deaths over the course of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. The rate of both is significantly higher than the average across all NRAs. The area did demonstrate a 13.8 percentage point decrease in the rate of teenage births however.

The table below details trends relating to crime and community wellbeing outcomes in the Ballymena NRA.

Table F2.6: Social Renewal: Crime

(per 1,000 population)	Total no. offences		Drug Offences		Anti-Social Behaviour	
	2003	**2011**	**2003**	**2011**	**2006**	**2011**
Ballymena NRA	108.2	103.6	2.2	1.6	82.3	90.8
All NRAs	147.3	132.3	2.8	4.7	87.1	71.1
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	61.4	43.7	1.3	1.6	53.2	29.2

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (Ballymena) 2013

The table above highlights only marginal changes in outcomes relating to crime and community wellbeing within the Ballymena NRA. The area demonstrated a slight decrease of 4.6 offences per 1,000 population over the course of the strategy. Likewise there was a 0.6 per 1,000 population decrease in drugs related offences. In contrast to most areas, the rate of anti-social behaviour incidences increased over the course of the strategy.

Public Opinion/Awareness

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) survey[40] completed in 2012 highlighted that awareness of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy is low with 73% of occupants unaware that their home was in the NRA. In addition to this, only 35% of respondents felt that the area was changing for the better with the remainder saying that the area had gotten worse or not really changed (14% and 52% respectively).

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[40] NIHE Ballymena NRA survey 2012

Funding and Expenditure

The table below, details the Capital and Revenue project expenditure over the course of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme within the Ballymena NRA.

Table F2.7: Revenue and Capital Expenditure in Ballymena NRA 2003 – 2013

	Revenue		Capital	
Ballymena	£3,133,288.74	58.5%	£2,219,158.21	41.5%
Overall Neighbourhood Renewal Programme Spend	£99,158,106	60%	£66,084,932	40%

Source: DSD

Overall the split in funding between capital and revenue projects in the Ballymena NRA largely mirrors the split in overall Neighbourhood Renewal programme spend between 2003 and 2013. Almost three fifths of project spend in the Ballymena area was targeted at revenue projects with the remaining spend utilised in capital projects aimed at physical regeneration of the area.

Capital and Revenue projects funded through the NR Programme are aimed toward relieving poor outcomes resulting from deprivation across the four strategic objectives. The following table illustrates the breakdown of allocation and expenditure of funds in the financial year of 2012/13 across the strategic objectives. This is compared to the proportional spend across each objective across the entire Neighbourhood Renewal Programme for the same time period.

Table F2.8: CFF Funding and Spend (2012/13)

Strategic Objective	Ballymena NRA		Overall Programme	
	Spend	% total	Spend	% total
Community Renewal	£51,075.61	19.4%	£9,688,595	33.5%
Social Renewal	£85,102.93	32.4%	£7,815,194	27%
Physical Renewal	£84,790.30	32.2%	£8,794,733	30.4%
Economic Renewal	£42,143.04	16.0%	£2,634,544	9.1%
Total	**£263,111.88**	**100%**	**£28,933,065**	**100%**

Source: Ballymena NRA Annual Report 2012/13

In 2012/13, there was almost an equal level of spend targeted towards activities under the Social and Physical renewal objectives. Activities relating to Economic renewal, consistent with overall programme spend for the year, saw the lowest level of investment. Overall, the level of spend in Ballymena for 2012/13 was relatively low, accounting for 0.9% of overall project spend for the year.

Here are some key Achievements for 2012/13 from Neighbourhood Renewal funded projects:

- 10 full time permanent jobs created and 7 full time permanent jobs safeguarded
- 76 childcare/nursery school places created
- 27 pupils whose attendance has measurably improved
- 300 participants in health and education awareness initiatives
- 395 people benefitting from projects to promote personal and social development.

These achievements were realised through a number of varying projects and area interventions. Some of the key projects that took place across the Ballymena NRA, and spend on them as of March 2013, include:

- Ballee Community Centre Refurbishment – c.£84,800; A project aiming to provide a safe and user friendly community facility through external and internal renovations to the Ballee centre so to encourage a greater usage of the centre to delivery various activities from health and fitness to IT courses.
- Development Officer and admin. support from Ballymena BC – c.£51,100; With responsibility to co-ordinate the successful delivery and implementation of the Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan.
- Barnardos Jigsaw Project – c.£ 48,800; Aiming to address barriers to educational attainment and improve the experience of school for children and their parents.
- BEAT NI Ltd. – c.£33,700; A social economy project providing a range of home and garden services within the area so to provide training opportunities and target unemployment in the area.
- Ballee Community Childcare – c.£14,100; Developed in order to address the shortfall in childcare provision in the area, identified a major identified need within the area.

Nature and Structure of the Partnership

The Ballymena partnership was set up in 2005 and is currently made up of 25 members comprising representation from the community, voluntary and community sector, statutory sector as well as representation from Ballymena Borough Council.

The Partnership meets on a bi-monthly basis with administrative services provided through a coordinator and administrator with in Ballymena Council. Four sub-groups have been formed that are categorised as: Health, Economic and Employability, Education and Community.

Themes Emerging from Consultation with NR Partnership

Area Achievements through Neighbourhood Renewal

Physical Renewal

The physical improvements to the environment were felt to have generated a greater level of pride in the area among the community. Vandalism was felt to have decreased as people were more likely to respect an area if it was well kept.

The development of business units had been a huge success with occupancy at full capacity and businesses started up within the units having moved out in order to expand. Employment within the area had been generated as a result and so capital spend had also generated contributions to economic renewal within the area.

The most recent achievement through physical renewal was through the refurbishment of Ballee Community Centre which had raised the capacity within it to deliver activities relating to health and fitness, youth programme, IT training and combating social exclusion and isolation in the area.

It was also considered important to keep a focus on the environmental aspect, even despite it not being considered a strategic priority within the NR Programme.

Social Renewal

Attendance at pre-school and after-school groups delivered through Neighbourhood Renewal was almost at 100%. There had also been a noticeable increase in educational attainment in the area and crime and anti-social behaviour incidences were down through better lighting.

The major project relating to educational attainment is Jigsaw delivered through Barnardo's which is currently working to address barriers to educational attainment while also trying to improve the experiences of school for both children and parents.

The Partnership felt that the area had been crying out for investment in health programmes for a while now and had been actively pursuing area investment to this effect. However the required links with the Northern Trust and PHA were stated to be just not there. With the appointment of a health co-ordinator from the Northern Trust the partnership is now looking towards developing this aspect.

Economic Renewal

The Partnership noted that currently the business units developed were at 100% occupancy, this had created a measure of additional employment in the area. There were also courses being run through the Northern Regional College, however these were proving to be taking a lot of time to set up.

A major social economy project was run through the development of Beat NI Ltd. which provided training opportunities and targeted the unemployed in the area. Beat NI ceased trading, however, in November 2012.

Enterprise projects are run through the Ballymena Business Centre targeting women in the area who may be seeking to start their own business, as well as targeting micro-enterprises and providing training to increase their capacity to grow and expand.

Community Renewal

Capacity within the community has been increased through the appointment of development officers, through Ballymena BC, and administrative support to increase the effectiveness of development of programmes to be delivered through Neighbourhood Renewal.

It was felt it was difficult to say whether "x, y and z " had been brought about as a direct result of Neighbourhood Renewal, however it was noted the Neighbourhood Renewal funding would have been the automatic source of support sought when developing projects. In almost all cases it was deemed to be a catalyst for projects to get up and running and gain sustainability through other sources of funding.

Partnership Model of Delivery

It was felt the Partnership model had worked ok as far as operating within their designated role. It had allowed community working across three separate areas to be joined together into one concerted effort to address issues in the overall area.

However, it was felt that the Partnership should have been allowed a greater role as it was felt it did not have the same level of influence they perceived to be present in other partnerships. It was stated that the Partnership had some "*statutory representatives literally just sitting there and contributing nothing".*

Currently it was felt the Partnership didn't have enough buy-in to the process and was merely there to give the appearance of community involvement in the overall process. A lot of community organisations in the area are strong and possess the required capacity to effectively develop and deliver interventions, it was felt that to date they haven't been allowed or trusted to use this.

Factors of Success and Key Challenges

Key success factors highlighted by the Partnership representatives:

- Key to the success of the Programme was perceived to be the relationships with DSD representatives on the Partnership. It was felt this had enabled the community to get past ill feeling toward the Department arising from previous experiences. A limitation to the effectiveness of this was a perceived lack of influence these representatives had within the Department.
- The Partnership felt that the geographical closeness of the three areas had meant there was already a pre-existing good level of working together which allowed for a fairly seamless transition into the integration into one Partnership and the working together between these areas in the Partnership.

Key challenges/constraints highlighted by the Partnership representatives:

- Excessive red tape around the administration of funding, and the time spent waiting for funding decisions to be made was identified as a key challenge to the effective delivery of Neighbourhood Renewal in the area. It was felt that the time spent waiting for funding decisions to be made, and for the funding itself to then become available, was not motivating anyone in the community.
- The Partnership also felt that questions needed to be asked over the level of training that had been given to some of the DSD staff they had been dealing with, especially in a community sense. It was felt that in a lot of cases the staff operated in a way that was far removed from considerations of how the community actually worked.

Other Key Issues

It was felt that the 10% scope of targeting deprivation was probably ideal as it targeted a lot of people who were in severe need while not spreading the money too thinly over a larger number of people. The partnership cautioned, however, against the effect it may have on reinforcing the mindset amongst the people that they are in a "disadvantaged" area.

There were no perceived problems with regards to joined up working at a partnership/statutory agency level. Inter departmental joined up working very much depended on the project. There was little trouble in them deciding amongst themselves within whose remit a particular need within the area was. Problems arose with some seeking to hold onto their funding and seeking to use NR budget instead. "*The question needs to be asked, are these activities strictly additional in this case?*"

One of the key frustrations expressed by the Partnership was a perceived lack of focus on the long term sustainability of the deprived communities in Ballymena. The Partnership had proposed a wind turbine project which would see the area generate sustainable income through selling electricity to the National Grid. This would allow the communities to become self-sufficient and reduce any future need for funding of the manner of Neighbourhood Renewal. There has been no movement on this project by the Department. The Partnership did recognise that it may be a "*victim of timing and, no matter how worthwhile the project may be, the necessary funding just may not be available*".

Going forward, the Partnership was hopeful that with their bigger sizes, the Councils may have a greater degree of leverage in getting statutory bodies to buy into the process. But at this moment there was too much misinformation to truly know how it would play out.

The Partnership were keen to stress how the community needs to be involved in future capacity and that community capacity needs to be built. There also needed to be a good level of understanding between the Council and community so each can understand the influences and pressures faced by each. It was also felt safeguards would be required to protect the process from undue political influences.

APPENDIX F3: COALISLAND AND DUNGANNON NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA

Location of NRA

The Dungannon and Coalisland NRAs are located within the Dungannon and South Tyrone local government district. The Coalisland NRA is made up of contributing housing estates and areas within the Coalisland North and Coalisland South electoral wards. The area contribution to the Dungannon NRA is through the Ballysaggart and Mullaghmore electoral wards. Although formed as separate NRAs, the two areas amalgamated to form one larger partnership.

Socio - Economic Context and Changes[41]

The following section outlines key socio-economic changes occurring in the Coalisland and Dungannon NRAs over the duration of the Neighbourhood Renewal strategy.

Population

The combined population of the two Neighbourhood Renewal Areas is 4,256 according to Census data from 2011. The breakdown for each area and their demographics are presented in the table below.

Table F3.1: Coalisland and Dungannon NRA Population Statistics 2011

		Persons aged 0-15 years	Persons aged 16-59/64 years	Persons aged 60+ years	Total Usual Residents
Coalisland	2001	550	1,075	246	1,841
	2011	625	1,709	405	2,681
	Change (%)	+13.6%	+59.0%	+64.6%	+45.6%
Dungannon	2001	210	438	151	778
	2011	340	999	270	1,575
	Change (%)	+61.9%	+128.1%	+78.8%	+102.4%
Total	2001	760	1,513	397	2,619
	2011	965	2,708	675	4,256
	Change (%)	+26.0%	+78.0%	+70.0%	+62.5%

Source: NINNIS/Census 2001/2011

As we can see from the table, both areas have experienced a substantial growth particularly in the Dungannon NRA where the population more than doubled between 2001 and 2011.

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[41] Statistics are courtesy of NINIS unless stated otherwise

Economic Renewal

The table below details trends relating to economic activity across the 2 NRAs in comparison to the average rates across all NRAs and all non-NRAs in Northern Ireland.

Table F3.2: Economic Activity Indicators

	Economically Active (%)		Unemployed (%)		L/T Unemployed (%)	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
Dungannon NRA	37.8	47.1	7.2	5.9	35.1	32.8
Coalisland NRA	62.1	57.2	5.2	8.0	45.2	43.9
All NRAs	49.7	57.1	8.1	8.3	46.7	47.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	64.7	67.9	3.4	4.3	37.6	44.1

Source: NISRA Northern Ireland Census of Population Survey 2001 and 2011

As set out in the above table, the rate of economic activity increased substantially within both areas over the lifetime of the strategy, however they still lag significantly behind the rest of Northern Ireland, especially in the case of the Dungannon NRA. Percentage unemployment increased within the Coalisland NRA, over the lifetime of the strategy, in contrast to the percentage decrease evident in the Dungannon area.

The following table sets out the changes across the two NRAs in relation to other indicators of economic renewal from 2003 to 2013.

Table F3.3: Key Socio-economic Changes

	Income Support (%)		JSA Claimants (%)		DLA Claimants (%)	
	2004	2012	2003	2013	2003	2013
Dungannon NRA	32.3	12.5	5.5	10.0	20.5	13.6
Coalisland NRA	32.8	17.8	3.2	11.9	21.4	19.3
All NRAs	25.5	17.5	6.5	10.5	17.1	18.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	6.7	5.0	2.5	4.5	7.7	9.1

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcomes Indicators Reports 2013

As set out above, the rate of income support decreased significantly across all NRAs and across the rest of NI between 2004 and 2012. This is considered to be attributable to benefit eligibility changes introduced by central government as part of a concerted effort to move people off Income Support. There has been a significant increase in the uptake of JSA across both NRAs with Coalisland, previously only 0.7 percentage points above the rest of NI average, increasing to 7.4 percentage points above the rest of NI average.

The claimant rate of DLA within both NRAs decreased, which is in contrast to the 0.7 percentage point increase witnessed in the all NRA average and the 6.5 percentage point increase apparent in the rest of NI average.

Social Renewal

In relation to Social Renewal outcomes relating to education there was no data available for both NRAs relating to attainment at Key Stage 2 level and the low population numbers for data relating to pupil attainment at GCSE level meant that the results lacked statistical validity. It is urged that the small population size of the two NRAs, especially in the case of Dungannon, be taken into account in the analysis of other indicators relating to social renewal.

The table below details trends across the two NRAs relating to health outcomes.

Table F3.4: Social Renewal: Health

	Deaths under 75 (%)		Alcohol Related Deaths (%)		Births to Teenage Mothers (%)	
	2005	**2010**	**05-09**	**06-10**	**2005**	**2010**
Dungannon NRA	40	70	0	0	3.5	4.6
Coalisland NRA	63.6	61.5	3.5	2.3	10.4	12.9
All NRAs	48.2	49.8	3.6	3.7	13.5	9.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	47.3	36.9	1.4	1.5	4.6	4.1

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Reports 2013

The Coalisland NRA exhibits a marginal decrease in the rate of deaths to under 75s and in the rate of alcohol related deaths over the time period of the strategy. However, the rate of teenage births had increased by 2.5 percentage points. The rate of teenage births also increased in the Dungannon NRA but at s less significant rate of 1.1 percentage points.

The table below details trends across the two NRAs relating to area crime and community wellbeing outcomes.

Table F3.5: Social Renewal: Crime

(per 1,000 population)	Total no. offences		Drug Offences		Anti-Social Behaviour	
	2003	**2011**	**2003**	**2011**	**2006**	**2011**
Dungannon NRA	93.2	115.6	4.6	6.2	113.3	76
Coalisland NRA	235.9	186	6.7	6.4	202.2	105.9
All NRAs	147.3	132.3	2.8	4.7	87.1	71.1
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	61.4	43.7	1.3	1.6	53.2	29.2

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Reports 2013

The table above shows us that over the lifetime of the strategy there have been contrasting trends relating to crime in both NRAs. The overall number of offences per head of population in Coalisland decreased significantly by 50 between 2003 and 2011. Over the same period in Dungannon the rate increased by 22.4.

Both NRAs did experience significant decreases in the rate of anti-social behavioural offences with the most significant decrease (96.3 per 1,000 population) in Coalisland, however the rate for both remains significantly higher than the non-NRA rate of 29.2.

Public opinions[42]

The Coalisland NIHE survey[43] indicates that, "more than two-fifths (46%) thought the area was not really changing; 30% thought it was changing for the better and 24% thought it was changing for the worse". It also demonstrates a low level of awareness of NR in the area, with 97% unaware that their house was located in an NRA.

The Dungannon NIHE Survey[44] also indicates a low level of awareness of NR, with 79% unaware that their house was located in an NRA. A small number of respondents (18%) considered the area to be getting worse, compared to a rate of 37% who were of the opinion that the area was getting better.

Allocation and Expenditure

The table, below, details the capital and revenue project expenditure across both the Coalisland and Dungannon over the course of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme.

Table F3.6: Revenue and Capital Expenditure in Coalisland and Dungannon NRAs 2003 – 2013

	Revenue	%	Capital	%
Combined NRAs	£1,912,115.40	49.1%	£1,980,743.09	50.9%
Overall Neighbourhood Renewal Programme Spend	£99,158,106	60%	£66,084,932	40%

Source: DSD

Overall the split in funding appropriation between capital and revenue projects over the two NRAs is largely even with capital/physical build projects seeing a 1.8 percentage point (£68,628) greater contribution than revenue projects. This is in contrast to the spending over the programme as a whole where revenue projects took up the predominant level of spend.

Capital and Revenue projects funded through the NR Programme are aimed toward relieving poor outcomes resulting from deprivation across the four strategic objectives. The following table details the combined allocation and expenditure totals of the Coalisland and Dungannon NRAs for 2012/2013 across the four strategic objectives. This is compared to the proportional spend across each objective across the entire Neighbourhood Renewal Programme for the same time period.

Table F3.7: Allocation and Expenditure for 2012/13 in the Coalisland and Dungannon NRAs

Strategic Objective	Dungannon/Coalisland NRAs		Overall Programme	
	Spend	% total	Spend	% total
Community Renewal	£109,434.06	15.1%	£9,688,595	33.5%
Social Renewal	£215,101.35	29.7%	£7,815,194	27%
Physical Renewal	£248,712.00	34.3%	£8,794,733	30.4%
Economic Renewal	£151,348.80	20.9%	£2,634,544	9.1%
Total	**£724,596.21**	**100%**	**£28,933,065**	**100%**

(Source: DSD Annual Report: Coalisland NRA 2012/13)

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[42] Percentage figures for number of respondents
[43] Coalisland Neighbourhood Renewal Survey 2010 DSD
[44] DSD 2009

The combined Coalisland/Dungannon investment for 2012/13 accounted for just over 2.5% of overall programmes spend for that year. This predominantly focused on the Social and Physical renewal objectives. Contrary to trends apparent in overall spend, activities relating to Community renewal saw the lowest level of investment.

Key achievements for 2012/13 from funded projects:

- 3,188 benefitting directly from personal and social development projects;
- 1,306 participants in health awareness initiatives;
- 115 training places sustained/created; and
- 895 students benefitting directly from educational projects.

These achievements were realised through a number of varying projects and area interventions. Some of the key projects that took place across the two areas, and spend on them as of March 2013, include:

- Social Economy and Employability Project – c.£118,000; including elements such as Coalisland Training Services, Dungannon Enterprise Centre, License to Drive and Work Programme and South Tyrone Empowerment Programme (STEP) with the aim to recruit and train participants for NVQ level and other qualification, to seek self-employment, and build confidence, self-esteem and employment potential.
- Refurbishment and fit out of Gardner's Hall – c.£196,000; Creation of an up to date Community Centre in the Milltown area allowing for a wider range of services to be delivered and create an opportunity for groups to work together and with other agencies.
- Dungannon and Coalisland Education Programme – c.£105,500; Delivered between 2011 and 2014 the programme comprises multiple elements including the DELTA programme aiming to develop and support parents, summer schemes and a young men's programme , STEP sports programme, STEP youth literacy and the Unlocking Potential Programme.
- Lighting Coalisland Canal Towpath – c.£49,700; Lighting up the towpath to open up its use during the darker hours. Utilisation of LED units resulting in greater level of lighting and lower running and maintenance costs.
- Coalisland Shop Front Improvement and Improving Employability – c.£32,500; To enhance the employment prospects in the local retail and service sector by encouraging and supporting the development of existing businesses in the town centre through tailored training and the quality upgrading of commercial property facades.

Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Structure and Nature

Originally, the Neighbourhood Renewal activities in both Dungannon and Coalisland were overseen by two separate Partnerships with over 40 members. Statutory representatives comprised the predominant level of representation on both Partnerships followed by the representatives from the V&C sector and the community. Both Partnerships kept a political representation of 6 elected councillors.

The Coalisland & Dungannon NR Partnerships amalgamated in 2012 with a total of 55 members and 7 sub-groups. The amalgamation of the two boards has been viewed as a relative success as it has *"saved, both time and money"*[45] by allowing for projects to be undertaken jointly across both areas. The Partnership meets on a monthly basis with administrative services being provided by a Coordinator and Project Support Worker from Dungannon and South Tyrone borough council. The Partnership faces challenges to develop a communications strategy and attempting to raise the profile of Neighbourhood Renewal funded projects.

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[45] DSD Coalisland NRA Outcomes Report 2012/13

Themes Emerging from Consultation with NR Partnership

Areas of Investment

The outset of the programme saw the Partnership aim to address areas of specific need that would bring short term visible impacts. In the main this involved improvements to street lighting and pavements in conjunction with DRD Roads Service. Following this, significant investment in area improvements focused on schemes seeking to engage with youth and reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour in the area, especially around key events such as St. Patrick's Day and Halloween.

Other area improvements were invested in through various smaller scale interventions. Subsequent larger scale capital projects then took place including the redevelopment of a derelict council property in Milltown, which now accommodates the Super Adults groups, which seeks to address social isolation of senior citizens in the area, as well as the development of a Parent's Room associated with St. Patrick's Primary School.

There have also been several major revenue projects delivered from health awareness programmes to youth summer schemes. One of the most significant programmes, and reflective of the changing nature of the area's population, are courses in English provided to migrant children and adults with the aim of reducing isolation, increasing attainment and increasing employability.

Area Achievements through Neighbourhood Renewal

Physical Renewal

A major achievement in Physical Renewal, brought about as a direct result of Neighbourhood Renewal funding, was through investment in the refurbishment of the Super Adults centre. The site had initially been bought for £1 by Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council, who then lacked the necessary funds to develop it. The site had been marked for demolition prior to Neighbourhood Renewal intervention. The most recent area investment was through the new Parent's Room, installed on the site of St. Joseph's PS, which has facilitated greater levels of engagement and networking between the parents picking up their children while also facilitating greater engagement between parents and the school tying into improving educational attainment within the area.

Results from the post project evaluation (PPE) of Gardner's Hall in the Milltown area further exemplify this physical renewal as refurbishment to the exterior brickwork has been seen as a success.

Social Renewal

For Social Renewal, there have been significant positive impacts through, and a significant focus on, engaging with the youth of the areas, most notably in the reduction in anti-social behaviour within the area. The Men's and Women's groups funded have also put a focus on trying to educate the youth about the dangers of drugs and alcohol to prevent future health issues.

The Super Adults centre has brought about positive health and well-being impacts through reducing isolation amongst senior citizens of the area.

The PPE of Gardner's Hall has demonstrated that the project provided a premise where training and health programmes can be delivered to members of the community.

The PPE of the Disengaged Youth Programme for Coalisland a total of 33 places in diversionary programmes and groups for young people have been filled.

Economic Renewal

The Disengaged Youth Programme has focused on encouraging those hardest to reach to become actively involved in programmes and volunteering. Some of the biggest trouble makers, previously, are now directing some of the activities and it has had a positive effect on their work prospects.

There are also accredited ICT courses being delivered, with 8 people so far having certificates been certified. Neighbourhood Renewal was seen to celebrate advancement and as exceptionally good for those seeking certification.

Community Renewal

In a broader sense, the Partnership was of the opinion that the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme had allowed the community to develop its capacity while also establishing previously non-existent links between the community and the relevant Statutory Agencies with great potential positive impact on future work. The Partnership felt they didn't know how many of the positive impacts resulting from Neighbourhood Renewal could possibly have been achieved in its absence. Results from the PPE on Gardner's Hall outline that the project now provides a base for the Milltown community which it previously lacked.

Partnership Model of Delivery

A key advantage of the partnership model of delivery was perceived to be its form as a collective of representatives across many areas allowing for the easy identification of current gaps in delivery and development of ways through which these gaps could be addressed. The Partnership were "*comfortable in taking a hands on approach to the development of interventions to address these gaps, and not solely relying on project ideas coming from the community or Statutory area stakeholders*".

Another key advantage noted by the partnership was that it was a "useful vehicle for the community sector to hold the statutory sector to account for its delivery".

It was felt, however, that there was no requirement for two separate Partnerships for two relatively small population Neighbourhood Renewal Areas and so it was agreed to amalgamate into one for more effective delivery of Neighbourhood Renewal across the two areas. The Partnership also felt that in attempting to do too much too quickly for a small area population, they had put themselves under unnecessary pressure going forward.

Factors of Success and Key Challenges

Key success factors highlighted by Partnership representatives:

- Good working relationship and ease of contact between the Partnership and DSD office in Omagh, in addition to the local DSD contacts. However it was perceived that relationships developed were negatively impacted upon by personnel changes in the DSD offices.

Key challenges/constraints highlighted by Partnership representatives

- Perceived high levels of bureaucracy associated with NR, which slowed down the investment processes and limited the ability of the area to quickly address key areas of identified need;
- The retrospective funding arrangements utilised by NR. There was a perception that this effectively "*ruled out many smaller local organisations from delivering as they would find themselves unable to take the initial hit in their cashflow*".

Other Key Issues

Going forward the Partnership were keen to stress how important it was that local areas of deprivation continued to avail of targeted funding, especially in light of the current economic and public spend climate.

The Partnership highlighted that consideration of the wider longer term cost is an important factor in judging the merits of such funding. Poor health, education and crime outcomes, which could have been prevented, were judged to have potentially much larger future costs to the taxpayer than the initial preventative cost would have been.

The Partnership felt that targeting the top 10% could have been too focused an approach which had left them with a very small population within the NRA causing difficulties in engaging the required number of participants for many programmes. However, the Partnership felt it was important to concentrate on areas of deprivation and to address prevalent feelings of second class citizenship within these areas, and to turn around the feelings of being left behind.

It was felt that Neighbourhood Renewal had encouraged a greater level of integrated working than was evident in other funding programmes they were familiar with e.g. ESF Leader. Having all the relevant representation around the table making proposals allowed for quick identification of possible areas of duplication and where activities will be additional. It gave the statutory reps a better idea of the issues faced by communities but also allowed the communities to gain a better understanding of the constraints faced by the statutory agencies.

There were concerns about the transition to councils, specifically in relation to: other areas being supported/competition for funding; and ensuring effective targeting of economic and social needs. There were concerns around whether the Council would allow the areas receiving targeted support to become too large as other areas vied for funding. There were also concerns raised around the level of funding going to relatively 'affluent' Council areas. The example given was the proposed Magherafelt and Cookstown council area, neither of which have a NRA within their current boundaries.

The Partnership felt future delivery should be based on partnership working, between all stakeholders, as part of a wider *"bottom up"* approach. Future delivery, it was felt, should also be mindful of the differences between all areas of deprivation in Northern Ireland, and cautioned against the implementation of a "one size fits all" approach to delivery. Programmes and interventions should be directly relevant to needs and causal factors of deprivation within each area.

APPENDIX F4: CRAIGAVON NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA

Description of the NRAs

The Craigavon borough council contains three NRAs namely Brownlow, Lurgan and North West Portadown. The total population across the three NRAs has increased by almost 7% during the period of the Strategy as set out in the table below.

Socio Economic Context and Changes[46]

Population

The combined population of the 3 Neighbourhood Renewal Areas is 20,279 according to Census data from 2011. The breakdown of each area and their demographics are presented below:

Table F4.1: Age Demographics (2001-2011)

		Persons: 0-15 years	Persons: 16-59/64	Persons:60/65+	Persons: All
Brownlow	2001	1,999	4,077	681	6,641
	2011	2,285	5,443	1,115	8,658
	% Change	14.31%	33.51%	63.72%	30.37%
Lurgan	2001	2,422	5,671	1,826	9,689
	2011	1,654	5,511	1,980	8,919
	% Change	-31.71%	-2.82%	8.43%	-7.95%
Portadown	2001	649	1,554	470	2,627
	2011	564	1,751	462	2,702
	% Change	-13.09%	12.67%	-1.70%	2.85%
Total	2001	5,070	11,302	2,977	18,957
	2011	4,503	12,705	3,557	20,279
	% Change	-11.18%	14.78%	19.48%	6.97%

Source: NISRA Census of Population Survey 2001 & 2011

As set out above, the population in Brownlow increased substantially between 2001 and 2011 while, the population in Lurgan has reduced. The total population in the three NRAs was just over 20,000.

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[46] Statistics courtesy of NINIS unless stated otherwise

Economic Renewal

The table below, details trends relating to economic activity across the 3 NRAs in comparison to the average rates across all NRAs and all non-NRAs in Northern Ireland.

Table F4.2: Economic Renewal: Activity

	Economically Active (%)		Unemployed (%)		L/T Unemployed (%)	
	2001	**2011**	**2001**	**2011**	**2001**	**2011**
Portadown NRA	50.1	61.1	8.3	8.3	43.4	56.1
Lurgan NRA	50.7	56.1	5.9	8.5	47.1	54.5
Brownlow NRA	52.2	62.8	4.7	6.2	49.1	52.1
All NRAs	49.7	57.1	8.1	8.3	46.7	47.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	64.7	67.9	3.4	4.3	37.6	44.1

Source: NISRA Census of Population Survey 2001 and 2011

As set out in the above table, the rate of economic activity increased by 11 percentage points over the lifetime of the strategy, however, it is still over six percentage points lower than the rest of Northern Ireland. The average increase in the unemployment rate across the three areas was 1.5 percentage points, compared to an increase of 0.9 percentage points in non NRAs. Furthermore, the long-term unemployment rate increased on average by 7.7 percentage points across the three NRAs, compared to an increase of 6.5 in Non NRAs.

The following table sets out the changes across the three NRAs in relation to other indicators of economic renewal from 2003 to 2013.

Table F4.3: Economic Renewal: Other Indicators

	Income Support (%)		JSA Claimants (%)		DLA Claimants (%)	
	2004	**2012**	**2003**	**2013**	**2003**	**2013**
Portadown NRA	18.9	11.6	2.8	10.6	13.5	13.1
Lurgan NRA	19.4	13.7	4.3	8.5	18.3	18.8
Brownlow NRA	19.4	12.1	4.3	6.9	16.0	14.6
All NRAs	25.5	17.5	6.5	10.5	17.1	18.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	6.7	5.0	2.5	4.5	7.7	9.1

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcomes Indicators Reports 2013

As set out above, the rate of income support decreased significantly across all NRAs and across the rest of NI also between 2004 and 2012. This is considered to be attributable to benefit eligibility changes introduced by central government as part of a concerted effort to move people off Income Support. There has been a 4 percentage point increase in JSA uptake across all NRAs, however the average increase across the three Craigavon NRAs is 4.9 percentage points. DLA uptake has slightly decreased on average across the three NRAs, in contrast to slight increases across all NRAs and across the rest of Northern Ireland.

Social Renewal

The table below, details trends across the 3 NRAs relating to educational attainment.

Table F4.5: Social Renewal: Education

	KS2, Level 4 English %		KS2, Level 4 Maths %		5 GCSEs (A* - C) %		No GCSEs %	
	2004	**2011**	**2004**	**2011**	**2004**	**2011**	**2004**	**2011**
Portadown NRA	81.3	80	85.4	82.9	47.1	40	7.9	12
Lurgan NRA	73.5	82.4	76.5	83.2	45.8	53.1	7.6	5.4
Brownlow NRA	69.5	74.2	70.8	81	56	55.3	3	2.4
All NRAs	64.1	73.6	67.6	74.8	43.8	62.3	12	3.1
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	79.7	84.4	81.9	84.7	66.9	76.2	3.7	1.8

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcomes Indicators Reports 2011

The table above highlights that educational attainment, within Portadown, has got substantially worse over the course of the programme. This is highlighted by the percentage of pupils leaving school with no GCSEs, which is now 6 times higher than the rate in Non NRAs. Whilst the other two areas have improved the educational outcomes, these are still worse than the Non NRAs especially at GCSE level. Outcomes at Key Stage 2 level are much closer to parity with Non NRAs and consistently exceed average attainment rates across all NRAs.

The table below details trends across the 3 NRAs relating to area health outcomes.

Table F4.6: Social Renewal: Health

	Deaths under 75 (%)		Alcohol Related Deaths (%)		Births, Teenage Mothers (%)	
	2005	**2010**	**05-09**	**06-10**	**2005**	**2010**
Portadown NRA	51.9	33.3	0.7	1.3	6.4	12.0
Lurgan NRA	41.4	41.3	2.5	2.1	13.6	9.6
Brownlow NRA	65.4	60.0	1.4	2.1	8.4	7.2
All NRAs	48.2	49.8	3.6	3.7	13.5	9.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	47.3	36.9	1.4	1.5	4.6	4.1

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcomes Indicators Reports 2013

The table above highlights some mixed outcomes relating to health indicators within the 3 case study NRAs. While the proportion of deaths in under-75s decreased, at different rates, across all three the rate in Brownlow was still over 10 percentage points higher than the NRA average. While the rate of alcohol related deaths increased within Portadown and Brownlow, overall they remained below the NRA average. There was a significant increase in births to teenage mothers in Portadown while in contrast there was a substantial decrease within Lurgan. The average rate was 0.3 percentage points higher than the NRA average.

The table below details trends across the 3 NRAs relating to area crime and community wellbeing outcomes.

Table F4.7: Social Renewal: Crime

(per 1,000 population)	Total no. offences		Drug Offences		Anti-Social Behaviour	
	2003	**2011**	**2003**	**2011**	**2006**	**2011**
Portadown NRA	132.9	90.7	1.5	4.5	51.1	39.0
Lurgan NRA	116.1	104.4	1.1	5.3	64.1	51.8
Brownlow NRA	180.4	108.0	6.8	4.9	92.7	40.8
All NRAs	147.3	132.3	2.8	4.7	87.1	71.1
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	61.4	43.7	1.3	1.6	53.2	29.2

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcomes Indicators Reports 2013

The table above highlights that the total rate of crime fell in all three areas from 2003 to 2011, the average is now 101 per 1,000 of population. However, this is around 54 offences per 1,000 of population higher than the rate in the Non NRAs. The rate of drugs related offences increased in both Portadown and Lurgan and is now significantly higher than the non-NRAs. Anti-social behaviour incidences also decreased substantially and are well below the NRA average of 71.1 per 1,000 of population, the rate is still over 14 incidences above the rate in Non NRAs.

Public Opinion

The NIHE surveys[47] of the areas indicate a low level of awareness of the scheme with on average around 80% of respondents stating they were unaware that their home was in the NRA. In addition to this, in Lurgan and Brownlow 29% and 23% of respondents respectively, thought that the area was changing for the worse.

Allocation and Expenditure of Neighbourhood Renewal Funds

The table below details the proportional spend within the three Craigavon NRAs between revenue and capital neighbourhood regeneration projects. This is also compared with the proportional split between total Neighbourhood Renewal revenue and capital spend.

Table F4.6: Total Revenue/Capital Spending Split

	Revenue	%	Capital	%
Combined Craigavon NRAs	£6,824,225.11	44.5%	£8,499,982.17	55.5%
Overall Neighbourhood Renewal Programme Spend	£99,158,106	60%	£66,084,932	40%

Overall, the spending split between revenue and capital in the three Craigavon NRAs deviated significantly from the overall Programme split. There was a much greater focus on capital and physical renewal projects within the Craigavon NRAs whereas there was a greater overall focus on revenue projects over the whole Neighbourhood Renewal Programme.

Capital and Revenue projects funded through the NR Programme are aimed toward relieving poor outcomes resulting from deprivation across the four strategic objectives. The following table details the combined allocation and expenditure totals of the three Craigavon NRAs for 2012/2013 across the

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[47] Northwest Portadown NR survey 2009, Lurgan NR survey 2012, Brownlow NR survey 2010

four strategic objectives. This is compared to the proportional spend across each objective across the entire Neighbourhood Renewal Programme for the same time period.

Table F4.7: Spend across Strategic Objective 2012/13

Strategic Objective	Craigavon NRAs		Overall Programme	
	Spend	% total	Spend	% total
Community Renewal	£977,878.78	14.5%	£9,688,595	33.5%
Social Renewal	£3,949,006.57	58.5%	£7,815,194	27%
Physical Renewal	£782,334.94	11.5%	£8,794,733	30.4%
Economic Renewal	£1,046,832.38	15.5%	£2,634,544	9.1%
Total	**£6,756,052**	**100%**	**£28,933,065**	**100%**

(Source: DSD, Lurgan, Brownlow and P,down Annual Reports 2012/13)

Over the course of 2012/13, the combined expenditure of the Lurgan, Portadown and Brownlow NRAs was just over £6.7m, accounting for just over 23% of total Neighbourhood Renewal expenditure for the year. The vast majority of this spend (58,5%) was targeted towards activities relating to Social renewal. The remaining spend was relatively more evenly split across the three remaining strategic objectives.

Key achievements from projects funded throughout 2012/13 include:

- 592 people benefitting from projects relating to personal and social development;
- 195 pupils whose educational attainment is noticeably enhanced/improved;
- 1,215 people participating in health education/awareness initiatives;
- 367 training places created or sustained.

These achievements were realised through a number of varying projects and area interventions. Some of the key projects that took place across the three areas, and spend on them as of March 2013, include:

- Craigavon – Neighbourhoods in Bloom Project – c.£295,500: An environmental improvement scheme aimed at 'brightening up' area through carpet planting specific areas with flowering trees and spring flowers. Also involving neighbourhood clean-up drives and environmental improvement activities.
- Craigavon – Sport in the Community – c.£115,420: Developed with Craigavon Borough Council to provide targeted sporting activities in order to maximise the use of MUGAs in the area. Provides residents with the opportunity to participate in exercise and physical recreation while also providing opportunities for the gaining of qualifications and leader awards.
- Inclusion in Education – c.£122,460: Provides mentoring to young people disaffected with education with a particular focus on engaging those transitioning from Primary to Secondary school with involvement of the parents.
- Craigavon – Retail Capacity Building – c.£148,840: Improving the fabric of retail premises through shop frontage enhancement and increasing the capacity of business owners through mentoring and training.
- Drumellan Family Learning Centre – c.£84,600: Physical refurbishment and renovation of the centre. Health and education programmes are run in the centre with the aim of improving the social conditions for people in the immediate locality.
- Kilwilkie Footways and Carriageways – c.£253,860: Provision of new footpaths and carriageways to the Kilwilkie community to improve the appearance of the area.

- CBC Playpark Refurbishments – c.£105,360: The refurbishment of two playparks in the Brownlow area.

Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships Nature and Structure

The Partnerships are currently operating separately although administrative services for each NR Partnership are provided by the Craigavon Borough Council.

Portadown

The Partnership was set up in November 2005 and meets on a monthly basis. It is currently made up of 29 members with around 50% of its representation from the community sector and with 3 elected council representatives. The rest of the partnership representation is made up with individuals from various departmental and statutory agencies.

The Partnership established 2 sub-groups with one focussing on education and the other on health.

Lurgan

The Lurgan NR Partnership was set up in 2007 and meets on a bi-monthly basis. It comprises of 22 member from the V&C and statutory sectors and political representatives.

Brownlow

The Brownlow Neighbourhood Partnership was established in 2007, originally as a 'non-constituted entity acting in an advisory role to the Department, and meets on a bi-monthly basis (as of September 2013). The predominant sector representation, as part of the composition of the Partnership, is through community and voluntary sector representatives who make up over two thirds of the partnership membership. The political sector is also represented through 2 elected council representatives while the remaining Partnership membership is made up of representation from various statutory agencies.

The Partnership has established 3 sub-groups to assist it in the identification, development and where appropriate the delivery of projects which aim to address the Programme's 4 strategic objectives of community renewal, social renewal, economic renewal and physical renewal.

Themes Emerging from Consultation with NR Partnerships

Members of the three partnerships were asked to indicate what they regarded as the key achievements of Neighbourhood Renewal in their area and how effective the Partnership model was. The key points that emerged are set out below.

Areas of Investment

Within Portadown, the major area improvements were resulting from interventions relating to the physical environment as well as education and health outcomes in the area. These were felt to have performed very well with good timing of delivery, with positive feedback coming back from the community.

Within Lurgan the major area improvements related to physical infrastructure and appearance with the development of a MUGA as the stand out example. Other interventions focused on youth engagement programmes which have experienced large demand for their services and have been credited with contributing to significant decreases in anti-social behaviour incidents in the area.

Within Brownlow, initial area improvements also concentrated on the physical offering of the area as a way of achieving quick and tangible improvements to gain community buy-in to the Neighbourhood Renewal process. These were then tied into longer term economic renewal initiatives with employment resulting from work carried out and training delivered in community centres developed through capital spend.

Area Achievements through Neighbourhood Renewal

Physical Renewal

All three partnerships initially focused on projects relating to physical renewal, the rationale being that the "local community would be able to see the benefits of the regeneration scheme more immediately and so the Partnerships could then achieve local buy in before focussing on revenue" orientated regeneration initiatives and projects. The initial physical improvements made to the area included:

- Relaying of pavements and kerbs, and improving estate entrance features in Brownlow;
- Installation of 3G pitch and MUGAs;
- Refurbishment and renovation of Enniskeen Community House.

These facilities are now accommodating revenue programmes relating to the other strategic priorities such as supporting sports and activities programmes and supporting the activities of community associations.

Within Lurgan greater community access was provided through the provision of a footbridge over the railway tracks at Brownlow terrace while works on the footpaths and carriageways of Kilwilkie had improved the look of the area. However the greatest success, in a physical sense, was judged to have been achieved through the building of a MUGA within the area.

The Partnership noted that one of the most significant physical improvement schemes carried out was the Craigavon Neighbourhoods in Bloom project. This was a project delivered across all three areas as an environmental improvement scheme to enhance the physical appearance of the areas as well and engaging the involvement of local people within the scheme to create "*a greater sense of pride and respect for the area*".

A Business Park was established in 2008 with a total project funding requirement of £838,852. The DSD Post Project Evaluation notes that the project is the signature project for the Brownlow Partnership and that the project has, "helped raise the profile of the Brownlow area and help change the poor perception of the area". The additional nine units have brought Brownlow Ltd's workspace up to 50,500sq ft.

The Craigavon Borough Council Retail Capacity Building PPE notes that its project had a positive effect on the appearance of various retail units throughout the borough by improving shop fronts.

Social Renewal

Overall, the majority of projects relating to social renewal were carried out on a cross area basis with some of the first interventions, in a social sense, targeting literacy within younger people in the area as a means of improving educational outcomes. This project was delivered with the help of the Southern Education and Library Board. Delivery of a number of additional education orientated initiatives has also been facilitated through SELB with cross area projects relating to supporting parents and children through education, improving attendance in young people who have disengaged from education and supporting young people about to leave full time education.

Many health interventions related to increasing participation in sports and physical recreation in order to encourage healthier and more active lifestyles. Programmes of activity were developed to accompany the physical development of new MUGAs, pitches and the refurbishment of playparks. This required the involvement of residents, Craigavon BC and local clubs.

A key project had been the engagement of area youths through the Bushcraft project. The project would take on children causing problems in the area and take them on a "back to basics" camping experience over the weekend. It was remarked that "*the transformation over a weekend in participants was remarkable and that demand has been so high that money has run dry*". The Partnership was now looking towards the council for funding for this.

Social improvement relating to improving community wellbeing and reducing crime was again, overall, carried out on a cross area basis. This took the form of a graffiti removal and prevention project run over the three areas. Other interventions were more area specific targeting specific area needs relating to crime e.g. Edgartown fencing in Portadown and CIDO Industrial Estate fencing in Lurgan. The Partnership felt a major benefit was easily visible in reductions in the level of anti-social behaviour in these areas.

Feedback from the PPE for the SELB Capital Infrastructure Project has highlighted that the refurbishment and installation of equipment allowed the access to room previously unusable, curriculum and youth activities respectively.

Economic Renewal

Once again, many interventions targeting the strategic objective of Economic Renewal were carried out across all three areas. The most significant project in this respect was the Training and Employment Opportunities Programme developed with the SRC which provided additional support and mentoring in education and training to residents within the Craigavon Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.

Other interventions focused on trying to improve the retail capacity in the area to raise the level of employment opportunities available to residents from these areas, trying to foster an entrepreneurial spirit and equip people with the skills to take this forward and providing accredited training in Social Care.

The partnerships felt there was little point in training people for work if they had no means to physically access it. Through this a driving lesson programme was developed in order to complement work training and provide those being trained with a way of getting to work.

Results from Brownlow's Bluestone Business Park PPE have demonstrated the effectiveness of the project by maintaining 52 jobs and creating a further 80 part-time/casual jobs.

The Craigavon Borough Council Retail Capacity Building PPE also notes that 800 businesses have been advised / assisted during the lifetime of the project. In addition 42 training positions have been sustained / created in DEL employability schemes. The evaluation also highlighted that the capital scheme has, 'enabled hard to reach pupils and young people to engage with the curriculum and engage in youth work programmes more effectively.'

Community Renewal

Once again, interventions were, on the majority delivered, on a cross area basis. Included in this was the provision of technical assistance to the Partnerships in order to ensure the effectiveness of the NR Partnerships in their delivery on the action plans for the area. A project was also developed to encourage local delivery groups to participate in the process and develop their organisation through it.

Area specific interventions centred, for the most part, on the refurbishment of community facilities and youth centres. These were carried out with the intent to provide a greater level of organisations to expand and improve their offering so improving the capacity of the communities.

The Partnership Model

Feedback from the partnership members consulted with indicated that the partnership model enabled the communities to take control of the process was very positive for the local communities. Without this it was felt the "*process would just have become another statutory led imposition of their own ideas with little community direction*". However, in doing this, the Partnerships were keen to stress the "*valuable links and relationships that had been formed between the community and statutory bodies in doing so, which will be key to the process going forward*". The community will now feel more "*comfortable in tabling suggestions and ideas and will no longer be afraid to speak up when we feel we need to*".

The Partnership Model was also seen to have created a greater understanding between the communities of the three towns. Attitudes have become less area personal and tribal with discussions and decisions now focused around the facts on the ground.

Factors of Success and Key Challenges

Key success factors highlighted by the Partnership:

- One of the key factors for success across the areas was having the commitment of a full time co-ordinator of Neighbourhood Renewal from the Council. The key factor for success in this was that it was a dedicated role working closely across the three areas, and not merely including Neighbourhood Renewal among the other responsibilities of someone in a more general role.
- It was also felt there was contribution to area projects as a direct result of Neighbourhood Renewal which was not strictly monetary. In the main this took the form of additional time and staff resources allocated by organisations e.g. NIHE and Craigavon Borough Council, to carry out work additional to their role, but which was not charged to Neighbourhood Renewal.
- The Partnership also stressed how important the contribution of volunteers and level of social capital within the area was in contributing to the successes of the programme and that, in this regard, the Partnership felt DSD got a good deal for the level of money put into the area through Neighbourhood Renewal.

Key challenges/constraints highlighted by the Partnership:

- The main perceived constraints centred around the actual level of funding available as well as Statutory red tape and over the top bureaucratic processes. Effective delivery in Portadown was also perceived to have been affected by community tensions and inherent mistrust in the town which has been an ever present obstacle they have needed to work around.
- Projects were initially developed and run on the impression they would be mainstreamed. This, overall, has not happened although the Partnerships did recognise the extent to which this had played out as a result of the prevailing economic conditions.

Other Key Issues

The Partnerships were keen to highlight that while the vast majority of the successes of Neighbourhood Renewal come down to the buy in from the community and community support for the process, the buy in experienced from the statutory sector and the two way relationship that developed was essential. The Partnerships were aware there had been money spent on Neighbourhood Renewal outside of the Programme budget through the work of the statutory bodies, most notably

from the Housing Executive and Craigavon BC where they would consult on, develop and take forward projects at their own expense in a manner that was very much additional to Neighbourhood Renewal.

The Partnerships agreed with the principle of the targeted nature of the funding delivered through Neighbourhood Renewal. However, they felt that the teams, in Belfast, drawing the maps didn't necessarily seem to grasp the reality of the situation on the ground in the towns. The partnerships didn't feel there was any equity in excluding people from across the street and so exerted pressure to be allowed flexibility in their service delivery. From this the Partnerships felt that DSD was generally flexible in allowing a 70/30 split in NRA/non-NRA participation.

In terms of integrated working it was felt that if the willingness was there on the side of the statutory delivery it became easy to develop integrated delivery of services. They were aware that some Departments may have seen NR funding as a cash cow to complement their existing budgets at the outset however once this had been overcome the relationships became easier. However, it was felt that political interference had sometimes marred the experience causing the integration to come undone to a certain degree. It was felt that some of the shifting ministerial priorities and requirements for last minute spend e.g. Sports equipment, saw the decision taken out of their hands from time to time with the normal process thrown "out the window" for the sake of getting spend to happen on time.

Going forward, the partnerships were keen to stress their hope that the relationships that had been built over the course of Neighbourhood Renewal and that an effort be made to keep party political and religious influences out of the Neighbourhood Renewal process. There was a need for a balance to be struck between what the Department saw as their priority and what the community identified as what it actually needed.

APPENDIX F5: GREATER SHANKILL NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA

Location of the NRA

The Greater Shankill Neighbourhood Renewal Area is located in the North West of the Belfast City Council local government area which stretches from close to the City Centre, Brown's Sq., to Springmartin in the Belfast hills. The electoral ward contribution to the Greater Shankill NRA includes the Shankill, Crumlin, Glencairn, Highfield, Ligoniel and Woodvale wards.

Socio Economic Context and Changes[48]

The following section outlines key socio-economic changes that occurred within the Greater Shankill NRA over the duration of the Neighbourhood Renewal strategy.

Population

The Greater Shankill NRA is one of the largest NRAs with a population of just over 18,000 in 2011. The demographic profile of the Greater Shankill NRA is presented below.

Table F5.1: Age Demographics for Greater Shankill NRA (2001-2011)

	Persons aged 0-15 years	Persons aged 16-59/64 years	Persons aged 60+ years	Total
2001	4,174	10,316	4,899	18,857
2011	3,717	10,490	4,346	18,089
Percentage change (%)	**-10.9%**	**+1.7%**	**-11.3%**	**-4.7%**

Source: NISRA Census of Population 2001 and 2011

As we can see above, the Greater Shankill NRA has experienced population decline over the period of the strategy. While the working age population has slightly increase, there have been significant decreases in the youth and over 60 populations.

Economic Renewal

The table below details trends relating to economic activity across the NRA in comparison to the average rates across all NRAs and all non-NRAs in Northern Ireland.

Table F5.2: Economic Activity Indicators

	Economically Active (%)		Unemployed (%)		L/T Unemployed (%)	
	2001	**2011**	**2001**	**2011**	**2001**	**2011**
Greater Shankill NRA	44.7	48.2	7.7	7.7	51.4	48.1
All NRAs	49.7	57.1	8.1	8.3	46.7	47.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	64.7	67.9	3.4	4.3	37.6	44.1

Source: NISRA, Northern Ireland Census of Population Survey 2011

As set out in the above table, the rate of economic activity increased marginally, by 3.5 percentage points, over the course of the strategy. The 2011 economic activity rate of 48.2 is still 8.9 percentage points behind the average across all NRAs. More positive indications were present in the static nature

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[48] Source for following statistics is NINIS unless stated otherwise

of the rate of unemployment against an average trend of rising unemployment rates across NRAs and non-NRAs. The rate of long term unemployment also decreased.

The following table sets out the changes across the Greater Shankill NRA in relation to other indicators of economic renewal from 2004 to 2012.

Table F5.3: Key Socio-Economic Changes

	Income Support (%)		JSA Claimants (%)		DLA Claimants (%)	
	2004	**2012**	**2003**	**2013**	**2003**	**2013**
Greater Shankill NRA	27.2	18.8	7.1	10.5	18.7	19.6
All NRAs	25.5	17.5	6.5	10.5	17.1	18.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	6.7	5.0	2.5	4.5	7.7	9.1

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (G. Shankill) 2013

As set out above, the rate of income support decreased significantly across all NRAs and across the rest of NI between 2004 and 2012. This is considered to be attributable to benefit eligibility changes introduced by central government as part of a concerted effort to move people off Income Support. There has been an increase in the uptake of JSA in the Greater Shankill area, although the rate is at a level consistent with the average across all NRAs. There has also been a marginal increase in the rate of DLA claimants.

Social Renewal

The table below details trends within the Greater Shankill NRA relating to educational attainment over the lifetime of the strategy.

Table F5.4: Social Renewal: Education

	KS2, Level 4 English %		KS2, Level 4 Maths %		5 GCSEs (A* - C) %		No GCSEs %	
	2004	**2011**	**2004**	**2011**	**2004**	**2011**	**2004**	**2011**
Greater Shankill NRA	52.3	46.6	49.0	58.2	27.6	41.4	13.6	7.4
All NRAs	64.1	73.6	67.6	74.8	43.8	62.3	12	3.1
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	79.7	84.4	81.9	84.7	66.9	76.2	3.7	1.8

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (G. Shankill) 2011

The table above demonstrates varying trends in relation to changes in educational attainment in the Greater Shankill area over the period of the strategy. While attainment in Key Stage 2 maths has increased over this period by 9.2 percentage points, attainment in Key Stage 2 English has decreased by 5.7 percentage points. Also, despite increases in attainment at GCSE level the area remains significantly below the NRA average across all indicators.

The table below details trends within the Greater Shankill NRA relating to area health outcomes over the course of the strategy.

Table F5.5: Social Renewal: Health

	Deaths under 75 (%)		Alcohol Related Deaths (%)		Births to Teenage Mothers (%)	
	2005	**2010**	**05-09**	**06-10**	**2005**	**2010**
Greater Shankill NRA	34.2	40.7	2.5	2.6	17.6	10.3
All NRAs	48.2	49.8	3.6	3.7	13.5	9.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	47.3	36.9	1.4	1.5	4.6	4.1

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (G. Shankill) 2011

The rate of death to under 75s in the Greater Shankill NRA has increased over the period of the strategy. The rate of alcohol related deaths has remained virtually unchanged while there was a significant decrease in the rate of births to teenage mothers in the Greater Shankill NRA.

The table below details trends in the Greater Shankill NRA relating to area crime and community wellbeing outcomes.

Table F5.6: Social Renewal: Crime

(per 1,000 population)	Total no. offences		Drug Offences		Anti-Social Behaviour	
	2003	**2011**	**2003**	**2011**	**2006**	**2011**
Coalisland NRA	86.4	75.4	1.1	2.6	48.0	47.4
All NRAs	147.3	132.3	2.8	4.7	87.1	71.1
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	61.4	43.7	1.3	1.6	53.2	29.2

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (G. Shankill) 2011

The table above shows us that over the lifetime of the strategy there have been contrasting trends relating to crime within the Greater Shankill NRA. Overall the total rate of offences has decreased in the area by 11 offences per 1,000 population. However the rate of drug related offences has increased over this period while the rate of anti-social behaviour related incidents has decreased only very marginally. This is in contrast to significant decreases seen in most NRAs and across the rest of Northern Ireland.

Public Opinions

The NIHE Greater Shankill survey[49] indicated fairly low public awareness within the area relating to its status as a Neighbourhood Renewal area. 67% of survey respondents were not aware of the fact their home was located within an NRA.

There was a similarly low level of awareness relating to impacts on the area relating from the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme with 30% considering the area to be changing for the better as a result. 60% of respondents did not perceive the area to be changing.

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[49] Neighbourhood Renewal Survey 2010, Greater Shankill, NIHE/DSD

Allocation/expenditure

The table below, details the Capital and Revenue project expenditure over the course of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme within the Greater Shankill NRA.

Table F5.7: Revenue and Capital Expenditure in Greater Shankill NRA 2003 – 2013

	Revenue	%	Capital	%
Greater Shankill NRA	£8,617,969.87	79.5%	£2,225,553	20.5%
Overall Neighbourhood Renewal Programme Spend	£99,158,106	60%	£66,084,932	40%

Source: DSD

Over the course of the Neighbourhood Renewal strategy, a significant split is evident in investment in revenue and capital project with around four fifths of all spend in the Greater Shankill area being targeted at revenue projects. Only 20.5% of all spend was focused on capital spend project to address physical regeneration issues.

Capital and Revenue projects funded through the NR Programme are aimed toward relieving poor outcomes resulting from deprivation across the four strategic objectives. The following table illustrates the breakdown of allocation and expenditure of funds in the financial year of 2012/13 across the strategic objectives. This is compared to the proportional spend across each objective across the entire Neighbourhood Renewal Programme for the same time period.

Table F5.8: Allocation and Expenditure for 2012/13 in the Greater Shankill NRA

Strategic Objective	Greater Shankill NRA		Overall Programme	
	Spend	% total	Spend	% total
Community Renewal	£1,447,062	54.7%	£9,688,595	33.5%
Social Renewal			£7,815,194	27%
Physical Renewal	£1,039,833	39.3%	£8,794,733	30.4%
Economic Renewal	£156,952	5.9%	£2,634,544	9.1%
Total	**£2,643,847**	**100%**	**£28,933,065**	**100%**

(Source: Source: Greater Shankill Annual Report 2012/13

The expenditure within the Greater Shankill NRA over 2012/13 amounted to around £2.6m. The level of investment targeted at Economic renewal was much lower than the other strategic objectives, indeed it was significantly lower than the rate of investment in Economic renewal evident across the entire programme for the same year. There was a significant level of investment targeted toward Physical renewal as a standalone objective. There was no split provided for investment in Community and Social renewal activities, however these accounted for nearly 55%of Neighbourhood Renewal spend within the Greater Shankill area.

Below are listed some key achievements for 2012/13 for funded projects:

- 8,484 people using new or improved community facilities;
- 4,431 primary and secondary pupils benefitting from projects designed to improve attainment;
- 2,257 people benefitting from new or improved health facilities;
- 846 victims of crime supported;
- 94 people receiving job specific training.

These achievements were realised through a number of varying projects and area interventions. Some of the key projects that took place across the two areas, and spend on them as of March 2013, include:

- The refurbishment of Ardaluin House – c.£327,550; Addressing the external structure and the internal fabric of the house so it can now be utilised youth and community groups and organisations from the Greater Shankill area.
- Woodvale Park Development - £750,000; Developed jointly with Belfast City Council, including pathway and landscape improvements, an all-weather MUGA, children's playground, lighting etc.
- RESPECT project – c.£86,330; A training and development programme targeting hard to reach young people, parents and adults working with young people in disadvantaged areas.
- Shankill Women's Centre – c.£142,860; Funding to allow for the continued provision of core services to the organisation. Funding also supports Shankill Women's Centre Health Project aiming to promote positive mental health through awareness programmes and accredited courses.
- Forum for Action on Substance Abuse – c.£345,180; The community's response to issues of substance misuse and suicide. A one stop shop that will holistically support the individual and families to reduce the effects of substance misuse.

Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Nature and Structure

The role of Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership within the Greater Shankill was designated to the pre-existing Greater Shankill Partnership which was established in the 1996 as part of the Making Belfast Work initiative.

The Partnership engaged with the Neighbourhood Renewal process in 2005 and published its Strategic Regeneration Framework and Neighbourhood Action Plan in 2008. A review and reformulation of the Action Plan was developed and published in 2011.

The Partnership is comprised of 22 members representing various sectors plus an independent chairperson. Community representation and Political representation make up an equal proportion of the Partnership, making up around 60% of total partnership members altogether, with a slightly smaller representation from the statutory sector. The partnership also has representation from the private sector in the area, with 3 representatives on the partnership.

The Partnership established 9 sub-groups to deliver on the following priorities set out within the Action Plan:

- Education;
- Young people and youth issues;
- Employability, Jobs and Business;
- Health and Wellbeing;
- Arts and Culture;
- Crime and Community Safety;
- Sports and Leisure; and
- Arterial Routes and Environment.

Currently seven of these are operational with the proposed Arts and Culture sub-group's activities currently being delivered through the GSP's Arts and Culture sub-committee. The establishment of an Environment subgroup has only been proposed at this stage.

Themes Emerging from Consultation with NR Partnership

Area Improvement

It was felt that over the years, the Greater Shankill area had suffered from a "perfect storm" of negative impacts on the area through the loss of primary sources of employment for people in the area, an area economic collapse, massive redevelopment of areas causing significant societal change, as well as the unique suffering and lasting effects inflicted on the area during the Troubles. It was felt that the resilience of the community through this and being able to come back to working together to address issues of deprivation through Neighbourhood Renewal was to be commended.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, it was thought, brought a focused programme of work to the area with one of the big successes being the ability to tie in and link with other sources of funding, e.g. Social Investment Fund, using the leverage provided by Neighbourhood Renewal status as a demonstration of area need.

The Partnership stated much of the activity carried out as part of Neighbourhood Renewal was carried out by groups outside of Neighbourhood Renewal funding. To date 30% of the priority actions within the area plan had been successfully delivered upon. Of those which had been achieved, 44% were achieved through directly funded NR activities, the remaining 56% were non-funded. The Partnership thought it unlikely that this level of real and tangible partnership working would be present across other BRO areas, within Greater Shankill there was an overall willingness across funded and non-funded groups to come together to play a part in benefitting the area as a whole.

There was perceived to be a growing strength within the area now with a stronger sense of community belonging and identity. Through private developments and improvements through the NIHE, the housing in the area is continually improving. With the physical environment being improved through Neighbourhood Renewal the Partnership felt the area was being turned into one where people will want to remain. The population decline in the area has levelled out and the community no longer feels it is on the way out, something which could not have been said 20-30 years ago.

Area Achievements through Neighbourhood Renewal

Physical Renewal

There were two key areas of physical improvement made within the Greater Shankill area. The first was the installation of a MUGA in Woodvale Park as part of an overall regeneration of the park delivered jointly with Belfast City Council. Neighbourhood Renewal funding contributed around £750m to an overall redevelopment cost of over £2m

The second concerned the redevelopment of a dilapidated building within the area into a community centre. The redeveloped Ardaluin House now accommodates and facilitates activities delivered by youth and community groups across the Greater Shankill and North Belfast area.

Social and Community Renewal

A major area of investment targeting Social Renewal is through the Shankill Women's Centre project which delivers interventions crossing a range of priorities identified in the area plan. The project's underlying theme is to address the exclusion and isolation of women within the area and promote greater participation within the community. The overall funded project provides for projects covering education, training and employability, a health project aiming to combat mental health issues relating to social isolation, young people's empowerment and the provision of childcare.

The EPIC project provides opportunities to the youth of the area for participation in health and fitness opportunities while, as a cross community dialogue scheme, also promoting cross community understanding.

A major health initiative funded through Neighbourhood Renewal is the Forum for Action on Substance Abuse aiming to support individuals and families, as part of the wider community, to try and reduce the incidences and effects of substance misuse, suicide and self-harm.

The Northern Ireland Alternative project delivers interventions based on targeted youth support to help "at risk" young people. It is delivered in conjunction with 3 other Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.

The area is also delivering youth forums, a community safety network and family support and information services and services for lone parents.

Economic Renewal

The Shankill Women's Centre delivers education and training opportunities to women from the Greater Shankill area, who feel they have not been adequately provided for through mainstream education, in order to enhance their skills and employability.

Technical support has been provided to an Action Group within the area to allow for the development of a social economy project based within the Glencairn Estate. A co-ordinator has also been employed to develop a social enterprise project, utilising a community facility and business space, which will seek to increase the level of enterprise within the region.

Partnership Model of Delivery

The Partnership was already an established group, as part of a larger Ltd. organisation, before the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme came along. As a result the Partnership felt that the community aspect of the area was more developed and there was more social capital in the area than would have been the case in other areas. The Partnership stated they "*took our own pre-existing mould and applied the area's circumstances to Neighbourhood Renewal*".

One of the main challenges for the Partnership was tying up the delivery of Neighbourhood Renewal across the whole area. The Partnership felt they faced a unique set of challenges, compared to the vast majority of other NRAs, given the population size within the Greater Shankill NRA.

The Partnership found they had groups being funded through Neighbourhood Renewal who weren't delivering effectively so the Partnership was required to tie in assistance from non-funded groups. The Partnerships did not want to police funded groups but felt occasionally that they were given a contentious role in the process.

Joined up working with the statutory bodies was felt to be fairly seamless owing to the pre-existing nature of the partnership in the area where good lines of working with the statutory agencies and other organisations had already been established.

Overall the Partnership felt they had been effective in the development of a comprehensive and detailed vision and plan for the area and provided a structure that everyone could work towards as a focus for delivery.

Factors of Success and Key Challenges

Key success factors highlighted by the Partnership representatives:

- The level of social capital within the Greater Shankill area and the level to which organisations worked in partnership with each other and played their own part in regenerating the area whether they were funded through Neighbourhood Renewal or not.

- The long term aspect of the funding allowed the area the ability to forward plan by 3-4 years for the first time. This "*allowed the plan to be put into action with a longer term view and allowed the area to be aspirational in its vision*". The opportunity was there to direct resources and activities early for the next source of funding, and so freeing up time and resources for what was being delivered in the present.

Key challenges/constraints highlighted by Partnership representatives:

- When it comes down to the areas, the splitting into "haves" and "have-nots" does not work in anyone's favour. The demarcation of the NRAs caused a split in the traditional linkages with the Ballysillan/Upper Ardoyne region and a lot of joined up working was lost as a result.

- In a lot of cases the Partnership had to pay to establish their own baselines of data for various issues in the area. The Partnership provided an example whereby they were required to pay to get their own educational attainment baseline established, this was only permitted by the schools on the pre-condition that the results weren't published, leading to a perception by the Partnerships that conditions were imposed that limited their use and effectiveness.

Other Key Issues

The Partnership felt that when the Strategy was initially introduced it was an overall Government strategy where every Department wanted to deliver and contribute to. However when DSD were given the lead remit for the strategy it became a DSD strategy and the other Departments were lost. The Departments didn't join up and didn't buy in to the process as a result. There was a perception that there was all the will power in the world but it fell short in the end.

It also came down to a simple issue of manpower, especially in the BRO region due to the high concentration of NRAs. There simply wasn't enough officers of a suitably senior enough level to effectively get the required buy in from all agencies. E.g. how are BELB supposed to adequately cover all 15 Belfast NRAs?

The Partnership felt that the Greater Shankill area was still not yet halfway to where it needed to be there is still a considerable way ahead, but at least the area had been provided with focused view of what is actually required to get there. It was felt that going forward there needed to be a recognition that turnaround within the area will be a generational thing. Since 1968 the area had seen "*3 generations directly negatively impacted upon, the area needs to be given a fair chance to move the area forward once more*".

The Partnership was not aware of any perceived significant impact on delivery of Neighbourhood Renewal through the transfer to Councils. It was felt that since the GSP was doing the job mostly anyway, as long as the funding continues as normal then the work will continue.

The concern within the Partnership was that the Council are politicians. There is the potential for them to begin "*cutting up Neighbourhood Renewal funding on a political basis by head counts and community parity and not on the basis of need*". The Partnership also felt that it made the prospect of joined up working even less likely, as if DSD couldn't achieve departmental buy in and joined up working, how could local government be expected to achieve this?

The Partnership also suggested that Council delegate out more responsibilities to the Partnerships so to relieve any increased pressure on council resources.

APPENDIX F6: OUTER WEST DERRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA

Location

The Outer West Derry NRA is made up of four estates/areas namely: Rosemount, The Glen, Ballymagroarty and Hazelbank.

Socio Economic Context and Changes[50]

The following section outlines key socio-economic changes that occurred within the Outer West Derry NRA over the duration of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

Population

The population of the Outer West Derry Neighbourhood Renewal Area was 8,640 at the time of the 2011 Census. The demographic profile of the area is presented below.

Table F6.1: Population Statistics using Census Data (2001-2011)

	Persons aged 0-15 years	Persons aged 16-59/64 years	Persons aged 60+ years	Total
2001	2674	5647	1035	9213
2011	1883	5732	1218	8640
Percentage change (%)	-29.58%	1.51%	17.68%	-6.22%

Source: NISRA Census of Population Survey 2001 and 2011

The table above shows us that the population in the area has experienced a decline over the period of the strategy. This is accounted for by a significant decrease in the youth population of the area by almost 30% (791). At the same time there has also been an increase in the number of individuals aged 60 and over.

Economic Renewal

The table below details trends relating to economic activity across the Outer West Derry NRA in comparison to the average rates across all NRAs and all non-NRAs in Northern Ireland.

Table F6.2: Economic Activity indicators

	Economically Active (%)		Unemployed (%)		L/T Unemployed (%)	
	2001	**2011**	**2001**	**2011**	**2001**	**2011**
Outer West Derry NRA	51.1	56.1	8.8	10.6	44.4	48.4
All NRAs	49.7	57.1	8.1	8.3	46.7	47.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	64.7	67.9	3.4	4.3	37.6	44.1

Source: NISRA Northern Ireland Census of Population Survey 2001 and 2011

As set out within the above table, the rate of economic activity increased within the Outer West Derry NRA by 5 percentage points over the course of the strategy. Over the same time the rate of unemployment increased by 1.8 percentage points. The rates of economic activity, unemployment and long term unemployment have remained consistently poorer than the all-NRA average over the course of the strategy.

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[50] Source for following statistics is NINIS unless stated otherwise

The following table sets out the changes within the Outer West Derry NRA in relation to other indicators of economic renewal from 2003 to 2013.

Table F6.3: Economic Renewal Indicator Changes

	Income Support (%)		JSA Claimants (%)		DLA Claimants (%)	
	2004	**2012**	**2003**	**2013**	**2003**	**2013**
Outer West Derry NRA	23.5	16.8	7.4	11.6	14.2	15.1
All NRAs	25.5	17.5	6.5	10.5	17.1	18.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	6.7	5.0	2.5	4.5	7.7	9.1

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (Outer West Derry) 2013

As set out above, the rate for income support decreased significantly across all NRAs and across the rest of NI between 2004 and 2012. This is considered to be attributable to benefit eligibility changes introduced by central government as part of a concerted effort to move people off Income Support. There has been a significant increase in the uptake of JSA within the area consistent with the increase across all NRAs.

Social Renewal

The table below details trends relating to educational attainment within the Outer West Derry NRA.

Table F6.4: Social Renewal: Education

	KS2, Level 4 English %		KS2, Level 4 Maths %		5 GCSEs (A* - C) %		No GCSEs %	
	2004	**2011**	**2004**	**2011**	**2004**	**2011**	**2004**	**2011**
Outer West Derry NRA	71.9	82.3	77.6	81.2	56.3	66.4	5.5	2.5
All NRAs	64.1	73.6	67.6	74.8	43.8	62.3	12	3.1
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	79.7	84.4	81.9	84.7	66.9	76.2	3.7	1.8

Source; DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (Outer West Derry) 2013

The table above highlights that educational attainment within the Outer West Derry NRA consistently exceeds the rates of attainment across all NRAs and are close to parity with the non-NRA averages. All indicators demonstrated significant improvements over the course of the strategy.

The table below details the trends within the Outer West Derry NRA relating to health outcomes.

Table F6.5: Social Renewal: Health

	Deaths under 75 (%)		Alcohol Related Deaths (%)		Births, Teenage Mothers (%)	
	2005	**2010**	**05-09**	**06-10**	**2005**	**2010**
Outer West Derry NRA	55.8	67.3	4.1	6.3	11.3	12
All NRAs	48.2	49.8	3.6	3.7	13.5	9.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	47.3	36.9	1.4	1.5	4.6	4.1

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (Outer West Derry) 2013

The Outer West Derry NRA has experienced deterioration in terms of area health outcomes over the course of the strategy. Over two thirds of deaths in the area are under 75 while the rate of alcohol related deaths is now over four times that of the non-NRA average. The rate of births to teenage mothers has also marginally increased by 0.7 percentage points.

The table below details trends relating to crime and community wellbeing outcomes in the Outer West Derry NRA.

Table F6.6: Social Renewal: Crime

(per 1,000 population)	Total no. offences		Drug Offences		Anti-Social Behaviour	
	2003	**2011**	**2003**	**2011**	**2006**	**2011**
Outer West Derry NRA	67.1	77.3	1.2	1.9	53.8	55.6
All NRAs	147.3	132.3	2.8	4.7	87.1	71.1
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	61.4	43.7	1.3	1.6	53.2	29.2

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (Outer West Derry) 2013

The table above highlights that outcomes relating to crime and community well being have worsened over the course of the strategy in the Outer West Derry NRA. Total offences have increased by 10.2 incidents per 1,000 population. Anti-social behaviour incidents also increased in contrast to a consistent trend of decreasing incidents across NRAs and non-NRAs.

Public Opinion/Awareness

There was no published NIHE survey for the Outer West Derry NRA at the time of the evaluation.

Allocation/expenditure

Capital and Revenue projects funded through the NR Programme are aimed toward relieving poor outcomes resulting from deprivation across the four strategic objectives. The following table illustrates the breakdown of allocation and expenditure of funds in the financial year of 2012/13 across the strategic objectives. This is compared to the proportional spend across each objective across the entire Neighbourhood Renewal Programme for the same time period.

Table F6.7: CFF Funding and Spend (2012/13)

Strategic Objective	Outer West Derry NRA		Overall Programme	
	Spend	% total	Spend	% total
Community Renewal	£420,408	61.1%	£9,688,595	33.5%
Social Renewal	£151,048	21.9%	£7,815,194	27%
Physical Renewal	£54,600	7.9%	£8,794,733	30.4%
Economic Renewal	£62,518	9.1%	£2,634,544	9.1%
Total	**£688,574**	**100%**	**£28,933,065**	**100%**

Source: Outer West Derry NRA Annual Report 2012/13

The predominant focus for the £688k Neighbourhood Renewal investment in the Outer West Derry area, in 2012/13, was towards activities relating to Community renewal. The level of spend (9.1%) targeted towards Economic renewal was consistent with overall programme spend for the year, however, contrary to trends seen in overall spend, there was little investment toward Physical renewal activities.

Here are some key achievements for 2012/13 for funded projects:

- 35.7 FTE permanent jobs created/safeguarded;
- 138 nursery places created/safeguarded;
- 1900 partaking in health initiatives;
- 40 crime victims supported; and
- 7180 benefitted from projects designed to promote personal and social development.

These achievements were realised through a number of varying projects and area interventions. Some of the key projects that took place across the two areas, and spend on them as of March 2013, include:

- Ballymagroarty/Hazelbank Renewal Project – c.£115,000; Working with community, statutory and private sector partners to deliver initiatives that improve the quality of life of residents. NR funding is utilised to employ a manager, administrator and two development officers.
- Dunluce Family Centre Lifestart Programme – c.£75,000; Incorporating two strands of activity. A home based early years parenting programme and a Lifestart Parent Education programme.
- Upgrading of street lighting on the Foyle Embankment – c.£55,000; Providing safer streets for all road users and pedestrians while enhancing the physical daytime and night time appearance.
- Derry 2020 – c.£45,000; A citywide collaborative approach to community development incorporating a combination of activities enabling people to access all available opportunities to gain the education and skills to find sustainable employment and make them inclusive in economic society.

Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Nature and Structure

The Outer West Derry NR Partnership was set up in 2005 and consists of 16 members (including one Strategy Manager) who meet on a monthly basis.

The Partnership has split into four subgroups each addressing one of the Neighbourhood Renewal strategies identified at the outset.

![RSM McClure Watters (Consulting) — Connected for Success]

Department for Social Development
Evaluation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
Final Report - September 2014

Themes Emerging from Consultation with NR Partnership

Area Improvement

The Outer West Derry NRA was stated, by the Partnership, to be the most mixed in the City in terms of its religious and cultural make up. As a consequence of this the Partnership was keen to facilitate cross-community exchanges, as part of Neighbourhood Renewal, from the outset. Summer programmes e.g. Fest in the West, have been channelling the energies of youths in the area into more productive areas and as a result many traditional causes of community tensions e.g. bonfires, have not occurred for several years now.

A large emphasis has also been placed on interventions targeting youths drinking on the street and in known meeting spots. This has included both targeted programmes to provide these youths with other activities as well as physical renewal of some sites to take them out of use as possible meet up spots. The result has been a reduction in the number of anti-social behaviour incidents and PSNI call outs within the area. The interventions were "*included in Baroness Newlove's Vision for Safe and Active Communities Report and were hailed as a model of best practice in tackling neighbourhood crime*".

Area Achievements through Neighbourhood Renewal

A lot of programmes run through forums in the area were stated to have come about as a direct consequence of Neighbourhood Renewal. The effectiveness of long term core funding has helped enormously while the simple designation of the area as an NRA has been able to be used as a lobbying tool for other sources of funding e.g. Lottery.

Neighbourhood Renewal was seen to be more effective for the area than previous sources of funding that would have been available, namely European PEACE funding. With these, groups in the area were not cooperating and were very parochial in their activities. The nature of Neighbourhood Renewal brought them under one umbrella of area wide deprivation and not tribal boundaries which has encouraged joined up working among the community groups with significant positive impacts.

The joined up working has now ratcheted up to a joined up approach across the city, with the Citywide Regeneration Plan serving as testament to this. The shift in the percentage of people stating they want to remain within the area is evidence of the success of Neighbourhood Renewal within the area.

Partnership Model of Delivery

The creation of the partnership was credited with the prevention of conflict that would have been present previously and could have had significant negative impacts for actual delivery. The areas are quite traditional and, though it could not be said that suspicion had been removed entirely, the creation of friendships/working relationships through the partnership allowed for most of this to be mitigated. It was felt a lot of credit had to go to the partnership itself for *"biting the bullet"* in burying differences and getting on with it.

At a delivery level it was felt the existence of the partnership model had "*focused the mind of the statutory agencies in enabling the securing of a level of core funding for the area*". It had concentrated the minds of the community to hold the statutory agencies to account and in order to get the desired positive impacts from Neighbourhood Renewal in the area. However it was felt that a whole lot more could have been achieved through the Programme had the model been adopted more widely among Departments as not all had fully bought in to the process.

It was felt that it has also allowed the community to hold groups delivering programmes to account for what they have delivered with the funding provided through the programme.

Factors of Success and Key Challenges

The partnership felt that a major factor of success for Neighbourhood Renewal in the area was the basing of it on the UK consensus of the delivering of services for the community by the community in conjunction with the government. While this was exercised more, through Neighbourhood Renewal, than had been done previously it was still felt this could come to the fore a bit more going forward. The required level of community capacity for this had been built through the NR Programme.

Some key constraints to the optimum delivery of the programme included the lack of funding for core organisation costs, with only programme funding available. The need for longer tranches of funding to be made available was also a stated requirement as currently the short term nature of funding was felt to be contrary to the long term vision of the programme and key delivery groups were unable to retain key staff. This resulted in loss of confidence in the process as a result.

Other Key Issues

Going forward, the Partnership were concerned about whether the same impacts could be achieved once powers have transferred to Derry City Council. It was also felt that a poorly managed transition into the Council could do a lot of damage and undo a lot of the good work which has been carried out so far.

Key recommendations were the implementation of safeguards to ensure NR funding is kept separate from the Councils so it cannot be used to underpin their own spend. The Partnership also sought continuity of the aims and objectives of the Programme along with the continuity of as much of the Departmental staff as possible.

APPENDIX F7: UPPER SPRINGFIELD/WHITEROCK NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA

Location of NRA

The Upper Springfield/Whiterock NRA lies at the base of the Black Mountain and is comprised of three broad geographic areas - Greater New Barnsley, Greater Ballymurphy and Greater Turf Lodge. Its electoral ward area contribution includes the Upper Springfield, Whiterock, Glen Road and Falls Park electoral wards.

Socio - economic Context and Changes[51]

The following section outlines key socio-economic changes which have taken place over the course of the duration of the Neighbourhood Renewal strategy.

Population

The population of the Upper Springfield/Whiterock Neighbourhood Renewal Areas was 11,327 at the time of the Census in 2011. The demographic profile of the area is presented in Table D7.1 below.

Table F7.1: Age Demographics for Upper Springfield/Whiterock NRA

	Persons aged 0-15	Persons aged 16-59/64	Persons aged 60+	Total
2001	3,776	6,734	1,461	11,831
2011	2,794	6,986	1,802	11,327
Percentage change (%)	-26.01%	3.74%	23.34%	-4.26%

Source: NISRA Census of Population Survey 2001 and 2011

From Table D7.1, above, it can be seen that the population within the Upper Springfield/Whiterock NRA has decreased by just over 500 between 2001 and 2011. It is also apparent that the resident population of the area is also ageing with a 26% decrease in the youth population over this period and almost the same proportional increase in the population over 60. As a result this is likely to present unique challenges in relieving issues related to deprivation in the area.

Economic Renewal

Table F7.2 below details trends relating to economic activity across the Upper Springfield/Whiterock NRA in comparison to the average rates across all NRAs and all non-NRAs in Northern Ireland.

Table F7.2: Economic Activity Indicators

	Economically Active (%)		Unemployed (%)		L/T Unemployed (%)	
	2001	**2011**	**2001**	**2011**	**2001**	**2011**
U. Springfield/W,rock NRA	43.0%	48.8%	10.0%	8.4%	41.8%	40.8%
All NRAs	49.7	57.1	8.1	8.3	46.7	47.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	64.7	67.9	3.4	4.3	37.6	44.1

Source: NISRA Northern Ireland Census of Population Survey 2001 and 2011

As set out in the table above, the Upper Springfield/Whiterock NRA has experienced improvements across all indicators relating to economic activity. The rate of economic activity has increased by 5.8

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[51] Statistics Courtesy of NINIS unless stated otherwise

percentage points, while the rate of unemployment has decreased by 1.6 percentage points. Despite these improvements the area, however, remains behind the overall NRA average in relation to the same indicators.

The following table sets out the changes within the Upper Springfield/Whiterock NRA in relation to other indicators of economic renewal from 2003 to 2013.

Table F7.3: Economic Renewal Key Changes

	Income Support (%)		JSA Claimants (%)		DLA Claimants (%)	
	2004	**2012**	**2003**	**2013**	**2003**	**2013**
U. Springfield/W,rock NRA	36.9	26.3	8.4	10.8	23.1	27.2
All NRAs	25.5	17.5	6.5	10.5	17.1	18.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	6.7	5.0	2.5	4.5	7.7	9.1

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (U. Springfield/W,rock) 2013

As set out in the table above, the rate of income support decrease significantly across all NRAs and across the rest of NI also between 2004 and 2012. This is considered to be more attributable, however, to benefit eligibility changes made by central government as part of a concerted effort to move people off Income Support. There has been a significant increase in the uptake of JSA within the area consistent with the increase across all NRAs. Across all indicators the area remains worse off in comparison to the overall NRA average,

Social Renewal

Table F7.4 below details the trends relating to educational attainment within the Upper Springfield/Whiterock NRA.

Table F7.4: Social Renewal: Education

	KS2, Level 4 English %		KS2, Level 4 Maths %		5 GCSEs (A* - C) %		No GCSEs %	
	2004	**2011**	**2004**	**2011**	**2004**	**2011**	**2004**	**2011**
U. Springfield/W,rock NRA	58.0	66.5	62.8	65.2	34.4	61.9	17.8	1.9
All NRAs	64.1	73.6	67.6	74.8	43.8	62.3	12	3.1
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	79.7	84.4	81.9	84.7	66.9	76.2	3.7	1.8

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (U. Springfield/W,rock) 2013

The table above demonstrates that educational attainment within the area has displayed significant improvements over the course of the strategy. However the area remains behind the average across all NRAs for key stage 2 and 5 GCSEs (A*- C). The most significant improvement is evident in the rate of school leavers with no GCSEs which has decreased by 15.9 percentage points. In this aspect alone the area performs better than the NRA average.

The table below details the trends within the Upper Springfield/Whiterock NRA. relating to health outcomes.

Table F7.5: Social Renewal: Health

	Deaths under 75 (%)		Alcohol Related Deaths (%)		Births, Teenage Mothers (%)	
	2005	**2010**	**05-09**	**06-10**	**2005**	**2010**
Upper Springfield/Whiterock NRA	50.6	50.0	2.9	2.9	21.1	10.3
All NRAs	48.2	49.8	3.6	3.7	13.5	9.3
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	47.3	36.9	1.4	1.5	4.6	4.1

Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (U. Springfield/W,rock) 2013

The area has experienced minor improvements in terms of outcomes relating to health. There has been a 0.6 percentage point reduction in the rate of deaths under 75 while the rate of alcohol related deaths remains unchanged. There was a significant 10.8 percentage point reduction in the rate of teenage births, however the rate remains above the NRA average.

Table F7.6 below details trends relating to crime and community wellbeing outcomes in the Upper Springfield/Whiterock NRA.

Table F7.6: Social Renewal: Crime

(per 1,000 population)	Total no. offences		Drug Offences		Anti-Social Behaviour	
	2003	**2011**	**2003**	**2011**	**2006**	**2011**
Upper Springfield/Whiterock NRA	108.2	103.6	2.2	1.6	82.3	90.8
All NRAs	147.3	132.3	2.8	4.7	87.1	71.1
Rest of NI (non-NRAs)	61.4	43.7	1.3	1.6	53.2	29.2

 Source: DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Measurement of Outcome Indicators Report (U. Springfield/W,rock) 2013

The table above highlights only marginal changes in outcomes relating to crime and community wellbeing within the area. The rate of total offences reduced by 4.6 offences per 1,000 population. There was also an 8.5 incidents per 1,000 population increase in anti-social behaviour. In terms of total offences and drug related offences, the area performs better than the NRA average.

Public Opinions/Awareness

There was no published NIHE survey for the Upper Springfield/Whiterock NRA at the time of the evaluation.

Allocation and Expenditure

Table F7.7, below, details the capital and revenue project expenditure across the Upper Springfield/Whiterock NRA over the course of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme.

Table F7.7: Revenue and Capital Expenditure in Upper Springfield/Whiterock NRA 2003 – 2013

	Revenue		**Capital**	
Upper Springfield/Whiterock NRA	£7,667,174,03	96.4%	£283,715	3.6%
Overall Neighbourhood Renewal Programme Spend	£99,158,106	60%	£66,084,932	40%

Source: DSD

The table above demonstrates to us that the vast majority of Neighbourhood Renewal expenditure within the area was on revenue related projects. Only 3.6% of Neighbourhood Renewal funding was targeted at addressing Physical Renewal of the area.

Capital and Revenue projects funded through the NR Programme are aimed toward relieving poor outcomes resulting from deprivation across the four strategic objectives. The following table documents the allocation and expenditure for funds for the financial year of 2012/2013. This is compared to the proportional spend across each objective across the entire Neighbourhood Renewal Programme for the same time period.

Table F7.8: CFF Funding and Spend 2012/13

Strategic Objective	Upper Springfield / Whiterock NRA		Overall Programme	
	Spend	**% total**	**Spend**	**% total**
Community Renewal	£326,506.14	34.1%	£9,688,595	33.5%
Social Renewal	£629,744.35	65.9%	£7,815,194	27%
Physical Renewal	£0	0%	£8,794,733	30.4%
Economic Renewal	£0	0%	£2,634,544	9.1%
Total	**£956,250.49**	**100%**	**£28,933,065**	**100%**

Source: Upper Springfield/Whiterock Annual Report 2012/13

The overall Neighbourhood Renewal investment in the Upper Springfield/Whiterock area in 2012/13 was just under £1m. This investment was targeted toward Community renewal and Social renewal in an almost 2:1 split. There was no investment in activities related to Physical and Economic renewal. The lack of investment in Physical renewal is consistent the capital spend profile for the NRA over the course of the strategy, in Table D7.7, which showed only 3.6% of all Neighbourhood Renewal investment in the area was capital investment.

Some of the key achievements in 2012/13 from Neighbourhood Renewal funded projects include:

* 2157 participating in community bonding;
* 753 pupils with measurably improved attainment in STEM subjects;
* 2908 benefitting from Healthy Living Projects;
* 806 youths involved in youth inclusion/diversionary projects; and
* 412 involved in physical development and/or environmental improvement schemes.

These achievements were realised through a number of varying projects and area interventions. Some of the key projects that took place across the two areas, and spend on them as of March 2013, include:

- Development of effective community services – c.£228,000; the aim of this project was to provide benefits across the NRA by ensuring equal access to a range of community based services and other key government programmes.
- Children, Young People and Families education project – c.£253,700; a project aiming to address the training and educational needs of the West Belfast Community, especially those who are 'hard to reach'.
- Health and Well-being project – c.£250,000; a project to support the delivery of services to the target groups across the health spectrum utilising multiple funded community partners.
- Good Morning services – c.£110,000; one of 3 Good Morning services currently operating in the BCC area. Contributes to the improvement of health and wellbeing of older and vulnerable people through a social outlet and the provision of support and advice.

Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Structure and Nature

Originally, the Upper Springfield/Whiterock Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership consisted of 26 members. Over two thirds (69%) of the representation on this Partnership was made up of the Community and Voluntary sector with a token political representation of 2. The rest was made up of statutory representatives, however they were mostly in the capacity of observers.

More recently, the Upper Springfield/Whiterock NR Partnership has begun applying an integrated approach to its management of Neighbourhood Renewal. This has resulted in the restructuring of the Partnership to make it smaller, with a reduction in the number of subgroups, or Thematic Teams, also. This new partnership consists of 20 members and was launched in February 2013[52]. Children, Young People and Families were agreed as the overarching priority for the Partnership to focus on.

Themes Emerging from Consultation with NR Partnership

Area Improvement

Overall, it was the view of the Partnership that to date, Neighbourhood Renewal was simply not working within the area. Before the Partnership was brought together, it was stated, the community had already come together to develop the area and that there had already been a community structure in the area. The partnership felt Neighbourhood Renewal came in over the top of this and didn't quite fit as a scheme *"parachuted in"* on the back of having not worked in England.

It was felt necessary to restructure the Partnership to include organisations who are not NR funded, and so achieve a more joined up community approach. "*Only now were good things beginning to emerge from the Neighbourhood Renewal themes".*

Area Achievements through Neighbourhood Renewal

Physical Renewal

There is now a thematic team giving focus to addressing housing and environmental issues in the most disadvantaged parts of the NRA. The team is now actively developing interventions to help improve the streetscaping of the area, and reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

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[52] Direct correspondence with DSD

Physical improvements were not viewed previously as a priority. This is reflected in the expenditure of the area over the course of the NR Programme where physical capital works account for only a small percentage of the total expenditure for the area in comparison to expenditure on revenue projects.

Social Renewal

There have been a significant number of area investments into the theme of education under Social Renewal. A major partner for delivery in this respect is the Ardmonagh Family and Community Group which utilises its role as a provider of childcare to support and encourage the family as the best environment for fostering educational attainment. Other services are the promotion of personal, educational and social development for young people through the USDT Youth Team. SVP also operate a range of projects including childcare, breakfast clubs, after school and homework club. Many of these, it was stated, could not operate in absence of NR funding.

In terms of health, major investment has been made through the Health and Well-being project. A major delivery partner in this respect is the Centre for Health and Well-being which provide therapies and services to people suffering legacies from the Troubles, those who have suffered through crime etc.

Examples were also presented, notably the Voices Women's Group, where funding for overheads and staff meant that activities were able to continue which would not have been possible in the absence of funding.

Economic Renewal

Volunteering opportunities and job specific training is provided by the Holy Trinity Centre with participants being provided with mentoring support to improve their opportunities to enter employment or continue their training further.

Community Renewal

A major area of investment within the Upper Springfield/Whiterock NRA was the Delivering Effective Community Services project aiming to ensure equal access to community services and government programmes available to those in need. Recently this has tied in directly to the development of the new area integrated partnership.

One of the significant outcomes for the community was regarded as simply the opportunity to develop relationships with relevant people in Government, meaning that the community now has the opportunity to approach, lobby and campaign on issues relevant to the area.

However it was felt that across almost all projects it could not be said that outcomes were achieved solely as a result of Neighbourhood Renewal. There were other funding streams also at work and the work went much further than simply the funding aspect. Much of the work was a continuation of what had been happening anyway.

Partnership Model of Delivery

The Partnership model of delivery was recognised as an effective model in theory, as long as it was structured correctly. It was felt that having 11-12 sub-groups was too unwieldy, especially as some people were attending 6-7 of these. There was too long spent in meetings with little getting done on the ground. The recent restructure saw the Partnership seeking to condense these sub-groups down to around 4 or 5.

The Partnership was also seeking to gain a greater degree of control over decisions following the restructuring. To this point it was felt the Partnership had merely been signing off on what had already been decided by DSD and driven by a political agenda from above. They also felt they had been under-resourced to a degree, citing the experience they had in developing a Community Communications Strategy where delivery was ineffective due to a lack of resource.

Factors of Success and Key Challenges

Key success factors highlighted by the Partnership representatives:

- The goodwill of people in community groups and volunteers on the ground who devote a large percentage of their time to the delivery of projects for no economic benefit to themselves. The Partnership suspected that, to a large degree, the Programme was over reliant on this goodwill and even took advantage of it. This, it was felt, was demonstrated in the funding of revenue programme costs only, with no contribution to offset the delivery organisation's allocation of resources and overheads to these projects.
- The development of linkages with Statutory and Government agencies who, otherwise, would not have engaged and who they felt they would not be able to get in the same room at the same time under any other circumstance.

Key challenges/constraints highlighted by Partnership representatives:

- A lack of fit between Neighbourhood Renewal and what was required. It was felt the Programme merely brought funding and was lacking in actions to join up delivery. The inability to integrate services was identified as the key contributory factor to the lack of fit.
- It was again highlighted that the framework and priorities for delivery were DSD's own and not those of the community, indicating the top-down nature of the programme.

Other Key Issues

While the Partnership were not wholly convinced of the additional nature of Neighbourhood Renewal funding, it still recognised its requirement in maintaining what was already being delivered. A big concern for the Partnership was any loss of funding for these activities as responsibility for urban regeneration is transferred into Belfast City Council. It was stressed that additional, not diminished, resources were required for the area.

The Partnership urged that simply putting funding towards addressing the issue was not sufficient. People in the area, they felt, are still asking the same questions they were 20 years ago. It was noted that the area had been under resourced from when it was built and that it was unrealistic to expect Neighbourhood Renewal to solve this. It was suggested that the Government needed to ask itself what is the root cause of deprivation and then address all contributing causal factors in a properly integrated manner. This is what the Partnership is trying to implement at a local level but does not have the necessary scale for significant outcomes to result.

The Partnership, however, had no issue with the targeted nature of the funding provided. As it is ranked as the most deprived area in Northern Ireland it was felt that, given the amount of funding

available, a more focussed approach could have been applied e.g. top 5% most deprived. There was minimal contention in the physical boundaries of the NRA given that they border several other NRAs and so any deprived communities they do not service are likely to be serviced within another NRA.

Going forward, there was a high degree of uncertainty within the Partnership as to what the transfer of responsibility to Belfast City Council would actually entail with a prevalent attitude of apathy largely driven by a lack of information received regarding this. They did admit that so far the signs were not encouraging. The Partnership indicated that what they so far viewed as the Council's understanding of what constituted Community Development did not match up with their own. The main areas of concern centred on politicisation of funding and the possibility of the subsuming of NR funding into the Council's overall budget. Concerns, it was felt, were being fuelled by the lack of information provided to the Partnerships and the lack of engagement with the Partnerships in the process so far.

APPENDIX F8: INNER EAST BELFAST NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA

Description of NRA

The Inner East Belfast NRA is comprised of the Short Strand, Lower Newtownards Road, Albertbridge Road, Albertbridge/Beersbridge, The Mount, Woodstock Road and Lower Ravenhill Road.

Socio-economic Context and Changes[53]

Population

With a population of 23,799[54], the Inner East Belfast NRA is one of the largest NRAs. Approximately 79.0% identify themselves as having a Protestant or other Christian (including Christian related) community background and 15.6% have a Catholic community background[55]. The table below gives us a breakdown of the age demographics of the area:

Table F8.1: Age Demographics of Inner East Belfast NRA from Census Data (2001-2011)

	Persons aged 0-15 years	Persons aged 16-59/64 years	Persons aged 60+ years	Total
2001	4504	12506	4548	21124
2011	4580	15666	4032	23799
Percentage change (%)	1.69%	25.27%	-11.35%	12.66%

(Source: Census Data – NISRA)

From the table above we can see that the area is experiencing a growth of its working age population (16-59/64). Total population has also seen an increase between the years of 2001 and 2011.

Table F8.2: Inner East Belfast NRA socio-economic data (2001-2011)

	Inner East Belfast		All NRAs		Non-NRAs	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
Economic Active (%)	52.4	62.7	49.7	57.1	64.7	67.9
	2003	2013	2003	2013	2003	2013
JSA (%)	5.9	9.4	6.5	10.5	2.5	4.5
	2005	2011	2005	2011	2005	2011
Births to Teenage Mothers (%)	18.5	9.6	13.5	8.3	4.6	3.8
	2004	2011	2004	2011	2004	2011
5 GCSEs (A*-C) (%)	30.5	46.3	43.8	62.3	66.9	77
	2003	2011	**	2011	2003	2011
Total Criminal Offences	149.8	135.7	147.3	132.3	61.4	43.7

As shown in the above table, economic activity increased between 2001 and 2011. The percentage of the economically active population between the ages of 16 and 74 has risen to 62.7%; a 19.7% increase and decreasing the percentage points gap between its population and the non-NRA population by over a half (it was 12.3% and it's now 5.2%). However, over the lifetime of the Strategy we have seen an increase in the proportion Job Seeker's Allowance claimants.

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[53] Statistics NINIS unless stated otherwise
[54] 2011 Census Data - NISRA
[55] Religious breakdown of population courtesy of DSD Inner East Belfast NRA Outcomes report 2012/13

The area also experienced vast improvements in educational achievements between 2004 and 2011. A great deal of progress is seen in the later stages of school where there has been a 13.1 percentage points increase in the number of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs from A*-C with the figure now sitting at 43.6%.

Further improvements are seen in the health sector with the proportion of births to teenage mothers (aged 13-19) nearly halved between 2005 and 2011.

Overall criminal offences fell by 14.1 rate points to 135.7 per 1,000 between 2003 and 2011. However, there was rise in drug and anti-social offences in this period. In addition to this, violent crimes account for over a third (49.3 per 1,000) of all offences in the area.

Allocation and Expenditure

The following table documents the allocation and expenditure of funds for the financial year of 2012/13:

Table F8. 3: Funding Allocation and Spend (2012/13)

Objective	Funding Allocation	2012 to 2013 spend (as of 31/03/13)
Community	£599,071.00	£554,615.91
Social	£86,836.04	£86,836.04
Physical	£2,564,539.48	£2,317,191.53
Economic	£85,981.53	£49,530.59
Total	£3,336,428.05	£3,008,174.07

(Source: DSD Annual Report: Inner East Belfast NRA 2012/13)

Some key achievements for 2012/13 of the funded projects, as set out in the NR Partnerships Annual Report include:

- 1,776 people participated in community relations projects;
- 50 residents going into employment;
- 297 childcare places supported;
- 2,445 benefitting from healthy lifestyle projects; and
- 3,081 young people benefitting from inclusion/diversionary projects.

As shown in the above table the largest amount of expenditure was under the Physical Renewal objective as will be summarised in the following paragraphs.

Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Structure

The Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership consists of 22 members, representing the Statutory and Community Sectors and elected representatives, as set out below.

Figure F8.1: Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Representation[56]
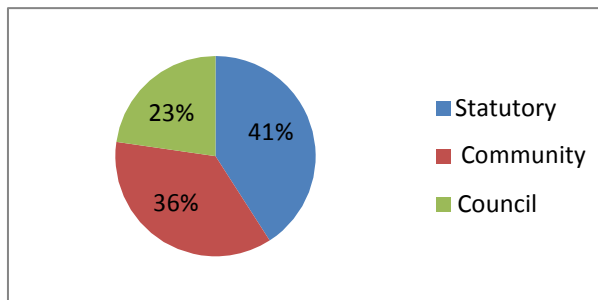
The Inner East Partnership established 3 sub-groups, namely Community & Social Renewal, Physical Developments and Economic Developments. The sub-groups are assisted by the East Belfast Partnership board which provides secretariat support.

The Neighbourhood Partnership is acutely aware that improving relations between the communities along the interface will be the key to success. Despite the political progress that has been made there remain some very marginalised communities adjacent to the interface.

The Partnership has not been as successful as it had hoped at developing a new generation of leaders and so a new scheme has been introduced by the EBCDA to build capacity.

Members of the Partnership noted that a number of factors that hindered the work of the Partnership, specifically social unrest, protests and riots, which started at the end of 2012. Partnership members believed that this social unrest made it more difficult for community groups to deliver their services and to engage local people in community activities. However, despite these challenges they believe that the community groups were able to deliver programmes as planned.

Physical Renewal

As noted above there was significant expenditure under the physical renewal objective in the Inner East NRA. The majority of this expenditure relates to the development of a new community facility at Templemore Avenue in Belfast, which was officially opened in February 2014. An old primary school was re-developed to provide new facilities for the East Belfast Community Development Association. In addition to the NR funding the Association received funding from the International Fund for Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive Modernisation Fund. The old school had been derelict for a number of years and vandalised. Members of the Partnership noted that it not only provided a location for additional community facilities but that it also significantly improved the areas aesthetically.

In addition to the re-development of the old school over the lifetime of the Strategy, Neighbourhood Renewal has also contributed to other, smaller physical improvement schemes such as public realm schemes and activities relating to the Connswater Greenway.

Social Renewal

Members of the Partnership noted a number of achievements under the social renewal objective. For example, staff from the local Health Trust are actively involved in the Partnership and have helped to develop a number of health projects, specifically aimed at addressing the needs identified in the area. For example, a community based counselling service has been implemented which is aligned to the PHA'S Lifeline Contract (part of the protect life strategy). A number of other important social projects were also noted, including a childcare project and a drugs and alcohol project, both of which were considered to be very successful. The Partnership noted that they would have liked to have

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[56]DSD Website

developed more education focused projects, but that they were not able to get the buy-in required from the appropriate statutory bodies.

Economic Renewal

Not a lot of activity took place under the economic renewal. Members of the Partnership noted that there is a local organisation nearby which is focused on the social economy and economic renewal. However, it was also noted that the new community facility which has a café and space for a crèche will provide the space needed to become more self-sustaining and provide local people with training and job opportunities. In addition to this a short-term, pre-employment training programme was delivered with support from DEL. The Partnership believed that this programme was effective at getting hard –to –reach groups back into the labour market.

Community Renewal

Partnership members noted that community renewal has been difficult, not least due to the number of interface areas. However, ground work for community renewal had already started prior to the Strategy through the East Belfast Area Partnership and the East Belfast Taskforce. The issues associated with the Interface areas have been specifically addressed in the Action Plan, with actions relating to community relation and developing shared spaces.

Under the community renewal objective the Partnership has been working to deliver more collaboration between the key community organisations in the area. This joined up approach has allowed them to develop youth activities and adult education programmes

Partnership Model

There were mixed views on the effectiveness of the partnership model amongst those consulted with in the Inner East NR Partnership. There was a general perception that it was a good concept, but it did not operate as expected. Almost all Partnership members noted that, other Departments did not contribute financially as would have been expected. At the start of the strategy it was the intention that other statutory bodies who were members of the Partnership would re-direct their resources to the needs identified in the Action Plan, this was referred to as "bend the spend". The Partnership strongly believe that this did not happen, and in fact that the other Departments "left it to DSD" to fund under NR. Some Partnership members also noted that there was some degree of overlap with the East Belfast Area Partnership (EBAP) and the East Belfast Taskforce for example, an action plan had already developed for the area, which was used as the NR Partnerships first action plan.

The Partnership also believed that the administration associated with the NR Partnership was excessive and pointed to examples of being asked to develop business cases for funding and then being told that the funding no longer existed.

Factors of success and key challenges

Key success factors as highlighted by Partnership members

- The development of the new community facility was seen as a major success, although it was also noted that NR was not the primary funder;
- There were a number of community structures prior to NR, but NR funded an administrative post which helped co-ordinate community activity across the area.
- There is now better co-ordination of youth services in the area, as the key stakeholders are now part of the Partnership.

Key challenges / restraints as noted by Partnership members

- Partnerships believed that much of the activities funded by NR were not new and that NR should have only funded additional / new activities;
- Other Departments left it up to DSD to fund everything, there was a perception amongst Partnership members that other departments actually contributed less as it was believed that NR would do everything;
- The area has a number of interfaces which over the years have experienced social unrest and inter-community violence, this has made it more challenging to implement community projects. The Partnership noted that many community representatives worked particularly hard during periods of unrest to continue delivering the community development programmes.
- Whilst the concept of long-term intervention is good, in reality funding was only provided for up to three years which created too much uncertainty in the delivery of a long-term vision.

Other Issues

Partnership members also believed that there were very low levels of awareness of NR in the area. They noted that whilst NR funding was acknowledged in various publications, it would probably mean very little to local people.

Members of the Partnership also highlighted the difficulties associated with the boundaries of the NRA. They provided a number of examples of delivering youth projects aimed at developing community relations and when they were informed that some young people from outside the NRA could not attend it made the development of community relations even more difficult. It also made it difficult to work with neighbouring areas that did not receive NR funding, it created competition between areas.

It was also noted that the NR administrative processes were very unclear there was no consistency in the advice and guidance provided by DSD and BRO, which created additional administrative burdens. There was also a perception that different information was being provided to different NR Partnerships.