



Derry City & Strabane
District Council

Comhairle
**Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSratha Báin**

Derry Cittie & Stràbane
Destrìck Cooncil

**Section 75 Audit of Inequalities
for the period 2024-2027**

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Section One – Background

1.1 The Strategic Context

Strategic Inclusive Growth Plan 2017-2032

Community planning is a process led by councils working with community planning partners, including other statutory agencies, businesses and local communities, to develop and implement a shared vision and plan for the council area.

Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) took on responsibility for community planning as part of local government reform in 2015, and Council’s first community plan, The Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032, was launched in 2017.

An extensive process of consultation involving approximately 5,000 citizen engagements was undertaken with local communities and organisations to shape the priority outcomes. Following this, the Community Planning process identified the priority outcomes which aims to make Derry City and Strabane District Council area a place where there is:

A thriving, prosperous and sustainable City and District with equality of opportunity for all

The 8 priority outcome areas of the co-design process for the social, economic and environmental wellbeing pillars

Social:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We live in a shared, equal and safe community • We live long, healthy and fulfilling lives • Our children and young people have the best start in life
Economic:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We prosper through strong, sustainable and competitive economy • We are better skilled and educated • We live in a cultural destination of choice
Environmental:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We live sustainably - protecting and enhancing our environment • We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure

Our Corporate Plan and Improvement Objectives support these outcomes.

1.2 The Corporate Context

Corporate Plan 2023-2024

Corporate Plan 2023-2024 represents our priority outcomes as a Council for the next year. It reflects the Council led priorities set out in the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan and identifies actions we will undertake above and beyond the everyday working of Council services.

The Strategic Growth Plan identifies eight priority outcomes under the pillars of economic, social and environmental well-being. Many of the Council's services will contribute towards achieving more than one of the priority outcomes identified, and it is important to recognise that achievement of each priority will contribute, in part, to the achievement of others. Some themes, such as equality and sustainability cut across each of the priority outcomes.

Our Mission

Derry City and Strabane District Council mission is committed to working to: **“Deliver improved social, economic and environmental outcomes for everyone.”**

Corporate Objectives

To deliver on our mission, we will focus on four key objectives. These objectives are based on the organisational structure and have emerged following consultation with key partners and from consulting and involving senior council officers and staff.

Our corporate objectives are to:

- Grow our business and facilitate cultural development.
- Protect our environment and deliver physical regeneration.
- Promote healthy communities.
- Provide effective and facilitative cross functional support services.

These corporate objectives align directly to the well-being pillars identified within the strategic outcomes in the Community Plan

1.3 The Legislative Background

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 provides that:

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- (1) A public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity-
 - (a) between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
 - (b) between men and women generally;
 - (c) between persons with a disability and persons without; and
 - (d) between persons with dependants and persons without

- (2) Without prejudice to its obligations under subsection (1), a public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

Within its guide Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998: A Guide for Public Authorities, the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) recommends that public authorities should undertake an audit of inequalities by systematically reviewing and analysing its services and how these relate to the promotion of equality and good relations. Having identified any inequalities it is recommended that public authorities should set out specific actions to address these in an action plan attached to the public authority’s Equality Scheme.

Audit of Inequalities

The Audit of Inequalities confirms that Derry City and Strabane District Council’s functions are addressed in terms of inequalities in relation to Section 75 groups. It has enabled Derry City and Strabane District Council to identify potential functional areas for further or better discharge of its Section 75 duties and will therefore inform its key strategic actions.

The Audit aims to reveal where the Council has information gaps and allow the development of action measures to take forward the work which it wants to carry out to deal with the issues and inequalities highlighted by the Audit. Many of the Councils functions are statutory in nature and cut across many of the Section 75 categories however there are some areas of Council work that may have an impact on certain Section 75 groups. The Council currently has an Equality Scheme which was reviewed in March 2020.

During the development of the Council’s Action Plan all council services and functions were reviewed under the headings

- (a) Health and Community Directorate (Social)
- (b) Business and Culture Directorate (Economic)
- (c) Environment and Regeneration Directorate (Environment)

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(d) Cross-cutting Support Section

This ensures that all services are considered under the structure within Council which comprises of three directorates which mirror the Community Plan and its three thematic pillars.

Section Two – Socio-Economic Profile of Derry City and Strabane District

In order to carry out the Audit of Inequalities it is important to detail the profile of the Derry City and Strabane District Council area and its residents

This section of the report is intended to provide an overview of the socio-economic profile of the Derry City and Strabane District Council area using quantitative data collated from Northern Ireland Research Agency, Police Service for Northern Ireland, Department of Health and Social Services and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

2.1 Derry City and Strabane District Council Area Profile

Derry City and Strabane District Council is sixth largest of the eleven District Councils in Northern Ireland, serving a population of approximately 150,756¹.

Derry City and Strabane District Council has seven district electoral areas, comprising 40 electoral wards.

A large percentage of the council area is rural in nature with 1766 farms registered to addresses in the area in 2021 and a total agricultural labour force at that time of 3579 persons².

In 2021, there were 5,410 VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses within the Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) area³ which, in turn, had helped provide a total of 59,344 employee jobs in 2021, an increase from 58200 in 2018⁴.

The Council area offers a wide range of attractions for visitors including the historic walls, Derg Castle and the Tower Museum, and is an important centre for the arts accommodating the Millennium Forum, the Alley Theatre and Conference Centre, the Nerve Centre, the Playhouse and a diverse range of community arts groups.

Sport is well represented with a number of local football, rugby, cricket, GAA and other sporting clubs in the area.

¹ [NISRA - Census data 2021](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-data-2021)

² <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/agricultural-census-northern-ireland-2021>

³

[https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/Download/Business%20and%20Energy/VAT%20and%20or%20PAYE%20Registered%20Businesses%20Operating%20in%20Northern%20Ireland%20\(administrative%20geographies\).ods](https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/Download/Business%20and%20Energy/VAT%20and%20or%20PAYE%20Registered%20Businesses%20Operating%20in%20Northern%20Ireland%20(administrative%20geographies).ods)

⁴ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/agricultural-census-northern-ireland-2021>

An overview of the Section 75 profile of the new Derry/Strabane Council area is presented below. All data was sourced from the Census 2021 figures, unless otherwise stated.

2.2 Key Statistics

Population estimates comparing 2020 to 2030 show that the total population is projected to decrease by 1350 people (0.89 per cent) from 151,100 in mid-2020 to 149,750 in mid-2030.

The number of children (i.e. those aged 0-15) is projected to decrease by 4,886 (14.94 per cent) from 32,700 to 27,814 over the same period.

The working age population (i.e. those aged 16-64) is projected to decrease by 2,323 people (2.45 per cent) from 94,900 in mid-2020 to 92,577 in mid-2030.

The number of those aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 5,959 people (25.47 per cent) from 23,400 to 29,359 over the ten years from mid-2020 to mid-2030. Within this group, the number of people aged 85 and over is projected to increase by 793 people (33.04 per cent).⁵

Population by Age

Age	2020	2030	Decade ending mid 2030	
			Number	%
0 - 15 years	32,700	27814	-4886	-14.94
16-64 years	94,900	92577	-2323	-2.45
65 years and over	23,400	29359	5959	25.47
65 – 84 years	21,100	26166	5066	24.00
85 years+	2,400	3193	793	33.04
All ages	151,100	149750	-1350	0.89

⁵ NISRA Population Projections (Making Life Better)

2.3 Health

Over the coming years, both the size and the age structure of the population of the Derry/Strabane Council area and indeed Northern Ireland as a whole will alter, potentially changing the demand for health and social care.

The life expectancy of males and females within the Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) area has increased over the last number of years. The life expectancy for men stood at **78.0 years** in the period 2018-20 and for women the corresponding rate was **81.6 years**⁶. However male life expectancy in the most deprived areas within the Council area was **72.3 years**, 5.7 years less than the Council average (78.0 years).

Female life expectancy in the LGD’s most deprived areas was **78.7 years**, 2.8 years less than the LGD average (81.6 years).⁷

In general, the DCSDC council area ranks lower than NI across a range of health indicators but the direction of trends is similar. It is notable that many of these issues are more acute in our areas that would have a high deprivation ranking.

Standardised Death Rate - All Cause U75

Deaths per 100,000 population	2012-16	2013-17	2014-18	2015-19	2016-20
Northern Ireland	369	369	366	363	364
Derry City & Strabane	413	411	402	401	395
Derry City & Strabane Deprived	634	632	634	629	626
Derry City & Strabane LGD- NI Gap	12%	12%	10%	10%	8%
Derry City & Strabane LGD Deprivation Gap	53%	54%	58%	57%	59%

In terms of external causes it would appear that alcohol and drugs are a major contributor – they also present the largest health inequality gaps in the deprived areas within the Council according to the health inequalities report for 2020

Derry & Strabane LGD

- SAR Alcohol Related (131%)
- SDR Alcohol Specific (132%)

⁶ <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/life-expectancy-northern-ireland-2018-20>
⁷ <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/hscims-report-2022.pdf>

SAR Drug Related (99%)⁸

Alcohol, Smoking & Drugs		Northern Ireland	Derry City & Strabane
Standardised Admission Rate Alcohol Related	2018/19-2020/21	659	734
Standardised Death Rate Alcohol Specific	2016-20	17.7	24.3
Standardised Death Rate Smoking	2016-2020	150	180

On Census Day 2021, in **Derry/Strabane** Local Government District⁹:

	All usual residents	Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Day-to-day activities limited a little	Day-to-day activities not limited
Northern Ireland	1,903,179	217,964	245,057	1,440,158
Derry City and Strabane	150,756	20,933	19,874	109,949

Sight Loss

According to a briefing on sight loss from the local branch of RNIB (2022/23), in the Derry City and Strabane District Council area:

- Number of people estimated to be living with sight loss: 4,030.
- 2032 projection for sight loss population: 5,040.
- Number of registered blind or partially sighted people: 2,163.

⁸ <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/hscims-report-2020.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-table-lookups> ms d02

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Public attitudes have also been identified as a key barrier for blind and partially sighted people. The general public can have a key impact on independence and inclusion.

- 60 per cent of the UK population think that there is a lot or a fair amount of discrimination against blind and partially sighted people.
- More than one-third of blind and partially sighted people say that they sometimes or frequently experience negative attitudes from the general public because of their sight loss.
- People of working age are more likely to say that they have been treated unfairly because of their sight loss.
- Four out of every 10 blind and partially sighted people were not able to make all the journeys that they want or need to make.

Local area summary

Derry and Strabane is a local authority in Northern Ireland. It forms part of Western Health and Social Care Trust.

Demographics

There are 151,109 people living in Derry and Strabane. Of the total population:

- 24% are aged 17 or under.
- 60% are aged 18-64.
- 16% are aged over 65.

The older you are, the greater your risk of sight loss. The proportion of people aged 75 years and over in Derry and Strabane is lower than the average for Northern Ireland - 7% of the population are aged 75 plus, compared to 8% in Northern Ireland.

Table: Population by age band

Age band	Population	Percentage
0-4	9,834	7%
5-17	26,716	18%
18-29	22,544	15%
30-49	38,981	26%
50-64	29,606	20%
65-74	13,478	9%
75-84	7,576	5%
85+	2,374	2%

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

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Ethnicity

People from different ethnic communities are at greater risk of some of the leading causes of sight loss.

The proportion of people from minority ethnic groups is lower than the average for Northern Ireland - 1.20% of the population are from minority ethnic groups, compared to 1.5% in Northern Ireland.

Table: Total population by ethnicity

Ethnicity	Population	Percentage
White	145,546	99%
Mixed ethnicity	462	0%
Asian / Asian British	952	1%
Black / Black British	180	0%
Other ethnic groups	301	0%

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Health

Sight loss can be linked to poor health and other health conditions. Certain risk factors can also increase the chance of sight loss. For example, smoking can double the risk of AMD and obesity increases the risk of developing diabetes which can cause sight loss.

The general health of people in Derry and Strabane is worse than the Northern Ireland average.

- Life expectancy for women compared to the national average: lower
- Life expectancy for men compared to the national average: similar
- 23% of people have a long-term health condition or disability that limits their day to day life – compared to the national average of 21%.
- 7.0% of people describe their health as either 'bad' or 'very bad' – worse than the national average of 5.6%.

Local labour market

Local employment data broken down by sight loss or for the general population is not available for Northern Ireland. However, RNIB suggests that UK data is relevant.

The employment rate is 76 per cent in the general population, whereas only 51 per cent of the disabled population – excluding those with sight loss – is employed.

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When it comes to sight loss, however, the employment rate for registered blind and partially sighted individuals is only 27 per cent (Ref: Slade (2019) Labour Force Survey 2018: comparison of people with sight loss to the rest of the population. RNIB).

Socio-economics

People living in more deprived areas are at a greater risk of sight loss. The deprivation rank of an area is ordered by 1st being the most deprived and higher numbers being less deprived:

- Derry and Strabane is the 7th most deprived local authority in Northern Ireland.
- 4% of the local area is within the 10% most deprived areas in the whole of Northern Ireland.

Impact of societal attitudes and inclusion

Public attitudes towards sight loss are rooted in stereotypes and a lack of knowledge about blindness and partial sight. The majority of the UK general population agrees that blind and partially sighted people are not treated the same as everyone else.

One of the main influences that drives greater feelings of positivity towards blind and partially sighted people is exposure. A greater familiarity results in more positive associations, a greater understanding as well as an increased sense of confidence in one's ability to provide appropriate support.

Despite legislation that aims to protect the rights of blind and partially sighted people, the accessibility of products, information and services is still not an area where people with sight loss have equality of experience. Whether this is being able to independently read instructions on grocery packaging, being able to enjoy favourite TV shows with audio description or getting information from health services in accessible formats, blind and partially sighted people experience a significant information and inclusion gap because of their vision impairment.

Transport systems, pavements and built environments are often not designed to be fully inclusive of people with a vision impairment. People with sight loss are unable to drive so, for journeys that cannot be made by walking, rely on public transport, taxis and lifts from friends or relatives. Navigating streets, public spaces and buildings can be a challenge for people with sight loss, particularly if the environment is unfamiliar, changeable or not designed in an accessible way.

Breast Feeding

The local community has raised concern that Derry City and Strabane District Council has amongst the lowest breastfeeding rates in the world and that an opportunity exists for Council to develop a policy to promote and support breastfeeding.

2.4 Economic Growth and Deprivation

Total employment in Derry City and Strabane has increased from 58,900 in 2001 to 67,900 in 2021 – 15.3% increase - This accounts for 7.7% of total jobs in NI for 2021¹⁰

On average Derry City and Strabane has created 453 jobs on average per annum

- With Health and Social care being the key driver – accounting for 20.1% of workforce
- Self employment was adversely affected during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Within the council self-employment has fallen from 13% of total employment to 11% over the 2019-2021 period which translated to a loss of approximately 2,000 self-employed jobs.¹⁰

In 2021, the Labour Force Survey estimated that there were 62,000 people in employment within DCSDC. Of these, 43,500 were in full-time employment and 18,500 were in part-time employment.

Year	In employment (16+)			Employment rate	
	Full Time	Part Time	Total	16+	16-64
2012	41000	14000	55000	50.70%	61.20%
2013	42000	14000	56000	49.00%	55.80%
2014	44000	15000	59000	48.70%	56.60%
2015	43000	17000	60000	52.10%	59.60%
2016	40000	14000	54000	46.50%	54.80%
2017	40000	13000	53000	48.30%	56.90%
2018	45000	15000	60000	52.80%	61.60%
2019	49000	17000	66000	56.20%	68.00%
2020	46000	14000	60000	50.00%	62.50%
2021	43500	18500	62000	52.40%	65.40%

This led to an employment rate, for those aged 16 and over, of 52.4% (NI 57.4%). The employment rate for those of working-age, i.e. 16-64, stood at 65.4% (NI 70.2%).

¹⁰ Derry City and Strabane District Council Spring Economic Forecasts 2022
<https://growderrystrabane.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/SGP-Meeting-Pack-17-June-2022.pdf>

The number of people registered on claimant count (Job seekers allowance/Universal Credit) in Derry City & Strabane had generally been higher than the NI average.

Claimant Count – January 2023¹¹	Total number of claimants	Total claimants of Working Age (%)
Derry City and Strabane	4,530	4.8
Northern Ireland	36,345	3.1

It is important to note that approximately 40% of those on the claimant count are in work and receiving benefits due to low pay

2.5 Multiple Deprivation Measure

The Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 (MDM) combines the 7 deprivation domains to rank areas based on multiple types of deprivation. When the 100 most deprived SOAs within NI are selected, 20 of these SOAs can be found in the DCSDC area

The most deprived SOA in DCSDC is East in Strabane. In addition, this SOA is the most deprived in NI according to MDM. The total population of the SOAs listed below is estimated to be 37,000. This equates to 25% of the population of DCSDC.

DCSDC SOAs within 100 most deprived in Northern Ireland

¹¹ <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/labour-market-report-january-2023>

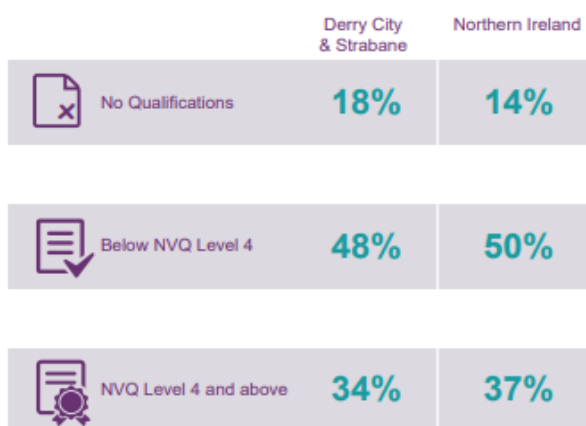
DCSDC SOA	NI rank (1 = most deprived; 890 is least deprived)
East	1
Crevagh 2	3
Strand 1	5
The Diamond	6
Creggan Central 1	10
Brandywell	13
Shantallow West 1	19
Culmore 2	22
Shantallow West 2	27
Creggan South	33
Ballycolman	37
Ebrington 2	38
Clondermot 1	43
Westland	45
Shantallow West 3	51
Carn Hill 2	59
Rosemount	68
Creggan Central 2	69
Shantallow East	86
Glenderg	90

2.6 Education

InvestNI detailed the following data in terms of educational achievement in its 2021 report on the Derry City and Strabane District Council area.¹²

¹² <https://www.investni.com/sites/default/files/2021-06/investni-performance-council-area-derry-and-strabane-2021.pdf> p7

Qualifications (2019)



This data is provided through the Labour Force Survey (LFS) which is a household survey and includes a measure of qualifications, based on the working-age population (16-64), using the following classification:

- No Qualifications
- Below NVQ Level 4 (Level 1 to Level 3)
- NVQ Level 4 and above (degree level and above)

School Leavers

- In 2020/21 there were 1899 school leavers compared to 1842 school leavers in 2019/20.
- The percentage of school leavers who achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C (or equivalent) in DCSDC was 92.1% in 2019/20 and 95% in 2021/22.
- The percentage of school leavers, achieving at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C (or equivalent) including English and Maths in DCSDC, was 75.5% in 2019/20 and 79.9% in 2020/21 .
- The percentage of school leavers, achieving 2+ A Levels in DCSDC, was 59.4% in 2019/20 and 60.7% in 2020/21.¹³

In 2021 only 9% of school leavers in the Derry/Strabane progressed into employment, this falls below the Northern Ireland averaged of 10.6%.

Destination of School Leavers 2020/21¹⁴

LGD	School Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Employment	Training	Unemployed/Unknown
Northern Ireland	21610	10345 47.9%	5836 27.0%	2284 10.6%	2282 10.6%	863 4.0%
Derry/Strabane	1899	960 50.6%	443 23.3%	171 9.0%	259 13.6%	66 3.5%

¹³ <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/school-leavers-202122-statistical-bulletin>

¹⁴ <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/school-leavers-202122>

2.7 Housing and Transport

According to the findings from the Family Resources Survey 2019-20 there were:

- ❖ 53% were owner occupied and 29% were rented properties in the Derry/Strabane City Council area;
- ❖ 34% homes were owned outright – (38% NI)¹⁵

Household Size

In 2030, the latest household projections estimated that 'One adult' households made up the largest type of household within DCSDC (18,902 households or 31.49%). This rate was above NI as a whole (28.78%).¹⁶

Households with children are estimated at 16,974 of all households here, equating to 28.28% of all households (26.645% for NI).

By 2041, the number of 'One adult' households are expected to increase by 2,764 bringing the projected total to 20,085 or 33.46% of all households. This would be a higher rate than that projected for NI (29.4%).

Conversely, by 2041, the number of households with children is projected to fall by 2,700 to 15,600 households or 26.1% of all households (25% for NI).

Car Registration

In 2020, 7.41% (74,233) of all cars registered in Northern Ireland were licensed to addresses in the Derry/Strabane Council area. 11.8% of which were cars registered to a disabled driver or for transporting disabled people¹⁷ as compared to the Northern Ireland average of 8.0%.

Car Registration ¹⁸

¹⁵ <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/family-resources-survey-report-2019-2020>

¹⁶ [www.Nisra.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-household-projections-2016-based](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/pivotgrid.aspx?dataSetVars=ds-3153-lh-37-yn-2003-2006,2008-2011-sk-118-sn-Travel%20and%20Transport-yearfilter--)

6. <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/pivotgrid.aspx?dataSetVars=ds-3153-lh-37-yn-2003-2006,2008-2011-sk-118-sn-Travel%20and%20Transport-yearfilter-->

¹⁸ NISRA – Cars Licensed – Private and Company with a Disability Referenced Tax Code (2020)

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	Cars Registered	Cars Registered to a Disabled Driver or for Transporting Disabled People	Cars Registered to a Disabled Driver or for Transporting Disabled People (%)
Northern Ireland	1,001,420	79,763	8.0
Derry & Strabane	74,233	8783	11.8

Household Rates

The average rates bill in the Derry City and Strabane district in 2021/22 was £953.45. This compares to NI average of £1002.37.

The price of a house in Derry/Strabane slumped by 3.6% to £141,985 in the third quarter of 2022, according to Ulster University’s latest Quarterly House Price Index.¹⁹

2.8 Council Functions

The roles and functions of councils, established in the Local Government Act 2014 and in other legislation, falls into three types:

- **Direct** - councils are responsible for the provision and management of services
- **Representative** - council nominees sit on statutory bodies
- **Consultative** - councils reflect community views in the operation of range of statutory bodies, community concerns or give views on proposed admin decisions

Most councils carry out the functions outlined below. However, not every council will have the entire range of services, depending upon its geographical location and size:

Council is currently responsible for a number of services, including:

¹⁹University of Ulster Northern Ireland Quarterly House Price Index Q3
https://www.ulster.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1440463/Ulster-University-House-Price-Index-Report-Q3-2022-Web.pdf

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Refuse Collection and Disposal
Recycling and Waste Management
Civic Amenity Provision
Grounds Maintenance
Street Cleansing
Cemeteries
Public Conveniences
Food Safety
Health & Safety
Environmental Protection
Environmental Improvement
Estates Management
Building Design and Maintenance
Building Control-Inspection/Regulation
Planning
Off Street Car Parks
Dog Control
Enforcement Byelaws, Litter etc.
Sundry Licensing
Sports and Leisure Services
Parks, Open Spaces, Playgrounds
Community Centres
Arts, Heritage and Cultural Facilities
Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages

Councils also have a role in:

- Economic Development
- Community Development
- Community Safety
- Sports Development
- Summer Schemes
- Tourism

Council's remit has increased from April 2015 when there was a transfer package of functions to the 11 new councils from central government departments. The package, which has given the councils more wide-ranging powers and responsibilities includes powers in planning, roads, urban regeneration, community development, housing, local economic development and local tourism. The transfer also included the delivery of the EU Rural Development Programme, spot listing of buildings and greater involvement of local government in local sports decisions.

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Section 75 is mainstreamed across all of Derry City and Strabane District Council business areas. The Council's Senior Management Team is responsible for ensuring that Section 75 obligations are taken into account in developing and implementing Council functions.

Equality Provisions of the Northern Ireland Act Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 has profound implications for decision-making by councils. Section 75 grew out of the earlier, non-statutory Policy Appraisal and Fair Treatment (PAFT) guidelines and from the Good Friday / Belfast Agreement, and makes equality issues central to the administrative mainstream of public policy decision-making.

Section 3 - Methodology

To undertake an audit of inequalities, Derry City and Strabane District Council has gathered information from several sources to inform their audit.

3.1 Primary Research

- Desk top research has been completed on the provision of Council's key services by looking at in-house data on key services and facilities.
- Members of the Equality Assurance and Oversight group, which targets local organisations representing all Section 75 categories, gave feedback on how they felt Council was doing.
- For the good relations element of the inequalities audit reference was made to the external audit which took place between January and March 2022 with events in every District Electoral Area and major town. It is a requirement for participation in the District Council's Community Relations Programme (DCCRP) that councils conduct an 'internal' and an 'external' audit of Good Relations(2022-25) . Action Plans promoting Good Relations should relate to the findings of these audits. This section sets out the methodology, findings and analysis of the external audit.

The external audit was predominantly responded to by the local Community and Voluntary Sector, but also gave open opportunity for anyone who wished to take part to share their views.

The audit process involved over 250 people and organisations including the activities below.

Other outreach activities included:

- Carried out a community and youth survey with 79 responses;
- Conducted a staff and Councillor survey with 104 responses;
- Conducted approximately 20 interviews;
- Met with staff and the Good Relations committee;
- Facilitated six community workshops involving minority ethnic, faith based, youth, rural, elected members, LGBTQ+, unionist, nationalist and other groupings;
- Engaged more directly with elected representatives individually and with a survey.

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- Consultation and research for the development of the Strategic Assessment and Action Plan for Derry City and Strabane PCSP 2019-2022 has highlighted the key areas of concern in terms of policing and community safety for those residing in the Council area.
- Information collated via stakeholder groups was also taken into consideration.
- Council decisions related to equality matters were also considered.
- Feedback from public consultation on new Draft Equality and Disability Action Plans in 2024 was considered.

3.2 Secondary Research

Derry City and Strabane District Council also referred to external information sources such as the Equality Commission's various statements on Key Inequalities in service areas within Northern Ireland (e.g. education, housing, employment) and datasets held by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (e.g. Continuous Household Survey, Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey, Statistics from government departments).

Section 4 – Findings

4.1 Social - Health and Community Directorate

The corporate objective of the Health and Community Directorate is “to promote healthy communities”²⁰. To ensure this objective is met the key responsibilities and outcomes for the Health and Community Wellbeing Directorate include:-

- Promoting and protecting the public health and the environment.
- Placing health and social wellbeing at the core of services delivery and community development taking an integrated approach to environmental health, health promotion and protection.
- Working with and leading cross sectoral partnerships to address the underlying causes of poor health and reducing health inequalities
- Provision of integrated, citizen focused statutory and community services and facilities and promoting and embedding good relations in collaboration and partnership with government departments and agencies, local groups and communities.
- Increased participation and engagement in leisure through high quality services provision and sports development programmes delivered in well-managed, fit-for-purpose, sustainable facilities.
- Leading on all aspects of social and community regeneration and wellbeing and contributing to the shared and interlinked objectives of economic and environmental wellbeing and regeneration in partnership with other directorates, external partners and relevant stakeholders.

The directorate is divided into two sections namely ‘Community Development and Leisure’ and ‘Health and Community Wellbeing’ which will be examined separately to identify existing inequalities.

4.1.1. Community Development & Leisure

The community development and leisure section is subdivided into the following service areas

- Community services
- Community development
- Community and good relations
- Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)
- Children and Young People
- Older People

²⁰ www.derrystrabane.com/corporateimprovementplans p14

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➤ Leisure Services and Sports Development

The 'Children and Young People' and Older People' service areas will be analysed for all sections as they are specific Section 75 category, namely, 'Age'.

Analysis of inequalities for the remaining services will be as follows:-

- ❖ **Community Services/Community Development/Community and Good Relations**
- ❖ **PCSP**
- ❖ **Leisure and Sports Development**

4.1.1.1 Community Services/Community Development/Community and Good Relations

Primary Data

Table below illustrates what community centres are in the Council area – these are broken down into what is available in each of the seven district electoral areas and have been further subdivided into four groups, namely:-

- Council owned/community managed centre(s)
- Community group owned/maintained/managed centre(s)
- Joint provision support programme/Youth & community centre(s)

Derry City and Strabane District Council Community Centre Provision	
<p>BALLYARNETT - 6 Wards (Total Population – 23423) Skeoge Shantallow East Culmore Galliagh Shantallow Carnhill</p>	<p>Council Owned Community Managed Centre(s) Carnhill Community Centre Shantallow Community Centre Leafair Well Being Village (1:7808)</p>
<p>FOYLESIDE - 5 Wards (Total Population – 18659) Madam's Bank Northland Springtown Ballymagroarty Foyle Springs</p>	<p>Council Owned Community Managed Centre(s) Glenview Community Centre: Joint Provision Support Programme/Youth & Community Centres Ballymagroarty Comm Centre (1:9330)</p>

<p>The Moor - 5 Wards (Total Population – 17184)</p> <p>Sheriff’s Mountain Creggan South Brandywell Creggan</p> <p>CityWalls</p>	<p>Council Owned /Community Managed Centre(s) Bishop Street Community Centre: Creggan Community Centre: Creggan Neighbourhood Assist Kildrum Community Centre: Oakland Park CC</p> <p>Joint Provision Support Programme/Youth & Community Centre(s) Long Tower Youth & Community Centre Pilot’s Row Centre (1:2455)</p>
<p>FAUGHAN - 5 Wards (Total Population – 18,757)</p> <p>Claudy Enagh Eglinton Slievekirk New Buildings</p>	<p>Council Owned /Community Managed Centre(s) Lettershandoney CC</p> <p>Community Group Owned/Maintained and Managed Centre(s) Eglinton Community Hall The Diamond Centre (Claudy)</p> <p>Joint Provision Support Programme/Youth & Community Centre(s) Newbuildings Community & Environmental Association</p> <p>(1:4689)</p>
<p>SPERRIN - 7 Wards (Total Population – 24,176)</p> <p>Park Dunnamanagh Glenelly Valley Artigarvan Strabane North Strabane West Ballycolman</p>	<p>Council Owned/Community Managed Centre(s) Learmount Resource Centre Melvin Hall Community Centre</p> <p>Community Group Owned/Maintained and Managed Centre(s) Ardnalee Community Centre Fountain Street Community Development Association Dennet Interchange, 1 Brook Road, Strabane BT82 OPF</p> <p>(1:4835)</p>
<p>Derry City and Strabane District Council Community Centre Provision (contd.)</p>	
<p>WATERSIDE - 7 Wards Total Population – 27560)</p> <p>Victoria Clondermot Ebrington Caw Lisnagelvin Kilfennan Drumahoe</p>	<p>Council Owned Community Managed Centre(s) Lincoln Courts Comm Centre Irish Street Community Centre: Tullyally Community Centre: Top of the Hill CC</p>

	<p>Community Group Owned/Maintained and Managed Centre(s) Londonderry YMCA Joint Provision Support Programme/Youth & Community Centre(s) Caw Youth Centre (1:4593)</p>
<p>DERG - 5 Wards (Total Population – 17,934) Glenderg Castleberg Newtownstewart Sion Mills Finn</p>	<p>Council Owned/ Community Managed Centre(s) Clady Community Hall Victoria Bridge CC Glebe CC (1:5978)</p>

There appears to be a difference in community service provision in some of the district electoral areas, in particular Ballyarnett and Foyleside DEAs where there is a lower provision per head of population (1 community centre to 7808 and 9330 people respectively) – This is compared to the Moor DEA where there is 1 community centre per 2455 people). It is noted that this analysis does not take into consideration the availability of other service providers, range of services provided, the proximity and demand for services.

**Good Relations
 Primary Research**

Council carried out an extensive consultation audit process to inform its Good Relations Strategy (2022-2025) - The audit took place between January and March 2022 with events in every District Electoral Area and major town. The audit process involved over 250 people and organisations including the activities below.

Officers carried out many outreach activities, they:

- Carried out a community and youth survey with 79 responses;
- Conducted a staff and Councillor survey with 104 responses;
- Conducted approximately 20 interviews;
- Met with staff and the Good Relations committee;
- Facilitated six community workshops involving minority ethnic, faith based, youth, rural, elected members, LGBTQ+, unionist, nationalist and other groupings;
- Engaged more directly with elected representatives individually and with a survey.

Below are some of the key findings from the consultation process, broken down by Section 75(2) groupings

Race

- The small grants programme was welcomed, however, there was concern that it did not allow for cross Council area applications. This included feedback from those who thought that the current process disadvantaged the BME communities that were spread out across the Council area and hindered significant strategic applications from organisations wishing to work across the Council area rather than a specific electoral area.
- The Traveller community was identified by many as one grouping that was most misunderstood and disrespected, with various studies on an island and Northern Ireland wide basis showing significant mental health, health, educational and inclusion needs; while the attitudinal surveys carried out as part of this audit demonstrated that Travellers were perceived as the most discriminated against category.

Survey findings

- Few people suggest there is no prejudice in the Council area. Where it impacts most, where people report a lot of prejudice, is against Travellers (65% say a lot of prejudice), Migrant workers (41%), minority ethnic communities (39%), and LGBTQ+ (29%). Least prejudice identified is against Protestants (20%) and Catholics (12%)
- Meanwhile 39% say that racism is very significant in the District and 32% sectarianism - though, while 62% say they have witnessed sectarian behaviour just 38% have witnessed racist behaviour
- Percentages are lower for Council staff than the community but still 49% of Council staff say they have experienced or witnessed sectarianism and 37% racism
- Respondents suggest that education, training, working with young people and leadership are critical elements to countering racism and sectarianism.

Feedback from Interviews and Workshops

- The integration of increasing numbers of people from minority ethnic backgrounds was a challenge reported by many interviewees, and the need to move from stereotyping minority ethnic communities through festivals that focus on food and cultural celebrations such as dancing, to have more significant and serious conversations about racism, discrimination and integration.
- Continuing to meet the needs of refugees whether from Ukraine more recently or other areas was considered important, promoting the district's reputation as a welcoming place. Meetings or education sessions focusing on race and ethnicity may be educational for the newcomers but also important for people local to

Derry City and Strabane District to better understand the dynamics of migration and the contribution migrant workers make to the region. This might include a focus on culture as well as backgrounds and myth-busting.

- Language continued to be a barrier as newcomers and migrant workers sought to access services and make a life in the region.
- Relationship development may enhance the safety of people from different backgrounds in unfamiliar spaces. But safety, it was felt by many, required more than that. It required greater cultural competency from communities and public agencies, and an understanding of the law and implementation of the law regarding hate incidents and hate crimes.
- There was particular support for Council grants to be available on a Council-wide basis for youth and minority ethnic supported projects that may be disadvantaged, according to consultees, from a DEA-only approach.

Religion (Political Opinion)

Survey findings

- Awareness of, and participation in, GR activities was consistently lower by people from a Protestant background such as 60% of Protestant staff aware of the GR team compared to over 80% of Catholic staff.
- Barriers raised including gatekeepers,
- While 61% believe managing bonfires and dealing with flags and emblems are very important, just 39% say managing parades is as relevant a priority.
- 61% believe single identity work is still highly important.
- 68% believe that cross border engagement should be a very important consideration for the new strategy.
- Working on legacy and commemoration events is regarded as very important by over half (51%).
- The lowest level of importance is given to managing memorials (25%) and working with ex-combatants (32%).
- Within the minority ethnic consultation Council was asked to support the international decade of people of African descent 2015-2024 as declared by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2014. While nearly a decade old already, there is clearly still work required on the three aims of the UN in declaring it:
 - a) work toward equal participation,
 - b) increase respect for diversity and
 - c) strengthen legal frameworks against discrimination.

Each year Black History Month provides an opportunity for closer examination of some of these historical issues. If Council were to engage in this work it was suggested minority ethnic people should help lead any design of a programme and in the actual activities.

Feedback from qualitative survey

- There is a need to review and communicate with people across the community including the Protestant and Unionist community within, and external to, Council;
- Small grants play a strategic role and communities are responsive to the funding;
- The Mayor has a recognised role in the district being a representative for, and advocate for, all communities and could help focus the leadership potential of civil society;
- Dialogue on a shared past remains important, including on significant and symbolic 50-year anniversaries;
- Many people still believe there is a need for single identity work especially post-Covid for younger people;
- Leadership is considered a key quality for promoting better community relations;
- However, many report ongoing gatekeeping issues within local communities;
- Education, work in schools, and community-based training are all mentioned as potential priorities

Feedback from interviews and workshops

Our Children and Young People

- Interviewees had noticed paramilitary influence in some areas including ongoing radicalisation of young people. Some reported that due to lockdown and resourcing there had been less community and neighbourhood engagement from the PSNI, and that with tensions over some aspect of civic and political life or another, young people had been drawn into conflict with the police locally on both sides of the community.
- Young people were often unable to understand how people had been negatively affected during the Troubles, and sometimes had the impression of the past conflict as a glamorous time for some. Education of the younger generation, therefore, was required still, or, some feared they would get that education from people elsewhere who were looking to exploit that generation of people who had not lived through the Troubles.

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- The education of younger people was even more important because many were educated in a segregated environment and lived in segregated households “in a bubble”.
- Segregated living and education, and the existence of significant pockets of single identity communities, may present ongoing challenges for how to engage children and young people and the wider community in good relations activities. The need for continued singly identity intervention was a theme for many of the interviews and workshops.
- Ongoing issues were reported on both sides of the community regarding sporadic conflict between young people and with the police. This included sectarian related violence but was as often intra community.
- Amongst others, it was felt that flute bands and organisations such as Loyal Orders and the GAA were organisations that could contribute positively to accessing support for and with younger people and contribute to dealing with safety related concerns or perceptions.
- There was broad recognition of progress regarding bonfires though there was also some discussion about the efficacy of funding. Council’s position on bonfire engagement continued to be misunderstood by some. However, some within the PUL community also thought others involved beyond Council should be advocating a return to the original historic meaning of bonfires.
- Some within the faith community, and especially Christian faiths, thought they were being excluded from public space. One example provided was with the Council support of a rainbow-coloured pedestrian crossing.
- Some faith-based organisations and churches were, however, undertaking significant under-the-radar work or socially beneficial activities such as the provision of foodbanks, on a cross community basis. That linked to many people’s views that socio-economic need was increasing and could not be ignored as a significant good relations issue – both as a cause of cross community tension and as a common need across the community.
- Many within the PUL community who were consulted, referenced Council’s initial decision not to commemorate the Queen’s jubilee as alienating of the unionist community in the district especially when contrasted with funding for Bloody Sunday 50th anniversary funding; although some did then acknowledge Council opening aspects of community funding to include the jubilee.
- Civil society leaders and political leaders needed to have regular engagement beyond some of the existing meetings with long-standing relationships that could be rejuvenated with the inclusion of others. That included church leaders across the faiths who should have a regular dialogue with political leadership from all political parties. That could be a two-way process with

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church leaders also being empowered to speak in the public arena on sensitive issues.

- Some feedback suggested Council needed to engage more directly on good relations in those communities and areas particularly carrying some of the legacy-related issues of the Troubles on either side of the community, including towns like Castlederg, inner-city areas as well as those areas with PUL communities that had moved from the cityside in the 1970s. These were areas that still felt left behind or that were still carrying hurt from what had happened in the previous generation or two.
- A recurrent theme was that the district was in a generally good place and had changed for the better in the last 20 years in terms of relationships and how sectarianism and racism manifested themselves. The good relations strategy it was suggested, should also look 20 years ahead not just the three or so years of the funding cycle.

Child Rights

An opportunity exists to further embed age related rights into decision making by including greater local, anecdotal and qualitative information in Council’s screening template.

Secondary Research

In Northern Ireland as a whole, indicators also suggest there is some way to go. These include:

- According to a survey of BME school pupils by the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities (NICEM) in 2015/16 75% of BME pupils have experienced derogatory name calling and 25% feel excluded from social activities, while 42% of BME 16-year olds said they had been a victim of racist bullying or harassment at school²¹;
- One of the questions in the Young Persons’ Life and Times Survey 2020-21 was

When you were involved in Shared Education, how much did you like or dislike being with young people who are a different ethnic background to you?

	%
Liked it a lot	45

²¹ TEO Racial Equality Strategy, 2015, p29

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Liked it a little	39
Did not like it very much	6
Did not like it at all	1
I did not do this	9

- The Derry Strabane Policing district experienced the greatest increase in racist incidents and crime across the region²²;

Policing district	Oct'20- Sep'21 Incidents	Oct'21- Sep'22 Incident	Change (No./%)	Oct'20- Sep'21 Crimes	Oct'21- Sep'22 Crimes	Change (No./%)
Northern Ireland	1234	1240	6(0.5%)	865	904	39 (0.5%)
Derry City & Strabane	71	92	21 (44.0%)	53	81	28 (52.8%)

- Homophobic crime more than doubled in the Council area in the 2021/22 reporting period.²³

Homophobic Incidents/Crimes

	Oct'20- Sep'21 Incidents	Oct'21- Sep'22 Incident	Change (No./%)	Oct'20- Sep'21 Crimes	Oct'21- Sep'22 Crimes	Change (No./%)
Northern Ireland	402	466	64 (15.9%)	266	340	74 (27.8%)
Derry City & Strabane	26	45	19(73.1%)	20	41	21 (105%)

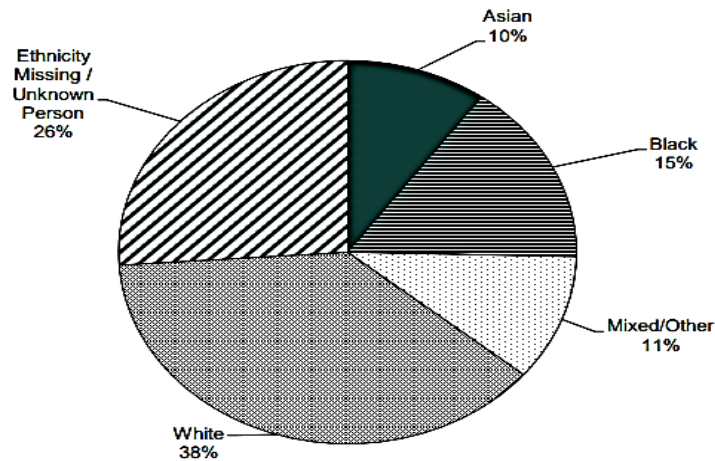
- PSNI statistics for September 2022 show that white people were still the victim of most racist crime (38%) with 10% of victims Asian, 14% of victims black, and the background of 26% of victims missing or unknown; the remaining 11% were mixed or other background;

Ethnicity of Victims racist crime from October 2021 to September 2022

²²

https://www.psnipolice.uk/sites/default/files/202211/hate%20motivations%20bulletin%20sep%2022_0.pdf

²³ Ibid



- Around 90% of Travellers report discriminatory behaviour and 40% of Travellers believe life has got worse in the last 20 years, according to a major survey in Ireland in 2017, although there had been a major rise in Travellers completing Junior certificates from 9% in the 1990s to 40% in 2017;²⁴
- Racist hate crime tends to be either criminal damage (47%) or violence against the person (45%);
- While the average outcome rate for all hate crime is 29% it drops to 26% for homophobic crimes, 19% for racist crimes and 15% for sectarian crime.²⁵

In addition, the 2017 Life and Times Survey shows that attitudes to Travellers and the Muslim community are particularly stark. The survey asked if people would be prepared to live with people as local residents and with people as a relative by marriage, amongst other indicators.

Results included:

Minority Group	Prepared to live with as a resident in local community	Prepared to live with as a relative by marriage
Eastern European	84%	61%
Muslim	71%	52%
Traveller	62%	56%

²⁶

The degree of prejudice is particularly severe for people from a Muslim background and Traveller background.

²⁴ Behaviour and Attitudes Traveller Survey, published October 2017

²⁵ Community Relations Council, Peace Monitor Report 2016, pp29-31.

²⁶ NI life and Times Survey 2017, published June 2018

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In its “Out of Sight Out of Mind; Traveller Accommodation in Northern Ireland”, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission identified 13 systemic concerns about how Travellers are dealt with by public authorities, citing evidence of discriminatory behaviours and attitudes by those within public authorities and the settled community.²⁷

In order to deal with the inequalities and issues highlighted above the Good Relations Team developed an action plan (See **Appendix 1**)

Further monitoring of youth programmes, including the North West Ministry of Youth composition will better inform subsequent Audits of Inequality.

4.1.1.2 Crime and Safety

A statistical profile of crime and safety issues in the City & District

In NI there were 109,515 recorded offences in Northern Ireland as at 31st December 2022, an increase 6.3% when compared with the previous 12 months .

Across the 11 policing districts, 8 recorded an increase in crime –this includes Derry & Strabane district who experienced an increase of 2.4%.

Policing district	Numbers and percentages			
	Police recorded crime			
	Jan'21-Dec'21	Jan'22-Dec'22 ^{1,2}	change	% change
Belfast City	31,680	34,317	2,637	8.3
<i>East</i> ³	5,567	6,016	449	8.1
<i>North</i> ³	9,787	10,060	273	2.8
<i>South</i> ³	10,164	11,863	1,699	16.7
<i>West</i> ³	6,162	6,378	216	3.5
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	6,486	6,219	-267	-4.1
Ards & North Down	6,035	6,558	523	8.7
Newry, Mourne & Down	8,431	10,030	1,599	19.0
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	10,474	10,224	-250	-2.4
Mid Ulster	5,201	5,663	462	8.9
Fermanagh & Omagh	3,990	4,350	360	9.0
Derry City & Strabane	10,906	11,173	267	2.4
Causeway Coast & Glens	6,221	6,737	516	8.3
Mid & East Antrim	6,626	6,553	-73	-1.1
Antrim & Newtownabbey	7,009	7,674	665	9.5
Northern Ireland	103,059	109,515	6,456	6.3

²⁷ NI Human Rights Commission “Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Traveller Accommodation in Northern Ireland”, published March 2018

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The table below shows where crime types in the area have increased or decreased as compared to the previous year. Overall in 2022 when compared to the same period for 2021 shows that total recorded crime for Derry and Strabane has increased by 14.75%.

This increase in the crime rate is reflective in 8 out of the 11 Council areas.

A total of 9750 crimes were recorded in 2021 with 11180 recorded for 2022. This represents an increase of 14.75% or 1438 more recorded crimes.

Policing District²⁸	Crime Type	2020/21	2021/22	Change	% Change	Trend
Derry City and Strabane District	Violence with injury (including homicide & death/serious injury by unlawful driving)	1324	1619	295	22.28%	↑
	Violence without injury	1887	2414	527	27.93%	↑
	Harassment	1151	1616	465	40.40%	↑
	Sexual offences	350	426	76	21.71%	↑
	Robbery	66	50	-16	-24.24%	↓
	Theft - burglary residential	255	220	-35	-13.73%	↓
	Theft - burglary business & community	53	56	3	5.67%	↑
	Theft - domestic burglary	0	0	0	0	→
	Theft - non-domestic burglary	0	0	0	0	→
	Theft from the person	12	20	8	66.66%	↑
	Theft - vehicle offences	240	196	-44	-18.33%	↓
	Bicycle theft	42	33	-9	-21.43%	↓

²⁸ <https://www.psnipolice.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics>

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	Theft - shoplifting	309	451	142	45.95%	↑
	All other theft offences	757	825	68	8.98%	↑
	Criminal damage	1829	1836	7	0.38%	↑
	Trafficking of drugs	191	144	-47	-24.61%	↓
	Possession of drugs	718	729	11	1.53%	↑
	Possession of weapons offences	103	127	24	23.30%	↑
	Public order offences	161	116	-45	-27.95%	↓
	Miscellaneous crimes against society	302	310	8	2.65%	↑
	Total Police Recorded Crime - all offences	9750	11188	1438	14.75%	↑

Crime types that have significantly increased when compared to 2021 are:

- Violence with injury (including homicide & death/serious injury by unlawful driving)
- Violence without injury
- Harassment
- Sexual Offences

Crime types that have significantly decreased when compared to 2021 are:

- Trafficking of drugs
- Public Order Offences
- Theft offences
- Burglary

Hate related incidents and crimes²⁹ with a racist motivation in the Council area are 3rd highest across the region. Our rate of homophobic crimes and incidents is second highest after Belfast. It is worth noting that sectarian crimes and incidents are higher in the district per 10,000 population than the average across N. Ireland. Although figures for these crimes/incidents are relatively low they are high impact crimes and are reflective of tolerance levels of an area.

²⁹ https://www.psni.police.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/hate%20motivations%20bulletin%20sep%2022_0.pdf

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Policing District	Type of Hate Crime	Incidents Oct 20-Sept 21	Incidents Oct 21-Sept 22	Incidents Change	Crimes Oct 20 - Sept 21	21 - Sept 22	Crimes Change
Derry City and Strabane District	Racist	71	92	21	53	81	28
	Sectarian	112	123	11	89	88	-1
	Homophobic	26	45	19	20	41	21

Current PCSP Initiatives

The Council’s PCSP aim to improve community confidence in policing by delivering joint awareness/engagement activities with PSNI through the following activities:

- Road safety initiatives
- Youth engagement initiatives
- Marking initiatives – bikes/trailers/farm equipment
- Joint anti-burglary awareness campaigns
- Neighbourhood Watch meetings and support
- PCSP Policing Committee meetings, support Local Community Safety Forums
- Monthly Support Hub meetings.

The PCSP action plan is attached at **Appendix 2** and an update of current initiatives are contained in the table below:-

<p>Strategic Objective: To Improve Community Safety by Tackling Crime and ASB £206,000 has been allocated to 32 local groups and organisations through the Small Project Support scheme – the grant aid was allocated across the 7 DEAs plus Strabane Town on the basis of population, deprivation and access to services.</p>
<p>The Community Safety Wardens – Community Safety Warden Scheme has seen the employment of 13 wardens (11 f/t and 2 p/t) with 6 in the City Warden Team, 4 officers in the Rural Community Safety Wardens and 3 officers in the Northland Warden Scheme. Between April 2022 and January 2023 the Community Safety Wardens dealt with 1722 referrals. The majority of the incidents they dealt with were in relation to low level nuisance, ASB, house parties, noise, young people causing annoyance, neighbour disputes, vacant properties etc. The Community Safety Warden Team also delivered 15,607 walkthrough patrols of ASB hotspot areas between April 2022 and January 2023</p>

RAPID Bins – RAPID (Remove All Prescription and Illegal Drugs) initiative supported regionally by the PSNI, Public Health Agency and locally by Drug and Alcohol Coordination Teams (DACTs) and Policing & Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) that promotes and facilitates the removal of all types of prescription and illegal drugs from the local community.

This initiative aims to:

- Removal of prescription, illegal and new psychoactive substances (often referred to as ‘legal highs’ and now illegal following the introduction of the Psychoactive Substances Act in May 2016) from local communities.
- Provision of information and support to individuals, families, local business and community organisations to raise awareness of the effects and risks of using/misusing illegal and/or prescription drugs.
- Community and statutory agencies alongside local businesses and the general public coming together under the RAPID initiative to work towards making their local community a safer place to live.

In total 21 RAPID Bins have been installed across the city and district.

Over 82,000 prescription tablets have been recovered, identified, and logged, by the PSNI since the installation of the bins (including high strength prescription medication).

Home Security – The installation of home security equipment is an initiative to protect property and reduce fear of crime among the most vulnerable. Between April and December 2022 147 homes have been fitted with additional home security equipment through the scheme.

Neighbourhood Watch – Currently there are 44 Neighbourhood Watch schemes covering 2990 homes in the district.

CCTV – Under the current contract 95 CCTV cameras are being monitored on a 24/7 basis. Between April and September 2022 CCTV dealt with 371 missing person reports, 108 attempted suicides, 483 suicide welfare concern, and 229 general welfare concerns.

Support Hub –To date 11 meetings have been held with 85% attendance from partners (PCSP, PSNI, WHSCT, PBNI, NIAS, NIFRS, EANI & NIHE). 480 actions have been delivered with most of these delivered by PSNI and WHSCT. There have been 294 referrals to the Hub to date.

Community Safety Forums – The Community Safety Wardens attend the Community Safety Forums for Outer West, Outer North, Top of the Hill, Strabane Town, Waterside, Triax & Strathfoyle/Maydown

4.1.1.3 Leisure and Sports Development

The Council has a Statutory Duty to provide adequate facilities for recreational, social, physical and cultural activities through The Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. Councils meet this requirement through their provision of Sports Grounds that include tennis courts, pitch and putt, bowling greens, beach volleyball and putting greens, Sports Pitches which include changing accommodation, grass football pitches, synthetic surfaces and floodlit training facilities, Leisure Centres and a range of activities, facilities for hire and coaching for both sport and leisure activities.

Primary Data – Equality Assurance and Oversight Group

The Equality Assurance and Oversight Group met in June 2021 and gave feedback on Council's Corporate Performance Improvement Objectives – one objective in particular related to Leisure provision, namely –

Objective 2 - To assist a return to healthy lifestyles through re-growing participation in high quality leisure, sports and physical activity

The group made the following comments:

- There is too much emphasis on sport - Council need to note how many of the community use the pitches and recognise that other outdoor activities are much more widely used.
- This is too specialist and the majority of the community are not included.
- There should be outdoor activities, including on dedicated parts of pitches for more inclusive activities such as outdoor exercises.
- The council needs to find ways to engage people to take part in inclusive activities.
- There should be a park for disabled children.
- Group recognises that Council have many leisure centres and these must be used so planning of activities centres around this.
- Recognition needs to be given to the natural environment within communities and how these impact on mental health and wellbeing. These areas are being overlooked in the strategic growth planning and the impact of accessing the natural environment for people with disabilities, i.e. the walking park at Drumahoe, St Columb's park, Foyle Arena. The lack of accessibility in these park areas risks the exclusion of disabled people.

Meetings of the Equality and Oversight Group in May and September 2024 provided further feedback on Improvement Objectives and new draft Equality and Disability Action Plans.

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	<p>Clooney Park West Grass Pitch & Pavilion Clooney Park West Tennis Courts Prehen Grass Pitches & Pavilion Tullyalley Grass Pitch</p>
<p>FAUGHAN - 5 Wards (Total Population – 18,757/ 4396 under 16) Claudy Enagh Eglinton Slievekirk New Buildings</p>	<p>Claudy Grass Pitch & Pavilion Eglinton Grass Pitch & Pavilion Newbuilding MUGA (1/6252) (1/1465)</p>
<p>SPERRIN - 7 Wards (Total Population – 24,176 / 5384 under 16) Park Dunnamanagh Glenelly Valley Artigarvan Strabane North Strabane West Ballycolman</p>	<p>Riversdale Sports Centre Melvin Park Sports Centre Melvin Arena Grass Pitch Melvin MUGA Meadows Grass Pitch Fountain Street/Patrician Villa’s MUGA Artigarvan MUGA Artigarvan Grass Pitch & Pavilion Donemana MUGA Donemana Grass Pitch & Pavilion (1/2418) (1/538)</p>
<p>DERG - 5 Wards (Total Population – 17,934 / 4065 under 16) Glenderg Castleberg Newtownstewart Sion Mills Finn</p>	<p>Derg Valley Leisure Centre Mitchell Park Grass Pitches & Pavilion Spamount Grass Pitches & Pavilion Newtownstewart MUGA based at the Model Primary School Newtownstewart Grass Pitch & Pavilion Plumbridge MUGA Glebe MUGA Glebe Grass Pitch & Pavilion Ballyfatten MUGA (1/1630) Glenmornan MUGA (1/370) Camus Grass Pitch & Pavilion</p>

The table above shows that are variances in the ratios of sports facilities (including pitches, MUGAS and pavilions) in the Ballyarnett and Faughan DEAs. (Figure 1 in red represents provision for all of the community – figure 2 in red represents the provision per head of population of under 16s). This analysis does not take into

consideration issues such as other service providers, proximity to adjacent facilities, range of services provided and demand.

Consultation Responses to the EQIA for Playing Pitches Strategy

Respondents were asked to provide any views on how the Playing Pitches Strategy could promote greater equality of opportunity for all Section 75 groupings including:

- Religious Belief/Political Opinion
- Age
- Gender
- People with/without a disability

There were 38 comments, which are summarised below

- Having more facilities which are disabled friendly key moving forward. It's also key to remember that many disabilities are hidden.
- Continued breaking down of social barriers through the development of multi- use facilities. E.g. Soccer Rugby GAA Hockey.
- Clear rules regarding no political emblems on council property. E.g. Flags, on political party endorsements or promotion"
- An establishment of a working groups to help this area improve facilities and provide a base or a community hub where all section 75 groupings could make use of.
- It should have nothing to do with equality pitches and facilities should be available to everyone and not based any anything equality related.
- Multi-sport pitches that will allow kids to play. Let the kids play.
- It could be used within the community where all ages / genders / religious beliefs come together to enjoy sports.
- It could be tied in with the local youth club to get kids off the streets and help them keep fit.
- Requires a rural focus programme of support.
- We feel that it is important that we as a club continue to engage in projects/activities that promote equal opportunities for all section 75 groupings."
- SEN pupils/children have very limited school sporting opportunities outside of their normal PE lessons. Competitions for those pupils as well as more, single sex sporting opportunities may help to increase participation levels in a wider variety of sports. As a result making them more likely to have a lifelong involvement in sports, health and fitness.
- Without doubt a top quality strategy would absolutely promote greater equality on all those groupings and I believe are essential for the area.

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- Especially for you've age groups from a health, fitness and wellbeing perspective both mentally, physically and socially.
- I believe there are essential for religious belief and political opinion equality and unity also as it has definitely benefited me growing up in the area."
- All codes coming into contact on a regular basis, enhancing community relations.
- A lot of clubs in the area doing great work in promoting sports for all with an increase in girls participation and also disability sports. Would love to see a hub developed in the area that could facilitate more groups.
- A new pitch will bring our youth community together after this difficult period of isolation which has been difficult for our kids in the area
- The more playing pitches provided to a good standard will give opportunities to people from all abilities, ages and beliefs to serve positively toward breaking down differences and division
- There needs to be greater reporting on how disabled people will be included in all of this. They are not actively targeted. Families of disabled children would love to see a coherent strategy for promotion of disabled sports. Where is the Council's programme for wheelchair sports? For children with autism? Where is engagement with disabled charities? I just don't see it. As a parent of a child who will have to go into a powered wheelchair in a number of years' time, I despair at the lack of concern or inclusivity in planning. Other localities in the UK have powered wheelchair football. They have leagues. Where is DC& Strabane's programme/provision? Will this be considered in the design of future buildings?
- Sport should promote inclusion for all no matter what religion/race /colour or gender
- All of the things listed in these criteria are obvious ways to improve & maintain standards. All pitches are an investment in youth development & the importance of this is highlighted more with the events of the last year.
- By supporting a playing pitch strategy that supports the building of community engagement within the local community through sports can only promote greater equality of opportunity
- Access for all, ramps and a special wheelchair section at pitch side should be installed. A covered area for fans to watch games.
- GAA teams have recently been established in loyalist East Belfast illustrating the open door to all ages, all communities and a uniting entity.
- Can be used for entire community

Primary Data – Section 75 participation levels

Derry City and Strabane District Council do not monitor service users by religious belief however Council does register postcodes/DEA which can sometimes be used as a proxy indicator for a person's religion.

Age

Age	Brooke Park	City Baths	Derg Valley	Foyle Arena	Melvin SC	Riversdale LC	Templemore SC	TOTAL	% of Total Users
under 18	413	171	439	8349	491	3098	2687	15648	35.02
18-29	366	53	796	4215	344	1614	1183	8571	15.42
30-39	320	25	676	3509	510	1438	1316	7794	17.15
40-59	417	43	792	5193	491	2081	1930	10947	25.15
60-64	66	13	57	529	34	316	199	1214	2.59
65-74	69	70	50	825	18	454	277	1763	3.61
over 75	29	15	24	198	27	144	81	518	1.06
TOTAL	1680	390	2834	22818	1915	9145	7673	46455	

The under 18s are the largest participant group in the large leisure facilities (Foyle Arena, Templemore and Riversdale) whereas the 40-59 years olds appear to form the largest user groups in smaller centres such as Brooke Park and Derg Valley.

In terms of student numbers there is approximately 5,500 in third level education in the Council area³⁰ - the number who avail of student discount is 292 (5.31%)

Gender breakdown of users of Council leisure facilities is as follows :-

Centre	No. of Females	No. Of Males	Total	Group Bookings
Bishops Field	8	6	14	1
Brandywell	3	6	9	127
Brooke Park	772	967	1739	109
City Baths	215	179	394	27
Derg Valley	1972	1239	3211	30
Foyle Arena	13049	11094	24143	581
Melvin	1334	945	2279	103
Riversdale	5442	4030	9472	146
TSC	4112	3578	7690	241
	26907	22044	48951	1365

³⁰ <https://factcheckni.org/articles/are-there-40000-third-level-students-in-the-northwest-of-ireland/>

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Gender	No.	%
Male	22044	45.03%
Female	26907	54.97%
TOTAL	48951	100%

The 2020/21 survey (partial analysis) was refocused to assess the interest in returning to council facilities and programmes, changes in physical activity levels, changes in sports and physical activity patterns and views on how the return could be undertaken safely:

A range of questions were asked as to how users would value leisure facilities once they reopen and what they have been doing since lockdown:

- 75% of respondents felt that participating in physical activity improves general, physical, mental and specific medical conditions.
- 72% of respondents are prepared to commit more time to health and wellbeing through sport and physical activity.
- 37% of respondents have felt they are less active since lockdown and 39% significantly less active.
- While centres were closed, 60% of users stated they enjoyed walking.

Other specific programmes with in-built monitoring arrangements are being run on a pilot basis to address sedentary behaviours with programmes for specific health related conditions such as GP referral; and family support programmes involving diet, nutrition and exercise and cancer. A number of evaluation studies in respect of these have been completed highlighting the health and wellbeing benefits to be gained through physical activity.

Secondary Data by Section 75 groupings

Religious Belief/Political Opinion

Whilst previous research indicated that the location of a leisure facility may be a barrier to members of one community participating in activities more than another – findings from the The 2019 and 2021 Northern Ireland Life and Times Surveys have consistently shown an improving situation where a majority of people believe that leisure facilities should be a shared space (78% and 87% respectively).

- Do you think that leisure centres in this area are 'shared and open' to both Protestants and Catholics?



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Yes, definitely	63	60
Yes, probably	15	27
Probably not	4	7
Definitely not	2	2
None in this area	14	1
Don't know	3	3

Almost one third of Young Persons’ Life and Times Survey respondents had experienced sports based community relations programmes, and over half said that they would like to take part in programmes like this in future.³¹

In Northern Ireland, soccer is popular among both unionists and nationalists but the Northern Ireland international team has, in recent years, been associated with the Protestant unionist community and, at times, displays of sectarian aggression. Catholic nationalists tend to support the Republic of Ireland team. Rugby has traditionally been the preserve of a middle class and broadly pro-British demographic. The governing body of Gaelic sports, the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), was founded as an explicitly Irish nationalist organisation. It has been overwhelmingly Catholic in composition and traditionally held in poor regard among Northern unionists.³²

There have been a number of evolutions towards inclusivity in the sporting world. The GAA repealed controversial bans such as that on security force membership and has engaged in outreach among the Protestant community. The Irish Football Association made strenuous efforts to create a more welcoming environment for all traditions through its ‘Football for All’ campaign. Rugby too cultivated a more diverse following. The survey (n = 1210) found that, broadly, this work of the governing bodies is recognised by the public. Moreover, both Protestants and Catholics would like the support bases of sports to become more mixed. One of the headline findings was the overwhelming public support for the principle of sport as a peacebuilding vehicle. A total of 86 per cent agreed that ‘sport is a good way to break down barriers between Protestants and Catholics’.³³

Race

The cost of exercise may be more problematic for some BME individuals (compared to majority population), expenditure on exercise by some BME individuals was

³¹ <http://www.sportni.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Equality-Impact-Assessment-Sport-NI-Corporate-Plan.pdf> (p64)
³² David Mitchell, Ian Somerville and Owen Hargie (2016), **Sport and Social Exclusion**
³³ <http://www.sportni.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Equality-Impact-Assessment-Sport-NI-Corporate-Plan.pdf> p93

considered wasteful and of low priority³⁴. This may be a reflection of socio-economic issue as people from most minority ethnic groups are generally more deprived in terms of socio-economic status³⁵. This behaviour among some BME members might also have been shaped by their experience of some BME individuals using facilities free-of-charge in their country of origin, and then contributing to the perception of physical activity being expensive in the UK³⁶.

Age

When looking at participation rates according to the Continuous Household Survey 2020/21³⁷, over four out of every five adults aged 16-24 (84%) had taken part in sport compared to around one third of adults aged 65 and over (33%).

The Children's Sport Participation and Physical Activity (CSPPA) 2017-18³⁸ includes a representative sample of Northern Ireland pupils allowing comparison between the two jurisdictions in Ireland. The survey provides a detailed picture of children and young peoples' (10-18 years) participation in sport and physical activity.

This report found that thirteen percent of Northern Irish children and youth met the recommended physical activity guidelines (20% primary school pupils, 11% post primary school pupils) of 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA) per day. Fewer girls met the physical activity guidelines, compared to boys (10% vs. 16%). This gender difference was evident in both primary school (19% vs. 21%) and post primary school (7% vs. 14%) levels.

An age-related decline in physical activity was observed in post primary pupils.

Socio-economic status had a significant influence on those achieving the recommended physical activity guidelines in both primary and post primary pupils. Less affluent pupils were less likely to achieve the recommended level of physical activity levels than pupils from more affluent backgrounds.

³⁴

Lawton J, Ahmad N, Hanna L, Douglas M, Hallowell N. I can't do any serious exercise: barriers to physical activity amongst people of Pakistani and Indian origin with Type 2 diabetes. *Health Educ Resour.* 2006;21(1):43–54.

³⁵ Owen, D. Foresight Future Identities: Changing Identities in the UK - the next 10 years. Final Project Report. The Government Office for Science, London (2013).

Available: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/273966/13-523-future-identities-changing-identities-report.pdf. Accessed on 12th September 2013.

³⁶ Sejlo A, Koshoedo, Virginia A, Paul-Ebhohimhen, Ruth G, Jepson & Margaret C, Watson 12 July 2015 Understanding the complex interplay of barriers to physical activity amongst black and minority ethnic groups in the United Kingdom: a qualitative synthesis using meta-ethnography

³⁷ <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/engagement-culture-arts-and-sport-by-adults-northern-ireland-202021>

³⁸ https://pure.ulster.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/77672771/CSPPA_Final_Report.pdf

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At primary school level, individual pursuits are popular for both boys and girls. At post primary level, traditional team sports dominate male participation whilst females engage in individual pursuits. 65% of primary school pupils reported participating in community sport at least once a week, with 49% of post-primary school pupils reporting participation at least once a week.

Fourteen percent of primary and 47% post-primary school pupils reported never participating in school sport.

Participation in sport outside of school declines from 74% in year 8 to 30% in year 14. 11% of males and 14% of females reported that they were involved at a recreational level. 35% of males and 29% of females were involved at a competitive level (club competitions) and 13% of males and 9% of females reported competing in performance sport (regional and national recognised standards).³⁹

Sport participation declines with age among adults. Those aged 45 and over were less likely to have participated in any sport within the last year (52%) compared to younger adults aged 16-44 years (77%). More detailed analysis of sport participation in the last year by age group shows that there is no difference in the sport participation rate for 25-34 year olds and those aged 35-44 years.⁴⁰

Similarly, there is no difference between 25-34 year olds and 35-44 year olds. The participation rate then decreases with each subsequent age group to 29% of those aged 65 and over.⁴¹

From 2011/12, participation rates for adults aged 65 and over have steadily increased from 22% reaching a peak of 33% in 2020/21.

Comparison of participation in particular sports by those aged under 45 and those aged 45 and over shows that adults in the latter age category were less likely to have participated in the majority of sports in the last year. The only sport where those aged 45 and over were more likely to participate was bowls.

Audit commission guidelines identify that public service subsidies should be based on the ability to pay of the individual rather than their status. Discounted usage based on age may be considered discriminatory, since it assumes that the individual is financially disadvantaged, which is often not the case. Discounted entry charges

³⁹ https://pure.ulster.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/77672771/CSPPA_Final_Report.pdf

⁴⁰ <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/engagement-culture-arts-and-sport-by-adults-northern-ireland-202021>

⁴¹ Ibid

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were previously seen as a panacea, masking important issues such as programming, equipment and support.

These issues are particularly relevant for older users. There is a latent demand for physical activity among older people which cannot be tapped through cheap/free entry.

Derry City and Strabane District Council offer concessions based on ability to pay and therefore have put the older person's concession at aged 65 years+

This approach is supported by research carried out by the Intergenerational Foundation in September 2018 on impact of concessionary rates for cultural and heritage facilities⁴².

Some of their findings are as follows

- Over 75% of museums, galleries and attractions give discounts to the over-60s regardless of their ability to pay;
- The over-60s are the wealthiest cohort in the UK population and are significantly more likely to visit museums, galleries and historic houses than adults of other ages;
- These discounts send a damaging message to young people about the entitlements of the older generation. This affects wider attitudes to what different generations expect from the welfare state, such as the triple lock on state pension, universal benefits, and the generous tax treatment of older generations;
- The money spent on these discounts could fund the running of about 150 independent museums and pay for the equivalent of about 1,500 staff;
- In many cases the practice may well be illegal under European law, where it has not been proved that these concessions are targeted at those in need;
- The UK is behind other European countries in adjusting for wealthier older cohorts - Italy has abandoned senior discounts and France gives free admission for under-25s;

In terms of student numbers there is approximately 5,500 in third level education in the Council area⁴³ - the number who avail of student discount is 292 (5.31%)

Gender

The main variable that impacted on the experiences of and attitudes to sport and physical activity was respondents' gender, and this was the case in both Kids Life and Times Survey and Young Persons' Life and Times Survey. Sixteen-year old males were more likely to be active to the level that is recommended and were more likely to be involved in sports including tuition and coaching outside the school context. Females

⁴² Intergenerational Foundation "Baby Boomer Concessions" http://www.if.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Concessions_IF_Final.pdf

⁴³ <https://factcheckni.org/articles/are-there-40000-third-level-students-in-the-northwest-of-ireland/>

were much more likely than their male counterparts to think that they were not good at sport.

In the NI Executive's Social Exclusion in Sport report⁴⁴ many interviewees recognised that females face specific barriers to participation. Of the survey respondents who reported that lack of single sex sports/leisure provision, body image, and lack of childcare were barriers to their participation, an overwhelming majority were women. Furthermore, 59% of the survey sample believed that boys' sports are seen as more important than girls' sports in schools, while 53% thought that more TV coverage of female sport would increase female participation.

The trend in Council leisure facilities conflicts with the Northern Ireland statistics for female participation in sports and leisure. According to the Experience of sport by adults in Northern Ireland Findings 2020/21⁴⁵ females aged 16 and over were less likely to have taken part in sport at least once within the last year (55%) than males (62%).

Since 2007/08 the gap between adult male and female participation rates has remained broadly consistent. Since 2011/12 (45%), the proportion of females participating has remained fairly consistent at just under a half of all female adults, although showing a slight increase over the period to a peak of 55% in 2020/21.

Sexual Orientation

The invisibility of the LGBTQ+ community in sport is very apparent, linked to the impact of homophobia in society. It is clear that the LGBTQ+ community are at risk of dropping out of sport at key transition points or through negative experiences or do not feel comfortable to come out safely and advocate.⁴⁶

Many LGB people face significant obstacles to engaging in sport and leisure. Testimony from LGB interviewees confirmed existing research regarding the gendered nature of certain team sports and how this can create a culture which is conducive to homophobia. Moreover, LGB interviewees reported that open plan changing rooms and showers were intimidating places, in part because they afforded no privacy and in part because they lent themselves to bullying. Almost one in five

⁴⁴ <https://niopa.gub.ac.uk/bitstream/NIOPA/1446/1/social-exclusion-and-sport-in-ni-exec-summary.pdf>

⁴⁵ Continuous Household Survey 2019/2020 "Experience of sport by adults in Northern Ireland Findings <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/engagement-culture-arts-and-sport-by-adults-northern-ireland-202021>

⁴⁶ <http://www.sportni.net/corporate-plan-2020-2025/equality-impact-assessment-sport-ni-corporate-plan/>
P89

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(19%) of the survey respondents said they would feel uncomfortable using a changing room at the same time as a gay or lesbian person⁴⁷.

While often grouped together as LGBTQI+, there are specific issues which impact on transgender people which do not necessarily, or at least to the same degree, impact LGBTQI+. These often relate to difficulties faced trying to navigate a gender binary world where decisions on what to wear, what sports to play, what facilities to use, etc are based on the sex assigned to someone at birth.⁴⁸

Participation in sport and exercise is extremely difficult for transgender people. Transgender interviewees described how before, during and after transition, they struggle to find a place in a sports world (changing facilities, teams and competition categories) that is characterised by male/female segregation. Furthermore, the lack of public understanding of transgender people means that any activity in public is fraught with difficulty. The absence of sporting and leisure opportunities can have a detrimental impact on the physical and social wellbeing of transgender people, who are already suffering anxiety and stress as a result of their gender dysphoria. The survey showed that 22% of respondents said they would be uncomfortable sharing a changing room with a transgender person.⁴⁹

Disability

Statistics for Northern Ireland show that people with disabilities remain half as likely to participate in sport and active recreation as non-disabled people:

- Those aged 16 and over who have a disability were less likely to have taken part in sport at least once within the last year (35%) compared with those who do not have a disability (64%).
- 14% of adults with a disability were members of a sports club, a lower proportion than the 27% of those who do not have a disability. Rates of participation in sport for adults who have a disability have remained fairly consistent at around a third of adults since 2011/12 (32%), aside from a slight decrease to 26% in 2012/13.
- Cost is barrier to participation in physical activity that affects children with and without disability, there was an additional burden for families of a child with disability given the extra expense of caring for a child with disability, a reduced income as parents often worked less and the need for one-on-one attention

⁴⁷ NI Executive Office (2015) **Social Exclusion in Sport (Executive Summary)** p11 -

<https://niopa.qub.ac.uk/bitstream/NIOPA/1446/1/social-exclusion-and-sport-in-ni-exec-summary.pdf>

⁴⁸<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/system/files/publications/communities/dfc-social-inclusion-strategy-lgbtqi-expert-advisory-panel-recommendations.pdf>

⁴⁹ <https://niopa.qub.ac.uk/bitstream/NIOPA/1446/1/social-exclusion-and-sport-in-ni-exec-summary.pdf> p11

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- Disabled people are more likely to live in low income households and are more likely to rely on welfare benefits than their peers (Sense 2017). There are 4.2 million disabled people living in poverty, which is 29% of all people living in poverty (Papworth Trust 2018).
- Findings from the Continuous Household survey 2019/20 suggest that irrespective of age, disability negatively affects the likelihood of adults participating in sport, although there is a bigger differential among older adults

Annual Disability and Activity Survey 2021-22⁵⁰

The Annual Disability and Activity Survey gives an indication of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for people with a disability as we recover and reinvent from the pandemic.

Evidence from 2021-22 survey shows that:

- Less than 3 in 10 disabled people feel encouraged to return to physical activity after the pandemic.
- The pandemic has led to the support disabled people need to be active being less available, and an increase in barriers relating to health and finances.
- Only 4 in 10 disabled people feel they can be as active as they want, in contrast to non-disabled people who are now more likely to say they can be as active as they want (62% to 69%).
- There is a clear sense of disconnect with how disabled people actually feel, with less than half (47%) thinking that physical activity and exercise is for 'someone like them'. This is a significant decline from 57% in 2020 and when compared to 72% of non-disabled people believing activity is for them.
- Disabled people are being left out as we return to activity and feeling less encouraged to be active. This is despite 8 in 10 wanting to be more so (compared to 51% of non-disabled people).
- For those disabled people taking part in activity, they are having less positive and inclusive experiences since the pandemic. They are less likely than last year to feel activity leaders met their needs and included them and less likely than non-disabled people to say returning to activity was a positive experience (52% vs 70%).
- There is a strong feeling among disabled people that the workforce at many levels doesn't understand disability and that spaces still aren't accessible.
- 78% of disabled people say their impairment or condition stops them being active, often related to low awareness of suitable activities and fears about safety and risk.

Key Issues for policy considerations⁵¹

⁵⁰ <https://www.activityalliance.org.uk/how-we-help/research/annual-survey>

⁵¹ NI Executive Research Paper **Sport and Disability in Northern Ireland** (January 2021) - <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/raise/publications/2017-2022/2021/communities/2721.pdf>

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- ❖ 71% of people with disabilities experience exclusion due to access to facilities and equipment;
- ❖ the highlighting of ‘different kinds of provision’ may reinforce negative differences between people with disabilities and non-disabled people;
- ❖ a lack of specialist staff who understand the needs of those experiencing disability and can facilitate involvement in activities;
- ❖ the cost of participating. For example, sports that require specialist equipment and additional staff support;
- ❖ transport availability to sporting venues and competing time constraints of caregivers and helpers;
- ❖ lack of media representation. Coverage tends to be restricted to competitive sports at national and international levels. This creates an impression that disability sport is only for those at the elite end of the spectrum.

Dependents

Time constraints in the form of time spent caring for children and relatives and family structure in the form of the presence of children reduce both the likelihood that individuals participate and the time spent taking part in sports.⁵²

Barriers to physical activity include increasing aging, not wanting to leave the caree alone, the caree being unable to take part in activities, health conditions, fatigue, lack of time, and difficulties in changing the routine for the caree.⁵³

Facilitators include an appreciation of the benefits of engaging in exercise, previous participation in activities, group activities with similar people, and having some free time.

Inequalities / Issues	Possible Actions
There appears to be variances in the ratio of Leisure services across the Council area.	Review leisure provision and demand. Consider what provision exists in adjoining Council area by both the local council and also in community and private sector organisations.

⁵² <http://www.sportni.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Equality-Impact-Assessment-Sport-NI-Corporate-Plan.pdf> p98

⁵³ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33485270/> Joanna Horne, Nichola Kentzer, Lee Smith, Mike Trott, Jitka Vseteckova (22nd January 2021) **A Systematic Review on the Prevalence of Physical Activity, and Barriers and Facilitators to Physical Activity, in Informal Carers in the United Kingdom**

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<p>There appears to be variances in the ratio of pitches, pavilions and MUGAs across the Council area.</p>	<p>New Pitches strategy has taken in the views across Section 75 groupings and key stakeholders and remedial actions have formed part of the strategy</p>
<p>Outdoor pitches are often defined to suit one particular sport thus feeding into the social divide (religious/political)</p>	<p>The new Play Pitches Strategy includes actions to meet this need - Pitches will be adaptable to accommodate various sports and sited in shared neutral areas</p>
<p>Too much emphasis on sporting element of service provision – this is off-putting for those who wish to pursue other outdoor activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heighten awareness and profile of Council’s outdoor programme for the various facilities • Engage with representative groups to define the nature of physical that they would like to see on offer in leisure facilities.
<p>Under-representation of girls, women and women with dependants</p>	<p>Participation rates could be corrected by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with after-school clubs, youth clubs and students unions in university and colleges to encourage participation of children and young people in affordable sport and leisure initiatives – this will help develop interest which may carry through to adulthood • Increased awareness of tailored programmes • Increased awareness of the new concessionary pricing structure • Availability of crèche facilities; • Review times of activities; • Review location of activities to get greatest participation levels
<p>Under-representation of People with a disability</p> <p>Lack of affordable provision for SEN students outside school PE lessons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation rates could be corrected by: • Raising awareness of GP referral; and family support programmes involving diet, nutrition and exercise and cancer. • Build pathways with schools especially those who cater for children with a disability and devise initiatives to bring those children into the leisure centres and develop their interest in exercise that they can take into adulthood • Review provision in all facilities to ensure optimum accessibility – equipment should be inclusive for people with a disability as opposed to being for their exclusive use.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased engagement with representative groups to develop tailored exercise programmes to suit needs of the service user with a disability • Increased awareness of the new concessionary pricing structure
Under-representation of cross Religion/community background/political opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for Sports-based peace-building projects has been included in the PEACEPlus Theme 1.1 Funding Bid • Continue working with good relations officers in developing cross community sports events.
Under-representation of Older People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce age-appropriate sport/exercise opportunities for those older people who are willing to take advantage of them • Reduce focus on sporting activities and instead look to other outdoor leisure activities which would be more inclusive and doable. • Raise awareness of Council’s GP referral scheme which is free and helps to improve physical activity of participants. • Heighten awareness of Council’s extensive outdoor programme e.g. through targeted communications via representative organisations • Raise awareness of the new concessionary pricing structure
Under-representation of service users from the LGBTQI+ community – Using shared changing rooms was cited as a major barrier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement LGB and Transgender customer care guidelines • Provide training for staff on providing customer care to the LGBTQI community • Ensure that group exercise classes or outdoor programs, that explicitly state they are inclusive of all community members • Develop family programs; including, before/after school and out-of-school time programs, summer camps and early childhood programs that are cognisant of all family units • Develop connections to local social service providers for LGBTQ community to work on events
Derry City and Strabane District area has amongst lowest breastfeeding rates in the world.	Support women to breastfeed through development of policy.
Monitoring data	Review monitoring arrangements and enhance data collection

4.2 Business and Culture Directorate (Economic Pillar)

In Section 4.1 the Services pertaining to Health and Community Wellbeing in the Derry City and Strabane District Council area have been analysed and now this section will concentrate on the other key areas namely Business and Culture

4.2.1 Business

The corporate objective of the Business and Culture Directorate is “to grow our business and facilitate cultural development”. To ensure this objective is met the economic wellbeing of the Derry City and Strabane District Council area must therefore be the key focus of the Business department.

The Business Section aims to realise Derry and Strabane’s potential. The region needs significant local and external intervention to build its physical, human and capital resources. The Council’s priorities underpin the development of all sectors of the local economy. Addressing these priorities is essential to the development of the Derry and Strabane District Council area as the key strategic employment location of the North West.

The Business Section of the Business and Culture Directorate is responsible for a range of services/ functions, which are broken down under the following headings:

- Business Support and Engagement for Employment, Skills and Training,
- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship,
- Economic Development and Job Creation,
- Urban and Rural Development,
- Urban and Regional Investment and Opportunity,
- Procurement and
- Digital Economy

For the purposes of this audit of inequalities Council will examine all local and regional statistics in terms of section 75 category in relation to each service/function area to inform its equality action plan for the Business section.

4.2.1.1 – Employment

Economic

In 2021, the Labour Force Survey estimated that there were 62,000 people in employment within DCSDC. Of these, 43,500 were in full-time employment and 18,500 were in part-time employment.

Year	In employment (16+)			Employment rate	
	Full Time	Part Time	Total	16+	16-64
2010	41000	14000	55000	47.70%	55.00%
2011	42000	15000	57000	51.60%	60.20%
2012	41000	14000	55000	50.70%	61.20%
2013	42000	14000	56000	49.00%	55.80%
2014	44000	15000	59000	48.70%	56.60%
2015	43000	17000	60000	52.10%	59.60%
2016	40000	14000	54000	46.50%	54.80%
2017	40000	13000	53000	48.30%	56.90%
2018	45000	15000	60000	52.80%	61.60%
2019	49000	17000	66000	56.20%	68.00%
2020	46000	14000	60000	50.00%	62.50%
2021	43500	18500	62000	52.40%	65.40%

This led to an employment rate, for those aged 16 and over, of 52.4% (NI 57.4%). The employment rate for those of working-age, i.e. 16-64, stood at 65.4% (NI 70.2%).

Economic Activity/Inactivity

In 2021, 16-64 (working age) employment rate in Derry City and Strabane Local Government District was 65.4%. The overall 16-64 employment rate for Northern Ireland was 70.2%.

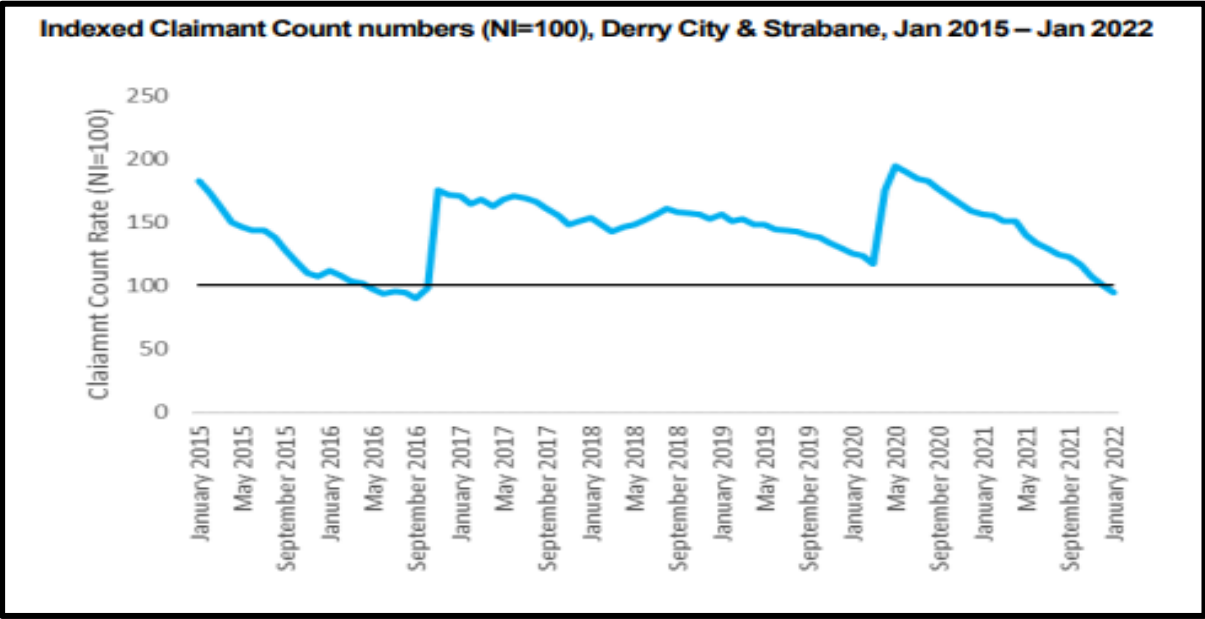
Between 2016-2019 the rate of economic inactivity has been consistently declining before an upswing at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. In 2021 the rate in Derry City & Strabane (35.3%) sits well above the NI average (27.1%).⁵⁴

Economic inactivity is forecasted to continue to gradually fall to 31.8% by 2025 in Derry City & Strabane

⁵⁴ University of Ulster – Spring Economic Forecast for Derry City and Strabane District Council 2022
<https://growderrystrabane.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/SGP-Meeting-Pack-17-June-2022.pdf> p12

Claimant Count

The number of people registered on claimant count in Derry City & Strabane had generally been higher than the NI average (indexed at 100 on the graph) between 2016 and 2019.

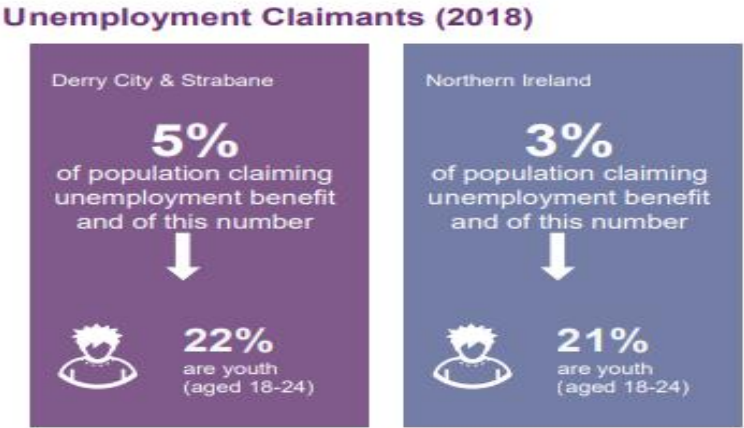


The gap had narrowed between mid2018 and the start of the pandemic. Following an upward spike in Q2 2020 the numbers on the claimant count have again declined sharply and were in line with the NI average as of January 2022.

It is important to note that approximately 40% of those on the claimant count are in work and receiving benefits due to low pay.

According to data presented in the NI Business Info Briefing for Derry City and Strabane area in July 2019⁵⁵ around 22% of the unemployed in the Council area are in the 18-24 year old age bracket:

⁵⁵ <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/sites/default/files/business-intelligence-sub-regional-intelligence-council-area-profile-derry-and-strabane-print.pdf>



According to new Nuffield-funded Resolution Foundation research **Class of 2020**⁵⁶ finds that around 800,000 18-24-year-olds are expected to leave education this year, when – according to the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) scenario – unemployment is forecast to rise by 6 percentage points. The report finds that with education leavers most exposed to this surge in unemployment, and young people most affected by job losses so far, an additional 600,000 18-24-year-olds (including those who left education in recent years) risk being unemployed this year.

Furthermore, *Class of 2020* finds that those leaving education this year are likely to face reduced pay and employment prospects even after the economy has recovered. The report finds that the employment rates of graduates entering the labour market during this crisis are projected to be 13% lower than they would have been absent the crisis, while employment rates for mid- and low-skilled workers risk falling even further (by 27% and 37% respectively).

Those who are working are likely to face reduced pay too. The report finds that, one year after leaving education, the pay of graduates is projected to be 7% lower, and 9% and 19% lower for mid- and low-skilled workers.⁵⁷

These findings are supported by research carried out in June 2020 by University of Ulster Economic Policy Centre, Labour market implications of COVID-19 - How have restrictions on work impacted different types of workers in Northern Ireland?⁵⁸

This research indicates that COVID-19 will have a disproportionate impact on young people - Unemployment for the 16-24 group was already at 8% prior to the crisis. In April, the number of unemployed people under 25 almost doubled. At the end of the

⁵⁶ <https://mk0nuffieldfounpg9ee.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Class-of-2020-Resolution-Foundation.pdf>

⁵⁷ <https://mk0nuffieldfounpg9ee.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Class-of-2020-Resolution-Foundation.pdf>

⁵⁸ https://www.ulster.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/578263/COVID-19-Worker-characteristics_08.06.2020.pdf

academic year approximately 25k students across the education system will be seeking to begin their careers after qualifying. In addition, a significant component of young workers on furlough, with their jobs vulnerable to redundancy.

Overall, the unemployment rate is expected to rise to approximately 12%. However, the effect on the 16-24 rate is much more pronounced due to the influx of education leavers into the labour market. Youth unemployment could increase significantly from a current rate of 8% to 26%, representing the highest youth unemployment rate on record (since the series began in 1995).

It is clear the pandemic has taken its toll on younger people, with half of those aged under 35 saying the pandemic has left them financially worse off. This is echoed by data from the Office for National Statistics which showed that in the last 12 months to March 2021, 813,000 pay rolled jobs were lost, of which 54% were held by people under 25.⁵⁹

Older Workers

Of those aged 50-64, 62% of men and 57% of women are at work in Northern Ireland, whether that is employed or self-employed. The employment rate for those aged 50-64 in Northern Ireland is 59% compared to 12% for those aged 65-74. Men are more likely to remain in work in their later years than women. The male employment rate for those aged 65-74 is twice that of the rate for women.⁶⁰

Office of National Statistics data shows that adults aged 70+ were far less likely than those aged 16-69 to say that their household finances were being affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, at the end of June 2020 (5% vs 23%).⁶¹

2.5 Multiple Deprivation Measure

The Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 (MDM) combines the 7 deprivation domains to rank areas based on multiple types of deprivation. When the 100 most deprived SOAs within NI are selected, 20 of these SOAs can be found in the DCSDC area

The most deprived SOA in DCSDC is East in Strabane. In addition, this SOA is the most deprived in NI according to MDM. The total population of the SOAs listed below is estimated to be 37,000. This equates to 25% of the population of DCSDC.

⁵⁹ <https://debtfree.london/news-blogs/new-research-reveals-how-londoners-view-their-finances>

⁶⁰ <https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/NICOLA/FileStore/Filetoupload,783215,en.pdf> P23

⁶¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandthesocialimpactsongreatbritain/3july2020>

DCSDC SOAs within 100 most deprived in Northern Ireland

DCSDC SOA	NI rank (1 = most deprived; 890 is least deprived)
East	1
Crevagh 2	3
Strand 1	5
The Diamond	6
Creggan Central 1	10
Brandywell	13
Shantallow West 1	19
Culmore 2	22
Shantallow West 2	27
Creggan South	33
Ballycolman	37
Ebrington 2	38
Clondermot 1	43
Westland	45
Shantallow West 3	51
Carn Hill 2	59
Rosemount	68
Creggan Central 2	69
Shantallow East	86
Glenderg	90

Education/skills

Within Derry City and Strabane District, the majority of children and young people achieve and succeed at school. However, there are significant groups of vulnerable children and young people who are at risk of failing to fulfil their potential either as a result of their social context, an educational need or their experiences and attitudes towards the formal education system. There is no universal definition of what being vulnerable throughout childhood is, however it can be based on a combination of circumstances where one is at risk of not achieving positive life outcomes. In many cases, these vulnerable children and young people face a variety of difficulties and challenges adapting to the formal curriculum and require an education that can meet their particular needs. Educational disadvantage has become a reality faced by many children and young people living in Northern Ireland. Educational achievement in Derry City and Strabane District LGD is on a par with that of the rest of Northern Ireland.

School Leavers

- In 2020/21 there were 1899 school leavers compared to 1842 school leavers in 2019/20.
- The percentage of school leavers who achieved at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C (or equivalent) in DCSDC was 92.1% in 2019/20 and 95% in 2021/22.

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- The percentage of school leavers, achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C (or equivalent) including English and Maths in DCSDC, was 75.5% in 2019/20 and 79.9% in 2020/21.
- The percentage of school leavers, achieving 2+ A Levels in DCSDC, was 59.4% in 2019/20 and 60.7% in 2020/21.⁶²

However, living in a deprived area has been identified as a contributory factor to educational underachievement, it should be noted that there is a significant number of young people attending school in the Derry and Strabane area who live in a Neighbourhood Renewal Area. As such the statistics above mask the lower educational outcomes and achievements of those young people living within neighbourhood renewal areas. According to figures received for the 2017/18 year more school leavers in the 5 Neighbourhood Renewal area did not achieve 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C including English and Math's than in other areas of Northern Ireland.

NRA	Proportion of school leavers not achieving five or more GCSEs at A*-C (and equivalent) incl. English and maths (%)
Strabane	60
Triax	50
Waterside	50
Outer North	46
Outer West	43
Northern Ireland	35.7

In 2021 only 9% of school leavers in the Derry/Strabane progressed into employment, this falls below the Northern Ireland averaged of 10.6%.

Destination of School Leavers 2020/21⁶³

LGD	School Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Employment	Training	Unemployed/Unknown
Northern Ireland	21610	10345 47.9%	5836 27.0%	2284 10.6%	2282 10.6%	863 4.0%
Derry/Strabane	1899	960 50.6%	443 23.3%	171 9.0%	259 13.6%	66 3.5%

⁶² <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/school-leavers-202122-statistical-bulletin>

⁶³ <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/school-leavers-202122>

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The Education Authority for Northern Ireland carried out an Assessment of Need⁶⁴ for Derry City and Strabane District. The purpose of this assessment was to build upon and add a local input to the Regional Assessment of Need. It helped to identify the big picture in terms of the needs and inequalities facing children and young people and vulnerable groups whose needs are not currently being met and who experience poor educational, health or social outcomes and compliment this with feedback from local young people and stakeholders

Children and Young People's Summary of Narrative Responses⁶⁵

- Children and young people recognised that they needed additional support to help them develop their employability skills, communication skills and prepare them for adulthood and the world of work.
- Alternative education programmes, delivered by Youth Services were proposed to support those struggling with the formal curriculum.
- There was an increasing focus on programmes of art, music, drama, creative arts and home economics being delivered in a youth work setting.
- Children and young people also wanted education programmes delivered to support their mental health and resilience.
- They also requested more support for the LGBTQ community as well as other vulnerable groups.

Youth Workers' Summary of Narrative Responses

- Children and young people should be provided with opportunities that prepare them for the world of work. Youth workers suggested greater access to employability and vocational programmes and more opportunities to volunteer and take on leadership roles
- Early intervention, building relationships with young people and youth club availability were key to supporting children and young people in the long term.
- Availability to social action, active learning, outdoor learning and citizenship opportunities were important issues highlighted by youth workers and volunteers.
- They also saw the importance of developing programmes around climate issues, the environment and recycling.

⁶⁴ <https://eanifunding.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Derry-and-Strabane-Local-Assessment-of-Need-2020-2023.pdf>

⁶⁵ <https://eanifunding.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Derry-and-Strabane-Local-Assessment-of-Need-2020-2023.pdf>

Education/Skills/Employment

Inequality	Possible Actions
<p>Skill barriers for men, women and the young and older people, the long-term unemployed and people with a disability which in turn leads to underrepresentation in the labour market</p>	<p>Subject to legislation incorporate social clauses in all capital work with significant spend.</p> <p>Education and Skills team will work with representative groups in order to heighten awareness of existing initiatives and help to develop new initiatives</p> <p>Explore opportunities to work with youth centres for the delivery of employability/vocational courses as opposed to traditional school/college environments.</p> <p>Job shadowing/volunteering opportunities developed with local organisations to help give young people a taster of work they may be interested in and so focus their attention to gain appropriate skills and education.</p> <p>Extend parameters for apprenticeships so that people of any working age can apply and develop new skills and in turn new job opportunities</p> <p>Digitalisation, especially post COVID and climate change are big growth areas and unemployed, particularly older workers, would benefit from training in these areas</p> <p>Council continue to fulfil commitment to ring-fence two jobs per annum for people with a disability</p>

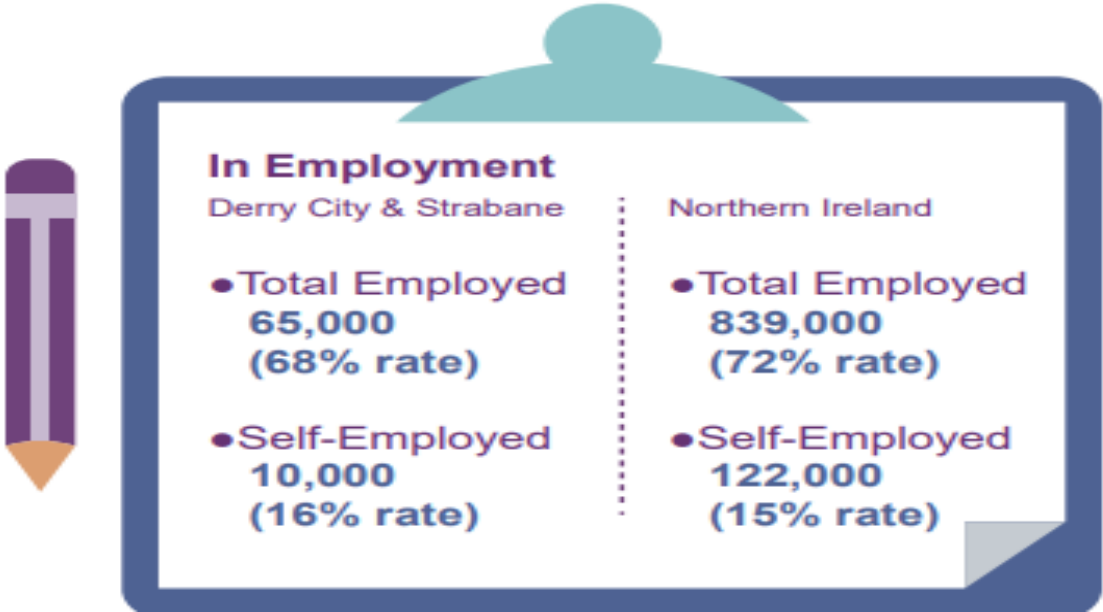
Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

The Business Section within Council works towards the development of a thriving and entrepreneurial regional economy, providing opportunities for our citizens, through the implementation of the Integrated Economic Strategy. Derry City & Strabane District Council works closely with Invest NI and the Londonderry Chamber of Commerce, among others, to ensure that businesses and business development is at the forefront of the regional economic development agenda.

There were 6,625 new enterprises – or businesses - created in Northern Ireland during 2019. The rate of business creation has been increasing since 2011-12, when Northern Ireland was in a recovery period from the previous recession. Using 2004 as a base year - when comparable data first became available - the overall increase in new Northern Ireland businesses created was 16%. However, while this increase in new businesses created can be seen within the context of a 6% increase in Wales, there were increases of 41% in England and 51% in Scotland between 2004 and 2019. Therefore, some may argue that the performance in Northern Ireland is poor despite significant financial investment and a range of programmes, organisations and policy statements - each developed to provide support with the explicit ambition of increasing the relative rate of start-ups

The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) outlines how Northern Ireland has almost doubled its rate from 3.7% to 6.6% between 2002 and 2019. However, the NI rate has remained low relative to the UK average, which saw TEA rising from 5.4% to 9.9% within the same period. ⁶⁶

According to the Invest NI briefing Council in October 2021 the number of self-employed persons in the area is 10,000 (16%. This is in line with the Northern Ireland average (15%).⁶⁷



Age

Many societies expect the youth to obtain education that enables them to get a job and earn salary to support the family rather than encourage initiative and

⁶⁶ <https://www.enterpriseresearch.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Under-represented-entrepreneurs-Revised-10.18.pdf>

⁶⁷ <https://www.investni.com/sites/default/files/2021-06/investni-performance-council-area-derry-and-strabane-2021.pdf>

entrepreneurship. Economic compulsions too can push the families to encourage youth to look for jobs and not look at opportunities.⁶⁸

Youth entrepreneurship is being recognised as a promising alternative and is being actively promoted by various agencies. If promoted actively, Youth entrepreneurship can help sustain growing economies; integrate youth into the workforce besides leading to overall development of society.

A recent report by The Entrepreneurs Network (TEN) and Youth Business International (YBI) in October 2022, explored the values, ambitions, and habits of the next generation of entrepreneurs in the UK, highlighting barriers to entrepreneurship, making practical and policy recommendations to support young entrepreneurship to be a force for good

One striking datapoint was that one in five (20%) young entrepreneurs attended a private school. This is more than three times higher than among the general population and nearly twice the number among older entrepreneurs. Significantly, the younger an entrepreneur is the more likely they are to have attended a private school with one in four entrepreneurs aged 18-25 having attended one.

One explanation for the over-representation of the privately educated among younger entrepreneurs is access to mentoring. Privately educated entrepreneurs, when compared with entrepreneurs who went to Comprehensive schools, were twice as likely to have a mentor (38% vs 19%). The privately educated were also more likely to have raised finance externally, while only 16% of our sample were privately educated as a whole, 25% of people in the sample who raised equity, bank loans, or crowdfunding went to a private school. Looking solely at 18-35 year olds who have attended private schools reveals that over half have been able to raise finance externally with a third (36%) of those who raised finance raising equity and 55% using bank loans. Somewhat surprisingly, while the privately educated were more likely to use money from their savings and friends/ family in absolute terms, when looking just at entrepreneurs who have raised finance, the privately educated were actually less likely to use money from their savings, friends, or family.⁶⁹

These findings are supported by a review of Entrepreneurism which was carried out by the Prince's Trust – It found that young people from low-income backgrounds need financial support in the early stages of entrepreneurship. Without the right support, those with no financial safety net were put off from pursuing their business idea before getting started. - 87 per cent of young people thought that you need some "money in the first place" to become an entrepreneur - the majority of self-

⁶⁸ <https://www.managementstudyguide.com/youth-unemployment-and-causes.htm>

⁶⁹ <https://hatchenterprise.org/tomorrows-entrepreneurs-report/>

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employed claimants of Universal Credit are not eligible for welfare support beyond their first year of trading.⁷⁰

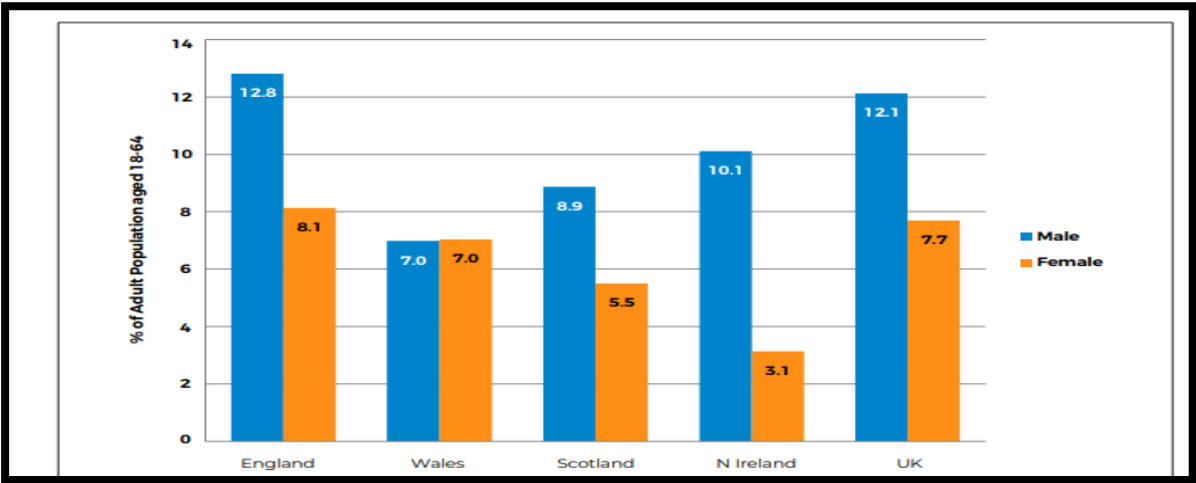
Feeling as though you don't know the "right" people was a barrier which alienated and isolated young people wanting to start their own business. Mentors and peer-to-peer networks offering guidance and advice were deemed to be as important to young entrepreneurs as financial support

- 80 per cent of young people felt that they would need industry contacts to start a business
- 36 per cent said "having a mentor to provide me with advice and guidance" would make them more likely to start a business⁷¹

Gender

There are significant gaps between men and women in Northern Ireland and between women in Northern Ireland and elsewhere in the UK. However, not only is the level of enterprise among women in Northern Ireland very low but also the nature of entrepreneurship among women is "poor" in the sense that it is characterised by being part-time and service sector.⁷²

GEM highlighted that entrepreneurial activity is typically lower for women than men, with female rates of engagement particularly low, typically at around a third of male rates.⁷³



Council run programmes which have encouraged female participation in entrepreneurship. The success in inspiring females to get involved is evident in the following profile of participants in the various programmes in 2022.

⁷⁰ [The Young Entrepreneurship Review 2019-2021.pdf](#) (Princes Trust)

⁷¹ [The Young Entrepreneurship Review 2019-2021.pdf](#)

⁷² <https://www.enterpriseresearch.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Under-represented-entrepreneurs-Revised-10.18.pdf>

⁷³ Global Entrepreneurship Monitor United Kingdom 2019 Monitoring Report <https://www.gemconsortium.org/economy-profiles/united-kingdom-2>

	Digital Surge Programme	BIG Programme	Start Up Accelerator Programme	Go for it Programme	TOTAL
Female Participation	15	423	31	107	576
Male Participation	3	308	19	89	419

Alison Rose’s Review of Female Entrepreneurship⁷⁴ has shed renewed light on the barriers faced by women starting and growing businesses:

- lower access to finance, with women’s average starting capital 50% below men’s; different risk appetite, with 55% more women than men citing the fear of starting a business alone as a constraint;
- perceived lack of skills and experience, with women less likely to say they have the skills to start a business;
- disproportionate childcare responsibilities, with women spending 60% more time on childcare than men;
- lack of sponsorship and role models, with fewer women than men knowing an entrepreneur.

There is growing evidence that Covid19 threatens gender equality. In small enterprise, women trade in sectors where social distancing is more difficult and this problem is most acute for young women ⁷⁵.

With nurseries, schools and other care facilities closed during COVID it is unsurprising that evidence is clearly showing that mothers are picking up most of the work of ‘home schooling’ (Institute of Fiscal Studies, 2020; International Labour Organization, 2020). The enormous strain on the mental health of mothers means many are facing stark ‘choices’, with more mothers than fathers leaving work. Mother-led businesses will be collateral damage from Covid19 without appropriate measures put into place⁷⁶.

⁷⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/784336/Government_Response_to_Alison_Rose_Review_of_Female_Entrepreneurship_PDF_1.2_final.pdf

⁷⁵ Henley, A. and Reuschke, D. (2020) Covid and Self-Employment in the UK. Enterprise Research Centre Policy Briefing. Warwick/Aston Universities.

⁷⁶ <https://www.thewomensorganisation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/WEPG-Framework-of-Policy-Actions.pdf>

Disability

Feedback received from Equality Assurance and Oversight Group highlighted the lack of visibility of disabled entrepreneurs during Enterprise Week in the Council area – they stated that Council did not **“evidence inclusion within training, education, product innovations or any other opportunities through technology. This is no inclusive within economic well-being. As I know personally entrepreneurs who have disabilities through brain injuries. Local opportunities for disabilities people should be shown within strategies in all areas of well-being”**.

Disabled entrepreneurs often articulate the so-called benefits trap, in which the fear of losing benefits discourages them from becoming self-employed, and often lack social networks and role models to encourage them.⁷⁷

Race

Migrant entrepreneurs face additional obstacles to self-employment over and above those experienced by the native population of their chosen countries, including language barriers, a lack of understanding of the culture of their new country and a lack of knowledge of the prevailing political institutions and regulations. This lack of language skills and understanding of their environment can mean that they are unaware of, or unable to access, support available to them as new entrepreneurs (OECD, 2017⁷⁸). The OECD suggests that the key to addressing these barriers is in the development of effective outreach programmes.

Azmat (2013, p200⁷⁹), for example, asserts that ‘economic necessity, social exclusion, lack of education and skills, high levels of unemployment, and language barriers’ constitute the main drivers to migrants becoming entrepreneurs. Thus, their prior experience can often be a driver to self-employment, because they struggle to find suitable employment elsewhere.

Migrants often face language barriers, and their lack of familiarity with host country institutions and culture can make setting up a business challenging. Recent research indicates that dominant stereotypes around migrant entrepreneurs, which present them as embedded in ethnic enclaves and restricted to low-skill and profit sectors, do not reflect the diversity of this group.⁸⁰

⁷⁷ <https://www.enterpriseresearch.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Under-represented-entrepreneurs-Revised-10.18.pdf>

⁷⁸ OECD/European Union. (2017). The Missing Entrepreneurs: OECD Publishing

⁷⁹ Azmat, F. (2013). Opportunities or obstacles? International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship, 5(2), 198-215.

⁸⁰ <https://www.enterpriseresearch.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Under-represented-entrepreneurs-Revised-10.18.pdf>

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Ergolu (2018) finds that despite being more proficient in terms of host country language and often having higher educational attainment than their forebears, second generation migrants remain attached to and involved in the niche segment businesses of their parents. Such findings challenge the so-called assimilation thesis which posits that as minority groups become more assimilated, ethnic niches will lose their appeal and mainstream markets more attractive.⁸¹

Inequalities / Issues	Possible Actions
<p>There appears to be a lack of underrepresentation in entrepreneurial terms for the following S75 groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People • People with a disability and • People from minority ethnic groups <p>Members of the above groups within rural areas suffer particular disadvantage in terms of provision of opportunity and access to information and services.</p>	<p>Council officers develop initiatives with schools to boost a sense of initiative and entrepreneurial thinking in students from a young age</p> <p>Organise networking events which bring together people with from underrepresented groups and those who can offer support on entrepreneurship in order to start a dialogue about what is available to them.</p> <p>This will also allow the support organisations to understand the barriers they are experiencing</p> <p>Organise mentoring by role models can improve self-confidence in underrepresented groups as well as improve business and managerial skills</p> <p>Pro-active initiatives to target young people working with schools/colleges/universities to encourage creativity and consideration of business start-ups</p> <p>Make use of the other Council databases containing representative groups to ensure information on initiatives reaches as many underrepresented groups as possible.</p> <p>Ensure all awareness opportunities are flexible and accessible to meet the needs of all underrepresented groups (time/venue (urban and rural)/presentation of information in appropriate formats)</p>
<p>Lack of primary monitoring data</p>	<p>Review monitoring arrangements and enhance data collection</p>

⁸¹ Eroğlu, Ş. (2018). Trapped in small business? An investigation of three generations of migrants from Turkey to Western Europe. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 44(7), 1214-1232.

An example of Business Support Programmes monitoring can be found in Appendix 5.

4.2 Arts and Culture

4.2.1 The Council has a role to play in the promotion and support of the Arts and arts providers. The Arts are not just how about people choose to enjoy their leisure time, but are fundamental to a Council, its economy and its culture. Arts provide an opportunity to expand the wealth of the Council area in monetary terms and enhance the culture and well-being of their citizens and visitors to the area.

- In 2021/22, almost four out of five adults (79%) had engaged in some way with culture, arts, heritage and sport.
- Over three out of five adults (62%) had engaged in culture and arts in 2021/22.
- Almost half of all adults (48%) had visited a place of historic interest within the last 12 months.
- In 2021/22, 17% of adults had knowledge of Irish and 16% had knowledge of Ulster-Scots.

Religion/Politics

Catholic adults were less likely than Protestant adults to participate in arts activities e.g, visit a national museum⁸²

Whilst previous research indicated in Northern Ireland, the location of venues in areas identified with the 'other' community, could also act as a barrier⁸³. – findings from the Museum Association 2020 research, "Museums Change Lives"⁸⁴, suggests that National Museums of Northern Ireland have an important role to play in dealing with the legacy of the past and in creating a shared space in which to explore controversial issues through critical narrative and interpretation that presents multiple perspectives and offers the opportunity for dialogue and debate.

Race

Derry City and Strabane District Council do not currently monitor their Visitor and Attraction Service users by racial grouping however research has shown that the gap in engagement between Black and minority ethnic people and white people has actually widened because of increases in arts engagement among white people.

⁸² <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dcal/engagement-in-culture-arts-and-leisure-by-adults-in-northern-ireland-analysis-by-section-75-groups-201314.pdf> p3

⁸³ <http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/images/uploads/publications-documents/Barriers0908b.pdf> (page 25)

⁸⁴ Museum Association 2020 - **Museums Change Lives** <https://ma-production.ams3.digitaloceanspaces.com/app/uploads/2020/08/17070033/MCL-NI-2020.pdf>

There has been a growing recognition of the ethnic inequalities in the creative sector. Arts Council England found it to be prevalent, particularly in theatres and museums: 12% of the workforce in national organisations in the council’s portfolio were from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, and just 5% across its major partner museums. In positions of leadership, this fell to only 9% of chief executives and 10% of artistic directors in national portfolio organisations. On executive boards at partner museums it was 3%⁸⁵. A survey carried out by The Stage showed that 92% of top British theatre leaders were white.⁸⁶

Research suggests that the most common reported barriers to arts and cultural participation among black and minority ethnic people are a lack of time, the cost of attending or participating and concerns about feeling uncomfortable or out of place. Black and ethnic minority people are also more likely than white people to be in lower socio-economic groups and are more likely to live in socio-economically deprived neighbourhoods.⁸⁷

Age

Analysis of visitors to Council’s current museum facilities show that there is a large number adult visitors included within the statistics – whilst this is not broken down by age group there has not been any complaints or comments received to suggest that the exhibitions were not of interest to a particular age group.

Number of tickets sold in 2019 & 2020 Tower Museum Exhibitions

Type of Ticket	Number Sold (2019)	% of All Ticket Sales (2019)	Number Sold (2020)	% of All Ticket Sales (2020)
Adult	5781	38%	2775	52%
Child	806	5%	194	4%
Concession	6238	41%	1203	23%
School / Education	645	4%	83	2%
Family	451	3%	360	7%
Tour Operator	1037	7%	488	9%
Misc.	421	3%	214	4%

⁸⁵ <https://theconversation.com/why-you-dont-see-many-black-and-ethnic-minority-faces-in-cultural-spaces-and-what-happens-if-you-call-out-the-system-128792>

⁸⁶ <https://www.thestage.co.uk/news/slow-progress-on-diversity-exposed-as-the-stage-survey-shows-92-of-top-theatre-bosses-are-white>

⁸⁷ Consillium Research & Consultancy- **Equality and diversity within the arts and cultural sector in England Evidence and literature review final report**

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Council provide concessionary rates to the following groups;

- Senior Citizen
- Persons with a disability (plus carer)
- People in receipt of Income Support or Job Seekers allowance
- Mature Students
- Children

The concessionary rates will have a positive impact on the older members of the community together with young adults who are particularly vulnerable to unemployment as they are more likely to become, or remain, unemployed than any other demographic.

Young People

Younger adults were more likely than older adults to visit a museum or science centre. Those aged 45 and over (32%) were less likely to have visited a museum or science centre than those aged less than 45 (46%). This trend has remained consistent over the longer term since figures were first available from the Continuous Household.⁸⁸

The trend was similar to that for attending arts events, engagement rates tended to drop as age increased from age 35 onwards.⁸⁹

Research has shown⁹⁰ that the barriers to engaging young people in the arts are best understood as three distinct types.

1. Attitudinal barriers: A feeling that the arts aren't for people like them. It doesn't matter what time the show is or how much the tickets cost. They just feel like you don't belong.
2. Functional barriers: Not being able to take part, regardless of how much they might want to, because the opportunity just isn't there.
3. Practical barriers: Not being able to come along, or not knowing that something was happening, because of an inconvenient time or location, prohibitive pricing or a lack of information

Older People

⁸⁸ <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/system/files/publications/communities/engagement-culture-arts-and-sport-by-adults-in-northern-ireland-202021.pdf>

⁸⁹ Ibid

⁹⁰ Rachel Tait, Angela Kail, Jennifer Shea, Rosie McLeod, Nicola Pritchard, Fatima Asif **How can we engage more young people in arts and culture? A guide to what works for funders and arts organisations** October 2019 - <https://www.thinknpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Arts-Engagement-Report-2019-web.pdf>

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There is a relationship between arts attendance and age, with attendance generally decreasing as age increases.⁹¹

Audit commission guidelines identify that public service subsidies should be based on the ability to pay of the individual rather than their status. Discounted usage based on age may be considered discriminatory, since it assumes that the individual is financially disadvantaged, which is often not the case.

This approach is supported by research carried out by the Intergenerational Foundation in September 2018 on impact of concessionary rates for cultural and heritage facilities⁹².

Some of their findings are as follows:

- Over 75% of museums, galleries and attractions give discounts to the over-60s regardless of their ability to pay;
- The over-60s are the wealthiest cohort in the UK population and are significantly more likely to visit museums, galleries and historic houses than adults of other ages;
- These discounts send a damaging message to young people about the entitlements of the older generation. This affects wider attitudes to what different generations expect from the welfare state, such as the triple lock on state pension, universal benefits, and the generous tax treatment of older generations;
- The money spent on these discounts could fund the running of about 150 independent museums and pay for the equivalent of about 1,500 staff;
- In many cases the practice may well be illegal under European law, where it has not been proved that these concessions are targeted at those in need;
- The UK is behind other European countries in adjusting for wealthier older cohorts - Italy has abandoned senior discounts and France gives free admission for under-25s;

Gender

In 2021/22 the Continuous Household Survey⁹³ women were more likely to have engaged with culture and the arts within the last year than men (65% and 58% respectively). The proportions of adults who engaged with culture and the arts generally decreased as age group increased, particularly beyond the 35-44 years age group.

⁹¹ <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/system/files/publications/communities/engagement-culture-arts-and-sport-by-adults-in-northern-ireland-202021.pdf>

⁹² Intergenerational Foundation "Baby Boomer Concessions" http://www.if.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Concessions_IF_Final.pdf

⁹³ The Department of the Communities Engagement in culture, arts, heritage and sport by adults in Northern Ireland Findings from the Continuous Household Survey 2021/22 <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/system/files/publications/communities/engagement-culture-arts-heritage-sport-by-adults-in-northern-ireland-202122.pdf>

Disability

Adults with a disability were less likely to have engaged with culture and the arts compared to those without a disability (54% and 65% respectively). Also, adults living in a rural area (58%) were less likely to engage than those living in an urban area (65%)⁹⁴

Disabled audiences' patterns of arts and cultural engagement are largely dictated by practical factors such as cost, access and transport which, unaddressed, can become barriers. Negative experiences of these practical issues can create a vicious circle which further depresses demand. Economic barriers to participation can be more sharply felt by disabled people because of the increased likelihood of disabled people to live in a low income household (according to the 2011/12 Family Resources Survey, 19 per cent of individuals in families with at least one disabled member in the UK live in relative income poverty, on a before housing costs basis, compared to 15 per cent of individuals in families with no disabled member).⁹⁵

Dependents

Parental influence can be both positive and negative in terms of participation in arts and culture. If a parent is unwilling to engage this can impact on other family members whether their unwillingness is caused by emotional (fear, discomfort) or interest barriers (not knowing what is available or understanding the relevance of what their child is doing).

There are also practical barriers which could heavily influence parents/carers. These may include

- the availability of public transport,
- cost (the cost of involvement, entrance fees, availability and cost of refreshments);
- information on what's available;
- poor communication and marketing;
- rurality (scattered populations and isolation); and
- available time.⁹⁶

⁹⁴ Ibid

⁹⁵ Consillium Research & Consultancy- **Equality and diversity within the arts and cultural sector in England Evidence and literature review final report**

⁹⁶ <https://kidsinmuseums.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Hurdles-to-Participation.pdf>

Inequalities / issues	Potential actions
Underrepresentation from members from the Catholic Community	Work with GR Team and representative groups to develop and deliver programmes which reflect the stories and experiences of all communities.
Underrepresentation from members of minority ethnic communities	Reach out to ethnic minority communities to assist in the development and delivery of cultural events e.g. programming a Polish theatre performance with a Polish speaking community.
Underrepresentation of Young people in the Arts and Culture services provided by Council	<p>Help arts and culture organisations to widen and deepen engagement by young people in their development programmes through the co-design, packaging and innovative promotion of creative skills development programmes with and for young people. Set up and resource a subgroup of the proposed Youth Council to increase information about and widen engagement in arts and culture by children and young people and ensure it has representation on the co-delivery group.</p> <p>(Art Strategy (AS) Action)</p> <p>Improve youth engagement with museums and galleries by using an interdisciplinary approach - In predominantly visual art galleries, incorporate other art forms such as performing art, music, illustration, graphic design, fashion design to connect the galleries to real life for young people.</p> <p>Digitalisation of events would be an option to improve participation as this is how young people themselves are engaging as consumers and producers of art outside of traditional formats. (social medial, Youtube)</p> <p>Upskill the arts and culture sector to develop and deliver activity that promotes mental health and wellbeing among children and young people including developing formal links between the co-delivery group and the Western Areas Outcomes Group to align strategies and actions. Source external budget for same in partnership with WAOG and other CVS groups for pilot project, building on existing good practice like the existing model in Foyleside DEA delivered through Magee and OWNP. (AS Action)</p> <p>Set up structures to promote collaboration at the early stages of project planning between arts and culture organisations, youth</p>

<p>Underrepresentation of Young people in the Arts and Culture services provided by Council (contd)</p>	<p>service delivery organisations and the education sector to reach young people not already engaged in arts and culture. Programme more arts and culture events and activities for children under five and their families. (AS Action) Attract key international arts conferences and meetings to Derry City such as the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ), International Drama and Theatre Education Association, Indra Congress (young people and peace building), UNIMA International Congress and World Puppetry Festival, Festival International des Textiles Extraordinaires, Theatre and Performance Research Association etc. (AS Action)</p> <p>Develop a programme in creative spaces to bring together arts and culture organisations, STEAM employers, schools and social enterprises to develop creative technical solutions to tackle social issues and in doing so enable the young people participating to develop hard skills. (AS Action)</p> <p>Heighten awareness of concessionary rates for children under 5 and students</p>
<p>Underrepresentation of People with a Disability</p>	<p>Widen and deepen engagement by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people with disabilities • people living in disadvantaged areas • people living in rural areas • under 26s <p>through the development of a joint, sector-wide arts and culture audience development engagement strategy and action plan for the North West including online engagement and digital programming and marketing. Ensure technical expertise not needed so all stakeholders can engage (AS Action)</p>
<p>Underrepresentation of people with dependents</p>	<p>Review timing and content of programmes being rolled out to assess the accessibility for families and/or people with dependents</p> <p>Heighten awareness of the concessionary rates for family units and for carers who assist their dependent to allow them to enjoy the service being provided</p> <p>Devise a variety of programmes and activities to help carers participate. These can be arts events that stimulate and engage the carer with their dependents.</p>

Lack of primary monitoring data	Review monitoring arrangements and enhance data collection
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The Arts and Culture Team are developing a new Strategy, beginning in 2024, including a number of equality-related actions.

Further embedding of the Code of Practice for Producing Information will enhance the reach of marketing material within Arts and Culture and beyond.

4.3 Environment & Regeneration

4.3.1 Derry City and Strabane District Council aims to provide a “clean, diverse accessible and sustainable environment for people to enjoy” which represents its commitment to ensuring that the natural and physical environs are protected and enhanced, and that all people have a healthy and safe environment in which they can live in, work in and enjoy.

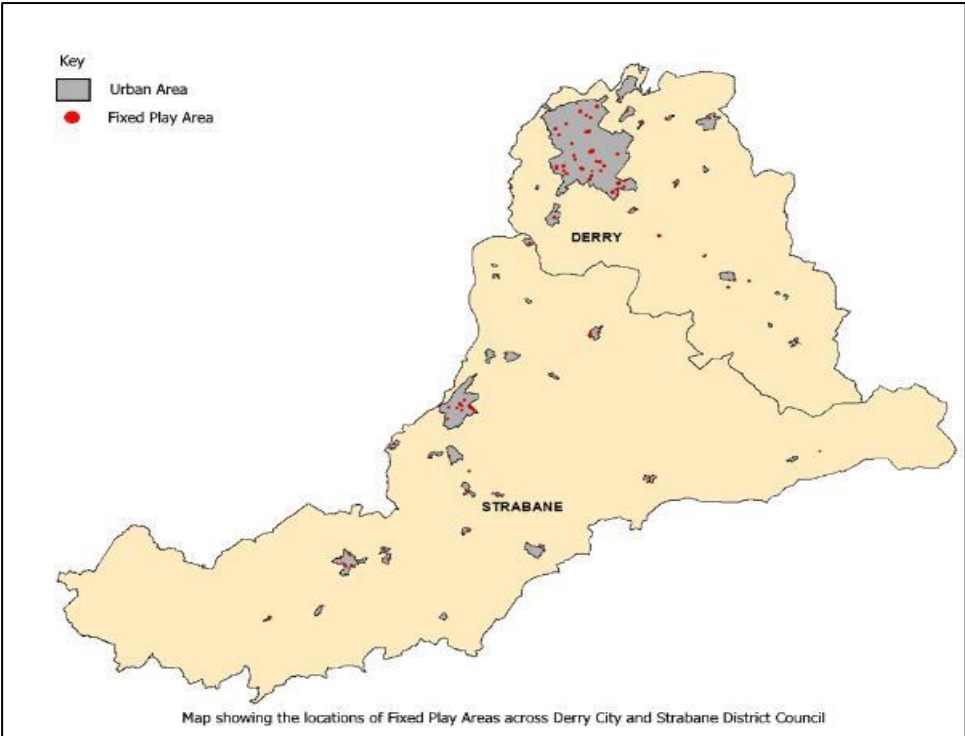
In order to achieve this aim, the Council's Environment and Regeneration Directorate provides a diverse range of services to residents across the Council area including, waste management, street cleaning, cemeteries, grounds maintenance and parks/open spaces, building control, capital projects and planning.

The overarching aim of this section of the audit is to promote equality of opportunity through the provision of these services within the Council area to all current and potential service users.

4.3.1.1 Parks and Play areas

Fixed Play Provision

There are at present 84 fixed play areas across the Derry City and Strabane District Council area. The locations of fixed play areas across Council are set out on the map below.



As can be seen on the map, fixed play areas are largely located within or in close proximity to settlements. Those located outside of settlements tend to be centred on larger parklands in rural areas.

Local Play Areas

Under the agreed 'Council Play Area Designation' the majority of play areas (70) are classified as Local play areas which have been designed to cater primarily for users residing within walking distance of the facility. Sites designated as local play areas are identified in the table below.

Allen Park	Fountain Hill	Mitchell Park
Ardstraw	Galliagh	N'townstewart (Vaughans Holm
Artigarvan	Glebe (Bells Park)	Nicholson Gardens
Ballycolman (Bottom)	Glen	Oakland Park
Ballycolman (CC)	Glenabbey	Pinewood Crescent
Ballynagard	Glenmornan	Dergborough Rd)
Beechmount Avenue	Goshaden	Plumbridge (Riverside)
Brandywell	Hazelbank	Primity Crescent
Bull Park	Hillview Park	Riverview Park
Camus	Kildrum Gardens	Rose Court
Carlton Drive	Killen	Rosstowney Drive
Carmoney	Killeter	Roulstone Avenue

Castle Park (Children)	Lapwing Way	Shantallow
Castle Park (Toddler)	Leafair Park	Sion Mills
Cluny Gardens	Learmount	Spamount
Courtrai Park	Lettershandoney	Sperrin Heritage Ctr
Currynierin	Lisnafin	Springhill Park
Donemana (Metal)	Listymore	Stevenson Park
Donemana (Wood)	Magheramason	Templemore
Douglas Bridge	Melvin (Grass)	The Fountain
Enagh Crescent	Melvin Play Park	Victoria Bridge
Faughan Crescent	Melvin Sport Centre	Mourne Park (N'tstewart)
Faughanview (Sperrin)	Millbrook Gardens	
Faughanview (Waterside)	Milltownview	

Neighbourhood Play Areas

Across the Council area there are 7 Neighbourhood designated play areas, offering a higher level of play value and a wider range of fixed and non-fixed play opportunities. Neighbourhood play areas are located at:

Bishops Field	Irish Street	Patrician Villas
Eglinton (post upgrade)	Kilfennan	Strathfoyle
Ballymagroarty		

District Play Areas

There are at present 7 District play areas, representing the largest fixed play provision in terms of both size and scale and offering a wide variety of fixed and non-fixed play opportunities.

District play areas are located at:

Ballyarnett Play Park	Cumber House	Pennyburn Play Trail
Brooke Park	Drumahoe	St Columbs (Junior)
St Columbs (Adventure)		

Research undertaken across Northern Ireland as part of the Young Life and Times research programme (entitled "Playscapes at 16") highlighted that for many older

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children and teenagers the main difficulties they face in terms of meeting their recreation needs include:

- Negative attitudes towards teenagers 'hanging out' in public places and/or in their own community leading to them being moved on to other areas
- Prohibitive costs associated with more formal recreation activities e.g. those provided through leisure centres, private providers etc.
- A lack of appropriate spaces within communities to 'hang out' i.e. a lack of shelter, seating etc.
- For those living in rural areas, difficulty in accessing urban based recreation activities due to the limitations of public transport.

Equality Assurance and Oversight Group (EAOG) feedback

The EAOG met in June 2021 and during the meeting the participants offered feedback on the Council's performance objectives. Feedback relevant to this service area was specifically under Objective 2 - To assist a return to healthy lifestyles through re-growing participation in high quality leisure, sports and physical activity.

The group made the following comments:

- The council needs to find ways to engage people to take part in inclusive activities in its open spaces.
- There should be a park for disabled children.
- Recognition needs to be given to the natural environment within communities and how these impact on mental health and wellbeing. These areas are being overlooked in the strategic growth planning and the impact of accessing the natural environment for people with disabilities, i.e. the walking park at Drumahoe, St Columb's park, Foyle Arena. The lack of accessibility in these park areas risks the exclusion of disabled people.

Council have carried out extensive consultation public consultation with service providers, children and young people, parents and carers and their feedback helped to identify the existing inequalities.

Council have committed to ensure the inequalities are address and have set out key actions within its Play Plan 2020-2032. (See **Appendix 3**)

4.3.1.2 Waste Management

The recycling service provision in each of the district electoral areas within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area is set out in the table below .

Derry City and Strabane District Council Recycling Service Provision (Civic Amenity Sites/Bring Sites)		Level of provision per head of population
BALLYARNETT - 6 Wards (Total Population – 23423) Skeoge Shantallow East Culmore Galliagh Shantallow Carn Hill	Civic Amenity Sites Bring Sites Northside Shopping Centre, B & Q Faustina Retail Park	Civic Amenity Site 0 : 23423 Bring Sites 2 : 11712 Total 2 : 11712
FOYLESIDE - 5 Wards (Total Population – 18659) Madam’s Bank Northland Springtown Ballymagroarty Foyle Springs	Civic Amenity Sites Pennyburn Household Recycling Centre, Bring Sites Sainsburys, Strand Road	Civic Amenity Site 1 : 18659 Bring Sites 2 : 9330 Total 3: 6216
The Moor - 5 Wards (Total Population – 17184) Sheriff’s Mountain Creggan South Brandywell Creggan City Walls	Civic Amenity Sites Bring Sites Brooke Park Leisure Centre Mace Service Station, Creggan Road Creggan Country Park	Civic Amenity Site 0: 17184 Bring Sites 3 : 5457 Total 3: 5457
WATERSIDE - 7 Wards Total Population – 27560) Victoria Clondermot Ebrington Caw Lisnagelvin Kilfennan Drumahoe	Civic Amenity Sites Glendermott Road Household Recycling Centre, Waterside Bring Sites Drumahoe Service Station Tesco Lisnagelvin	Civic Amenity Site 2: 13780 Bring Sites 2 : 13780 Total 4: 6890

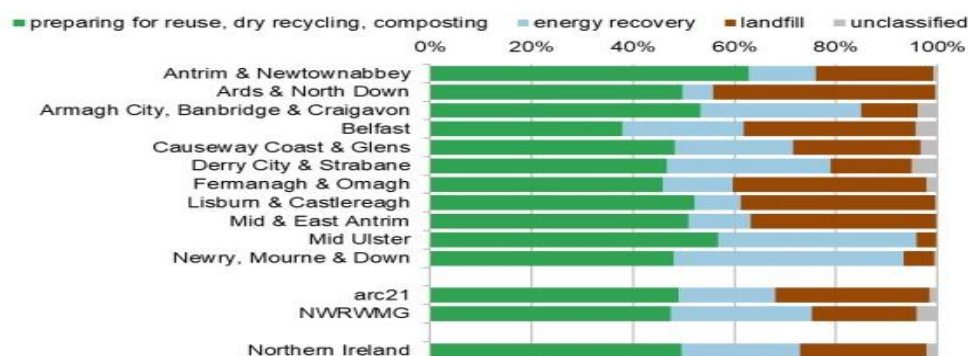
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<p>FAUGHAN - 5 Wards (Total Population – 18,757) Claudy Enagh Eglinton Slievekirk New Buildings</p>	<p>Civic Amenity Sites Strathfoyle Household Recycling Centre, Eglinton Household Recycling Centre, Claudy Household Recycling Centre, Learmount Road, Claudy</p> <p>Bring Sites Newbuildings Community Centre.</p>	<p>Civic Amenity Site 4 : 4689</p> <p>Bring Sites 1 : 18757</p> <p>Total 5: 3751</p>
<p>SPERRIN - 7 Wards (Total Population – 24,176) Park Dunnamanagh Glenelly Valley Artigarvan Strabane North Strabane West Ballycolman</p>	<p>Civic Amenity Sites Park Household Recycling Centre, Learmount Road, Park Plumbridge Household Recycling Centre, Donemana Household Recycling Centre Strahans Road Recycling Centre</p> <p>Bring Sites ASDA, 2 Branch Road, Railway Road Fountain Street Community Centre, Ballymagorry, Foxlodge Cricket Club</p>	<p>Civic Amenity Site 5 : 4835</p> <p>Bring Sites 3 : 8059</p> <p>Total 8: 3022</p>
<p>DERG - 5 Wards (Total Population – 17,934) Glenderg Castlederg Newtownstewart Sion Mills Finn</p>	<p>Civic Amenity Sites Spamount Playing Fields Newtownstewart Recycling Centre</p> <p>Bring Sites Castlederg, Hamiltons Foodhall/Spar, Ardstraw, Spar, 1 Carnkenny Road Clady, Spar, 153 Urney Road, Strabane Killeter, Crilly Park, BT81 7DX Sion Mill, Church Square, BT82 9HD Sion Mills, Spar, 155 Melmount Road</p>	<p>Civic Amenity Site 2: 8967</p> <p>Bring Sites 6 : 2989</p> <p>Total 8 : 2242</p>

In DAERA’s recycling report for 2021/22 six councils in Northern Ireland reported decreases in waste arisings, with the largest decrease recorded in Mid and East Antrim where volumes fell by 2.9%.⁹⁷

⁹⁷ <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/northern-irelands-recycling-rate-dips-in-2021-22/#:~:text=Green%20waste&text=Derry%20City%20and%20Strabane%20and,the%20lowest%20rate%20at%2018.0%25>.

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Age

WRAP Recycling tracker (March 2022) has shown that while there is scope to improve recycling performance across all equality sub-groups, there are some key sub-groups who are disposing of more items incorrectly. This includes 18-34s (6.6 items compared to 4.8 among those aged 55+) ⁹⁸

This finding was supported by several studies.

- The Aviva Study Group⁹⁹. They found that over-55's are more likely to recycle waste (84%) and make other environmentally conscious decisions than any other age group,
- WasteDive UK highlighted that of the millennials who said they don't recycle all they can, the most common responses given were confusion over what can be recycled (16%) and needing more frequent recycling collection (12%).¹⁰⁰
- Additionally, 7% of surveyed millennials said they found recycling too time-consuming and 5% indicated that they did not believe that separated waste is actually recycled.¹⁰¹

Whilst Over 55s householders are better at recycling as they get older physical barriers are likely to be amplified due to reduced strength, dexterity and mobility – the same barriers would impact on people with a disability. Further it is expected that this will in turn affect the perceptual and behavioural barriers that older people/people with a disability have to recycling.

⁹⁸ WRAP Recycling Tracker (March 2022) <https://wrap.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-10/Recycling%20Tracker%20March%202022%20Report%20PDF.pdf>

⁹⁹ <https://www.packagingnews.co.uk/news/environment/recycling/uk-research-shows-55s-likely-recycle-02-03-2020>

¹⁰⁰ <https://www.wastedive.com/news/uk-survey-millennials-least-likely-age-group-to-recycle/510185/>

¹⁰¹ Ibid

Gender

WRAP Recycling Tracker report (March 2022) found that while there is scope to improve recycling performance across all sub-groups, there are some key sub-groups who are disposing of more items incorrectly. This includes men (6.0 items compared to 5.1 among women) (WRAP Recycling Tracker March 2022)

Scientists suggested looking after the planet was seen as a typically "feminine" thing to do which fits in with a woman's traditional role of being a caregiver.

This perception may hold men back from doing things such as buying a keep cup or turning off the air conditioning that could ultimately help the environment, according to the study published in *Sex Roles*.¹⁰²

There is a continual fear of being feminine attached to being conscientious as men think that it's a female trait that will undermine their masculinity – this idea is perpetuated by most eco-friendly campaigns and products claims being largely aimed at female audiences.¹⁰³

Disability

Recycling or waste prevention campaigns are sometimes inaccessible to people with learning disabilities however it is important not to overlook this underserved group as many live independent lives.¹⁰⁴

Dependants

While there is scope to improve recycling performance across all sub-groups, there are some key sub-groups who are disposing of more items incorrectly. This includes those with younger children at home (6.4 items compared to 5.2 among those with no children at home)¹⁰⁵

¹⁰² Swim, J.K., Gillis, A.J. & Hamaty, K.J. Gender Bending and Gender Conformity: The Social Consequences of Engaging in Feminine and Masculine Pro-Environmental Behaviors. *Sex Roles* **82**, 363–385 (2020).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-019-01061-9>

¹⁰³ <https://waste4change.com/blog/the-eco-gender-gap-are-women-greener-than-men/>

¹⁰⁴ZeroWaste Scotland: **A Guidance Document to Engage People With Learning Disabilities in Recycling and Waste Prevention Activities -**

https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/sites/default/files/Guidance%20to%20engage%20people%20with%20learning%20disabilities%20-%20FINAL_0.pdf

¹⁰⁵WRAP Recycling Tracker (March 2022) <https://wrap.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-10/Recycling%20Tracker%20March%202022%20Report%20PDF.pdf>

Inequalities	Action
<p>Unequal approach to recycling by different ages and genders</p> <p>Reduced strength, dexterity and mobility pose physical barriers to residents as they get older – the same barriers would impact on people with a disability. This will in turn affect their perceptual and behavioural barriers</p>	<p>Work with schools/youth clubs and have good education programmes with a marketing budget to make those programmes effective.</p> <p>Review accessibility to recycling centres and bring sites considering distance from vehicles and also the accessibility of the actual containers for recycling materials</p> <p>Heighten awareness of Assisted Bin Collection service, Medical Bins and bulky lift service – give prominence to these services on Council’s website for ease of access</p>
<p>Recycling hampered by gender stereotyping</p>	<p>Review literature and training materials to ensure that there is a clear message that environmental initiatives such as recycling are the responsibility of all genders</p>
<p>Recycling or waste prevention campaigns are sometimes inaccessible to people with learning disabilities.</p>	<p>Work with support organisations to provide training and develop initiatives to improve their clients understanding of recycling and waste management</p> <p>Prepare leaflets and posters in easy read versions</p>
<p>Information not clear enough on kerbside recycling</p>	<p>Council will audit its information to ensure that it is more instructional about what can and can’t be recycled in their kerbside collection</p>

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Minority ethnic groups living in the Council area may have difficulty understanding the recycling instructions	Prepare information in alternative format as the need is identified
Primary monitoring data	Review monitoring arrangements and enhance data collection

More monitoring information at a local level would help confirm or deny that the trends identified in Britain are applicable in Derry City and Strabane District Council.

Dual Language Street Signage

The outworking of the policy has the potential to increase the visibility of a range of languages within the public sphere, thereby contributing to an increased public awareness of the linguistic diversity which exist within the Council area and an increased tolerance to their presence in public life.

The policy aims to encourage more positive attitudes towards linguistic diversity by mainstreaming and normalising the visibility of different languages and promote opportunities for the public to engage with the subject of language as it relates to the areas in which they live i.e. origins of place-names, townland names (particularly in rural areas), history and heritage of the local area.

However, it is also possible that for some people, the visibility of other languages in the public realm may evoke sensitivities

Since 1st April 2015 to date almost 200 applications for dual language street signs have been received. All applications have been for the second language to be in Irish.

It has been recommended that the policy for this service area should go out to Equality Impact Assessment however in the interim Council could take the following actions:

Inequalities /issues	Possible remedial action
Requests for bi-lingual signage appear to be only in Irish Language – does not reflect the minority languages in existence in the Council area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower the threshold for the installation of dual language signage in addresses within the DCSDC boundary to 15%. This proposal would require one resident or their local councillor to come forward with the request to

	<p>erect a dual language street sign and if this was to gain the support of 15% of residents on the electoral register then this would be suffice to go forward for approval by Council. This would be beneficial for those residents who may request their street name in an alternative minority language other than English.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness amongst all residents in the Council area about the provisions made within this policy, particularly amongst minority ethnic groups
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4.4 Strategic Planning and Support Units

Procurement

An opportunity exists to explore options to revise the Procurement Policy to include the use of social value clauses, in line with best practice outlined in Procurement Policy Note 01/21.

Human Resources

HR Article 55 Review

“Article 55 review report.

Under Article 55 of the Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998, Council are required to complete at least once every three years a review of our employment composition and practices. The purpose of the review is to determine whether or not we need to take action to ensure that Protestants and Roman Catholics are enjoying and are likely to continue to enjoy fair participation in our employment.

Council’s most recent Article 55 Review Report covers the period 2018 – 2021. In the report Council reviews its employment pattern, trends and practices to reach a conclusion on fair participation, affirmative action and goals and timetables.

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As a result of this review Council continues to develop its affirmative action programme including the use of a welcoming statement in its job adverts, as follows: "Derry City and Strabane District Council is an equal opportunities employer. We particularly welcome applicants from the Protestant community at this time."

Member Services

The Equality Commission in its "Inequalities on Participation in Public Life" statement of September 2018 found that the biggest difficulty in determining the inequalities was the lack of data.

They stated that there were significant and specific data gaps across a number of themes in relation to a number of equality groups, specifically: marital status, dependency status and sexual orientation. In addition, there was a lack of data disaggregation in relation to disability and ethnicity. These shortfalls limited the Commission's ability to draw robust conclusions about inequalities, and there are inevitably gaps in our assessment and those considered key inequalities, and/or progress in addressing the same across the full range of Section 75 groups.

Primary Data for Derry City and Strabane District Council

Elected Members Equal Opportunities Monitoring Analysis was undertaken in September 2021 and October 2023.

As some of the numbers are small, this may make individual identification possible. Subsequently, the key changes only are reported below:

- Small increase in % females Elected Members
- Small increase in % of Members with no caring responsibilities
- Substantial increase in the % of Members who identified as being Irish or British as opposed to not specifying previously
- Reduction in numbers identifying as having a disability
- Increase in the numbers identifying as neither Catholic or Protestant
- Increase in the % identifying as Nationalist as opposed to Other

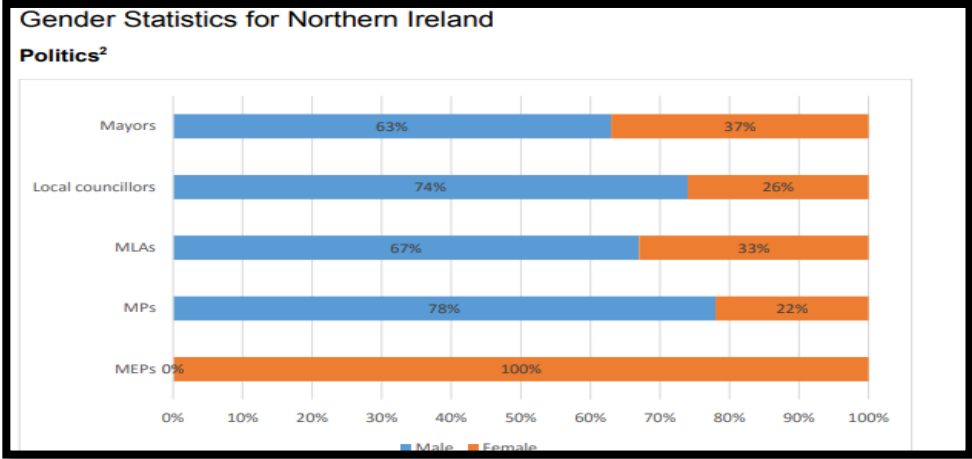
Gender

Analysis of the elected members for the Derry City and Strabane Council (2021 figures) showed that the gender profile is:

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Gender – 75.0% Male 25.0% Female

In terms of local elected members Derry City and Strabane District Council have a lower female representation (25%) than the Northern Ireland average (26%)



According to the Equality Commission’s research the barriers to the participation of women in political life includes the lack of affordable, accessible and appropriate childcare; the heavily male-dominated political institutions; and pressures that ensured their voices were silenced in local communities.¹⁰⁶

Social and Cultural Barriers ¹⁰⁷

- The political arena is often viewed as a middle class and male dominated environment
- Women’s continued role in assuming caring and household responsibilities poses another significant barrier, especially among younger women and those with young children.
- The gender pay gap, the propensity for greater numbers of women (often due to their caring responsibilities) to be engaged in part-time employment and their increased likelihood of being employed in lower paid sectors of employment collectively mean that many women also lack the financial resources needed to stand as a candidate in central and local government elections.
- Motivational factors such as ambition, self-confidence, self-belief and dedication are also well-evidenced barriers.

¹⁰⁶ <https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Delivering%20Equality/ParticipationPublicLife-PolicyFullReport.pdf> p29

¹⁰⁷ Maguire Susan, University of Bath (October 2018) **Barriers to Women entering Parliament and Local Government** - <https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/barriers-to-women-entering-parliament-and-local-government/attachments/barriers-to-women.pdf>

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- There is a perceived lack of identifiable role models in Parliament and within local government who may help prospective candidates and new entrants overcome their apprehension about entering parliamentary life.

Structural and Institutional Barriers

Structural and institutional barriers include the role of political parties and their local organisations as gatekeepers to widening political representation and specifically:

- A 'disconnect' between national policies within political parties about attitudes to diversity and how they are interpreted and acted upon at local level;
- Selection that is too restricted in its scope and reach;
- Evidence of direct and indirect discrimination against women;
- Lack of openness and transparency in selection and recruitment procedures at national and local level, and
- Women having a greater propensity to be selected to stand for marginal seats.

Additional factors which have a detrimental impact on widening representation include:

- the difficulty of achieving an acceptable work-life balance, due to the demands of long and irregular working practices;
- the absence of statutory entitlement among MPs and local councillors to employment rights, e.g. maternity and parental leave/flexible working practices.

Evidence points to these factors having a negative effect on decision-making among women to both enter and remain in political life.

Knowledge and Information Barriers

There is evidence that many under-represented groups (including women) are less likely to have access to the networks, information sources and role models that are a fundamental requirement for candidates seeking political office at both national or local levels. The traditional male dominated environment of local parties, where informal networks, as well as established and sometimes opaque recruitment and selection practices remain highly influential, often work against the interests of under-represented groups. There

Religious belief/Community Background

- Whilst the religious belief/community background of elected members and staff of each may be representative of the demographic of the region there is a risk that the minority group may not be treated equitably.
- Council duties under S75 Northern Ireland Act, however, help to mitigate this risk.

Race

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- Whilst about 2% of the Northern Irish population is from ethnic minority backgrounds, ethnic minority groups are under-represented in public life – none of the 90 members of the NI Assembly were recorded as being from an ethnic minority group¹⁰⁸.
- In April 2019, there was one councillor of recorded ethnic minority origin in Northern Ireland, out of a total of 462.¹⁰⁹
- Ethnic minority groups have also expressed concern about accessing politicians.
- “Minority ethnic communities do not see political parties in Northern Ireland as particularly representing them, but nonetheless can cite instances of good work by individual elected representatives on their behalf..... some (political representatives) are not always aware of their respective party’s policies or initiatives which support the interests of minority ethnic communities.” (Elected Representatives/Political Parties and Minority Ethnic Communities in Northern Ireland, University of Ulster 2008)

Sexual Orientation

- LGBT community is under-represented in public life.
- CoSo takes the view that monitoring is important to build a culture of acceptance within organisations.
- Specific barriers for LGB and Transgender people participating in public life include: the fear of being ‘outed’; negative media stereotyping; the fear of vandalism, violence or abuse;¹¹⁰ and the general public being ‘uncomfortable’ with having a Transgender person in the highest elected position.¹¹¹

Dependency

- Those with dependents may find it difficult to play an active role in public life due to time constraints.
- The current model of childcare provision, typically from 8am to 6pm, is insufficient. This is a particular issue for boards and committees which may sit outside normal working hours. Cost is a further issue, constituting the largest monthly outgoing for more than one third of families surveyed in 2018.¹¹²
- The availability of appropriate, accessible and affordable childcare provision to meet the needs of all¹¹³ children is a fundamental part of the process of assisting those

¹⁰⁸ BRIEFING PAPER CBP 01156, 22 October 2020 Ethnic diversity in politics and public life - <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN01156/SN01156.pdf>

¹⁰⁹ Ibid p20

¹¹⁰ to consultation on OFMDFM draft Racial Equality Strategy 47 Ryri. I.; McDonnell, S.; Allman, K. And Pralat, R. (2010) Experiences of and barriers to participation in public and political life for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

¹¹¹ ECNI (2018) A Question of Attitude ECNI, Belfast

¹¹² Employers for Childcare (2019) Northern Ireland Childcare Cost Survey 2018

¹¹³Particular needs exist for disabled children, children from minority ethnic communities and new residents and those living in rural communities and for different ages of children. See McQuaid R, Graham H, Shapira M (2013) **Child care: Maximising the economic participation of women, commissioned by ECNI**

with caring responsibilities - particularly mothers – to more fully participate in the economy¹¹⁴ and in public life. Providing care to adult family members and others may also act as a barrier to participation.

Marital Status

- No statistical information.
- Many interviewees who contributed to the research for the paper “At the Nexus of Participation and Protection: Protection-Related Barriers to Women’s Participation in Northern Ireland” experienced acutely gendered and sexualized attempts at public shaming. This has included “sexual baiting,” a tactic used to deride and discredit women’s professional reputations by questioning and making damaging insinuations about their sexuality and reproductive and marital status.¹¹⁵ These tactics often represent an attempt to impede women’s equal participation.

Disability

- According to the Equality Commission’s **Key Inequalities in Participation in Public Life** statement dated September 2018, there is an underrepresentation of persons with a disability in applications and appointments to government public appointments. Little improvement has been made in terms of the levels of appointments of persons with disabilities being made to government public appointments over the period 2006 – 2016 (2% 2006 and 3% in 2016).¹¹⁶
- Further, during the period 2008-2016, there has been a consistent underrepresentation of persons with a disability as applicants to government public appointments ranging from 2% to 5% annually.¹¹⁷
- One in five persons of working age are disabled in Northern Ireland however in many areas of political and civic life disabled people are under-represented.

Inequalities	Possible Actions
Substantial data gaps regarding the participation of a range of equality groups across political	Carry out a periodic equality monitoring exercise amongst elected members

¹¹⁴ See McQuaid R, Graham H, Shapira M (2013), **Child care: Maximising the economic participation of women**, commissioned by ECNI

¹¹⁵ <https://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Womens-Participation-Northern-Ireland-2-Final.pdf>

¹¹⁶ Note that data pertaining to disability relates to appointments made in that year, no data pertaining to appointments held by persons with a disability is available from the TEO Government Public Appointment data (2006-2016) The Public Bodies and Public Appointments Annual Reports

¹¹⁷ In 2010/11 the percentage of applications received from persons who declared a disability increased slightly to (4%) from 3% the previous year

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<p>representation in Derry City and Strabane District Council, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • females, • people with a disability, • people with dependents, • people • from minority ethnic background 	<p>Continue to work with schools in Local Democracy Week to devise initiatives to encourage children and young people to participate in local politics.</p> <p>Extend local democracy initiatives to Youth centres in order to attract young people who have not completed formal education route.</p> <p>Continue to arrange meetings in hybrid form and restrict length of meetings will help to encourage participation of people from underrepresented groups eg: females, people with a disability, people with dependents, people with a disability</p>
<p>Perception of the political arena as a white male dominated sphere which thus impacts negatively on ambition, self-confidence, self-belief and dedication of those from under-represented groupings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of a quota system within the parties and putting under-represented candidates forward for winnable seats • Identification of role models • Mentoring initiatives • Development of early education initiatives involving local elected members to encourage young people of the role they could play in their community.

Council Policies

The following examples are of policies, recently considered by Council, which have relevance to one or more of the Section 75 groups:

Pilot Hybrid Working Policy and Guidance
Anti-Poverty Action Plan
Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Policy and Guidance
Review of Safeguarding Policy (Children and Adults at Risk)
DCSDC Festival & Events Strategy 2023
PEACE Plus: Ratification of the Co-Designed Local Community Action Plan
North West Audience Development Plan Update
Dual Language Street Naming Policy Update
Age Friendly Strategy & Action Plan

Good Relations Audit and Strategy 2022-2025
Leisure and Sports Pricing Policy and Schedule of Charges 2021/2022

Recent /current Motions – Council services and activities examples

All inclusive autism swim sessions	That this Council will ask officers to bring forward a report on the ability of council to facilitate weekly all- inclusive autism, family friendly swim sessions within the district.
	These sessions would be delivered free of charge and would be available to adults/children with autism or additional needs.
	There are limited activities in the northwest for families of children with additional needs with most having to travel a significant distance to engage in anything available, this alone can be difficult not to mention stressful and traumatic.
	This provision would help immensely as most people have a leisure centre that is within a reasonable travel distance.

Gender Responsive Budgeting	This Council notes that gender-responsive budgeting is an internationally recognised tool to analyse public spending for its effect on gender equality and improve the effectiveness of government policies.
	Council acknowledges Northern Ireland Women’s Budget Group’s assessment that gender-responsive budgeting is crucial to promoting gender equality and securing policies that mitigate disproportionate gender impacts of public spending.
	Council further acknowledges that Northern Ireland lags significantly behind other areas of Great Britain and other OECD countries in terms of implementing gender-responsive budgeting practices.
	Council recognises that the collection of gender-specific data allows for a deeper analysis of how policies and budgets affect individuals and therefore requests that Council officers work towards ensuring that all Council collected data is disaggregated by gender.
	Council also instructs Council officers to compile a report on other measures that Council could take to introduce gender-responsive budgeting, with consideration given to embedding gender impact assessments into budget statements and annual reports.

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	<p>Council further instruct Council officers to engage with the Northern Ireland Women's Budget Group to explore the feasibility of undertaking a pilot gender budget analysis project within Derry City and Strabane District Council.</p>
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<p>Visually Aware</p>	<p>That this Council commences the process to make the City and District a visually-aware space, welcoming to all our residents who are blind or partially-sighted.</p>
	<p>From difficulty accessing treatment and services, navigating public spaces, to a lack of emotional and practical support, blind and partially sighted people each face their own set of challenges every day.</p>
	<p>The Council recognises the expertise of the RNIB, their vision for a world where blind and partially sighted people participate equally, and their goal of breaking down the barriers for blind and partially sighted people.</p>
	<p>This Council will therefore commence work with RNIB, in partnership with North West Regional College and the College's Design Innovation for Assisted Living (DIAL) Centre, towards making the City and District a visually-aware space, through the provision of training, information and best practice guidelines to civic institutions and local businesses.</p>
	<p>And this Council commits to work towards training all public facing staff members and elected members in understanding sight loss.</p>

<p>Menstrual Leave</p>	<p>This Council acknowledges the recent progress made by the Spanish government in introducing paid medical leave for women who suffer from severe period pain.</p> <p>Council notes that paid menstrual leave has been in place for a number of years in other countries around the world, such as Japan and South Korea. Council further acknowledges the impact that period pain can have on women's participation in the workforce, and notes recent progress made in the last mandate with the introduction of free period products for all.</p> <p>Council further recognises the research by "Bloody Good Period" which highlighted that 89% of women have experienced anxiety or stress in the workplace due to their period, and that there is still stigma attached to menstruation.</p> <p>The Council resolves to write to the NJC, asking them to explore how paid menstrual leave could be included in the contracts of Council employees; and further calls on the Minister for the Economy to introduce paid menstrual leave in Northern Ireland.</p>
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Free leisure access	Council explores giving free admittance to council leisure facilities to all those over 75
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Accessible city and district	<p>Council will invite the National Autistic Society, Autism NI & AustisticAlly to present to the relevant committee on how we become a Safe Space and welcoming to all our residents who are neurodivergent. Council will consider the implementation of programmes like; ‘Quiet sessions’ with no music in our leisure centres, access to videos on our website showing our facilities to allow for anyone attending to familiarise themselves. And having access to visuals aids so staff and visitors are better able to communicate, this will allow for users who are neurodivergent to enjoy our facilities fully.</p> <p>Council will contact the EA to express a need to invest in more autism units / suites across our schools, and will highlight the lack of provision currently in our secondary schools.</p> <p>Furthermore, Council will work with other agencies to identify funding streams to improve our disability access provision and to take forward any recommendations from the presentation alongside our working group which will be set up to identify how to make our city & district more accessible to residents with Disabilities.</p>
International Women's Day	<p>Council recognises the long struggle of women here in Ireland and around the world for rights, equality and recognition. Council supports and stands in solidarity with all the actions that groups and activists will be holding locally to mark this year’s International Women’s Day and will light up the Guildhall purple in solidarity on the 8 March.</p> <p>Council acknowledges that gender based violence is endemic and to that end will hold a special meeting focused on gender based violence, inviting the Women’s Resource and Development Agency to present their Feminist Recovery Plan and their initial findings of their research on Violence Against Women and Girls. Council will also invite the Children’s Commissioner to this meeting to present on the need for proper, age appropriate, inclusive relationship and sexual education in our schools.</p>
Accessible Toilets	<p>The Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . The charity Crohn’s and Colitis UK is encouraging venues providing accessible toilets to install new signage. This is to help stop stigma and discrimination towards people with Crohn’s Disease, Ulcerative Colitis and other invisible conditions. <p>The Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Ensure that accessible toilets on Council premises bear these signs.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Ask local businesses to do likewise with their accessible toilets. . Seek advice from Crohn’s and Colitis UK, other representative organisations and stakeholders on the information and training we should provide to Council staff members so that they understand the conditions and to prevent potential embarrassment for those who suffer with them. . Respond positively to the current Department of Finance Consultation proposals to introduce requirements for the fitting of Changing Places Toilet Facilities in certain buildings commonly used by the public.
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Motions – Social issues, advocacy / lobbying activities related to S75 equality issues

Welcoming and Inclusive Community	This Council condemns the recent rise in intimidation and harassment of refugees and asylum seekers across this island organised by far right and fascist parties in Dublin, Drogheda and across the South of Ireland.
	This Council rejects the scapegoating of refugees or new communities for what are the failures of the Fine Gael/Fianna Fáil led Government in the South.
	This Council acknowledges the health crisis, the poverty crisis and housing crisis have been caused by poor government policy and corporate profiteering and not migrants or refugees.
	This Council commits to stamping out any far right, racist poison that could divide communities.
	Irish people for centuries have been refugees and migrants in countries across the world, and have faced prejudice, thus Irish people should stand together and overcome the lies being spread about those seeking refuge here.
	This Council stands in solidarity with anti-fascist and anti-racist campaigners.
	This Council recommits its efforts to creating a welcoming and inclusive community for everyone.
Youth Services	This Council recognises the contribution that youth work makes to the lives of children and young people within our communities. Council is concerned that EA have not received formal notification of their ring fenced budget from DE.

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	Council is concerned about DE/EA’s approach to meeting their statutory assessed need within the Community and Voluntary sector, through reallocating resources that leads to reducing the capacity of the current service providers while maintaining their own service.
	Council is concerned how reduced funding opportunities and reallocations to Community and Voluntary sector youth organisations, will impact on the availability of youth provision across our council area.
	Council supports the campaign from Youth Work Alliance and all C&V sector groups to demand an equitable, open and transparent process.
	Council will invite Youth Work Alliance to a special meeting to outline the impact of the following:
	· Terminology (change of policy)
	· Full cost recovery (funding principles)
	· Priorities for Youth 4.3 (viable alternative and cost-effective option)
	· And how this will impact across the district.
	Council will write to Department of Education and Education Authority expressing our concerns and outlining our support for the sector.
	Council will write to Permanent Secretary Mark Browne and encourage him to engage with all youth providers to assess the impact these funding opportunities and reallocations could have on our communities.

Easilink, Community Transport and Shop Mobility Services	That this Council is concerned about the proposed cuts to the EasiLink, community transport and Shop Mobility services. That Council recognises this service is a vital lifeline for many residents within rural communities across the Council area.
	That Council writes to the Department of Infrastructure objecting to the proposed cuts and urge a long term budget commitment for the Easilink service.
	And that this Council calls on the British Government to properly resource any restored Executive to allow Departments to work together to ensure community transport can continue to provide these important services.
Avoca Lodge	That this Council expresses its concern at the Western Health and Social Care Trust plan to close the Avoca Lodge supported living facility at Gransha Hospital; recognises the distress this is causing to service users and their families and calls on the Trust to overturn this decision.
Childcare Provision	That this Council calls for a comprehensive review of childcare provision and the introduction of a new cross-departmental strategy to address the crippling impact of childcare costs on many families and workers.

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Intimidation of refugees and asylum seekers	At request of Cllr Donnelly, Mayor agreed to send a letter of solidarity and support to Belfast Multicultural Centre
Transphobia	This Council will arrange a meeting with Foyle Pride to discuss the issue of transphobia and how Council can support in addressing it.
Public Transport	This Council opposes the public transport fare increase by Translink of 7% and the decision to scrap early bird discounts on the 212 and other services.
	This Council supports free public transport for all. Council notes how other Countries in Europe have cut fares significantly or made public transport free in response to the cost of living crisis.
	Council will write to Translink to express Council's opposition to their fare increase and the scrapping of early bird discounts, calling for them to be reversed, and will write to DFI to express Council's support for free and effective public transport.
	Council recognises a free and effective public transport system will have an impact in addressing social inequalities and the climate crisis. Council will hold a meeting with local bus and rail workers to hear their vision for improving public transport systems locally.
Men's Action Network	This Council, in recognition of its continuing support and services provided to men and families across this District, expresses its support for Men's Action Network.
	Further expresses its concern that despite the organisation having provided support/counselling for 1,641 individuals in 2022 alone, the organisation faces an existential funding challenge.
	Calls on Department for Communities, or a joint funding stream, to provide core and recurring funding for the organisation to ensure that men across our District are not abandoned during times of crisis in which we exist locally.

Vicki's Story	<p>This Council notes the findings contained within the recently published report by the Children's Commissioner for Children and Young People into the life of a child in the care of the state. Known as Vicki's story.</p> <p>Council urges the Western Health and Social Care Trust and the department for health to ensure that no other child is subjected to similar failings to those contained within Vicki's story.</p> <p>Council notes the recommendations of the report with concern particularly those contained in R43, R44 and R45 which when implementing in full will allow the voice of Vicki and her family to be heard in future care plans and allow for an independent advocate to be appointed to support her through this process and for at least one year after her return home.</p>
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	<p>Council urges the Western Health and Social Care Trust and the Department of Health to take all necessary steps in a safe and timely manner to ensure all provisions are taken to enable Vicki to return home to her family.</p> <p>Council will write to the Department for Health and the Western Health and Social Care Trust to request a timeline for implementation of all recommendations.</p> <p>This Council commits to train at least 70% of all elected members in the Introduction to Child Rights in Practice (ICRIP) to ensure members consider the rights of the child in every future decision they make</p>
<p>Cost of Living Support</p>	<p>That this Council recognises that the Cost of Living emergency is having a greater impact on the most vulnerable, including the elderly, those living with disabilities, serious illness or on low incomes, and calls for the British Government to take definitive action to provide additional support to vulnerable groups including ensuring that benefit payments are uprated at least in line with inflation, with immediate effect.</p>
<p>World Cup, Soccer and Qatar</p>	<p>This Council condemns the exploitation of workers in Qatar ahead of the World Cup and supports the call for a compensation scheme for exploited migrant workers, the establishment of a migrant workers centre in Doha and for official investigations into thousands of worker deaths in the run up to the World Cup.</p> <p>Council also condemns Qatar’s human rights abuses on women and LGBTQ+ people and is alarmed at the remarks from an ambassador for the Qatar World Cup that homosexuality is ‘damage in the mind’, just 12 days before the tournament was due to start.</p> <p>Council notes the IFA’s criticism of Qatar’s human rights record and their commitment to pursue this with senior FIFA officials gathered in Qatar.</p> <p>Council notes there are still significant issues for LGBTQ+ participation in soccer in Ireland, North and South and notes there are no out male Premier League footballers.</p> <p>Council will write to the IFA and FAI to ask what they are doing to address homophobia and transphobia for players and fans in their own associations.</p>
<p>Children's and Adults Learning</p>	<p>Council deplores the lack of any respite beds available to families of disabled</p>

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<p>Disability Services</p>	<p>children in Derry City and Strabane District area. Council agrees to write to invite the Directors of Children’s and Adults Learning Disability Services to a meeting to explain how staff are being sought to end the staffing shortages that are limiting the number of beds available for respite; and what plans there are to expand the number of respite beds for both children and adults with a learning disability in the Western Trust, given that the Trust has the worst provision of any Trust across the region.</p>
<p>Lack of Care Facilities</p>	<p>That Council writes to the Chief Executive and the Minister of Health to highlight the massive lack in provision in permanent care facilities for young people with disabilities within the Western Trust area and ask what action they are taking to address this.</p>
<p>Racial Injustice & Anti-Black Racism</p>	<p>Derry City and Strabane District Council is committed to eradicating and ending racial injustice and anti-Black racism. The Council recognises the work already undertaken by our staff and elected representatives to promote good relations and tackle prejudice. In pursuit of these twin aims, Council resolves to formally recognise and mark the United Nations International Decade for peoples of African Descent, running from 2015 - 2024. In proclaiming this Decade, the international community is recognising that people of African descent represent a distinct group whose human rights must be promoted and protected. Around 200 million people identifying themselves as being of African descent live in the Americas, while many more live in other parts of the world (including this council area), outside of the African continent. In marking the International Decade, Council will bring forward a paper to advise how it will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with schools and community organisations to ensure that the educational histories and narratives of Black people are properly taught and celebrated in schools across the Council area all year round; and • Ensure that the end of the decade is marked in 2024, celebrating progress made in moving towards racial justice. The Council will also write to the Department of Education calling on it to work with local, black- led organisations, the Black Curriculum organisation, and local historians/ academics to provide relevant education resources; and to review the Northern Ireland Curriculum in order to develop an anti-racism policy for schools.

Appendix 1 Good Relations Action Plan

Outcome	Name of Initiative
1.1 Improved attitudes between young people from different backgrounds	Post Primary Anti-Prejudice Training Initiative
	Primary School Cultural Awareness Initiative
	Engaging Youth in Communities
2.1 Increased use of shared space and services	Good Relations Grant Aid ¹¹⁸
	Good relations experiential learning and trust building
	Networking and Clustering
	Legacy and commemoration dialogues
	Officers initiatives/critical response support
	Leadership programme
3.2 A community where places and spaces are safe for all	Interfaces and contested space
	Safe Children Safe Community
4.1 Increased sense of community belonging	Bonfires and alternatives
	Community Relations Week
4.2 Cultural Diversity is celebrated	Ubuntu
	Island voices
	Traveller awareness
	BME Support Programme

¹¹⁸ Grant in Aid outcomes cross all TBUC themes.

Appendix 2 - PCSP Action Plan For 2022/23

Strategic Priority 1:
To ensure effective delivery in response to local need, and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective consultation, communication and engagement

Theme	Aims & Description	Key Activities
PCSP Delivery	Organising the work of the PCSP through the PCSP Members and appropriate structures and mechanisms	<p>Consult and Engage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of PCSP Engagements, Consultation Events and Public Meetings • Engagement with statutory partners, C&V sector and residents in relation to policing and community safety issues <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of a mixed media communication plan (social media, print)

Strategic Priority 2:
To improve Community Safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

Theme	Aims & Description	Key Activities
Tackling ASB	<p>Open Call (Small Project Support)</p> <p>Develop and deliver a small project support programme to help address ASB with project report cards for each initiative supported.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a small project support programme with a focus on prevention and intervention aimed at addressing local hot spot areas where anti-social behaviour is prevalent and focussing on the summer months (June-Aug) and Hallowe'en.
Reducing Crime and its Impact on our Community	<p>Drugs, Alcohol and Addictions</p> <p>Provide small project support to a number of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a small project support programme with a focus on awareness, prevention and intervention aimed at addressing the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse.

<p>Reducing Crime and its Impact on our Community (contd)</p>	<p>drug, alcohol, and addiction initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the RAPID drug bin and alcohol/drug boxes schemes.
	<p>Domestic and Sexual Violence Initiatives</p> <p>Provide small project support to a number of initiatives raising awareness of the impact of domestic and sexual violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a small project support programme with a focus on raising awareness of the harm caused by domestic and sexual violence and increase awareness of the support available to victims of domestic and sexual violence
	<p>Hate Crime Initiatives</p> <p>Provide support to a number of initiatives raising awareness of the impact of hate crimes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a programme with a focus on raising awareness of hate crime to include racism, sectarianism, and homophobia and increase awareness of the support available to victims of hate crime.
	<p>Tackling Business, Retail and Rural Crime</p> <p>To work with partners to deliver initiatives to support businesses, shop owners and farmers to protect their property and goods.</p> <p>Manage and develop the CCTV contract for the City and District</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness of preventative measures that business owners, shop owners and farmers can take to prevent retail and agricultural crime. • Ensure that the CCTV system is fit for purpose in relation to crime detection/prevention, location of mispers and suicide prevention.

<p>Reducing Crime and its Impact on our Community (contd)</p>	<p>Tackling Cybercrime including scams and child sexual exploitation (CSE)</p> <p>To work with partners to deliver initiatives to highlight the impact of cybercrime with emphasis on online scams and child sexual exploitation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness of the impact of cybercrime, scams and online exploitation.
	<p>Community Safety Warden Scheme</p> <p>To provide targeted patrols in neighbourhoods, rural villages and educational precinct as a deterrent to ASB and reduce fear of crime among the most vulnerable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted patrolling of ASB hotspots. • Responding to ASB referrals from partners and residents • Provision presentations to neighbourhood groups/schools/youth groups etc. on the impact of ASB and fear of crime.
	<p>Safer Homes Initiative</p> <p>To enhance home protection for victims of crime, elderly and vulnerable residents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply and fit additional home security equipment for residents who have been victims of crime (burglary, hate crime, domestic violence etc) and for those residents experiencing an increased fear of crime
	<p>Road Safety Initiatives</p> <p>To raise awareness of road safety among road users including drivers, cyclists and pedestrians</p>	<p>Supply and locate Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) at speeding hotspots</p> <p>Support a Be Safe Be Seen campaign for school children during the autumn/winter</p> <p>Support RoadSafe NI and New Drive NI to deliver schools education programmes on Road Safety</p>
	<p>Youth Engagement Initiative</p> <p>Develop and deliver a small project support programme providing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a small project support programme with a focus youth engagement promoting respect for the law and for each other. Initiatives will include diversionary programmes and

	diversionary youth engagement projects especially over the summer months.	targeted interventions for particular groups
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**Strategic Priority 3:
To support confidence in policing including through collaborative problem solving with communities.**

Theme	Aims & Description	Key Activities
Community & Police Engagement	Monitor Local Police Performance To evidence impact through the delivery of projects and activities that support monitoring of local police performance and ensure local accountability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policing Committee private meetings. • Consultation with local communities to identify priorities for local policing and contribution to the development of the Local Policing Plan for DCSDC
Community & Police Engagement (contd)	Local Police and Community Engagement To evidence impact through the delivery of projects and activities that support community and police engagement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policing Committee Public Meetings • Projects/activities that provide engagement opportunities for local communities with police • Support and promote Neighbourhood Watch Schemes
	Advocate for Policing Delivery of projects and activities that build community confidence in the rule of law and embed a culture of lawfulness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review impact of projects and activities undertaken or supported by the PCSP that build community confidence in the rule of law and embed a culture of lawfulness. • Identify additional actions that could be progressed with local communities

Appendix 2

Overarching Recommendations for Play Plan 2020-2032

In addition to the individual recommendations made for specific fixed play areas, a number of overarching recommendations are made for consideration by Council. The purpose of these recommendations is to embed with Derry City and Strabane District Council area an overarching commitment to children and young peoples play, ensuring that the right to play is afforded to all children and young people across the district.

Participation of Children and Young People

At the core of the Play Plan is a recognition that children and young people are the experts when it comes to play and the types of play experiences that will bring for them the most benefit and enjoyment.

In rolling out the Play Plan it will be critical that children and young people's views are not only sought but are taken into account in all decisions that impact upon play.

It is therefore recommended that Council pro-actively seek the views of, and establish effective participation mechanisms to enable children and young people to input on decisions that impact on play delivery including:

- The planning and design of new and upgraded fixed play areas
- Identification of barriers to play at community level
- Identification of preferred play approaches within a location (e.g. fixed play, non-fixed play etc.)

Benefit Risk Approach

Children and young people have a natural thirst for challenging play as they seek to test the boundaries of their limitations, develop new skills to help them meet and overcome the challenges they face and develop the ability to better manage risk based on individual capacity.

Unfortunately growing adult anxiety over safety has significantly reduced children's opportunities to challenge themselves through risky play. These fears rest not only with parents and guardians, but also with play providers where the fear of blame or litigation has often led to a watering down of challenge and risk based play opportunities.

In reality, removing elements of risk and challenge from play impacts negatively on children, reducing their capacity to address and deal with the risks and challenges

they face as they grow up. In making a case for a more balanced approach to offering challenge and risk through play, most experts agree that:

- Risky and challenging play does not automatically equate to dangerous play
- Encounters with risk and challenge through play supports children to learn from an early age how to manage those risks and challenges. If the experience is removed, a valuable learning opportunity is missed
- Children have a natural appetite for risk-taking which, if not fed through the provision of appropriate challenging play opportunities can lead them to seek out situations which expose them to greater risk
- From the perspective of a risk-benefit approach, engaging in active, outdoor play with an element of risk brings other health and developmental benefits. In such cases it is argued that the benefits of the activity outweigh the often minimal risk of injury or harm, and
- In the longer-term, exposure to risk and challenge through play been shown to have a range of benefits for the individual child including the development of resilience, self-reliance and has been connected to entrepreneurialism.

It is recommended that as part of the play plan Council move towards adoption of a benefit/risk approach to fixed play provision in line with accepted guidance¹¹⁹

Overarching Design Principles

Alongside the Play Plan, a separate design brief has been developed to assist those engaged in the design and development of fixed play areas across the Derry City and Strabane District Council area.

It is recommended that these design principles should be applied by those involved in fixed play development, both statutory and non-statutory with a view to enhancing the quality of fixed play across communities.

Accessible and Inclusive Play

All children have the right to access appropriate play opportunities and a fundamental aspect of the Play Plan will be working to ensure that that fixed play areas offer play opportunities for children of all abilities.

¹¹⁹ 'Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide' published by the Play Safety Forum <https://playsafetyforum.wordpress.com/resources/>

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Accessible and inclusive play means more than simply providing children and families with physical access to play areas and equipment. In order to be truly inclusive a play area must offer a wide range of high quality physical, creative and social play opportunities for children regardless of their needs and abilities.

The benefits of universally accessible play areas are well established for children of all abilities:

- *Inclusive play areas have been shown to be more fun:* Due to the more creative approach applied to the design of accessible and inclusive play equipment they often offer a greater level of variety, higher level of play value and are more engaging for children and young people in the longer-term.
- *Inclusive play areas support inclusive communities:* Accessible play areas do not segregate children based on ability; rather they encourage children of all abilities to come together through play, supporting the development of mutual understanding, friendships and a sense of community.
- *Inclusive play areas encourage creativity:* Inclusive and accessible play areas encourage children to play creatively as they include elements that engage with a wider range of senses and involve equipment that can be used in different ways by different users.

With a view to enhancing accessible and inclusive play across the Council area, it is recommended that:

- District level fixed play areas (which represent the largest fixed play provision in terms of both size and scale) will by definition incorporate as standard a broad range of accessible and inclusive play opportunities.

These will be supported by a range of accessible support services aimed at enhancing visitors experience for all, whilst ensuring that children of all abilities and their families are able to spend time engaged in fun and enjoyable play activities. Support services should include:

- Accessible Café and accessible outdoor tables
- Public and Changing Places Toilet provision to facilitate longer term site use
- High quality play opportunities including a broad range of physical, social and creative inclusive play opportunities
- Accessible parking facilities

In addition to the focused development of accessible play facilities at district level, the upgrading of existing fixed play areas should ensure that core consideration is given to the needs of children with disabilities including (but not restricted to):

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- The provision of multi-ability fixed play equipment which offers play opportunities for children of a wide range of ability levels.
- Presence of ground level, accessible and inclusive moving fixed play pieces, for example ground level seated roundabout, ground level and wheelchair accessible play trampoline.
- The incorporation of a variety of sensory play elements (visual, sound and tactile).
- The use of gentle landscaping and the incorporation of natural play elements.
- Creation of play spaces that allow for and encourage play interaction between all children regardless of individual ability or disability.
- Non-Council funded fixed play installations seeking post-installation maintenance agreements should give core consideration to the needs of children with disabilities including (but not restricted) to the above.

Residential Planning

As highlighted in the Play Plan, it is not always possible for Council to meet identified gaps in fixed play provision due to a lack of accessible developmental land.

In order to avoid the development of future gaps in fixed play provision resulting from new housing development, it is recommended that Council seek to ensure that developers incorporate suitable fixed play provision/green space allocations within development in line with the Strategic Planning Policy Statement.

Play Plan review

It is recommended that the play plan should be subject to regular review (on at least a 5 year basis) to ensure that changing local circumstances (e.g. demographic/population shifts) can be taken into account and appropriate action taken.

Use of Green Spaces adjoining Fixed Play Areas

A number of fixed play areas across the district have adjoining green space which is often underutilised for the purposes of play. It is recommended that Council should seek to maximise the play value of such green spaces through minor landscaping, planting, incorporation of natural play materials and features etc.

Taking such action would help to create additional natural play opportunities within communities, complementing existing fixed play areas and providing alternative free play experiences for children and young people.

Appendix 3 - Local Democracy Week 2023

Derry City and Strabane District Council would like to invite the young people of the City and District to take part in **Local Democracy Week 2023** which will run from Monday 13th to Friday 17th November 2023.

We have a number of initiatives that aims to boost dialogue between local Councillors and young people with a view to strengthen local democracy and to promote citizen participation.

Q&A with Mayor and Councillors

Date(s): Monday 13th November 2023

Times(s): 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Location(s): Council Chamber, Guildhall

Young people will have an opportunity to meet the Mayor and Elected Representatives for the Derry and Strabane District.

Leaders of local parties will have the opportunity to share how their party has supported young people to date and the plans to support young people in future.

Political representatives will answer "quick fire" questions put to them by young people. This event will give young people the opportunity to discuss important issues with their local political representatives.

Who is the event for? This event is open to young people aged between 14 and 18 who are interested in holding Elected Representatives to account on how they are supporting young people.

If you wish to take part in this event please contact Karen Henderson, Mayoral & Member Services Officer, on 02871376527 or email

karen.henderson@derrystrabane.com

Tackling the Climate Crisis

Date(s): Tuesday 14th November 2023

Times(s): 10 am to 12 pm

Location(s): The Guildhall, Derry

Young people will hear from the Council's Climate Programme Manager how Climate Change affects us all here in Derry and Strabane and the actions we can take to tackle the crisis. Young People will have the opportunity to have their voice heard with a Q&A session with the Mayor and local Councillors.

The event will end with a showcase of local solutions from sustainable food growing, transport and fashion.

Light Lunch will be provided.

Who is the event for? This event is open to young people aged between 11 and 18 years old.

If you wish to take part in this event please contact Karen Henderson, Mayoral & Member Services Officer, on 02871376527 or email karen.henderson@derrystrabane.com

Meet The City & District's Number One Citizen

Date(s): Wednesday 15th November 2023

Times(s): 10.00 am to 12.00 pm

Location(s): The Guildhall, Derry

The Mayor has a high profile role in maintaining and promoting the interests of the City and District and its citizens by attending a variety of civic engagements during the year. The Mayor is elected each year by his or her fellow Councillors at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Young People will get the chance to meet with the current **Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Councillor Patricia Logue**. Young people will discover some interesting facts about the Mayor's role as First Citizen of the City and District. There will be a number of planned activities for young people e.g. tour of the Guildhall, Quiz, Debate and Q&A with the Mayor.

Who is the event for? Open to primary school children – preferably who sit on a School Council (5–11 year olds)

If you wish to take part in this event please contact Karen Henderson, Mayoral & Member Services Officer, on 02871376527 or email karen.henderson@derrystrabane.com

Mayor & Councillors Go Back to School

Young people will have an opportunity to meet the Mayor and Elected Members from Derry City and Strabane District Council who will answer "quick fire" questions put to them by young people.

This event will give young people the opportunity to discuss important issues with their local political representatives and give Elected Members the opportunity to explain to young people their roles and responsibilities and the work that they do in their local area.

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This event can take place at Schools and Colleges within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area. Visits can be made to your school during October/November/December 2023, however, we ask that you allow for diary and time constraints.

This event is open to Primary and Post Primary Schools

If you wish to take part in this event please contact Karen Henderson, Mayoral & Member Services Officer, on 02871376527 or email karen.henderson@derrystrabane.com

Council Meetings

Derry City and Strabane District Council hold monthly Committee Meetings and Full Council Meetings which are streamed on the Council's You Tube site. Young people can view all Council meetings and will get the opportunity to see how decisions are made by Elected Members and what issues have to be considered in the decision-making process.

You can view all Council meeting by visiting Derry City and Strabane District Council's You Tube Chanel.

Appendix 4: Age friendly monitoring data for the period 12 months up to 31st March 23



**Equality Monitoring Form
Section 75 Data (Adult)**

*** **

1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023

Ref	LG/W/19
Contract Title	Age Friendly Communities - Derry/Strabane
Delivery Organisation	Derry City & Strabane District Council (Derry)
PHA Area	Western Health Improvement
Thematic area	Local Government
LCG Area	Western
Area of Spend	Local Government

The information below is to be completed by the <u>Service provider</u> and returned with quarter 4 Progress Monitoring Report		
Gender	Female	325
	Male	38
	Other	0
Assigned @ Birth	Yes	206
	No	0
	Prefer not to say	16
Country of birth?	England	49
	N. Ireland	252
	Republic of Ireland	14
	Scotland	2
	Wales	0
	Elsewhere	11
	Prefer not to say	0
Ethnic group?	Black African	0
	Black Other	0
	Chinese	0
	Filipino	0
	Indian	0
	Irish Traveller	0
	Roma	0
	White	324
	Mixed Ethnic Group	3
	Other Ethnic Group	0
	Prefer not to say	1
Disability?	Yes	70
	No	147
	Prefer not to say	87
If Yes, please specify	Autism Spectrum Disorder; Dyslexia; Cognitive Impairment; Learning disability	3
	Long standing illness, such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease or epilepsy	51
	Mental health condition, e.g. depression or schizophrenia	2
	Physical Impairment, e.g. difficulty using arms or requiring a wheelchair or crutches	10

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	Sensory Impairment, such as blind/visual impairment or deaf/hearing impairment	1
	Other	2
	Prefer not to say	1
Sexual Orientation?	Bisexual	1
	Gay	2
	Heterosexual	206
	Lesbian	1
	Other	0
	Prefer not to say	119
Caring Responsibilities?	Child(ren) under 18	23
	An older person	58
	A person with a disability	75
	None	107
	Prefer not to say	85
Religion?	Buddhist	2
	Catholic	230
	Hindu	4
	Jewish	0
	Muslim	0
	Protestant	51
	Sikh	0
	None	2
	Other	6
	Prefer not to say	33
Marital Status	Cohabiting	5
	Divorced/ dissolved civil partnership	11
	Married/civil partnership	120
	Separated	7
	Single	21
	Widowed	84
	Other	0
	Prefer not to say	79
Political Opinion?	Broadly Nationalist	174
	Broadly Unionist	48
	Prefer not to say	56
	Other	50
	17-24	0

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Clients Age Group @ last Birthday	25-34	5
	35-44	14
	45-54	34
	55-64	88
	65-74	124
	75+	30

Appendix 5: Business Support Programmes monitoring at March 2023

Business Support Programme Go For it			
Gender	No of Participants		
Female	107		
Male	89		
Grand Total	196		
By Participants			
Economic Status	Female	Male	Total
Carer	4		4
Employed full time	36	37	73
Employed part time	18	6	24
Homemaker	3		3
Long-term sick	2		2
Other	1	2	3
Retired		1	1
Self employed	15	18	33
Student (Full-Time)	1	2	3
Student (Part-Time)	2		2
Unemployed < 1 year	15	15	30
Unemployed > 1 year	10	8	18
Total	107	89	196

Strabane Enterprise Agency	
Female Participation	15
Male Participation	10

Enterprise NW	
Female Participation	16
Male Participation	9

Business Support Programme: BIG	
Female	468
Male	368
TOTAL	836

Business Support Programme: Digital Surge Programme	
Female Participation	15
Male Participation	3

Appendix 6 – Age Friendly [Strategy & Action Plan](#)

Appendix 7 – [Play Plan](#) (dynamic document)

Appendix 8 – RNIB Sight Loss briefing for DCSDC



Derry and Strabane sight loss briefing.doc

Appendix 9 - [Rights of Children/Child Friendly City](#)

Appendix 10 – [Access and Inclusion](#) - Events access arrangements example

<https://www.derrystrabane.com/subsites/christmas/accessibility>

Accessibility - Derry Christmas Lights Switch On

- **[Accessible Toilets](#)**

Guildhall
9am – 8pm

- **[Disabled Parking](#)**

Normal Disabled City Centre Parking is available. Spaces cannot be guaranteed (first come basis)

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- **Changing Places facility**

Foyleside Shopping Centre
9am - 9pm

- **Accessible Access**

If you require additional information, please contact:
andrea.campbell@derrystrabane.com or on telephone: 028 71253
253 ext. 6934.

- **Quiet Space**

Guildhall – Meeting Room
4pm – 8pm

- **Disabled Viewing Area**

Allocated area at front of Guildhall – 1 x carer per wheelchair – spaces cannot be guaranteed (first come basis)

- **Security Staff**

Stewards are briefed in advance to share and familiarise them on disability awareness and the code of conduct.
Contact Stewards or council staff if require information or directions.
They will be wearing high Vis vests and have identification.

- **JAM cards (Just A Minute)**

JAM (Just a Minute) Cards are available at Guildhall for individuals who require extra time to complete task and/or communicate effectively.

- **Access & Inclusion Officer**

Councils Access & Inclusion Officer
Caitriona.Doherty@Derrystrabane.com
Tel: 02871253253 ext: 6933
Mob/text: 077 39092409
Web: **www.derrystrabane.com/inclusion**

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Caitriona Doherty will be available for phone calls before the event to deal with any access/inclusion queries.

Appendix 11 – Northern Ireland Labour Market participation by gender

Women in Northern Ireland (2022)

- The employment rate for females in NI has been consistently lower than for males over the past ten years. Although the number of employees in NI was similar for males and females in 2021.
- The number of self-employed males was more than two and a half times the number of self-employed females.
- Around 3 in 5 female employees were in flexible work compared to 2 in 5 males. Females reported lower levels of opportunities for career progression (by 9pps) and a lower proportion with earnings above the Real Living Wage (by 5pps) than males.
- The largest gender pay gap across all age groups occurred in the 50 to 59 age group, where men earned almost £2.50 more per hour than women (£15.33 compared to £12.87).
- Males were more likely to work full-time than females. Furthermore, approximately 60% of employed women with dependent children worked full-time, compared to 94% of employed males with dependent children.
- Although the female economic inactivity rate has been declining in recent years in 2021, just under a third of working age women were economically inactive, compared to just under a quarter of men.
- The most common reason for economic inactivity among women (29%) and men (36%) in 2021 was long term sickness. For women the proportion looking after family and home in 2021 was almost identical at 28%, which was the least common reason for inactivity (6%) amongst men. The second most common reason for men was being a student, at 34%.
- Women consistently have lower economic activity than men regardless of the age of the youngest dependent child, but rates were lowest for women with a youngest dependent child of pre-school age.

Appendix 12 - Feedback from meetings of the Council's Equality Assurance and Oversight Group (EAOG)

Summary of issues raised at meeting on 15 May 2024

- Affordability of council leisure facilities – Council needs to raise awareness of free and concessionary fees for things like leisure and sports services.
- Accessibility consideration should cover all types of disability, not just physical or mobility disabilities.
- Council needs to promote accessibility provision, eg, at events – no point in offering accessibility measures if the public don't know about them.
- There are barriers faced by minority communities, especially women. Some women's culture means they cannot participate in activities alongside men.
- There is a need for more services for carers and parents. For example, can Council consider offering activities for parents/mothers when their children are doing leisure activities?
- Toilet facilities are a big issue for many groups – families, disabled people and older people, in particular. Council has a community toilet scheme but it needs to be promoted.
- Physical environment – buildings, streets, open spaces – all cause problems for many people with disabilities and older people. Council needs to consult disabled people and groups about all projects and improvement plans.
- The Women's group raised an issue about Safeguarding in relation to the pool at Foyle Arena. They felt the pool area was not private enough to ensure children's safety.
- People felt there wasn't enough accessible car parking at some council premises such as Strand Road.
- Some people were not aware of how to get information on council consultations.

Feedback from 4 September meeting of EAOG

- There is a need for more employability support (work placements and volunteer opportunities) for people with disabilities, including those with learning disability. Voluntary experience can lead to job opportunities. Groups want to know how well employability schemes the Council has offered before worked. Council should

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focus on things that have worked well in the past for disabled people, both students and adults.

- There needs to be more awareness of support programmes for employers, eg, Access to Work Funding (administered by the Department for Communities) to help employers where there are additional costs associated with employing a person with a disability.
- There are significant barriers and difficulties faced by some migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the council area. There is a need for more English language support to enable people to integrate and to access employment opportunities.
- There are particular barriers to participation for BAME women with children/dependents (childcare issues).
- Fear of crime is a big problem for BAME people, especially after the race hate incidents which happened during the summer of 2024.
- Accessibility of information and facilities continues to be a barrier for many disabled people. Issues may be compounded for disabled older people, BAME people or women.
- Where council offers accessibility support, it must be well promoted to the public and service users.
- Council should consider specific training and tailored programmes for people with learning disabilities.