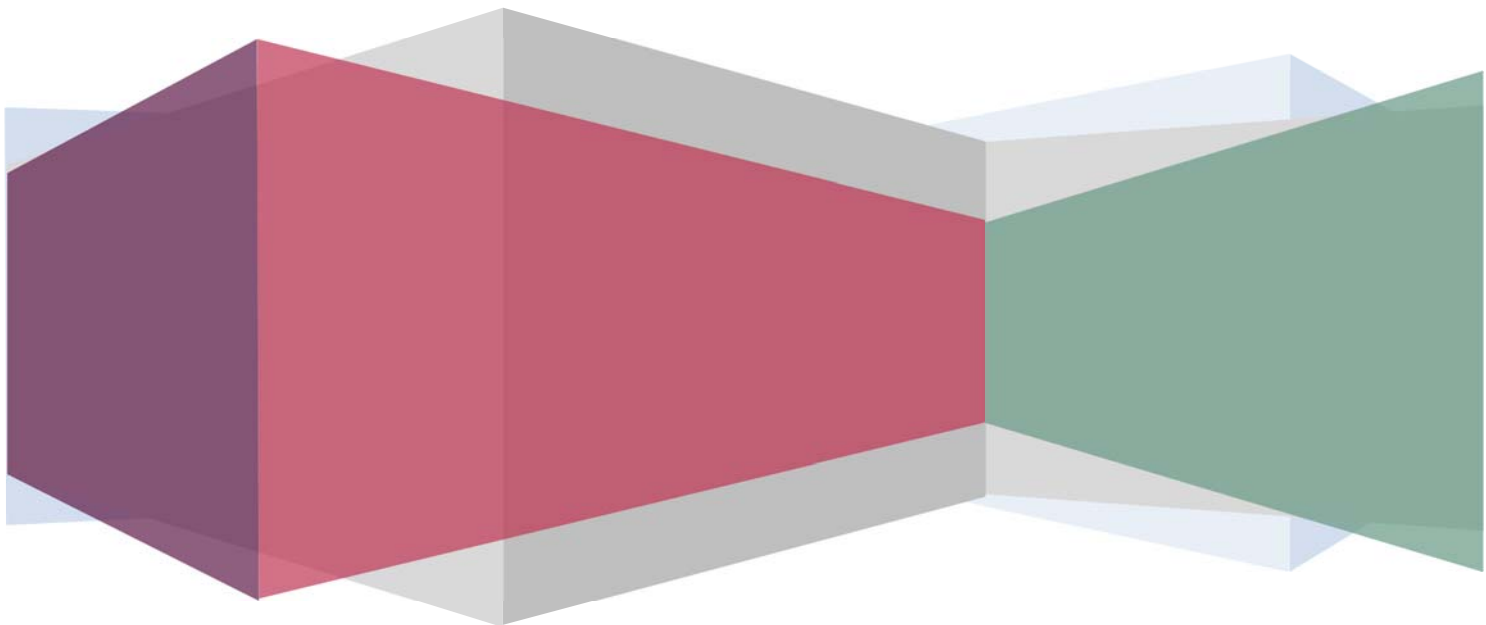


Community Places

# Community Planning is here: Get Involved!

## Public Forums Summary

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Area



Supported by  
**Mid & East  
Antrim**  
Borough Council

Community  
Places



**This Report was prepared by Community Places, September 2016.**

## Introduction

As part of the Community Planning is Here: Get Involved Project three Public Forums were held across the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Area.

The forums provided participants with an opportunity to:

- hear about Community Planning;
- find out about the progress of Community Planning in their area;
- explore Community Planning Priorities for the Council area through a Place Standard Exercise;
- and have their say on the issues which are important to them.

This Report provides a summary of the issues which were identified as priorities across the five themes of Community Safety and Cohesion; Good Health and Well-being; Progress in Education; Sustainable Jobs and Tourism. These themes and associated issues emerged from a number of processes including the 'Putting People First' Conference; Base-line evidence gathering; and 'Strategic Conversations' with statutory and support partners across Mid and East Antrim.

At each of the Public Forums participants were invited to choose one of the five themes to explore as a result some of the themes were not discussed across all three areas.

A Place Standard process was tailored to the Mid and East Antrim area and participants were asked to discuss in smaller groups how important they felt each issue was. They then scored the issue between 1 and 7 - where 1 means the issue should be tackled as a high priority and 7 where the issue is still important but of a lower priority. The rating was plotted on the Place Standard diagram and actions to address the issue were then considered and recorded on worksheets.

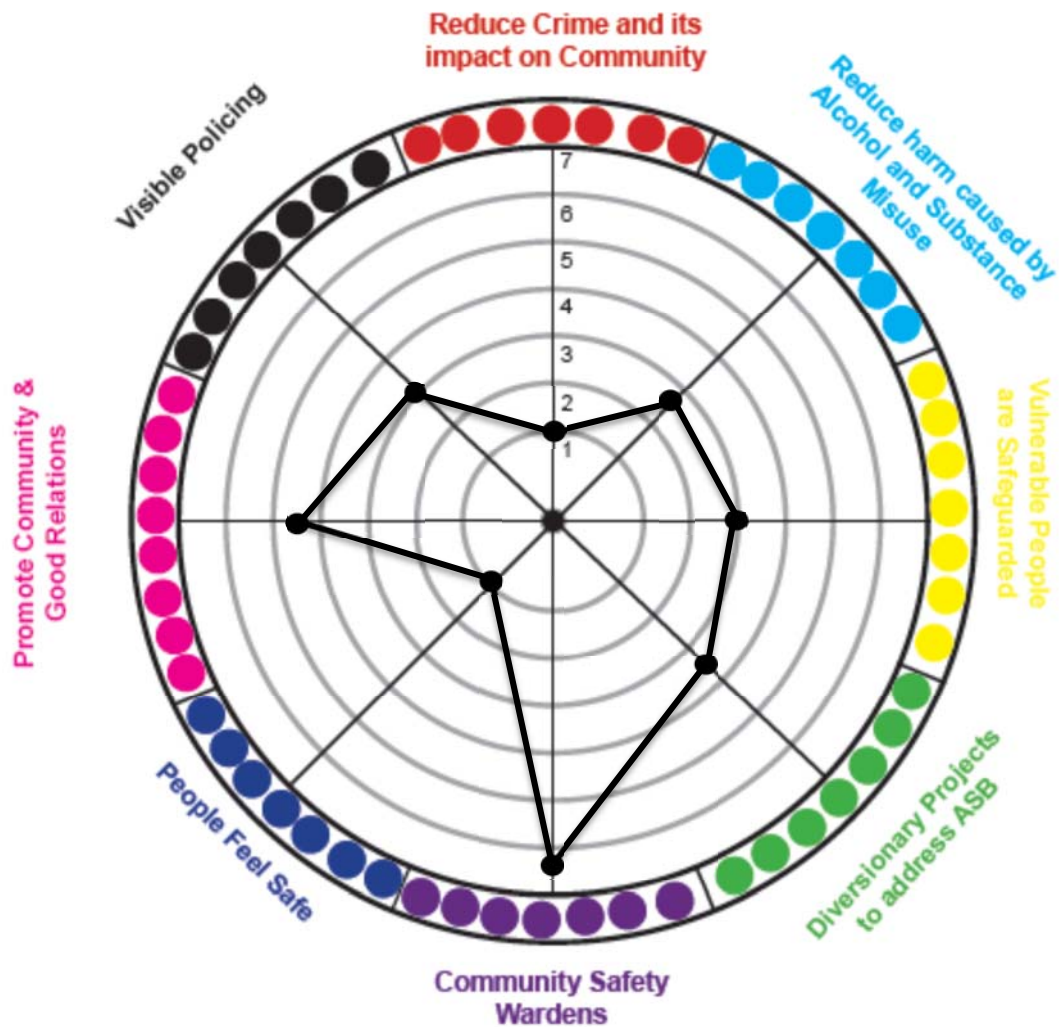
Detailed reports from each Public Forum which include proposed actions which could be undertaken to address each issue is available on the project website [www.communityplanningishere.org](http://www.communityplanningishere.org).

A number of participants also took part in Citizen Reporting recording vox pops about their thoughts on Community Planning and the opportunities it could deliver. You can watch the video on the project website. Special thanks to the staff members from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council who helped to facilitate the public forums.

The Project is funded through Building Change Trust's Civic Activism Programme. For more information on the project contact Louise O'Kane [louise@communityplaces.info](mailto:louise@communityplaces.info)

## Key Findings across the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Area

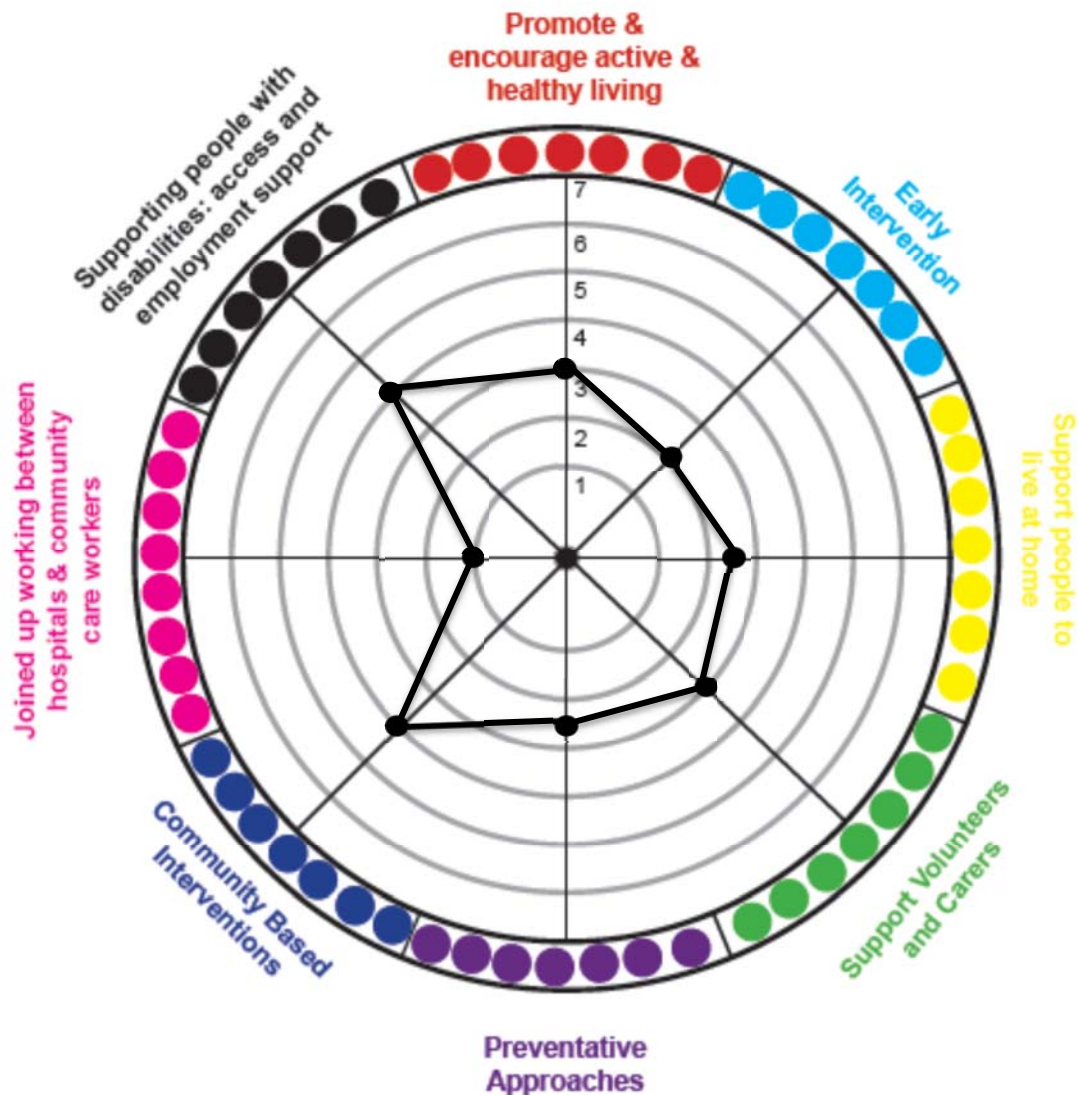
### Community Safety and Cohesion



- The need to 'Reduce crime and its impact on the Community' and helping people to 'Feel Safe' were seen as the top priorities across each of the three areas<sup>1</sup> each scoring (1).
- 'Reducing harm caused by alcohol and substance misuse' (2.5) was the next priority, followed by 'Vulnerable people are safeguarded' (3) and the need for 'Visible Policing' (3).
- This theme was chosen by participants across all three areas.

<sup>1</sup> Larne, Ballymena and Carrickfergus.

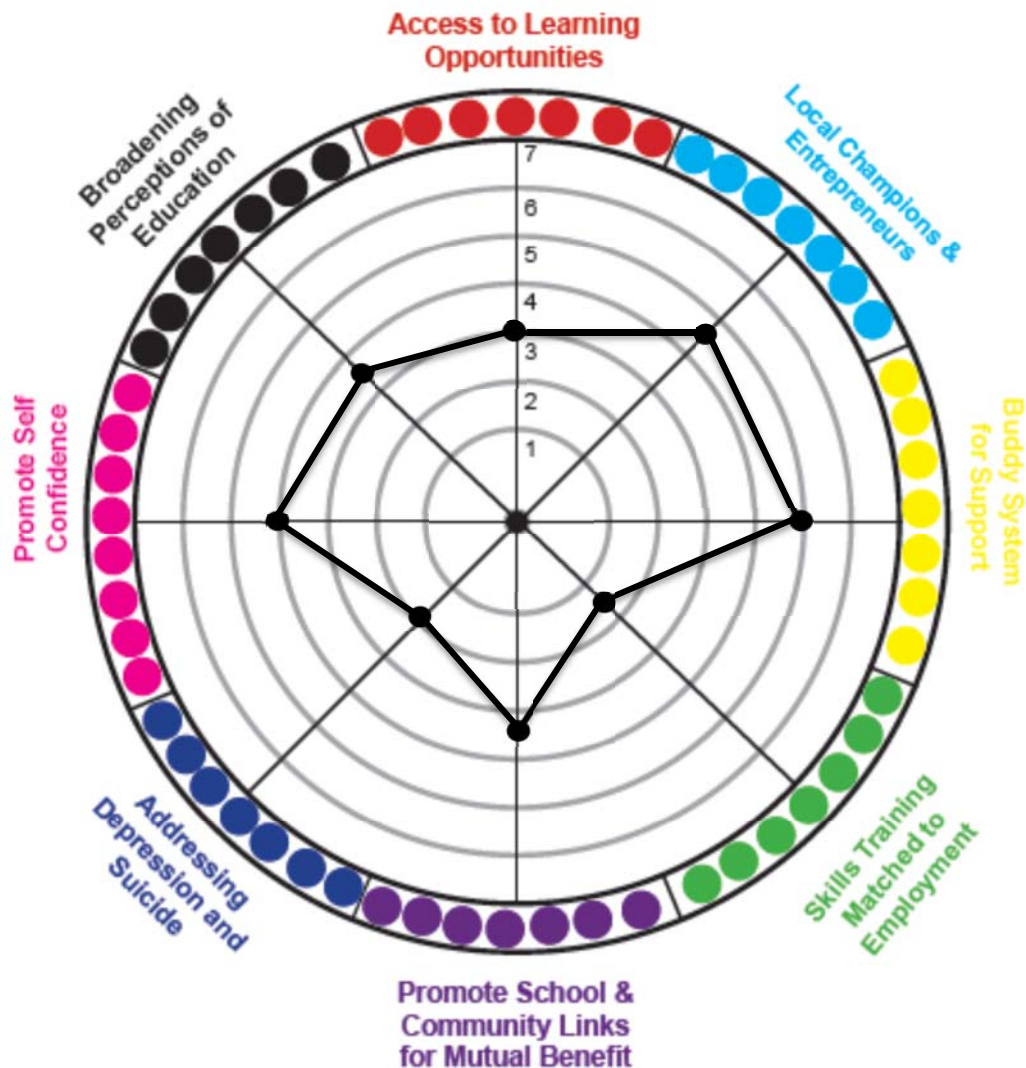
## Good Health and Well-being



- 'Joined up working between hospitals and community care workers' was seen as the most important issue scoring (1) in both Larne and Ballymena<sup>2</sup>.
- 'Early Intervention' (2) was identified as the second most important issue across the borough.
- 'Preventative approaches' (2.5) and 'Support People to Live at Home' (2.5) were considered the next priorities.
- This theme was not chosen to be explored in Carrickfergus.

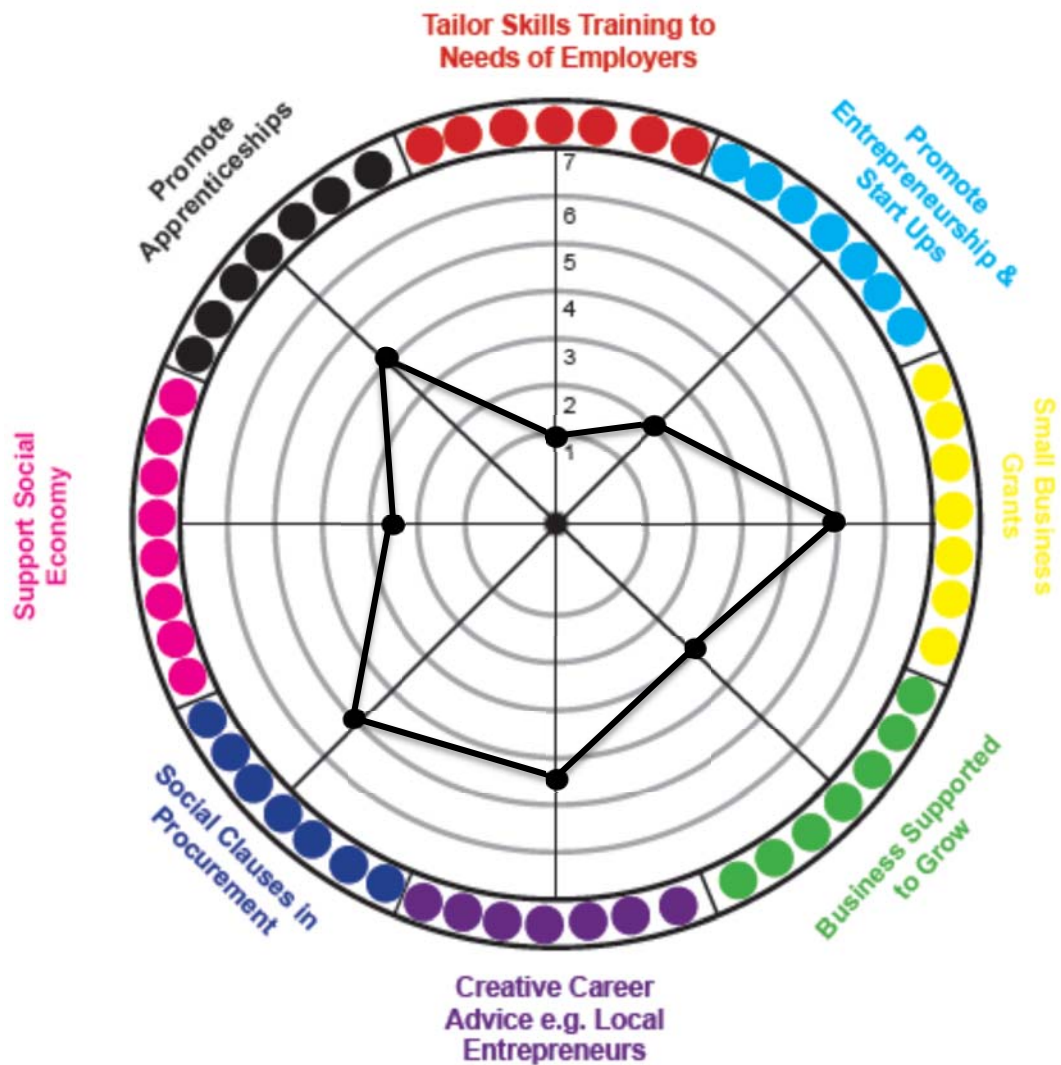
<sup>2</sup> Participants did not choose to discuss this issue in Carrickfergus.

## Progress in Education



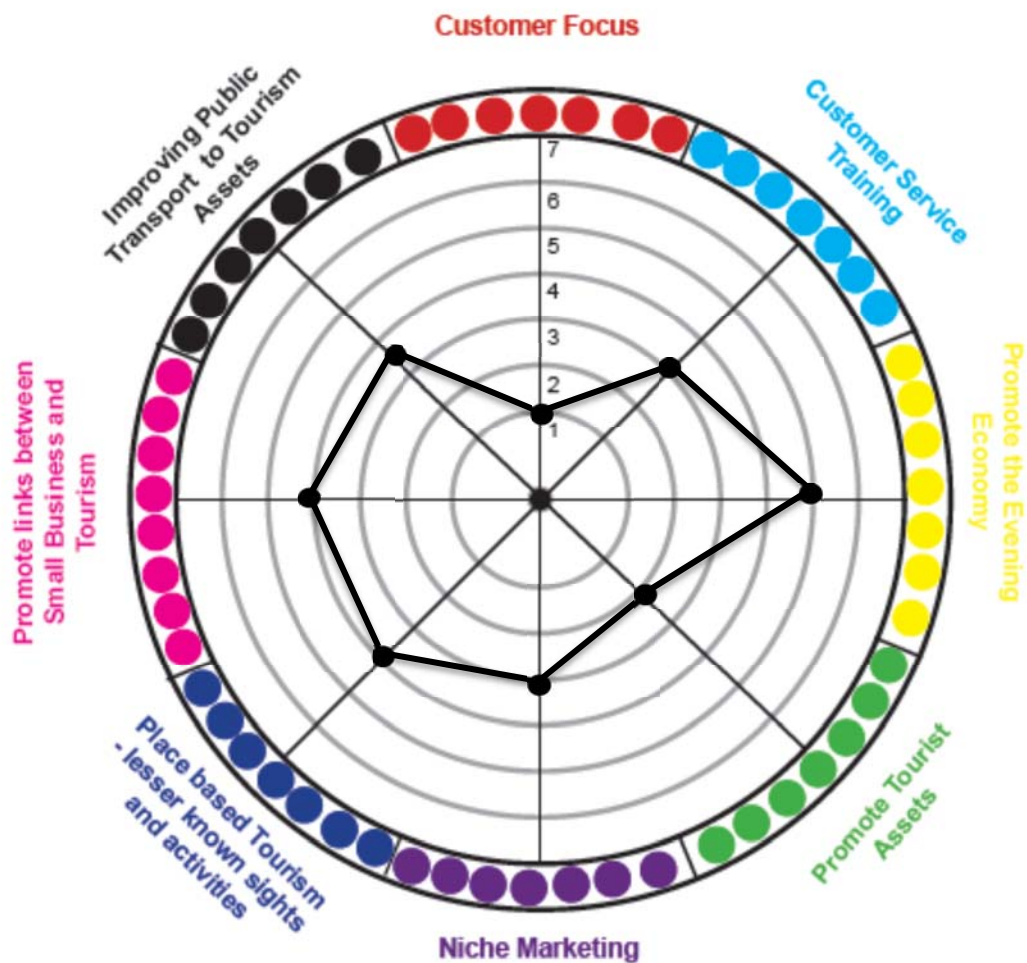
- 'Skills Training matched to Employment' was identified as the top priority across the council area (1.5) scoring in Ballymena (2) and in Carrickfergus (1).
- 'Addressing Depression and Suicide' (2) was seen as the next priority across the Borough. In Ballymena, participants suggested that the issue should be renamed and the issue refocused to 'Promoting Emotional Health and Well-being'
- In Ballymena, an additional issue was identified 'Integrated ethos of Education' (2) with the ambition of schools becoming more open and inclusive.
- This theme was not chosen to be discussed in Larne.

## Sustainable Jobs



- 'Tailoring skills training to needs of employers' was seen as the top priority scoring (1).
- 'Promoting entrepreneurship and start-ups' was identified as the second most important issue scoring (2).
- The next priority was considered to be 'Business supported to grow' (3).
- This theme was not chosen by participants to be explored in Carrickfergus.

## Tourism



- The top issue for Tourism was considered to be 'Customer Focus' (1).
- 'Promoting Tourist Assets' (2) was seen as the second most important issue.
- 'Customer Service Training' (3) and Niche Marketing (3) were also considered to be important.
- This theme was not chosen by participants in Ballymena.



## Place Standard All Results

The tables below illustrate the Place Standard Results by theme across each area and provides an average scoring for the Council area as a whole as depicted in the Place Standard Diagrams above.



## Community Safety and Cohesion

| <b>Community Safety and Cohesion</b>               | Larne | Ballymena | Carrickfergus | MEA |
|--|-------|-----------|---------------|-----|
| Reduce crime and its impact on the Community       | 1     | 1         | 1             | 1   |
| Reduce harm caused by alcohol and substance misuse | 2     | 3         | 3             | 2.5 |
| Vulnerable people are safeguarded                  | 3     | 2         | 5             | 3   |
| Diversionary projects to address ASB               | 2     | 4         | 5             | 3.5 |
| Community Safety Wardens                           | 6     | 7         | 7             | 6.5 |
| Feeling Safe                                       | 1     | 1         | 1             | 1   |
| Community and Good Relations                       | 3     | 6         | 4             | 4.5 |
| Visible Policing                                   | 2     | 4         | 3             | 3   |

## Good Health and Well-being

| <b>Good Health and Well-being</b>                                  | Larne | Ballymena | Carrickfergus | MEA |
|--|-------|-----------|---------------|-----|
| Promote and encourage active and healthy living                    | 3     | 3         | -             | 3   |
| Early Intervention   | 2     | 2         | -             | 2   |
| Support People to Live at home                                     | 4     | 1         | -             | 2.5 |
| Support Volunteers and Carers                                      | 4     | 2         | -             | 3   |
| Preventative approaches  | 2     | 3         | -             | 2.5 |
| Community based interventions                                      | 4     | 6         | -             | 5   |
| Joined up working between hospitals and community care workers     | 1     | 1         | -             | 1   |
| Supporting people with disabilities: access and employment support | 3     | 5         | -             | 4   |

## Progress in Education

| <b>Progress in Education</b>                          | Larne | Ballymena | Carrickfergus | MEA |
|---|-------|-----------|---------------|-----|
| Access to Learning Opportunities                      | -     | 3         | 3             | 3   |
| Local Champions and Entrepreneurs                     | -     | 5         | 4             | 4.5 |
| Buddy System for Support                              | -     | 7         | 3             | 5   |
| Skills Training matched to Employment                 | -     | 2         | 1             | 1.5 |
| Promote School and Community Links for Mutual Benefit | -     | 1         | 6             | 3.5 |
| Addressing Depression and Suicide                     | -     | 1.5       | 3             | 2   |
| Promote Self Confidence                               | -     | 4         | 4             | 4   |
| Broadening perceptions of Education                   | -     | 5         | 2             | 3.5 |
| Additional: Integrated ethos of Education             | -     | 2         |               | 2   |

## Sustainable Jobs

| Sustainable Jobs                                  | Larne | Ballymena | Carrickfergus | MEA |
|---|-------|-----------|---------------|-----|
| Tailor skills training to needs of employers      | 1     | 1         | -             | 1   |
| Promote entrepreneurship / start ups              | 2     | 2         | -             | 2   |
| Small business grants                             | 5     | 5         | -             | 5   |
| Business supported to grow                        | 1     | 5         | -             | 3   |
| Creative career advice – e.g. local entrepreneurs | 2     | 7         | -             | 4.5 |
| Social clauses in procurement                     | 2.5   | 7         | -             | 5   |
| Support Social Economy                            | 3     | 2         | -             | 2.5 |
| Promote Apprenticeships                           | 4     | 4         | -             | 4   |

## Tourism

| Tourism  | Larne | Ballymena | Carrickfergus | MEA |
|--|-------|-----------|---------------|-----|
| Customer Focus   | 1     | -         | 1             | 1   |
| Customer Service Training                                | 3     | -         | 3             | 3   |
| Promote the Evening Economy                              | 4     | -         | 6             | 5   |
| Promote Tourist Assets                                   | 2     | -         | 2             | 2   |
| Niche Marketing  | 4     | -         | 2             | 3   |
| Place-based Tourism - lesser known sights and activities | 4     | -         | 4             | 4   |
| Promote links between Small business and Tourism         | 5     | -         | 2.5           | 4   |
| Improving Public Transport to Tourism Assets             | 5     | -         | 2             | 3.5 |

## List of Participants

| <b>First Name</b> | <b>Surname</b> | <b>Group or Organisation</b>                  |
|-------------------|----------------|---|
| Barry             | Smyth          | Alzheimer's Society                           |
| Brian             | Holmes         | Ballee South Cluster                          |
| Anne              | Lennon         | Ballygally Hall                               |
| Rosalie           | Grainger       | Ballymena Church Members Forum                |
| Nikella           | Holmes         | Ballymena South Cluster                       |
| Michelle          | Scullion       | Barnardo's                                    |
| Mary              | Watson         | Carnlough Community Association               |
| Austin            | Herron         | Carrick Central Residents Association         |
| Pauline           | Whitley        | Carrickfergus Community Cultivators           |
| Janice            | Cherry         | Carrickfergus Community Forum                 |
| Mark              | Donnelly       | Compassion Ministries                         |
| GL                | GREER          | Gracehill Old School Trust                    |
| Janice            | Colgan         | Green Pastures Church                         |
| Robert            | McIlwain       | Islandmagee Community Development Association |
| Audrey            | Wales          | Lady Mayor of Mid and East Antrim             |
| Deborah           | Neill          | Larne Community Development Project           |
| Catherine         | Lynas          | Larne Foodbank                                |
| Patricia          | Brennan        | LEDCOM  |
| Máire             | Clarke         | Mid & East Antrim Borough Council             |
| Catherine         | Black          | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council           |
| Michael           | Francey        | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council           |
| Liz               | Graham         | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council           |
| Karen             | Hargan         | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council           |
| Alison            | Kane           | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council           |
| Sinead            | Kelly          | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council           |

|          |                 |  |
|----------|-----------------|--|
| Andrew   | McAlister       | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council          |
| Gillian  | McAtackney      | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council          |
| Maureen  | Morrow          | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council          |
| Mary     | O'Boyle         | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council          |
| Jackie   | Patton          | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council          |
| Janet    | Shearer         | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council          |
| Fiona    | Surgenor        | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council          |
| Philip   | Scott           | NICIE. (NI Council for Integrated Education) |
| Veronica | McKinley        | North Antrim Community Network               |
| Sandy    | Wilson          | North Antrim Community Network               |
| Helen    | Hargy           | PSNI   |
| Victoria | Graham          | RES  |
| Sean     | Woods           | RSPB   |
| Vivienne | Walsh           | South Antrim Community Network               |
| Rosie    | Ford-Hutchinson | Ulster architectural heritage society        |
| Robin    | McLernon        |  |
| Paul     | Wise            |  |