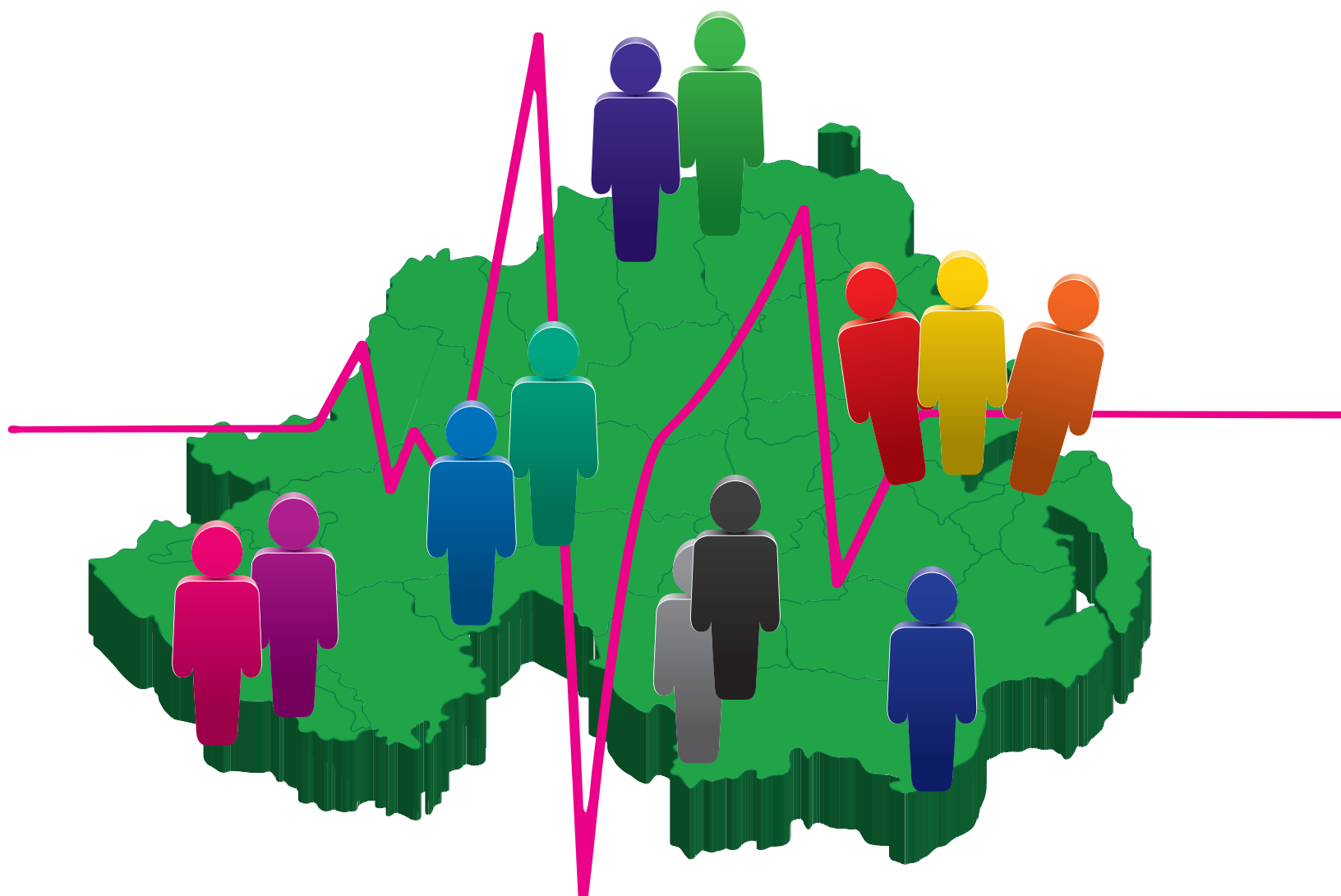


VitalSigns[®]

NORTHERN IRELAND

October 2013
ISSUE 1



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Housing - Safety - Education...and more

Welcome to the first ever **Vital Signs Northern Ireland!** “Taking the pulse of local communities”

Vital Signs has been successfully run by the Community Foundations of Canada nationally since 2006 and has now been adapted for other communities around the world. The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland launched this first edition of **Vital Signs Northern Ireland** on 1st October 2013, along with seven other UK Community Foundations who have conducted similar research in their own communities.

Vital Signs Northern Ireland will be updated annually and companion reports will be published throughout the year: **Vital Issues** will focus on the policy implications of the research, **Vital Statistics** will provide a full compendium of all the data used and **Vital Action** will tell the stories of local groups who are making a real difference in their areas.

Vital Signs is based on the realities and needs of local communities (geographical communities and communities of interest) right across Northern Ireland. It draws on original local and regional research¹, a range of administrative data and first-hand reports, identifying a range of needs, concerns and aspirations of our local communities.

Northern Ireland's communities are currently facing a wide range of changes, including political and administrative changes, the economic recession and resultant policy changes and reduced funding opportunities. The nature of “excluded communities” on both sides of the political divide has also undergone changes in recent years. It is within this context that the Community Foundation has undertaken this research project and it is within this context that we are interpreting the results.

It is not, however, all a case of depressing statistics and negativity! Many groups and communities across Northern Ireland are facing local challenges head-on and having a real, positive impact. Vital Signs seeks to tell their inspiring stories so that other groups and communities (in Northern Ireland and further abroad) can learn from their often creative and innovative approaches.

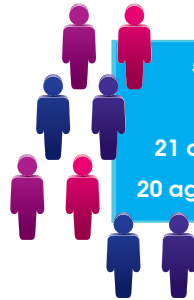
¹Over the summer of 2013, two surveys were circulated throughout the community sector. One short survey of individual residents, with ten questions on the Vital Signs themes (588 complete responses from individuals); one short survey of local community and voluntary organisations with ten questions on the priorities and issues currently facing the sector (492 complete responses from a range of community groups).

NI as a Village of 100 People

If Northern Ireland were home to 100 people:



2 people from a
minority ethnic
background



51 females
49 males
21 aged under 16
20 aged 60 and over



64 living in towns
and cities
36 living rurally



59 with British passports
21 with Irish passports (some people hold both)
3 with passports from other countries
19 without a passport



89 people born in Northern Ireland
4 people born in England
2 in the Republic of Ireland
5 born elsewhere



1 person speaking Polish as their main language
11 people who can speak, read, write or understand Irish
9 people who can speak, read, write or understand Ulster Scots



40 people declaring British Only
national identity
25 people declaring Irish Only
national identity
21 people declaring Northern
Irish only national identity

48 people brought up Protestant or other Christian religion



45 brought up Catholic
1 person brought up in another religion
6 people with no religious background



1 person whose health is
very bad
4 who consider their
health bad
15 who consider their
health fair
32 who consider their
health good
48 who consider their
health very good



12 people whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot by
long term illness or disability
9 people whose day-to-day activities are limited a little
79 people without a limiting long term illness or disability



12 people
providing regular,
unpaid care
3 people who
provide over 50
hours per week in
unpaid care



5 people with deafness or partial hearing loss
2 with blindness or partial loss of sight
2 with a communication difficulty
11 with a mobility or dexterity difficulty
2 with a learning, social, behavioural or intellectual difficulty
6 with an emotional, psychological or mental health condition

10 with long-term pain or discomfort
9 people with shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
2 people with frequent periods of confusion or memory loss
7 people with a chronic illness
5 people with another condition
69 people with no long-term conditions

Labour Market

Estimated number of unemployed people in Northern Ireland – 60,000

Estimated number of people in employment in Northern Ireland – 811,000

Estimated number of economically inactive people in Northern Ireland – 557,000

Since the previous quarter, there has been a decrease in the number of unemployed people in Northern Ireland, but the number of economically inactive people has continued to increase. "Economically inactive" means people of working age (from 16 to statutory retirement age) that are neither in employment nor unemployed. This includes:

Those who want a job but have not been seeking work in the last four weeks;
Those who want a job and are seeking work but are not available to start work;
Those who do not want a job (for example, because they are looking after the family and home).

The number of persons in employment in the period May - July 2013 has increased by 8,000 over the quarter and by 15,000 over the year.

"The loss of jobs for tradesmen and the farming downturn has badly affected rural Fermanagh."

"For many people the cost of childcare outweighs the benefits of employment."

The employment rate for those aged 16-64 was estimated at 67.5%.

55.9% of the unemployed have been unemployed for 1 year or more – up 10.4 percentage points over the year.

The number of economically inactive persons in the period May - July 2013 has increased by 2,000 over the quarter and by 6,000 over the year.

The NI economic inactivity rate for those aged 16-64 stands at 27.3%. This is significantly higher than the UK average rate (22.3%) and is the highest of the twelve UK regions.

"Transport is our biggest problem in rural areas. There's no regular public transport and keeping and running a car is too expensive for young people when your job is based miles away and pays poorly."

In the three months to June 2013, the average actual weekly hours worked in NI was 33.7 hours – higher than the UK average (32.6) for the same period. For full-time workers, in Northern Ireland, the average actual number of hours worked was 38.6 and was above that for the UK (38.2). For part-time workers in Northern Ireland, the average actual numbers of hours worked stood at 18.2 hours whereas the respective figure stood at 16.2 hours in the UK.

NI full-time employees' gross weekly earnings at April 2012 were £459.50, which was 90.8% of the figure in the UK (£505.90). NI full-time earnings increased by 3.3% over the period, compared with an increase of 1.5% in the UK.

The employment rate is the highest in Antrim (71.9%) and the lowest in Strabane (49.0%).

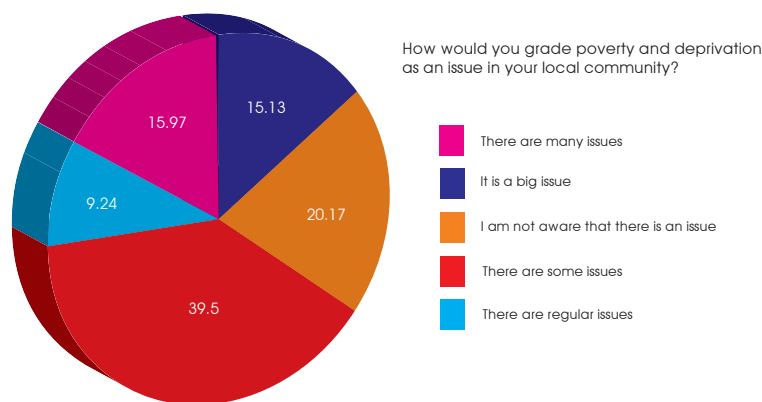
"Zero hour contracts are a real problem for young people in my estate. You can't rely on getting your bills paid and you can't claim benefits, but it's better than nothing and we've come to accept it as the new way we have to work."

The percentage of people claiming unemployment related benefits is the highest in Derry/Londonderry (8.4%) and the lowest in Castlereagh (3.4%).

Tackling Disadvantage and Exclusion

Home heating oil, the most expensive fuel, is also the most prevalent form of central heating in Northern Ireland, used by 62 per cent of households as the sole means of central heating, compared with only 4 per cent in England and Wales.

Belfast is the most deprived Council area and Magherafelt is the least. (Multiple Deprivation Measure)



“Everyone has less money to spend and we can no longer replace things as they wear out or run out.”

Percentage of Households in Fuel Poverty

LGD	In Fuel Poverty %	LGD	In Fuel Poverty %
Moyle	45.3	Magherafelt	34.2
Larne	43.1	Omagh	33.9
Cookstown	41.2	North Down	33.6
Strabane	40.7	Craigavon	31.9
Limavady	39.9	Banbridge	31.1
Ards	39.5	Carrickfergus	30.7
Newry and-Mourne	39.2	Coleraine	30.7
Dungannon	38.7	Down	30.5
Belfast	38.5	Derry/Londonderry	30.0
Armagh	37.1	Lisburn	29.4
Fermanagh	36.3	Castlereagh	27.4
Ballymoney	35.2	N'Abbey	26.3
Ballymena	34.8	Antrim	23.6

“Oil buying clubs, where people get to buy their oil at a reduced rate, would be useful.”

RDC, under the Building Sustainable Prosperity Programme (2001-2006), provided funding support to Strangford & District Playgroup & After Schools Club to provide safer and more appropriate accommodation through the provision of a new mobile unit, which also houses a new after schools club and training facility. Outputs included:

- Safeguard a playgroup facility for up to 24 children – currently 7 PEAGS places
- Safeguard a Parent & Toddler group for up to 24 families
- To provide an Out of School Hours club facility for up to 20 children including a summer scheme for up to 16
- To provide a range of courses, initially concentrating on childcare and parenting skills
- To establish a crèche facility to support the training provided within the centre
- To safeguard 2 part-time jobs in the playgroup and 2 part-time jobs in the Out of School Hours Club
- One-off project involving 5 children with special needs having access to a musical educational programme which helped them integrate with other children in their peer group
- 20 Playgroup, 24 Parent & Toddlers and 10 Out of Hours School Club children having access to educational materials designed for their age group; 20 Playgroup, 24 Parent & Toddlers and 10 Out of Hours School Club children having access to trips to Belfast Zoo and W5.



Grace Women's Development Limited is located in the Ardoyne area of Belfast. They are participating in the Foundation's Communities in Action Programme, looking at the impact of the economic recession and welfare reform through a series of focus groups and targeted community development action. The information

collected by Grace WDL and the other groups participating in Communities in Action is being compiled by Queen's University Belfast and being fed into a UK wide Poverty and Social Exclusion research project. Grace WDL has produced a DVD highlighting the impact of welfare reform on a single parent family and held a premiere in the Long Gallery in Stormont in April 2013. Participants in the focus groups have been offered places on the Welfare Rights Advice Programme facilitated by the Law Society and ten people have attended the course. They are now planning to hold information sessions in the area on a number of themes, including money management, loan sharks and energy efficiency.

Housing

There has been a substantial increase in private sector renting and a sharp fall in social renting over the last ten years.

In 2010 the typical affordable home in Northern Ireland was sold for £100,000, compared with almost £150,000 in 2008.

In 2010, households on a median income (£21,000) were able to service mortgage payments for a house costing approximately £147,000.

In 2008, only three per cent of homes sold in Northern Ireland were considered to be at an affordable price, but by 2010 the proportion had increased to 58%.

The percentage of households rented from a private landlord has doubled since the 2001 census.



Doury Road resident accepting a Warm Home Pack from Jan Roscoe of Doury Road Development Group.

Doury Road Development Group was established under the Foundation's Communities in Transition Programme in 2008. The Ballymena estate had considerable problems with derelict properties and families moving out of the area. The group undertook a number of innovative actions in order to try and improve the condition of housing in their estate and to encourage families to move into the area. They lobbied the Minister to visit (which he did), in order to highlight the issues the estate was facing. They worked with the Housing Executive on managing a waiting list for Doury Road and renovating vacant properties. They worked with the local minority ethnic forum to develop a welcome pack to proactively encourage minority ethnic families to come and live in the area. They developed environmental schemes to make the area more attractive to people as a place to live and liaised with absent landlords to encourage them to renovate their derelict properties in the area. New landlords who purchased derelict properties were encouraged to work with the community group to find families to rent their properties. While these issues have not yet all been resolved, the group has made a considerable and lasting difference to housing and their local community.



“Many houses have been repossessed in my area, which was unheard of ten years ago.”

Safety

“Increased poverty has had a real impact in our area, with more casual crime than there ever was before.”

Despite a lower prevalence of crime in Northern Ireland, respondents to a 2011 survey displayed higher levels of worry about crime than their counterparts in England and Wales.

In 2012, the most hate crimes with a **racist** motivation (per 10,000 population) were recorded in Belfast, followed by Derry City Council. The fewest were recorded in Moyle.

“The theft of farm machinery and livestock is becoming a serious problem.”

In 2012, the most hate crimes with a **homophobic** motivation (per 10,000 population) were recorded in Derry City Council, followed by Belfast. The fewest were recorded in Omagh.

In 2012, the most hate crimes with a **sectarian** motivation (per 10,000 population) were recorded in Belfast, followed by Coleraine. The fewest were recorded in Castlereagh.

Antisocial behaviour was highest in Belfast, followed by Coleraine and lowest in Armagh (2012, per 10,000 population).

Domestic abuse incidents were highest in Derry City Council, followed by Craigavon and lowest in Castlereagh (2012, per 10,000 population).

Farming is a vital part of the Northern Ireland economy, providing employment to nearly 47,000 people across 24,500 farms. Unfortunately, the safety record of farming in Northern Ireland continues to represent a disproportionate number of deaths compared to other work sectors. In the 5 year period between 2007 and 2011, the industry accounted for 50% of work related fatalities in Northern Ireland. The death toll is unrelenting, hitting 57% of all work related fatalities in the 3 years

Free Derry/Londonderry Corner has been painted pink for Foyle Pride Week in an effort to raise awareness and spread a positive message of inclusion. The first year that this took place (2007), it received international media attention.



Education and Skills

29.1% of Northern Ireland's adult (16+) population has no qualifications.

Residents aged 16 and over in North Down (31%) and Castlereagh (30%) are most likely to have Level 4 (degree level) and above qualifications.

Strabane (41%) and Limavady residents (35%) (aged 16+) are most likely to have no qualifications.

The level of highest educational qualification varies inversely with age. For instance, people aged 25-34 are three times as likely as those aged 75 and over to have achieved Level 4 or higher qualifications (degree level or above). Conversely, people aged 75 and over are seven times as likely as those aged 25-34 to have no qualifications (70% compared with 10%).

Children on free school meals are less likely to attain expected levels of educational qualifications. In 2010, 69% of pupils on free school meals did not achieve five GCSEs at A*-C (including maths and English) compared with 36% of other pupils and this gap has not closed over time.

Northern Ireland has high levels of educational attainment at the top end compared with England or Wales.

Despite birthrates rising, rural primary school closures are increasing.

"Our rural school is constantly under threat of closure. It provides an important social meeting place for parents as well as excellent education for our children. If schools close the heart of the community will go and new families won't want to live in the rural areas."

"In my community there are wonderful opportunities for children to grow and learn, but there are absolutely no opportunities for adults or 'lifelong learning'."



BREF
Bushmills Residents & Environmental Forum

Bringing the Community Together

Bushmills Residents & Environmental Forum (BREF) has worked with the Community Foundation through a number of development programmes over the years, including the current Causeway Communities Engagement Programme (CCEP). The Bushmills Education Project is a BREF community initiated project to understand why some young people from Bushmills do really well at school whilst others do not. Through the project, they are working to develop a partnership approach across schools, community groups, parents, young people, PSNI, churches, employers and other key stakeholders to collectively improve educational outcomes for all young people.

Arts and Culture

English is the most widely spoken language in Northern Ireland. Here are estimates of the number of people who speak languages other than English in Northern Ireland:

Irish 106,844	Ulster Scots 35,000	Chinese 4,200	British Sign Language 3,000
Cant/Shelta/Gammon 1,700	Hindi or Punjabi 1,700	Irish Sign Language 1,500	Arabic 1000-1500
Portuguese 1000+	Tagalog 600	Bengali 450-500	Southern Indian Languages 500
Farsi 350			

Titanic Belfast welcomed its one millionth visitor in July 2013.

More than 600 inspirational torch bearers participated in the Olympic Torch Relay throughout Northern Ireland in June 2012.

More than 70 sports, from Aikido to Yoga, from Angling to Waterskiing are officially affiliated to Sport NI.

The 2013 World Police and Fire Games were the largest sporting event ever held in Northern Ireland. Almost 7,000 athletes and technical support staff from 67 countries registered for the games. Athletes came from across the globe, with competitors from Canada, New Zealand, Peru, China and Nigeria, to name just a few. In excess of 5,000 spectators attended the ice hockey events in the arena.

Northern Ireland is enjoying a serious boom as a filming location for major projects. The first three seasons of HBO's epic Game of Thrones series had an estimated economic impact of £65million and filming of the fourth series is currently taking place on location throughout Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland Screen estimates that Universal Pictures' Dracula Untold (currently filming in Belfast and throughout NI) will deliver £15million expenditure on goods and services in Northern Ireland.

Tourist numbers have already doubled during Derry~Londonderry's year as UK City of Culture 2013.

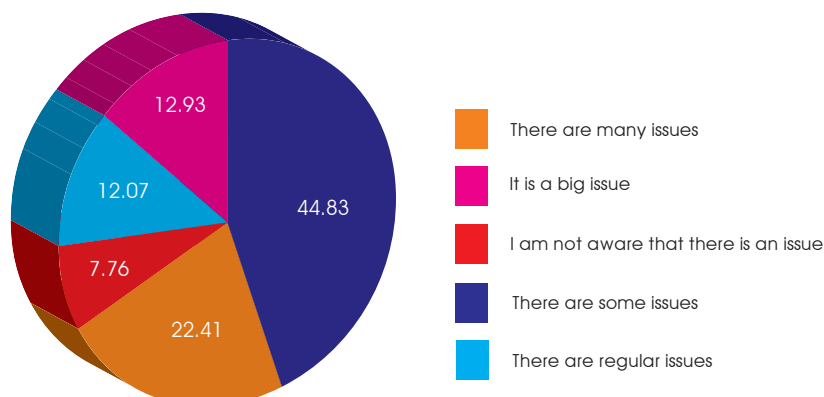
More than 430,000 people were reported to have attended events organised as part of the Fleadh Cheoil 2013, hosted in Derry~Londonderry for the first time.

Membership of the Orange Order was estimated to be about 34,000 in 2012.

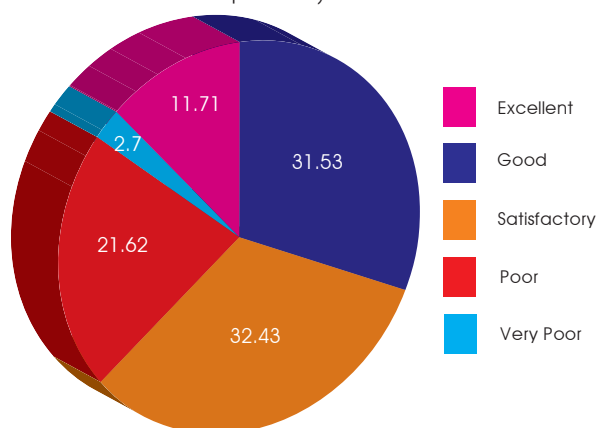
A Cultural Crossroads was an exploration of musical, literacy and cultural heritage within and between communities of the Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough of Co. Tyrone. It aimed to mobilise local people to organise events which were of importance and relevance to them, then draw these together and market them as a co-ordinated programme and tourism product. The project duration of two years involved 9 villages; and within the first year, 3 villages were selected to play host to the activities. It targeted local communities and strived to attract visitors to the area and promote the tourism potential of the locality. The project was an award winning cultural heritage initiative engaging 20,000 participants within its lifetime, increasing the economic and tourism potential of an area. The project was funded from the EU Peace II Programme (Measure 2.10 Local Identity, Culture and Heritage). The project was funded from the EU Peace II Programme (Measure 2.10 Local Identity, Culture and Heritage).

Strong Communities

To what extent do you think people feel isolated or alone in your local community?



How would you grade facilities and access to services in your local community (e.g libraries, sports facilities, community facilities, health centres, schools, youth facilities, local shops, local transport etc.)?



“We have had an increase in the number of asylum seekers who need much more support in our local community.”

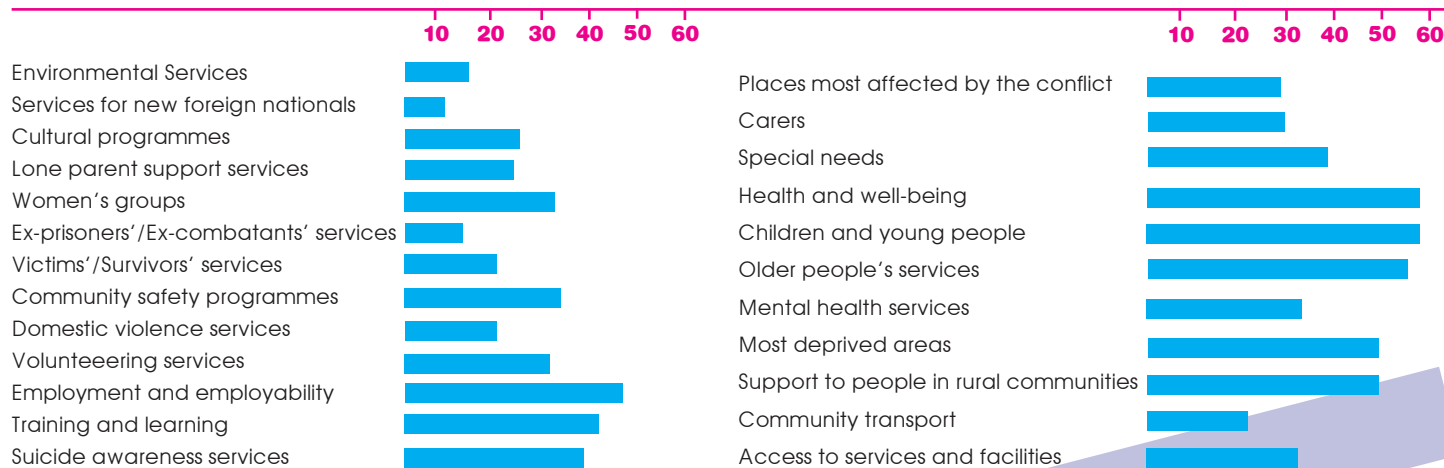
“Our local estate is very segregated and there are issues around paramilitary control that further divide the community.”



Kinship Care Northern Ireland is a registered charity committed to the help and support of grandparents and other family members who are caring for the children of their extended families. Kinship Care is one of more than 40 groups working with a mentor on the Community Foundation's Social Justice Approach to Community Development Programme.

Almost 500 community organisations responded to the Community Foundation's Vital Signs survey for community groups. They listed the following as the most essential priorities for the community sector:

% STATING THIS WAS AN ESSENTIAL PRIORITY



“We need the government to recognise that, without the support of organisations like ours, standards of care (which in the case of our small community are, at times, downright negligent especially in terms of mental health) will deteriorate even further. We need them to recognise the immense value of the services that we provide, both financially and socially, and to recognise that we need real support, statutory support, in order to continue providing these services. It is no exaggeration to say that our carers' group represents the kind of vital expertise that can only be experienced on the home front by means of confronting and dealing daily with a wide range of extremely complex issues that are neither understood nor catered for in the NHS.”

Health and Well-Being

In 2010/11, 5.8% of Primary 1 pupils were recorded as being obese.

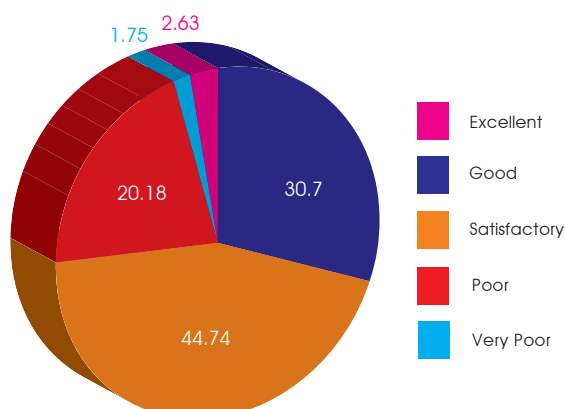
Eight years of monitoring data would suggest that sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are on the rise amongst the 16-19 year old group.

Twenty-five percent of respondents to the 2011 Health Survey Northern Ireland indicated that they currently smoke – 27% of males and 23% of females.

Three-quarters of respondents aged 18 and over indicated that they drink alcohol, 81% of males and 72% of females.

Thirty-five percent of respondents to the 2011 Health Survey were classified as meeting the recommended level of physical activity, with males (40%) more likely to be active than females (31%).

How would you rate the health of people in your local community



"The recession is having a huge impact on people's daily stress levels and lots of people seem to be turning to drink, prescription drugs and smoking to cope."

"I'm finding it really difficult to pay for dental treatments and procedures for my family."

One percent of respondents to the NI Health Survey reported that they did not eat for a full day because there was not enough money for food. Around half of this group (52%) said that this happened almost every month.

"People are finding it more difficult to afford healthy food to feed their families. Our community group is working to provide courses on cooking on a budget for local families and our allotment scheme is open to the community, as well as providing fresh fruit and vegetables for children who attend the youth clubs."

RDC, under the Building Sustainable Prosperity Programme (2001-2006), and the International Fund for Ireland, provided funding support to the Washingbay Community Group to build a community resource centre focusing on healthy living. It provided space for: private health practitioners; traditional cure clinics; a bicycle hire business; community café, and space for health and social welfare information and advice. Located at Washing Bay on the south-western shore of Lough Neagh, the centre aimed to provide a range of conventional and complementary therapies. Washing Bay has a long history of people going there hoping to be healed of their ailments. Records show that since 1712, pilgrims flocked to the location for the reputed healing qualities of the river which flows into the lough.

Economic Performance

There is quite a difference across the 26 current District Councils in terms of domestic rates. This is a key consideration for the Statutory Transition Committees currently working to bring about Local Government Reform and the shift from 26 District Councils to 11 by 2015. **District Council Rates – Domestic (2013 – in pence)**

LGD	Domestic Rate	LGD	Domestic Rate	LGD	Domestic Rate	LGD	Domestic Rate
Castlereagh	0.2198	North Down	0.288	Antrim	0.369	Moyle	0.3902
Dungannon	0.2542	Belfast	0.3094	Banbridge	0.3706	Craigavon	0.3907
Fermanagh	0.2543	Coleraine	0.3206	Strabane	0.3715	Armagh	0.4121
Lisburn	0.2643	Newry & Mourne	0.3303	Larne	0.3799	Limavady	0.4124
Magherafelt	0.2693	Ntownabbey	0.3423	Omagh	0.3809	Derry/Londonderry	0.4173
Ards	0.2771	Down	0.3513	Ballymena	0.382		
Cookstown	0.2853	Ballymoney	0.3525	Carrickfergus	0.3881		

Starting life in 1979 as the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust, the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland is now in its fourth decade of delivering social change and supporting voluntary and community action with intelligent giving. The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland has spent the last four decades delivering innovative, challenging and impactful community development, social justice and peacebuilding programmes - helping communities across Northern Ireland work to better their everyday lives.

The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland is Northern Ireland's centre for philanthropy, with advice and services available for those people, whether they be financial advisors, institutions, charities or individuals, looking to invest funds in a philanthropic and tax-efficient way.

RDC, the rural development organisation for Northern Ireland, works to ensure the collective needs and opportunities of rural areas can be realised. RDC works to promote positive and sustainable change helping to develop and regenerate rural areas for the better. RDC is pleased to have contributed case study examples for inclusion in this first edition of Vital Signs Northern Ireland. For more information on RDC visit www.rdc.org.uk

Disclaimer: The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland and the Rural Development Council have compiled this research using publically available administrative data, statistics and research and original research and case studies. A compendium of the data and sources used will be published in full by early 2014.

For further information on the sources used, original research or analysis or to request a hard copy of any of the reports, please contact Kat Healy, CFNI's Research and Policy Officer on 02871 371547 or khealy@communityfoundationni.org

For any media queries please contact CFNI's Communications Officer, Fran Barlet, on 02890 245927 or 07916873950

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NORTHERN IRELAND

