



Causeway Coast and Glens
**Community Planning
Strategic Partnership**

A BETTER FUTURE TOGETHER

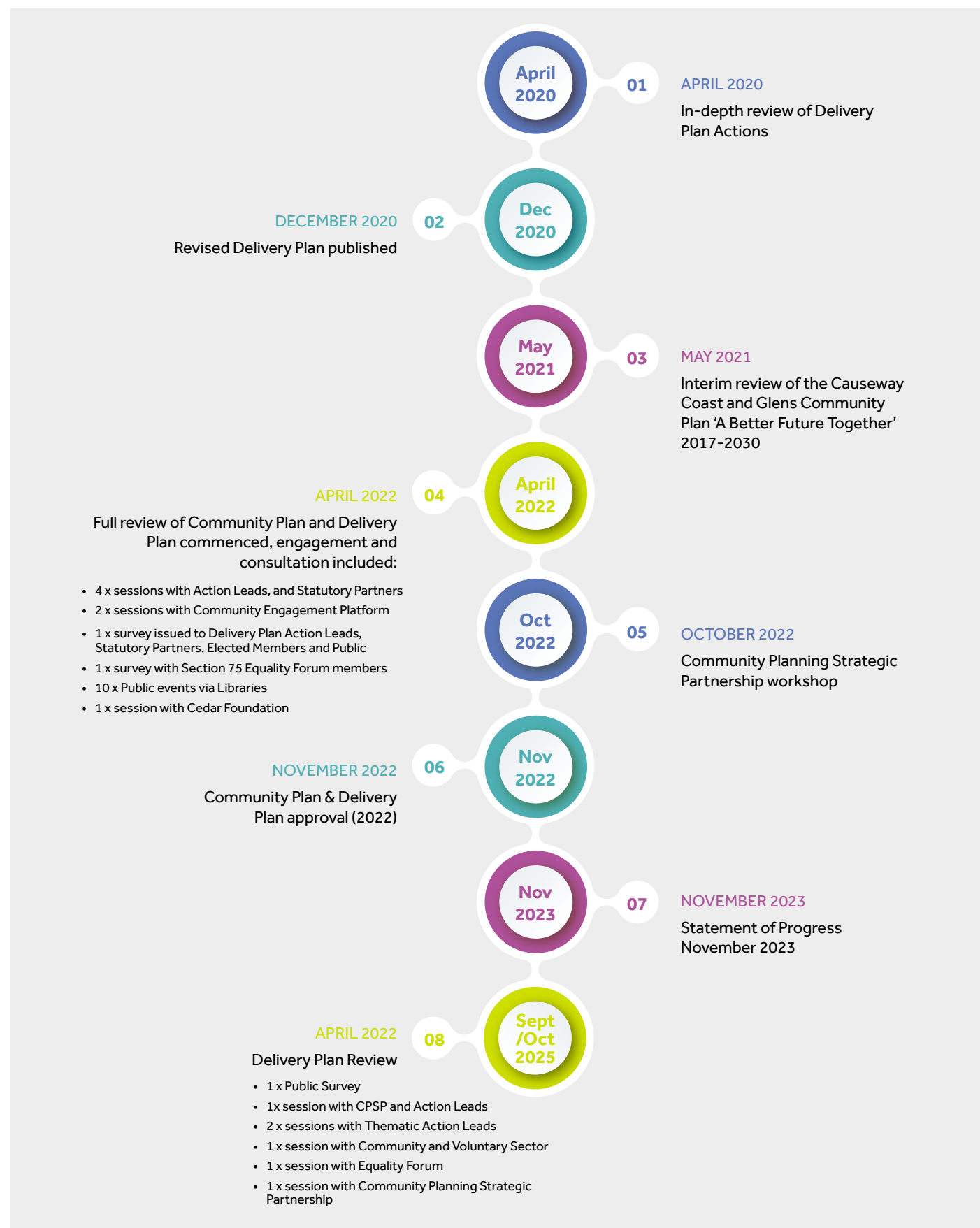


STATEMENT OF PROGRESS

Review
November 2025

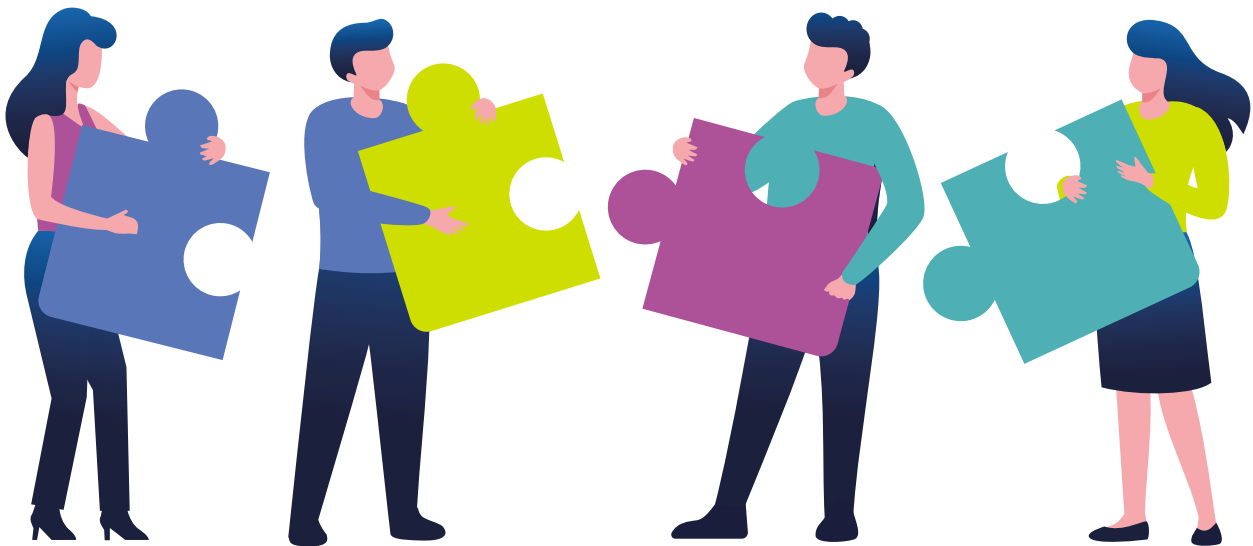


Engagement Pathway



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Welcome

Causeway Coast and Glens Community Planning Strategic Partnership is pleased to present our fourth Statement of Progress. Our continued achievements are the result of strong collaboration between our statutory and community partners, all working collectively to enhance the lives of people across the Causeway Coast and Glens area.

This Statement of Progress 2025 provides an update on the actions set out in the 2022 Delivery Plan. We hope you will be encouraged by the positive outcomes delivered over the past two years. Community engagement and partnership working remain at the core of everything we do. Within this report, we have highlighted a number of Key Achievements (Working Together, Achieving Together) that showcase the impressive initiatives, programmes and services currently being delivered across our area. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all organisations and individuals who have contributed to our community planning work. Your continued support is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Since our last update, the Strategic Partnership has completed a review of the Community Plan Delivery Plan, with a revised Delivery Plan due to be launched shortly. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the development of the actions within the Causeway Coast and Glens Delivery Plan 2025. Your dedication and proactive participation have been essential in shaping this refreshed plan.

All requests for the document in another format or language will be considered. If you would like a copy in an alternative format, please contact the Community Planning Team.

Councillor Dermot Nicholl
Chair of the Community Planning Partnership

Chief Inspector Clare Willis (PSNI)
Vice Chair of the Community Planning Partnership

November 2025

Community Planning Partnership Structure



Our Vision

A Better Future Together

Three Strategic Population Outcomes



Our Values and Underpinning Principles

Our Causeway Coast and Glens Community Planning Strategic Partnership is committed to meeting the needs of those who live, work and visit our area. Our values and underpinning principles guide the changes needed in our services over the coming years to deliver better outcomes for everyone. We view these principles as a shared set of values that apply across all activities within our Community Plan. As a Partnership, we are dedicated to achieving meaningful, positive outcomes, and we will demonstrate this commitment through the following values:

Respect

we will encourage fairness, making decisions based on evidence, need and equality.

Participation

we will involve and engage all our community, building relationships and connections, partnership working, co-operation and collective ownership of the community plan.

Innovation

we will be ambitious and imaginative in all that we do.

Integrity

we will be open, transparent and accountable in our activities and in our decision making.

Sustainability

we will promote respect for our environment, a prosperous economy and a resilient community without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Programme for Government alignment

Alongside our three overarching long-term strategic Population Outcomes, the twelve Intermediate Outcomes identified align with the Programme for Government 2024- 2027 Missions and Immediate Priorities¹ as outlined below:

Programme for Government Missions

People - working to support everyone at all stages of their life to ensure they have the chance to succeed by improving life opportunities

Prosperity – Improving our economic productivity while making sure that we have an economy that works for everyone, and our story continues to be an inspiration to others.

Planet – Harnessing the potential of a green growth economy while ensuring we provide an equitable transition to a sustainable and affordable society as we take responsibility for decarbonising our economy and society

Peace – Our cross-cutting commitment will make sure that everyone feels the benefit of a growing, improved environment and a fairer society.



¹ <https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/articles/programme-government-2024-2027-our-plan-doing-what-matters-most>

Programme for Government Priorities

Immediate Priorities

- Cut Health Waiting Times
- Reform And Transformation of Public Services
- Deliver More Affordable, Accessible, High Quality Early Learning and Childcare
- Ending Violence against women and girls
- Safer Communities
- Better Support for Children and Young People with Special Needs

Building New Foundations

- Deliver Better Public Services
- Upgrade Stadia and Support Local Sports

Causeway Coast and Glens Outcomes

A Healthy Safe Community

1. All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing
2. Our children and young people will have the very best start in life
3. All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens can live independently as far as possible and access support services when they need it
4. The Causeway Coast & Glens area feels safe
5. The Causeway Coast and Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships

Programme for Government Priorities

Immediate Priorities

- Provide More Social Affordable and Sustainable Housing
- Protecting Lough Neagh and The Environment

Building New Foundations

- Boost Housing Funds
- Manage Our Water
- Support Our Net Zero Future
- Improve the Planning System
- Retrofit Homes

Causeway Coast and Glens Outcomes

A Sustainable Accessible Environment

6. The Causeway Coast and Glens area is widely recognised and celebrated for its unique natural and built landscapes
7. The Causeway Coast and Glens area has physical infrastructures and facilities that further growth, access, and connections
8. The Causeway Coast and Glens has a sustainably managed natural and built environment

Programme for Government Priorities

Immediate Priorities

- Grow a Globally Competitive and Sustainable Economy

Building New Foundations

- Improve Our Transport Infrastructure for Safer Travel, Connected Communities and Sustainable Economic Growth

Causeway Coast and Glens Outcomes

A Thriving Economy

9. The Causeway Coast and Glens area provides for all to contribute to, engage in and benefit from a prosperous and inclusive economy
10. The Causeway Coast and Glens area attracts and grows more profitable businesses
11. The Causeway Coast and Glens area drives entrepreneurship and fosters innovation
12. All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens will be knowledgeable and skilled



Indicators at a Glance

HEALTHY SAFE COMMUNITY					SUSTAINABLE ACCESS		
Outcomes	Improved physical health and mental wellbeing	Children and young people will have the best start in life	Independent living and access to support services	Causeway Coast and Glens area feels safe	Area promotes and supports positive relationships	Area is celebrated for its unique natural & built landscapes	Structures and facilities that further growth, access and connections
	Indicators	No. of preventable deaths of the population	% of children at Year 1 who are obese	% of population aged 75 or older living in own home	% of people reporting fear of crime has minimal impact on quality of life	Respect Index	% of total NI visitors to visit
% of people who participate in sport/ physical activity		% of babies born at low birth-weight	No. of adults receiving personal care	No. of accidental dwelling fires	% of population that think public areas are 'shared and open'	Average tourism expenditure per overnight trip	Housing stock
% of population engaging in leisure / arts / cultural activities		% of school leavers achieving Level 2 or above	% of homeless acceptances	Area based recorded crime rates	% of active volunteers	% of Blue Flag for Beaches and Resort Seaside Awards	Household growth projections & new dwellings
Prescription rates for mood and anxiety disorder drugs				Police recorded road traffic collision casualties		Average marine litter	% of premises with broadband at or above 30Mbps
% of population in poverty before housing costs						Annual litter & fly tipping offenses	Affordable warmth installations
% of frequency of loneliness						Total waste per person (kg)	Availability of supportd housing
Personal wellbeing satisfaction & worthwhile							Greenways, walking routes, canoe trails & cycle paths
							Access to broadband

KEY:

Positive change
No change
Negative change
No update/new data
New indicator
New methodology

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

THRIVING ECONOMY

Causeway Coast and Glens area is a sustainable environment		Causeway Coast and Glens area provides opportunities for all to contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy		Area attracts and grows more profitable businesses	Area drives entrepreneurship and fosters innovation	All people of the area will be knowledgeable and skilled
% of household waste that is reused, recycled or composted	Condition of protected built heritage	Employment rate	Median gross earnings by place of work	Total Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA)	Total Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA)	Qualification Levels 16-64 years
Amount of greenhouse gas emissions	Area of outstanding natural beauty AONB	Median gross earnings by place of residence	Number of employees by sector	Approx. GVA per employee	Rate of innovation activity	% of school leavers achieving Level 2 or above
Quality of water bodies	No. and condition of Environmental Designations	No of businesses by industry group	Better jobs index (work quality)	No. of PAYE / VAT registered businesses	R&D spend	
Air quality monitoring	No of EU, national & local environmental designations	% total NI visitors to visit Causeway Coast & Glens	Average tourism expenditure per overnight trip	VAT/PAYE businesses in CCG by employee size	Business survival rates	
	Amount of leisure time spent outside	Town centre vacancy rate		Business birth rate (%)	Business birth rate (%)	
				Export activity		
				Invest NI Offers		

Working Together Achieving Together

A Healthy Safe Community

Girls Football Blitz



- 20 local primary schools from throughout Causeway
- Over 200 girls taking part
- 12 students from the NRC Sports Studies Department volunteering
- Angela Platt, IFA Head of Women's Football in attendance
- Council provision of Rugby Avenue as host facility

Central European Volleyball Primary Schools Programme



Our partnership programme with Northern Ireland Volleyball focused on developing the Central European Volleyball Primary School Programme within Causeway Coast and Glens. The aim was to introduce volleyball in primary schools, encourage continued participation as pupils move into post-primary education, and support pathways into local clubs such as Ballymoney Blaze and Garvagh Phoenix.

The programme included:

- Teachers' Workshop at Coleraine Leisure Centre to strengthen the coaching workforce – 8 primary school teachers took part.
- Primary Schools 'Come & Try It' Sessions – 120 pupils from Millburn PS and St Malachy's PS took part.
- Shared Education Volleyball Sessions involving 4 schools (Castleroe PS, Crossroads PS, Portstewart PS and St Colum's PS) across 6 sessions, engaging 140 children.
- CCG Primary Schools Volleyball Festival hosted at Dalriada School – 24 teams and 150 children participated. This event was organised collaboratively by Northern Ireland Volleyball, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, and Dalriada School.

Road to the Open

Council's Road to the Open programme engaged over 280 participants, delivered in partnership with The R&A, Royal Portrush Golf Club, Golf Ireland, Tourism NI, local primary schools, and golf professionals including Gary McNeill (Royal Portrush), Michael McCrudden (Roe Valley Resort), Bob Cockcroft (Ballyreagh) and Damian McEvoy (Ballycastle).

The programme successfully introduced children to golf through in-school sessions, introductory coaching, and opportunities to play on local courses in a fun and supportive environment. Seasonal coaching camps ran at full capacity, and the schools coaching programme reached over 150 children each week.

Inclusive Play Events

Children and families enjoyed a summer of fun, connection and creativity through Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Inclusive Play events, delivered throughout July and August 2025 as part of the wider Active Summer Programme.

A total of 392 children took part in sessions designed to ensure every child – regardless of ability – could play, interact and build confidence in an inclusive setting. Families praised the programme for offering shared play opportunities where all children could participate together.

Activities took place in local parks and community spaces and included outdoor games, sensory play and creative activities. We were delighted with the strong participation and positive feedback. Inclusive Play remains focused on ensuring every child can join in, have fun, and make lasting memories.



Active Causeway's Nordic Walks Step Up

Adults from across the Causeway Coast and Glens embraced the outdoors this summer through the Council's Active Causeway programme, which delivered Nordic Walking sessions throughout May and June 2025. With an average of 13 participants each week, walkers enjoyed some of the area's most scenic locations, including Roe Valley Country Park, Mountsandel Wood, Mussenden Temple, Ballypatrick Forest, and Garvagh Forest.

The programme offered gentle exercise alongside opportunities to enjoy fresh air, improve wellbeing, and connect with others in a relaxed social setting. These sessions not only encouraged people to stay active but also highlighted the beautiful landscapes available right on our doorstep.

The Council remains committed to promoting walking and outdoor recreation as part of its ongoing Active Causeway programme, supporting healthier, more active communities across the borough.



Creating Opportunities

Sport NI have supported two sporting organisations in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area, through the Creating Opportunities programme, a crowdfunding partnership programme which is focused on levelling the playing field and providing opportunities for more people, of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to participate in sport. Ulster University Volleyball Club was one of the organisations who seized the opportunity and were awarded over £1000 of match-funding after raising £2,346 through their crowdfunding campaign. The money was used to cover the costs of running two tournaments for beginners and 14 weekly beginner sessions. These sessions were free of charge and therefore removed the financial obstacles to participate in sport.



Age Friendly Strategy

The Causeway Coast and Glens Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan 2024–2027 was launched in November 2024. The Council began its Age-Friendly journey in 2020, supported by funding from the Public Health Agency and in partnership with public, community and voluntary sector organisations. During this time, the Council has established the structures needed to listen to, understand, and respond to the needs and aspirations of older residents. Aligned with A Better Future Together, the Community Plan for the Borough, this Strategy and Action Plan has been shaped by extensive community engagement. The Council and its partners will now take forward a series of actions designed to enhance the quality of life for older people, focusing on the issues that matter most to them and areas where they identified the greatest need for improvement.



Loneliness Network

As part of Loneliness Awareness Week 2024, a group of older people demonstrated that it's never too late to make new connections by taking part in a special "Chat Tea Train / Chatty Carriage" journey. The event was organised by Northern Trust MDT social workers in partnership with the Western Trust and Translink, aligned with Age NI's campaign to raise awareness of loneliness and encourage social connection.

Around 90 SmartPass holders joined the journey from Coleraine, with 30% reporting daily loneliness and 42% feeling lonely at least weekly. Passengers enjoyed a scenic rail trip, music from the U3A ukulele band, entertainment from the Lilliput Theatre Company, and a meet-up with another group travelling in the opposite direction. On return to Coleraine, both groups were welcomed by a performance from the Irish Society Primary School choir. Importantly, 100% of participants reported that the trip helped reduce feelings of loneliness and expressed enthusiasm for similar events in the future.



Housing Poverty: Impacts and Solutions

The Housing Poverty in Causeway Coast and Glens: Impacts and Solutions discussion was organised by the Causeway Coast and Glens Anti-Poverty Group and the NI Anti-Poverty Network in response to growing concerns about local housing need.

Community organisations highlighted increasing numbers of individuals and families losing their homes through no fault of their own, with many placed in temporary accommodation due to a shortage of affordable housing. Others continue to live with high housing stress or remain on long waiting lists, facing financial and emotional strain.

Housing poverty affects people of all ages—infants, children, parents and older adults. Its consequences are severe, contributing to poor mental and physical health, disrupted education, employment challenges and wider costs to society. While the scale of the issue is clear, there is no single solution; progress will require collaboration, creativity and shared responsibility.

The event aimed to bring together organisations and individuals who each hold part of the solution—encouraging partnership, fresh thinking and collective action. As one quote that inspired the discussion reminds us: "I can't do everything, but I can do something. I won't let what I can't do interfere with what I can do."



Children and Young People Activities



Through 2024/25 CYPSP Activities Funding, Home-Start delivered a range of programmes to support families in Causeway Coast and Glens. In Garvagh, six parent and toddler sessions offered music and movement, sensory play, nature walks, songs and storytelling, supporting both physical and emotional wellbeing for families. In Ballymoney, Home-Start delivered the HENRY Programme, helping parents develop confidence and understanding around health, exercise and nutrition in early childhood. Participants reported key benefits including:

- Increased awareness of the importance of early language development.
- Improved positive, responsive communication between caregivers and children.
- Greater confidence in using "serve and return" interaction with babies.
- Encouragement of regular physical activity for both children and caregivers.

These sessions also provided a safe, welcoming space for caregivers to connect, form positive relationships and build peer support beyond the family group.

The group was remarkably successful, and participants noted how helpful it had been for them. Local churches are now running parent and toddler services in the area. This ongoing provision for parents and toddlers in the area will enhance the development of young children and add to the support for families locally. Rasharkin Primary School also were recipients of funding which they used to purchase football nets.

This equipment was used to improve mental health by promoting a positive mood through the playing of football. The school was able to purchase four new nets meaning that children who would have previously been too shy to take part in the 'big match' could create their own game.

Through play, children had the opportunity to learn about the world and themselves. They also learnt the skills they need for study, work and relationships such as confidence and self-esteem when they take part in a team activity alongside resilience and conflict resolution skills when their team didn't score the winning goal, or they disagreed with a decision.



Causeway Healthy Kids



The collaborative programme, Causeway Healthy Kids, has been shortlisted for Best Health and Wellbeing Initiative at the 2025 APSE Awards. Launched in 2022 Causeway Healthy Kids has already received six awards for its innovative approach to promoting healthy lifestyles among primary school children.

Delivered in partnership with the Northern Healthy Lifestyles Partnership, NHSCT Dietetics, and NHSCT Mental Health, the programme has been so successful that two partner councils have adopted the model. To date, it has been delivered in 58 schools, with a further 10 scheduled in 2025/26. By March 2026, almost 2,000 children across the Borough will have taken part.

The programme's success is due to strong partnership working and the commitment of schools, teachers, children, and delivery staff. Since 2022, 14 Council officers and four Ulster University placement students have contributed to programme delivery and the development of resources such as the at-home challenge pack. Causeway Healthy Kids highlights how collaborative, creative approaches can improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children across the Borough.

Homelessness Awareness Week

Homelessness Awareness Week 2024 began with a six-a-side charity football tournament in Coleraine, funded by the Housing Executive. The Street Soccer NI event, held at The Score Centre, was one of several activities organised to mark the week (December 2–8).

Stephen Fleming, Street Soccer NI Causeway Coordinator, thanked the Housing Executive for supporting the tournament, noting the power of sport to lift morale and help people feel at home. "Today I watched men laugh together and build new friendships," he said. "Most of the players have experienced homelessness, are seeking asylum, or are being supported by the Home Office or the local Trust."

Six teams took part, including one from the Housing Executive, one from local mental health group Making Waves, and four from the Coleraine project. The Housing Executive team was captained by Temporary Accommodation Officer Paddy Hargan.

Paddy, who became involved with Street Soccer NI two years ago, highlighted the organisation's impact: "Stephen works tirelessly to bring positive change to people's lives. It's vital that the Housing Executive supports projects like this to help create positive change in our communities."



TAKE 5 Schools

Take 5 steps to wellbeing is an evidence based public health message. Based on the Five Ways to Wellbeing developed by the New Economics Foundation (NEF), these simple and effective messages are grounded in solid evidence and draw on psychological and economic literature from interdisciplinary work. These simple 5 steps to wellbeing contribute to improving wellbeing in its fullest sense, both physically and emotionally, where people can feel good and function well.

The Take 5 Schools model originated from the Take 5 Working group, a community planning group which cover the NHSCT area, supporting work in schools, workplaces and the community. The key goal was to identify what could be created and delivered collectively that could not be done in isolation. The model was launched in March 2020 and this year we held our fourth celebration event. In the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, as of June 2025 a total of 29 schools, undertook the Take 5 accreditation.

Benefits of being a Take 5 School



Multi-Disciplinary Team

The Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Social Work service supported the creation of a new dementia safeguarding scheme led by Causeway Age Concern and developed in partnership with the PSNI, Council, and Causeway PCSP. Seed funding from the MDT enabled the purchase of wristbands containing a QR code, allowing essential information to be accessed quickly if a person with dementia goes missing or is unable to communicate. The scheme is now being promoted across all partner agencies and was highly commended in the Problem-Solving category at the annual PSNI Awards.

The MDT Social Work team also delivered a successful Strength and Balance Project, offering four 12-week programmes led by a fitness instructor and supported by talks from NHSCT Health and Wellbeing teams, COAST, Home Accident Prevention, the Falls Screening Service, and Connect North. Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive: 85% rated the programme very good and 15% rated it good. Many highlighted the benefits of “friendship and fun,” enjoying the company of others, and gaining valuable awareness of falls prevention—such as “using muscles I didn’t know I had” and learning safer ways to sit and stand.



SCAN THE BAND FOR A HELPING HAND
DEMENTIA SAFEGUARDING SCHEME

MAIN BENEFITS

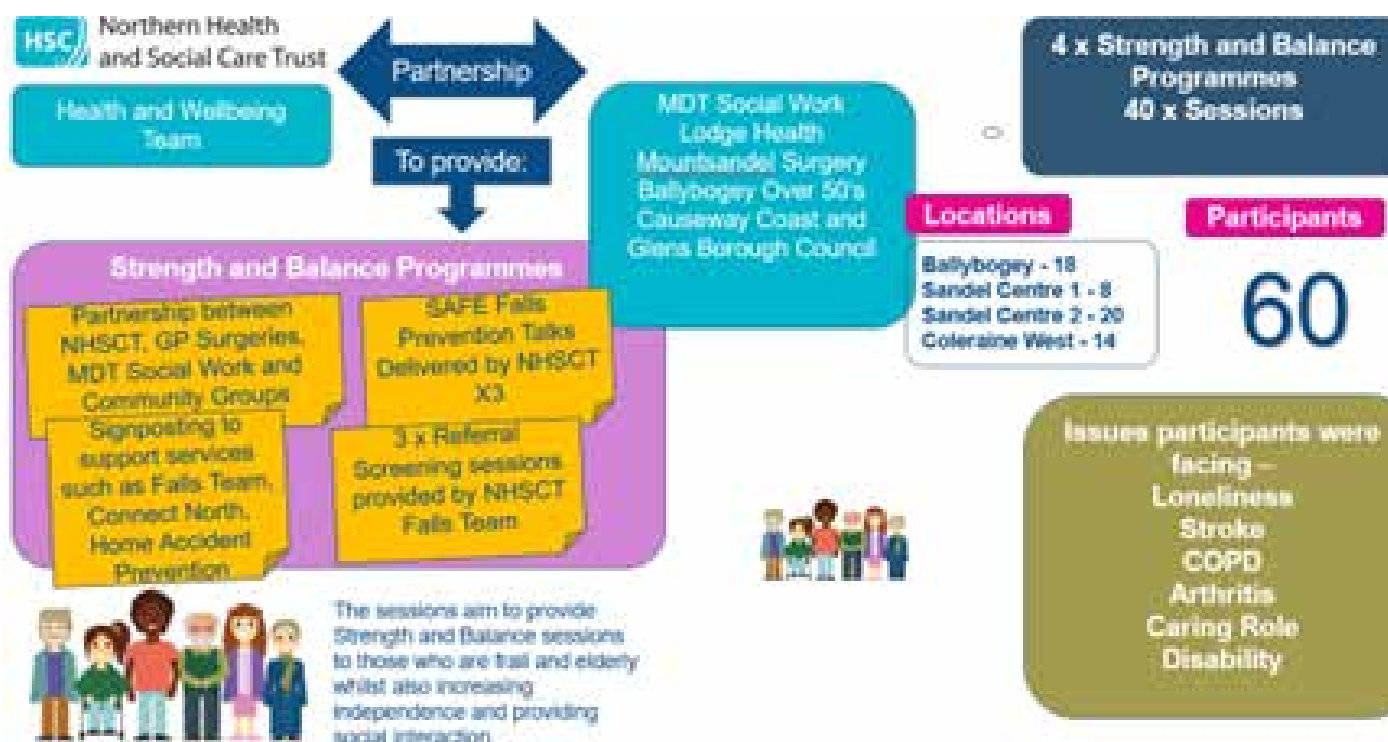
- Provides help for loved ones
- Helps individuals with dementia stay active
- Raises dementia awareness
- Reduces risk when out and about

REGISTER NOW

To register a free wristband:

- Visit www.causeway.org.uk
- Call 018 7535 7544
- Scan the QR code

age concern
causeway



Multi-Agency Support Hub

In June, NIFRS reported a dwelling fire in Coleraine. On arrival, the fire located at an oil tank to the rear of the property had already been extinguished. The home belonged to a young family with four children under 13. It was quickly established that the fire had been deliberately started, and police began an investigation into arson with intent to endanger life, which remains ongoing. The incident was also recorded as a hate crime.

The Support Hub Sergeant convened an emergency multi-agency meeting with partners, including the Council's Good Relations team, to coordinate support for the family. As a result:

- NIHE provided temporary emergency accommodation
- Vineyard Compassion supplied clothing, food, and access to shower facilities
- A social worker met the family at the Vineyard Hope Centre to assess further needs
- PCSP-approved security cameras were installed at the property by COAST Handyman to improve reassurance and safety.

The family is now safe and receiving continued support from the relevant agencies.



Cyber-Safe Partnership

Causeway Coast and Glens Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) partnered with several organisations to develop a resource pack aimed at supporting young people with online safety and mental health. Working jointly with the NSPCC, the Northern and Western Health Trusts and the Education Authority, the PCSP launched "Cyber Safety in an Online World", a toolkit that addresses topics such as:

- suicide, mental health, and self-esteem
- online bullying
- gaming and gambling
- sharing and receiving inappropriate images
- where to get support

The resource is intended to be used by a range of organisations, such as in schools or youth groups. It provides animations, lesson plans and other supporting resources designed to support young people in need. Each topic is a standalone lesson broken into sections. The full resource can be taught as a series or as individual lessons. If an issue arises within a school or youth setting, then a teacher or facilitator can use the resource, open that section and complete the lesson accordingly. It is an adaptable and flexible resource that provides support and signposting for young people who may be dealing with these issues.



The free resource can be viewed at <https://view.pagetiger.com/online-safety-and-mental-health>

Youth Voice



Causeway Coast and Glens Youth Voice:

- One member has progressed on to a regional youth voice programme, after gaining skills and experience in CC&G Youth Voice.
- Seven young people will be attending university this year, with 5 stating that they directly referenced being a member of CC&G Youth Voice in their application/ interview.
- Two members of CC&G Youth Voice have been elected to the board of the Coleraine Future Town Fund, with all members acting as a consultative board.
- CC&G Youth Voice have successfully tendered to deliver a consultation, with other youth groups, on behalf of Coleraine Future Town Fund.
- At present 60% of members are on track to complete their OCN Level 2 in Advocacy & Representation.
- One young person is pursuing a career in politics, bolstered in part by her experiences as a member of the CC&G Youth Voice programme.

Fire and Road Safety Initiatives

NI Fire and Rescue Service crews have actively engaged the community on road safety through events such as the interactive Your Choice programme and Road Traffic Collision (RTC) demonstrations. Your Choice was delivered to young people at Coleraine Rural and Urban Network and Dunluce School, highlighting the dangers of the roads from both driver and passenger perspectives.

A practical demonstration in Kilrea gave the public insight into the work of emergency crews at an RTC and the serious, often traumatic, impact of such incidents.

As part of Student Safety Week 2025, NIFRS Station Commander Alan Murdoch talked to all the new students who will be commencing their studies at University of Ulster Coleraine about Fire Safety and Road Safety. Alan highlighted the specific fire risks around cooking, charging appliances, smoking and the importance of ensuring everyone has working smoke alarms and knows what to do in the event of a fire. Alan also discussed Road Safety with particular attention paid to the Fatal Five and he then showed very emotive video on the dangers of using mobile devices while driving. This event was an excellent opportunity to engage with the young people in our community.



Community and Voluntary Sector working collaboratively

Working collaboratively, Community Planning, Limavady and Causeway Volunteer Centres, Northern Area Community Network, Causeway Rural Urban Network, Building Community Resource Centre, Supporting Communities NI and Council's Community Development Team hosted a Meet the Statutory Partners Fair in April 2025 and a Volunteer Fair in September 2025.

The volunteer fair held in Ballymoney Town Hall was buzzing with community spirit in as 14 local organisations displayed their volunteering opportunities at a Volunteer Fair. From conservation to caring, the event highlighted a wide range of ways to get involved and make a difference across the Causeway Coast and Glens. With friendly conversations, refreshments, and plenty of inspiration, the evening was a celebration of community connection and purpose. Collaboration with community support partners – Building Communities Resource Centre, Causeway Rural & Urban Network, Northern Area Community Network, Supporting Communities and Causeway and Limavady Volunteer Centres along with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council made this event a success.



A Sustainable Accessible Environment

Castlerock Trails & Tales Launch

Causeway Coast and Glens continues to welcome high visitor numbers to its outdoor recreation sites, with many projects delivered under the Binevenagh Landscape Partnership and progressing through Peace+ funding to support sustainable site management.

The new Castlerock Trails & Tales project combines storytelling, heritage interpretation, art, and outdoor recreation. Key features include a restored swim shelter, a new trail network, bespoke heritage signage, and a community-created mural. The project is delivered in collaboration with the Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, The National Trust, and funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The initiative celebrates Castlerock's rich cultural heritage and was officially launched at the swim shelter by Deputy Mayor Alderman Richard Stewart, with pupils from Hezlett Primary School and members of the local swimming group, The Castlerock Mermaids.

Dr Paul Mullan, Northern Ireland Director at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said, "the project highlights Castlerock's unique stories—from railway heritage to natural beauty—enhanced by signage, murals, and community input". Deputy Mayor Stewart added, "the project encourages heritage appreciation and outdoor engagement for all generations".

Melissa McQuitty, Outdoor Recreation Project Officer, praised the collaboration, noting the valuable contributions of volunteers, pupils, and the wider community in research, content creation, and installation. The seven-year Landscape Partnership Scheme aims to preserve and promote the region's unique landscapes and heritage through projects like this.



LiveSmart



Members of the Environmental Resource Officer (ERO) team attended the annual Streetwise event in June 2025. In partnership with several local agencies, the initiative aims to promote safety and prepare pupils for the transition to secondary school education. The Environmental Resource Officers delivered talks on LitterSmart and ClimateSmart to over 550 Primary 7 pupils.

With regards to LitterSmart, children were engaged on the dangers and unsightliness of discarded rubbish, particularly to wildlife.

Rivers and ocean pollution, especially plastic and microplastics, was discussed, stressing the continual harm being caused by humans on nature. The dangers of glass, especially broken glass to humans, pets and wildlife alike, found in play parks, beaches, paths were highlighted. Children were encouraged to develop good habits of disposing their rubbish in bins while encouraging others to do the same.

With regards to ClimateSmart, children learned what climate change is, some of its causes and most importantly, what we can all do to reduce our impact on the climate. Children came up with their own suggestions and discovered that it's our everyday actions that can help fight the climate crisis.

ClimateSmart actions suggested by the participating children included:

- using refillable water bottles and coffee cups
- switching off lights, chargers and equipment we aren't using
- recycling with our blue and brown bins
- reducing food waste by buying and cooking less
- donating to and buying from charity shops

nt

ed RHS Britain in Bloom judges as Coleraine was it included a tour of the Council Nursery, where composting at Letterloan Recycling Facility and using Metro College highlighted student engagement in on-site visits to the nursery.

tations, the maintenance of hanging baskets and sustainability. The tour also showcased wildflower hanging community initiative offering beekeeping, led by the Estates Team.

tre, highlighting school and staff-led planting, the Garden, a memorial space supported by Council. We welcome the Britain in Bloom judges to Coleraine."



Protecting our natural heritage areas

Conservationists working to protect Rathlin Island's at-risk seabirds are hopeful that they have rid the island of its invasive ferret population. Launched in 2021, the five-year £4.5m the LIFE Raft project, which runs until the autumn, has been working to eradicate rats and ferrets from the island off the north coast.

Now the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), who run the project, have said they are "optimistic" the ferret population on Rathlin has been eradicated.

Field Manager Michael Rafferty highlighted that to date 98 ferrets were caught and noted that since November 2023, there had been no confirmed ferret sightings.



Giant's Causeway Coin Removal Project 2024–2025

In 2024–2025, the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast WHS Steering Group focused on addressing coin insertion into the iconic basalt formations, a practice that has caused both aesthetic and physical damage over the years. Corroding coins expand in the basalt joints, leading to staining and structural harm, confirmed by a 2023 British Geological Survey assessment.

Following a successful trial by Cliveden Conservation in February 2024, a pilot conservation project was launched in summer 2024 by the National Trust and Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust, funded by the NIEA. Stone conservation specialists CONSARC and The Rock Stone Masonry conducted detailed mapping, surveying, and careful coin removal between January and March 2025, removing a total of 9 kg of coins without damaging the rock. Around 300–400 m of basalt joints remains affected, and a second removal phase is planned for autumn 2025, including volunteer training to support ongoing conservation. Visitor messaging has been strengthened, with an informative video from Dr Kirstin Lemon (Geological Survey NI) and Dr Cliff Henry (National Trust) explaining the impacts of coin insertion and the importance of protecting this UNESCO World Heritage Site.



A Thriving Economy

Tourism in Causeway Coast and Glens: Resilience and Growth

Tourism in Causeway Coast and Glens continues to perform strongly despite a wider decline across Northern Ireland, where overnight trips fell by 13% and visitor spend by 10% in 2024 (NISRA). Targeted investment in high-quality accommodation, immersive experiences, and strategic marketing has helped the region remain resilient.

A major highlight was hosting the 153rd Open Championship at Royal Portrush, which attracted 278,000 spectators and reached an international audience of around 100 million, delivering substantial economic benefits for local businesses. Other Council-supported events including the NI International Air Show, Ould Lammas Fair, Atlantic Sessions, Northwest 200, NI Super Cup, and Stendhal Festival also boosted visitor numbers and lengthened stays.

Through the Experience Development Programme, providers have created high-value, place-based visitor offerings, from wellness retreats and artisan food tours to eco-lodging and music-led storytelling. Growth in boutique and rural accommodation has strengthened occupancy rates, while joint marketing campaigns with Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland such as the award-winning 2024 Spring Staycation have elevated the region's profile at home and abroad.

Visitor Information Centres in Ballycastle and Bushmills earned TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Awards, and the area secured 12 beach and marina awards, including ten Blue Flags. The Council's Destination Marketing team also won Communications Campaign of the Year for the 2024 Spring Campaign.

Tourism growth continues to support hundreds of local jobs across hospitality, retail, transport, culture, and the creative industries. By investing in quality experiences and accommodation, the region is attracting longer-staying, higher-spending visitors delivering lasting economic and social benefits. The Council remains committed to ensuring tourism development is sustainable, inclusive, and strengthens the Causeway Coast and Glens as a destination of choice.



Causeway Coast and Glens Labour Market Partnership (LMP)

Following three successful years of delivery since funding began in October 2022, the Causeway Coast and Glens Labour Market Partnership (LMP) continue to build on its achievements and drive positive employment outcomes across the borough.

The LMP's three flagship programmes Retrain Plus Employment Academies, Business Seed Fund, and Personal Learning Account attracted strong interest from unemployed and economically inactive residents, as well as those in work seeking to retrain or upskill.

Between October 2022 and March 2025, the LMP directly supported 1,568 individuals, helping 754 people move into new or better employment. More than 1,000 participants also achieved a qualification through LMP-supported programmes.

Additionally, over 12,000 people attended LMP events including Job Fairs, School Careers, STEM events, and LMP Outreach events.

PROGRAMME	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25		TOTAL	
	Participants	Jobs	Participants	Jobs	Participants	Jobs	Participants	Jobs
Retrain Plus Academies	49	29	195	93	228	171	472	293
Business Seed Fund	80	44	66	56	60	53	206	153
Personal Learning Account	262	35	267	89	251	137	780	261
Work Ready	50	7	60	40	0	0	110	47
TOTAL	441	115	588	278	539	361	1,568	754

Transport Academy

Transport Academies have been delivered in partnership with a number of training partners including Sandy Arthur Training Services, LCD Driving Academy and Transport Training Services.

Over 100 residents have been supported by the Labour Market Partnership to get their Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) Class C licence, with some candidates also progressing on to achieve their Class C+E licence. HGV driving roles are well-compensated, with an average salary of £33,017, and demand for qualified drivers is expected to continue growing across Northern Ireland.



Hospitality Academy

A number of hospitality academies have been delivered across the borough. Training included essential kitchen and chef skills, knife work, food safety, allergen awareness, employer visits and chef masterclasses. Participants also undertook a short work placement in a range of locations across the borough including Portrush, Ballycastle, Bushmills, Coleraine and Limavady.

Case Study

After completing the Chef Academy Will Campbell from Limavady secured employment with The Corner Bar and Market Yard Restaurant. During the 4-week academy, which was delivered by North-West Regional College in Limavady, the 8 candidates were trained on the key skills required to kick start their career as a chef including kitchen skills, knife skills, food safety, and health and safety.

Participants got to take part in Masterclasses with some of the Causeway Coast and Glens most creative chefs, also visiting some local food producers. The candidates also undertook work placements in local restaurants.

"The Chef Academy helped me to get the core skills and knowledge that I needed to get a job in a busy restaurant. I am looking to continue to and further develop my skills further, progressing in my career as a chef." Will Campbell, Limavady.



Case Study

Cahal Doherty completed the OCN Level 2 Cocktail Making qualification. Cahal was unemployed prior to starting the training. 'The academy allowed me to learn hands on skills that would enable me to find work in local bars and restaurants.

Ash at NRC was a fantastic tutor and we were able to hear about his own experience running the 'Kon Tiki' cocktail bar in Portrush.' Cahal was able to find work in Ramore Restaurants after completing the academy.



Pictured from left to right is Cahal Doherty, Ashley Douglas Hospitality lecturer in NRC and Chloe Stewart from the LMP.

Lifeguard Academy

Pool and Beach Lifeguard Academies provided to residents who wanted to work as a Lifeguard and gain the skills and qualifications needed. Over 50 people from across the borough have been supported.

The opportunity to become a Beach Lifeguard included training and assessment to gain the National Vocational Beach Lifeguard Qualification (NVBLQ), with guaranteed interviews for RNLI positions offered to all who successfully completed the course.

The Pool Lifeguard qualification was delivered by staff at the Leisure Centres across the borough in Ballymoney, where local participants were funded and all successfully achieved their National Pool Lifeguard Qualification (NPLQ).



Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens, Councillor Steven Callaghan QPM, launches the Lifeguarding Academy with Carl Russell from Sub 6, Conard McCullagh and Michael Thompson from RNLI and Chloe Stewart from the Labour Market Partnership.

Security Academy

Over 200 residents across the borough have been supported by the Labour Market Partnership to gain the qualifications and licences needed for careers in the security sector. Candidates completed accredited training for roles in security, door supervision, event stewarding and CCTV operations, with licence support provided by Elite Connected. The academy proved highly popular, driven by its short training pathway, strong local job opportunities, and the flexibility offered by security-related roles.



LMP Manager Marc McGerty pictured alongside The Deputy Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens, Councillor Tanya Stirling and Sean Ward at the Security Celebration event.

Case Study

Stefanie from Castlerock had previous career experience in the professional services sector, however, was not working due to caring commitments. When circumstances changed and Stefanie was able to work again, she participated on LMP Programmes.

On the programme candidates received help in a range of employability areas, including CV's, Job Application Forms, Interview Techniques and Job Searching. Candidates were also encouraged to apply for appropriate and suitable job vacancies.

Immediately after completing training on the programme, Stefanie applied for a job and was called for interview. Within days she had a job offer and start date! "The Labour Market Partnership helped me to get my CV ready for distribution, and it helped me to source live job vacancies.

I was apprehensive about going for interviews and the programme and training gave me the confidence and self-belief that I needed to move forward and find employment."

Labour Market Partnership Events and Promotion of Employability NI Programmes

The Skills to Propel Breakfasts had over 180 entrepreneurs, employers, and business leaders gathering for the event aimed at supporting workforce development and economic growth in the Causeway Coast and Glens area. Delegates received information about support to recruit new and to also upskill and develop existing staff.

Causeway Coast and Glens LMP coordinated a number of events with providers during National Enterprise Week, also promoting the Northern Ireland Apprenticeship Awards. The LMP Manager was also on the Higher-Level Apprenticeship Advisory Assessment Panel also with staff from DfE.

Notably, the winner of the Higher-Level Apprenticeship Award in 2024, Joanne McCubbin, resides within the Causeway Coast and Glens area, as does Roisin McCloskey who was a Finalist in the 2023 Awards.



LMP Skills to Propel breakfast 2023-24 held in The Bushtown Hotel.

Pictured Left to right is Ashley Hay from JKC BMW, Anna Egner from NRC, LMP Manager Marc McGerty, Causeway Coast and Glens Mayor, Councillor Ciarán McQuillan, Sean McAleese from NRC; Helen McGonigle and Luke McCloskey both from NWRC



Pictured from left to right, celebrating Joanne's achievement is James Duke, Digital Lead at Manfreight Ltd, Joanne McCubbin Higher Level Apprentice Winner of NI Apprenticeships Awards 2024, Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Councillor Steven Callaghan QPM, and LMP Manager Marc McGerty.

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council's Growth Deal

The Growth Deal for Causeway Coast and Glens reached a major milestone in April 2024 with the signing of the Heads of Terms by the NI Executive and UK Government a major step toward realising the Borough's long-term Community Plan vision.

This landmark investment programme will deliver transformative capital projects aimed at:

- Attracting and growing export-focused businesses
- Positioning the region as a premier destination for business and leisure
- Regenerating smaller settlements into vibrant, sustainable rural economies
- Enhancing the tourism transport network and visitor infrastructure
- Strengthening skills by linking education with employer needs

Over the next decade, Growth Deal projects are expected to attract new industries and create high-quality employment, supporting long-term prosperity across local communities.

Council is now working with partners and government departments to prepare detailed business cases for the nine projects agreed in the Heads of Terms. These will be delivered in two phases:

PHASE 1:

1. Ulster University – Centre for Food & Drug Discovery
2. North West Regional College – Foodovation & Skills Centre
3. Coleraine Leisure & Wellbeing Centre
4. Dungiven Regeneration

PHASE 2:

5. Bushmills Regeneration
6. Portrush to Giant's Causeway Greenway
7. Connected Causeway – Traffic & Parking
8. Cushendall Innovation Centre
9. Business Innovation & Incubation Centre

The phased development will lead to the formal signing of the Deal Document by summer 2026, unlocking Contracts for Funding and enabling Phase 1 delivery to begin.

The Growth Deal represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build a stronger, more connected, and more resilient Causeway Coast and Glens.



Our Community Planning Strategic Partnership Working Together, Achieving Together Reinvigorating Community Planning in Causeway Coast and Glens Conference

In 2024, the Causeway Coast and Glens Community Planning Partnership hosted a conference in The Bushtown Hotel, Coleraine, bringing together Strategic Partnership members and Action Leads to review progress, share collaborative successes, and explore solutions to ongoing challenges.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive Chief Executive Gráinne Long opened the event, emphasising the importance of problem-solving, innovation, and expert-led collaboration. Her address was described by Mayor Cllr Steven Callaghan as "inspirational and motivational," setting a positive tone for the day.

Case studies highlighted the impact of multi-partner work. The Anti-Poverty Steering Group highlighted initiatives such as the Where to Turn campaign and grant programmes supporting residents facing food, fuel, and social insecurity. The Labour Market Partnership reported that in 2023–24, 383 people worked toward qualifications, with 131 progressing into employment or promotion.

A workshop led by Council Chief Executive David Jackson encouraged reflection on lessons learned and identified opportunities to strengthen partnership working, including creating space for emerging issues and innovation.

Community Planning Partnership Chair Cllr Dermot Nicholl and Vice Chair Vince Redmond (PSNI) closed the event, noting that attendees left "enthused and reinvigorated about the future of community planning in Causeway Coast and Glens."



Collaboration Session

In May 2025, causeway Community Planning Partnership and action leads held a collaboration workshop. The group identified existing challenges and barriers that can negatively impact collaboration and considered actions that might positively influence these challenges/barriers and move towards more improved collaboration.

These were considered under the four collaboration foci as outlined in the Collaboration Test and Learn Initiative Evaluation Report including collaborative planning, pooling of resources, relationships and engagement, and delivering shared outcomes and reporting.



Next Steps

The Causeway Coast and Glens Community Planning Strategic Partnership will oversee progress on implementation of the Delivery Plan 2025. The detailed actions set out in the Delivery Plan will be driven by the Action Leads who will work in partnership with identified individuals and organisations.

This is an evolving process with actions maturing at different times given the wide-ranging nature of the proposed actions.



**Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service**





Causeway Coast and Glens
**Community Planning
Strategic Partnership**

