



PEOPLE AND PLACE REVIEW

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 3



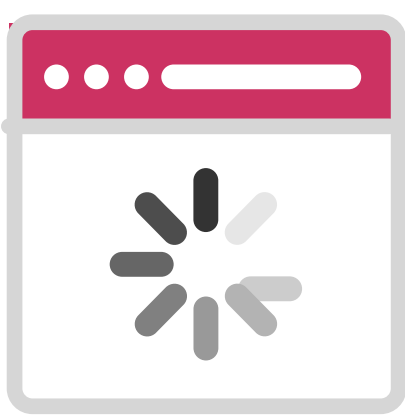
The Team: The Department for Communities team is led by **Nichola Creagh** and includes **Dawn Vance, Caoilin Boyle, John Sheppard**



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For more information please visit: [People and Place Review | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk)



WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

Locality Group Sessions 2 **Complete**

- Session 2 across the 11 council areas took place during late 2022
- These focused on Community Wealth Building and how this approach could be used as part of an overall solution in tackling disadvantage
- Outputs from both the Sessions and the online link have been summarised for publication as raw data and can be viewed [here](#)
- As with Sessions 1 outputs, this information will be used to inform the strategy development process.

Regional Advisory Group Meeting 2 & 3 **Complete**

Strategy Development Planning Group Meeting 2 **Complete**

- Both of these groups have continued to support the co-design process through advanced research and providing expertise that is enabling the strategy development process. All outputs from these meetings will continue to be published on our website for your information.

Government: Cross Departmental Ways of Working **Progressing**

- As you may be aware, Departments across central Government have come together over recent months, to find ways to better collaborate in delivering place-based interventions to tackle disadvantage. The Departments around the table have confirmed their commitment and appetite to doing things better. We will keep talking, with a view to possibly agreeing to 'test and learn' a new approach in selected pilot sites that will evaluate Government structures and delivery. Do please note that this will not come with any additional funding, we are just testing! Once we have worked through this some more, we will extend the conversation and hope to have many of you be apart of it. In the meantime, we will keep you updated as to the progress.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The People and Place Review team have committed to a genuine co-design approach, with integrity.

- ✓ That's how we started, in heavily investing in preliminary engagement to secure trust and foster healthy working relationships.
- ✓ That's how we have continued, in investing time listening and working together.

This has however meant that by ensuring that all voices are heard and with the challenges of the current financial and political landscapes, progress has been made at a slower than anticipated pace. Therefore we have worked through a planning reset exercise that now anticipates the draft successor Strategy to be complete by Spring 24.

- ✓ Do know that how we have started, how we have continued and how we intend to go forward, remains unchanged. We are committed. We are invested. It is just taking a little longer!



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PEOPLE AND PLACE REVIEW

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 3

Communities

Sustainability

Enable Value

Outcomes

People Commitment

Collaboration

WHAT'S NEXT?

Interest Groups Engagement

- Interventions can't be developed without being based on the lived experience of those within the communities and the issues faced by those for whom the Strategy will aim to deliver.
- To ensure that all voices are heard, we will engage with interest groups, Section 75 groups and hard to reach groups at a regional and local level.
- If you are a Community and Voluntary Group who would like to aid us in identifying participants, let us know. Or if you would like to be part of this conversation and add your voice and input, also let us know.
- We anticipate the discussions to commence in a couple of weeks and be completed by June 23.

Locality Group Sessions 3

We hope to have Session 3 of our Locality Group conversations in each of the 11 Council areas before August 23. We will be in touch shortly with the details.

WHAT ELSE?

Review of Voluntary and Community Sector Support

We have attached some information on a review that is in progress by another business area within DfC. As there will be cross over with our Stakeholders, we would like to take this opportunity to give you some information on what else is happening. It is our intention that, were possible, we align our communication and engagement.

The Voluntary and Community Division (VCD) is currently undertaking a review of its arrangements for supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Purpose: The purpose of the review is:

- To contribute to an innovative and sustainable voluntary and community sector in NI, supported by a refreshed policy and funding framework, and improving charity regulation.

Objectives: This will be met through the achievements of the following:

- Develop a framework of outcomes for VCD support for the voluntary and community sector, supported by new and progressive commissioning arrangements, based on fair and enabling funding principles and a move to longer-term funding creating stability in the Sector.
- Improve charity regulation for charities and their beneficiaries, through supporting a change in culture and a more enabling, collaborative, and proportionate approach by the Charity Commission NI.

Aim: This work is aimed at refreshing the policy frameworks for our voluntary and community sector support. A review of sectoral needs will inform how we can better support the sector.

Engagement: VCD is committed to engaging with a wide range of organisations in the sector, including those supported through our existing funding programmes as well as those that are not. We will involve other departments, local government, and independent funders, and will also be working with advisory



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PEOPLE AND PLACE REVIEW

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 3

Reference Groups comprising a range of sectoral interests, through which we will draw on lived experience, expertise, and knowledge, and together explore a range of insights and ideas in the design of new approaches.

You can find out more information on the Department for Communities [website](#).

If you require any further information, please contact us on:

cssp@communities-ni.gov.uk

Engagement Events

We would like to take the opportunity to outline current plans and explore priorities within the sector for boosting capacity and improving infrastructure support.

Roundtable events have taken place between 30 March - 5 April 23 and involved discussions of key questions of interest.

We want to build on this and as such we are inviting you to sign up for one of the workshops below: these are taking place at different locations around NI and includes two online sessions for those who prefer to join remotely. Events are open to all voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations and each workshop will involve up to 20 participants, working with the Department to continue to develop our understanding of needs and priorities within the sector, as well as exploring the vision and desired outcomes for a thriving voluntary and community sector.

When	Where	Eventbrite Booking Details
Monday 24 April 1:30pm - 4:30pm	Rural Community Network 38A Oldown Street Cookstown, BT80 8EF	Rural Community Network
Thursday 27 April 9:30am - 1:00pm	NICVA 61 Duncairn Gardens Belfast, BT15 2GB	NICVA
Friday 28 April 10:00am - 12:00pm	Virtual (Zoom)	Virtual 28 April
Thursday 04 May 7:00pm - 9:00pm	Virtual (Zoom)	Virtual 4 May
Tuesday 09 May 12:30pm - 3:30pm	Fermanagh House Broadmeadow Place Enniskillen, BT74 7HR	Fermanagh House
Thursday 11 May 1:30pm - 4:30pm	Confederation of Community Groups Ballybot House 28 Corn Market Newry, BT33 8BG	Confederation of Community Groups

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The People and Place Review DfC Internet Webpage is now live:

People and Place Review | Department for Communities

(communities-ni.gov.uk) This will be regularly updated with information as we progress including outputs from the various meetings, Newsletters and Questionnaires.

It is really important to us that all information is available and to enable all voices to be heard. If you have any thoughts or ideas on Communication or indeed on anything relating to the Review, get in touch at:

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