

July 2009

Regeneration Plan for Derry~Londonderry

Towards A Baseline Needs Analysis

Sector Discussion Document

Children and Young People

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This document draws upon a literature review undertaken by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC). The sources of which are provided in Annex C. The literature review has been supplemented by additional secondary research and examples of relevant regeneration initiatives taken elsewhere currently known to PwC. It does not constitute a recommendation or advice on the part of PwC and should be used for discussion purposes only.

Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to provide the Sectoral Working Group (SWG) with a starting point for their deliberations. The document presents an initial overview of the key facts and issues facing the sector in the North West as well as providing some examples of good practice from elsewhere, based on desk research undertaken for this process.

Introduction to the SWGs

SWGs are one of the key input processes being utilised to broaden engagement and collaboration in the development of the Regeneration & Investment Plans and the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) which is embedded in this regeneration process.

They are an integral part of the Organisational Framework set up to develop the Plans and the EQIA. SWGs are designed to bring the experience, expertise and knowledge of the wider community to bear on the Plans and the EQIA and, as part of an overall Communications & Engagement Strategy, to create a new level of wider civic buy-in to the Regeneration of the City and region.

Mission

Our Mission is to deliver Renewal – Economic, Physical and Social, building a stronger and more vibrant economy with increased prosperity for our City and region, in ways which ensure that opportunities and benefits from regeneration are targeted towards the most deprived groups in our communities.

In using the words “targeted/targeting” throughout this document we mean that, in developing all proposals for the Mark II Regeneration and Investment Plans, the proposals must demonstrate how they will bring about measurable improvements for those groups who have been identified as experiencing inequality, for example in housing, education, employment, and health.

In seeking to deliver this Mission we recognise:

(a) that each of the elements set out in the Regeneration Plan Summary is an important part of the jigsaw which we must complete if we are to deliver sustainable economic and social development and be able to contribute to, and benefit from, a shared and better future based on equality – in which equality (as defined by Section 75 (1)), and good relations (as defined by Section 75 (2)) will be watchwords for action.

(b) nonetheless, although each of those elements is important in its own right, the paramount objectives of this new Plan will be:

- changing patterns by growing the local economy so that it can provide more jobs particularly targeted at groups identified as experiencing employment deprivation and inequality;
- promoting equality, in line with the NI Executive's Programme for Government, our statutory obligations and, in ways which impact positively on the lives of citizens through, for example, improved health, education, housing and employment; and
- building genuine partnership – based on stronger working relationships, trust and mutual respect.

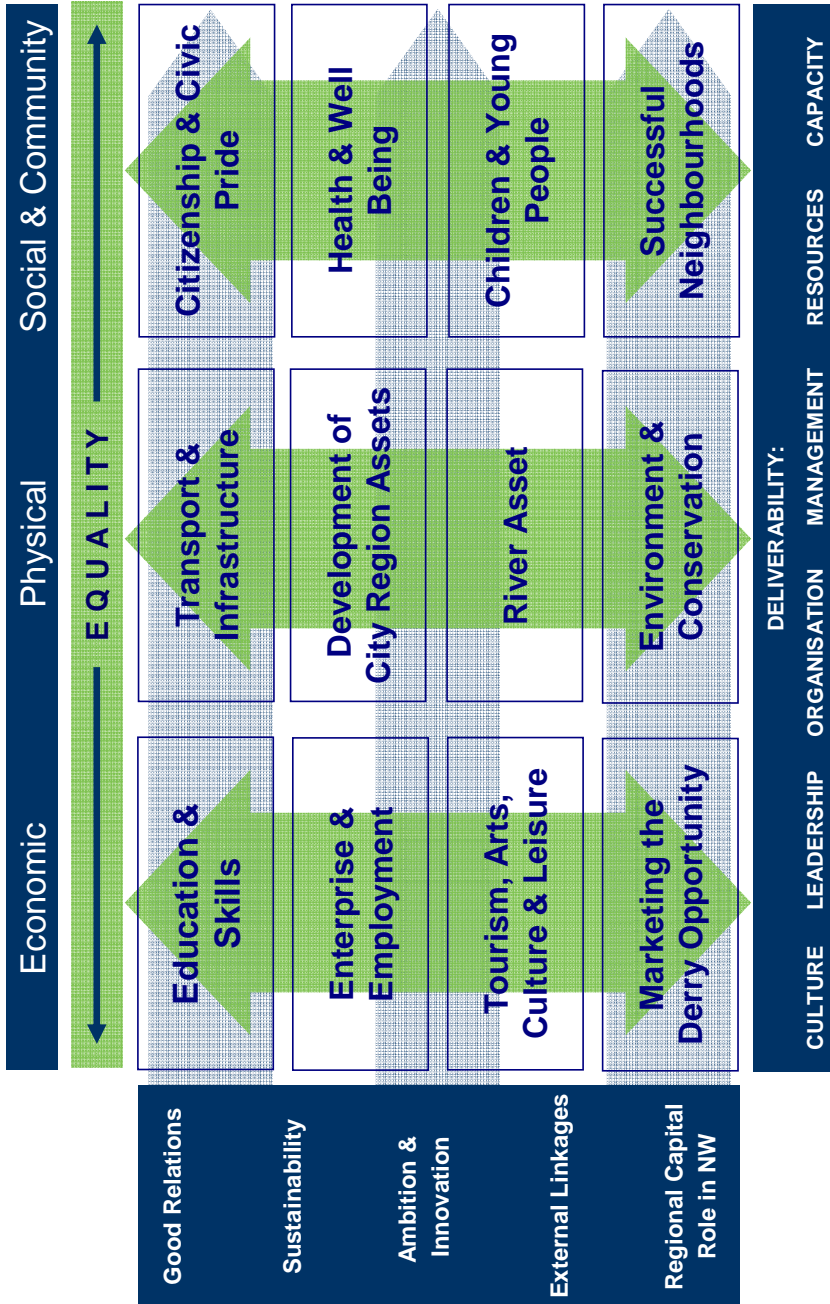
Regeneration Plan

The Regeneration Plan is summarised below:

REGENERATION PLAN SUMMARY

OBJECTIVE SETTING

- What does the City's economy and public service provision look like today?
- What are the existing patterns of inequality & deprivation which must be addressed?
- What would "the best regeneration any city in these island has ever seen" require?
- What do we need to achieve to have "an economically and environmentally sustainable city"?
- What will our proposed Plan deliver, in terms of objectives?



Good Relations
Sustainability
Ambition & Innovation
External Linkages
Regional Capital Role in NW

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Organisational Framework

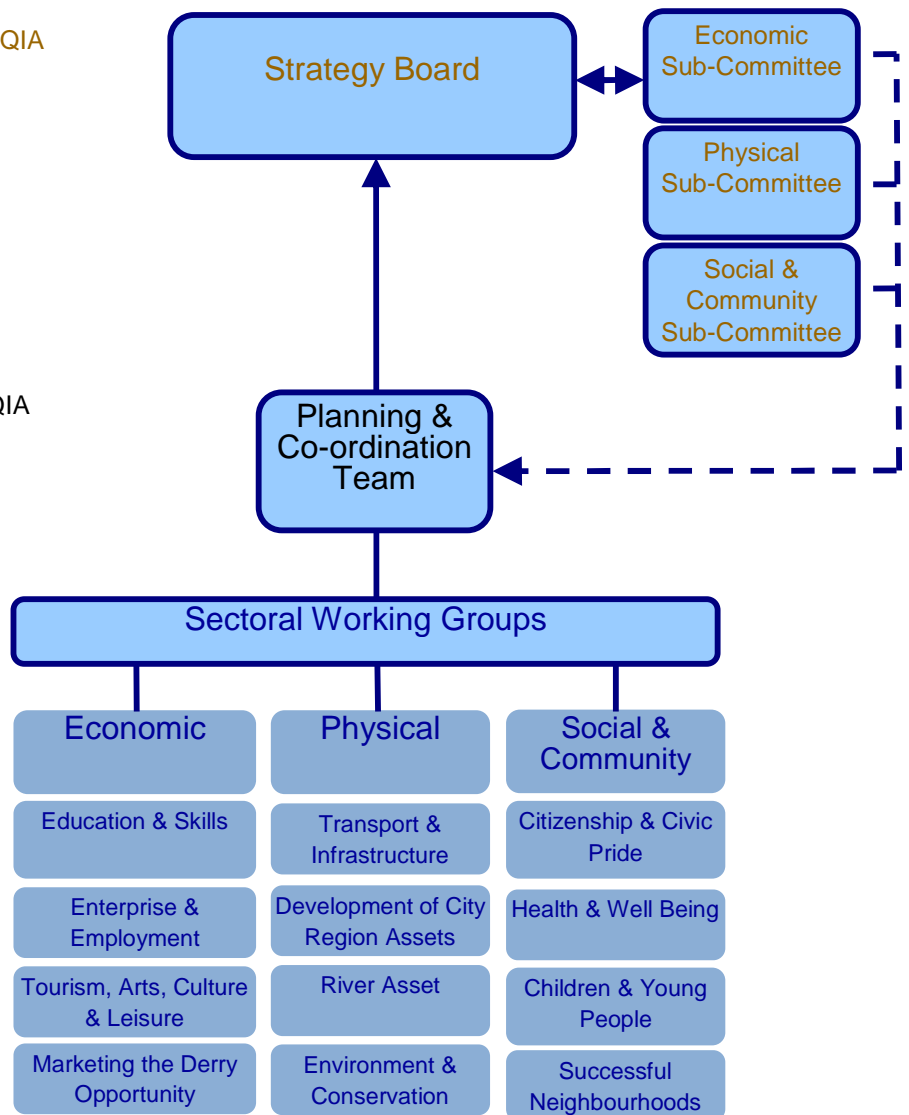
To deliver the “best regeneration that any city on these islands has seen” an organisational framework, which is designed to bring the best experience and expertise together with imagination and aspiration, to the task has been set up. The Organisational Framework is summarised below:

Organisational Framework

High Level Strategic Oversight of Plan & EQIA
Preparation
Consideration of Key Strategic Issues
Approval of the Plan

Preparation & Integration of the Plan & EQIA
Secretariat & Follow-up
Planning & Project Management

Input to Needs Analysis
Strategies, Objectives & Priority Actions
Consultation & Engagement



SWG Workplan

SWGs are currently scheduled to have 8 meetings. By the end of meeting 5 (by 24th September) it is envisaged that each SWG will have supported the preparation of the EQIA and Regeneration and Investment Plans by:

- drafting a vision statement for the sector;
- reviewing and analysing existing and planned provision and activity in their respective fields and identifying existing inequalities therein for the purposes of ensuring any subsequent proposals can be targeted at fulfilling the statutory duty to promote equality;
- developing an understanding of inequalities within the City and wider region and how these effect, or are affected by, their sector in particular;
- developing an understanding of the economy of the City and wider region, and of their sector in particular, the issues and challenges that are facing it and which impact on economic growth;
- summarising and quantifying the current provision of public, private and community services to their sector as a baseline for the EQIA and Regeneration and Investment Plans;
- considering the roles and responsibilities of all statutory, public, private and voluntary/community sectors in relation to improving the sector including the effectiveness of current policies, strategies, programmes and structures, with a view to identifying elements that work well and should be developed further and those things that could be done more effectively. This analysis will consider all data, and pay due regard to data relating to inequality.
- assimilating quantitative and qualitative data relevant to equality and the sector into a needs analysis of the sector; and
- having given due regard to the existing inequalities and having considered possibilities to promote equality, inputting ideas that have been agreed as viable within the group into a long list of possible interventions and identifying strategies in support of these interventions.

The outline above is extracted from, and expanded in, the SWG Terms of Reference issued in the Launch pack.

Output

The output of the SWG for this phase of the work (up to and including meeting 5) will be:

- A vision for the sector; and
- A baseline 'needs analysis' for the sector outlining existing inequalities and current levels of service provision and economic activity. This output will be collated with other SWG baseline analyses and the statistics and analysis of the Community Enumerators.

The Vision will complete section 2 of the SWG report output document template issued in the Launch Pack. The needs analysis will provide the basis for Section 3, (Sectoral Analysis), and Section 4, (Key Sectoral Issues) of the SWG Report to the Strategy Board.

Some questions to consider, as outlined on page 3 of the output document template, are as follows:

- *Does the data provided in the background report cover all the key issues? Please update for any gaps or omissions.*
- *Is the SWG agreed on the main challenges and issues facing the sector?*
- *What are the key inequalities within the sector?*

“Where we are”

Key statistical information for Children and Young People

Derry~Londonderry has a comparatively young population with 24% aged less than 16 years which is higher than NI generally.¹ Donegal has a very young population with 22.7% under 15 years old compared to 20.4% for Ireland as an average.²

This section looks at the key indicators and influences on children and young people: health, education and employment, levels of deprivation and safety and society.

Health

Research for the North West area shows that the main health issues for young people include obesity, smoking, drugs and alcohol, teenage pregnancies and high death and accident rates:³

- Young people in the DCC area tend to suffer from poor diet, are more likely to live in poverty and have a greater risk of suffering from an accident than their NI peers.
- There is a high rate of teenage pregnancy in Derry, a common phenomenon in urban areas of deprivation (22.0 births per 1,000 compared to a NI average of 16.1).⁴ However, there has been a 22% decrease in births to teenage mothers since 2000/1 showing that some progress has been made in this area. 5.1% of all births in Donegal are to mothers who are under 20 years old.
- The North West has a 23% higher child death rate and a 41% higher child accident rate compared to the rest of Northern Ireland.⁵
- 20% of Primary 1 girls and 13% of Primary 1 boys are overweight (typically aged 4 years old) in the Derry~Londonderry area.⁶
- In the 11 – 16 year age group there are some worrying indicators: 9% of young people smoke daily; 16% consume alcohol every week; 5% use solvents every week; and 17% have taken drugs before 12 years old.⁷
- Smoking and alcohol intake by young people in the Western Trust is similar to the NI average, however, solvent abuse and cannabis use is higher than the NI average (see Annex A Figures 1-3). According to Divert, solvent abuse appears

Summary

- Derry~Londonderry and Donegal have a very young population (aged under 16).
- The major health issues for children and young people are obesity, smoking, drugs and alcohol, death and accident rates.
- Youth unemployment follows the NI average trend.
- There is a high level of economic deprivation in the area. Income deprivation and FSM entitlement is significantly higher relative to the rest of NI.
- There has been a recent increase in the number of children on the Child Protection Register but a decrease in Care/Looked after Children.
- There is a high level of young offenders and prosecutions of young people.
- There is limited integration of young Catholics and Protestants in the area.

¹ NISRA Mid-year Population Estimates 2007

² CSO Census 2006

³ Western Health and Social Services Board 2005

⁴ Source: Demography and Methodology Branch: Teenage birth rate per 1,000 female population aged 13-19 2007

⁵ Play Strategy for Derry City Council Area

⁶ Derry's Children Commission and Venture 2005

⁷ Derry City Council Information Booklet on Age

to be used by young people moving from primary to secondary school , cannabis by teenagers and cocaine by those older than 18 years old.

- In Donegal 60% of all boys and girls aged 15-17 were regular drinkers and cannabis is the most common drug used followed by ecstasy and opiates.⁸
- Youth suicide is a major global public health issue and consistently ranks as one of the leading cause of death for adolescents aged 15 -19, with suicide accounting for 30% of deaths in the 15-24 year age group.⁹ Research carried out by the Western Trust found an increase in recorded suicide:

*“In 2003 there were 20 recorded suicide deaths in the WHSSB [now renamed the Western Trust] area (14 male and 6 female) accounting for 1% of all deaths. This is a 50% increase on 10 recorded suicides in 1981”¹⁰
Furthermore the report stipulated that the majority of suicide deaths are male, stating “between 1993 – 2003, 81% of all suicides in the WHSSB area were male compared to 19% female”.¹¹*

- Recent research in Ireland and the UK have found rates among those who would consider committing suicide to be around 20% among young people, with 7% carrying out acts of deliberate self-harm. In the Western Trust area, the highest rates of self-harm were among 20-24 year old males and females, with self harm rates significantly higher among 10-19 year old girls than males at this age. The overall rate in Derry (31%) is higher than the Western Trust area as a whole.¹²

Education and Employment

Levels of academic achievement in Derry~Londonderry largely mirror those of the province as a whole, with a slightly larger gap between high performers and low performers than the NI average.

- In 2007, 46% of Derry school leavers achieved a grade A*-C, a slightly higher proportion than the Northern Ireland average of 44.58%.¹³ (See Figure 1 and 2 of Annex A for a full comparison by Local District Council).
- 2.6% of school leavers in Derry LGD have no GCSE results compared to 2.1% for NI.¹⁴
- 33% of all unemployment claimants in the Derry District Council are aged 16-24; 33.9% in Limavady; and 30.1% in Strabane compared to the NI average of 33.4%.¹⁵
- School Census data for 2007 shows that 16.6% of pupils in post-primary schools in Derry~Londonderry are categorised as Statemented or with Special Education Needs (SEN).¹⁶
- The statistics from a Donegal perspective are consistent: Donegal has the lowest retention level at Junior Certificate (90.2%) and the third lowest level at Leaving Certificate (74.6%) of any county in the Republic of Ireland.

⁸ HSE, 2007. A health profile of the North West Region

⁹ <http://www.publichealth.ie/news/youthsuicidepreventionanevidencebriefingbelfastlaunch>

¹⁰ WHSSB, (Nov 2005) *Western investing for health partnership*,

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² WHSSB Registry of Self-Harm – January to December 2007

¹³ Source: NISRA

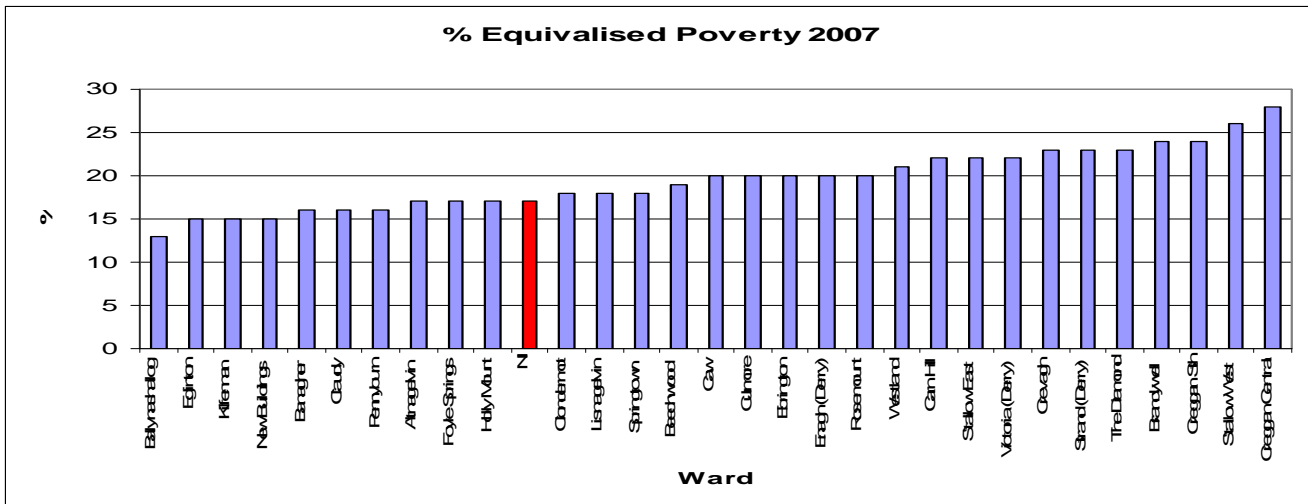
¹⁴ NINIS Year 12 GCSE Attainment by Local Government District 2006/07

¹⁵ Claimant Count May 2009

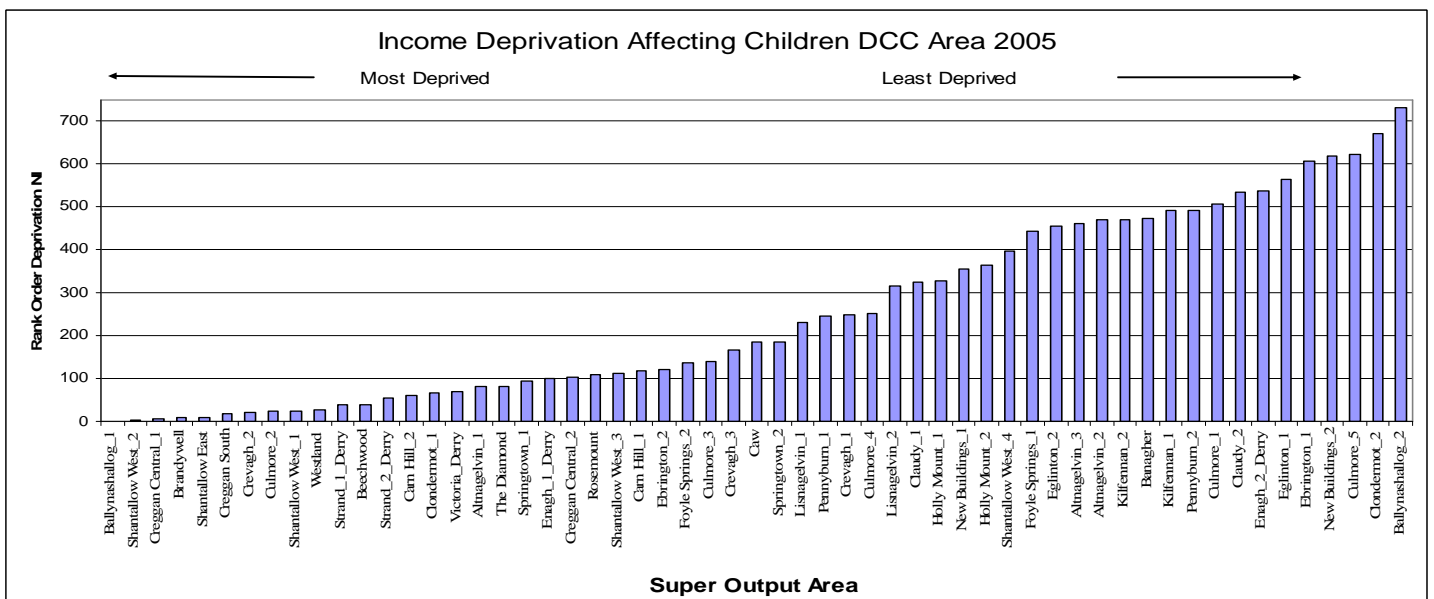
¹⁶ NINIS 2008

Deprivation

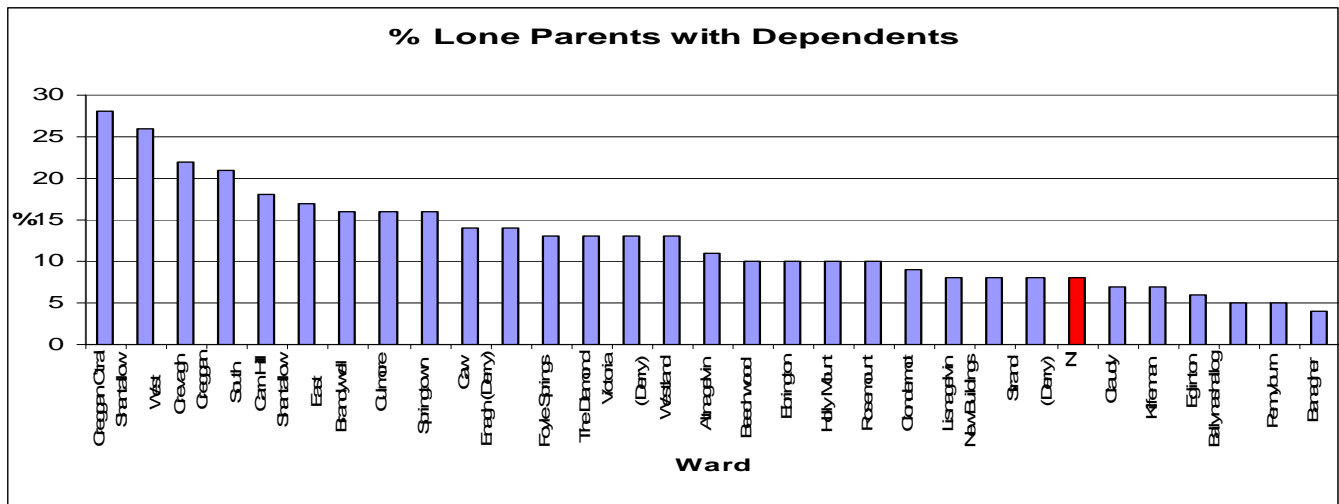
- In the Derry City Council area, 38% of children live in relative income poverty. However, it is important to note that there are significant variances in terms of poverty between wards as demonstrated below. This shows that 20 out of the 30 wards in Derry City Council experience relative poverty using this measure.



- The 2005 NISRA deprivation measure – Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDAC) indicates the extent to which children in the DCC area live in income deprived households. The Super Output areas comprise approximately 2,000 - 3,000 persons. Derry contains 5 of the worst 10 IDAC areas in NI with Ballynashallog 1 (1) ranked worst in NI, followed by Shantallow West 2 (2), Creggan Central 1 (7), Brandywell (8) and Shantallow East (10). (Figures in brackets relate to rank order within NI). In the case of Ballynashallog thus 94% of children live within income deprived households.



There is a high level of single parent occupied households in the North West : 12.4% in Limavady ; 9.6% in Derry; 7.9% in Strabane compared to a NI average of 6.4 (See Annex A: Table 3). There are 7,824 one parent families in the City, which represents 38% of all families with children in the area. Significantly, 10% of lone parents in Derry are aged between 18-24.¹⁷ Four fifths of the wards in Derry Local Government District have a higher percentage of lone parents with dependents compared to the NI average, with Creggan Central and Shantallow having the highest rate.



The proportion of lone parents (as a proportion of all households with dependent children) in Ireland has doubled over the past 15 years, growing from 10.7% in 1991 to 21.3% nationally in 2006. Donegal had a rate of 21.6% in 2006 which was close to the national average.¹⁸ 70% of lone parents fall below the 60% poverty line, the majority of whom are women.¹⁹

Both Derry (39%) and Limavady (29%) have a higher rate of children living in Income Support households when compared to the NI average (21.8%).²⁰

Free School Meals (FSM) can be used as an indicator of child deprivation: In 2006, 32.9% of pupils in post-primary schools in Derry had Free School Meal (FSM) Entitlement with 27.1% in Strabane compared to a NI average of 18.9% in 2006.²¹ Within the Derry LGD, 23 out of 30 wards have a higher percentage of FSM entitled post primary pupils than the NI average (See Figure 4 in Annex A).

Safety and society

There has been an increase of 16% since March 2002 in the number of children on the Child Protection Register in the Western Trust. However, there has been a 22% decrease in the number of children in Care/Looked after Children.

¹⁷ Gingerbread 2006

¹⁸ Pobal: Area profile of Donegal <http://www.pobal.ie/WhatWeDo/Deprivation/Pages/AreaProfiles.aspx>

¹⁹ Poverty Profile of County Donegal 2004

²⁰ Income support claimants 2006

²¹ NINIS 2008

In 2006, 122 10 -17 year olds were prosecuted and 98 convicted in the Derry area. Of those convicted almost half (43%) were placed under supervision in the community and a quarter given a conditional discharge. The highest number of domestic incidents included AOABH/ Common Assault/ criminal damage, and breaches of order.²²

222 defendants appeared in front of the Youth Magistrate's Court in 2006 in Londonderry with 188 sentences.²³

There is limited integration for young people in the Derry City Council Area. Despite the fact that the Peace Process has been in place for over ten years the community is still segregated. Fewer than 10% of children live in mixed housing areas and less than 5% attend integrated schools.²⁴

²² Western Area Children and Young People's Committee 2006

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Derry's Children Commission and Venture 2005

“What you told us”

Future Search findings

The Future Search meetings with 120 stakeholders took place to enable large diverse groups within the region to validate a common mission for regeneration, take responsibility for action and develop a commitment to implementation.

Over two and half days 120 key stakeholders were gathered from across a range of sectors in Derry ~Londonderry and summarised below are the key findings from the discussions of relevance to Children and Young People Working Group.

What is currently happening?

Doing	Want to Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education – Affects us directly • Youth discrimination – negative news • Abortion – change of generation 	
Prouds	Sorries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proud to take part in Future Search • Proud to be working hard for our place in society • Proud to be an individual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We don't take enough interest in 'Globalisation' • That we expect rights and neglect the responsibilities. • Sometimes live up to negative stereotypes (sectarianism, alcohol abuse).

There was no specific mission statement and Action Plan for Children and Young People contained within the Future Search report. Therefore, it is important to consider the vision, achievements and actions of other stakeholder groups which will have an impact on Children and Young People. These include and are not limited to:

- Education;
- Health and Well being;
- Tourism, Arts, Culture and Leisure;
- Citizenship and Civic Pride; and
- Successful Neighbourhoods.

Additionally as part of the Equality Impact Assessment of the Derry City Council Rates Estimates 2009/2010 and Capital Programme, 30 young people from schools across Derry City Council were invited to share their concerns which are laid out below:

Top Five concerns – messages from children

- *“There is a lot of awareness about sectarianism among children who often make comments about flags, bonfires and painted kerbs.”*
- *“Play experience – not enough good spaces to play near their houses, too much traffic, dog dirt is a constant problem. In general, the play parks are run down, full of old equipment and broken glass as they are used as drinking dens at night.”*
- *“Bullying – many children are experiencing bullying on the streets and schools.”*

- *“School – we often get some very positive messages about school, activities and individual teachers but some children feel very pressurized by school.”*
- *“The majority of children do not know that they have rights.”*

Top five concerns – messages from young people

- *“Many young people tell us that they do not have anywhere to go or anything to do.”*
- *“In general, young people want places to hang out that do not cost money as well as specific facilities like a skateboard park, concert venues, an ice rink and a theme park.”*
- *“Many young people feel that they are not being listened to by adults including politicians, parents and the police.”*
- *“Young people say they need someone to talk to, somewhere to go if they have a problem, but do not know what help or services are available. Some young people who have used the mental health services are dismayed by the length of time it takes to get an appointment and the lack of confidentiality because of their age.”*
- *“A lot of young people have expressed fear of attacks and muggings particularly when out at night.”*

"What others have said"

Factors influencing Children and Young People in North West Region

- Analysis showed that of the children living in households below 50% of the mean and 60% of the median income in Northern Ireland²⁵:
 - Approximately 45% lived in lone-parent families;
 - Over one-third lived in workless, lone parent households;
 - Over one-third lived in households where at least one adult, but not all, was in work;
 - Over two-fifths lived in families with at least three children;
 - Over a quarter lived in families with at least one disabled adult;
 - Over nine in ten children were in families with no disabled children;
 - 22% of children were in families not in receipt of any of the benefits/tax credits listed; and
 - Approximately two-thirds lived in families who could not afford to save £10+ a month.
 - Over eight in ten had less than £1,500 savings, with nearly three-fifths having no savings.

Health

- Common influences on the health of young people are the economic, education and health deprivation of parents. Low birth weight is prevalent in 25% of children from semi-skilled and unskilled parents and 45% higher for single mothers.²⁶
- The health of children is influenced by the attitudes of their parents and the promotion of healthy lifestyles both through education in school and the provision of sports opportunities through an accessible range of sporting and leisure facilities.

Education and leisure

- McAvoy (2008) stated that parental education underachievement may be passed from one generation to the next thereby continuing the cycle of deprivation.²⁷
- Lack of access to appropriate and affordable childcare is a major contributing factor to child poverty and deprivation. According to Derry Well Woman, parents may feel unable to enter employment due to lack of appropriate and affordable childcare thereby prolonging the cycle of deprivation.²⁸

Summary

- The health of young people is influenced by the economic, education and deprivation of their parents.
- The level of economic activity and future employment options in the area impacts the aspirations of young people, with many young people choosing to leave the area to avail of better opportunities.
- Frustration may manifest itself in anti-social behaviour and incidence of criminal activity.
- There is a lack of integration for young people with young members of the Protestant community feeling alienated.
- The aspirations of young people are influenced by parents & family, school, friends, media and the community.
- A range of initiatives are currently in place to support children and young people to aspire for a better future including an opportunity to become engaged in society including youth media schemes and youth empowerment schemes.

²⁵ DSD, Households Below Average Income, Northern Ireland, 2006/07

²⁶ Prashar 2003

²⁷ McAvoy, H. and Meehan, K.

²⁸ McColgan et al. 2006

- Derry City Council is the main public driver for leisure in the Council area with leisure centres at Brandywell, Brooke Park, Lisnagelvin, St. Columb's Park, William Street Baths and Templemore. In the future, North West Regional Sports Campus at St Columb's Park will provide key leisure facilities.²⁹

Economic opportunities and aspirations

- A high level of economic inactivity and unemployment in the region may influence the aspirations of young people. In 2007 34.2% of those of working age in Derry were classified as 'economically inactive', which is considerably higher than the Northern Ireland average of 26.6%.³⁰
- Net-out migration for high academic achievers³¹ creates the prevailing attitude for young people that to be successful they have to leave the area, and if they do not have this opportunity, then the future is not very promising.
- With low prospects for economic prosperity and low levels of civic engagement,³² young people may feel alienated from the community and may not have a sense of pride in the City. Therefore, frustration at lack of opportunity and recreational activities may manifest itself in anti-social behaviour.
- Young people in certain types of neighbourhoods are less likely to develop ambitious, achievable aspirations. These neighbourhoods tend to have high levels of deprivation.³³ Equally parents, teachers, peers and media influence the aspirations of young people.

Anti-social behaviour

- Local media coverage, noise action days, school presentations on anti-social behaviour and the Acceptable Behaviour Contract Scheme have led to a reduction in anti-social behaviour.³⁴
- Binge drinking has an adverse effect on mental health, family and social interactions. Research by the Strategic Task Force on Alcohol states that 40% of individuals who began drinking before 13 would develop alcohol related problems or alcohol dependency in their lives.³⁵
- There is substantial progress to be made in terms of integration between young people with the majority of young people living in segregated areas and attending either Catholic or Protestant schools. The Protestant community does not feel welcome in the Cityside area³⁶ and this perception of fear and threat can prevent their use of facilities and services³⁷ which creates challenges for the concept of shared spaces. Research by St. Columb's Park in 2004 commented on the constrained mobility of younger Protestants due to fear of verbal abuse and physical attack.³⁸

²⁹ Usage figures were unavailable at the time of writing

³⁰ Source: 'Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey' 2007

³¹ Ilex and its Partners: Research Study: 'Addressing the Gap in Educational Attainment and Qualification in the Derry City Council Area. May 2008. P16

³² Research by *Poverty and Social Exclusion Project Social Exclusion in Northern Ireland* shows that those aged 16-24 or who live in deprived areas are least likely to volunteer or be engaged in their community

³³ Cabinet Office et al. 2008

³⁴ Derry City Council 2007

³⁵ HSE, 2007.

³⁶ Shirlow et al., 2005

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ http://www.stcolumbsparkhouse.org/public_html/programme7.htm

- The North West Reconciliation Action Plan raise concern over continuing interface problems in some areas with the main instigators being identified as young males aged 12-20 and recently young females. The main interface areas in Derry identified are Bishop Street/Fountain, Irish Street/Gobnascale and Tullyally/Curryneirin.³⁹

Current initiatives

There have been a number of initiatives employed in the Derry City Council area to improve the livelihood of children and young people, including and not limited to:

Health and welfare

- Derry's Children Commission - an interagency partnership involving children and young people, parents, providers of services, statutory, voluntary and community organisations to promote and protect the rights of children from birth to 18 years of age and to advocate on their behalf in the Derry City Council Area.
- The Western Area Children and Young Peoples Committee (WACYPC) acts as a forum for bringing together the agencies and bodies involved with identifying the needs of, and developing services for, children and young people in need. Membership includes Health and Social Services; Education and Library Boards; the Voluntary Sector; the Probation Board for Northern Ireland; the Northern Ireland Housing Executive; and the Police.
- WELB in Northern Ireland is the local authority for the provision of education, library and youth services in the Council areas of Omagh, Fermanagh, Derry, Strabane and Limavady. The Board's Youth Service goals are to assist young people to optimise their potential as responsible individuals and socially-included citizens and to pay particular regard to the needs of young people (5 - 25) but especially during the their transition from childhood to adolescence.
- Investing for Health Action Plan 2007 details strategies for early years and disadvantage and teenage transition. There are a range of initiatives in place which require partnerships between different agencies to tackle obesity, improve mental health provision and healthy homes.
- The Western Action Hidden Harm Action Plan developed in 2009 set up objectives to provide support and help to children with substance misusing parents or carers.
- Cooperation And Working Together (CAWT) are working with the Department of Health to progress a 3 year cross border obesity prevention and management project aimed at families.
- The proposed North West Regional Sports Campus at St Columb's Park will offer judo, wrestling, indoor mountaineering, GAA and soccer opportunities for children and young people in the area.
- Derry City Council and Ilex have recently commissioned consultants to conduct a Play Plan to audit existing play provision and determine future needs across the City Council area which will build upon the 2006-2009 Interagency Play Strategy for Derry City Council Area.
- Sure Start brings together childcare, early education, health and family-support services for families with children under 5 years old. It is the cornerstone of the Government's drive to tackle child poverty and social exclusion working with parents-to-be, parents, carers and children to promote the physical, intellectual and social development of babies and young children so that they can flourish at home and when they get to school.

³⁹ Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan 2008

- Gingerbread is an agency that offers support to one parent families and provides childcare and vocational training.

Anti-social behaviour and alcohol

- Off the Streets Community Youth Initiative was set up to respond to increasing 'anti-social' and risk-taking behaviour including the abuse and misuse of alcohol and drugs as well as engaging in behaviours that create a climate of fear within the community in Derry.
- The Mobile Phone network, Interface Forum and Bishop Street rota have played an important role in managing interface areas in Derry.⁴⁰
- The Neighbourhood Alcohol Safety Partnership and Safe from Harm aim to tackle the issues of alcohol addiction and binge drinking and were recently awarded almost £2m in funding from the Big lottery Fund.⁴¹ The Civic Alcohol Forum delivers educational initiatives to reduce alcohol addiction.
- Drug and alcohol interventions are offered by the Divert Project and White Oaks rehabilitation project.

Empowerment

- Derry City Shadow Council - represent the views of young people in the Derry City Council area.
- St Columb's Park is a centre for reconciliation based in Derry which contributes to peace building and social inclusion through civic participation among young people. Programmes include the Anti-Social behaviour programme and the Youth bank.
- Nerve Centre and Playhouse provide focal points for young people providing opportunities for creative collaboration and community art.
- Headliners is a youth media project which provides an opportunity for young people to personally develop and comment on the issues that matter to them.
- Playtrail consists of an adventure playground, sensory garden and an environmental education scheme.
- Young Enterprise – provides a first-hand insight into business and the world of work which aims to inspire and equip young people to learn and succeed through enterprise.
- FOSEC - Foyle Schools and Employer Connections for the North West of Ireland supporting schools students and career teachers providing a resource for job and career information.
- There are a range of community playgrounds/playgroups, youth groups, after school clubs and women's centre which contribute to the personal development of children and young people.
- Donegal Youth Service is an independent, locally based youth service with projects including the Daybreak Programme and FAS DYS.

⁴⁰ Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan 2008

⁴¹ <http://www.derryjournal.com/journal/2-million-funding-for-alcohol.5401700.jp>

“What others have tried”

In conducting desk research for Children and Young People a range of examples of practice elsewhere were identified:⁴²

Youth – adult partnerships

It is important to continually develop opportunities for young people to be involved in society in a meaningful way to increase their self-esteem. One example is youth-adult partnerships where youth are included as decision makers alongside adults (and not separately) as it provides them an opportunity to develop their skills. This equal playing field encourages healthy intergenerational relationships and fosters a pervasive sense of community spirit and trust among young people and adults.

Project Scotland

A volunteer society has been created in Scotland which has successfully placed 2,000 unemployed young people. Success and participation is achieved as volunteers are paid a subsistence of £55 a week for 30 hours of labour and community and voluntary organisations are funded to train volunteers, thereby increasing social capital and aspirations of young people. The project also has a financial contribution: £21.4 million to the Scottish economy. After the training period, volunteers enter into paid employment. A similar scheme in Derry~Londonderry would help to increase the skills of unemployed, unqualified young people, increase their self-esteem and strategically improve economic activity in the area in the long term.

<http://www.projectsotland.co.uk/Pages/HomePage.as>

Comprehensive School Nutrition Programs Initiative, Milwaukee

In order to tackle a high level of child obesity in the City Milwaukee, the Health Department’s Community Nutrition Programme, and the State Team Nutrition Programme and Milwaukee Public schools joined forces to create a pledge sheet where all schools agreed to proactively work together to promote healthy nutrition in schools. Schools were provided with training and support to evaluate their school meals and vending machine offerings with funding provided to implement healthy food plans and nutrition learning for pupils. This initiative highlights the role and impact that schools have in challenging current obesity levels and a similar initiative could be adopted in schools in Derry~Londonderry.

<http://www.mcw.edu/chc/urbanprograms/branchout/cityofmilwaukee.htm>

Into University Programme

This educational initiative first piloted in North Kensington aims to overcome achievement and social exclusion for young people by overcoming the economic,

Summary:

- *Youth adult partnerships:* provides an opportunity for young people to develop their skills and feel valued by their older peers.
- *Project Scotland:* an initiative to increase volunteering and skill development whilst at the same time improving self esteem and potential economic activity.
- *Comprehensive School Nutrition Programs Initiative:* creating a partnership between schools and service providers to improve nutrition in schools to decrease child obesity.
- *Into University Programme:* a multifaceted initiative to *reduce* the barriers to third level educational attendance by using academic support, focus programmes and mentoring. In the process self esteem is raised and the importance of attending university is understood by participants.
- *Johnsons & Johnsons: Bridge to Employment* –educational achievement of at-risk students.

⁴² It is important to note that the examples highlighted are in no way a judgement of their effectiveness.

social and cultural barriers to entering third level education. The main programmes delivered are:

- Academic support – which encourages young people to set their own goals and take responsibility for their own learning with after school academic support in a safe and stimulating environment. Awareness of the importance of university is increased in young pupils, confidence building training delivered and one to one support provided in completing UCAS applications.
- Focus programme – stimulating and challenging experimental education is provided to increase passion for learning and the development of interpersonal skills. In-depth knowledge of subjects is fostered by working in conjunction with volunteer professionals and hands on university visits to encourage young people to aspire to attend university.
- Mentoring – Face to face mentoring is facilitated between university students and pupils in Years 6 - 13 to assist young people to take control of their own educational future and to gather practical information about university and career options.

The scheme could be replicated in the Derry~Londonderry area to cement the importance of university, of attending university from a young age, raise aspirations and increase pride in achievement.

<http://www.intouniversity.org/whoweare/vision.asp>

Johnsons & Johnson – Bridge to Employment in Cork

The Bridge to Employment initiative (BTE) is an initiative developed by Johnson & Johnson in the USA and in place in Ireland and Scotland which aims to improve educational achievement of at-risk students by providing opportunities for a learning environment which is meaningful, engaging, and relevant. Young people are introduced to a broad array of careers in health care and provided with real world experiences. The partnership consists of a local Johnson & Johnson operating company, a high school, an institution of higher education, and an intermediary organization. BTE program incorporates a common core of school-to-career principles: maintaining high standards of academic learning for all students, providing opportunities for contextual learning, creating links with institutions of higher education, and connecting students with adults in the workplace. Past research has shown the importance of linking academic studies with real world applications to improve educational outcomes for pre-college students. The BTE program has been shown to have positive benefits for students, schools, communities and Johnson & Johnson employees. In addition, BTE may provide a possible solution to the declining number of students pursuing health care careers.

A similar initiative could be employed in Derry with other companies to improve educational achievement.

“Key questions for Derry~Londonderry”

How do we drive change in Children and Young People?

Strategic objectives and interventions previously identified for this sector are outlined in Annex B.

- Are the objectives still valid? Will they deliver against the equality and sustainability agenda? If not, what should the objectives be?
- What are the key priority actions in this sector?
- Is high educational achievement supported by high value job creation in the area? How can young people be encouraged to stay? Are the aspirations of young people fulfilled in the area?
- How to tackle income deprivation in households? What additional support do parents require, for example, improved crèche provision?
- What methods can be employed to reach out to currently disengaged young people? How can anti-social behaviour be prevented and young people encouraged to engage in society in a productive manner?
- Are there successful initiatives that have been taken elsewhere that the SWG should consider? If yes, what actions need to be taken, by whom, when and what are the cost/resource implications.
- Are the necessary resources in place to develop effective services to children and young people in the North West?
- How will the SWG work in co-ordination with the other SWGs that will impact upon the livelihood of children and young people, most notably:
 - Enterprise and employment;
 - Education and skills; and
 - Health and wellbeing.

Summary

- Are the Government objectives addressing the key issues?
- Is there a 'joined up' approach to tackling the problems?
- Are the aspirations of young people fulfilled in the regeneration plan?
- How to increase the engagement of young people?
- Is there a novel way of engaging schools, employers, the wider community and young people to develop initiative that can address core problems?
- How will the SWG work in co-ordination with the other SWGs?

Annexes:

Towards A Baseline Needs Analysis

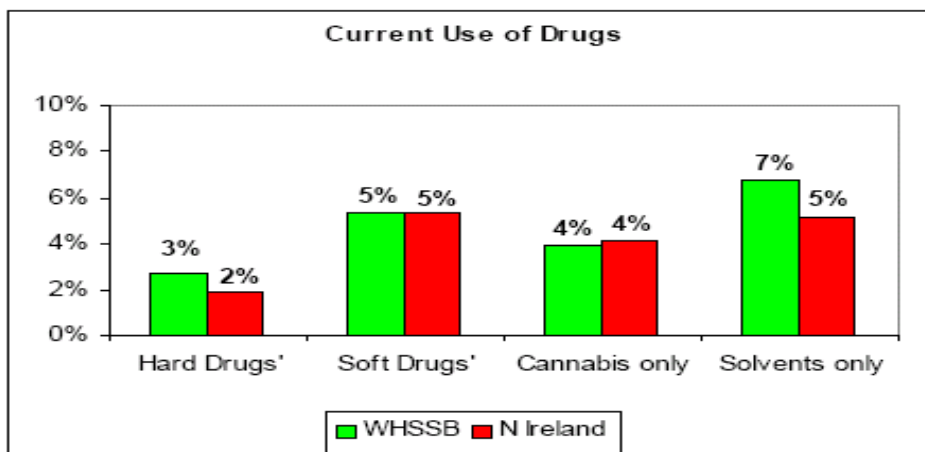
Sector Discussion Document

Children and Young People

Annex A: Baseline statistical tables

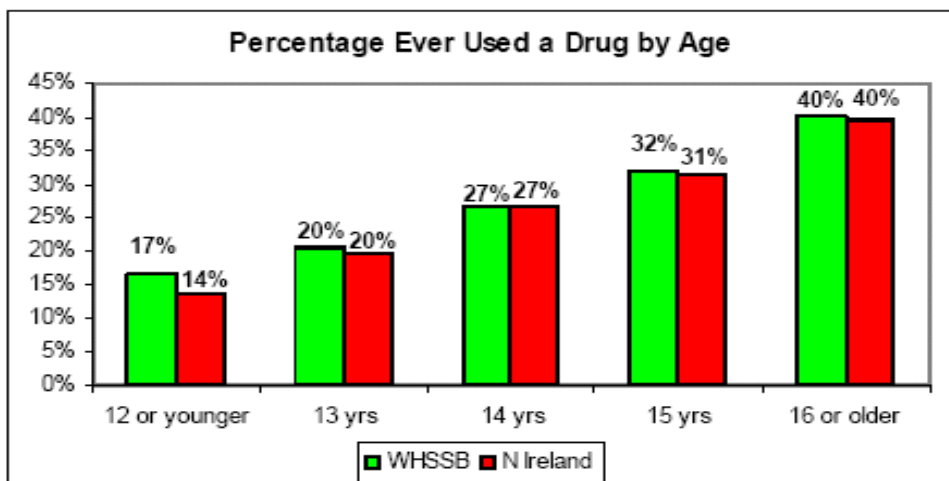
This collection of datasets is intended to provide a snapshot of the Children and Young People conditions pertaining to the Derry City Council area and the North West. One of the issues that now arises in data collection is the length of time since the 2001 Census, therefore attempts have been made, where appropriate, to supplement this information with live administrative data to provide more robust information for the analysis.

Figure 1: Current use of Drugs⁴³



The figure above from *The State of Our Health* indicates that drug intake in the Western Trust is similar to the intake in NI as a whole. The substance most used appears to be solvents. However, it is important to remember that these results are from the *Young People's Behaviour and Attitudes Survey* only provide a snap shot of the time. Solvent abuse is higher among those transitioning between primary and secondary schools and cycles of use vary.

Figure 2: Percentage ever used a drug by age⁴⁴



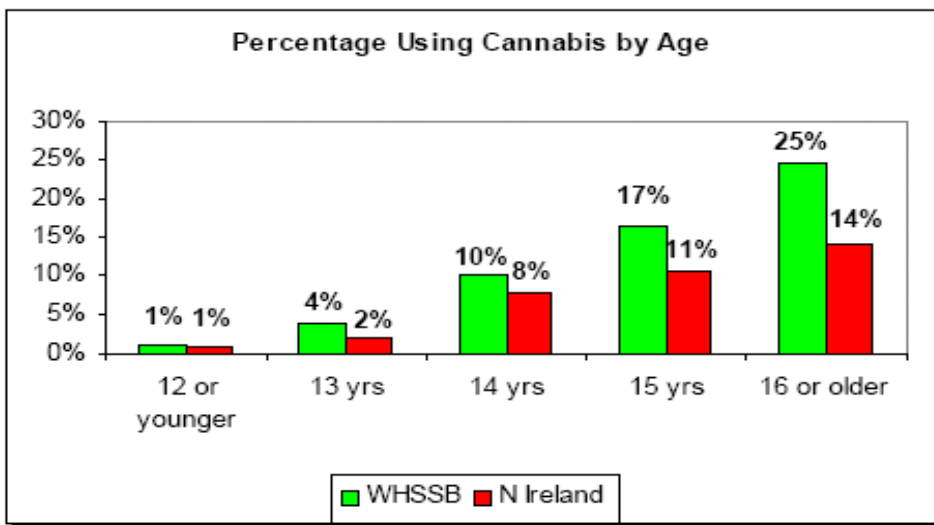
⁴³ Young People's Behaviour and Attitudes Survey (YPBA) as referenced in State of our Health

⁴⁴ Ibid.

The figure above shows that drug use increases by age with the highest level of drug taking witnessed by those aged 16 or over. However, it is worthwhile to note that there is a higher level of drug experimentation at a younger age in the Western Trust, with 17% of people aged 12 or younger trying a drug compared to 14% for Northern Ireland. This may be explained by the use of solvents in the area by young people.

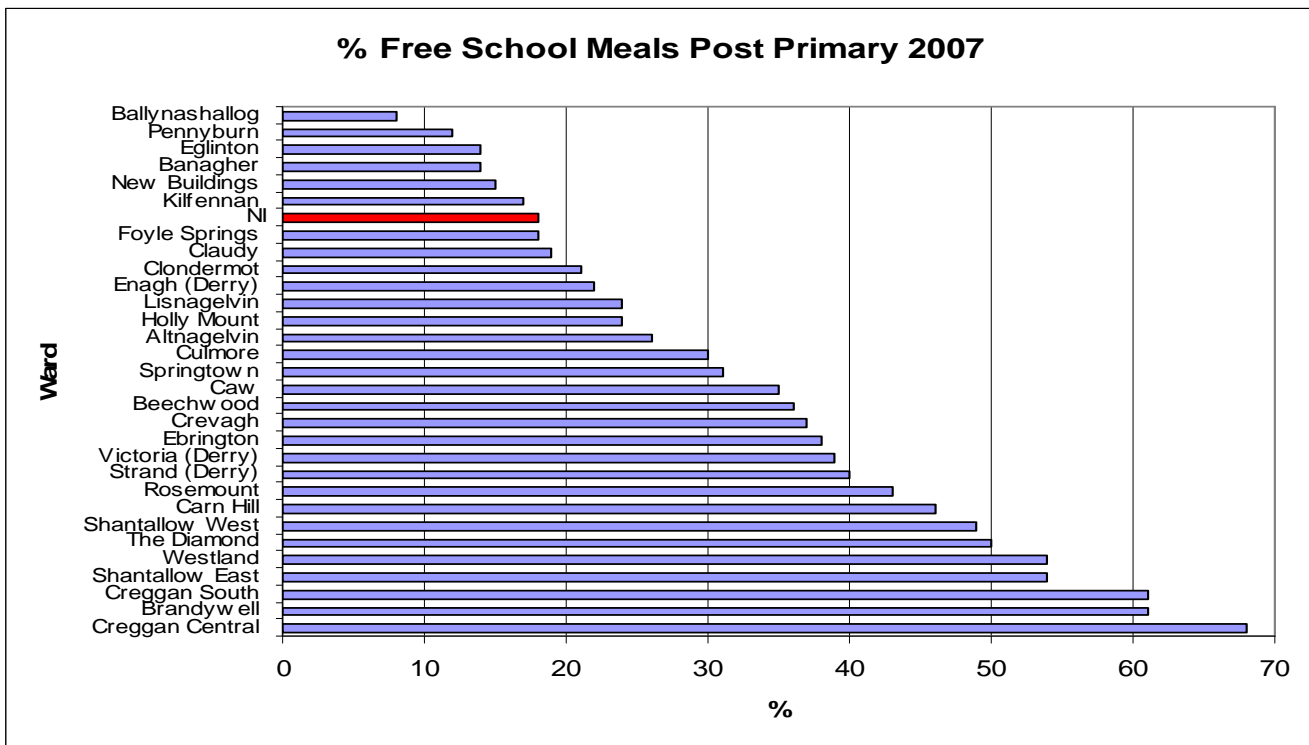
Figure 3: Percentage using cannabis by age⁴⁵

Cannabis is the most frequent drug consumed by young people in Northern Ireland and the figures above show that from 13+ years there is a higher percentage of young people in the Western Trust using cannabis than in Northern Ireland with the largest variance witnessed at 16 years or older.



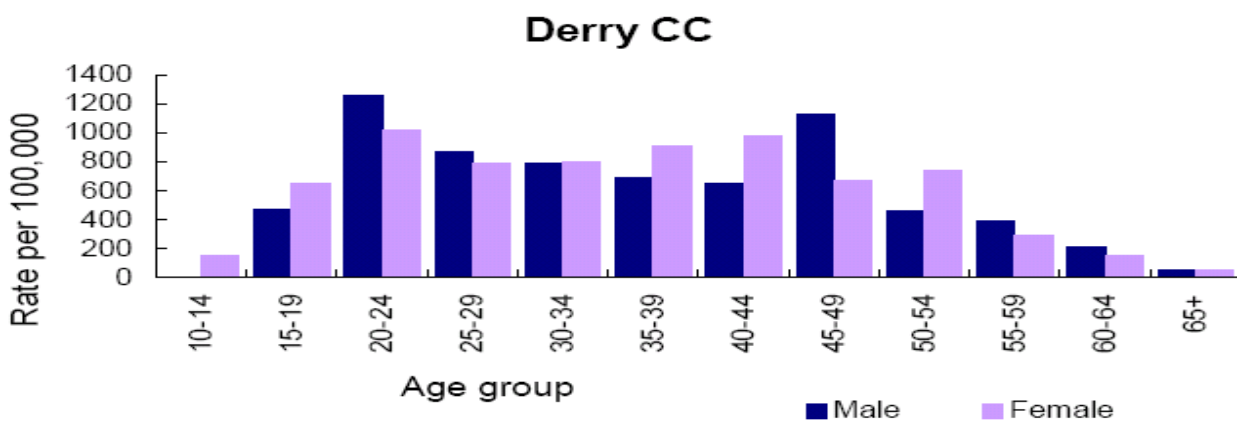
⁴⁵ Ibid

Figure 4: % Free School Meals Post Primary 2007

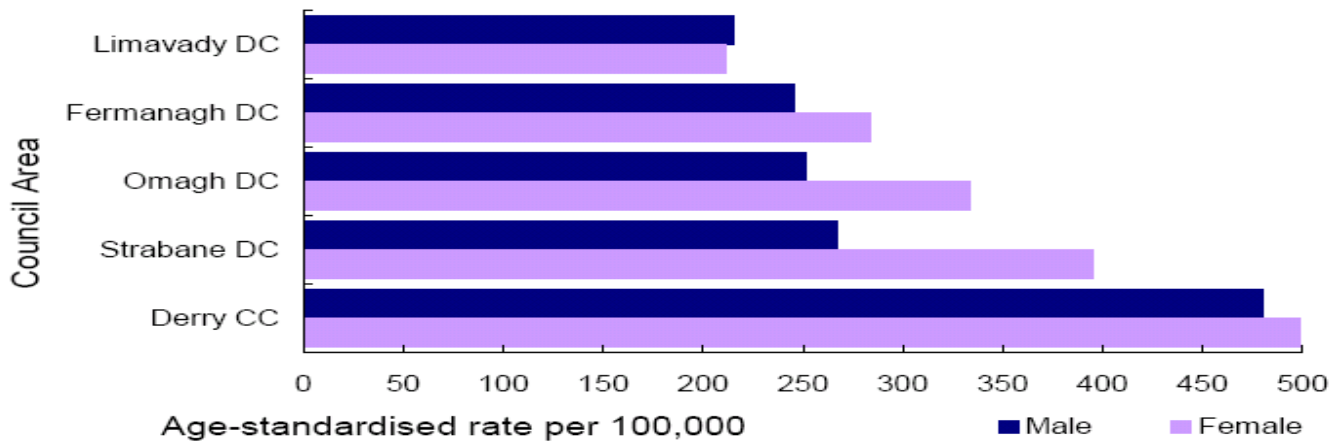


The above chart reflects the findings of Noble with 23 of the 30 wards having a greater percentage of Free School Meal entitled children than the NI average.

Figure 5: Rates of self-harm by age group in Derry CC in 2007⁴⁶



⁴⁶ WHSSB Registry of Self-Harm – January to December 2007



In the Western Trust the highest rates of self-harm were among 20-24 year old males and females, with self harm rates significantly higher among 10-19 year old girls. The overall rate in Derry CC (31%) is higher than the Western Board as a whole.

⁴⁷ WHSSB Registry of Self-Harm – January to December 2007

Table 1: Educational Attainment Levels among Population – Analysis by District Council. Census 2001

Local Government District	All persons aged 16-74	Percentage of Persons aged 16-74 with:					
		No qualifications	Highest qualification attained: Level 1 ¹	Highest qualification attained: Level 2 ²	Highest qualification attained: Level 3 ³	Highest qualification attained: Level 4 ⁴	Highest qualification attained: Level 5 ⁵
Derry	72,665	43.7	17.2	15.6	8.5	10.2	4.9
Armagh	37,752	43.6	17.0	16.6	9.1	9.7	3.9
Omagh	33,045	43.3	17.9	16.7	7.6	10.5	3.9
Larne	22,086	41.9	19.0	17.4	8.1	9.9	3.8
Belfast	197,519	41.8	14.8	13.3	10.9	12.2	7.0
Banbridge	29,283	41.7	17.9	17.4	8.6	10.5	3.8
Coleraine	40,089	39.9	16.4	16.4	10.1	11.6	5.7
Ards	52,878	39.3	19.9	17.5	8.9	10.4	4.1
Newtownabbey	57,907	39.0	18.5	16.6	9.6	11.6	4.8
Antrim	34,579	38.7	20.0	18.0	8.9	10.4	3.9
Down	44,249	38.2	18.1	18.3	9.3	11.3	4.7
Carrickfergus	26,951	38.0	19.5	17.6	9.2	11.4	4.3
Lisburn	76,476	37.4	18.5	17.6	9.0	12.2	5.4
Castlereagh	47,155	35.5	16.8	16.5	9.0	14.8	7.4
North Down	54,882	31.0	18.1	19.6	9.9	15.1	6.3

Table 2: Highest Level of Qualification by Gender and Age. Census of Population 2001

	Strabane			Derry			Limavady			Northern Ireland		
	None	Level 1	Level 2	None	Level 1	Level 2	None	Level 1	Level 2	None	Level 1	Level 2
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Males												
16-24	27	26	28	23	26	28	24	26	31	20	24	27
25-49	53	20	11	38	21	12	45	21	13	34	22	13
50+	84	3	4	72	5	6	84	5	6	71	5	8
Females												
16-24	20	21	32	17	20	32	15	23	34	15	18	31
25-49	41	22	17	34	22	16	36	23	18	27	24	19
50+	81	5	7	77	5	7	59	3	5	71	7	11
All												
16-24	24	24	30	20	23	30	20	25	33	17	21	29
25-49	47	21	14	36	21	14	37	22	18	31	23	16
50+	82	4	6	74	5	7	77	6	7	71	6	10

Derry and neighbouring districts have higher proportions of people with no qualifications across almost all age and sex criterion, demonstrating the below average educational attainment.

Table 3: House Conditions Survey 2006 - Lone Parent - Lone Parent by Local Government District

LGD Name	Lone Parent %
Limavady	12.4
Derry	9.6
Belfast	8.0
Strabane	7.9
NORTHERN IRELAND	6.4

The table above demonstrates that Limavady, Derry and Strabane all have a higher percentage of lone parents per household than the NI average. Percentage of lone parents is a useful indicator as there is a strong correlation with poverty which will impact the life of the children.

Annex B: "Where we fit?"

Strategic Objectives: Children and Young People

Children and Young People objectives and priorities are influenced by a range of national and regional policies and therefore it is important that these are taken into consideration when reviewing potential priorities for this sector.

Northern Ireland Programme for Government: overall goals related to children and young people

The Programme for Government sets out the strategic objectives for Northern Ireland from. The overarching aim is to build a peaceful, fair and prosperous society in Northern Ireland, with respect for the rule of law and where everyone can enjoy a better quality of life now and in years to come. The key goals which will impact upon the work of this SWG are set out below:

- Ensuring that by 2011 68% of school leavers achieve 5 or more GCSE passes at A* to C including English and Maths.
- Ensuring, by 2015, that 80% of the working age population is qualified to at least GCSE level or equivalent.
- Work towards the elimination of child poverty in Northern Ireland by 2020 and reducing child poverty by 50% by 2010.
- Increasing to 125,000 the number of children and young people participating in sport and physical recreation by 2011; and by 2013 having at least a third of people with disabilities so participating.
- Reducing the number of abused or neglected children requiring to be placed on the Child Protection Register or in care by 20% by 2013.
- By 2011, reducing the suicide rate by 15%.
- Reducing by 33% the overall number of people, and by 50% the number of children, killed or seriously injured on our roads by 2012.
- Increasing by 25% the numbers of students, especially those from disadvantaged communities, at graduate and postgraduate level studying Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics by 2015.⁴⁸

Public Service Agreements (PSAs) related to Children and Young People

To support the priorities of the Programme for Government a framework of 23 Public Service Agreements (PSAs) were agreed. Those that are relevant to the activities of the Children and Young People SWG are set out below and confirm the key actions that will be taken in support of priorities, outcomes and targets in NI over the next three years

PSA 6: Children and Family – To ensure that children are cared for, live in safety, are protected from abuse, receive the support they need to achieve their full potential, become more independent and grow into well adjusted adults, taking their place in the community.

PSA 7: Making people's lives better – Drive a programme across Government to reduce poverty and address inequality and disadvantage.

⁴⁸ NI Programme for Government 2008/11: www.pfgbudgetni.gov.uk.

PSA 8: Promoting health and addressing health inequalities – Promote healthy lifestyles, address the causes of poor health and wellbeing and achieve measurable reductions in health inequalities and preventable illnesses.

PSA 9: Promoting access to culture, arts and leisure – Contribute to Northern Ireland’s economic, health and educational goals by increasing participation and access to Culture, Arts and Leisure activities.

PSA 10: Helping our children and young people to achieve through education – Encourage all our children to realise their potential by improving access to formal and non formal education and provision tailored to the needs of disadvantaged children and young people.

PSA 12: Housing, urban regeneration and community development – Promote decent, energy efficient, affordable housing and regenerate disadvantaged areas and towns and city centres, and support community development to create environments which enhance quality of life and contribute to well-being.

PSA 14: Promoting safer roads – Deliver a safer roads network and achieve measurable reductions in road deaths and serious injury.

PSA 17: Rural infrastructure – Help rural communities improve the physical, economic and social infrastructure of their areas.

PSA 18: Deliver high quality health and social services – Provide timely and appropriate access to high quality, integrated and cost-effective health and social services, to deliver improved outcomes.

PSA 19: Raising standards in our schools – Educate and develop our young people to the highest possible standards to deliver improved outcomes for all young people, including measurable reductions in the gap in educational outcomes between highest and lowest attainers.

OFMDFM Young people – our pledge: A ten year strategy for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland 2006 – 2016

The key priorities identified from this strategy are that children are :

- Healthy;
- Enjoying, learning and achieving;
- Living in safety and with stability;
- Experiencing economic and environmental well-being;
- Contributing positively to community and society; and
- Living in a society which respects their rights.

A healthier future: A Twenty Year Vision for Health and Wellbeing in Northern Ireland, 2005 – 2015 Key Outcomes: Positive Outcomes for Children and Young People

- By 2025, 70% of all infants will be breast-fed by one week after birth (50% by 2010).
- By 2025, 40% of all infants will still be breast-fed at 6 months (20% by 2010).

- To have improved the mental health and wellbeing of young people aged 16 to 24 years by a fifth between 2001 and 2025 as measured by the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ) 12 score.
- By 2010 to have ensured that all children and young people requiring care and treatment will receive it in an age-appropriate setting and to continue to achieve this as standards develop up to 2025.
- To improve the life chances of children in care initially by ensuring that they are placed in an appropriate setting and that this is reflected by continuity of care (measured by a reduction in movements between placements). While a stable environment will have immediate benefits, we would expect and hope, in the longer term, that these benefits will lead to:
 - a) 95% of young people in care experiencing no more than three placements during any one continuous period in care.
 - b) The proportion of young care leavers in education, training or employment at age 19 to be at least 75% of the level for all 19 year olds.

Western Investing For Health Action Plan 2004-2010: Key Objectives

Western IFH is the body charged by Government with advancing the IFH Public Health Strategy in the Western Trust area. An action plan was developed broken down into the four Sub-Groups – Early Years, Teenage Transition, Adulthood and Later Years – with the aim of encouraging a multi-agency approach to ensure better health for the population.

Early Years and Disadvantage

- To identify approaches and initiatives to reduce the levels of Obesity.
- To increase access to health & social services among the travelling community.
- Improve access to recreation and leisure for children with disabilities and those from rural areas.
- Improved access to recreations, leisure and play.
- To promote physical activity through cycling and enhance skills in repair/recycling.
- To identify the early risk of mental health issues in relation to young children.
- To gain a better understanding of the issue from children's and young peoples perspective.
- To identify approaches and mechanisms to assist communities.
- Identify the most appropriate approaches to Oral Health.
- To promote awareness of the benefits of a healthy diet and lifestyle.
- To increase the availability of safe and creative play areas.
- To improve an understanding of diet and nutrition for kids.
- To create an awareness in kids of physical activity.

Teenage Transition

- To encourage Young People to become more engaged within their communities and Society.
- To identify appropriate personal development and skills programmes for young people.
- To encourage young people to identify their health concerns and take appropriate actions.
- To target young people who are border line grade C in English & Match.
- To encourage young people to use Council sports facilities.
- To raise awareness of support for those young people suffering from mental health, stress or worries.
- To increase awareness amongst young people on the impact of RTC's.
- To identify attitudes of local young people to alcohol use/misuse.

- To raise awareness of key issues in the field of emotional health and well being including suicide prevention.
- To raise issues related to positive sexual health.
- To identify the housing and support needs of young people leaving care.
- To establish a mechanism to assist young people to actively engage as active citizens.
- To introduce a training programme to target vulnerable young people known to youth justice.

An Straitéis. Donegal County Board Strategy 2002-2012 Children and Young People goals

The Donegal Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development brought together representatives of all sectors in the County and a wide range of stakeholders leading to the creation of a strategy and implementation plan for the sustainable development of Donegal over the next 10 years and for promoting wider participation in its governance. As a neighbouring county, and a high level of co-operation, this strategy may have an impact on the Children and Young People initiatives in the Derry area.

- To plan, co-ordinate and resource child and youth friendly services
- To encourage young people to reach their full potential as individuals and as members of the community
- To adopt a strategic, integrated approach in the delivery of services to children and young people.

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