



# Fermanagh and Omagh Community Planning Partnership

## Statement of Progress

June 2021 - June 2023



Our Strategy, journey and impact so far!





# Foreword from Fermanagh and Omagh Community Planning Partnership Chair



I am delighted to present the 2023 Statement of Progress (SOP) on behalf of the Fermanagh and Omagh Community Planning Partnership.

For the past six years, the Council (FODC) has been working with our Community Planning partners to make Fermanagh and Omagh a great place to live, work, visit, learn and invest. To make it a great place where local people and communities can grow and thrive through working to progress our Community Plan 2030.

No one could have predicted how much the world would have changed in the past number of years since the implementation of our first strategic plan.

Priorities have evolved and new challenges have emerged. We have had to endure the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020; the climate emergency crisis; serious political instability and loss of life in the Middle East; the absence of an Assembly and Executive at Stormont; a cost-of-living crisis and an estimated 31,000+ people in our district living in poverty. All of this is coupled with geopolitical instability, financial insecurity and significant budget cuts across all public services as well as community and non-statutory organisations.

Throughout these difficult times, the strength of the Community Planning Partnership has been central to co-ordinating operational practices in communities as priorities cannot be resolved by any one organisation in isolation. This has provided both a challenge and an opportunity to individual organisations and has forced us all to be more innovative in how we work as a collective to overcome barriers together. For example; The Emerging from Crisis Action Plan created in 2020 encouraged new approaches in number of key areas including poverty; digital inclusion; Climate Change; town centre recovery; supporting positive mental health and trauma informed communities; reducing social isolation and loneliness; tackling poverty and

disadvantage; enhancing capacity of the Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS); supporting tourism and economic recovery; promoting green recovery and building the strong foundations needed to support partnership working.

We continue to embed strong partnership working and collaborative practice in our strategic approach within the Fermanagh and Omagh District and this is evident in the achievements highlighted throughout this report.

I am particularly proud of the work which the Partnership has undertaken to tackle adversity and poverty during the cost-of-living crisis to date. I refer specifically to our work with multiple CVS partners but particularly our local foodbanks, St Vincent De Paul and our two locally- based, independent advice service providers, Omagh Independent Advice Services (OIAS) and Community Advice Fermanagh (CAF). All of this work is about making sure that people have access to minimum standards - food and heat.

The rising skills shortages in the labour market is a significant challenge for us. The work the Labour Market Partnership have delivered is instrumental to tackling this issue with skills academies proving very useful.

Working to tackle climate change amongst our statutory partners at Board level and a recognition to collectively work towards net zero targets is also key.

I have no doubt that by continuing to work together, we can continue to improve the services and quality of life for the people in Fermanagh and Omagh.

We remain focused, too, on emerging challenges as we progress to finalise our new Action Plan in early 2024. We recognise that the next five years will bring both challenges and opportunities for the district and our citizens. In this changing environment, we will continue to prioritise adapt and protect, where possible, essential services. In doing so, we will be contributing to, and strengthening the fabric and quality of life in our local communities for the benefit of all our citizens.

**Chair of Fermanagh and Omagh Community Planning Partnership,  
Councillor Barry McElduff.**

## Some of the positive customer feedback received from June 2021 to June 2023...

"Wow! Thank you so much for such a thought provoking, moving, funny, informative and inspiring event, with such excellent speakers."

"The CP Draft Actions are very inclusive and comprehensive. They reflect the workshop discussions- true Partnership working".

"This was by far the best Happy at Home booklet. It was fun, interesting and informative. I just love getting the booklet."

"The Community Plan review was an excellent example of bringing a wide range of partner organisations together to really listen to each other, join up service delivery, reduce duplication, but most of all improve things for the people".

"Climate Change is such an important issue that it is so important young people inform the decision's that will impact their future. The Youth Forum is an excellent example of this"

"I really found the childcare skills academy most useful and beneficial. The learning has given me the courage to start my business more informed".

"The training was excellent with a good turnout from the community. We had 11 participants and feedback was positive. I sat in the session and found it informative, resonating with me as a professional. There was an opportunity for the interaction and input from everyone".

"Very informative in terms of potential highlighted. Challenge is to collaborate and drive potential for our community, young people and future."

## Contents

<b>Working Together</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Foreword from Chair of FO Community Planning Partnership</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Some of the positive customer feedback received from June 2021 to June 2023</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FO 2030 Community Plan: What we said we would do</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1.1 Our Community Plan FO 2030</b>	<b>6-7</b>
<b>1.2 A Collaborative Leadership Model</b>	<b>8-9</b>
<b>2.0 Population Accountability: Progress towards outcomes</b>	<b>10-11</b>
<b>2.1 Performance Level Accountability: Progress of actions</b>	<b>12-18</b>
<b>3.0 Good Practice Examples from across the three themes</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>3.1 People and Communities</b>	<b>19-22</b>
<b>3.2 Economy, infrastructure and Skills</b>	<b>23-24</b>
<b>3.3 Environment</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>4.0 Review of Community Plan: Sharpening the Focus</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Appendix 1: FO OBA Language Discipline</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Appendix 2: Attendance rate of nominated personnel and nominated deputies of all our Partners on the Community Planning Partnership</b>	<b>28-29</b>
<b>Acronyms</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Contact details</b>	<b>31</b>

# 1.0 Introduction

## FO 2030 Community Plan: What We Said We Would Do

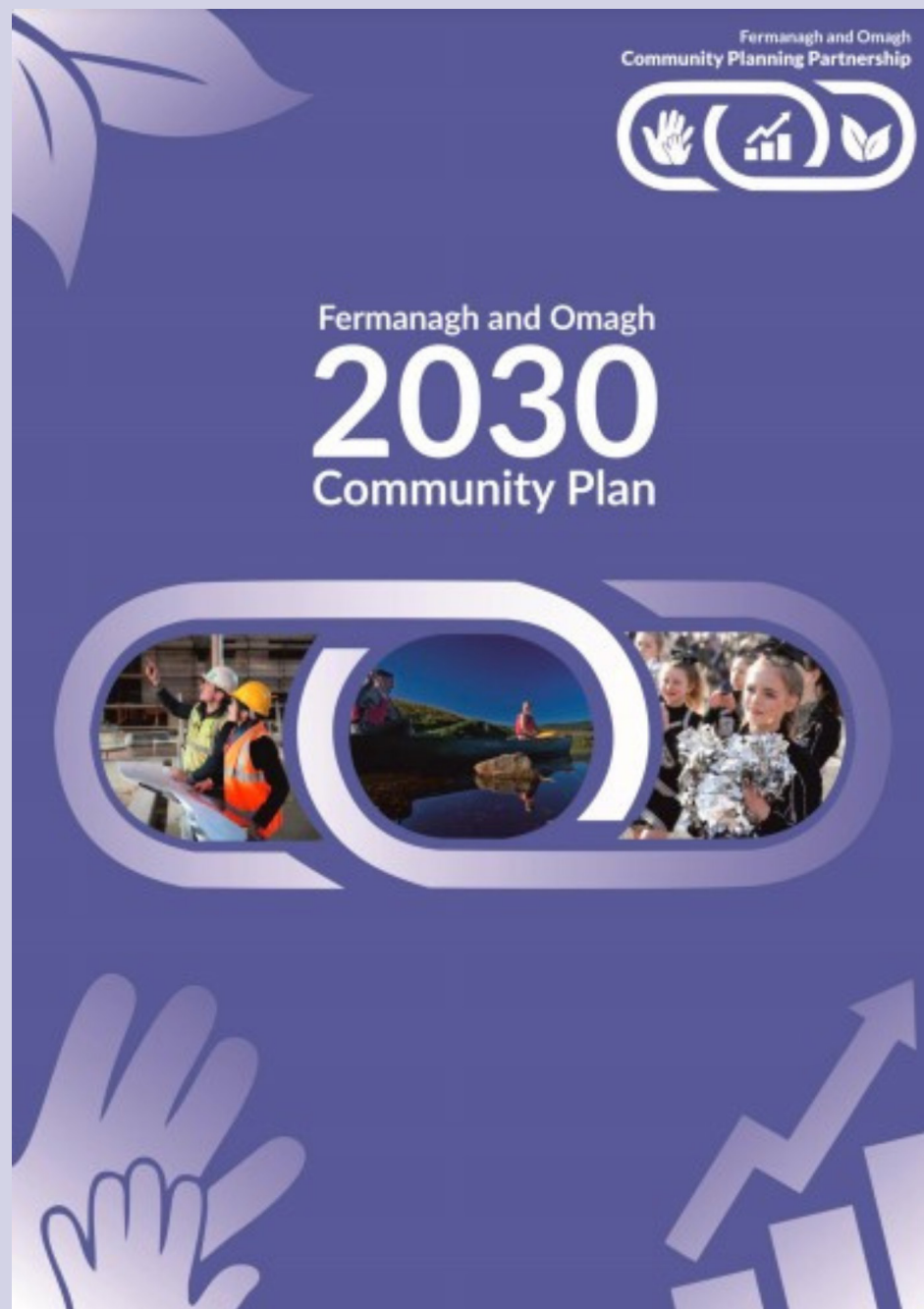
We want to share what we have been able to achieve over the past two years by showing, rather than telling, how our work has positively affected others by working collaboratively across organisational boundaries.

Community Planning Partnerships are required, by legislation, to produce a SOP every two years on progress towards the six shared outcomes, improving the quality of life for our citizens. There were 18 Actions identified in the Emerging from Crisis Action Plan and this report will give a snapshot of their impact through performance measures, feedback from customer groups and an overall summary of the progress of each action progress from amongst Action Leads, support partners and customers themselves.

Since our last update the CPP has also completed a review of the Community Planning Governance Framework and Guidance (September 2021) and commenced a review of the Community Plan in September 2022. It has embedded the Place Shaping approach, bringing together land use planning and community planning and the creative use of powers and influence, to promote the general well-being of communities and residents in the two main towns in the district, Enniskillen and Omagh. Place Shaping brings together expertise from a diverse range of partners with different knowledge and interests to help shape the development of Enniskillen and Omagh as our main towns for the next 10-15 years.

This document provides only a summary of some key achievements accomplished throughout the Fermanagh and Omagh area by our Statutory Partners, Support Partners, Community and Voluntary Sector and business representatives with collaboration and partnership working a central focus.

To date the Partnership has produced two statements of progress [2019](#) and [2021](#).



## 1.1 Our Community Plan FO 2030

Fermanagh Omagh (FO) 2030 Community Plan was published in March 2017 and is the key over-arching strategic framework for the Fermanagh and Omagh District. It has adopted an Outcomes-Based Accountability Performance Management Framework (see language discipline at Appendix 1) which provides a method of thinking that directs action towards target populations which are most vulnerable. Over the past six years significant progress has been made against the agreed Outcomes. However, Community Planning as a process embodies agility in practice and continuous review informed by our statutory partners, action leads, stakeholder engagement and public consultation processes. This ensures that Outcomes, Population Indicators and Actions are relevant to the political, social, economic, and environmental context it is operating in.

Outlined below is the high-level content of the Community Plan as at November 2023. The wording of Outcomes four and six were refined during the review in September 2022 to reflect the strategic landscape of the district. There was sharpening of focus on the Population Indicators and these were reduced from 38 to 18. (An update is provided in Section Two). The refocused Population Indicators being monitored are listed below.



### Vision for Fermanagh and Omagh

Our Vision is of a welcoming, shared and inclusive Fermanagh and Omagh district, where people and places are healthy, safe, connected and prosperous, and where our outstanding natural, built and cultural heritage is cherished and sustainably managed.

### Our Three Cross Cutting Themes

#### People and Communities



#### Economy, Infrastructure and Skills



#### Environment



### Our Outcomes

Residents and partners identified six long term outcomes they want to achieve by 2030 by working in partnership. These long-term outcomes are the conditions of wellbeing that our partners work collectively to achieve for our children, adults' families and communities.

1. People are healthy and well – physically, mentally and emotionally.
2. Older people lead more engaged, independent and socially connected lives.
3. Our communities are safe, inclusive, resilient and empowered.
4. Our children and young people have the best start in life.<sup>1</sup>

5. Our economy is expanding, thriving and outward looking.

6. Our outstanding natural and built environment is sustainably managed and where possible enhanced.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Our people have the best start in life with lifelong opportunities to fulfil their potential (Previous wording of outcome 4 before review September 2022)

<sup>2</sup> Our outstanding and culturally rich environment is cherished, sustainably managed and appropriately accessible (Previous wording of outcome 4 before review September 2022).



## Our Population Indicators...

Progress towards the achievement of outcomes is measured using population indicators. These are reliable data sources that reflect the wellbeing of our target populations within Fermanagh and Omagh.



## Our Shared Values

The Shared Values and Principles which underpin the Vision and cut across all the Themes and Outcomes to be achieved are:



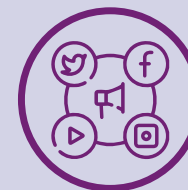
**Openness, Accountability and Transparency**



**Prevention and Early Intervention**



**An Evidence-Based Approach**



**Effective Engagement**



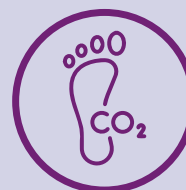
**Working Collaboratively**



**Equality**



**Addressing Deprivation**



**Sustainability**



**Continuous Improvement**

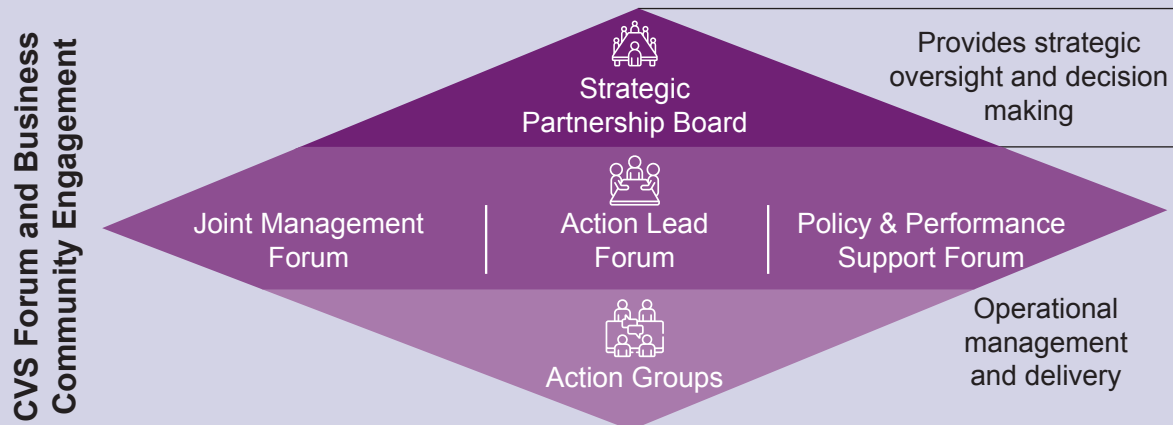
## 1.2 A Collaborative Leadership Model

### Governance Arrangements and Partnership Working

The Fermanagh and Omagh (CPP) was established in 2017 with a shared vision to improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of our communities and all citizens. With a focus on delivering outcomes across the district, an appropriate governance model was established to drive collaboration across sectors and partners and progress towards delivery of the agreed priorities of the CPP.

### Partnership Structure and roles and responsibilities

Community Planning as a process aims to improve the connection between all tiers of Government and wider society (including the community, voluntary and business sectors) and work together in partnership to jointly deliver better outcomes for everyone. Councils are the lead partners and have responsibility to initiate, maintain, facilitate and participate in community planning for the district.



Following an update of the FO Community Plan in 2020, Community Places were commissioned to undertake a review of the Governance Structure in 2021 to support the delivery of the Emerging from Crisis Action Plan. The Governance Structure oversees and supports delivery of the FO Community Plan. A workshop with representatives from each level of the governance structure was held in June 2021 to ensure learning was captured and challenges shared.

Read the full governance review [here](#)

The Community Planning Strategic Partnership Board continues to lead and provide oversight. The delivery is supported by the Action Lead Forum and a number of action groups who support the delivery of agreed actions.

An agile approach to delivery was adopted as we respond to ongoing changing circumstances.

### Impact of Collaboration



Distributed Leadership



Efficiency, improved engagement and attendance at meetings



Willingness to participate to deliver shared outcomes

### Challenges



Sharing of budgets is limited



Communication is complex and hard to manage in statutory partners wider organisations



Harnessing true collaborative practice due to organisational and sector resource strains.



## Community Planning Partnership Meetings

Between June 2021 and June 2023, the Community Planning Strategic Partnership Board met a total of 6 times to collaborate, identify priorities, monitor progress on actions, give strategic direction and provide oversight. Click on the links to review all meeting packs and view all associated information including 72 Performance Report Cards which demonstrates progress of actions towards outcomes.



30th  
September  
2021

[Papers](#)

17 members  
in attendance



25th  
November  
2021

[Papers](#)

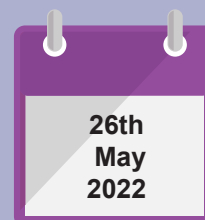
19 members  
in attendance



24th  
February  
2022

[Papers](#)

15 members  
in attendance



26th  
May  
2022

[Papers](#)

20 members  
in attendance



29th  
September  
2022

[Papers](#)

19 members  
in attendance



23rd  
February  
2023

[Papers](#)

19 members  
in attendance

## Statutory Partner Participation

The Strategic Partnership Board leads the Community Planning Process. There are nine Elected Members, thirteen statutory partners, three support partners and central government departments represented on the Partnership. Fermanagh and Omagh Community Planning Partnership is regularly attended by representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Department of Education, Department for Communities and Department for Infrastructure. There is no representation from the Department of Health, the Department of Justice, Department of Finance or Department for the Economy.



6

Community Planning Partnership  
Meetings held



46%

of Statutory partners took  
on an Action Lead Role



65%

overall attendance rate of Statutory Partners  
on the Community Planning Partnership

*Please refer to Appendix 2 Attendance rate of nominated personnel and nominated deputies of all our Partners on the Community Planning Partnership*

## 2.0 Population Accountability

### Progress towards our outcomes

We identified 38 population indicators (these indicators were established in 2017, updated in 2019/2020 and have undergone a full review in 2022) to track our collective progress over against our six long term outcomes. The dashboard below provides an indication of whether our district is heading in the right direction, based on progress from each indicator's original baseline position. You can keep up to date on future progress [here](#) and read more about the story behind these results.





### Population Level: overall progress



15/ 38% have a positive change < ± 3% from baseline

8/ 21% have not changed ± 3% from baseline

13/ 33% have had a negative change > ± 3% from baseline

3/ 8% have no updated data from baseline.

Population Accountability: Fermanagh and Omagh Dashboard				
Outcomes		Positive	Negative	No Change
	People are healthy and well – physically, mentally and emotionally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in the gap in life expectancy in males in deprived areas</li> <li>Reduction in the admittance rate due to drugs and alcohol</li> <li>Increase in Physical activity of residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the gap in life expectancy in females in deprived areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preventable deaths</li> <li>Standard prescription rates – mood anxiety and disorders</li> </ul>
	Older people lead more engaged, independent and socially connected lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More older people using the internet.</li> <li>Decrease in recorded crimes against older people.</li> <li>Good health of people 65 and over improved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in Falls of people over age of 75.</li> <li>Decrease in older people who feel they can get to all the places in their local area that they want.</li> </ul>	
	Our communities are safe, inclusive, resilient and empowered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in number of accidental dwelling fires</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in reported road traffic collisions.</li> <li>A decrease in the number of People engaged in arts, culture and leisure.</li> <li>Increase in the number of people living in relative poverty.</li> <li>Reduction in the number of people that believe their cultural identity is respected by society.</li> <li>Life satisfaction of people with disabilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall recorded crime incidents</li> </ul>
	Our people have the best start in life with lifelong opportunities to fulfil their potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved GCSE attainment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the number of children living in poverty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Childhood obesity of Primary 1 and Year 8 Children and young people</li> </ul>

	Our Economy is expanding, thriving and outward looking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the number of jobs</li> <li>• Increase in the number of registered businesses</li> <li>• Increase in wage levels</li> <li>• Improved Broadband access availability in the district</li> <li>• Decrease in Vacancy rates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease in Economic activity rate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road Infrastructure</li> <li>• Tourism expenditure</li> </ul>
	Our outstanding and culturally rich environment is cherished, appropriately managed and where possible enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease in carbon emissions</li> <li>• Positive impact on the environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in Heritage at risk</li> <li>• Decrease in Street Cleaning</li> <li>• Decrease in Public Transport – active travel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity awareness</li> <li>• Recycling rate</li> </ul>

**\*\* Note: No update on baseline of data for: Dwellings in a state of disrepair; Childhood development and Childcare provision. There are 38 indicators listed (a reduction in the gap of life expectancy is broken down by male/ female so overall % is calculated on 39 data points).**

Some of the challenges impacting performance at population level include the cost-of-living crisis, geopolitical instability, introduction of the Windsor Framework, Climate Change, ecological deterioration, budget constraints and the Partnership's continued efforts to recover from the impact of COVID-19. There have also been a number of opportunities which include new funding streams including the Labour Market Partnership, Mid-Southwest Growth Deal (MSW), Peace Plus and Shared Island funding during a time when financial uncertainty in the public sector has been heightened.

### Financial insecurity and cost of living crisis

Budgets have been under significant pressure for many institutions and businesses in the district and for our residents. The pressures come at the same time as the demand for services has increased. A cost-of-living crisis for residents and a cost of doing business crisis for local companies created increased levels of insecurity. The war in Ukraine and the current crisis in the Middle East continue to drive up all oil costs and impact our residents.

### Climate Emergency: the race to net zero

New Climate Change legislation and a relatively rapid need to transition to net zero carbon emissions has and continues to be a significant task ahead for all, especially with central government not making transformation budgets available.

### COVID-19

The impact on lives locally and globally due to the coronavirus pandemic has been significant. The pandemic instigated substantial social and economic disruption around the world, including supply chain disruption and recession. Many people's lives have been affected through bereavement and loss, mental health and illness, the impacts further felt through education and economic interruption. It is universally recognised that these impacts are more keenly felt by the most vulnerable within our communities and are predicted to have much longer-lasting effects. The Emerging from Crisis Plan enhanced partner organisations collaboration to respond quickly which created innovative approaches and enhanced ways of working collectively.

## 2.1 Performance Level Accountability: Progress of actions <sup>3</sup>

Emerging from Crisis Actions <i>*Note all closed September 2022</i>	Action Lead What was this action trying to address?	Some of the Key Achievements <sup>4</sup> How much did we do? How well did we do it? Is anyone better off?	Status of Action when Action Plan review commenced September 2022
<b>Actions</b>			
<p>1a. Develop communities in collaboration, to enhance health and social wellbeing and support those with or at risk of developing multi-morbidities.</p> <p>1b. Supporting Positive Mental Health through Community &amp; Water-based activities.</p>	<p><b>Action Lead: WHSCT; FODC</b></p> <p>To develop Action Plans for the pilot areas selected Omagh and Erne East and engage with statutory partners, delivery partners including the community and voluntary sector and service users to ensure a collaborative approach to both preventative initiatives and intervention measures to reduce people living multimorbidity. The Action Plan will address the priorities identified during the community consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to Services,</li> <li>• Health Literacy/Education and Wellbeing,</li> <li>• Physical Health, Mental and Emotional Wellbeing,</li> <li>• Family Support and</li> <li>• Poverty.</li> </ul>	<p>7 Community Wellbeing Plans (one per DEA) codesigned with communities and implementation is progressing.</p> <p>3 Wellbeing programmes were delivered virtually by Fermanagh &amp; Omagh District Council Community Wellbeing Co-ordinators, including a pilot with nursing home/assisted living Oct 2021- May 2022.</p> <p>30 wellbeing sessions were delivered across the district with over 250 people benefiting from the wellbeing initiative.</p> <p>Partnership working across health partners and the council progressed and supported.</p>	<p>Amber</p> <p>The WHSCT were in the process of recruiting a coordinator and governing body.</p> <p>FODC continue to roll out Community Wellbeing Plans in partnership with PHA.</p> <p>It is anticipated that this project will be included in the Integrated Care Partnership agenda.</p>
<p>2a. Digital Upskilling and provision of a safe space to access technology</p>	<p><b>Action Lead: South West Age Partnership (SWAP)</b></p> <p>Delivery partners including Libraries NI, SWAP, FODC Community Services, OnSide NIHE Project, Community &amp; Voluntary representatives worked together to progress the coordination of provision of devices to older people over 65 and their careers, and those with a disability. This target population was upskilled through bespoke training programmes matched to their needs.</p>	<p>Go On Community Planning Digital upskilling course had 884 attendees, over</p> <p>441 sessions from June 2021 – June 2023</p> <p>88% of respondents reported a great deal or a lot of enjoyment.</p> <p>89 older people's groups availed of this support.</p> <p>95% of people felt they had improved their confidence in staying safe online and awareness of scams.</p> <p>44% of respondents felt the training helped with their confidence.</p> <p>78% felt less isolated.</p> <p>92% of respondents felt the IT training improved their knowledge.</p> <p>96% felt that they had learnt something new and after the course they were able to do something they couldn't do before.</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>Partners all noted a change in demand for digital literacy upskilling following Covid-19, and a need to now move from online events to face to face events. Everyone acknowledged the usefulness of blended events. It was highlighted though that face-to-face training works better for those over 65+ as this age group is at risk of suffering loneliness and isolation.</p> <p>The focus of this action was originally digital upskilling and enabling access to technology. The demand is now more varied and it's about profiling the wider social connectivity online interaction offers i.e., access to heritage, health and other informative events. Users have demonstrated their digital skills and are now becoming more digital literate. However, it is acknowledged some older people do not want to or have not engaged with this action as they are not interested in digital technology.</p>

<sup>3</sup> Actions were monitored in this reporting period from June 2021 until September 2022 \*a review of the Community Plan and associated Action Plan commenced in September 2022 and development of a new Action Plan is underway. Where data is available and has been shared beyond September 2022, we have put a note against the metrics.

<sup>4</sup> Please note this is not an exhaustive list of all achievements. You can view all 72 Performance Report Cards under each Strategic Planning Partnership Meeting 'Papers' link in section 1.2.



<p>2b. Provide virtual and physical activities to reduce loneliness and social isolation for Over 60's &amp; Promote Positive Ageing</p>	<p><b>Action Lead: SWAP</b></p> <p>During the pandemic, SWAP and delivery partners in the "Fermanagh and Omagh Interagency Forum" changed the way they delivered services and re-focused their work to reduce loneliness and isolation and stay in touch with older people. This was supported through utilising various alternative ways to engage, communicate and involve older people.</p>	<p>Age Friendly Alliance developed and first meeting took place March 2022.</p> <p>27 Positive Ageing grants provided benefiting 500+ older people.</p> <p>3000+ age friendly calendars distributed in 2022.</p> <p>Age Friendly Conference March 2022 – 70 older people and 10 other representatives from partners in attendance.</p> <p>250+ items received and distributed with winter wolly campaign.</p> <p>2000 copies of Age Positive Booklet distributed, 98% of people who read it said it was a good use of their time.</p> <p>1809 people 'registered' to membership groups.</p> <p>94% average satisfaction score of 'Positive Ageing Events' attendees.</p> <p>92.5% attendees felt 'involved' following positive ageing event &amp; less 'isolated'.</p> <p>95% was the average rate of 'positivity' about getting older from amongst 277 respondents.</p> <p>58% event/activity attendees informed about the events digitally.</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>SWAP and delivery partners changed the way their services were delivered and is reactive to the needs expressed by older people. The needs of older people in the district remain amplified, SWAP &amp; FODC continue to deliver various programmes of work, providing a high level of support to a large number of older people in our district. The first meeting of the Age Friendly Alliance took place in March 2022. SWAP and FODC are scoping the activities, programmes and supports available across the district for older people.</p>
<p>3a. Tackle food poverty and enhance food security for people in financial stress and low incomes</p>	<p><b>Action Lead: FODC, Community Services Team</b></p> <p>This action supports developing better linkages across the community and voluntary sector to promote access to emergency food aid in the first instance, specifically during COVID-19. This action has developed relationships amongst 6 registered foodbanks operating in the District, SVDPs, Advice Services and continues to enhance collaborative practice working together through the auspice of a food partnership.</p> <p>The focus is to enhance referrals to a wraparound of service providers and promote improved data and intelligence gathering in relation to food insecurity and its impact on our people.</p>	<p>14,000+ children and young people were provided with the opportunity to avail of food in school for free if required.</p> <p>13 schools received food from Fare Share Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Surplus food provided equated to 4.1 tonnes.<sup>5</sup></p> <p>3000+ food aid parcels provided in the FO district by 6 registered foodbanks.</p> <p>21,000,00+Kg of surplus food supplied and redistributed by foodbanks.</p> <p>1400+ of users of foodbanks referred in by a partner organisation or agency.</p> <p>600+ users of foodbanks referred to a partner organisation or agency for additional support.</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>The Share Ardess central distribution hub, designed to receive and store food deliveries for all 6 foodbanks from Fair Share NI, has been completed and is operational in Kesh. The establishment of a suitable centralised data system for foodbanks to support funding applications and provide relevant food poverty data to demonstrate need and challenges remains part of the conversations. The research into the cost of the healthy food basket commissioned by 'DFC Food and Essential items Transition Fund' has completed and is available to read in full <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Of the 46 sampled stores, 19 (41%) had availability below the average equivalent healthy food basket essentials. Most of these retailers were in Open Countryside (11), followed by Villages (4). Omagh (Large town) had 4 retailers with availability less than the sampled retailer average.</p>

<sup>5</sup> The six registered foodbanks include Enniskillen Foodbank; The Pantry, Kesh; Life Triumphant Church, Omagh; Share Ardess; Elim Pentecostal Church and Omagh Foodbank.

<p>3b. Support for Advice Services - Ensure people in financial stress can access benefit advice, support and legal representation to challenge decisions, and manage their debts effectively.</p>	<p><b>Action Lead: Omagh Independent Advice Services and Community Advice Fermanagh</b></p> <p>This action focus was to promote financial security through an integrated approach between both independent advice services working in the FO district. The focus was on those that have been furloughed and consequently lost jobs but also those that were struggling in the pandemic.</p> <p>The impact of pandemic, as well as EU Exit and to work to embed a wraparound service provision that utilises the CVS resources to meet the needs of those in disadvantage.</p>	<p>13,000+ clients presenting with all benefit enquiries – categorised according to benefit.</p> <p>£3,743,104.38 of additional income generated for FO residents (June 2021 – June 2023)</p> <p>950+ clients presenting with employment/self-employment/small business/employer advice queries.</p> <p>600+ clients awaiting Personal Independence Payment, Employment and Support Allowance, Universal Credit and Overpayment of Benefit Tribunals supported.</p> <p>425 clients requiring debt advice, extent of debt, type of interventions provided, debt successfully renegotiated, debt written off.</p> <p>200+ referrals to support agencies (including COVID-19 and foodbanks) made by both Advice Centres.</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>Both Omagh Independent Advice Services and Community Advice Fermanagh continue to provide a comprehensive Independent Advice Service via all formats. Their daily work is supported by partner organisations, and they continue to make referrals/signposting to other support services where appropriate.</p>
<p>3c. Work in partnership to address fuel poverty.</p>	<p><b>Action Lead: FODC Health Improvement Team</b></p> <p>This action seeks to support those that are impacted by poor housing conditions, low incomes and inequalities. It seeks to work to minimise the impact of fuel poverty on those at highest risk. It incorporates best ideas that promote energy efficiency and reduce costs.</p> <p>The focus is to continue to reduce the number of people living in fuel poverty in the district.</p>	<p>666 Affordable Warmth grants referred to NIHE. (1st April 2021 – 31st August 2023).</p> <p>1000+ Keep Warm Packs delivered in FODC</p> <p>Over 200+ clients and families referred to schemes to support improving energy efficiency and fire safety in their homes</p> <p>135+ slow cookers provided to people impacted by poverty.</p> <p>£100,000 was made available to 370 households in fuel poverty across the district, equating to 522 adults and 530 children supported to access a warm home and hot water over a 4-month period.</p> <p>44 Warm Spaces operated across the District during Autumn / Winter 2022 from amongst community planning partners' estate.</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>This action has developed links across a range of support partners working collectively to tackle poverty through enhanced referral mechanisms. The interest from the community in innovative initiatives, including the Slow Cooker Programme, Outreach Events and the Winter Woolly Rally highlighted that residents require support and are keen to engage with much needed services during the cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p>Food, Fuel and Transport Co Poverties Mapping research by the University of Ulster and FODC indicate that 157 Small Areas (59%) are at high-risk clusters for either fuel, food or transport poverty; 52 Small Areas (33%) experience at least two types of poverty; 4 Small Areas (900 properties) experience all three types of poverty (fuel, food and transport) and they include: Derrygonnelly, Devenish Florence Court, Kinawley and Fintona.</p>

3d. Reduce the digital divide through enhanced promotion of digital solutions, bridging the digital gap in education with appropriate adjustments to resources	<p><b>Action Lead: EA</b></p> <p>As children returned to the school setting, partners further discussed the key issues behind the Digital Divide in Fermanagh and Omagh to develop this action further. Discussions indicated that underlying issues relate to low literacy levels.</p>	<p>1,791 laptops / Chromebooks issued to schools.</p> <p>485 BT Vouchers issued to help reduce the digital divide.</p> <p>335 requests for MiFi units received.</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>The programme offered both hardware and relevant ways to access the internet for families in particular need. The defined Action is now closed as it has achieved what it set out to with regards to the Covid-19 response.</p> <p>Moving forward, Digital Literacy remains a consideration.</p> <p>The Fair Start report includes 8 key areas of which Early Years, Championing Mental Health &amp; Wellbeing and Promoting a whole community approach to education are key to achieving the overall Outcome.</p> <p>The cost of data is also highlighted as a concern which may manifest in digital data poverty.</p>
3e. Working in Partnership to prevent homelessness	<p><b>Action Lead: NIHE Local Area Group</b></p> <p>This action was delivered through the Local Area Group by NIHE and a breadth of support partners. Its focus was to feed into the development and implementation of the Regional Homelessness strategy to support local challenges. This action worked to embed a collaborative approach across a wide range of agencies to ensure tenants and those at risk of becoming homeless, or those in crisis have access to the support they need when they need it. The focus was to support people to sustain tenancies by addressing the root causes.</p>	<p>Regional NIHE Strategy informed by local information and launched 'Ending Homelessness Together 2022-2027'.</p> <p>Almost 1000 households presenting as homeless in Fermanagh and Omagh during June 2021 – September 2022</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>This action was identified through the Poverty Working Group and progressed via the Housing Executive chaired Homelessness Local Area Group within Fermanagh and Omagh. The group has contributed to the delivery of the Homelessness Strategy 2017-2022 through quarterly meetings which involve statutory and voluntary partners in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Area. The focus is now on how the work of the local group can support the delivery of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-2027. A representative from the Community Planning Team has been invited to attend as part of continued work to link the work of the group with Community Planning.</p> <p>It is necessary that the Housing Executive and partners in the FO area continue to engage constructively and collaboratively to address the continued challenges in respect of homelessness within the Fermanagh and Omagh area.</p>

3f. Equip the community and voluntary sector to support vulnerable people over the next 12-18 months	<b>Action Lead: FODC Community Services Team</b>  The strength of the CVS has been realised During the COVID-19 pandemic. This action aims to identify areas where CVS need support to strengthen infrastructure and capacity of its volunteers and staff. The focus has been to direct funding where evidence demonstrates through relevant data and intelligence to maximise impact. The focus in the next reporting period is to review this action in line with locality planning.	GIS mapped relevant CVS agencies to support those effected by the Cost of Living, map available <a href="#">here</a> .	Green  This action has been reviewed by the partners in October 2021 as all best ideas had progressed. The focus emerged to further develop actions to support the needs of the sector through increased collaboration between statutory partners to identify the capacity needs of the sector. This work has been picked up I the new Action Plan under the label 'Empowered Communities'.
3g. Increase frequency, accessibility and affordability of transport provision, specifically for rural residents	<b>Action Leads: Fermanagh Rural Community Transport and Easilink Community Transport, Omagh</b>  This action sought to enhance the provision of community transport in areas that were deemed to be in highest risk of experiencing transport poverty. The aim to develop pilot areas in the district to explore utilisation of local transport provision that is demand responsive and supports improved access to services, particularly health services. Affordability, accessibility and frequency of public transport has been used to assess areas that could benefit from the pilots most.	Community Transport providers facilitated 53,702 trips in April 2022- March 2023, 13% of which were health related either for hospital appointments or local services.  Baseline for current provision of public transport available to attend health facilities in the area mapped June 2022 and available <a href="#">here</a>	Green  Transport Poverty is a longstanding issue in Fermanagh and Omagh. An initial set of results relating to public transport travel times to health facilities was presented in June 2022. An update of the analysis to cover a 'full service' Translink timetable and include additional health destinations such as additional GP 'satellite practices' within Fermanagh and Omagh and Belfast based hospitals is progressing.
4a. Increase community awareness of the impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences so as to develop Trauma Aware Communities	<b>Action Lead: Western Health &amp; Social Care Trust &amp; CAWT MACE's Project</b>  This action sought initially to raise awareness of Adverse Childhood Experience.	45 People that have participated in ACE Awareness Events and viewed the Resilience Film.  4 Practitioners trained on 'Circle of Security' facilitation training to be rolled out in communities (Train the Trainer).  Mindwise (based in Fermanagh House) received funding from MACEs to provide 80 interventions to parents and families in Fermanagh.  Barnardo's received funding from MACEs to provide 36 interventions to parents and families in Fermanagh in September 2021.	Red  The need for 'on the ground' support and services to families is great, and it was proposed that the focus of this action moving forward is broadened to include the provision of interventions to directly improve outcomes for children and families in our district. Data from the Family Support Hubs provided at the last meeting highlights a growing demand for services for children affected by ACE's. It was advocated that stronger governance is needed to develop collaborative practice in this area further. An action group focusing on intervention is essential if we are to make a difference.
5a. Provide mentoring and training to support SME's, including social enterprise, to return to trading so that employment opportunities can be sustained and to encourage growth	<b>Action Lead: Invest NI</b>  This action provide support for businesses within the district to sustain and plan for recovery in the current crisis with grant funding provision, new programmes developed and a focus on innovation and business support events.	298 Business support programmes promoted on <a href="http://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk">www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk</a>  34 COVID-19 support programmes developed.  104 business were awarded the "Industry Standard" for innovation	Green



5b. Progress Town Centre Recovery Plans	<p><b>Action Lead: Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Economic Development Service area</b></p> <p>This action aims to support Omagh and Enniskillen Town Centre businesses to continue to recover following the impact of COVID-19.</p>	<p>£1.1m in recovery capital projects was delivered to enhance places and improve spaces in both Enniskillen and Omagh.</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>New place brands were launched for Enniskillen and Omagh in June 2021. The place brands “Enniskillen Island Town” and “Inspired by Omagh” were created following stakeholder consultation.</p> <p>Place branded sustainable jute bags were developed and distributed to town centre businesses for dissemination to shoppers and visitors during town centre events.</p> <p>In March 2022 St Patrick’s Days events took place in both town centres. FODC in collaboration with BID and Dun Uladh delivered these large-scale events post COVID-19.</p>
5c. Progress workforce development to enhance skills and grow the talent pipeline for continued economic growth	<p><b>Action Lead: South West College</b></p> <p>This action has focused on collecting data regarding Innovation Vouchers and enrolments in short courses provided by SWC post Covid -19. With a changing landscape there is a need to re-assess the Specialist Training Programmes available within FODC and align the Department for Economy funded programmes so they can be further utilised and promoted by partners. The progression of the Labour Market Partnership will support collaboration for this action.</p>	<p>21 Innovation Vouchers accessed and utilised by businesses in FODC area.</p> <p>118 FODC students availed of Skill Up Flexible skills funding to undertake training in a range of disciplines including Passive Trades.</p> <p>10 local businesses availed of Skills Focus Funding.</p> <p>Development and implementation of Labour Market Partnership and associated Action Plan to promote skills 2021/2022.</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>In September 2022 Action Lead reported the demand from industry for new talent and to upskill existing talent remains solid, apprenticeship uptake is positive with Mannok, Encirc and Severfied recruiting strongly. However, concerns remained in respect of the economic climate in the times ahead particularly in respect of the energy crisis.</p>
5d. Support for Tourism business	<p><b>Action Lead: Tourism NI</b></p> <p>Focusing on collaboration between a range of partners, this action will also focus on the delivery of TNI’s <a href="#">Tourism Recovery Action Plan</a>, which partners will deliver together. Ongoing meetings with partners are conducted to identify what elements of the plan partners can support and to progress action.</p>	<p><a href="#">Visitor Experience Development Plan</a> Launched for FO.</p> <p>4 businesses following utilisation of innovation vouchers, further diversified their businesses.</p> <p>36 businesses supported through mentoring days (1-1 support) in industry excellence.</p> <p>As of 31 March 2022, there were 613 tourism products in the FODC area displaying on dni.com</p> <p>TNI is working closely with 6 visitor experiences in the FODC area aligned to the Embrace a Giant Spirit Brand – all at Stages 4-5 of the 5 Stage process.</p> <p>In addition, Belle Isle Estate and Erganagh House &amp; Estate have featured in a new TNI produced House &amp; Gardens Buyers Guide</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>Tourism NI had developed a Recovery Plan, which partners delivered together, and which largely culminated in March 2022. Significant financial resource had been provided for the implementation of actions within this. Ongoing meetings with partners were conducted to identify what elements of the plan partners can support and to progress actions. Tourism NI, FODC and Waterways Ireland have collaborated to develop a “Visitor Experience Development Plan” which created the roadmap for the development of tourism in FODC. The Plan is now operational and a new governance partnership board is operational.</p>

5e. EU Exit	<p><b>Action Lead: Invest NI</b></p> <p>EU Exit and its impact on trading conditions remains a key area of interest for business. Partners are continuing to provide ongoing support and advice to businesses in Fermanagh and Omagh. As details on new rules, tariffs and customs etc. become available, partners will work together to disseminate relevant information to businesses.</p>	<p>A number of EU Exit Advice/webinars were delivered which focused on:</p> <p>Preparation for the replacement of CHIEF in August 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Exploring – What you need to do Keep Your Goods Moving” in February 2022.</li> <li>• “Exporting Founders” - which aimed to support those developing business ideas to harness the benefits of international trade.</li> </ul>	<p>Green</p> <p>At last update in September 2022 the NI Protocol and its impact on trading conditions for business remained a key area of interest for business. Progress of political talks between the UK and the EU continues to progress in this regard.</p>
6a. Partnership working with communities to build environmental awareness and activities	<p><b>Action Lead: FODC</b></p> <p>This action was developed to try and coordinate the environmental activities across FODC and ensure that collectively we build awareness around all the issues impacting the environment and encourage change behaviours through education awareness.</p>	<p>April 2021-April 2023 14,115 mixed broadleaf trees were planted across Fermanagh and Omagh District Council land with support from community groups.</p> <p>30 schools have been engaged through the Forest School programme in partnership with Lough Erne Landscape Partnership and Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark with approximately 750 primary school pupils directly involved in planting trees.</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>The new Action Plan has identified the importance of promoting the need for improved environmental behaviour of all our citizens.</p>
6b. Support Strategic Alignment across partners and the district to tackle Climate Change	<p><b>Action Lead: FODC</b></p> <p>This action aims to ensure that a coordinated approach to progress towards net zero was embedded in all partners plans, policies and budgets.</p>	<p>Enhancement and promotion of Civic Leadership through environmental education awareness programmes including: <a href="#">FODC Council Biodiversity Action Plan</a>, Keeping Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB), Eco Schools.</p> <p>Reduction in Single Use Plastics across community planning partner organisations estates.</p> <p>Funding received to progress the development of a Sustainable Food Partnership.</p> <p>Commitment for all partners to work towards transition to net zero targets by 2042.</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>The new Action Plan continues to progress actions to tackle the impact of climate change particularly the promotion of sustainability, decarbonisation and renewable energies.</p>

## 3.0 Good Practice Examples from across the three themes

### 3.1 People and Communities

#### Community Wellbeing Plans

Community Planning Partners FODC, WHSCT, Pathfinder, PHA, DAERA and DfC agreed work to develop an approach to address the needs of those at risk of and support those living with multi-morbidities in two pilot areas, Erne East DEA and Omagh DEA.

Following public engagement, an Integrated Wellbeing Network Management Board Group was established to drive forward work to address multi-morbidities and promote wellbeing. From the discussions it was decided that there needed to be localised intervention and the project expanded beyond the two DEAs initially established. As a result, seven Community Wellbeing Plans were developed from consultation with the communities themselves and stakeholders with a vested interest in the area. The plans were developed through community engagement to meet the specific needs of the community.

The 7 Community Wellbeing Plans identified 128 actions overall with the main themes identified:



Physical activities



Community development



Provision of information and talks on a range of Health and Wellbeing subjects



Community safety / cost of living information and programmes



Social events

#### Emotional Wellbeing Programme

Inspire Wellbeing was appointed to deliver a series of workshops for both adults and younger people, aimed at alleviating stress and anxiety and promoting resilience for residents, in the face of the Cost-of-Living crisis. Approximately 30 wellbeing sessions were delivered across the district with over 250 people benefiting from the wellbeing initiative. Participants said:

“*I learnt so much, it was an eye opener. I got so much out of it. Would do it again. Love it!*”  
“*The training was excellent with a good turnout*”

#### Happy at Home

Happy at Home is an initiative developed by SWAP in partnership with FODC and WHSCT as a response to older people being at home during lockdown. The purpose is to highlight to older people that it is ok being at home, and that there are activities and projects that can still be enjoyed at home. It has continued to grow since 2020 and it is now published during the winter months, when trends show that older people tend to be more reluctant to come out in the dark evenings. Online activities and at home activity projects are provided. The booklet contains a Directory of Services providing support for older people in the FODC area. Happy at Home is now recognised as an annual project and is well received and enjoyed. Quizzes and competitions are also within the booklet to ensure it is kept light and enjoyable as well as informative. Participants said:

“*Always a bright and cheery booklet with plenty of information*”  
“*Full of lots of useful advice and information of where to get help*”





## Reminiscence Trails

In 2017 members of SWAP together with Age Friendly staff from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council visited a Dementia Friendly Day Centre and award-winning garden and a reminiscence trail in the heart of Cavan Town.

This visit highlighted the need to replicate similar services for older people in the Fermanagh and Omagh District. The main aim of the project was to create a Reminiscence Pathway and signage for older people, people with dementia and people with disabilities to enjoy. Reminiscence involves the use of objects to stimulate conversation about past times and in this project signs with old photographs with accompanying text have been used.

### The Broadmeadow - Around the Meadow

Following the visit to Cavan the older people identified the Broadmeadow as an ideal location for the proposed walk. A successful funding application to Department for Communities by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council was submitted and “Around the Meadow” was created. Utilising learning from the good practice visit themes and topics for inclusion were identified. Working with Enniskillen Museum old photos, stories and local history were used to create signs to stimulate memories and conversation starting points. Older people and members of the Disability Access Inclusion Group were consulted during design and compilation of content to ensure that this reflected the voice of the older people and those with disabilities. A virtual guide and accompanying booklet were also created, supported by funding from the Public Health Agency.

### Lovers' Retreat

Building on the success of ‘Around the Meadow’ a further application was submitted, and a similar walk developed in Omagh which involved collaborative working with Libraries NI, PHA, FODC and SWAP. In addition, Age Friendly benches were added enhancing Lovers Retreat to become a more accessible and social area for exercising. One participant said,

“ ‘It’s wonderful to see a reminiscence project that also focuses on the present, and that engages people of all ages and walks of life rather than being siloed older people’s activity’ ”



## Emergency Fuel Distribution Scheme



The cost-of-living crisis and subsequent significant price increase of household heating fuel resulted in many of our residents struggling to heat their homes. SVP has a longstanding Emergency Fuel Scheme but due to increased demand on their services, the Health Improvement Team alongside funding made available from

Community Services in 2021 and 2022, were able to secure an additional £100,000 (approximately) to support those in crisis within our District.

## Oil Buying Clubs

Oil Buying Clubs support members by grouping orders together and contacting suppliers to secure a cheaper price per litre. This can save members money on their household oil bills, particularly those members who wish to order smaller quantities. In September 2022 there were five oil clubs running within the District. To promote the Oil Buying Clubs, the Health Improvement team promoted these during the Energy Efficiency Seminars (in 2022) which were delivered in areas of deprivation. There were five seminars with a total of 63 households represented. Energy efficiency surveys undertaken by the Officers determined that, of the 128 clients who responded, 107 (83.59%) were not aware that there were Oil Buying Clubs within the District. Following a review, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) now administer a centralised oil buying club for NI and promoted this at the Poverty Conference.

## Energy Efficiency Surveys

Energy efficiency surveys were completed with 128 residents within the district. The surveys highlighted that, although energy efficiency measures had been undertaken in many properties, these measures could be improved upon. Some examples of responses include 45% of respondents had not had their insulation updated within the last 10 years, 45% also stated that their boiler was over 15 years old, 27% did not have their cavity walls insulated and approximately 1/3 had evidence of damp or mould within their homes. Interestingly, 28% indicated that they would consider using renewable technologies within their home with solar thermal (37%) and water source heat pumps (16%) being the most favourable. The surveys also highlighted

that 91% of respondents had not changed their electricity supplier lately, 61% were unaware of the Fuel Stamp Scheme, 84% were unaware of the Oil Buying Clubs and 75% did not know that the Council could support them to apply for energy efficiency grants. These results helped to identify relevant agencies to attend the Energy Cafes delivered in Q1/Q2 2022.

## Digital Upskilling

Libraries NI continues to deliver “Go ON” courses in Libraries as a community planning initiative. Go ON is an initiative to reach anyone who may have been or are “digitally excluded”, and the majority of those who attend are over 60. Libraries NI offers courses demonstrating how using technology can enhance your life. The digital offering can be delivered via a 1-2-1 session (E-Clinic) or a course. Libraries NI can also tailor outreach to Community Groups who may benefit from a digital session and get information as to what Libraries NI offer. All courses were free of charge and tailored to the group needs. Libraries NI has worked with other agencies to promote Digital support, for example in March 2022, DVLA provided sessions in all Fermanagh and Omagh Libraries to provide sessions showing how to book the on-line MOT booking. There have been 884 attendees over 441 sessions from June 2021–June 2023.

## Age Friendly Grants

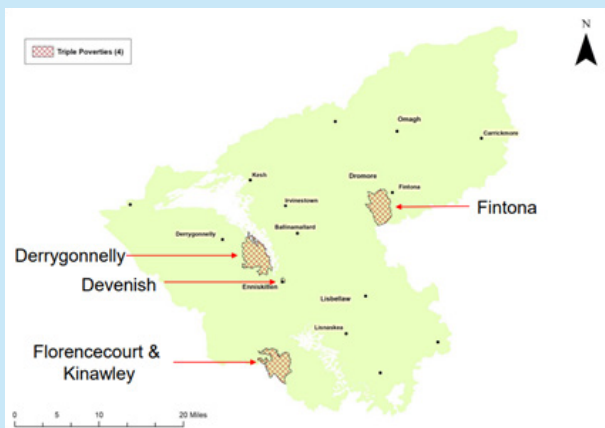
Older people highlighted the difficulties they experienced in applying directly to Fermanagh and Omagh District Council for funding during the consultation in developing the Age Friendly Strategy. The Council worked with SWAP to provide a practical approach to this barrier. The outcome was to include an older persons grant within the funding for community groups. Older peoples groups now apply directly to SWAP using a simplified form which can either be emailed or posted to access funding streams. These small grants support the groups allowing them to deliver a range of programmes or events on behalf of their members, covering items such as tutors and transport. This provides smaller older peoples groups who are not constituted with the means to access funding. This approach to developing grant governance for older people was shared with the Public Health Agency and WHSCT during their planning process for launching Positive Ageing Month Grants. A similar format was followed which helped to simplify the process and make it more accessible.

## Transport Poverty Research at local level

Analysis was undertaken of public transport data, primarily focussed on the proportion of residents who could get to/from a hospital or GP practice within 2 hours using only public transport or walking. The figures suggest a maximum of 28% of residents can reach a hospital within two hours. The analysis demonstrated that

there are no residents living in the FODC area who can get to a major Belfast hospital within two hours using only public transport and/or walking. This project was co-led by Fermanagh Community Transport and Easilink Community Transport. You can read more Information in Fermanagh Omagh Transport Poverty Research [Click here](#)

## Food, Transport and Fuel Poverty research



Officers from FODC worked with academics at Ulster University to map the scale of fuel, transport, and food poverty in the FODC District. All research was undertaken at a small area level, utilising Census data and the collection of primary data regarding the availability and cost of a healthy food basket. The three individual aspects of poverty were mapped, then brought together to identify small areas

at risk of co-poverties. The results show that fifty-two small areas are at risk of at least two of the three aspects of poverty, and four small areas are at risk of all three. This provides a fresh approach to space-based poverty analysis in Fermanagh and Omagh, using more up-to-date data than the commonly used NI Multiple Deprivation Measure. This analysis is being used to influence the location of interventions to alleviate the impacts of poverty by both the Council and the Community Planning Partnership.

You can read more information [Click here](#)

## Promoting the use of Slow Cookers

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council in conjunction with the Public Health Agency (PHA) supported community groups within Neighbourhood Renewal areas to deliver the 'Making the Most of your Slow Cooker' facilitator programme. The programme was targeted at households who were experiencing food or fuel poverty to build knowledge and promote healthy eating. The programme allowed participants to learn to cook low-cost nutritious meals. Over 100 slow cookers, cooking utensils and food packs were made available to eligible participants. A further 35 slow cookers were also distributed to Woman's Aid for newcomer families and women seeking refuge.

## Childrens Right to Food Progressed



Sixty-two schools across the district, reaching over 14,000 children and young people, availed of funding of £35,000 to provide access to breakfast clubs, healthy breaks and school meals for those that could not afford it. Schools were asked to decide how best to use the funding to help alleviate food insecurity and initiatives included breakfast clubs, open fridges, healthy snack time, fruity Friday, healthy eating tutorials and family food parcels.

One school said

*'This was a fantastic initiative which proved to be very popular with children, parents*

*and staff. It enabled the children to access a good breakfast and socialise with their peers before starting the school day. A very worthwhile and effective way of making sure those children who needed it most started the day with good food and not hungry'.*

## Share Address Centralised Distribution Centre Operational



The established foodbanks in the district continue to be financially supported by Council. The Share Ardess Foodbank, based at the Old Courthouse in Kesh, also availed of additional funding for the construction of a distribution hub which can also be utilised by the other foodbanks in the district, and has further enabled additional schools to avail of Fare Share NI deliveries.

To find out more about the project watch the video [here](#).



## 3.2 Economy, Infrastructure and Skills



### Progressing the Place Shaping Approach

Place Shaping brings together expertise from a diverse range of partners with different knowledge and interests to help shape the development of Enniskillen and Omagh for the next 10-15 years. The Community Planning Partnership committed to delivering place shaping in collaboration with residents, statutory partners, community voluntary organisations, businesses and other key stakeholders to make long-term plans for the district to work along with and for the communities that they serve. Place Shaping Plans were produced using the method of co-production and co-design to ensure they are reflective of the needs of the local people and are owned by all of the different parties invested in the development of an area. The Council has a co-ordinating role in the place shaping plans and will deliver some aspects but recognise that no organisation can deliver these plans alone which is why they bring together community groups, individuals, volunteers, local businesses and anyone interested in working together to make the area that they live and work be more independent and resilient.

Through a detailed baseline analysis and extensive engagement with invested stakeholders such as statutory organisations, local elected representatives, children and young people, the business and community and voluntary sectors place shaping plans have been developed for the two key towns within the district: Enniskillen and Omagh. To learn more about the place shaping process [click here](#). Some of the stakeholders involved in the development of the Omagh Place Shaping Plan had this to say about the process: [Video on The Impact of Place Shaping](#)

### Labour Market Partnership

Fermanagh and Omagh Labour Market Partnership (F&O LMP) focuses on improving employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working with partners from across the public, private and community/voluntary sectors. In early 2021, FODC formed a core team as the basis of its LMP which included representatives from FODC, South West College, Jobs and Benefits Office, Western Health and Social Care Trust, Careers Service, and Invest NI.

The LMP Action Plan for 2021/2022, developed by the core team focused on the mentorship support and delivery of four key academies to benefit the unemployed and economical inactive participants in the region, namely: Childcare; Hospitality and Tourism; Welding; and HGV and Coach driving.

The LMP Action Plan for 2022/2023 included a variety of initiatives tailored to address the following four key themes within the Fermanagh and Omagh area:



- Reducing unemployment to better than pre-COVID-19 levels
- Improving skilled labour supply
- Tackling economic inactivity
- Supporting Delivery of Employability NI



To read more about the Labour Market Partnership [click here](#)



## Local Development Plan Launched

A new Local Development Plan (LDP) for the Fermanagh and Omagh district was launched in March 2023 and was prepared in accordance with the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. The LDP sets out the planning policy framework and land use proposals that guide planning decisions in the Fermanagh and Omagh district up to 2030. It is made up of two key documents: the 'Plan Strategy' and the 'Local Policies Plan'. Both documents play a significant role in supporting the Partnership to progress its place shaping approach.

To read more about the Local Development Plan [click here](#)



## Launch of Visitor Experience Development Plan brings promising future for local tourism sector

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, in collaboration with Tourism NI and Waterways Ireland launched the Visitor Experience Development Plan (VEDP) for Fermanagh Lakelands & Omagh and The Sperrins in June 2023.

Fermanagh and Omagh's outstanding natural and cultural heritage, its recreational trails and water and boating experiences are at the heart of the district and its tourism appeal. The VEDP aims to enhance local tourism and elevate the visitor experience across the region with a people and community centred approach, delivering on a strategic vision for the next ten years.

To read more about the Visitor Experience Development Plan [click here](#)



## Improving Spaces and Places

Extensive efforts have been made with partners to ensure our Town Centres recovered from the impacts of COVID-19. Delivery of £1.1m in recovery projects helped to enhance our places and improve our spaces to ensure our urban towns are fit for the future. The projects have improved walking, cycling and access to green spaces. A new Urban Garden in Omagh which opened in November 2021 has increased biodiversity and developed grey space to a new green space. Improvement works to the historic Buttermarket have improved accessibility. Improved walking and cycling paths with new lighting have enhanced user experience and provided more opportunities to exercise and get outdoors, better connected to our high streets and increase usage and develop social spaces further. We have improved the streetscape to increase the appeal and attractiveness of our town centres through the delivery of the Department for Communities (DfC) funded Shop Front Improvement Scheme in which 92 business in Enniskillen and Omagh participated. The scheme improves opportunities for new investment and town centre user experience.



## Involving our Children and Young People



331 responses received to Enniskillen Place Shaping Plan



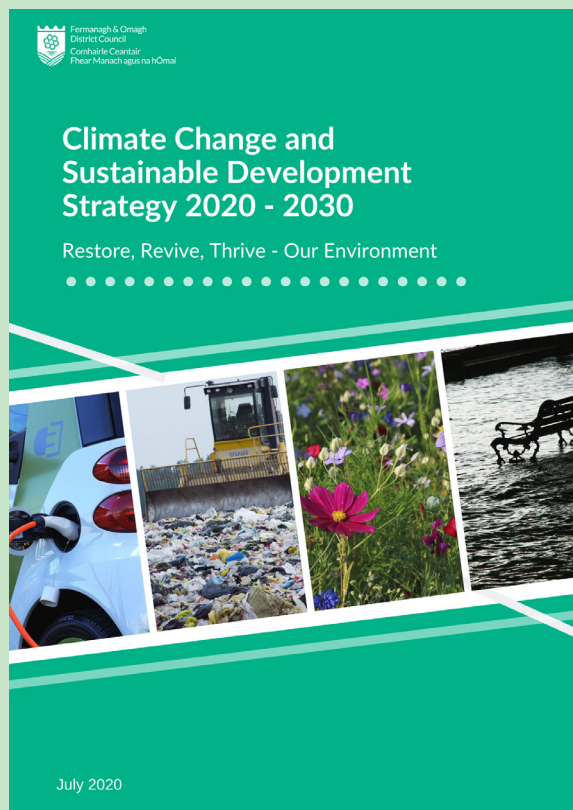
## 3.3 Environment

### Partners tackle climate change collectively

A wide-reaching partnership workshop was held in September 2021 with fifty-two local and regional partners from across the environmental sector, as well as economic and social partners.

The purpose of this meeting was to bring together all statutory partners represented on the SPB and the identified support partners from the Environmental pillar, to review the FO 2030 actions in support of the delivery of Outcome 6 in the Community Plan in recognition of Climate Change.

Presentations were received on data trends, the Councils [Climate Change Strategy](#) content and reference to the challenges the Climate Change crisis presents, as well as good practice examples from elsewhere. It was agreed that the partnership must focus effort on targeted action on the areas where it can potentially make most impact including Agriculture, Transport, Investment and use of renewable energy by the public sector and reduction in energy use in homes. All statutory partners agreed to align to the FODC Climate Change Strategy at District level.



## 4.0 Review of Community Plan: Sharpening the Focus



**"Sharpening the Focus": Indicator Review**  
November 2022



**27** people representing



**14** organisations in attendance

It was agreed at the September 2022 Strategic Partnership Board (SPB) meeting that a review of the FO 2030 Community Plan and associated Emerging from Crisis Action Plan should be progressed. This reflected the challenges and emerging needs of the district and supports the development of a new Action Plan for the period 2024-2028 taking account of challenges including the cost-of-living crisis, inflation, geopolitical instability, and the climate change legislation amongst many more. Stage One of the process took the form of a population level accountability review of the outcomes and indicators and six refreshed Outcomes and eighteen Population Indicators were adopted which informed the strategic direction of travel for the Partnership and highlighted key issues in identifying the priorities emerging from across all outcomes.

The second stage of development was to consult with partner organisations to establish the key priorities on the ground alongside, the data and evidence review. Six performance level, outcome based Turning the Curve Workshops were held with 82 partner organisations taking part, a total of 283 representatives were in attendance and a further ten 1-2-1 meetings with relevant partner organisations. Partners heard from expert speakers & data followed by participation in discussion groups. The groups identified actions and best ideas using the Outcomes Based Accountably (OBA) performance level questions. The feedback was then analysed and fully utilised to support the

identification of seventeen draft priority actions to inform the development of the Action Plan 2024-2028. A follow up survey was issued and respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction of the identified Actions using the Likert scale. The level of support for each action was gathered and analysed. Read the full workshops report here.

You can read more about the progress in the following documents:

- [Indicator Review and progress update](#)
- [Baseline Analysis Report](#)
- [Outcome Workshop Reports](#)
- [Consultation Report](#)



**Turning the Curve Workshops**  
May - June 2023



**6** Events



**283** people representing



**82** organisations in attendance



## Appendix 1: FO OBA Language Discipline

Fermanagh and Omagh Community Planning Partnership recognises the importance of an agreed OBA common language. Partners come to the table from different disciplines with different ideas of what is meant by specific terms and use these interchangeably.

It is important that terminology is consistently understood and used appropriately across all partners.

### Fermanagh and Omagh: Outcomes Based Accountability Language

1. Vision	A picture of a desired future that is hard but possible to attain.
2. Population Accountability	A system or process for holding people in a geographic area responsible for the well-being of the total population or a defined subpopulation.
3. Performance Accountability	A system or process for holding people in a geographic area responsible for the performance of their own programmes, agencies and service systems.
4. Outcome	A condition of well-being for children, adults, families, and communities.
5. Population Indicator	A measure that helps quantify the achievement of an outcome.
6. Performance Measure	A measure of how well a programme, agency or service system is working.
7. Better off Measure	A measure of the quantity and quality of effect on customer's lives (Note: for infrastructure, effect or condition of infrastructure).
8. Baseline	A visual display of the history and forecast(s) for a measure.
9. Turning the Curve	Doing better than the forecast of the baseline.
10. Action	What is agreed by partners that will work to address the priorities identified and provides options that could have a positive effect on a population indicator.
11. Customer(s)	A person (or organisation) who directly benefits from service delivery.
12. Partner (including Action Lead & Support Partners)	A person (or organisation) with a role to play in achieving desired ends.
13. Data Development	A prioritised list of where we need new or better data.
14. Best Ideas	The components of an action that outlines why we think it will work and contribute to demonstrating impact on better off measures.

## Appendix 2: Attendance rate of nominated personnel and nominated deputies of all our Partners on the Community Planning Partnership

Fermanagh and Omagh Community Planning Partnership		
Representative/ Organisation	Attendance Rate	Of which a nominated deputy attended
WHSCT	100% (6)	66.67% (4)
Public Health Agency	50% (3)	0%
Education Authority	50% (3)	33.33% (2)
CCMS	0%	0%
Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service	50% (3)	33.33% (2)
PSNI	33.33% (2)	16.67% (1)
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	100% (6)	33.33% (2)
FODC	83.33% (5)	0%
Libraries NI	83.33% (5)	16.67% (1)
Sport NI	83.33% (5)	0%
Tourism NI	100% (6)	0%
Invest NI	100% (6)	16.67% (1)
Community and Voluntary Sector Nominate representative (1)	66.67% (4)	0%
Community and Voluntary Sector Nominate representative (1)	83.33% (5)	0%
Department Agricultural, Environment and Rural Affairs	66.67% (4)	0%
Department for Communities	83.33% (5)	0%
Department of Education	50% (3)	16.67% (1)
Department for Infrastructure	16.67% (1)	0%
Health & Social Care Board	16.67% (1)	0%



Elected Member	Attendance Rate	Of which a nominated deputy attended
Cllr Anne Marie Fitzgerald	83.33% (5)	0%
Cllr John Coyle	83.33% (5)	0%
Cllr Errol Thompson	100% (6)	0%
Cllr Bert Wilson/Cllr Rosemary Barton*	50% (3)	16.67% (1)
Cllr Barry McElduff	83.33% (5)	0%
Cllr Thomas O'Reilly	83.33% (5)	0%
Cllr Diana Armstrong	100% (6)	0%
Cllr Emmet McAleer	0%	0%
Cllr Eamonn Keenan	0%	0%

\*Cllr Barton replaced Cllr Wilson during this elected term

The following Departments have no nominated representative on SPB:

- Department for the Economy
- Department of Finance
- Department of Health
- Department of Justice

## Acronyms

Adult Social Care Outcomes Toolkit	ASCOT	Multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences	MACE
Adverse Childhood Experience	ACE	Northern Ireland	NI
Community and Voluntary Sector	CVS	Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service	NIFRS
Community Planning Partnership	CPP	Northern Ireland Housing Executive	NIHE
Cooperation and Working Together	CAWT	Outcomes Based Accountability	OBA
Councillor	Cllr	Police Service Northern Ireland	PSNI
Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight	CHIEF	Public Health Agency	PHA
District Electoral Area	DEA	Small to Medium Sized Enterprise	SME
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	DVLA	South West College	SWC
Education Authority	EA	St Vincent De Paul	SVP
European Union	EU	Statement of Progress	SOP
Fermanagh and Omagh	FO	Strategic Planning Partnership	SPB
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	JRF	South West Age Partnership	SWAP
Keeping Northern Ireland Beautiful	KNIB	Tourism Northern Ireland	TNI
Labour Market Partnership	LMP	Visitor Experience Development Plan	VDEP
Local Development Plan	LDP	Western Health and Social Care Trust	WHSCT
Mid South West Growth Deal	MSW		

### **How to contact us:**

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SignVideo for people who are deaf or are hard of hearing.

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