

**AGE FRIENDLY**

Table of Contents

**Age Friendly 2**

Introduction 2

Context 2

Alignment of local and national objectives……………………………………………………………………………3

Methodology………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..4

**Demography5**

Projected Population.5

Deaths ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………...........7

Income Deprivation.………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….8

**8 Domains ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………8**

Outdoor Spaces & Buildings…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………...9

Transport…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………14

Housing ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….17

Social Participation………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….21

Respect & Social Inclusion……………………………………………………………………………………………………………….23

Civic participation &Employment…………………………………………………………………………………………………….27

Communication& Information…………………………………………………………………………………………………………30

Community and Health Services………………………………………………………………………………………………………32

Appendix………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….35

**AGE FRIENDLY INTRODUCTION/CONTEXT**

Age Friendly Profile for Local Government District (LGD2014).

*'An Age-friendly world is a place that enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities. It is a place that treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age. It is a place that makes it easy to stay connected to those around you and those you love. It is a place that helps people stay healthy and active even at the oldest ages. And it is a place that helps those who can no longer look after themselves to live with dignity and enjoyment. Many cities and communities are already taking active steps towards becoming more age-friendly'.* (World Health Organization WHO).

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has established a global network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities that encourage active ageing by optimising opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people grow older. The WHO has proposed eight areas that can help to identify and address barriers to the well-being and participation of older people. Key statistics on each of these themes are included below. By way of background, demographic and deprivation profiles have also been included for the local council areas.

'Northern Ireland is an age friendly region in which people, as they get older, are valued and supported to live actively to their fullest potential; with their rights and dignity protected' (OFMDFM Vision).

Age-friendly is based on the results of the WHO Global Age-Friendly consultation with 33 cities in 22 countries. The consultation concluded that eight Domains were identified as essential for a place to be considered Age Friendly. The domains are listed below. In addition to each of these domains a checklist was also generated from the WHO study. The checklist is a tool for a city’s self-assessment and a map for charting progress. The Age Friendly Checklist can be found in (appendix 1)

* Social Participation
* Respect and Social Inclusion
* Civic Participation and Employment
* Communication and Information
* Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
* Transportation
* Housing
* Community Support and Health Services

**Alignment of local and national objectives:**

The following table illustrates the close alignment of the objectives and themes of *Making Life Better* and *Active Ageing* with the Ards and North Down community planning thematic groups.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Age-friendly Domains*** | **Community Planning Themes** | | | | | **Active Ageing Strategy** | **Making Life Better Strategy** |
|  | ***Outcome 1*** | **Outcome 2** | **Outcome 3** | ***Outcome 4*** | ***Outcome 5*** |  |  |
| Outdoor spaces andbuildings |  | √ | √ |  | √ | √ | √ |
| Transportation |  | √ |  |  | √ | √ | √ |
| Housing |  |  |  | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Social participation | **√** | √ | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Respect and social inclusion | **√** | √ | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Civic participation & employment |  | √ | √ | √ |  | √ | √ |
| Communication & information | √ | √ |  |  |  | √ | √ |
| Community support & health services | √ | √ |  |  | √ | √ | √ |

**Methodology**

Quantitative and qualitative research has been completed. The Age Friendly Coordinator along with the Age Friendly Implementation group looked at existing research and available information to produce a baseline report, outlining Age-friendly strengths, key areas for improvement and gaps that need addressed. Research findings that have informed the development of this baseline assessment include

1. Findings from a conference event held in Lagan Valley island in October 2016 which was attended by 150 people representing 54 organisations of service providers who work directly with our ageing population
2. Ards and North Down Community Planning conversations consultation process where 15 older people groups representing the views of older people in the community
3. Analysis of information provided by NISRA through their Age Friendly information. Information has been presented at a ward or Local Authority level where possible. In some instances, NI wide data has been used in the absence of local data.
4. Specific areas of work referenced by stakeholders, that have an influence on the Age-friendliness of Belfast, have been included to illustrate work that is happening to address issues / challenges identified.
5. Review of existing and overarching local, Regional and National strategies and frameworks.

This report represents the findings of a desk based research exercise, to baseline the age friendliness of Ards and North Down.

The report should provide a balanced and realistic baseline for the borough that establishes “Age-friendliness”: outlining key things that are good, key areas for improvement and gaps that need addressed.

The report should also provide older people, older people’s advocates, statutory bodies, the voluntary sector and policy makers with sufficient relevant information to allow decision making towards the development of a three-year action plan to improve Age-friendliness. The baseline will be updated regularly to keep information up to date.

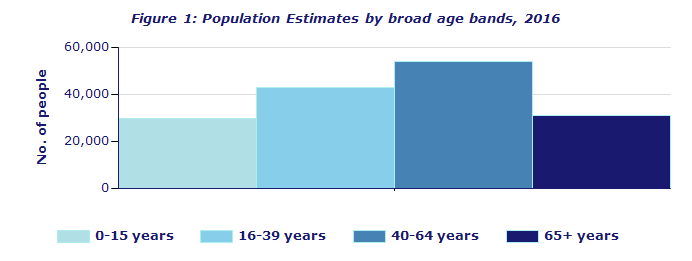
**Demography**

On 30th June 2016, the estimated population of Ards and North Down LGD 2014 was 159,593, accounting for 8.6% of the Northern Ireland population. 26.4% (42,183 people) of Ards and North Down were aged 60+. Of those 60+ 46% (19,397 people) were male and 54% (22,786 people) were female.

2.4% (3,889 people) of the population of Ards and North Down were 85+ of those 85+ in Ards and North Down 31.5% (1,224 people) were male and 68.5% (2,665) were female.

**Population Projection**

The number of older people aged 65+ is projected to rise in Ards and North Down, from around 31,000 from 2014 to around 50,000 by 2039. The number of older people aged 85+ years is anticipated to more than double from under 4,000 residents from 2014 to about 10,000 residents by 2039. This growth in our population is one that should be viewed as a successful achievement. We as a council aim to make Ards and North Down a great place to grow old and one that is supportive, valuing and enabling for older people. *Figure 1 shows the population age bands 2016*.

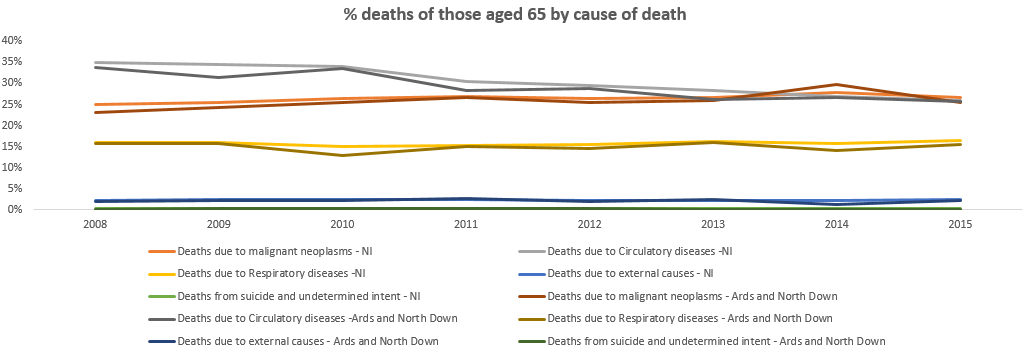
****

The graph below shows the life expectancy at 65+ in Ards and North down between males and females dating from 2001-2013.

The graph below shows the % of population growth from 2014-2039, in Ards and North Down in the 65+ range 20% in 2039. The graph below shows that life expectancy for males and females in AND compared to that of the rest of Northern Ireland

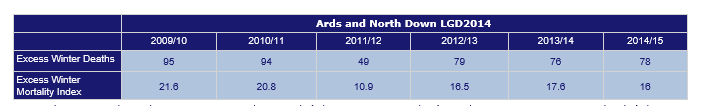
**Deaths**

There were12,655 deaths registered for persons aged 65+ years in Northern Ireland in 2015. Of these deaths 27% were to malignant neoplasms, 16% were to respiratory disease and 26% were to circulatory disease.

There were **1,310** deaths registered for persons aged 65+ years in Ards and North Down LGD2014 in 2015. Of these deaths 25% were to malignant neoplasms, 16% were to respiratory disease and 26% were to circulatory disease

|  |
| --- |
| **Income**  This section looks at how much money pensioners get each week, and where they get that money from. It looks at variations in income between different types of pensioners. |

**Excess Winter Deaths**

In the winter period (December to March) of 2014/15 there were an extra 873 deaths in Northern Ireland, compared to the average for the non-winter periods (previous August to November and the following April to July). The majority (83%) of these deaths were among older people aged aged 75 years and over. Of the 873 deaths, **78** were registered in Ards and North Down LGD2014.

The Excess Winter Mortality Index for Ards and North Down LGD2014 was 16.0 compared with 18.0 for Northern Ireland (the number of excess winter deaths divided by the average non-winter deaths expressed as a percentage).

Sources/Datasets used: [Population Estimates: Broad Age Bands (administrative geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=8212&lh=38&yn=1991-2016&sk=74&sn=Population&yearfilter=), [Population Estimates - 5 year age bands (administrative geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/Download/Population/Population%20Estimates%20-%205%20year%20age%20bands%20(admin%20geographies).zip), [Population Projections (administrative geographies) (administrative geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/Download/Population/Population%20Projections%20(administrative%20geographies).zip), [Deaths by Cause and Age: 65+ years (administrative geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=7861&lh=73&yn=2008-2015&sk=74&sn=Population&yearfilter=), [Excess Winter Mortality (administrative geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=7020&lh=73&yn=1991-2014&sk=74&sn=Population&yearfilter=), [Life Expectancy at Birth and at age 65](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=6967&lh=73&yn=2000-2013&sk=74&sn=Population&yearfilter=) NISRA Demographic Statistics

**Income Deprivation affecting Older People**

The Income Deprivation Affecting Older People (IDAOP) counts those aged 60+ living in income deprived households. Within Ards and North Down LGD2014 the most deprived Super Output Area based on the IDAOP measure is Conlig 3, where 72% of older people were income deprived (ranked 53 out of 890 in NI). The least deprived Super Output Area based on the IDAOP measure is Ballymaconnell 2, where 5% of older people are income deprived (ranked 887 out of 890 in NI).

Most derived Conlig 3

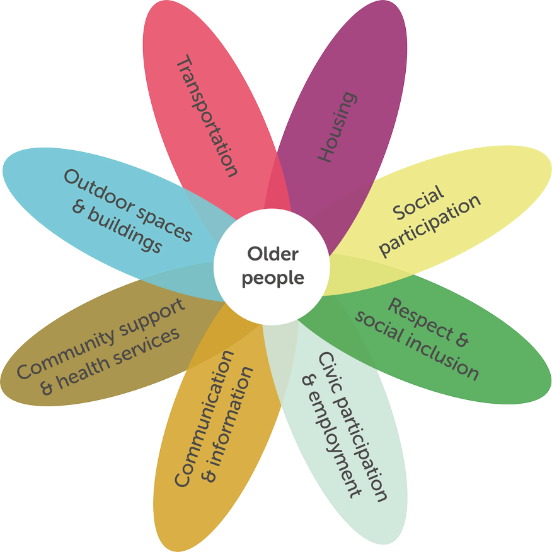
Least Deprived Ballymaconnell 2

****

*\*1 is the most deprived SOA in Northern Ireland and 890 the least deprived*

|  |
| --- |
| Sources/Datasets used: [Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 Summary Measures (administrative geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=6350&lh=73&yn=2010&sk=137&sn=Deprivation&yearfilter=), [Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 (statistical geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=6349&lh=44&yn=2010&sk=137&sn=Deprivation&yearfilter=), NISRA Demographic Statistics |

**8 Age Friendly Domains**

The Age Friendly domains which are accompanied by an Age Friendly Checklist act as a roadmap, for an area to become Age Friendly. There are 8 Age Friendly domains are designed to overlap and interact with one another. Outdoor Spaces and buildings, Transport and Housing sit within the physical environment. Social Participation, Social Inclusion and Civic Participation sit within the social environment. Communication/Information, Community Support and Health Services sit within municipal services.

In the following section each Age Friendly domain will be analysed through a Lisburn Castlereagh lens to establish the Age Friendliness of the area, look at feedback from the various consultation approaches from the Age Friendly Conference, community survey and community planning consultations.



*The outside environment and public buildings have a major impact on the mobility, independence and quality of life of older people and affect their ability to “age in place”. The recurring themes are quality of life, access and safety.*

**Living Environment Deprivation- Outdoor Physical Activity**

The Northern Ireland Deprivation Measure 2017 Living Environment Domain- The purpose of this domain is to identify, at the small area level, the prevalence of shortcomings in the **quality of housing, access to suitable housing and the outdoor physical environment**. It comprises three separate sub-domains measuring each of these. Within Ards and North Down LGD2014, the most deprived Super Output Area based on the living environment domain measure is **Harbour 1** (21 out of 890).

Within Ards and North Down LGD2014 the most deprived Super Output Area based on the **outdoor physical environment** sub domain measure in **Harbour** 1 (70 out of 890)

The least deprived Super Output Area based on the **outdoor physical environment** subdomain measure is **Ballycrochan 2** (889 out of 890) This is based on

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Image result for Town graphic**  Least Deprived Ballycrochan 2  Most Deprived Harbour 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| [[1]](#footnote-1) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

*\*1 is the most deprived SOA in Northern Ireland and 890 the least deprived.*

Having green spaces is one of the most commonly mentioned age-friendly features. For its small area, Northern Ireland has a great variety of scenic countryside and although there are no National Parks, large areas of landscape of distinctive character and special scenic value have been designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This designation is designed to protect and enhance the qualities of each area and to promote their enjoyment by the public.

There are 8 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Northern Ireland as well as Northern Ireland Environment Agency Country Parks and nature reserves.

**Ards and North Down Outdoor Spaces**

People can explore Ards and North Down through a unique series of coach, boat and walking tours to experience some of the wonderful sights and attractions the area has to offer. With lots of new opportunities to discover the history, heritage and mystery of the borough. Drawing on the local knowledge experienced team of guides, people can gain a wealth of heritage, history and culture in scenic surroundings that resound with historical significance.

*Walled Garden* Set in tranquil grounds of Castle Park. The garden is divided into four different sections, each with its own horticultural personality. It also boasts two unique pieces of sculpture inspired by the borough's maritime history

*Castle Park* Located in Bangor town centre and is perfect for a relaxing stroll through the woods. A walk through this wooded wonderland is an exhilarating experience throughout the seasons and is located in the grounds of Castle Park with Bangor Castle Town Hall. Stroll along the tree-lined avenue to explore the formal gardens of the Town Hall. Examine the sundial in the forecourt, believed to be from the 8th Century monastic origin and explore the Arboretum on the south side of the Town Hall, which contains a fine collection of mature conifers and deciduous trees

*Kiltonga Nature Reserve:*  Located on the Belfast Road about 1/2 a mile outside Newtownards you will find the reserve. Swans, mallards, little grebe, moorhens and coots are always present. A pathway around the lakes allows for closer inspection of the birds, suitable for pushchairs and disabled access. In July 2000, Kiltonga Nature Reserve became the first site in the UK to be awarded BT Millennium Miles Status

*Londonderry Park* The park was redeveloped in 2015 to provide modern pitches and facilities for sports and an outdoor area to be enjoyed by the whole community.

*Green Flag status*

The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. The award scheme began in 1996 as a means of recognising and rewarding the best green spaces in the country Green Flag Award Ards and North Down are proud that all four of the parks and green spaces have been presented with the International mark of quality.

**Buildings**

**Bangor Aurora Aquatic and Leisure Complex is a £38m facility offering an excellent choice of sporting and leisure activities in Bangor. Other council facilities include** [Comber Leisure Centre with leisure center and has fitness classes and courses. Comber Leisure Centre, the leisure Centre has fitness classes and courses. Londonderry Park which has grass and 3G pitches for sport and recreation. Portaferry Sports Centre, the sports center has indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Queen’s Leisure Complex with fitness classes and courses. Work began on the site of the Dairy Hall playing fields in early February 2017 while the existing leisure centre at William Street remains in use until the new facility is ready. It is hoped the new centre will be completed before the end of 2018](https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/resident/leisure-activities-and-centres/comber-leisure-centre)

**[The Active Ageing Programme is available through selected leisure facilities and is a great resource for an ageing population. Activities include swimming, gym, walking football, badminton, indoor short mat bowls, dance, pilates and chi me This is a great way to meet new people and engage physical activity and keep fit. The activities area all low impact and consist of group and independent sessions and after the activity why not catch up over a coffee with friends. The Active Ageing Programme is available at](https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/resident/leisure-activities-and-centres/comber-leisure-centre)** [Ards Leisure Centre Comber Leisure Centre Portaferry Sports Centre and Aurora Complex](https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/resident/leisure-activities-and-centres/comber-leisure-centre)

The council has community halls and centres in towns and villages across Ards and North Down, which are available to the public for events, classes and meetings:

* Ballygowan Village Hall
* Carrowdore Community Centre,
* Comber Adult Learning Centre,
* Conlig Community Centre,
* Donaghadee Community
* Glen Community Centre,
* Green Road Community Centre,
* Groomsport Boat House,
* Hamilton Road Community Hub,
* Kilcooley Community Centre,
* Kircubbin Community Centre,
* Manor Court Community Centre
* Marquis Hall
* Portaferry Market House
* Portavogie Community Centre
* Redburn Community Centre
* Skipperstone Community Centre
* The Alderman George Green Community Centre West Winds Community Centre Dakota Avenue, Newtownards

North Down Museum: The museum packs a lot into a small space, telling the history of the area from the Bronze Age to the present day through fascinating exhibitions, interactive exhibitions, tours and talks. Key artifacts on display include the Bronze Age Ballycroghan Swords, the Bangor Bell from the hugely important Bangor Abbey settlement, and the Raven Maps, the only complete folio of Plantation era maps in Ireland. The museum is situated at the rear of the Town Hall, Bangor Castle.

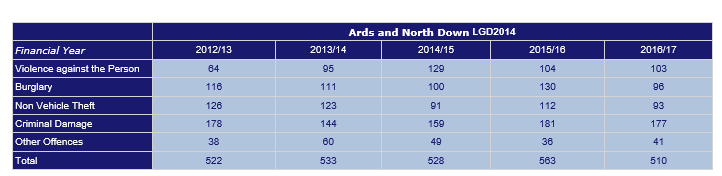
Ards Arts Centre: Located in the beautifully restored Georgian Town Hall in the center of Newtownards, Ards Arts Centre delivers a jam-packed programme of visual arts exhibitions, creative classes and workshops, performances of live music, dance and drama. Included in the arts programme are the annual festivals Ards International Guitar Festival and the Puppet Festival.

Ards Crafts is a contemporary retail craft and design centre, in the visitor information centre in Newtownards. The centre provides a platform for the promotion of craft businesses located within the Ards and North Down Borough. The center also hosts monthly craft exhibitions, workshops, maker talks and creative development seminars.

**Outdoor Safety**

Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) aims to make our community safer by focusing on the policing and community safety issues that matter most in each local council area. Recorded Crime statistics are available on NINIS and show there were 6,264 recorded crime offences in **Ards and North Down** LGD2014 during 2016/17, which accounted for 6.4% of recorded crime offences in Northern Ireland

‘Violence Against the Person’ offences, where victims are 60+ years old are shown in the table below.

  *Recorded Crime – Victim aged 60+, Local Government District 2014*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | | |
|  |  | |  | | --- | | In 2015/16, 4% of respondents to the Northern Ireland Crime Survey aged 60 + stated that they were very worried about crime with 74% stating that ‘fear of crime’ has a minimal effect on their life. 7% of respondents in this age group felt unsafe walking alone in their area at night | | |

**Age Friendly Conference and Big Plan Summary**

Outdoor gyms were seen as a way to interact with open spaces and as a cost effective way to work out, initiatives to make use of the outdoor equipment mentioned. Making use of existing facilities that are not be utilised at certain times such as schools, leisure centres, business at weekends when closed. A care pathway for access to heritage sites was seen as a good way to connect with more open spaces with a move away from the digital world to a more connection to Outdoor Spaces. Access to heritage spaces were limited outside of town centres and without access to transportation these individuals and groups do not have the same opportunities to enjoy the natural heritage spaces.

Greenways are seen as a positive access to open spaces, however keeping them free from anti-social behaviour, rest areas provided at regular intervals with well-lit routes and appropriate lanes for bikes, runners and older people were identified as essential for older people to access.

Increasing the amount of quality shared spaces, developing greater respect among communities and cultures, and ensuring people are safe in their homes, within their community and in all public spaces.

Public Realms rolled out to more rural areas (could be addressed through village renewal scheme) Walkability audits are crucial in area plans. Communication / perception of safety in public spaces that adhere to section 75, with all towns and buildings and local business becoming dementia friendly as ageing population grows Alzheimer’s is on the increase.

Sources/Datasets used: [Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 (statistical geographies)](https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=3602&lh=37&yn=2000-2012&sk=131&sn=Crime%20and%20Justice&yearfilter=), NISRA Demographic Statistics; [Police Recorded Crime](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=8411&lh=73&yn=1998-2016&sk=131&sn=Crime%20and%20Justice&yearfilter=) PSNI; [NI Crime Survey](http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications/northern-ireland-crime-survey-s-r/r-s-bulletin-1-2015-experience-of-crime-findings-from-the-2013-14.htm), DO



|  |
| --- |
| *Transportation, including accessibility and affordable public transport, is a key factor influencing active ageing. Being able to move about an area (urban, rural and connections) determines social and civic participation and access to community and health services.* |

Transportation, including accessible and affordable public transport, is a key factor influencing active ageing. It is a theme running through many other age-friendly topics. In particular, being able to move about the community determines social and civic participation and access to community and health services.



Concessionary fare scheme 'SmartPass' - Free travel is available to all senior citizens who are 60 years of age or over and who are resident in Northern Ireland. In 2016/17 312,593 smartpasses were held by older people. You can travel anywhere in Northern Ireland on any Translink bus or rail service completely free of charge. free cross border rail travel is also available.

In Northern Ireland, Dept for Infrastructure (DfI) report that there were 1,361 buses used in 2016/17 as public service vehicles of which 1,079 have an accessibility certificate or low floor access.

The Travel Survey 2013-2015 reports that the car is the main mode of transport for those aged 60+ with 63% of journeys made as a car driver for males and 47% for females. In the same period only 3% of journeys were made by Metro and Ulsterbus for males aged 60+ and 4% of journeys by females.

Private Transport ‘On Census day 2011, there were 26,448 people aged 65+ years in Ards and North Down LGD2014 living in households. 79% of these lived in households with access to a car or van.

The Travel Survey for Northern Ireland reports that 36% of adults aged 60+ have difficulty with travel due to physical disability or long-standing health problem.

**Road Safety**

The total number of reported road traffic collision casualties for persons aged 60+ in Northern Ireland in 2016 was 1,169. Of these 168 were killed/seriously injured and a further 1,001 were slightly injured. The total number of reported road traffic collision casualties for persons aged 60+ in **Ards and North Down** LGD2014 in 2016 was 108. Of these 14 were killed/seriously injured and 94 were slightly injured.

**Down Community Transport, services are available to individual’s and not-for-profit groups.**

For people who have no car, limited mobility, little or no access to public transport then DCT can offer a transport solution. **If you are part of a local community group and transport costs for activities are a problem, DCT may provide a solution.** With a choice of vehicles to deliver services including fully accessible minibuses, and volunteer cars.  They are supported by our Social Enterprise, Down Town Transport that provides private hire work and all profit earned is reinvested back into community transport. All their drivers have been Access NI checked and are fully trained (including MiDAS) to a high standard

**Down Community Transport services include**

* Dial a Lift
* Volunteer Car Scheme
* Group Transport
* Training

**Dial a Lift**

* A door-to-door service for individuals who live in the Ards and North Down area.
* Operates between 8am & 6pm, Monday to Friday
* Can be used to access employment, training, local services such as GP, chemist, shopping, visit friends, recreational facilities
* Can be used to attend appointments at Hospital
* Translink Smart Pass holders can access free or half fare travel through funding from DARD

**Group Transport**

* Minibuses available for hire for member groups
* With or without a driver
* Mostly fully accessible vehicles
* Current groups include older people, youth groups, community associations, sporting groups, church groups, local charities

**Age Friendly Conference and Big Plan Summary**

The Age Friendly conference feedback centred on Buses, Cycling, Taxis, impact, communication and safety. Feedback indicated buses run more on straight-line services, metro buses are useful within areas to get around. Rural transport is facing budget cuts and can be hard to know the criteria to use, information days around what transport options are out there. More green travel was identified where training to ride bikes and access to bikes on Greenways may be a good way to travel and improve health and wellbeing. Taxis are too expensive and drivers perhaps are not patient and drive off without knowing their passenger is older and needs more time. Missed health appointments can be a direct impact from poor transport linkages which connect people to health services, more could be done to look at areas that a high proportion of older people are living and using public transport to access services. Better commination with direct dialog between statutory services and community groups.

The Big Plan consultation found those living outside the town centre and without access to transportation do not have the same opportunities to enjoy local natural and heritage spaces. Better transport services required during the day – bus and train. Transport – can’t have active lifestyles without getting to services. Integrated transport strategy. Joined up transport to promote less road travel to include cycling and walking routes. Access to services including: doctors, post office and transport. Community transport to provide semi scheduled services. Increase connectivity between the peninsula and Ards for onward travel to Bangor Additional support for those at the older end of the age spectrum not least dedicated transport support in rural areas. Additional support for those at the older end of the age spectrum not least dedicated transport support in rural areas.

Sources/Datasets used: [Road Traffic Collision Casualties by Severity of Injury aged 60 and over (administrative geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=8390&lh=73&yn=2011-2016&sk=118&sn=Travel%20and%20Transport&yearfilter=), PSNI; [Number of Cars or Vans CT0098NI,](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/Download/Census%202011_Excel/2011/CT0098NI.xlsx) NISRA Census



*Housing is essential to safety and well-being. There is a link between appropriate housing and access to community and social services in influencing the independence and quality of life of older people. Housing and support that allow older people to age comfortably and safely within their community are universally valued.*

Appropriate housing is closely linked to safety and well-being. There is a link between appropriate housing and access to community and social services in influencing the independence and quality of life of older people.

In Northern Ireland on Census day 2011, there were 263,720 people aged 65+ years. Of these, 96% lived in a household and 4% lived in communal establishments. On Census day 2011, there were 27,692 people aged 65+ years living in Ards and North Down LGD2014; 96% lived in a household and 4% lived in communal establishments. The graph below outlines AND household breakdown.

On Census day 2011, 7,942 households in **Ards and North Down** LGD2014were one person households where the resident was aged 65+ years. 5,919 households were one family houses where all people were aged 65+ years and 217householdswere other household types where all residents were aged 65+ years.

**Sufficient/Adequate Housing**

Data from the Nothern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) show that in March 2014, 5,909applicants aged 60+ years were on the waiting list for housing in **Northern Ireland** and of these 3,499 (59.2%) were in housing stress.

A key objective of the [NIHE House Condition Survey (HCS) 2011](http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/housing_research/house_condition_survey.htm) was to provide a comprehensive picture of the dwelling stock and its condition in 2011 for NI and each of the 26 District Councils. This [survey estimated](http://www.nihe.gov.uk/2011_house_condition_survey_annex_tables__published_october_2012_.pdf) that 42.0% of households in NI were in fuel poverty. For households where the Household Reference Person (HRP) was aged 60-74 years, 52.0% of households were in fuel poverty rising to 66.3% where the Household Reference Person was aged 75+ years.

*Note - The definition of a fuel poor household is one needing to spend in excess of 10 per cent of its household income on all fuel use to achieve a satisfactory standard of warmth (21oC in the main living area and 18oC in other occupied rooms; World Health Organisation). Fuel Poverty assesses the ability to meet all domestic energy costs including space and water heating, cooking, lights and appliances.*

A key objective of the [NIHE House Condition Survey (HCS) 2011](http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/housing_research/house_condition_survey.htm) was to provide a comprehensive picture of the dwelling stock and its condition in 2011 for NI and each of the (then) 26 District Councils. This [survey estimated](http://www.nihe.gov.uk/2011_house_condition_survey_annex_tables__published_october_2012_.pdf) that 42.0% of households in NI were in fuel poverty. For households where the Household Reference Person (HRP) was aged **60-74** years, **52.0%** of households were in fuel poverty rising to **66.3%** where the Household Reference Person was aged **75+ years.**

*Note - The definition of a fuel poor household is one needing to spend in excess of 10 per cent of its household income on all fuel use to achieve a satisfactory standard of warmth (21oC in the main living area and 18oC in other occupied rooms; World Health Organisation). Fuel Poverty assesses the ability to meet all domestic energy costs including space and water heating, cooking, lights and appliances.*

**Living Environment Deprivation - Housing Access and Housing Quality**

The Northern Ireland Deprivation Measure 2017 Living Environment Domain - the purpose of this domain is to identify small areas experiencing deprivation in terms of the quality of housing, access to suitable housing and the outdoor physical environment. It comprises three separate sub-domains measuring these

Within Ards and North Down LGD2014 the most deprived Super Output Area based on the **housing quality sub-domain measure is Killinchy1** (ranked 24 out of 890 in NI) and the least deprived Super Output Area is **Ballycrochan** (ranked 887 out of 890 in NI).

|  |
| --- |
| **Image result for Town graphic**  Killinchy 1 (ranked 24 out of 890 in NI)  Ballycrochan 2 (ranked 887 out of 890 in NI) |

*\*1 is the most deprived SOA in Northern Ireland and 890 the least deprived.*

|  |
| --- |
| **Image result for Town graphic**  Crawfordsburn (ranked 863 out of 890 in NI least deprived  Harbour 1 (ranked 9 out of 890) most deprived |

Within Ards and North Down LGD2014 the most deprived Super Output Area based on the **housing access sub-domain measure is** Harbour 1 (ranked 9 out of 890 in NI) and the least deprived Super Output Area is Crawfordsburn (ranked 863 out of 890 in NI).

*\*1 is the most deprived SOA in Northern Ireland and 890 the least deprived.*

**Adaptation of Accommodation**

On Census day 2011, there were 26,448 people aged 65+ years in **Ards and North Down** LGD2014 living in households: The below graph outlines adaptations within households for people 65+ for NI and Ards and North Down.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **All usual residents aged 65 and over in households** | Wheelchair usage | Other physical or mobility difficulties | Visual difficulties | Other | Hearing difficulties | No adaptation |
| **North Down and Ards** | **26,448** | 6.7% | 11.2% | 0.4% | 0.5% | 0.9% | 83.3% |
| **Northern Ireland** | **251,969** | **7.1%** | **12.4%** | **0.5%** | **0.4%** | **1.2%** | **81.5%** |

**Age Friendly Conference and Big Plan for Housing Summary**

What was very clear from Big Plan Conversations and the Age Friendly Conference was that most older people want to stay in their own home. An important aspect of this was to look at housing for life and services which are designed for facilitating that i.e. Handyman with relevant referrals made between agencies. Another aspect was that the need for older people’s forum to discuss issues around housing with relevant bodies such as NIHE. These bodies can advise on services and information to enable them to live at home longer. Supported housing for people living with Dementia. Coordinated approach to develop more inclusive events/activities – Dementia friendly through an Age Friendly approach.

Retirement villages for those healthy over 60 who don’t require a fold setting or nursing care, but want the security and community feel with the added benefits of a retirement village*.* More engagement with older people on how these buildings and areas are being developed. More contact and updates from local council and NIHE.

Bedroom tax is an evolving issue, those with disabilities who require one bedroom houses will pay extra due to a lack of choice and availability of required houses. Attention from NIHE housing Condition Survey.

Ensure departments are making sensible decisions about the siting of new houses and building. Investigate and understand the provision of social housing in the area including the recognised need for such housing and how that demand is being met. Liaising with local Housing Associations would help.

Sources/Datasets used: [Usual Resident Population CT0106NI](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/Download/Census%202011_Excel/2011/CT0106NI.xlsx), [Tenure CT0107NI](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/Download/Census%202011_Excel/2011/CT0107NI.xlsx), [Household Composition: KS105NI (administrative geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=4061&lh=73&yn=2011&sk=136&sn=Census%202011&yearfilter=), NISRA Census Office; [Housing Waiting List for aged 60 and over (administrative geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=6568&lh=37&yn=2014&sk=10&sn=People%20and%20Places&yearfilter=), [House Conditions Survey 2011](http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/housing_research/house_condition_survey.htm), NI Housing Executive; Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 (statistical geographies), NISRA Demographic Statistics; [House Price Index](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/Download/People%20and%20Places/Northern%20Ireland%20House%20Price%20Index%20(administrative%20geographies).ods)[,](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/housepriceindex/DetailedStatisticsQuarter12013.xlsm) DoF Land and Property Services; [Disabled Facilities Grants Approved for applicants aged 60 and over (administrative geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=6260&lh=37&yn=2011-2013&sk=10&sn=People%20and%20Places&yearfilter=) NI Housing Executive; [Housing Benefit Claimants (administrative geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=7913&lh=73&yn=1999,2001-2016&sk=10&sn=People%20and%20Places&yearfilter=), [Housing Benefits Interactive Map](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/InteractiveMaps/People%20and%20Places/People/Benefits/HB_Map/atlas.html), DfC; [Adaptation of Accommodation CT0108NI](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/Download/Census%202011_Excel/2011/CT0108NI.xlsx), NISRA Census Office



*Social participation and social support are strongly connected to good health and well-being throughout life. Participating in leisure, social, cultural and spiritual activities in the community, as well as with the family, allows older people to continue to exercise their competence, to enjoy respect and esteem, and to maintain or establish supportive and caring relationships.*

**Events and Activities**

[Research](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/cal_and_older_people_-_literature_review.pdf) was carried out by DCAL to obtain a deeper understanding of the relationship between older people and culture, arts and leisure. A literature review (DCAL, 2015) explored engagement in sport, arts, museums and libraries for older adults and identified a number of barriers to engagement. Further research used [logistic regression](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/cal_and_older_people_-_logistic_regressionv2.pdf) to explore these barriers further and to identify the factors associated with engagement in culture, arts and leisure by older people. Ards and North Down reported:

The factors which appear consistently as having the most influence on an older person’s engagement across the culture, arts and leisure areas are their level of educational attainment, i.e. having a degree or higher qualification; their socio-economic classification, i.e. classified as being in managerial and professional occupations; and their use of the internet.

[Research](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/cal_and_older_people_-_literature_review.pdf) was carried out by DCAL to obtain a deeper understanding of the relationship between older people and culture, arts and leisure. A literature review (DCAL, 2015) explored engagement in sport, arts, museums and libraries for older adults and identified a number of barriers to engagement. Further research used [logistic regression](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/cal_and_older_people_-_logistic_regressionv2.pdf) to explore these barriers further and to identify the factors associated with engagement in culture, arts and leisure by older people.

The factors which appear consistently as having the most influence on an older person’s engagement across the culture, arts and leisure areas are their level of educational attainment, i.e. having a degree or higher qualification; their socio-economic classification, i.e. classified as being in managerial and professional occupations and their use of the internet.

*The chart above shows the percentage of people in NI who engaged in culture, arts and sports there is a particular interest in the arts in older people a small percentage who taking up participating in sport.*

Age Friendly Conference and Big Plan Summary for Social Participation

Better joined up approach to sign posting between key organisations. More social prescribing to engage with isolated groups. Empowerment programmes to promote better social participation Mental health issues can be linked to social isolation and affordability. More accessible and linked up activities are essential to improve mental health. Leisure activities inclusive of all people, of all ages and abilities.

Access to social, arts and cultural for lifelong learning. Participation in social, recreational, creative and leisure activities can improve physical and mental wellbeing. People need to feel motivated, enthused and able to participate in the activities to improve the outcome. Information and PR campaigns are needed in promoting information, connections and opportunities for older people to be more participate.

More work needed to create ways in which the NHS and Social Services can be used more effectively for older people to stimulate social participation. Mental health issues can be linked to social isolation and affordability. More accessible and linked up activities are essential to improve mental health in the more socially isolated. Mainstreaming well-being and reducing stress levels with the provision of mindfulness, yoga, meditation activities for older people.

5 Sources/Datasets used: Older people and engagement in culture, arts and leisure 2015, DfC; Marriages by age and sex (administrative geographies), Marriages by age and sex Interactive Map, NISRA Demographic Statistics; Marital and Civil Partnership Status by Age CT0105NI, NISRA Census Office



*The respect and social inclusion of older people depend on more than societal change: factors such as culture, gender, health status and economic status play a large role. The extent to which older people participate in the social, civic and economic life of the community is also closely linked to their experience of inclusion.*

When respondents of the 2014 Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey were asked if they think that older people are, on the whole, treated better or worse than people in the general population because of their age, NILT respondents had mixed views. One fifth of people (22%) thought that older people are treated better than others. Similar proportions thought that older people are treated the same as (36%), or worse than (37%), the general population.

People aged 75 years or over were the group most likely to think that older people are treated better (28%) than others. Nearly four out of ten respondents (37%) thought that, as they get older, they find that people treat them with more respect. A similar proportion (39%) said that people treated them about the same, whilst around one in five (22%) thought that people treated them with less respect.

Agencies:

*AgeNI:* is the leading charity for older people in Northern Ireland. Age NI has helped build an infrastructure of 11 Networks bringing together older people’s groups across NI to strengthen the regional voice of older people and support them to influence important decisions on local policy and services.

The Executive Office involved older people and their representative groups in the development and implementation of the [Active Ageing Strategy and Action Plan](http://www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk/active-ageing-strategy-2014-2020-consultation.pdf).

*Age Sector Platform* host the [Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament](https://www.agesectorplatform.org/ni-pensioners-parliament/overview) was launched in 2011 and allows older people from across Northern Ireland to have their say on the issues that matter to them. The parliament reaches out to give older people a chance to make their voice heard on issues that affect them and also provides a vehicle to make older people more aware of key information and practical advice on support services in their own areas, including information on health, benefits, transport and community safety. Over 1,100 NI Pensioners Parliament surveys were completed between January and April 2014. The results of the survey in each county set the agenda for the discussion and expert panels at each local parliament. Almost 500 pensioners attended the seven local parliaments which were held across Northern Ireland between February and April 2014.

*Peninsula Healthy Living Centre*: It is a voluntary, community based organisation that is committed to health improvement through partnership, community involvement, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. And is based in Kircubbin. Projects include Cook It, Positive Steps Roots of Empathy, Weigh to Health and Penninsula Time Bank with a fitted gym and associated classes. Peninsula Healthy Living Centre is currently part of the Social prescribing Project that is being rolled out across Northern Ireland.

*Agenda:* is a unique service which caters for all older people in the Ards and North Down Area. Agenda offer a range of services and support for older people including:

[Good Morning Cal**l**](http://agenorthdownards.co.uk/content/good-morning-call): Good Morning Call is FREE confidential daily service for all residents of Ards and North Down Borough Council area who are over 50 years of age. If you register with our scheme you will receive a daily telephone call from one of our trained volunteers between the hours of 9.15am and 11.00am.

Support & Signposting: If older people from a listening ear! Or simply a chat and a cup of tea. If Agenda cannot directly help they can act as a signposting serve to the person or organisation who can support. Agenda hold an Older Persons Partnership that meet quarterly for information sharing and updating purposes and also help facilitate and Over 50’s forum made up of community groups, where the representatives of the groups share information and key agencies are able to present their projects and initiatives to the forum.

*County Down Rural Community Network* (CDRCN):CDRCN provides ongoing support and advice to help groups in their development, research and advice on issues affecting rural communities, provide and arrange training opportunities tailored to your groups needs i.e. capacity building, financial management, committee roles and procedures etc, facilitate and support representation and influence of rural communities through the articulation of the rural voice , Create networking opportunities for groups to meet and share experiences, support in accessing funding, regular news bulletins for Down and Ards detailing opportunities available to your group

*Ards Community Network* support community development and voluntary activity throughout the Ards & North Down Borough, support with increasing community involvement and attracting volunteers, helping local groups learn from each other and share experience, opportunities for local people to develop skills and awareness, Opportunities for community, voluntary and statutory organisations to meet each other and exchange information.

*Supporting Communities* has worked effectively for 40 years advising, supporting, enabling and ultimately empowering communities in all four corners of our province. As the only independent body in the social housing sector, Supporting Communities can deliver essential services to all sectors of the community at the highest level without prejudice.

The Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament was launched in 2011 and allows older people from across Northern Ireland to have their say on the issues that matter to them. Since its establishment, the parliament has engaged with thousands of older people across Northern Ireland through a variety of ways. In 2017, surveys conducted at local parliaments raised the following concerns by older people, with access to Health and Social Care.

Below are results from recent pensioner’s parliaments in Ards and North Down in relation to Respect and Inclusion in 2018.

The results show a significant proportion of people felt they were discriminated against because of their age (50%)

Age Friendly Conference Feedback and Big Plan consultation findings

The Respect and Social Inclusion centred on working together, engagement and communication. A clear outcome from the Age Friendly Conference is that working together and not in a silo mentality is to blame for a lack of coordination on the ground. More partnership working and collaboration between agencies with shared budgets and clear signposting would ensure better social inclusion. It is thought that there are good services available but building on what exists is important. Identifying community ambassadors was seen as a way to encourage participation. An outreach strategy for engagement with an ageing population was popular. A one stop shop for people to be linked with projects, the Integrated Care Pathway was flagged as a good example with the appointment of Community Navigators and dementia Navigators. Building a better image of ageing was also seen as key to building respect and inclusion.

It was felt during the Big Plan consultation there should be an environment that links older people and younger people through intergenerational practice from a young age and that fosters respect between generations and tackles stigma. Age/Dementia/disability friendly communities should foster a welcoming Ards and North Down with appropriate roll out of capacity training opportunities.

Sources/Datasets used: [2018 Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament Report](https://www.agesectorplatform.org/ni-pensioners-parliament/overview), Age Sector Platform; [AgeNI Sub-Regional Networks,](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/northern-ireland/get-involved/regional-networks/)



*Older people do not stop contributing to their communities on retirement. Many continue to provide unpaid and voluntary work for their families and communities. An age-friendly community provides options for older people to continue to contribute to their communities, through paid employment or voluntary work if they so choose and be engaged in the political process.*

Qualifications:

In the 2015/16 academic year, there were **290** enrolments aged 60+ years from **Ards and North Down** LGD2014 at UK Higher Education Institutions. In the same year, there were **243** enrolments for those aged 60+ years from **Ards and North Down** LGD2014 on a regulated course in Northern Ireland Further Education Institutions. The table below shows educational attainment in 65+ taken from the 2011 Census.

There were a total of 8starts on the Steps to Success employment programme between October and December 2014 for participants aged 60+ years in **Ards and North Down** LGD2014 on the programme.

*Note the Steps 2 Success programme was introduced across Northern Ireland on 20 October 2014. It replaced the Steps to Work programme which stopped taking referrals on 30th May 2014.*

On Census Day 2011, 9.3% (2,572) of those aged 65 + years in **Ards and North Down** LGD2014 were economically active and 90.7% (25,120) economically inactive. Of those who were economically active, 758 work full-time, 773 work part-time, 990 were self-employed and 51 were unemployed

**Over 65 in Ards and North Down (27,692)**

**ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE**

**2,572 (9.3%)**

**ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE**

**25,120 (90.7%)**

**Voluntary Work**

In 2011, **12.7**% of those aged 65+ years in **Ards and North Down** LGD2014 undertook voluntary work without pay. The corresponding figure for those aged 65+ years in **Northern Ireland** was 10.7%.

In 2011, **13.9**% of those aged 65+ years in **Ards and North Down** LGD2014 provided unpaid care. The corresponding figure for those aged 65+ years in **Northern Ireland** was **12.3**%.

**Training and Employment**

In 2016/17 there were a total of 43 teachers aged over 60 in **Ards and North Down** accounting for **3.2%** of all teachers in **Ards and North Down**

In the 2015/16 academic year, there were **290** enrolments aged 60+ years from **Ards and North Down** LGD2014 at UK Higher Education Institutions. In the same year, there were **243** enrolments for those aged 60+ years from **Ards and North Down** LGD2014 on a regulated course in Northern Ireland Further Education Institutions.

There were a total of 8starts on the Steps to Success employment programme between October and December 2014 for participants aged 60+ years in **Ards and North Down** LGD2014 on the programme.

*Note the Steps 2 Success programme was introduced across Northern Ireland on 20 October 2014. It replaced the Steps to Work programme which stopped taking referrals on 30th May 2014.*

Of the 1,329 Northern Ireland Civil Service staff who were aged 60+, 176 had a home address of Ards and North Down LGD2014 and 79 worked in a Ards and North Down LGD2014 location.

**Pensions**

In February 2016, 33,590 people living in Ards and North Down LGD2014 were claiming retirement pension, 14,240 males aged 65+ and 19,340 females aged 60+.. In the same year 5,620 living in Ards and North Down LGD2014 received pension credit.

**Carer’s**

Carer's Allowance is a benefit for people who care for someone with a severe disability. **740** males and **930** females aged 65+ years living in **Ards and North Down** LGD2014 claimed Carers Allowance in 2016, *this information can be seen in on the graph below.*

**Age Friendly Conference & Big Plan Feedback**

Talks around Civic participation and employment focused on learning, engaging and consulting. Better opportunities to promote and upskill older workforce. More support that caters for older people to gain work, acquire skills and develop interview skills and hold open information days for employers to attract an ageing workforce. Older People could provide support for social enterprises or new starts. The role of council should promote specific age related volunteering opportunities. Create better conditions through a charter for older business who employ older people with the chamber of commerce involved.

A focus on how employers treat their older employees would be another factor to encourage fairness and protect older employees rights against ageism. Specific age training to make business aware of their responsibilities to their ageing workforce.

With older people not have many qualifications it was reported that older people should not be excluded from opportunities and there should be a change in thinking to relate to an ageing workforce, for example by offering older people apprenticeships opportunities. It was felt apprenticeships are very much only aimed at younger people and there needs to be a rethink on how society is not providing adequate opportunities for older people to choose new work opportunities.

When someone is diagnosed with Dementia they may be unable to remain in their original employment. In many cases the person will find themselves sitting in the house without a job to go to, leaving them feeling alone and isolated. A job scheme should be created to ensure that there are avenues for older people to explore other options for their older workforce. This could be done by adapting an older person’s business charter.

Sources/Datasets used: [Higher Education Enrolments (administrative geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=8021&lh=73&yn=1999-2015&sk=130&sn=Children%20Education%20and%20Skills&yearfilter=)[,](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=6751&lh=73&yn=1999-2013&sk=130&sn=Children%20Education%20and%20Skills&yearfilter=) [Further Education Regulated Enrolments (administrative geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=8016&lh=73&yn=1999-2015&sk=130&sn=Children%20Education%20and%20Skills&yearfilter=)[,](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=5859&lh=73&yn=1999-2012&sk=130&sn=Children%20Education%20and%20Skills&yearfilter=) DfE; [Civil Servants aged 60 and over by home and work location (administrative geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=6570&lh=73&yn=2013&sk=34&sn=Government&yearfilter=), NISRA HRCS; [Carers Allowance Claimants (administrative geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=7897&lh=73&yn=2001-2016&sk=10&sn=People%20and%20Places&yearfilter=), [Retirement Pension Claimants (administrative geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/ViewDataSet.aspx?ds=7928&lh=73&yn=1999-2000,2002-2016&sk=10&sn=People%20and%20Places&yearfilter=), DfC; [Economic Activity by Age by Sex CT0092NI](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/Download/Census%202011_Excel/2011/CT0092NI.xlsx),



*Staying connected with events and people and getting timely, practical information to manage life and meet personal needs is vital for active aging. Rapidly evolving information and communication technologies are both welcome tools and criticised as instruments of social exclusion. Age-friendly communities have relevant information that is readily accessible to older people with varying capacities and resources*

**Access to the Internet**

Libraries have access to computers and the Internet for free or at very cheap rates. There are 6 libraries in Ards and North Down.

In partnership with Business in the Community, NI Direct Digital Inclusion Unit of the Department of Finance and Personnel, hold free annual IT taster sessions for the over 50s in a number of selected libraries across Northern Ireland on [Silver Surfers' Day](http://www.bitcni.org.uk/event/silver-surfers-day/). This covers creating an e-mail account, using e-mail and browsing the internet.

Figures from the Continuous Household Survey from 2016, reveal that 48% of people aged **65** years and over living in **Ards and North Down** LGD2014 have never accessed the Internet. This compares to a **Northern Ireland** figure of 53%.

**OVER 65 NEVER USED INTERNET**

**Ards and North Down**

**(48%)**

The graph below contains information from the Ards and North Down Pensioners parliament around communication with older people. The data shows that a large proportion of people in attendance at the pensioner’s parliament did not feel that the local council engaged with them enough (67.8%)

Age Friendly Conference & Big Plan Feedback

Public Services – Silo approach. Currently under extreme pressure but a better joined up approach especially from the statutory agencies is required. There is a clear lack of direction and budget for services, it was felt in the past early interventions for health services were seen more as second fiddle to acute care. However, these community projects and services have come to the forefront to alleviate waiting times and admissions to hospitals, also for people to stay healthy in their own surroundings. A lack local health/welfare provision (capital project) Link to local services and facilities is hampering this process. More buildings housing appropriate services which are linked together would be of benefit like the East Belfast Community Development Agency. Getting to know the people within the community – outside agencies can bring initiatives to the community i.e. get to know your services events. GP Practice under pressure need close links to promote social prescribing with clear pathways and a joint venture to promote.

The big plan found although a lot of good work is being done there is no central point of information in a coordinated fashion. i.e if several organisations are working on tackling social isolation then a joined up approach to help promote services on offer for socially isolated individuals should be taken. Ensure information going out is standardised and is legible for an aging population. Information and PR campaigns are needed in promoting information, connections and opportunities. Networking between all villages – working towards information sharing on recurring themes and important issues like social isolation. Ensure information exists that allow people to be informed and can help them to make informed choices on what services are best for them.

Sources/Datasets used: [Library Locations](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/Download/People%20and%20Places_Excel/2014/Libraries.xlsx), LibrariesNI; [Internet Use by age and council area (administrative geographies)](http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/Download/People%20and%20Places_Excel/2013/Internet%20Use%20by%20age%20and%20council%20area%20(administrative%20geographies).xlsx), NISRA Economic & Labour Market Statistics



*Community and Health services are vital to maintaining health and independence in the community. Civil society can provide a role in supporting the health of the community. The WHO checklist focuses on the aspects within the scope of age-friendly​*

**Health Service**

In 2016/17 there were 113,451 people registered with a GP Practice (QOF Framework) in Ards and Borth Down LGD2014. The list size for those aged 50+ years in Ards and North Down Borough Council LGD2014 was 40,115.

Some of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) registers are for diseases that tend to affect an older population. In Ards and North Down there were 1,567 people on the Dementia Register (all ages) and 413 people on the Osteoporosis Register (aged 50+ years), Long term mobility or dexterity issues (35%), Long-term pain or discomfort: 65+ (25%), Long-term deafness or partial hearing loss: 65+ (36%) and long-term shortness of breath or difficulty breathing: 65+ (16%)

OSTEOPOROSIS DEMENTIA MOBILITY

[](https://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=https://www.bluebadgemobilityinsurance.co.uk/image/cache/data/Product%20Icons/W-Scooter%20Icon-500x500.png&imgrefurl=https://www.bluebadgemobilityinsurance.co.uk/&docid=maRa_7CjwpCwaM&tbnid=NXxyXapICxnncM:&vet=10ahUKEwiH7qWs06DZAhWoDMAKHbyRAUwQMwiSAigKMAo..i&w=500&h=500&bih=486&biw=1095&q=mobility%20icon&ved=0ahUKEwiH7qWs06DZAhWoDMAKHbyRAUwQMwiSAigKMAo&iact=mrc&uact=8)**[](https://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/osteoporosis-29662666.jpg&imgrefurl=https://www.dreamstime.com/royalty-free-stock-image-osteoporosis-image29662666&docid=u0vYMLSYnwJJ4M&tbnid=f2Yi7iHzkn_vBM:&vet=1&w=512&h=900&bih=486&biw=1095&ved=0ahUKEwilzL2v0KDZAhVkJ8AKHc6IDNIQxiAIGigF&iact=c&ictx=1)**

**413 1,567 35%**

LONG TERM PAIN HEARING LOSS SHORTNESS OF BREATH

[](https://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=http://www.centralwesthealthline.ca/eventNetwork/images/Topics/Pain.png&imgrefurl=http://www.centralwesthealthline.ca/events.aspx&docid=-Lp6_Ll_PSMHGM&tbnid=DPIgyMALLwTCNM:&vet=10ahUKEwjtpuKz1KDZAhWKCMAKHePzDw84yAEQMwg4KDYwNg..i&w=500&h=375&bih=486&biw=1184&q=long%20term%20pain%20%20icon&ved=0ahUKEwjtpuKz1KDZAhWKCMAKHePzDw84yAEQMwg4KDYwNg&iact=mrc&uact=8)****[](https://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=https://cdn3.iconfinder.com/data/icons/human-disease-illness-sickness-symptom-syndrome-si/308/irritation-001-512.png&imgrefurl=https://www.iconfinder.com/icons/2031021/breathless_climbing_fatigue_gasping_panting_staircase_tired_icon&docid=E73hQ7AxsgrxxM&tbnid=Q3ogVHG4bjJ9pM:&vet=10ahUKEwjbncGZ1aDZAhWrDcAKHXZhCUkQMwhlKA8wDw..i&w=450&h=512&bih=486&biw=1184&q=shortage%20of%20breath%20icon&ved=0ahUKEwjbncGZ1aDZAhWrDcAKHXZhCUkQMwhlKA8wDw&iact=mrc&uact=8)

**25% 36% 16%**

On Census Day 2011, there were 27,692 people aged 65+ years living in Ards and North Down LGD2014. 52.9% stated they had very good or good health, 35.8% had fair health and the remaining 11.3% had bad or very bad health

18,716 (67.6%) of those aged 65+ years were living with a long-term health condition: the below graph outlines the long term health conditions people 65+ are living with in the Ards and North Down Bourough Council area.

**Proximity and Access to Services**

The Northern Ireland Deprivation Measure 2017 Proximity to Services Domain - the purpose of this domain is to measure the extent to which people have poor geographical access to key services, including statutory and general services. The average time in minutes to travel to a service from a given Output Area was calculated and results are available on NINIS.

Within **Ards and North Down** LGD2014 the most *deprived Output Area* (OA) based on the proximity to services domain measure **Killinchy 1** SOA (ranked 35 out of 890 in NI) and the least deprived SOA was **Donaghadee North 1** (ranked 790 out of 890 in NI)

The below graph on the following page shows that older people who attended the Pensioners Parliament in 2018 stated their biggest concern was accessing Health and Social Care in the Ards and North Down area

.

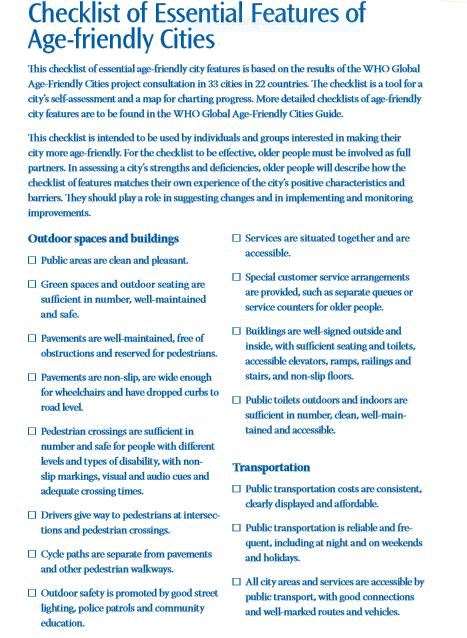
**Age Friendly Conference & Big Plan Feedback**

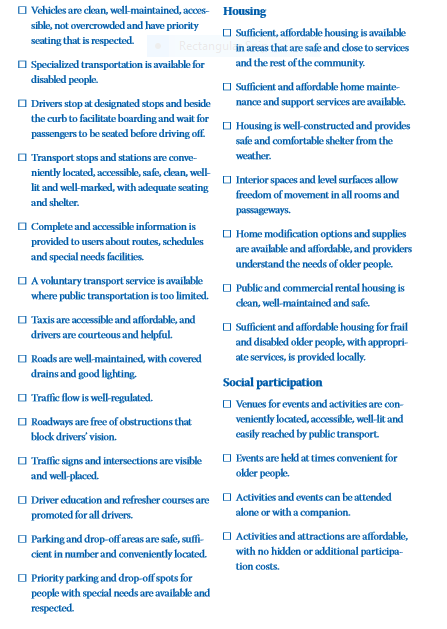
A clear focus on support, information/communication and services focused the discussion around Community and Health Services. Support hubs in areas with services readily available and not just centrally, more use of local buildings to host information hubs and meet the agencies mornings. Online one stop shop for information in relation to health and wellbeing. Health champions to advocate on behalf of services on peer to peer information through an older person’s network. A shared network of information for agencies for a more bespoke service although GDPR issues would exist. A more joined up service which is delivered, linking up different agencies by a Streamline / referral process – joint up referral/signposting. Bring services to communities / utilise local community venues better. It was fedback that men are a particular hard group to engage with it was highlighted Female heavy programmes more male orientated programs such as walking football given as an example.

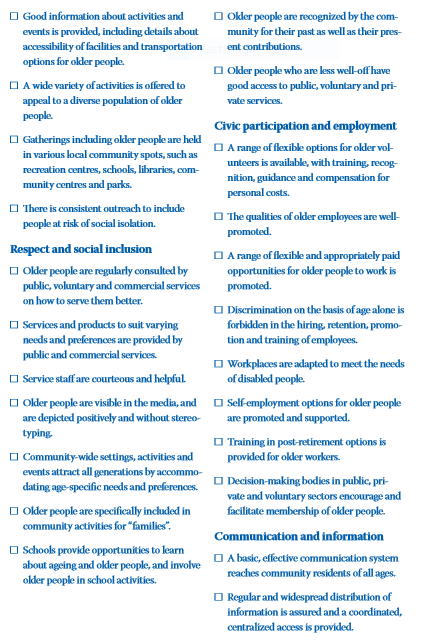
The Big Plan feedback wanted a move to more organisations having a clear strategy for community involvement – needs analysis, more technical support for the community in relation to health services that were being delivered on the ground.

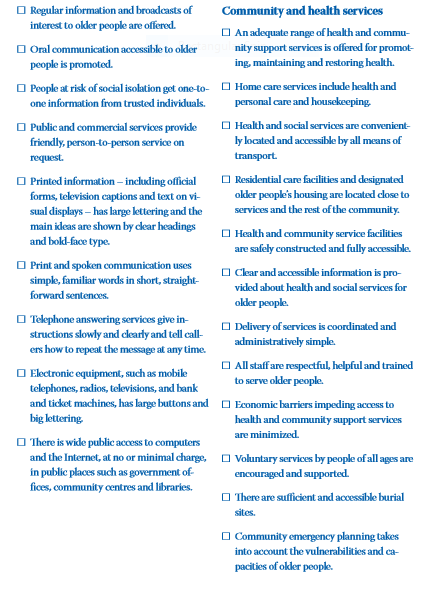
Ensuring people are safe in their homes, within their community and in all public spaces. It was recognised that there is a huge shift towards more community care and early interventions initiatives and it was timely to start to join the dots within community care. There was a recognition that an ever expanding reliance on hospital admissions and care home settings are creating a more positive response to early intervention approaches.

Appendix 1: WHO Age Friendly Check List









1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)