



The Belfast Agenda

Living Here Board

Workshop Summary Report

7 July 2021



1 Introduction

Members of the Living Here Board (LHB) agreed at its meeting on the 17 May 2021 to hold a workshop to feed into the Belfast Agenda Refresh process and focus attention on the identified priority areas and collaborative action for the Board over the next 6 – 18 months. The workshop was hosted virtually by Belfast City Council via MS Teams, chaired by the LHB Co-Chair Iain Deboys and facilitated by Anne McMurray.

Appendix 1 contains the list of attendees.

1.1 Purpose and objectives

The purpose of the workshop was to explore and unpack the current focus of activity and collective energy of the LHB, the difference and desired impact sought and to inform the development of a 6-18 month action plan which will contribute to the Belfast Agenda ambitions and desired outcomes.

Specifically, the objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Challenge and reaffirm the current priorities and focus of activity of the Board.
2. Consider and identify requirements and/ or opportunities for new priorities and collective actions – taking into consideration impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic.
3. Identify convening action leads for the priorities and associated actions.
4. Consider how the Board could work more effectively (maximise productivity and partners expertise and commitment).

Appendix 2 sets out the workshop format.

2 General Considerations

A number of key overarching areas for consideration that emerged during the workshop discussions are summarised below:

- Importance and need for strong collaboration and commitment from all partners, with resources mobilised to enable delivery.
- Opportunity to consider and adopt new agile approaches taking account of lessons emerging in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Priorities and actions need to be specific with simple and clear language.
- Important that the LHB organises itself to support delivery, with well-defined sub-structures as may be necessary and a focus on additionality.
- Greater alignment between the priorities of the LHB, and Belfast Agenda. Alignment of partner corporate/ business plan with the priorities of the Belfast Agenda.
- Use of a structured Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) approach and measuring the impact of interventions.

3 Priorities and Collective Focus

3.1 Belfast Agenda Refresh – Open Discussion

The first session of the workshop reviewed the emerging delivery framework of the Belfast Agenda. John Tully (BCC) set the context for the workshop providing an update on the Belfast Agenda Refresh Process and emerging draft framework i.e. vision, outcomes and priority themes, which has been co-designed with a core sub-group of Community Planning partners. Anne McMurray highlighted that the Belfast Agenda sets out the vision, ambitions and roadmap for Belfast up until 2035.

Anne facilitated an open discussion amongst partners asking the following questions:

- i. Does the framework have face validity?
- ii. Are partners committed and bought into the ambitions?
- iii. Are these the right priority themes to focus on over the next four years?

3.2 Belfast Agenda Refresh – Summary of open feedback

This section summaries the key points received from the open discussion:

- Iain Deboys (HSCB & Co-Chair) - Mental health and emotional wellbeing should be made more explicit and included as part of the emerging overarching priority framework.
- Natasha Brennan (LORAG) – the Strategy for mental health and emotional wellbeing should be at the core of the plan of work going forward.
- John Tully (BCC) – highlighted that the language and focus of the priority framework will be reviewed/ refined as part of the co-design process, with a broader set of supplementary priorities emerging and will be a major focus for action planning.
- Kevin Bailey (WBP) – the vision needs to extend beyond the city centre to neighbourhoods. Important that we adopt a layered approach covering city, area and neighbourhood level. In terms of the cross-cutting themes, need to consider health language and health planning and how the Integrated Care Systems (ICS) and the life course approach is aligned and integrated.
- John Tully (BCC) - conversations are ongoing with the DoH and the BH&SCT re: alignment between the emerging proposals for the reconfiguration of the ICS and area-based approaches.
- Carol Diffin (BHSCT & Chair of BAOG) – supports the vision. Suggests that the wording ‘trauma informed’ and being a ‘compassionate city’ be considered as part of any refinement process to reflect recovery from conflict and Covid.
- Gerry Largey (BHSC Trust) – it’s important to reflect Belfast as a place that people choose to live and raise their family i.e. family friendly city, within the vision - which would reflect the broader health agenda and economic argument.
- Briege Arthurs (Forward South Partnership) - in relation to the economic focus, it will be important to further unpack inclusive growth needs of the city with greater emphasis on

supporting people with additional needs and BAME communities. Important that we enable and support people to participate in the economy and society as a whole.

- Cate Taggart (BCC) - within the context of the city and communities emerging from a pandemic, it is important that we seek to create a sense of hope and fun, for all ages, particularly young people. Belfast would benefit from a narrative around 'hope'.

3.3 Reviewing the LHB Priorities and Focus – Group Discussion

Anne McMurray introduced the first Group discussion, providing partners with the opportunity to consider, challenge and reaffirm the current priorities and focus of activity of the LHB. There were three discussion groups.

- Group 1: Improving Health and Wellbeing and Maximising Social and Community benefits for housing (Health and Housing)
- Group 2: Integrated approach to neighbourhood regeneration (Neighbourhood Regeneration)
- Group 3: Improving outcomes for Children and Young People (Children and Young People).

Each group worked through a template, answering the following questions:

- i. Are the current priorities the right ones to focus on for 6–18 months?
- ii. Are there any additional priorities that need focus?
- iii. What's currently going well/ what's having an impact?
- iv. What's proving difficult/ barriers preventing delivery?
- v. What opportunities may exist?
- vi. What are the linkages to the emerging cross-cutting themes?

3.4 Reviewing the LHB Priorities and Focus – Group feedback

This section summarises the feedback received from each of the 3 discussion groups:

Group 1: Health and Housing

- **Current Priority Areas (i. ii.)**
 - Agreed that the two areas were the right priorities to focus on over the next 6-18 months and are also aligned to the PfG. No new priorities were identified.
 - Need to drill down to a neighbourhood level and the specific outcomes we seek to achieve (e.g. addressing the wider impact of housing on health and wellbeing, deprivation etc).
 - Definition needs to be clear i.e. are we targeting general health and wellbeing or targeting health inequalities?
 - The approach needs to be data led, focussed on assessing the trends of relevant indicators and seek to turn the curve. Important that we identify the right indicators to give focus and provide a basis to measure success (e.g. areas where there is a

widening of the health inequality gap/ negative data trends e.g. obesity, alcohol, drugs & anxiety).

- There was a query on whether the four ambitions (2035) will still apply in the Belfast Agenda refresh as this will impact focus?

- **What's going well/ having an impact (iii.)**

- Belfast Warm and Well initiative and integrated approach to addressing avoidable winter deaths including the commitment and enthusiasm of support partners.
- Partners working well together and with local communities in response to Covid.

- **Barriers to delivery (iv.)**

- Long-term focus and commitment required to tackle structural issues associated with housing.
- Practical challenges that need to be addressed including the lack of suitable land to build housing, in specific parts of the city (e.g. North Belfast), specific issues associated with housing development along interface areas.
- Ability to bring together shared resources and policy levers to deliver joint priorities.

- **Opportunities (v.)**

- How the community planning partners can work together to better utilise and maximise local community infrastructure and assets as well as developing integrated community-based approaches.
- Opportunities to engage citizens in new innovative ways to support service provision and improve outcomes (e.g. Wigan deal cited as example, putting in place reciprocal agreements/ pledges between communities and service providers).
- Consider a neighbourhood approach, but it is important that this is also balanced with a citywide approach.

- **Linkages (vi.)**

- Highlighted the connections between housing, creating shared space and promoting good relations and a shared future.
- Reference also made to synergies of the infant mental health strategy: (https://belfasttrust.hscni.net/wpfd_file/belfast-infant-mental-health-strategy/)

Group 2 - Neighbourhood Regeneration

- **Current Priority Areas (i. ii.)**

- Agreed with the priorities identified, suggested that clear and simple language is used to explain and communicate ambition.
- Agreed Belfast Agenda priorities should be mainstreamed and a focus of core work of relevant partners.
- Important to bring together and mobilise the right partners to support implementation e.g. convening focused delivery sub-groups.

- Need to consider how we measure success including e.g. impact on population indicators (turning the curve) and performance measures (measure impact).
- **What's going well/ having an impact (iii.)**
 - The agile and cross-sectoral approach adopted to responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. Important that we build upon the successes of this approach and mainstream these as custom and practice of all partners going forward – reducing governance and bureaucracy.
- **Barriers to delivery (iv.)**
 - The broad focus and scope of ambition of the LHB impacts upon the feasibility and momentum of delivery. Highlighted the need to bring together smaller delivery focused groups to drive forward agreed priority areas of work. Noted the importance of political will and support.
 - The need to secure dedicated resources to support the developmental work required to take forward this priority and the associated programme of work and collaborative approach.
 - The priorities for delivery need to be defined, with a clear methodology and approach developed. Need for a collaborative, agile and resourced approach with continued commitment, leadership and energy from CPP partners.
- **Opportunities/ linkages (v.vi.)**
 - Great results were delivered collaboratively by the VCSE and government as part of the Covid pandemic, this learning needs to be captured.
 - Organisational corporate/ business plans should be aligned with the priorities of the Belfast Agenda to create accountability.

Group 3 – Children and Young People

- **Current Priority Areas (i.ii)**
 - The group agreed on the priority identified. Highlighted the importance of enabling the voice of children and young people to inform the focus of this work going forward - understanding their needs and ensuring inclusivity.
- **What's going well/ having an impact (iii.)**
 - The group noted the positive work being carried out by the Belfast Area Outcomes Group (BAOG) at a local level and the work of the family support hubs.
- **Barriers to delivery (iv.)**
 - Challenges identified in how partners work and do business together and the need to avoid duplication, improve integration, alignment and collaboration. There is a need for a flexible approach to collaboration with the focus and alignment of resources taking account of local intelligence and data on need.

- Ability and willingness of partners to explore opportunities around joint budgeting/ resourcing to bring forward demonstrator and/ or enabling initiatives/ programmes to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- **Opportunities (v.)**
 - Ability to access and utilise the skills and experiences of partners to consider and develop innovative and agile approaches to this priority area. The BAOG is a core forum to further strengthen the necessary relationships and support delivery.
 - Belfast Agenda draft priority framework currently being consulted upon has identified Children and Young People as a cross-cutting priority for community planning and must be considered in this context (e.g. linkages and opportunities presented across all the Belfast Agenda Boards).
- **Linkages (vi.)**
 - Important that we consider wider family circumstances.
 - Important that we recognise the range of strategies and plans which already exist and seek to align and join-up as appropriate.
 - Ensuring an inclusive approach is taken and making sure that the voices of C&YP with disabilities are heard i.e. access to services and activities.

4 Collaborative Delivery (6 - 18months)

4.1 Action Planning and Delivery – group discussion

Anne McMurray introduced the second group discussion, with reference to success criteria for effective partnership working and the underpinning principles of community planning in terms of e.g. collaborative gain, outcome focused.

A short presentation was given outlining the current LHB priorities and associated actions underway or emerging. Partners examined if any gaps or additional opportunities which should be considered from a delivery perspective over the next 6-18months. Breakout group discussion ensued covering the following areas:

- i. Are the current actions right for the LHB to focus on over the next 6–18months?
- ii. Are there any additional ‘here and now issues’ that require collaborative action including any low cost/ no cost actions?
- iii. Agree the lead partner (convenor) and who else needs to be involved?
- iv. Identify key enablers to support implementation.
- v. Consider and identify key milestones.

4.2 Action Planning and Delivery – summary of group feedback

The section provides a summary of partner feedback, which will help inform the development of a collaborative action plan for the Board over the next 6 – 18months.

Group 1: Health and Housing

- The framing of **actions** needs to be simplified and specific. Further work required among the key delivery agents/ partners linked to health and housing. The NIHE agreed to take the lead for the housing actions.
- A **low-cost action** was identified in relation to the potential to join up the planning approach, alignment of organisations objectives and timelines.
- NIHE highlighted that the current housing actions put forward need to be considered in the context of the Belfast Agenda ambitions around population growth and associated housing availability and supply challenges.
- Agreed that further work required to define the focus, ambition and unpack any actions. Proposed that LHB focus for action should be linked to social challenges around housing and poverty (and not just focus on addressing fuel poverty).
- Important to recognise the linkages and synergies with the focus and potential work of other Belfast Agenda Boards, including the Resilience and Sustainability Board (e.g. energy and sustainability) and the City Development Board (e.g. unlocking investment and land for mixed tenure housing development). Need to ensure alignment and clarity of focus across the Belfast Agenda Boards and avoid any risk of duplication.
- Opportunity to connect this work to the Wider University and Lower Ormeau intervention initiative and the Good Relations priority.
- The group highlighted the potential benefits of applying a structured OBA approach to assessing the priorities and co-designing the supporting action plan(s), outcomes framework and securing commitment of partners. Important that we focus on the right indicators e.g. areas where there is a widening of the health inequality gap/ negative data trends around obesity, alcohol, drugs, mood and anxiety.
- **Key enablers** identified by the group included engaging with and mobilising local communities and community assets as well as ensuring better alignment and collaboration across strategic/regional, city and local levels

Group 2 - Neighbourhood Regeneration

- The group agreed the **actions** identified and that area planning should be considered as the overarching action with the other actions being set within this context (i.e. Multi-agency support hub (MASH) and Wider University and Lower Ormeau (WULO) intervention programme).
- Important that we bring forward at pace tangible initiatives under this priority which demonstrates positive change and the level of commitment across partners e.g. WULO intervention.
- The group highlighted the need for the language used to frame the actions (e.g. MASH - Multi Agency Support Hub) to be clear and understandable in terms of what we are trying to achieve. The methodologies used also need to be participative and inclusive.
- Important that we identify those initiatives and interventions which have been successful and consider how we potentially scale-up or share learning through community planning.

- Discussion and agreement on **convening leads** for the current actions identified i.e. MASH – PSNI, Area Planning – BCC and the WULO intervention requiring further consideration.

Key enablers identified included the need for serious investment and continued commitment of partners, ensuring the right delivery partners and stakeholders are brought together through focused delivery sub-groups.

Group 3 - Children & Young People

- The group agreed the **actions** identified with the inclusion of an additional action to be brought forward in relation to how we ensure the inclusive voice of children and young people in our future plans and strategies
- The **lead partner** identified for taking this area forward is the Belfast Area Outcomes Group (BAOG). Agreed that further consideration be given to possible extension of current membership of BAOG and any associated delivery sub-group established (e.g. ensuring linkages to the Colin Area; BMET and libraries).
- Noted that further work is underway through BAOG to co-design the programme of work and defining the potential resources and skills required to support delivery.
- Highlighted the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on C&YP and their families and the need to give focus and create momentum to this work.
- **Key enablers** identified included the clear commitment and energy from partners and recognition that a collaborative and whole system approach will deliver enhanced outcomes. Highlighted the need to develop and assess evidence/ data and associated insights to inform approach(es).
- In terms of **milestones** the project group needs to review representation and develop the evidence base to inform approach and delivery.
- Other important **linkages** highlighted for consideration, which would also contribute to improving the quality of life for C&YP, included availability and accessibility to local physical assets and facilities, youth provision and quality of housing.

5 Summary Comments and Next Steps

Anne McMurray provided summary comments as outlined below:

- Assurance and endorsement that the current focus and priorities of the Living Here Board (LHB) are still relevant, but some further work required on augmenting (defining) and framing the specific action plan(s).
- Strong consensus and mandate from LHB session to get on with things and build momentum. Further consideration to be given to how the LHB organises itself from a delivery perspective and the collaborative approaches to be adopted.
- The ambition and priority focus of the LHB needs to be translated into practical and measurable action plans.

Iain Deboys thanked all partners for their involvement and input into the workshop, shaping the future focus of the LHB and continued commitment and ownership of delivery. Highlighted the opportunity presented to further build relationships and to adopt a

collaborative and co-design approach to planning – suggesting that this should be a feature of the LHB going forward.

Next Steps

The following next steps had been outlined:

- (1) Short workshop report (draft) will be prepared and circulated for consideration of partners. This will summarise the key discussions, feedback and actions emerging.
- (2) Follow-up engagement with specific partners/ smaller groups to further develop unpack specific priority areas and help define the supporting action plan(s).
- (3) Submit a practical action plan for the next 6 – 18months to future meeting of the LHB.
- (4) Ensure relevant comments and input emerging from the LHB workshop is fed into and considered as part of the wider Belfast Agenda refresh currently underway.

Appendix 1: Workshop Attendees

Facilitator: Anne McMurray

In attendance: Ian Deboys (HSCB & Co-Chair), Fiona Meenan (BHSC Trust), Andrew Steenson (PHA), Kevin Bailey (West Belfast Partnership), Jason White (SEHSC Trust), Fiona McGrath (NIHE), Briege Arthurs (Forward South), Aengus Hannaway (NIHE), Seamus McAleavey (NICVA), Rosemary Thompson (PSNI), Natasha Brennan (LORAG), Sorcha Hassay (DfC), Carol Diffin (BHSCT & Chair of BAOG), Nicola Verner (Greater Shankill Partnership), Michele Bryan (Eastside Partnership), Aileen Cummins (QUB), Gerry Largey (BHSC Trust), Johns Unsworth (Education Authority), Adrienne Adair (Libraries NI), Isaac May (BMet).

BCC Attendees: John Tully, Kevin Heaney, Denise Smith, Jamie Uprichard, Brian Carr, Karen Anderson-Gillespie, Cate Taggart, Stevie Lavery, Nicola Lane.

Apologies: Ryan Black (BCC & Co-Chair), Alistair Stewart (QUB), Charlene Stoops (BHSCT), Bryan Nelson (BHSCT), David Tumilty (PHA), Rafaella Folli (UU), Duncan Morrow (UU), John News (Sports NI), Alison Allen (BCC),

Appendix 2: Workshop Format

Item	What	Who	When
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Iain Deboys	11.30-11.35
2.	Purpose and Structure of the workshop	Anne McMurray	11.35-11.40
3.	Setting the Context	John Tully	11.40-11.45
4.	<p>Session 1: Priorities and collective focus</p> <p>OPEN DISCUSSION - <i>Belfast Agenda Refresh – Priority Themes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Do these have face validity – Are these the right things to focus on over the next 4 years to make a difference? Would you change any of them? Is there anything missing. ii. Can you see where the work of the LHB fits? Anything missing? <p>GROUP DISCUSSION – <i>Reviewing the LHB Priorities and Focus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Are the current priorities the right ones to focus on for 6–18 months? ii. Are there any additional priorities that need focus? <p>Understanding the LHB priority themes e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. What’s currently going well/ what’s having an impact? iv. What’s proving difficult/ barriers preventing delivery? v. What opportunities may exist? vi. What are the linkages to the emerging cross-cutting themes? <p>GROUP FEEDBACK (Session 1)</p>	Anne McMurray / ALL	11.45-12.00 12.00-12.25 12.25-12.35
5.	<p>Session 2: Collaborative delivery (6-18mths)</p> <p>GROUP DISCUSSION: - <i>Action planning and delivery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Identify the right actions to focus on over next 6-18months ii. Consider best lead (convenor)& who needs to be involved iii. Identify key enablers to support implementation iv. Consider and identify key milestones (if possible) <p>GROUP FEEDBACK (Session 2)</p>	Anne McMurray / ALL	12.35-1.00 1.00-1.20
6.	Summary comments and next steps	Anne McMurray	1.20-1.25
7.	Close	Iain Deboys	1.25-1.30