



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSraitha Báin
Derry Cittie & Strabane
Districk Council

Directorate Delivery Plan 2022/23

Health & Community Directorate

Derry City and Strabane District Council

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Section One: Directorate Profile / Summary

1.1 Purpose of Directorate

The Health and Community Directorate comprising the Community Development and Leisure and Health and Community Wellbeing services is responsible for working collaboratively with partners across the statutory and third sector to support and develop core service delivery:

- Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment through enforcement and advisory activities
- Placing health and social wellbeing at the core of service delivery using cross sectoral and inclusive community development approaches across Directorate services
- Leading and supporting partnership approaches to address the underlying causes of poor health and reduce health inequalities
- Developing more resilient, engaged and sustainable communities who are supported and resourced to address disadvantage and inequalities
- Provision of people focused services and facilities which sustain vibrant communities through quality community services including embedding provision for good relations, Community Safety, Children and Young People's activities
- Supporting collaborative working and partnership with Government Departments, the statutory and the third sectors to ensure the benefits that arise from community planning are realised and opportunities for local engagement in shaping these outcomes is maximised.
- Sustaining and increasing participation opportunities for sport and physical activity by ensuring places and spaces are increased, modernised and of sufficient quality to maximise the delivery of sports and physical activity programmes for performance and participation to achieve wider societal and cross sectoral benefits
- Leading on all aspects of social, community regeneration and wellbeing initiatives to support the shared and interlinked objectives of economic development and environment and regeneration across the Council and with wider external stakeholders.

The context of Derry City and Strabane District Strategic Inclusive Growth Plan 2017 – 2032 sets out the vision of a **‘thriving, prosperous and sustainable city and district with equality of opportunity for all’**. Our service delivery must therefore contribute to the delivery of that vision and meet the needs of our 149,500 residents across the City, Strabane and our rural areas to improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing outcomes for all residents.

The social pillar of the plan sets out the challenges that our service delivery must respond to: **a changing age profile with a projected 66% increase in our over 65 age group and a 12% reduction in the under 16 age group by 2,039; along with a continued trend of health inequalities in comparison to the NI average; significant issues with drug and alcohol addiction; higher levels of deprivation in our urban and rural areas; the legacy of the conflict and continued community tensions**. These challenges will of course be impacted further by the new emerging impacts of the COVID pandemic which will create both short term and potentially sustained demands on future service delivery. The Directorate has begun to respond in part to this through its active role in the COVID response and recovery phases and participation in the newly established poverty and rural working groups.

The strategic community planning outcomes and associated actions provide the strategic focus for service delivery:

Community Plan Outcome	Actions
<p>Community Development</p> <p>We live in a shared, equal and safe community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are more actively engaged and can influence decisions which affect us • We have safer communities • We have access to quality facilities and services • Our community and voluntary sector is more resilient and sustainable
<p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>We live long, healthy and fulfilling lives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have improved physical and mental health • Health inequalities are reduced • We are more physically active • We are active and more independent
<p>Children and Young People</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our children and young people are safer, healthier, more respected and included

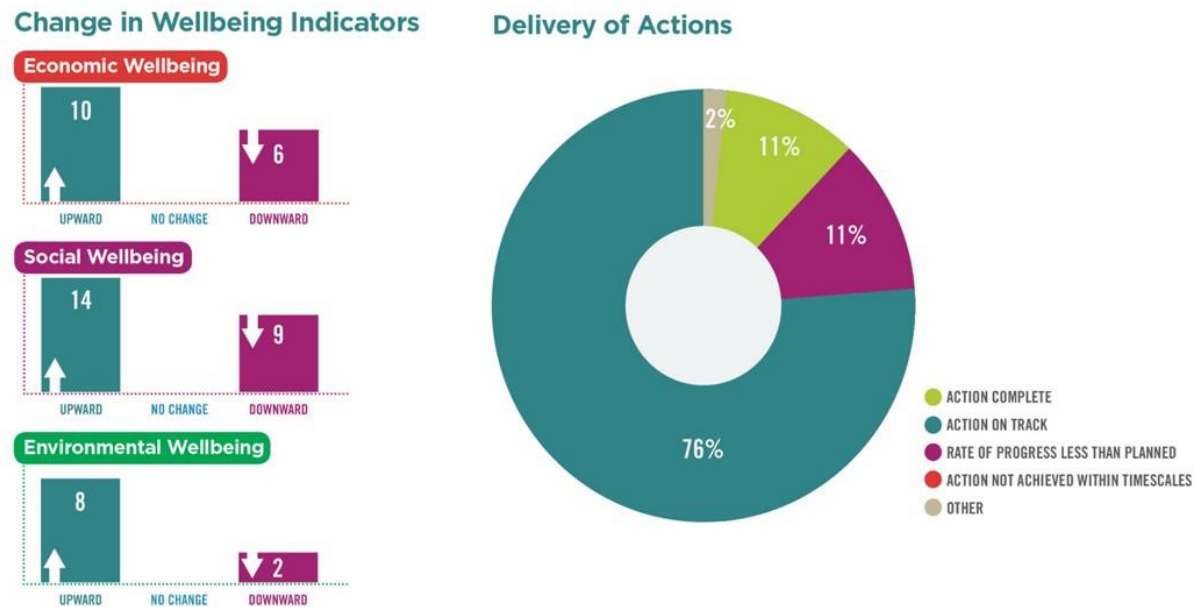
Our Children and Young People have the best start in life

- Our children and young people are better able to fully realise their potential and become active, responsible citizens

Progress towards achieving outcomes at a strategic level is set out in the statement of progress for the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-32.

<https://growderrystrabane.com/performance-monitoring-2/>

Overall the indicative change in population indicators by social wellbeing domain show:



The Directorate outcomes will also support the delivery of the Council's corporate Mission:

'Deliver improved social, economic and environmental outcomes for everyone' and the fulfilment of the aligned objectives:

- 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

1.2 Services Provided by Health and Community Directorate



There are currently 335 staff employed within community development and leisure



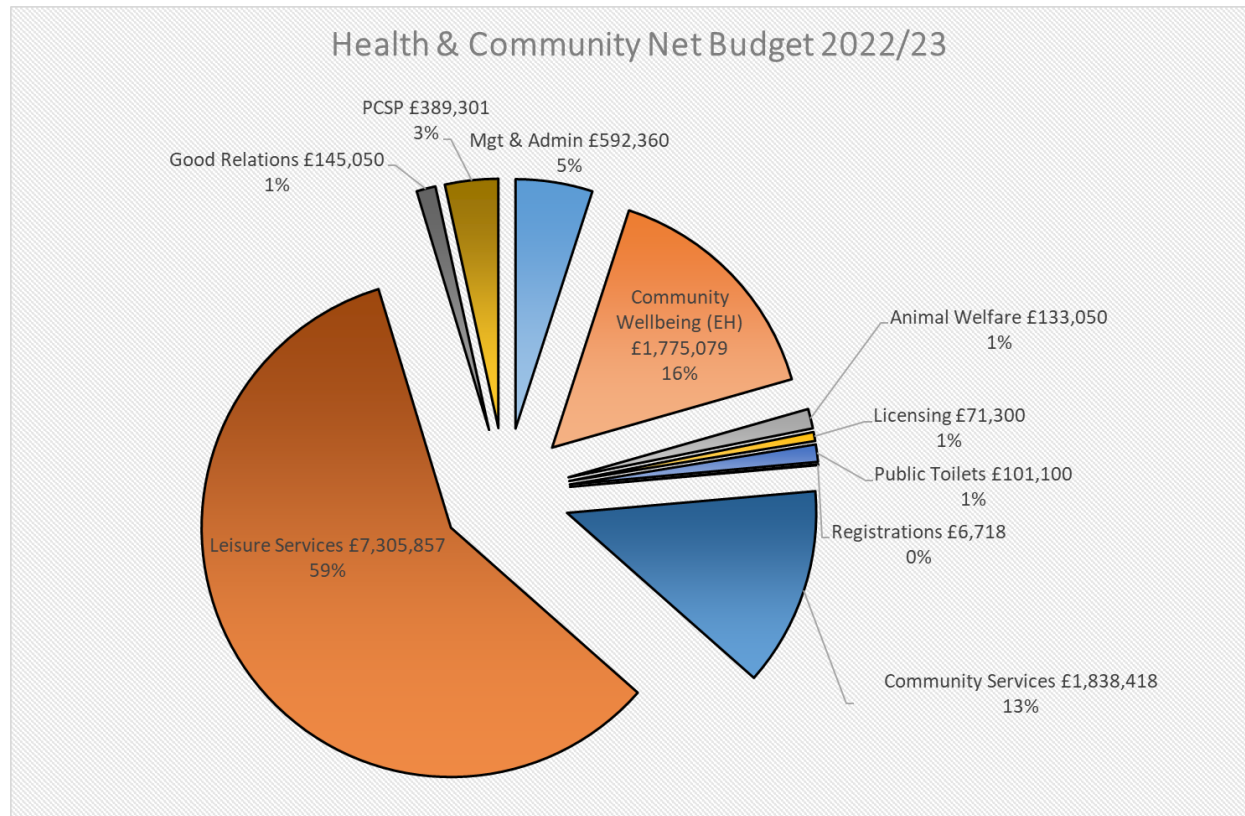
There are currently 61 staff employed within health & community wellbeing

1.3 Summary of Resources

Financial Resources

The Directorate has a net budget of £12,358,233 representing 18.2% of the Council's overall net expenditure budget of £67,963,958 for the 2022/23 year.

A breakdown of these resources by service area is provided in the diagram below.



Section Two: Achievements 2021/22

2.1 Highlights

Community Development

- £2,758,540 for the delivery of Community Development and Advice Services programmes.
- Community Centre Venues fund supported 30 Venues with £287,400 grant aid.
- 81 Community & Voluntary Sector groups provided with £307,747 community support grant aid.
- Good Relations Action Plan consists of 18 programmes supported by £371,000 across 4 themes:
 - Children and Young People
 - Shared Community
 - Safe Community
 - Cultural Expression
- 49 groups supported with Core and Programme Support of £187,479.
- Good Relations week – promoted in September 2021.
- Rural Youth Audit funded to identify the gaps in service provision within the Sperrin, Derg and Faughan DEA's.
- Consultation to support the development of Good Relations Action Plan and Strategy for 2022 to 2025.
- BAME project which provides support and programmes to ethnic minority communities including Irish Travellers and the Ubuntu Festival.
- Training programme for staff, Elected Members and the community with an event delivered on the conflict in Bosnia and general Good Relations.
- Advice Services budget £1,060,503 – breakdown supporting Generalist Voluntary Advice £732,811; Tribunal/Appeals £91,078; Welfare Reform £112,300; Financial Inclusion £12,292; CSP Fair Funding Salary uplift £89,054; Welfare Reform Fair Funding Salary Uplift £9,959; Quality Mark £13,007.
- Transition Fund of £165,792 supporting 11 Community & Voluntary groups to exit from the Access to Food programme with the aim of providing a longer term more sustainable approach to tackling food poverty / food insecurity.
- Grass-roots Covid Support Fund of £136,619 allocated to 50 Community & Voluntary Sector groups to support community-led community development and advice.

- Social Supermarket funding of £112,424 allocated to support the co-design and partnership approach to developing a sustainable social supermarket model.
- Local Community Planning Partnerships continued to operate with a main focus on Covid 19 Community & Voluntary sector response with Consensual Grant Making of £120,000 to the 7 DEAs and Strabane Town.
- Key Strategic SLA's in place to the total value of £147,500 per year.
- Rural Support – £70,000 SLA in place to support rural groups.
- Foyle Search & Rescue -£15,000 – A crisis intervention service focused on preservation of life in and around the River Foyle, delivering effective education and training programmes, training volunteers, promoting safety on the River Foyle, maintaining lifebelts along the walkways.
- Air Ambulance - £10,000 SLA in place with the Air Ambulance, in partnership with the NI Ambulance Service to provide Helicopter Emergency Medical Service.
- Developing Healthy Communities - £15,000 SLA – key objective to broaden and deepen engagement with the World Health Organisation Designation Healthy Cities across DCSDC area.
- Newtownstewart 2000 Centre - £37,500 SLA – to provide Leisure and Community facilities and programmes.
- Active Citizenship Through Sport programme - £49,552.04 – 5 Urban DEAs receive funding to deliver a range of accredited sports and generic coaching courses which allows local people to deliver and add value to new or existing coaching, physical activity and exercise programmes in the five Urban NR areas.
- Community Centre Capital Builds – Two new state of the art Community Centres Completed, Shantallow Community Centre (£2,212,574) completed 26th June 2021 and Galliagh Community Centre (approx £1.35million) completed 28th June 2022.
- Pride of Place Awards – three Community groups from the DCSDC area nominated under the following headings:
 - Cities Competition – Community Wellbeing Initiative; Liberty Consortium – the Playtrail
 - Cities Competition – Community Youth Led Initiative; Glen Development Initiative – Party People Youth Social Enterprise
 - Main Competition – Community Resilience; The Drummond Centre Project Ltd, Donemana.
- Age Friendly –3-year Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan for the area inclusive of persons aged 50+ years.
- Positive Ageing Month, with events and activities for Older People, celebrating the contribution that older people make to their communities.
- Donegal County Council and DCSDC have established joint working to explore options for further cross border Age Friendly initiatives across the North West Region.

- Waterside Shared Village (WSV) – the Official Launch was held on 12th May 2021. Estimated completion by June 2022. A transformative shared space which is iconic in nature, not for its design, but that in bringing two interface communities together to develop a shared community space, rather than duplicate facilities within their respective areas. It is intended that the WSV will act as an exemplar of good relations and peace and reconciliation development across the region.
- Completion of a Rural Issues Priority Report for the three Rural DEAs of Sperrin, Derg and Faughan DEAs.

Children and Young People

- New cross departmental and organisational governance arrangements in place with buy in from key services.
- 22 Active members recruited to Youth Council.
- Ten meetings of Youth Council and three participation events delivered. Young people represented on Local Action Group and EA Grants Panel.
- Consultation on draft UNICEF Action Plan complete with final Action Plan due to be submitted by end of April 2022.

Policing & Community Safety Partnership Achievements

- Financial Leverage Ratio of over 1.6:1: £672,759 of external funding secured.
- Project Support Funding of £181,752 awarded for 26 local community safety projects.
- Support Funding of £43,132 awarded to the Local Growth Partnerships in Sperrin, Derg, Foyleside, Moor, Derg and Strabane Town.
- 46 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes supported covering over 3,330 homes (Jan '22).
- 21 RAPID Drug bins installed with over 60,000 tablets/capsules removed, recorded and destroyed (Jan '22).
- 154 homes fitted with additional home security equipment (Jan '22).
- 14,835 patrols carried out by the Community Safety Wardens (Feb '22).
- Received and actioned 2,117 Anti-Social Behaviour referrals to Community Safety Wardens (Feb '22).
- 42 new referrals dealt with by the Support Hub between April and December 2021.
- 6 Speed Indicator Devices deployed at speeding hotspots across the district.

Sports Development

- Development of a district wide Physical Activity, Wellbeing and Sport Strategy ongoing.

- Healthy towns partnership programme across the district with 35 groups involved in programme delivery and 22 walk/cycle programme leaders trained.
- Couch to 5K/8K, cycling initiatives, Junior Sports programmes, Santa Run, Fit February, Summer Scheme and various fitness initiatives.
- Grant Aid - 4 separate funding programmes for clubs totalling £350,000.
- GP Referral Programme using a hybrid model of outdoor classes and face to face sessions when guidelines permitted.
- MacMillan Move More Programme to assist people living with, and beyond cancer delivered via online challenges. Extension to funding secured for a further 27 months up until April 2024.
- £443K investment in sports and an additional £351K secured to improve the standard of Council pitches and pavilions.
- Melvin Multi Sport Hub - Conditional letter of offer from Sport NI to progress to planning and design stage.
- Coach education and CPD courses with 170 participants.
- Athlete Support Scheme supports 47 coaches.
- 36 clubs and 106 coaches engaged via Peace IV funded 'United Communities through Sport'.
- Prehen Pontoon including provision of a disability hoist due for completion – end of April 2022.
- District Sports Committee meetings held virtually although face to face meetings are proposed for the near future.
- Delivery of Active Citizenship funding to 5 NRAs, this included sport and activity programmes, targeting children, older people and small scale programmes.

Leisure Services

- Melvin Arena reopened after redevelopment works providing for premier intermediate league standard games through the addition of stadium seating and changing areas.
- Completion of re-branding and roll out of Ryan McBride Brandywell Stadium.
- NIFL Ladies Premier League returned to Melvin Sports Complex.
- Covid testing facilities hosted at Melvin Sports Complex and Templemore Sports Complex.
- Covid Vaccination Programme delivered at Foyle Arena.
- Ulster Schools GAA football hosted.
- First Rugby Junior blitz hosted at Melvin Sports Complex.
- Successful reintroduction of Learn to Swim and schools swim programme.
- Achieved 80% retention (across all leisure sites) of recurring membership revenue (pre-covid).

COVID 19 Response – Health & Community Wellbeing

- The Covid pandemic had a significant impact on the normal planned work of the Health and Community Wellbeing Services. The teams have adapted to the significant health challenges posed by the pandemic and had to enforce legal provisions introduced by the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions Regulations (NI) 2021). The teams continued to deliver critical services and carry out compliance visits to essential premises and provide support and advice to all businesses within the Council's enforcement sector.
- Close engagement and communication with councils Emergency Preparedness Group, Department of Health (DoH) and Public Health Agency (PHA) regarding community transmission, testing and tracing during the pandemic.
- Guidance prepared for a range of business sectors on the Coronavirus regulations and guidance.
- Enforcement of the Health Protections (Coronavirus Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021 (Restriction Regulations) with respect to business closures and restrictions during the emergency period. Engagement with businesses, stakeholders and partners in relation to messaging, advice and support.
- Amended policies, procedures and improved IT systems in order to interface with customers and support businesses adhere to statutory requirements during covid recovery.
- Business Continuity Plans reviewed and new operational procedures and Safe Systems of Work implemented to mitigate risk and assist staff carry out their statutory inspections and investigations.

Food Safety

Due to Covid Pandemic, some of the Food team's planned work could not take place due to restrictions and Food Businesses not being permitted to open. Adaptations to work-plans had to be developed as shown below :-

- Provided support and guidance to 100% of all new food registered premises i.e., 180 new food business operators, before they opened.
- Contacted all Food Hygiene Rated 0, 1, 2 premises with relevant information sent, information obtained on any change to their activities and advice given.
- Adhered to and complied with FSA Guidance to DC's for Food Control Work during the Pandemic, namely the Local Authority (LA) Recovery Plan issued in June 2021. This plan covers the period June 2021- March 2023/24.
- Completed 3 update returns to the FSA on team's progress in achieving compliance with the LA Recovery Plan.
- Utilised council's social media channels to signpost businesses to the sector specific guidance developed by our team and to help inform of other government guidance aimed at tackling the coronavirus pandemic.

- Updated Council website regularly with DCSDC bespoke Covid Guidance and other Government agencies' advice and guidance.
- Assisted H&S team with 425 Covid related compliance and advisory visits.
- Successful operation of the mandatory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme with 95% of all premises having a 4 or 5 rating.
- Conducted 470 Food Hygiene inspections and 260 Food Standards Inspections - Unable to do full programme of planned inspections due to Covid Pandemic restrictions.
- 100 New Premises inspected for Food Hygiene and Food Standards.
- Conducted 240 inspections for Allergen Compliance Initiative.
- Disseminated Prepacked For Direct Sale (PPDS) information on Nastaha's Law to Food Business Operators, 350 emails sent out to relevant food businesses.
- Investigated 930 requests for service.
- Investigated 43 notifications of infectious diseases.
- Procured 140 chemical food samples and 280 micro food samples including participation in 2 national surveys.
- Calorie Wise Awards initiated in 5 Food Businesses, halted due to pandemic.
- Undertook National FHRS Consistency exercise.
- Investigated 2 food allergen incidents resulting in the issuing of 2 formal cautions.
- Undertook cross-departmental work with Business section in planning and operation of Halloween carnival.

BREXIT Work

- Undertook BREXIT implementation work, meetings with DAERA, FSA, Defra.
- Participated in Border Control Post (BCP) planning Work with, DAERA, FSA, Planners and Foyle Port in application to EU for designation of Foyle Port as a BCP for importation of frozen fishery products.
- Undertook 13 Certificate of Inspection (COI's) Organic SPS checks at Foyle BCP when it was designated by EU as BCP in Feb 21 for Importation of Organics.
- Engaged with FBO's to provide information re changes to Health Marks, export and import of Products of Animal Origin.
- Responded to all verification queries from DAERA regarding Approved Premises.

Service Delivery

5,241 Environmental Health service requests investigated and actioned in accordance with Council enforcement policies (up to 23 March 2022).

Health & Safety/Consumer Protection

The team continued to carry out compliance visits to essential premises and provided support and advice to all business within the Council's enforcement sector as below:

- 2,513 health and safety inspections/visits carried out of which 2,395 were coronavirus related. The coronavirus visits involved a programme of compliance monitoring visits to premises across the district focusing on coronavirus management in the workplaces and well as checking compliance with business closures and restrictions in line with the current Coronavirus Restriction Regulations.
- 721 health and safety complaints and requests for service were received, this is an increase of 670% compared to a comparable period prior to the pandemic.
- 44 workplace accident notifications were received and investigated in accordance with relevant guidance.
- An additional 198 consumer protection requests for service were received and responded to by the team.
- 6,375 emails and letters were sent to local businesses providing direct support and advice on the coronavirus restriction regulations.
- A range of Health and Safety guidance was also made available for accessing on the council website and promoted via council social media channels.
- A bespoke Guidance booklet regarding Health and Safety and Covid 19 was produced by the team to support Chinese catering businesses; this guidance was also translated into Mandarin to help address communication barriers. The initiative was supported by local PR and launched by the Mayor. The booklets were distributed to relevant premises throughout the district.
- As part of an 11 council wide initiative focused on sunbeds, the team produced a bespoke guidance leaflet and covid checklist for sunbed premises operators, this guidance was distributed over the summer period during visits to 27 sunbed premises.
- Work continued with Cancer Focus NI and the PHA regarding the Be UV Aware Campaign – Sun Safe for Outdoor Workers with: the display of awareness posters in Council buildings, the Council website was updated, an E-learning module was added to the Council's E-learning Hub and a large range of outdoor activity premises were sent Be UV Aware information.
- Funding of £49,541.66 was secured from the Office of Product safety and Standards (OPSS) for the period 21/22 for product safety work to help proactively support businesses within the district regarding the NI Protocol with respect to product safety, market surveillance and EU withdrawal.
- The above funding allowed the team to provide 920 businesses with supported and product safety guidance via email and letter, including working with councils business team to reach businesses. The Council website and social media platforms were also used to promote the relevant OPSS guidance and initiatives.

- A number of consumer product safety Market Surveillance projects in conjunction with the other 10 councils and OPSS were undertaken focusing on the supply of small high power magnets, Halloween costumes, cosmetic products and fancy dresses.
- A range of non-compliant consumer products were withdrawn from retail sale and officer assistance and guidance was provided to these businesses to enable them to gain compliance with relevant consumer product legislation. The products ranged from non-compliant toys, costumes, cosmetic products to e-cigarettes.
- Working closely with the other ten councils via the Health and Safety Liaison Group to ensure consistency and a joined up approach regarding the team's efforts with respect to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.
- Continued to liaise closely with the Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) regarding the end of the Brexit Transition period.
- Further funding of £10k was secured from OPSS to undertake a data gathering exercise regarding construction products. Currently 165 businesses that manufacture, import or distribute construction products have been contacted and offered advice and guidance on placing construction products on the market in Northern Ireland.

Health Development

Council has demonstrated its commitment to address ill health and poor wellbeing by:

- Co-ordinated 5 meetings of the Multi-agency Community Crisis Intervention Service Steering Group and secured additional funding to retain the service which is a key action within the Derry City & Strabane District's Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032.
- A Community Toilet Scheme for the Council area has been implemented.
- Derry City and Strabane Civic Forum (Alcohol, Drugs, Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing and Homelessness) brings together a range of organisations to collaborate and share best practice, map current services and develop the scope of services, which may be required to support communities.
- Member Led Working Group established and a council response to the DoH Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031 Consultation.
- £170,073.82 external funding secured to support Affordable Warmth, Home Safety and Tobacco Control programmes.
- Council promotes the Food Standard Agencies Calorie Wise Award Scheme and MenuCal tool to encourage the display of calories in food businesses.
- Partnership Agreement in place with Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service and 38 eligible households referred for a Home Safety Fire check and to have smoke detectors installed where necessary.

Housing

- Participated on the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Regional Monitoring Group regarding the delivery of the HMO function.
- 273 HMO's licensed in the DCSDC area to date (22/2/22).
- 360 homes referred to NIHE under the Affordable Warmth Scheme in line with the service level agreement for 2021/22 with 7,264 related actions to enable the applications to be referred to NIHE successfully and 531 onward referrals for ineligible applicants to Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme (NISEP), Boiler Replacement Allowance and NI Energy Advice Line.
- 191 Home Safety visits undertaken (to 23/3/22) with a resultant 93 signpostings to other schemes/services, and 93 referrals to other services such as PCSP, NIFRS, Social Services, Occupational Therapy and assisted bin lift in council.
- 197 service requests related to the private rented sector investigated and 1,802 related actions taken in response (to 23/3/22).
- Service Level Agreement in place with the Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland in relation to private water supplies. Samples and risk assessments of registered supplies undertaken in accordance with the SLA.
- Data Sharing Agreement in place with the Make the Call Team in DfC to enable referrals to be made to Make the Call and for Make the Call to refer into the Home Safety and Affordable Warmth teams.

Environment and Neighbourhoods (figures to March 2022)

- Continued monitoring of local air quality throughout the Council district as part of Local Air Quality Management framework which includes 5 continuous air monitoring sites and 50 fixed diffusion tubes. Calibrations undertaken in accordance with Technical Guidance to achieve data capture of 90%.
- Presentation to local Councillors on current air quality issues including air quality action planning and future implications of Clean Air Quality Strategy for Northern Ireland.
- Feedback received on Air Quality Progress Report completed on Local Air Quality recommending revocation of Spencer Road Air Quality Management Area declared for Nitrogen Dioxide – still awaiting response from DAERA.
- £98,7476.65 funding offered including for staff costs from DAERA to support Councils Air Quality duties. Included funding for 3 new PM10 and PM2.5 monitors at Newtownstewart, Strathfoyle and Springhill. New Sulphur Dioxide monitor funded and installed at Springhill Air Monitoring Station.
- Continued response to service requests in relation to noise and air quality during Covid-19 pandemic.

- Planned inspections of Local Air Pollution Prevention and Control (LAPPC) permitted installations limited during Covid-19 pandemic. 43 installations permitted with associated annual subsistence fee income. One application for permit received.
- 621 (558: 21/22) planning consultation responses received.
- Discussion with NIEA on Industrial Pollution Control transformation which is reviewing how Local Air Pollution Prevention and Control is regulated in Northern Ireland.
- Continued engagement with NIEA on the remediation of the Mobuoy Road illegal waste site and assessmet of tarry waste sites in the Council area.
- Engage with NIEA on a regulatory Chemical and Pesticides Forum.
- Continued delivery of 'Life Project' (tree sapling to be planted for each life event) through Registration Service. During Covid-19 pandemic supply of saplings restricted to births and marriages. Local oak sapling growing initiative with North West Regional College Horticultural Unit and Creggan Country Park continues. Two community planting days completed in December 2021.
- Continue to support Northern Ireland radiation monitoring networks including environmental sampling.
- Assisted H&S team with Covid related compliance and advisory visits including GIS mapping of inspections and cases by post code.

Port Health

- Inspection of vessels on request for Ship Sanitation Certificates as required under the Public Health (Ships) Regulations (NI) 2008.
- Assist Foyle Port in the development of their Contingency Plan for the return of cruise operations in 2021.
- Engagement with the Public Health Agency on the implementation of their Port Health Plan during the ongoing COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak and monitoring Maritime Declarations of Health submitted by vessels arriving at Foyle Port.

Dog Control Service

- 8,129 dog licences issued (including 41 block licences) achieving £45,614.50 income.
- Schools education programme suspended due to Covid pandemic.
- £760 Fixed Penalty payments (Dog Licensing/straying/fouling) received until 29/03/22.
- Cross departmental Dog Fouling initiative implemented.
- 3 Dog Control Orders implemented (Dogs on Leads; Dogs on leads by direction; Dog exclusion).

Animal Welfare (figures to 28 March 2022)

- Animal welfare service through lead Council Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (FODC) ongoing.
- Approximately 330 animal welfare cases investigated with 1,569 visits, 13 Improvement Notices and 6 Formal Cautions issued. There was 1 Prosecution in the Derry City and Strabane District Council area.

Registration Service (figures to 28th February 2022)

- 1,765 births registered within the District.
- 6 stillbirths registered.
- 1,245 deaths have been registered.
- 603 Marriages registered – religious 381, civil 206, belief 16.
- Officiated at 206 Civil Marriage Ceremonies.
- 617 Marriage Notices administered.
- 0 Civil Partnership Ceremonies have been registered (new legislation introduced same sex Marriage and opposite sex Civil Partnership).
- 14 Approved Marriage/Civil Partnership venues inspected.

Licensing/Safety Advisory Group (SAG) for events (figures to March 2022)

- Continued partnership working with the Public Health Agency and PSNI in relation to Covid-19 implications for public event safety.
- Provision of advice and guidance in support of 66 planned events.
- 168 Licences/permit/registration applications received.

2.2 Progress Update

The Covid-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented global event and with the ongoing response to this health crisis there are no certainties about the timeframe for a total recovery from it. Services across the Directorate have however strongly responded to the crisis phase and are now reshaping to support the recovery phases.

There was significant impact on the normal planned work of the Health and Community Wellbeing section requiring the team to adapt to the health challenges posed and to enforce legal provisions introduced by the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions Regulations (NI) 2020. Alongside this, the continued implementation of routine services continued to support the business and hospitality sector.

Leisure and sports services are also seeking to recover and rebuild from the impact of Covid-19 including the need to reshape services in response to the trends arising from the pandemic and the repurposing of key sites to assist with the covid response delivery by supporting vaccination clinics and test centres. As we emerge from the pandemic these services are seeking to maximise on rebuilding participation taking into account:

- Changing habits and routines resulting from lockdown;
- Changing trends of participation in leisure and non-leisure activities;
- Increasing numbers wanting to participate in individual activities such as cycling and walking;
- The growth in online digital activity which provides exercise opportunities in the home and elsewhere;
- Re-engage and re-energise the huge volunteer base which supports the local sports eco system.

The wider community development teams have remained critical to leading engagement and partnership with the community and voluntary sector and with financial support from the Department for Communities administering much needed financial support towards community based response efforts in terms of food, fuel poverty and advice services.

At Quarter 3 the Directorate had completed 60% of actions identified in the 2021/22 Delivery Plan (as opposed to 49% for the previous year). These will be updated to reflect year-end figures post 31st March 2022.

Section Three: Improvement Planning and Performance

The Directorate has set a number of improvement objectives for 2021/22 which aim to bring about improvement in one or more of the following improvement criteria:

- Strategic effectiveness (SE)
- Fairness (F)
- Innovation
- Service quality (SQ)
- Sustainability (S)
- Service availability (SA)
- Efficiency (E)

An overview of these objectives and the work we will be undertaking in 2022/23 is set out in paragraphs 3.1 – 3.3 below, under the headings of:

- 2022/23 Directorate Improvement Objectives (Outcome Improvement Objective, Other Service Improvement Objectives and Covid Recovery Objectives)
- Mainstreaming the Equality and Disability Duties, Rural Needs and Climate Change

Details of how we will deliver these commitments and monitor and measure progress/success are set out in paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5.

3.1 2022/23 Directorate Improvement Objectives

An overview of the outcome and/or service improvement objectives and how they relate to the Community/Corporate Plan is set out in the table below.

Community/Corporate Plan Objective	Directorate Outcome / Improvement Objective / Service Objective 2022/23	Link to Improvement Criteria
<p>Social Wellbeing Pillar Community Plan priority outcome areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development – We live in a shared, equal and safe community: • More actively engaged and can influence the decisions that affect us; • Have safer Communities; • Have Access to quality facilities and services; • Community and voluntary sector is more resilient and sustainable. <p>Corporate Plan objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote healthy outcomes 	<p>To increase participation in local planning, engagement and communication processes by developing collaborative approaches.</p> <p>To create opportunities to improve, extend and maximise access to facilities and services which deliver increased safety and cohesion within the community.</p> <p>Establish innovative practices which develop more sustainable rural communities and increase the capacity to engage rural, disengaged and excluded communities.</p>	<p>SE, F, SA, SI</p> <p>F, SQ, SA, I</p> <p>I, F, SA, SQ</p>
<p>Social Wellbeing Pillar Community Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Wellbeing – We live long healthy and fulfilling lives: • We age actively and more independently; • Health inequalities are reduced: 	<p>Outcome Performance Objective</p> <p>To assist a return to healthy lifestyles through regrowing participation in high quality, leisure sports and physical activity:</p>	<p>SA, SQ, E, F, I</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are more physically active; We have improved physical and mental health. <p>Corporate Plan objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote healthy outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To re-engage and achieve user numbers of the Council's leisure facilities (HC1A) with a target of 100% of baseline user numbers and through retention and growth strategies achieve net gain within membership base; To target under represented groups through inclusive leisure, sport and physical activity participation to lead more active lives (HC1B); Maintain current high levels of customer satisfaction/net promoter score (HC1D); To improve participation rates for those living in deprived areas (HC1E). <p>To promote health, safety and wellbeing and safeguard the environment by supporting communities and businesses.</p>	<p>SQ, SA, SE, F</p>
<p>Social and Wellbeing Pillar Community Plan</p> <p>Children and Young People – Our children and young people have the best start in life; our children and young people are safer, healthier, more respected and included; our children and young people are better able to fully realise their potential and become active, responsible citizens.</p> <p>Corporate Plan objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote healthy outcomes. 	<p>Improve services for children and young people by embedding a child's rights based approach across partnership structures, creating structures and informal opportunities where CYP can be involved in decisions which affect them.</p>	<p>F, SQ, SA, E1</p>
<p>Cross cutting Community Plan and Corporate Plan themes:</p>	<p>Make effective arrangements for the delivery of cross cutting community planning and corporate plan themes.</p>	<p>F, I, E, S</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing inequality and promoting inclusive growth; • Good Relations; • Sustainability; • Rural Development. 		
Improved customer satisfaction	Increase the cost effectiveness and corporate compliance of services.	E, SE

3.2 Outcome Improvement Objective

<p>To assist a return to healthy lifestyles through regrowing participation in high quality leisure, sports and physical activity(HC1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To re-engage and achieve user numbers of the Council’s leisure facilities (HC1A) with a target of pre-covid levels baseline user numbers and through retention and growth strategies achieve pre-covid gym membership capacity • To target under represented groups through inclusive leisure, sport and physical activity participation to lead more active lives (HC1B); • Maintain current high levels of customer satisfaction/net promoter score (HC1D) • To target participation by those living in deprived areas (HC1E)
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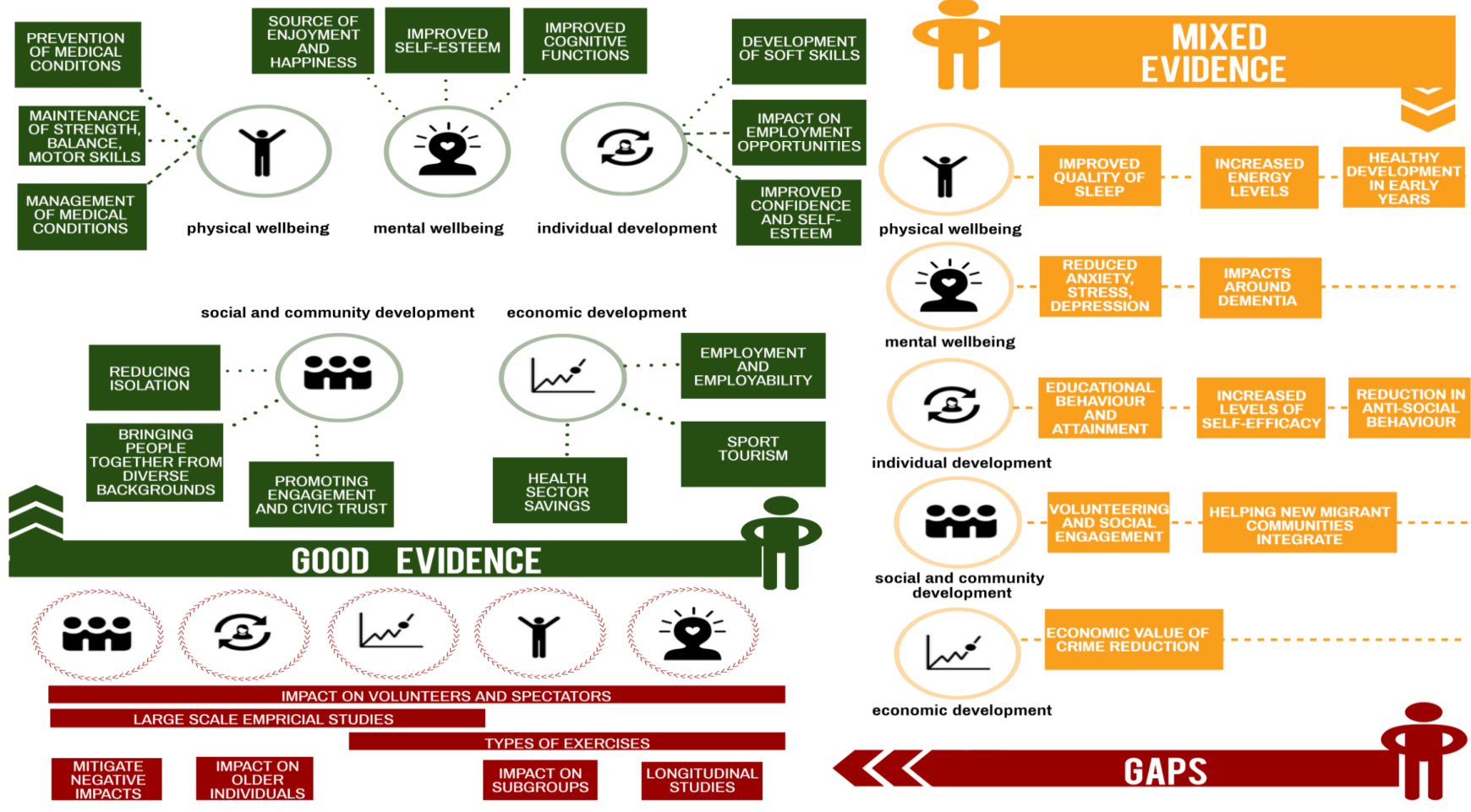
Engaging users in leisure, sport and physical activity has become an increasing priority at World, National, Governing body and local level. Notably at a Northern Ireland level both the Department for Communities and Sport NI have published new strategy documents and in addition APSE has published a report on Securing the Future of Public Sport and Leisure Services. All of these confirm the need for increased physical activity levels in order to address individual and societal health and wellbeing benefits.

The **World Health Organisation** (WHO) strategy paper sets out a global action plan which includes a focus on physical activity as a leading factor in health and wellbeing in the European Region, with particular attention to the burden of non communicable diseases (NCD) associated with insufficient activity levels and sedentary behaviour. The global action plan *More Active People For A Healthier World 2018-30* provides a framework for a whole of society approach. It aims to cover all forms of physical activity throughout the lifecourse. The WHO recognise that physical activity is proven to help and prevent NCD's such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and breast and colon cancer. It also helps hypertension, overweight and obesity and can improve mental health, quality of life and wellbeing. The key target is to reduce world physical inactivity by 10% by 2025 and 15% by 2030 through delivery themes of Active Societies to achieve a shift in both supporting and valuing all people being regularly active, according to ability and across the life course; Active Environments; Active People; and Active Systems.

The four pillars of the WHO guidance are reflected in the International Society for Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH) "Eight Investments that Work for Physical Activity" which can be used to clearly show potential interventions and touch points within which public sport and leisure services can play an important role, e.g. Sport and recreation for all, community wide programmes, whole out of school programmes, public education, including mass media. Importantly the guidance underlines that there is no single simple way of driving up physical activity levels. Instead it recognises the complex interrelationship of factors that often cut across areas of responsibility and accountability between statutory partners, with a very strong emphasis on collaboration.

The UK Chief Medical Officers Physical Activity Guidelines have been updated and draw upon global evidence to present guidelines for different age groups covering the volume, duration, frequency and type of physical activity required across the life course to achieve health benefits. Evidence supporting the health benefits of regular physical activity has become more compelling and the report sets out the overall impact on the health, social, environmental and economic benefits for communities and wider society: as detailed below:

THE OVERALL IMPACT OF SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ON...



The **Department for Communities** has published the 10 year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy, 'Active Living' – More People, More Active, More of the Time' which sets out the framework for Northern Ireland. It seeks to promote:

'Lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity will deliver an active, healthy, resilient and inclusive society which recognises and values both participation and excellence.'

The key themes and goals of this Strategy build upon the work the Sport Matters Strategy has delivered between 2009-2019 and sets a direction for Sport and Physical Activity that is based around inclusion, engagement, community, excellence, partnership, collaboration and shared spaces that collectively maximise the benefits of more people, being more active, more of the time. The Strategy reflects the significant impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had, and will continue to have on society and the importance of ensuring that there is a focus on recovery in terms of both the wider sport sector and the role the sector can play to help communities recover. That includes the role sport and physical activity will play in the collective effort to manage the physical and mental health challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has created and exacerbated.

Additionally, it recognises the inter-related nature of physical literacy and lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity at all levels. The focus on physical activity emphasises the importance of being active for social, health and recreational purposes as well as for competitive involvement. The benefit of having a more physically active society is significant given the positive impacts it has on the health and well-being of our communities. It will also contribute to the challenges society in general faces when tackling matters such as obesity prevention, healthy lifestyles to guard against critical illness and to the promotion of good mental health.

The Sport and Physical Activity Framework

Programme for Government Outcomes and Indicators

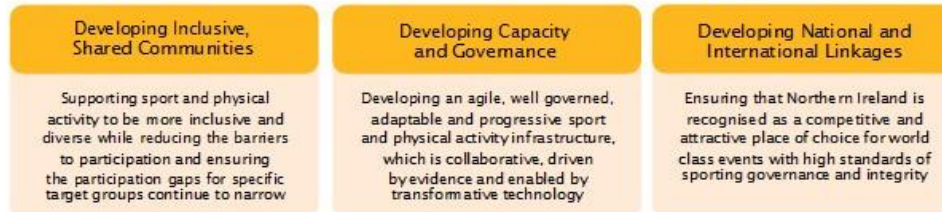
VISION

‘Lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity will deliver an active, healthy, resilient and inclusive society which recognises and values both participation and excellence’

KEY THEMES



CROSS-CUTTING PRINCIPLES



DEPARTMENTAL CROSS - CUTTING THEMES



Sport NI has published a new corporate strategy which acknowledges that the value of sport individually and societally has become so much more apparent as a result of Covid. The emotional, mental, physical wellbeing derived from participating in sport is seen as an important element of Covid recovery and regrowth. The value of sport including health, education and social cohesion can be achieved through people participating and sustaining participants in sport and recreation. Councils partnership working with SportNI and others can support the delivery vision:



The **APSE** report concludes that:

'Although the word leisure can conjure up images of optional activities, public sports and leisure services are in fact a service that fundamentally supports the health of the nation, enabling people to live longer, prevent or manage health conditions and boost mental health. The more deprived an area is the more dependant the community are on public sports and leisure provision.'

Council has a specific role in providing a range of publicly accessible, universal and targeted services and activities. Nine key sites provide for a breadth of activities which offer opportunities for participation across the District. The range of facilities include 3 swimming pools, 7 sports centres, athletics tracks, tennis courts, sports pitches, multi-use games area, pontoon and a variety of community infrastructure. In addition, Council works in partnership with local sports clubs who provide opportunities along the sporting pathway from grassroots participation to elite athletes; engagement and inclusion including participation by vulnerable groups, women, children and young people, disabled and ethnic minorities; improved physical and mental health. Some 200+ clubs are active across the Council area.

Public sport and leisure are integral to Covid recovery and are essential to expanding the reach of services and helping to address health inequalities. Opportunities to develop the services needed by the community will be delivered through partnership and collaboration with WHSCT, PHA, Sport NI and DfC including those which enhance the preventative offer for physical and mental health.

Securing the future of public sport and leisure services (published on behalf of APSE, CLOA, LGS) highlights the range of activity across the life span which can actively contribute to better health and the UK Chief Medical Officers Activity guidelines sets out an exemplar on how commonly delivered sports and physical activity can improve muscle function, bone health and balance as detailed in the diagrams below:



pre-natal
swim classes



creche
facilities



swimming
lessons



school
holiday clubs



teenage
activities



multi-sports
clubs and
fitness classes



fitness and
wellbeing for
older people

PLUS exercise programmes for
















long term
health conditions



cancer
patients



overweight
individuals

Type of sport, physical activity or exercise	 Improvement in muscle function	 Improvement in bone health	 Improvement in balance
 Running	★	★★	★
 Resistance Training	★★★	★★★	★★
 Aerobics, circuit training	★★★	★★★	★★
 Ball Games	★★	★★★	★★★
 Racquet Sports	★★	★★★	★★★
 Yoga, Tai Chi	★	★	★
 Dance	★	★★	★
 Walking	★	★	☆
 Nordic Walking	★★	②	★★
 Cycling	★	★	★

★★★ Strong effect ★★ Medium effect ★ Low effect ☆ No effect ② Not known

Table: Types of activities that can help maintain or improve aerobic capacity, strength, balance and bone health and contribute to meeting the physical activity guidelines

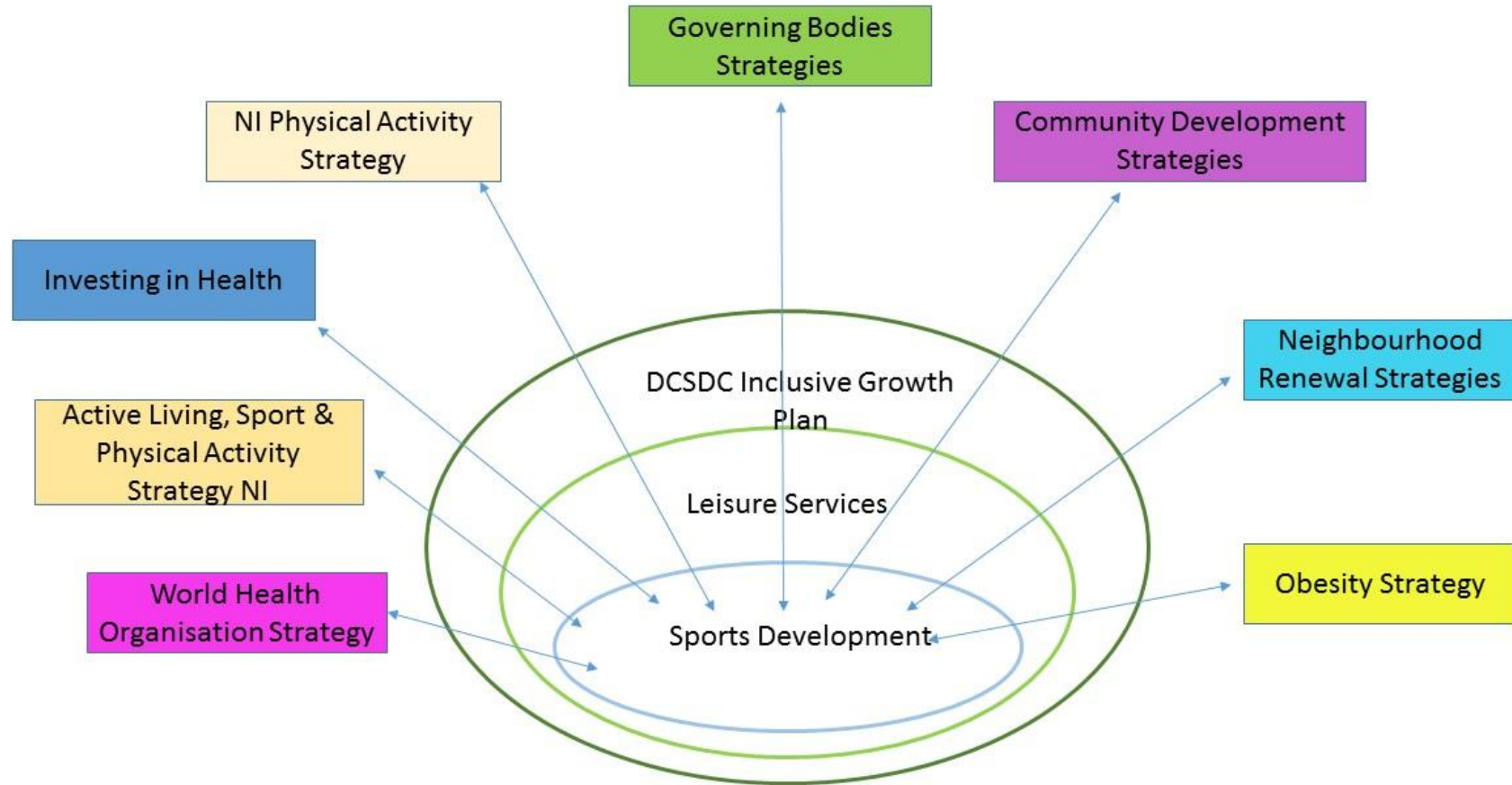
Examples of the types of targeted programmes in addition to universal open participation at key leisure and sports sites delivered by Council which can contribute to these wider outcomes include:

- MacMillan – Prehabilitation Model
- Water Safety and Activity Programme
- Cross Border Sports Programme
- Disability Hub at Foyle Arena
- NW Sporting Pathways
- Fundamental gymnastics programme
- School swimming programme
- Virtual Challenges
- NW Rugby programme
- Active Citizens programme

In February 2022 a public survey was undertaken across the council area to establish views on participation in sport and physical activity:

- 93.5% agreeing there is a need for investment in Council facilities.
- In terms of the impact on users 55-60% of users identified positive benefits across the categories of general health, physical health and mental health and 7.16% identifying improvement to a specific medical condition.
- Swimming, gym use and sports e.g., football remain the most popular activity.
- Walking remains the highest other physical activity participated in with 57.83%, followed by jogging and running at 14.46% and cycling at 6.63%.
- Participation trends vary from 9.94% inactive, 50.29% fairly active and 39.77% active.
- The top 3 health and wellbeing objectives identified for 2022: 45.88% wanting to improve general health, 31.18% wanting to lose weight, 8.82% wanting to improve mental health.
- 86.47% identified as very or quite important the encouragement and support given by staff to assist meet health and wellbeing objectives.
- Some 76.47% were prepared to allocate more time to health and wellbeing through sport, exercise and being active.

Strategy Map: How we will deliver our Outcome Improvement Objective



3.3 Mainstreaming the Equality and Disability Duties, Rural Need, and Climate Change

The Directorate will carry out the delivery of its functions and services taking cognisance of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 which requires public authorities to carry out their functions to promote equality of opportunity and good relations across those with protected characteristics within the Act.

Our work will positively reflect:

- The promotion of opportunities for all
- Take cognisance of equality screening and equality impact assessment processes
- Engaging with elected members and wider stakeholders through consultation processes to shape and plan our service delivery
- Actively participate in internal groups such as the good relations panel, equality scrutiny panel, poverty and rural working groups

In 2021/22 we have undertaken:

- EQIA process – free use of leisure for over 65s
- Equality screening survey to identify good relations needs as part of our 3 year planning process for service delivery
- Leisure survey of users and non-users
- Responded to Council motion on promoting the role of Women in Sport
- Delivered targeted programmes which focus on women, ethnic communities, LGBTQ+, older people and the socially deprived
- Committee members have presented to the NI Affairs Committee inquiry on racial inequality
- Developed responses to motions on anti-sectarianism, black African community
- Developed a draft Age Friendly strategy

The Directorate is also committed to following the 2018 guidance issued by the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs in order to ensure statutory duties under the Rural Needs Act are fulfilled.

The disability scheme places a duty to have regard to the need to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people in public life. Our directorate has responded by:

- Developing a draft Age Friendly strategy

- Continuing the delivery of sport and physical activity through the sports disability hub
- Promoting participation in GP Referral, MacMillan cancer and wellbeing programmes
- Engaging with community/voluntary parties and others to ensure inclusive access to the services we deliver
- Delivering disability improvements at Victoria Bridge community centre and designing the changing places facility at Derg Valley Leisure Centre
- Purchasing disability specific cycling equipment and installing a disabled hoist at Prehen Pontoon.

Climate Change

The majority of Council's leisure facilities developed from the 1970s onwards are in need of significant reinvestment and replacement and largely rely on traditional energy sources. Whilst Council has commenced a strategic reinvestment programme, a number of leisure facilities, pitch upgrades have been undertaken and City Baths has been closed for urgent repairs. It will take some time for this to complete as leisure facilities produce a significant proportion of direct carbon emissions and replacing/upgrading the leisure estate will be a crucial contributor in meeting our net zero targets.

As the Council plans the shape of its future leisure estate there is the opportunity to rethink what our communities will need from facilities and services and design more efficient and impactful solutions to help our communities to be active and stay healthier for longer. Equally the learning from Covid-19 has shown the increased propensity of our citizens to engage in outdoor based activity, including active travel and the shift to choices of walking, cycling or running to destinations. In addition to contributing to healthier lives it promotes benefits of improved air quality and reduced carbon emissions along with realising a more equitable, sustainable and prosperous world.

There is an increased understanding and value being placed on sport and leisure and recognition of their contribution to wider objectives of improving health and addressing health inequalities; lowering levels of obesity and cutting carbon emissions.

Sustainable development goals

The activities of the Directorate contribute to sustainable development goals such as good health and wellbeing, reducing inequalities and supporting and improving standards of life, enhancing access to quality education and the conditions for decent work and economic growth.

3.4 Improvement Delivery Plan

In order to deliver our Directorate outcome and/or service improvement objectives we have identified a number of key activities, as set out below. These actions represent part of the work that will be progressed by the Directorate during 2022/23.

Ref	Directorate Outcome/ Service Improvement Objective	Key Activities/Actions/Sub-actions/milestones	Target Date	Lead Officer
1	To help people adopt and develop healthy lifestyles through increased participation in high quality leisure, sport and healthy living activities (HC1)	<p>Publish physical activity, wellbeing and sport strategy</p> <p>Deliver 'Healthy Town's Programme'</p> <p>Deliver 'MacMillan Move More Support Programme' – 100 participants living with, or beyond cancer</p> <p>Deliver "Get Wet" water safety programme</p> <p>Roll out of 'Coach Education Programme'</p> <p>Achieve Sport & Physical Activity targets of 5,000 participants per year for targeted programmes including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 'Disability' participants • 2,500 'Female' participants • 2,000 'Area of High Social Need' participants <p>Achieve 550 participation completion rate for 'Physical Activity Referral Programme' (PARP) targeting those</p>	<p>March 2023</p> <p>March 2023</p> <p>December 2022</p> <p>March 2023</p> <p>March 2023</p> <p>March 2023</p> <p>March 2023</p>	

	with health risks relating to obesity, diabetes or musculoskeletal conditions		
	Achieve 'Athlete Support Membership' target of 60 participants.	March 2023	
	Progress Melvin Multi-Sport Hub Development to Design Stage 4 and identify funding opportunities	March 2023	
	Achieve pre Covid-19 leisure user visitor numbers (paid visits) of 1.1m visits per year, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7,500 participants in centre-based 'Learn to Swim' programme over a one year period. • 2,500 children achieving the school's swimming standard as set out in the National Key 2 Curriculum. • 8,000 participants in fitness classes. • Deliver 10 health improvement initiatives in conjunction with Health Trust and community organisations. 	March 2023	
	Achieve NET GAIN within active membership base through promotion of all-inclusive, household and corporate memberships, including group fitness classes, 1-2-1 individual training sessions and unique member benefits.	March 2023	
	Increase use of online booking facilities including Leisure App by 20%	March 2023	

2	To Increase participation in local planning, engagement and communications processes by developing collaboration processes (HC2)	Cross departmental representation on Local Community Growth Partnership Boards	March 2023	
		Deliver 10 district wide 'Sports Forum' meetings.	March 2023	
		Leisure & Sport Pricing Policy EQIA, ongoing consultation and annual reviews	March 2023	
		Deliver PCSP Action Plan for 2021/22 with the following outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide PCSP support to community based forums • Provide a PCSP Small Project Support Fund for each of the 7 DEAs and Strabane Town. 	March 2023	
		To improve community confidence in policing by delivering joint awareness/engagement activities with PSNI through the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	March 2023	

3	Increase the cost effectiveness and corporate compliance of services. (HC7)	Continue to maintain ISO 45001 at all Council owned community facilities and at all leisure and sport sites.	March 2023	
		Achieve a net budget for Leisure, Sports Development and Pitches/pavilions.	March 2023	
		Implementation of Leisure & Sport Pricing Policy.	March 2023	
		Secure match funding from a range of partners to ensure delivery of the PCSP Action Plan, co-finance CCTV and the Community Safety Wardens.	March 2023	
4	Promote health, safety and well-being, and safeguard the environment by supporting communities and businesses through education and enforcement (HC6)	Continue to promote/support and participate in a range of health and wellbeing initiatives linked to collaborative actions identified within the Strategic Growth Plan (2017-2032), Health 2020 and the Making Life Better Strategy (2013-2023).	March 2023	HHCWB
		Support the delivery of the Community Crisis Intervention Service and liaise with Government Departments and partner agencies to sustain the service going forward	March 2023	HHCWB
		Support the local economy and businesses through clear advice, guidance and good regulation.	March 2023	HHCWB
		Work with stakeholders to monitor, manage and improve Local Air Quality.	March 2023	HHCWB
		Promote and support responsible dog ownership	March 2023	HHCWB

		Provide a quality statutory function promoting compliance through risk based inspection and sampling programmes and where necessary carry out enforcement activities in accordance with statutory provisions and council policies.	March 2023	HHCWB
		Provide high quality and accessible registration services within legislative framework and Council policies.	March 2023	HHCWB
		Contribute to the development of the Local Development Plan and respond to planning consultations to ensure sustainable development.	March 2023	HHCWB

3.5 Measures of Success and Performance

During 2022/23, we will continue our work to establish baseline and benchmarking information in order to promote continuous improvement.

Section Four: Risk Management

4.1 Risk Register

The Directorate operates the corporate risk management requirements which are reported via the Assurance, Audit and Risk Committee.

Section Five – Contact Details

5.1 Staff Contacts

Director

Karen McFarland – Director of Health and Community

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5.2 Facilities/Office Details

Leisure Centres
<http://derrystrabaneleisure.com/>

Community Centres & Facilities
[https://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/Community-Development-\(1\)/Community-Centres-Facilities](https://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/Community-Development-(1)/Community-Centres-Facilities)

Dog Pound
<https://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/Health-Community-Wellbeing/Dog-Control-Animal-Welfare/Report-a-Lost,-Stray-or-Stolen-Dog>

Registration Service
<https://www.derrystrabane.com/district-registration>