

Tuesday 27th October 2020, 2pm – 4pm
via MS Teams

NOTE OF MEETING

1. Welcome

Cllr Christina Black, Chair of SP&R Committee welcomed the Community Planning Partnership to the call. Belfast Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Chair, Suzanne Wylie welcomed all partners to the meeting and outlined the main agenda items.

2. Chair's Business

Suzanne Wylie set the context for the meeting, noting the following:

i) Meeting introduction :

- Acknowledged last meeting (March 2020) was cancelled due to Covid-19, but also highlighted that significant partnership working has been ongoing through the Covid response phase – through Emergency planning and other partnership structures in the city.
- The CPPs delivery Boards have been meeting over recent months to consider the emerging impacts and priorities for partners, with a view to beginning to understand what the Partnership's priorities need to be over the coming months and beyond. This will be important as the Partnership seeks to build recovery as a city from adverse impacts on the economy and communities.
- Whilst acknowledging the significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Belfast, important to recognise the potential opportunities presented in recovery – it will be vital to accelerate and maximise the impact of recovery as much as possible, so that our residents and businesses feel this impact as soon as possible.
- Updated that the new Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sectoral advisory Panel is now in place. Welcome was extended to new members (VCSE representatives) Irene Sherry (VCSE Sectoral Panel Chair) and Jim Girvan (VCSE Sectoral Panel Vice Chair). Suzanne Wylie along with the other Chairperson of the Belfast Agenda Delivery Board Chairs had met with all the VCSE Panel on Tuesday last week, noting the enthusiasm and desire to bring the sector's voice and input to make a real contribution and impact.

ii) Note on re-positioning the CPP

- Recognising progress of the Boards and establishment of the new VCSE panel, it was highlighted there is a need re-invigorate the role of the CPP strategic group. Proposal was made that going forward CPP meetings should be focused on taking strategic decisions and tasking of boards / working groups with activity/action or areas for development.
- A proposal to introduce a Co-chair model for the Delivery sub-Boards was suggested, to strengthen partnership working at Board level, noting the example of the Resilience & Sustainability Board which appointed Co-chairs at an early stage.
- The CPP acknowledged the vacant Chairperson role on the Living Here Board, following Nigel Grimshaw's departure from Belfast City Council. It was proposed that Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services take on this role on an interim basis for the Board's next meeting, in advance of the Board identifying a new Chair/Co-Chairs.
- The CPP also acknowledged that Grainia Long, Belfast Resilience Commissioner, and Chair of the Resilience and Sustainability Board is leaving the Council to take up a new role as Chief Executive of the NI Housing Executive.

ACTIONS AGREED/NEXT STEPS:

- Partners agreed the proposal for a Co-Chair model and tasked the Boards to consider further/implement;
- Partners agreed proposal for Ryan Black to take on role of Interim Chair of Living Here Board;
- Partners agreed the proposal for the Resilience & Sustainability Board discuss and consider future Chairperson role at their next meeting.

iii) Recovery Planning

- Suzanne Wylie highlighted the challenging context of adverse economic and social impact facing the city due to Covid-19, noting the need for partners to continue to work together and plan how services respond to changing circumstances in the immediate term but also to be planning ahead for recover. Key focus for the Partnership will be to work together with communities, to ensure Belfast recovers as quickly and as effectively, with as much impact for people as possible.
- Suzanne Wylie highlighted the Council's work to consider impacts on the city, and the Council's commitment to support those citizens, communities and businesses during these challenging times as set out in the Belfast Our Recovery framework published by the Council. This sets out where Council consider the city's focus needs to be over the coming months and beyond. This framework will help frame our work partners, both in delivering key interventions, but also to inform upcoming reviews of shared city plans, including the Belfast Agenda over the next year.
- Key element of this work to plan for recovery is a strong commitment to work with communities and engage citizens and the community sector, as well as businesses and others in planning recovery at community level.
- Building on work that has been discussed at the Living Here Board and here at the CPP on several occasions at previous meetings, this will be taken forward through the work being brought forward to co-design/develop with partners and local areas, 4x Area plans for North, South, East and West of the city. Initial focus will be on what is needed to help communities recover (social, economic, environmental) from Covid- focusing on local priorities.
- In advance of this process Belfast City Council will be doing some online public engagement via a new online platform before Christmas. This will create opportunities for citizens and other stakeholders including CVS, businesses to get involved in sharing ideas and discussions about what is important in their area for recovery. BCC team has already engaging community sector partners, including the new VCSE Panel to develop the approach.

ACTIONS AGREED/NEXT STEPS:

- Partners agreed to establish a joint working group (report in via the Living Here Board) to take forward the work on Area Planning (Belfast City Council Community Planning team to issue an invitation following this meeting to partners to seek participation in this group).

4. Employability NI

Colum Boyle, Deputy Secretary, DfC and Deirdre Ward, Director of Work & Wellbeing Division DfC presented an update on DfC's Employability NI initiative including Local Inclusive Labour Market Partnerships (LILMPs) and how these might work in Belfast, drawing attention to the following key points:

- Partners were asked to commit to a project on 'demand / workforce planning', linking Long Term Unemployed / economically inactive to opportunities and jobs (key partners likely to include BHSCT and Belfast Harbour). This was previously looked at under W&L Board and will be revisited, ensuring all partners engage (looking at both job vacancies and other opportunities e.g. work placements). While the current focus is on lower skilled / inactive, there is also a need to look at opportunities for higher skilled vacancies and consider how pathways can be built to those opportunities for those with lower skills levels at present.
- Several sectors have continued to recruit even in recent months, e.g. social care/ healthcare and logistics. It was agreed to target the sectors that we know are likely to have these opportunities and to build an understanding of the scale / timeframes etc.
- Ongoing engagement is required with providers in the community/ voluntary and private sectors – ensuring that they were aware of what was happening but ensuring that they were engaged as appropriate and not involved in strategic level discussions where there may be conflicts of interest.
- Insights – key partners include DfC's Analytical Services Unit and QUB (who have been working with the council on employability insights to date).

The group were also informed that QUB, in partnership with DfE have designed 8 postgrad qualifications for people who have been furloughed or lost their job due to COVID that may want to reskill.

It was suggested that in order to have maximum impact and considering the challenges ahead, that the proposed work by DfC on employability is aligned to DfE's work on skills. In order to address the current challenges, DfE is supporting over 3,000 free places on fully-accredited short courses, delivered by the local further and higher education providers. The courses are open to those who have been impacted by coronavirus to help them retrain and improve their skills.

ACTIONS TAKEN/NEXT STEPS:

- Partners agreed the proposal to establish the Employability NI initiative and Local Inclusive Labour Mark Partnership model and align with community planning structure in Belfast.
- Partners also agreed
 - To consider the request to provide representation to an HR officer task and finish group which will collate a workforce planning exercise
 - To identify any data sources they hold which could be used to inform the Labour Market Intelligence; and
 - That the Employability NI initiative should commence stakeholder engagement in Belfast by attending a future meeting of the VCSE Sectoral Advisory Panel.

5. Educational Underachievement

John Unsworth, Education Authority and Chair of Education Inequalities Subgroup provided an update on the current context with the educational sector and schools' recovery. This included an update on the focus of the Educational Inequalities Subgroup and the commitment required from partners:

- Data Development Agenda - DE, EA reps to meet with QUB to identify opportunities to address data gaps and provide analysis and insight that can inform future programming.
- Definition of Specific Interventions/Opportunities - The next meeting of the EI Subgroup will be convened in the coming weeks. At this meeting partners will be asked to consider and agree specific opportunities and interventions (short, medium and long term) for improving educational attainment. Partners were asked to bring ideas to the meeting and to consider how they can practically support and resource emerging initiatives.

ACTIONS TAKEN/NEXT STEPS:

- Partners agreed to:
 - endorse the recommendations as set out, including the development and implementation of specific programmes and interventions to address educational attainment challenges; as well as supporting data development agenda to inform future interventions; and
 - the programme of work EA Subgroup sub-group to be taken forward via the Working & Learning Board.

6. Drugs, Alcohol and Mental Health

Gary McMichael (joint chair of Belfast Drug and Alcohol Co-ordination Team and Chief Executive of ASCERT) presented to the Partnership making a number of observations and recommendations including:

- The Strategic Leadership Group, comprising executive representation from a range of partners who has a direct or indirect role, to provide oversight of this work, reporting back to the CPP.
- Commitment was sought for key partners' involvement. An operational subgroup would be formed to develop and support the delivery of a resourced action plan – a copy of which will be circulate to partners, and that a resourced action plan would be developed and circulated to partners.
- CPP consideration and commitment to adopting a 'complex lives' approach similar to the approach adopted in Doncaster, whereby an interagency approach would be taken to support vulnerable people who may be affected by a range of issues impacting upon health and emotional wellbeing. The intention would be to develop an integrated Belfast action plan and work towards joint planning, pooled or coordinated commissioning/ funding and agreeing shared outcomes and measures of success.

- Potential support from colleagues from the Doncaster Complex Lives Alliance to support our work and act as a critical friend and input into our work.

ACTIONS TAKEN/NEXT STEPS:

Partners agreed to:

- Endorse recommendations that Strategic Leadership Group provide oversight of this work and report back to CPP.
- Operational Subgroup to be formed with representation from partners.
- Adopt the complex lives model – whole system approach, and develop an integrated Belfast Action Plan

7. Warm & Well Programme

Iain Deboys, Health and Social Care Board, and Chair of Belfast Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership presented an update on the ‘Warm and Well’ Programme summarising:

- The evaluation of Phase I and recommendations for Phase II.
- Implementation of Phase 2 of programme (extending specific focus into South and East Belfast), seeking specific support from partners to deliver phase 2 and to utilise community assets.
- Seeking to mainstream elements of the programme and help inform emerging strategies, programmes and interventions e.g. Energy Strategy, Fuel Poverty Strategy, Affordable Warmth Scheme etc.
- Key messaging for engagement in engaging with departments including the unique opportunity to enhance alignment with government policy / strategy around including:
 - Energy – The Department for Economy has begun the process of developing a new energy strategy to de-carbonise the Northern Ireland energy sector by 2050 at least cost to the consumer.
 - Fuel Poverty – The Department for Communities are developing a new Fuel Poverty Strategy which will seek to support vulnerable people through direct support and interventions to increase energy efficiency in our homes.
 - Belfast Resilience Strategy – significant focus on climate mitigation and adoption and more to low carbon economy. Key area of focus identified is improving the energy efficiency of existing and new housing stock and moving to a low carbon housing stock. This will not only support environmental recovery but also support vulnerable people e.g. fuel poverty.

Partners welcomed the focus on considering the multiple determinants which impact upon vulnerable people and the need for a whole-system and streamlined approach to identifying those at risk and bringing together the range of services to support those who may be vulnerable and improve health and wellbeing.

ACTIONS TAKEN/NEXT STEPS:

Partners were asked to:

- Review policies to align with the Policy Ask;
- Help identify the vulnerable through their frontline teams – information and support available to assist partners
- Communicate the messages that:
 - Cold homes are a danger to health
 - Support is available through a single number
 - The flu vaccination is important for those at risk

8. Growing the Economy & City Development Priorities

John Greer, Belfast City Council’s Director of Economic Development provided an update on proposed priority areas of focus for the Growing the Economy and City Development Board, identified following a workshop and subsequent engagements with Partners. Proposed areas of focus included:

- Housing;

- Enterprise & Business Growth;
- Supporting tourism, arts, entertainment and hospitality;
- Access, Connectivity & Active Travel; and
- Future City Centre Programme.

Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development provided an update on housing outlining a proposed approach for bringing forward a programme of work around housing and delivering the growth ambitions set out within the Belfast Agenda.

The identification of housing as a priority for the Partnership was welcomed, especially considering the linkages across the Belfast Agenda. It was recognised that there was an abundance of activity and a dedicated delivery group would be helpful to pull it together in a coherent way for the city. The group were informed that planning was underway for the 2021 House Condition Survey which would provide important evidence to tackle energy efficiency and decarbonisation in the city's housing stock.

Lisa Toland, Senior Manager, Economy at Belfast City Council highlighted the ongoing development of the Enterprise Framework, seeking partners input to ongoing design and agreement that the Board shapes its design and delivery going forward.

ACTIONS TAKEN/NEXT STEPS

Partners agreed:

- the recommended priorities for the Growing the Economy and City Development (GtE&CD) Board;
- that the GtE&CD Board should take a lead role in driving forward the programme of work around housing and supporting the wider population growth ambitions whilst linking across all the Belfast Agenda boards to ensure wider opportunities are delivered;
- that a reconfigured Delivery Group (under GtE&CD Board) will be formed to develop, oversee and drive implementation of specific programmes of work; and
- the GtE&CD Board to identify opportunities to maximise collaboration between the public and private sectors to help deliver on the ambitious targets of the Belfast Agenda.

9. Draft Resilience Strategy

Grainia Long, Belfast Resilience Commissioner, and Chair of Resilience and Sustainability Board provided a summary of the Belfast Resilience Strategy, updating the Partnership on the revised strategy document and its planned launch, scheduled for December 2020.

ACTIONS TAKEN/NEXT STEPS:

Partners agreed to

- Endorse the Belfast Resilience Strategy; and
- Note the request for Partners to lend support to the work programme of the Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board as it enters the delivery phase by integrating with existing and forthcoming programmes and projects.

10. Next Steps / Close

Suzanne Wylie thanked everyone for attending and for the contributions made by all presenters. Partners welcomed progression on a number of fronts and recommended the need to increase communicate to the general public and community planning partners.

It was agreed that slides and action based note of the meeting would be circulated to all partners.

The next meeting of the CPP has been scheduled for Wednesday 3rd February 2021 at 2pm.

Attendance List:

Name	Organisation
Statutory Community Planning Partner organisations	
Suzanne Wylie (Chairperson)	Belfast City Council
Cllr Aine Groogan	Belfast City Council
Cllr Stevie Corr	Belfast City Council
Cllr John Kyle	Belfast City Council
Cllr Mal O'Hara	Belfast City Council
Cllr Tina Black	Belfast City Council
Cllr Sarah Bunting	Belfast City Council
Cllr Kate Nicholl	Belfast City Council
Ailbhe Hickey	NI Housing Executive
Alan McKeown	Invest NI
Bryan Nelson	Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
Iain Deboys	Health and Social Care Board
Jim O'Hagan	Libraries NI
John News	Sport NI
John Unsworth	Education Authority
Jonathan Gamble	NI Fire and Rescue Service
Majella Corrigan	Council for Catholic Maintained Schools
Martin Graham	Tourism NI
Robert Clements	NI Housing Executive
Support Partner organisations	
Irene Sherry	VCSE Sectoral Advisory Panel
Jim Girvan	VCSE Sectoral Advisory Panel
Alastair Stewart	Queens University Belfast
Damien Duffy	Belfast Metropolitan College
Geraldine McAteer	West Belfast Partnership
Gerry Lennon	Visit Belfast
Helen Crickard	Forward South Partnership
Maurice Kincaid	EastSide Partnership
Nicola Verner	Greater Shankill Partnership
Seamus McAleavy	NICVA
Simon Hamilton	Belfast Chamber of Commerce
NI Government Departments	
Anthony Carleton	Department for Communities
Colum Boyle	Department for Communities
Deirdre Ward	Department for Communities

Also In Attendance
Gary McMichael (BDACT and Ascertain)
John Tully (Belfast City Council, Director of City and Organisational Strategy)
John Greer (Belfast City Council, Director of Economic Development)
Ryan Black (Belfast City Council, Director of Neighbourhood Services)
Grainia Long (Belfast City Council, Commissioner for Resilience)
Christine Robinson (Belfast City Council, Policy Strategy and Partnerships)
David Cuthbert (Belfast City Council, Community Planning)
Jamie Uprichard (Belfast City Council, Community Planning)
Kevin Heaney (Belfast City Council, Portfolio Management)
Brian Carr (Belfast City Council, Portfolio Co-ordinator)
Clare Mullen (Belfast City Council, Portfolio Co-ordinator)
Richard McLernon (Belfast City Council, Commissioner for Resilience Office)
Cathy Keenan (Belfast City Council, Economic Development)
Sinead O'Regan (Belfast City Council, Economic Development)
Tony Kearns (Belfast City Council, Economic Development)
Lisa Toland (Belfast City Council, Economic Development)
Cathy Reynolds (Belfast City Council, City Regeneration & Development)
Clare Hutchinson (Belfast City Council, Policy Strategy and Partnerships)
Kelly Gilliland (Belfast City Council, City and Neighbourhood Services Department)