

You can view the full Statement of Progress on the Community Plan at www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/communityplanning

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Community plan ‘transforming lives’ across the borough

It has been just over two years since the launch of the Mid and East Antrim Community Plan ‘Putting People First’ and it has been making a positive impact across the borough.

A Statement of Progress has been published to show how much has been achieved through the plan to date.

With the launch of the ‘This is ME’ dementia choir, job fairs in the Braid and the uniform exchange schemes to name but a few, it has put words into practice to benefit everyone in Mid and East Antrim.

Putting People First was launched in June 2017 following extensive evidence gathering and community consultation across the borough.

This was key to the creation of a plan which focused on improving the wellbeing of citizens and all aspects of life in the borough from 2017-2032.

This allowed the Community Planning Partnership to create a plan with strong endorsements for the following five themes - Sustainable Jobs and Tourism, Good Health and Wellbeing, Progress in Education, Community Safety and Cohesion and Our Environment.

Under **Sustainable Jobs and Tourism** to date there has been over 10 investor visits through council into the borough, £500k revenue generated in the borough as a result of four tourism marketing campaigns and 75 additional jobs created via the Business Escalator Programme.

Good Health and Wellbeing has seen the creation of eight community gardens and five community orchards, 145 families have benefited from the uniform exchange scheme and over 5,000 people engaged in the Every Body Active programme in 2018/19.

Under the strand **Progress in Education**, six primary schools are participating in a parental engagement pilot programme in Carrickfergus, over 150 children attended a Year of Engineering event and 26 partner organisations have formed a skills forum to develop stronger linkages between business and education.

There were over 60 organisations signed up to 'No Hate Here' initiative through the **Community Safety and Cohesion** umbrella and 46 vulnerable people were referred through the support hub with a 30% reduction in calls to the PSNI.

Between January and June 2019 there were 31 clean ups carried out which fall under the **Our Environment** theme along with nine priority cycle routes being identified in the borough and three community groups received certified 'Eco-Community' status.

The ambitious plan was developed in partnership with a wide range of local people and organisations and brought together the public, private and voluntary sectors to work alongside the community.

Mayor of Mid and East Antrim, Councillor Maureen Morrow, said: "We are delighted by the positive impact the Community Plan is having on the residents of Mid and East Antrim and how it is transforming lives.

"Council together with their partners asked people to tell us what actions they wanted taken and we have been putting these into practice.

"A huge amount of work went into developing a plan that would help us realise a strong, vibrant, safe and inclusive Mid and East Antrim.

"Putting People First safeguards and promotes Mid and East Antrim's reputation as a proud, dynamic and ambitious place."

James Blair, who works as a professional cookery apprentice in Galgorm,

started his career as a direct result of Mid and East Antrim's Community Plan. This was through a programme to ensure people within the borough are equipped with the necessary skills to work in and sustain the future tourism industry.

He said: "I started the Galgorm Apprenticeship Programme in September 2018 and this gave me the opportunity of not only working within the resort but also completing my NVQ Level 2 in Professional Cookery at Northern Regional College.

"This apprenticeship has been excellent for me as I have enhanced my skills within the Kitchen. I will now be working within Galgorm Spa & Golf Resort as a chef; however, I am also going back to NRC to complete my NVQ Level 3 in Professional Cookery two days per week."

The community plan was compiled by Council along with their statutory partners who have all worked collectively to ensure the plan is delivered.

The partners are The Consumer Council, CCMS, DfC, DE, DoJ, Education Authority, Galgorm Resort and Spa, Housing Executive, Health and Social Care Board, NHSCT, PHA, Invest NI, Libraries NI, Michelin, NIFRS, NI Water, NRC, Patient and Client Council, PSNI, Sustainable NI, Sport NI, Tourism NI, Translink, TransportNI and the Community Panel who represents a wide range of community organisations in the Borough.

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 - Mid and East Antrim Borough Council is a multi-award winning local authority which leads the way in the transformation of ever-more efficient and improved public services for its 139,000 citizens. The traditional engine room of the Northern Ireland economy, the borough has a proud manufacturing heritage, diverse and dynamic business community, and a rapidly

expanding tourism and hospitality sector.

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