

## Foreword

It is now recognised within Northern Ireland that health is determined by a range of social, economic and environmental conditions. It is also acknowledged that health cannot be the exclusive concern of one professional sector and that people's health and wellbeing must be central to policies and plans within the region.

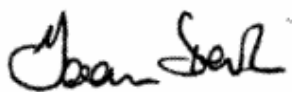
In practical terms, assessing the impact of these policies and plans and making recommendations will contribute to maximising the health outcomes. Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is the term used to describe this approach, an approach which is now attracting considerable attention across Europe and emerging interest within Northern Ireland. A Community Health Impact Assessment (CHIA) is a process for communities to bring forward the health concerns of their community and allow them to be considered early in the process of policy and project developments. It creates the opportunity for planners to reduce the negative health impacts of these proposals and maximise the positive ones.

Belfast Healthy Cities has been funded by Community Foundation Northern Ireland, through the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety's *Investing for Healthier Communities* Grant, to pilot a Community Health Impact Assessment process within two geographical communities.

The production of a community profile is one of the key stages in the CHIA process. The purpose of the profile is to provide information on the many factors which contribute to health in the community and to outline the proposals for the area. It is from these proposals that through a screening tool the community will select the proposal that has the potential to have greatest impact on health and on which a health impact assessment will be conducted.

The CHIA process in Ballybeen has been a partnership approach and has involved all those with an interest in public health including housing; education; health and social services; police; local strategy partnership; community safety partnership; local voluntary, church and community organisations and local people.

I would like to thank all those who contributed to the production of this profile; to those from other government departments and public and voluntary organisations who provided information, in particular members of the Community Steering Group, and especially to Jonna Monaghan and Victoria Creasy in the Healthy Cities office.



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## **Introduction to Community Health Impact Assessments**

Community Health Impact Assessment (CHIA) is a process through which people in local communities can assess the effects that a particular policy or action will have on the health of the community. In doing this, suggestions can be made on how health benefits can be maximised and potential harm to health minimised.

CHIA is not intended to determine if a particular project is right or wrong, and is not a substitute for decision making or an evaluation of a project. It is a process which can be used to guide thinking, and which can influence plans or proposals to improve their impact on the health of specific communities, whether geographical or a community of interest.

### **Purpose of the Community Profile**

The content and breadth of information in this Community Profile has been determined by the Ballybeen Community Steering Group (Appendix 1), which consists of representatives from a range of organisations across all sectors of the community.

The Profile provides an outline description of the population of Ballybeen, the environment they live in, services they have access to and lifestyle choices they make. This information has been drawn from both official sources such as the Census and published reports as well as from the opinions and views of those who live in the community. It also includes descriptions of programmes currently ongoing in the area, as well as proposals which have the potential to influence the health and wellbeing of the people who live in this community.

It is intended the community will use the profile to select a proposal on which to conduct a Health Impact Assessment, as well as to inform the assessment process. In addition, this Profile is intended to be a useful resource for the local community.

### **Use of Sources**

The information in this Profile is based on published and statistical information, online information as well as information from a range of organisations and local knowledge. Where a reference does not clearly indicate a publication or website, the source is direct communication with the mentioned organisation, usually indicated by a note stating 'personal communication'.

All reference documents, websites and persons interviewed are listed in a Sources section at the end of the document. There is also a 7of terms used in the Profile (Appendix 2, page 115) and a list of abbreviations used throughout the Profile (Appendix 3, page 123).

## Geographical area

This profile looks at Ballybeen estate, which for the purposes of this profile has been defined as consisting of Ballybeen, Brooklands, Longstone, Ballyoran and Enler. The area is confined within the three electoral wards of Carrowreagh, Enler and Graham's Bridge, although these wards also take in areas outside Ballybeen.

Some of these areas are private developments, and in general more affluent than Ballybeen. This means that the actual level of deprivation on the estate is masked by statistics from these areas, and it is also difficult to get an accurate picture of resources on the estate. It is, therefore, acknowledged that statistics used in this profile do not provide a wholly accurate profile, and attempts have been made to correct this with local views wherever possible. It is also acknowledged that Census data is somewhat dated already by publication, but it is the most comprehensive source of data available at local level. Therefore, because it is difficult to get local data below ward level – and for some indicators even at ward level – most of the statistics included in this profile will be for these three ward areas.

## Background

Ballybeen estate was established above all to accommodate displacement from areas of inner east Belfast, which were redeveloped in the 1960s. The construction of Ballybeen, which was largely built onto the earlier Brooklands estate, begun in 1963 and was two thirds complete only four years later. The estate was extended further in the 1970s, and again in the 1980s and 1990s. It is one of the largest estates in Northern Ireland, and largely a residential area, with very limited service provision such as a primary school, a grocery store, a chemist, a women's centre, and a day centre for older people and people with disabilities. Many basic services such as banks and a supermarket are located in Dundonald village about a mile away.

The three wards which cover the estate are the following:

**Carrowreagh:** This ward takes in the Ballyoran area of Ballybeen, but also covers a rural area towards Newtownards, and a number of new private housing developments.

**Enler:** Enler ward is the only ward of the three which does not take in areas outside Ballybeen. The ward covers the central section of the estate, and is characterised by a 1960s estate layout with properties originally built for social housing.

**Graham's Bridge:** Graham's Bridge incorporates the southwestern end of Ballybeen which runs alongside Grahamsbridge Road, as well as a more affluent, private housing area along Grahamsbridge Road itself.

## **Definitions of surrounding areas**

**South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust area:** Another area frequently referred to in this Profile is the South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust area, which covers all of south and east Belfast and Castlereagh, from Ballymacarrett in inner east Belfast to Carryduff in the south and Ballybeen in the east.

**Eastern Health and Social Services Board area:** The Eastern Health and Social Services Board area, also referred to occasionally, covers Belfast, Castlereagh, Carrickfergus, North Down, Ards and Lisburn District Council areas.

**Castlereagh Borough Council area:** Castlereagh Borough Council area covers the administrative area of Castlereagh, from Ballybeen in the east to Carryduff in the west and Cregagh in the north.



# Demography

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*This section presents the population in Ballybeen at the last Census, division into age groups and cultural background.*

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On Census day, 29 April 2001, there were a total of 9170 persons living in the three ward areas covering Ballybeen estate - Carrowreagh, Enler and Graham's Bridge. This is equivalent to 7 % of the population in Castlereagh as a whole, which had 66 488 residents in 2001, and also makes Ballybeen one of the largest estates in Northern Ireland.

The largest ward is Carrowreagh with 3993 residents, followed by Enler with 2664 residents and Graham's Bridge with 2513 residents. This means that the population in the area overall has increased by nearly a third since Census 1991, most markedly in Carrowreagh which in 1991 had 2313 residents (a 70 % increase). On the other hand, the population of Enler has declined somewhat, from 2783 in 1991 to 2664 in 2001, or by approximately 10 %. The total increase in the population of Graham's Bridge was around 700 persons or 35 %, from 1838 in 1991.

The population on the estate has grown faster than that of Castlereagh Borough as a whole, which grew by about 10 % in the decade between Censuses, from 60 799 in 1991. The population in the District Council area began to grow during the 1990s, after it had been fairly static throughout the 1980s. (Census 1991)

## **Age and Gender**

Between 51 % and 53 % of the population of the three wards is female, compared with the Northern Ireland average of 51 % and the Castlereagh average at 52 %. Enler Ward has the highest percentage of women at 53 %.

The estate has an increasingly number of older people, although the proportion of young people under 16 also has increased in the last decade. In particular Graham's Bridge has an older population, with a significant proportion over 60. Castlereagh as a whole also has an older age structure than Northern Ireland on average.

**Table 1: Age Structure (Numbers)**

	All persons	Persons aged 0-4	Persons aged 5-16	Persons aged 16-17	Persons aged 18-24	Persons aged 25-44	Persons aged 45-59	Persons aged 60-64	Persons aged 65+
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>1685267</b>	<b>115238</b>	<b>282818</b>	<b>53458</b>	<b>158024</b>	<b>489195</b>	<b>289622</b>	<b>73587</b>	<b>223325</b>
<b>Castlereagh</b>	<b>66488</b>	<b>4370</b>	<b>10091</b>	<b>1559</b>	<b>4435</b>	<b>20496</b>	<b>11466</b>	<b>3136</b>	<b>10935</b>
Carrowreagh	<b>3993</b>	312	642	94	312	1417	687	183	346
Enler	<b>2664</b>	169	462	83	203	765	422	153	407
Graham's Bridge	<b>2513</b>	139	266	41	190	663	454	163	597

(NISRA, Census 2001)

In all 24 % of the residents of Carrowreagh and Enler are under 16 years old, which is the same as for Northern Ireland as a whole. Meanwhile, 16 % of residents in Graham's Bridge are under 16. Carrowreagh and Enler have a higher percentage of young people than Castlereagh as a whole, where 22 % of the population is under 16.

Graham's Bridge has the highest percentage of residents over 60 years old, at 30% of the total population. This compares to 21% for Castlereagh and 18% for Northern Ireland as a whole. Carrowreagh has the youngest population, with 13% of residents over 60, while Enler is in keeping with the Castlereagh average at 21% of residents over 60.

Graham's Bridge also has the highest average age, 43 years, which is seven years older than the Northern Ireland average of 36. Carrowreagh is the only one of the three wards with a younger average age than Northern Ireland overall, the average there being 34. Median age (the age where half of residents are older, and half younger) in Graham's Bridge is 43, while it in Carrowreagh is 33 and in Enler 36. In Northern Ireland overall, the median age is 34, and in Castlereagh 36. (Census 2001, NISRA)

The demography of the three wards has not changed significantly since 1991. In Carrowreagh and Enler, the proportion of residents under 16 has increased by approximately 4%, and the proportion of residents over 60 years has increased by a similar amount. In Graham's Bridge, the number of residents under 16 years has not changed, but the proportion of residents over 60 years has increased by 8%.

### **Population trends**

Population projections, or estimates of how the population will grow, are currently only available at Northern Ireland and local government district level. According to the projection for Castlereagh Borough Council area, it is estimated that the population in the borough will grow to 69 000 by 2008, peak at 69 206 by 2011, and then start slowly declining. It is estimated that Castlereagh will have 69 135 residents in 2015.



The projection also estimates that the age groups 45+ will grow throughout the estimation period, while the number of under 20 year olds will grow until 2010 and then start declining. In particular the age groups 45-49 and 75+ are estimated to grow the fastest, as the post war age groups age. The number of men is estimated to grow from just under 33 000 to over 34 000, while the number of women is expected to grow less, from around 34 100 to around 34 700. Overall, it is still estimated there will be more women than men in the borough. Currently men outnumber women until the age group 35-39, but by 2015 there will be more men than women in age groups up to 45-49. In the older age groups, 65+, women are estimated to continue to outnumber men by a significant proportion. (NISRA population statistics, [www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk) 8.1.04)

More locally, changes in housing and other services in Ballybeen are likely to influence the future population of the area. For instance, private housing developments planned throughout the area may encourage young people and young families to move in or return, which will both increase the population and increase the number of young people. In addition, private developments may encourage professional people to move in, which in turn would affect the educational and occupational structure of the estate.

### **Births and Deaths**

In 2001, a total of 715 babies were born in Castlereagh Borough Council area. The vast majority of babies were born either at Ulster Hospital or the Royal Jubilee Maternity Service at Royal Hospitals. Of these babies, 58 were registered as living in Carrowreagh, 33 in Enler and 28 in Graham's Bridge, which means that a total of 119 babies were born in Ballybeen that year. (NISRA Neighbourhood Survey 2002)

In the same year, there were a total of 639 deaths registered in Castlereagh. There were 33 deaths in Carrowreagh, 26 in Enler and 33 in Graham's Bridge, bringing the total to 92. Graham's Bridge was the only ward with a higher number of deaths than births, which again reflects the older population in the area. (NISRA Neighbourhood Survey 2002)

### **Religion and ethnic minorities**

The population in the area is predominantly white at over 99.5 %, which is slightly higher than the Northern Ireland average at 99.2 %. However, there is a small ethnic minority population on the estate, of which the majority live in the Carrowreagh ward area. (Census 2001) There is also an increasing population of hospital staff, largely from the Philippines, who work at Ulster Hospital and live in Ballybeen.

The area is also predominantly Protestant, with only 1 % or less than 100 people belonging to other religions. This compares to 53 % Protestant and other and 44 % Catholic in Northern Ireland overall, while 77 % of Castlereagh Borough Council residents belong to a Protestant denomination. (Census 2001)

There are in total five churches and religious groups in Ballybeen, all of which are very active in the community. The represented churches include Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church. In addition, the Christian Brethren run a gospel hall in Brooklands, the Salvation Army also have a gospel hall in the Enler area, and the City Mission operate from Ballyoran Centre. (Community Steering Group)

### **Lone Parents**

In parts of Ballybeen there is a high proportion of lone parent families. However, according to statistics from the South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust, the percentage of lone parents across the wards is lower than the average for the Trust area, at 13.9 %. These figures show that 4.3 % of households in Carrowreagh are headed by a lone parent, while the proportion in Enler is 10 %. In Graham's Bridge, 21.7 % of households are lone parent families. (*Castlereagh Community Profile*, SEBT 2003)

According to Census statistics, approximately half of lone mothers in Carrowreagh and Graham's Bridge were in full or part time employment. In Enler, around 34 % of lone mothers accounted for in the Census had a job. On the other hand, all lone fathers in Carrowreagh and Graham's Bridge were in full time employment, while nearly 60 % of lone fathers in Enler were employed. There were, however, significantly more lone mothers than fathers. (Census 2001)

### **Noble Index of Multiple Deprivation**

The Noble index (so called after the lead researcher Michael Noble of Oxford University) provides a way of determining overall social deprivation in a ward area. For the study, the researchers looked at six different themes or domains, from income and health to access and education, and ranked all electoral wards in Northern Ireland on the basis of how they scored on each domain. The separate scores were then combined in an overall multiple deprivation measure, and wards were given an overall ranking. With the aid of the index, any ward in Northern Ireland can be compared with any other, and it also indicates areas where action to tackle deprivation might be needed. (*Noble Index of Multiple Deprivation*, 2001, NISRA)

Overall, the three wards comprising Ballybeen are not rated among the most deprived areas under the Noble Index of Multiple Deprivation, published in 2001. However, as the wards cover different areas and areas outside the estate boundary, it is difficult to get an accurate picture, and there are areas within the estate with higher levels of deprivation and particular employment problems. The Noble index, like other studies using electoral wards as basic units, does not account for pockets of higher deprivation within wards.

In the index, Carrowreagh is ranked at 281 out of 566 wards, Enler at 123 and Graham's Bridge at 305 (where 1 describes the worst and 566 the best ward). The relative deprivation does, however, differ between domains: Enler is ranked 37 in the education domain (among 10 % most deprived) and 71 in the health domain. Similarly, Carrowreagh at 97 and Graham's Bridge at 156 in the education domain show comparatively higher deprivation in this area (*Noble Index of Multiple Deprivation*, 2001, NISRA).

According to a local analysis of Greater East Belfast, carried out by East Belfast Partnership, Carrowreagh is the lowest ranking ward in terms of access to services within east Belfast. Enler, in turn, is among the more deprived half of wards in the area on all domains except housing, which highlights relative deprivation in the ward more clearly than the general Noble index. Graham's Bridge ranks sixth on the social environment domain, but is otherwise among the less deprived wards in Greater East Belfast. (*East Belfast Statement of Need*, 2003, Greater East Belfast Partnership) Each of these 'domains' is a broad area which covers a number of related topics, such as general education level, access to education, pupils' achievements and access to adult education. The Noble index also determines a minimum level of attainment or services. For instance, the study defines access to key services containing access to the following: post office, GP surgery, dentist, optician, pharmacist, hospital with A&E department, library, museum and social security office. (*Noble Index of Multiple Deprivation*, 2001, NISRA).

**Table 12: Noble Multiple Deprivation Index**

Ward Name	Multiple Deprivation Measure Domain	Rank of Income Domain	Rank of Employment Domain	Rank of Health Domain	Rank of Education Domain	Rank of Access Domain	Rank of Social Environment Domain	Rank of Housing Domain
Carrowreagh	281	322	239	274	97	301	323	544
Enler	123	165	169	71	37	452	172	559
Graham's Bridge	305	313	198	331	156	519	188	482

(*Noble Multiple Deprivation Index*, 2001)

From enumeration district level data - more local level data which include only a few streets - it can be concluded that several local areas in the estate area rank among the 30% economically most deprived in Northern Ireland. In particular the Longstone area is deprived on the income domain, while Dungoyne Park, Craigleith Walk and Ballybeen Square as well as the Lambert area (Lambert Avenue, Lambert Park, Lambert Glen and Lambert Rise) and Cairnsmore Walk, Cairnsmore Avenue, Campsie Park and Claggan Gardens and Park are among 15 % most deprived on the employment domain. (*East Belfast Statement of Need*, Greater East Belfast Partnership 2003)

## Local views

*Unless otherwise stated, the views below have come from the Community Steering Group.*

Local residents feel that the population of Ballybeen is divided by age into different areas, with many older residents living in the more remote parts.

Previous population projections have indicated that the population of Ballybeen would decline, and as a result, the primary school at Ballyoran was

closed in the mid-1980s. However, these projections have proved incorrect as the estate has continued to grow. Currently, both the local Brooklands Primary School and nearby Dundonald Primary School are heavily subscribed.

Locally, it is felt that the churches are very active in the community.

Local residents estimate that the proportion of lone parents is much higher than statistics suggest. The reason for the difference is not known, but could be at least partly due to reluctance to disclose family circumstances to researchers.

Residents also feel they have been disadvantaged by the Noble index, which is used as a basis for a range of measures and funding programmes aimed at targeting deprivation. They argue that there are pockets of deprivation within Ballybeen which are obscured as the Noble index used electoral wards as a basis for the index. They also feel that deprivation within the estate as a whole is overlooked, as the electoral wards take in more affluent areas around it.

# Health and Health Behaviour

“The past ten years of experience in the European Region has clearly revealed that informing, motivating and supporting individuals, groups and societies to lead a more healthy life can best be done by focusing systematically on the places where people live, work and play”

Health 21: An Introduction, *World Health Organisation 1998*

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*This section looks at issues linked to health, to provide some insights into the health status of people in Ballybeen. It covers issues from illness and death rates to mental health and lifestyle issues such as alcohol use.*

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## **Mortality**

In 2001, there were a total of 639 registered deaths in the Castlereagh Borough Council area as a whole, of which 92 occurred in the three ward areas covering Ballybeen. This indicates that the area has a similar death rate, in proportion to the population, as the borough area overall. (NISRA Neighbourhood Survey 2002)

### ***Recent Mortality patterns in Castlereagh***

In recent years, death rates for men and women aged 15 to 74 years have been gradually falling in Northern Ireland, and this trend is also taking place in the Castlereagh Borough Council area. In these age groups, the all cause-standardised death rates for the period 1997 to 2001 have been lower in Castlereagh than in the Eastern Health and Social Services Board area or Northern Ireland as a whole.

Standardisation is a technique which is used to allow for different age patterns in different populations, and makes it possible to compare death rates between areas. The relatively small number of deaths in Castlereagh means that there are fluctuations from year to year.

A particular trend of note has been a fall in the death rate from ischaemic heart disease which may reflect both lifestyle changes in diet and smoking as well as improvements in treatment. (EHSSB, personal communication)

### ***Main causes of death***

No details are available for the main causes of death at ward level, but statistics for Castlereagh as a whole over the years 1996 to 2001 show that ischaemic heart disease – the most common type of heart disease, which reduces blood flow to the heart, as a result of blockages in the arteries, or main blood vessels around the heart – was the leading cause of death among men and the second most common cause of death among women. The leading cause of death among women during this period of time was respiratory disease, with ischaemic heart disease the leading cause of death among women in 2001. Ischaemic heart disease is one of the main causes of death across Northern Ireland overall, alongside respiratory disease and cancer. It is also a main cause of death in most western countries, and risk factors include smoking, poor diet and inactive lifestyles, as well as genetic disposition.

Respiratory disease is an overall group of diseases, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease as the main potentially fatal disease, which is the second leading cause of death overall. It can be noted that deaths from respiratory disease are considerably higher among women than men, although deaths from both ischaemic heart disease and respiratory disease have decreased over the five years.

It is estimated that a total of around 10 000 people in the Eastern Health and Social Services Board area suffer from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which is caused above all by smoking. Of these, an estimated one third of patients live in the wider south and east Belfast area. (*Primary Care Investment Plan, 2002, South and East Belfast Local Health and Social Care Group*). Across Northern Ireland, around 27 % of the population are smokers, with higher levels among persons with lower education. (*CMO Annual Report, 2003, DHSSPS*)

Cerebrovascular disease is the third leading cause of death among both men and women in Castlereagh, although deaths are higher among women. This group of diseases includes stroke as the main cause of death, and the higher incidence among women is in part explained by the higher proportion of older women in the population. Strokes can occur at any age, but the risk increases with age.

A number of cancers are also included among the leading causes of death, notably lung cancer among men and breast cancer among women. It can also be noted that suicide and self inflicted injury is the seventh leading cause of death among men in Castlereagh, indicating that there are significant mental health issues in the borough. (NISRA mortality statistics, [www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk) 15.12.03)

The table below shows ten major causes of death in 1996-2001, separately for men and women. The ranking is based on the total number of deaths for each cause.

**Table 2: Male Deaths by Selected Causes 1996-2001 (Numbers)**

	Males						
<b>Castlereagh</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>Total</b>
All Cause	293	312	282	325	310	297	1819
Ischaemic Heart Disease	64	84	75	98	75	59	455
Respiratory Disease	63	49	45	55	63	40	315
Cerebrovascular Disease	31	29	22	30	20	19	151
Cancer of Lung	20	22	23	24	23	25	137
Cancer of Colon	4	5	7	5	10	6	37
Cancer of Stomach	5	6	3	8	6	8	36
Suicide and Self Inflicted Injury	4	7	4	4	6	5	30
Road Traffic Accidents	2	2	2	2	4	6	18
Cancer of Rectum	0	2	5	3	6	2	18
Grand Total	486	518	468	554	523	467	3016

(NISRA 2003)

**Table 3: Female Deaths by Selected Causes 1996-2001 (Numbers)**

	Females						
<b>Castlereagh</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>Total</b>
All Cause	375	330	356	373	338	342	2114
Respiratory Disease	78	74	75	99	90	36	452
Ischaemic Heart Disease	82	77	103	61	48	64	435
Cerebrovascular Disease	39	34	47	45	43	38	246
Cancer of Lung	16	11	10	7	22	13	79
Cancer of Breast	10	12	14	13	4	12	65
Cancer of Colon	8	7	3	5	8	5	36
Cancer of Ovary	10	2	3	5	5	4	29
Cancer of Rectum	1	3	2	3	4	4	17
Cancer of Stomach	5	2	2	4	3	2	18
Cancer of Cervix	5	3	0	5	1	2	16
Suicide and Self Inflicted Injury	0	2	2	0	1	1	6
Road Traffic Accidents	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Grand Total	630	557	617	621	567	523	3515

(NISRA 2003)

## Cancer

As can be noted in the table of the main causes of death within Castlereagh Borough Council area, 260 women and 228 men died from a number of different cancers between 1996 and 2001. However, this does not account for the entire disease burden of cancer, as many cancers are curable and have a good recovery rate. It is currently estimated that one in three people will contract some form of cancer during their lifetime. Across Northern Ireland, as well as many other countries, cancer is one of the leading causes of death.

According to figures which compare the three ward areas covering Ballybeen with the entire Castlereagh borough, the incidence of cancer within this area was not significantly different from that in the borough as a whole, during the

years 1993-2001 for which detailed statistics exist. In other words, the total number of cancers occurring in Ballybeen is approximately the same as for the wider Castlereagh area. This is also the case when the number of cancers in the area is compared to Northern Ireland as a whole. Over the last ten years, on average between 20 and 30 people have been diagnosed with cancer in the three wards covering Ballybeen. For the years 1996-2001, this adds up to 142 men and 155 women in the area diagnosed with some form of cancer. (Northern Ireland Cancer Registry, personal communication)

### **Illness and Health Status**

According to Census data, between 17 % and 26 % of residents in all three ward areas suffer from a long term limiting illness, which is defined as an illness, health problem or disability that limits daily life or work (also see Glossary on page 117 for a fuller definition). In Carrowreagh, which has the lowest level, 17.31 % of all residents declare a long term limiting illness, while the proportion within the working age population is 15.36 %. In Northern Ireland as a whole, 20.36 % of all residents state they suffer from a long term limiting illness, while 17.15 % among the working age population state the same. The figures are lower in Castlereagh, where 19.44% of all residents, and 14.44 % of the working age population state a long term limiting illness.

Residents in Enler ward suffer more long term limiting illness than Northern Ireland and Castlereagh residents on average, with 25.69 % of the total population and 22.16 % of working age persons declaring an illness. In Graham's Bridge, which has an older age structure, the figure is 28.73 % overall, but 20.51% among the working age population. (Census 2001)

Around 16 % of residents in both Enler and Graham's Bridge consider their health 'not good', which is significantly more than the average for both Castlereagh and Northern Ireland at just over 10 %. Similarly, fewer people in these wards consider themselves to be in good health than in Castlereagh or Northern Ireland on average. In the region as a whole, 70 % of the population report good health, while the figure in Castlereagh is only very slightly lower at 69.91 %. Meanwhile, in Enler just over 60 % of residents report good health, and in Graham's Bridge just over half, 58.5 %. On the other hand, Enler and Graham's Bridge residents consider their health to be 'fairly good' more often than people in Northern Ireland and Castlereagh on average, as can be seen in Table 4 below.

Residents in Carrowreagh generally report better health than residents in other wards. More than the Northern Ireland average proportion, or 70.1 % of people, consider their health good, and just over 10 % report poor health. (Census 2001)



**Table 4: Health and Provision of Unpaid Care (%)**

	All persons	Limiting long-term illness		General health			Provision of unpaid care			
		Percentage of persons with limiting long-term illnesses	Percentage of persons of working age with limiting long-term illness	Percentage of persons whose general health was:			All persons who provide unpaid care	Percentage of persons who provide unpaid care:		
				Good	Fairly good	Not good		1-19 hrs per wk	20-49 hrs per wk	50+ hrs per wk
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>1685267</b>	<b>20.36</b>	<b>17.15</b>	<b>70.00</b>	<b>19.34</b>	<b>10.66</b>	<b>185066</b>	<b>59.66</b>	<b>15.13</b>	<b>25.21</b>
<b>Castlereagh</b>	<b>66488</b>	<b>19.45</b>	<b>14.44</b>	<b>69.91</b>	<b>19.77</b>	<b>10.32</b>	<b>8499</b>	<b>65.15</b>	<b>12.80</b>	<b>22.05</b>
Carrowreagh	3993	17.31	15.36	70.10	19.43	10.47	452	63.72	15.27	21.02
Enler	2663	25.69	22.16	60.31	23.28	16.41	346	51.45	15.32	33.24
Graham's Bridge	2513	28.73	20.51	58.50	25.19	16.32	331	53.78	19.64	26.59

(NISRA, Census 2001)

### Carers

According to Census statistics, just over 1000 people in the three ward areas provide unpaid care to relatives or friends: 452 in Carrowreagh, 346 in Enler and 331 in Graham's Bridge. These numbers are equivalent to approximately 11 % of residents in Carrowreagh and 13 % in Enler and Graham's Bridge.

Of carers, around half provide care 1-19 hours a week, while 20-33 % of carers provide more than 50 hours of care per week. Carers in Enler, of whom 33 % provide more than 50 hours of care, spend the longest time on unpaid care work. Meanwhile, carers in Carrowreagh provide on average shorter hours of care, with 64 % providing care for under 20 hours per week.

Compared to Castlereagh as a whole, carers in Carrowreagh provide a similar number of hours of care, while the proportion of carers looking after someone more than 50 hours a week is significantly higher than average in Enler. Also in Graham's Bridge, carers tend to provide more hours of care than in Castlereagh on average.

Also compared to Northern Ireland figures, a higher than average proportion of carers in Enler and Graham's Bridge provide over 50 hours of care per week. (Census 2001, NISRA) This may be linked to a number of issues, such as a relatively high proportion of older people dependent on relatives or friends for care, comparatively high levels of disability, or lack of access to services such as residential or nursing homes.

## **Hospital episodes**

In 2002, residents in Carrowreagh had a total of 1147 hospital episodes, while residents in Enler had 891 episodes and residents in Graham's Bridge 995. This means that there was, on average, one hospital visit per three residents in each ward area, with relatively little difference between ward areas. This figure is similar for Castlereagh as a whole, where residents had 21740 hospital episodes in 2002. (NISRA Neighbourhood Survey 2002)

## **Disability**

The main source of information on disability is the statistical information on claimants of disability related benefits, although statistics on long-term limiting illness also provide some information on levels of disability, as long-term illness is defined as a condition limiting daily activities.

### ***Disability Living Allowance***

According to the Social Security Agency, the best estimate of levels of disability is the proportion of people receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA), as the great majority of people with disabilities will receive DLA at either the low, medium or high rate. Low rate is paid to those who need help only for part of the day, while the high rate is paid to persons who need assistance round the clock, such as persons unable to walk or people who are deaf and blind and need assistance outdoors (See Glossary on page 117 for a definition of disability, and criteria for entitlement to DLA).

However, persons over 65 who become disabled cannot begin to claim DLA, but must apply for other benefits. (Holywood Road Social Security Agency, personal communication) This may, in effect, obscure the level of disability among older people, as they are not visible in benefit statistics.

In Ballybeen, between 8% and 14 % of residents under 65 receive DLA, with the highest proportion in Enler. As a comparison, it can be noted that this ward also has the highest level of persons with a long term limiting illness, and the highest level of persons economically inactive due to disability or permanent illness. The lowest level is recorded for Graham's Bridge, but as this ward has an older population structure with nearly a quarter of residents over 65, a proportion of people with disabilities may go unrecorded within these statistics. In Carrowreagh, 9 % of residents claim DLA.

Both Carrowreagh and Graham's Bridge have the same level of residents on DLA as Castlereagh as a whole, which in turn has a slightly lower level than Northern Ireland as a whole, at 8 % as compared to 10 % for the entire region. However, as Castlereagh has a relatively high proportion of older people with 16 % of residents over 65, there may be people over 65 with disabilities who go unnoted in this way of calculating statistics. (NISRA Neighbourhood Survey 2002).

**Table 5: Persons Receiving Disability Benefits (Numbers)**

	All persons	Persons receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) at February '03	Persons receiving Severe Disability Allowance at November '02 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>1685267</b>	<b>150472</b>	<b>14146</b>
Carrowreagh	3993	319	35
Enler	2663	313	24
Graham's Bridge	2513	253	21

<sup>1</sup> The Severe Disability Allowance was closed for new claimants in April 2001, and currently people with disabilities can claim only DLA or Incapacity Benefit. Persons who received SDA in April 2001 are still in receipt of this benefit, provided they fulfil the criteria used.

(DSD, 2003)

**Table 6: All Persons Claiming DLA at February 2003 (Numbers)**

	All Ages	Male					Female				
		Under 16	16-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Under 16	16-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>150472</b>	<b>7469</b>	<b>9231</b>	<b>15433</b>	<b>24238</b>	<b>15196</b>	<b>4222</b>	<b>9114</b>	<b>18225</b>	<b>28679</b>	<b>18665</b>
Carrowreagh	319	18	10	33	61	27	8	19	28	74	41
Enler	313	9	11	28	58	34	5	13	33	73	49
Grahams Bridge	253	7	15	14	45	31	6	11	33	52	39

(DSD 2003)

Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) makes adaptations to homes of disabled people, in order to make it easier for them to live at home. In 2002-2003, a total of 233 adaptations were carried out in the Castlereagh housing district, including adaptations such as change of heating, lifts and extensions to dwellings. (*Castlereagh District Housing Plan 2003-2004*, 2003, NIHE)

### ***Incapacity Benefit***

It should be noted that not all people with health problems are necessarily entitled to DLA, as this benefit is above all intended to provide support towards care needs. For instance a person who has suffered an injury that has left them unable to work, but who is still able to care for him- or herself, is more likely to be on long term Incapacity Benefit. Incapacity Benefit is available to everyone who is ill and not entitled to Statutory Sick Pay, but functions as the first benefit and source of income for people who are unable to work due to long term illness. It is, however, not directly linked to disability. ([www.ssani.gov.uk](http://www.ssani.gov.uk) 9.1.04, please see Glossary on page 117 for entitlement criteria)

In Ballybeen, a total of just under 600 people were in receipt of Incapacity Benefit in November 2002, the latest date for which statistics are available. The highest number, 230 persons, was in Carrowreagh, which corresponds to approximately 6 % of the population. The level in Enler was 195 persons or 7 % of residents, and in Graham's Bridge 163 persons or around 6 %. (Geographical Data on Social Security Benefits, 2002, DSD)

These figures suggest that there may be an additional level of disability and long term illness in the estate, which is hidden in other assessments of levels of disability.

**Table 7: All Persons Claiming Incapacity Benefit at November 2002 (Numbers)**

Ward	All Ages	Gender									
		Male					Female				
		Under 16	16-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Under 16	16-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	<b>107926</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11779</b>	<b>20658</b>	<b>33025</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9357</b>	<b>16655</b>	<b>16452</b>	<b>0</b>
Carrowreagh	230	0	20	33	78	0	0	22	30	47	0
Enler	195	0	10	36	70	0	0	8	28	43	0
Graham's Bridge	163	0	11	22	53	0	0	19	32	26	0

(DSD 2002)

### **Children with disabilities**

Regarding children with a disability, the trend is the same as for disability in general across the estate. Enler ward has the highest proportion of children with some form of disability at 7.4 %, which is considerably higher than across the South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust (SEBT) area overall, where 4.3 % of children are registered as disabled. The proportion in Carrowreagh is close to the SEBT average at 4.55 %, while the level of disabled children is relatively low in Graham's Bridge at 2.3 %.(*Castlereagh Community Profile*, SEBT 2003)

### **Mental Health**

Mental health is a recognised issue for Ballybeen, and it is reported in particular depression is common among residents. (Community Steering Group)

UK-wide, it is estimated that approximately 10 % of women and 7 % of men suffer from depression or anxiety, the most common of mental disorders. Considerably fewer suffer from more serious personality disorders or psychoses such as schizophrenia. It is considered a general trend that serious mental disorders are more common in more deprived areas such as inner cities, and among less educated people. Several studies have also found that the recent history of the Troubles has contributed to making mental health problems a major issue in Northern Ireland. (*Promoting Mental Health 2003-2008*, 2003, DHSSPS)

According to figures from 2002, a total of 42 % of all people with schizophrenia known to the care services in the EHSSB area - 637 people - lived in the SEBT area, which covers both urban inner city areas, large housing estates including Ballybeen, and suburban, more affluent areas. The figure in the Ulster Community and Hospitals Trust (which covers North Down and Ards) was 14 % of all patients or 217 people, and in the North and West Belfast Trust area 23 % or 342 people. These figures also showed an increase from 1996. Nevertheless, none of the wards covering Ballybeen measured high in this study (*A Population Assessment of Need, 2002, EHSSB Mental Health Project*)

No explanation is given for the high proportion of patients in the SEBT area, but a contributing factor may be that Knockbracken Healthcare Park, which provides residential mental health care, is situated in the area.

Across Castlereagh, suicide remains the seventh leading cause of death among men. This suggests that mental health is a significant issue particularly for men in the area.

### **Teenage Pregnancy**

In 2001, there were a total of 119 births in the three ward areas. Of these, between 4.3 % and 13 % were to teenage mothers under 20 years of age. The highest proportion of teenage mothers was in Graham's Bridge, while the lowest was in Carrowreagh, and the proportion in Enler 6.7 %. Both Carrowreagh and Enler fall under the Northern Ireland average of 7 %, but the level in Graham's Bridge is among the higher in the region. (*Castlereagh Community Profile, SEBT 2003*) In Castlereagh as a whole, a total of 4 % of all births were to teenagers, which means that all three areas have a higher proportion of teenage pregnancies than the borough on average. However, comparison with figures some years ago shows that the proportion of teenage mothers has decreased somewhat, particularly in Carrowreagh ward. (*Young People, Older People and Women in Ballybeen, 2001, BIG & Williamson Consulting*)

It is recognised teenage pregnancy, as well as early experiences of sex, is an issue on the estate, and it has been tackled in a range of training programmes and personal development programmes aimed at young people. In 2001, the peer educator project run by Ballybeen Women's Centre was also funded to address teenage pregnancy issues. (DHSSPS press release 3.12.2001)

### **Breastfeeding and Low Birth Weight**

Both the level of breastfeeding and the number of low birth weight babies are considered important indicators of deprivation in an area. In general terms, an area is considered to be more deprived the lower the breastfeeding figure is and the more low birth weight babies it has.

A total of 46.9 % of babies in Castlereagh Borough Council area were breastfed at discharge from hospital. In Ballybeen, levels are typically lower than this. In Enler, 16.7 % of mothers chose to breastfeed at least while in hospital, while 19.1 % of mothers in Carrowreagh and 30.4 % in Graham's Bridge breastfeed, according to latest available figures. (*Child Health System, EHSSB 2003*) It is also reported that figures fall once mothers settle at home with their babies.

Of babies born in 2001 in Castlereagh, 6.6 % were low birth weight (under 2500 grams, or 5.5 lbs), which is slightly higher than the Northern Ireland average of 6.3 %. In Ballybeen, the proportion of low birth weight babies was also higher than in Castlereagh on average, with the exception of Graham's Bridge where 4.3 % of babies were under 2500 grams at birth. In Carrowreagh, 8.5 % of babies were of low birth weight, while the figure in Enler was 13.3 %. (*Child Health System, EHSSB 2003*) Low birth weight is a risk factor for poor health later in life, and a major cause is smoking during pregnancy. General poor nutrition of the mother during pregnancy can also lead to low birth weight for the baby.

## **Immunisation**

Uptake of vaccinations for small children is generally high in Ballybeen. In Graham's Bridge and Enler, all children born in 2000 received primary immunisation for diphtheria, tetanus and polio, and in Carrowreagh 90 % of children were immunised. These figures compare favourably to the uptake of immunisation across the Eastern Health and Social Services Board area, where a total of 94.7 % of children were immunised. The uptake of the MMR vaccine against mumps, measles and rubella, which has caused controversy in recent years, is also high in Graham's Bridge at 100 % and in Carrowreagh at 95 %. Fewer parents chose to give their children the MMR jab in Enler, but also in this ward 66.7 % or two thirds of children were immunised. The figure for the Eastern Health and Social Services Board area as a whole was 84.6 %, for children born in 2000. (*Child Health System, 2003, EHSSB*)

## **Dental Health**

While the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland are registered with a GP, considerably fewer are registered with a dentist. According to Northern Ireland level data, dental health is poorer here than elsewhere in the UK, and therefore a significant issue, which was defined a priority in the public health strategy *Investing for Health*. (*Investing for Health, 2002, DHSSPS*)

Levels of decayed, filled and extracted teeth among children, as well as the percentage of children registered with a dentist, is often used as the baseline indicator for dental health. Statistics for Brooklands Primary School show that 51 % of pupils have one or more decayed teeth, which is in line with the average for children of primary school age in Northern Ireland. (*Castlereagh Community Profile, SEBT 2003*).

In Ballybeen, the percentage of 3-5 year olds registered with a dentist varies between 46 % in Enler and 70 % in Carrowreagh. In Graham's Bridge, 51 % of 3-5 year olds are registered with a dentist. Carrowreagh compares favourably with Northern Ireland as a whole, where 61 % of 3-5 year olds are registered with a dentist, while Castlereagh Borough Council records the same proportion as the ward at 70 %. (*NISRA Neighbourhood Survey 2002*)

## **Health Issues for Men**

Statistical figures do generally not account for differences in disease between men and women. For instance, men and women suffer from different diseases, although the absolute incidence of disease may be the same or similar. Care seeking behaviour also tends to be different between the sexes. Women visit their GP more often and sooner than men, which in many cases means that any health problems can be treated at a relatively early stage. Men, on the other hand, tend to avoid going to the GP, and as a result their condition is often more serious by the time they seek treatment. This is also the case in Ballybeen, where a voluntary organisation, Ballybeen Men in Focus, has been founded partly to encourage men to discuss their health. Activities by Ballybeen Men in Focus are discussed further in the Community Development section. (Ballybeen Men in Focus, personal communication)

Life expectancy for men is shorter than for women in all social groups – on average, men die six years younger than women. Men also have higher death rates in all age groups. In addition, men tend to take more risks and engage in activities which may harm their health, which contributes to higher death rates. The difference is particularly marked when it comes to road traffic accidents and suicides, where men are the victims more often than women. (*Men's Health in Ireland*, January 2004, Men's Health Forum in Ireland) In addition, it is more common for men to commit suicide than for women.

During 1996-2001, 44 men in Castlereagh died from prostate cancer, while a total of just over 1200 men across Northern Ireland died from the disease in the same period. Over the five years, a total of 2458 men were diagnosed with prostate cancer. (EHSSB; Northern Ireland Cancer Registry, personal communication)

## **Health Issues for Women**

Table 3 on page 15, selected causes of death, indicates that particularly respiratory disease is prevalent among women, while heart disease is a major cause of death among women as well as men.

The table also shows breast cancer is a significant issue for women. Across Northern Ireland, the number of diagnosed breast cancer cases is increasing, as are deaths from the disease. Skin cancer, in particular malignant melanoma, is also more common among women than men, but fewer women than men have died from the disease in recent years. Other cancers affecting women – ovarian, cervical and cancer of the uterus – have not increased significantly over the last decade. ([www.qub.ac.uk/nicr](http://www.qub.ac.uk/nicr) 28.1.2004)

More generally, women tend to live longer than men, although more women than men report a long term limiting illness. Women also report mental health problems more often than men, although this may mainly reflect a difference in willingness to speak about these issues.

### ***Breast and Cervical Screening Services***

Breast screening services are offered to women between the ages 50-64 years, to reduce the incidence of breast cancer. Invitations to the screening programme are sent to women inviting them to attend the mobile breast screening unit or the static unit which is based at the Eastern Health and Social Services Board in Belfast city centre. Screening is carried out every three years in local areas, and all women aged 50-64 are invited to screening every three years.

Cervical screening is provided through GP practices and always available. It is recommended that all women of childbearing age are screened once every five years, to detect changes which may indicate cervical cancer at an early stage.

### **Health Issues among Young and Older People**

Among older people, fuel poverty and cold homes are often a significant cause of illness. In Ballybeen, many properties in which older people live still have Economy 7 heating, which is expensive and contributes to fuel poverty. The Department for Social Development is developing a strategy to eradicate fuel poverty by 2016, but these proposals will be discussed further in the Housing section. (*Towards a Fuel Poverty Strategy*, October 2003, DSD)

Other issues affecting older people are lack of access to information, as well as potential difficulties in getting to services such as the GP surgery.

For young people, lack of access to information is a key issue. The Peer Educator Project at Ballybeen Women's Centre was started in the early 1990s partly to address this need, and the project has been recognised for improving information levels.

A key issue for young people is sexual health, which remains a major theme for the Peer Educator Project run by Ballybeen Women's Centre. Staff at the Women's Centre also report more information is being requested continuously. However, it is also reported young people still relate safe sex above all to contraception, while not considering protection against sexually transmitted infections as much.

## **Service Provision**

### ***Information Services for Women***

Health promotion is one of the core areas of work of the Ballybeen Women's Centre. As part of the Women's Health programme, the Centre delivers an accredited (through Northern Ireland Open College Network) Women's Health Course. The Centre also facilitates monthly Women's Health Events, which focus on varying themes such as mental health awareness, cancer screening, aromatherapy and healthy lifestyles. In addition, the Women's Centre has recently started weekly ante natal clinics run by a community midwife from Ulster Hospital, after it was recognised attendance at ante natal appointments



at hospital was poor. Women can also receive breast feeding support at the Centre. (Ballybeen Women's Centre, personal communication)

### ***Lay Health Workers***

The East Belfast Community Health Information Project (EBCHIP) is currently working with local people to improve access to information, with the aim of giving local people with a key role in making choices about the information they receive. The Project is to recruit 100 local people across ten communities in greater east Belfast, and provide them with access to information on their choice of five themes: men's health, drug and alcohol awareness, family support, women's health and mental health.

In August 2003, a Health Development Worker for Ballybeen and Knocknagoney took up post. So far, 13 Lay Health Information Workers have been recruited in Ballybeen, who will be trained on health issues. The intention is that these Lay Health Information Workers then provide this information to other people, in an informal way. The number of people recruited is higher than in the other ten areas, with a significantly higher percentage of men than in the other areas. The Project is funded by the New Opportunities Fund as a Healthy Living Centre until the end of 2006. (EBCHIP, personal communication)

### ***Mental Health Services***

The South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust (SEBT) is responsible for the provision of mental health services for Ballybeen. There are no dedicated services for the area, but SEBT organises services throughout its area on the basis of referrals from GPs. A guide to all services is available from the Trust. All mental health staff have also received training in suicide awareness, and clinical referral co-ordinators maintain contact with youth groups. In addition, the Trust has developed a mental health strategy for older people, and during 2004, it is aiming to introduce a 24 hour helpline for families of people with mental health problems.

Care services for east Belfast are concentrated at Knockbracken Healthcare Park on Saintfield Road and Woodstock Lodge in inner east Belfast. (*Bringing Care to People* – SEBT Annual Report 2002-2003, September 2003, SEBT)

### ***Drug Education***

The South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) is running a drug education programme, known as Chrysalis, in all post primary schools in its area. This programme, which focuses on wider life skills as well as drug information, involves parents along with pupils, and is delivered in Year 8 in most schools. The programme has received recognition from several organisations for its novel approach to drug education (SEELB, personal communication)

## Policies and Strategies

### *Investing for Health*

*Investing for Health*, the current public health strategy for Northern Ireland, was launched in 2002 and will guide policy until 2010. It has two main overarching targets: to improve the health of all people in Northern Ireland, and to reduce inequalities in health. The strategy also aims to reduce poverty in families with children, support young people to achieve their full potential, and promote mental health. To achieve these objectives, *Investing for Health* set a series of actions in areas from mental health and health promotion to education and childcare, employment and the environment.

*Investing for Health* is largely intended to be delivered through partnerships, and new local partnerships have been formed to deliver targets. There is also a dedicated Investing for Health officer in each Health and Social Services Trust in the eastern area, whose task is to co-ordinate local work relating to the strategy. A website, Wellnet ([www.wellnet-ni.com](http://www.wellnet-ni.com)) has been developed to improve communication between partnerships in the Eastern area, and also to allow local organisations to present their activities across Northern Ireland. (*Investing for Health*, March 2002, DHSSPS; [www.wellnet-ni.com](http://www.wellnet-ni.com) 20.1.04)

Under *Investing for Health*, Health and Social Services Boards are required to draw up Health Improvement Plans for their local areas, showing how they intend to meet targets. The Eastern Health and Social Services Board has drawn up a special locality plan for south and east Belfast including Castlereagh, which outlines current health trends and current activities in the area. It also sets out action planned for 2003-2004 and through to 2008, which include the following elements: developing communities of interest theme groups, assessing health and social care needs, supporting schools to become health promoting schools, and addressing isolation of older people. Within the locality plan, Ballybeen Women's Centre is mentioned as one of the key partners in delivering *Investing for Health* goals. (Eastern Area Strategy 2003-2008: South and East Belfast and Castlereagh Locality Plan, 2003, EHSSB)

It is intended that *Investing for Health* is increasingly used to channel funding to areas in specific need. In the next year, a total of £410 000 will be distributed to projects throughout the Eastern area. (EHSSB, personal communication)

Under Investing for Health, there are a range of plans which aim to have an impact on residents of Ballybeen, as well as the general population.

- **Teenage Pregnancy Strategy 2002-2007:** The overarching aim of this strategy is to reduce the number of unplanned births to teenage mothers, and minimise any negative consequences of those births to teenage parents and their children. It also sets a target that 75 % of teenagers should not have had sexual intercourse before the age of 16. Actions planned under the strategy include improved education in schools, personal development courses for young people, courses

aimed to improve communication between children and parents and improved services for teenage mothers. For instance, South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust is to review its sexual health services for young people, while the South Eastern Education and Library Board, in partnership with the Department of Education, the Eastern Health and Social Services Board and the Health Promotion Agency will develop guidelines on relationship and sexual education. (Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, 2002, DHSSPS)

The government is also preparing a sexual health strategy, which will outline actions required to reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and improve access to and information on contraception and family planning. (*Towards a Sexual Health Strategy*, December 2003, DHSSPS)

- **Tobacco Action Plan 2003-2008:** Preventing people from taking up smoking, helping smokers to quit and protecting non-smokers from tobacco smoke are the main aims of the new Tobacco Action Plan. Measures to achieve these aims include information campaigns on the effects of smoke on non-smokers, improved cessation support services for smokers, wide introduction of smoking bans in workplaces and legislation banning advertising. (*Tobacco Action Plan 2003-2008*, 2003, DHSSPS)
- **Promoting Mental Health Strategy & Action Plan 2003-2008:** This strategy aims to prevent or reduce the incidence of mental distress, illness and suicide, by addressing factors which affect mental health. The Eastern Health and Social Services Board will be required to develop new programmes to promote mental health, while the Board and Trust, in partnership with the Education and Library Board and the voluntary and community sectors, will ensure that local information and support is available for those who need it. Planned actions also include improving training for professionals, and creating suicide awareness programmes for the public as well as professionals. (*Promoting Mental Health Strategy & Action Plan 2003-2008*, DHSSPS 2003)
- **Strategy for Reducing Alcohol Related Harm:** Adopted in 2000, this strategy aims to encourage responsible drinking and reduce the harm caused by excessive alcohol use. Actions taken include public information campaigns, provision of safe drinking guidelines, improved treatment services and development of strategies to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour resulting from alcohol use. (*Strategy for Reducing Alcohol Related Harm*, 2000, DHSSPS)

## Local Views

*Unless otherwise stated, the views below have come from the Community Steering Group.*

The figures shown in Table 4 on page 16 reflect, among other things, past poor working conditions at some of the major employers for the area. For example, respiratory illnesses related to asbestos used at Harland & Wolff are relatively common among older men who worked at the shipyard. People living in lower income areas also tend to suffer more illness than others, due to a range of reasons linked to living and working conditions.

It is felt that the figures shown in Table 7 on page 20 do not describe the severity of disability, and even a mild disability may cause difficulty in getting around and accessing services. In Ballybeen, many local people with disabilities feel this is a major issue, as footpaths are not built to accommodate wheelchair users and other people with disabilities. Where kerbs are dropped, moreover, they are often used for parking instead as there is a shortage of parking space in Ballybeen. In addition, there are sections with steep steps throughout the estate, which make movement difficult. The lack of public transport outside the centre of the estate further complicates living conditions for those with a disability.

Until a few years ago, a group of disabled people known as Disabled in Community Action existed in Ballybeen, managing a service assisting people with disabilities with a range of tasks such as completing forms. This service was very popular and used by people from outside the estate as well as local residents, and also succeeded in getting Shopmobility scooters. However, the group was forced to close due to funding difficulties, and people with disabilities are now often living in isolation and dependent on professional or family support to access services. An information service, run by Ballybeen Action Group, continues to operate at Ballybeen Square, but it is aimed at all residents and does not focus solely on people with disabilities.

Mental health is a recognised issue for residents in Ballybeen. In particular depression is felt to be a common problem, related to issues of unemployment, insecurity and isolation. Local residents feel the disease is on the increase in the estate, particularly among women. It has been noted that depression is common across all ages, but with increasing numbers of young women suffering. As a result, it is reported many women are using tranquillisers.

There are no mental health support services in Ballybeen, but the Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health and CAUSE provide support services for carers of people suffering from serious mental illness in their premises in inner east Belfast. Users of services include Ballybeen residents.

During the 1990s, there were a number of suicides among young men in the east Belfast area. There have been a number of suicides in the area also in recent times, which is causing concern among residents.

Locally, it is recognised that young men's health is suffering from the insecurity they face following the decline in secure employment opportunities. This may in some cases manifest itself, among other things, as anti-social behaviour, drug taking and drink problems. As noted above, women also suffer from the insecurity and stress caused by unemployment and difficult social conditions, which can result in depression and/or dependence on tranquillisers.

For women, a major issue is lack of access to health information, as there is very limited information provision within the estate overall. It is felt women require general information and information about specific diseases, as well as information on child health. (Ballybeen Women's Centre, personal communication)

## **Lifestyle**

*Unless otherwise stated, the views below have also come from the Community Steering Group.*

### **Smoking, alcohol and drugs**

It is generally felt among residents that Ballybeen has significant problems with anti-social behaviour, which is related to drinking and drug use. However, information on levels of smoking, drinking and drug use is mainly based on local estimates, rather than exact figures, as statistics are only collected on a Northern Ireland level.

### **Smoking**

Local information states that a high proportion of Ballybeen residents smoke. It is also felt that quite young children, often of primary school age, take up smoking either through own choice, or following the example of older friends. However, there are no estimates of how large a proportion of young people do smoke.

The only available local statistic is for pregnant women who smoke, who are monitored through the antenatal clinics. According to latest figures, a relatively large proportion of pregnant women in the area smoke – in Enler the recorded figure is 43.3 %, and in Graham's Bridge, 39.1 %. Carrowreagh has a lower level of smoking in pregnancy, at 17 % of expecting mothers. (*Castlereagh Community Profile*, SEBT 2003) In the SEBT area, on average 22.5 % women smoke in pregnancy, while the figure for the Eastern Health and Social Services Board area is 28.5 %.

Pregnant women are encouraged to stop smoking at the antenatal clinics, where advice on cessation is available, but it must also be noted that smoking can be a coping mechanism under stressful living conditions which makes it harder to give up.

Across Northern Ireland, a total of approximately 27 % of the population smoke (26 % of men and 28 % of women). Levels are typically higher among the less educated, and among 20-34 year olds. According to recent statistics, smoking among young women is on the increase, while it is decreasing in all

other groups. However, any health effects such as an increase in the incidence of lung cancer will only be seen after some decades – although the incidence of lung cancer, as well as the number of deaths, among women is currently growing. (*A Five Year Tobacco Action Plan 2003-2008*, August 2003, DHSSPS)

### **Alcohol use**

There are few facilities for social drinking in Ballybeen, as there are no pubs within the estate. Many residents are reluctant to visit pubs elsewhere, which means drinking in the area takes place above all at home, and therefore that problem drinking is very hidden. There are currently a number of drinking clubs across the estate, which use disused buildings as gathering places, and these clubs are felt to be anti-social and a security issue. On the other hand, there are a number of working men's clubs on the outskirts of Ballybeen, which many men use for socialising.

There is also felt to be an existing drink problem, particularly among men on the estate. Local anecdotal evidence shows that this problem drinking has increased since the 1980s, as more people have been facing unemployment and uncertain futures. More recently, parents have reported that a drink and drugs problem has developed around schools local youngsters attend.

Locally, it is also reported that children and young people start drinking at a very early age, with some primary school children using alcohol regularly. Groups of young people hanging in and around the estate in the evenings, often drinking, are seen by many as disturbing, intimidating and also anti-social. It is felt alcohol use is a particular issue for the estate, even more so than drug taking.

### **Drugs**

There is a recognised drug problem on the estate, which like alcohol use is related to anti-social behaviour and also poses a risk to general safety. Drugs used include cannabis, ecstasy and amphetamine (speed), as well as hard drugs such as cocaine.

Particularly cocaine use has been increasing in Ballybeen in recent times, it is reported locally. According to some youth workers, a high proportion of young people have experimented with the drug, and it is felt many have gone on to develop a habit, although no detailed information is available. Locally, it is also reported solvent abuse is on the increase, after having been less common for about ten years or so. Solvent abuse is particularly common among the younger age groups of around 11-13. The situation is similar across Northern Ireland, where surveys of drug use have shown that the typical age to start experimenting with solvents is about 12.

Drug use has a knock on effect on mental health, as it often results in depression and other mental health problems. For young people, it can also result in poor performance at school, or dropping out of school altogether. However, no statistics are available on these issues, and in many cases mental health problems may have been present before a person began taking drugs.

A more hidden drug problem reportedly exists among women, a number of whom have developed a dependency on prescription drugs such as tranquillisers. This type of drug dependency is relatively common in areas affected by the Troubles in Northern Ireland, as well as deprived areas elsewhere in the UK, and is often related to stressful living conditions.

It is also reported that prescription drugs such as painkillers and tranquillisers are being sold in or around local schools.

### **Physical activity**

There are no statistics available on how many men, women and children are physically active, or to what level. However, it can be noted that there are a number of after school clubs as well as youth clubs, which incorporate physical activity as a major component of their programmes. Some sports clubs are also active in Ballybeen.

Local people feel there is no leisure centre providing opportunities for physical activity for adults. There are very few organised walking or cycling routes, although access to countryside walks was considered a positive feature in a profile of the Ballyoran area (*Profile and Participatory Appraisal Project*, 1999, Ballyoran Training and Support Group). In addition, many local people feel the estate can be intimidating particularly at night, which is unlikely to encourage physical activity.

## Proposals

### **Community Drug Awareness**

The community led partnership Community Drug Awareness (CODA) and East Belfast Community Health Information Project (EBCHIP) are collaborating to arrange a series of information sessions about drugs and drug use.

This course is a formal training course, accredited through the Open College Network as a Level 2 course. It is delivered by CODA, and forms part of the organisation's training prospectus. Courses within this prospectus are arranged across CODA's target area of south and east Belfast and Castlereagh, either through existing organisations or specifically for groups requesting them.

The course looks at drug issues starting from what they are and how they affect the body to legal issues and issues within the family. However, the course is relatively flexible, and can be set up to cover the needs of any individual group. It also includes an element considering how the information from the course can be used in practice. The course is aimed at parents, people working with young people, and generally anyone with an interest in the field.

No dates have been set as yet for a course in Ballybeen, but it is hoped a course will be run during 2004. It is possible that further courses are arranged in the future, if there is enough interest. (CODA, personal communication)

**A Strategy for Adult Mental Health Services in the Eastern Health and Social Services Board:** This strategy was circulated for consultation during autumn 2003, and the final strategy is due during 2004. It aims to improve care for people with mental health problems, promote better mental health generally and to improve responses to those at risk of and affected by suicide. In addition, the strategy is intended to improve access to care and reduce the stigma of mental illness, as well as to increase access to information.

Actions under the draft strategy include increased capacity for Community Mental Health Teams within health and social services Trusts, including outreach services; improving the information available on mental health, introducing Mental Health Support Workers in primary care and involving users in planning services. In addition, the strategy suggests that supported accommodation, such as small settlements, should be developed so patients can be released from hospital earlier than current practice is. (*A Strategy for Adult Mental Health Services in the Eastern Health and Social Services Board* Consultation document, September 2003, EHSSB)



# Housing

**“It is now recognised that good quality housing and associated services can contribute significantly to the general health of individuals and communities...There are strong links between housing and mental and physical health”**

Investing for Health, *Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety 2002*

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*This section looks at both housing arrangements on the estate, and the general condition of homes and houses.*

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## **Tenure and Home Ownership**

Of the three wards which include parts of Ballybeen, Carrowreagh has the highest proportion of owner occupied housing, with 75 % of residents owning their properties outright or with a mortgage. In Carrowreagh, 21 % of residents live in rented accommodation – the majority in properties let by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). The level of home ownership in this ward is higher than in Northern Ireland overall, which is 70 %, but slightly lower than the Castlereagh Borough Council average of 78 %.

Home ownership in both Graham’s Bridge and Enler, in turn, is lower than in Northern Ireland or Castlereagh on average. In Graham’s Bridge, 57 % of homes are owner occupied, while just under 40 % live in rented accommodation. Most rented accommodation, 38 %, is let by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and its Castlereagh Division, while other landlords such as housing associations or private bodies are rare. The highest proportion of NIHE tenants live in Enler, where 49 % of residents live in properties rented from NIHE, while 48 % of properties are owner occupied. (Census 2001)

## **General Housing Situation**

According to the Noble index of deprivation in Northern Ireland, all three ward areas are among the best 25 % of wards in relation to housing, and NIHE owned properties have been renovated in recent years. There is also relatively little overcrowding, as the average household size is 2-3 persons, who have five rooms to use. However, this does not exclude a number of overcrowded households on the estate, with large families or several generations living in the same property.

**Table 8: Tenure (%)**

	All households	Percentage of households:					
		Owner occupied			Rented from:		
		Owns outright	Owns with a mortgage or loan	Shared ownership	Northern Ireland Housing Executive	Housing Association, Housing Co-operative or Charitable Trust	Private landlord or letting agency
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>626718</b>	<b>29.37</b>	<b>39.44</b>	<b>0.79</b>	<b>18.59</b>	<b>2.63</b>	<b>6.65</b>
<b>Castlereagh</b>	<b>26887</b>	<b>29.48</b>	<b>47.71</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>16.64</b>	<b>1.86</b>	<b>2.31</b>
Carrowreagh	1494	15.80	59.57	0.74	20.75	-	1.81
Enler	1127	12.78	35.58	0.89	48.89	0.27	0.44
Graham's Bridge	1190	26.55	30.59	0.76	37.90	2.44	0.92

(NISRA, Census 2001)

**Table 9: Average Household Size and Rooms**

	All households	Average household size	Average number of rooms per household
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>626718</b>	<b>2.65</b>	<b>5.71</b>
<b>Castlereagh</b>	<b>26887</b>	<b>2.44</b>	<b>5.66</b>
Carrowreagh	1495	2.62	5.60
Enler	1125	2.37	5.12
Graham's Bridge	1190	2.09	5.03

(NISRA, Census 2001)

In total, there are 3851 properties in the three ward areas. These are divided between 1499 properties in Carrowreagh, 1125 in Enler and 1227 in Graham's Bridge. The total number of properties has increased by about 300 in Carrowreagh over the last 10 years, but it has declined by about 100 properties in Enler, and 30 properties in Graham's Bridge. Of these properties, 1490 are occupied in Carrowreagh, while in Enler 1113 properties are occupied and in Graham's Bridge 1199. The highest number of vacant properties is, therefore, in the Graham's Bridge ward area. (Geographical data on housing stock, DSD 2003)

There are a total of 2485 properties originally owned by NIHE in the Ballybeen estate area, of which 1142 or 47 % have been sold to tenants under the tenant purchasing scheme. The remaining 1313 NIHE properties are comprised of 181 bungalows, 506 houses, 492 flats and 134 maisonettes.

The most common accommodation type in all three ward areas is a terraced building, with nearly 60 % of properties in Enler of this type. In Carrowreagh and Graham's Bridge, around 30 % of properties are terraces. In Enler and Graham's Bridge, blocks of flats are the second most common

accommodation type, while Carrowreagh has around 30 % detached houses (although most of these are outside Ballybeen). (Census 2001)

A regeneration scheme put in place by NIHE has reduced the number of the unpopular and cramped flats, bedsits and maisonettes by demolishing them and replacing them with more spacious accommodation. (*Ballybeen - Towards a Regeneration Vision*, NIHE 2003) For instance, in the late 1990s two blocks of flats at Bute Park were demolished, and 16 two-storey townhouses built in their place, which was seen to improve the area considerably. The majority of new schemes are being developed by private developers, although a site at Bennan Park is to be redeveloped by Belfast Improved Housing (BIH) Association.

### **Property value**

Houses in Ballybeen are, on average, valued at between £45 000 and £55 000, as compared to £114 500 in Castlereagh as a whole. Flats are valued at between £30 000 and £40 000. (NIHE, personal communication) However, local residents report that properties put up for sale regularly sell at around £55 000 and some properties have been sold for up to £65 000. (Community Steering Group)

Some years ago, seven unpopular blocks of flats at Strone Park were demolished, and a private sector development built instead. These properties were sold comparatively quickly, with properties selling at between £60 000 and £80 000. However, several of the properties have since been put on the market, as they were bought by people from outside the area who were not accustomed to the local community. No one from the estate itself bought these new properties. (NIHE, personal communication)

### **Housing Stress**

In December 2002, there were a total of 213 housing applicants in the area, of whom 82 were registered as being in housing stress. Housing stress is calculated on the basis of how difficult it is for a tenant to live in a certain property. Tenants are scored on a number of points, which focus on functionality (ability to go about tasks in the property), and anyone rating over 30 points is classified as being in housing stress. (NIHE, personal communication)

According to NIHE, there are some indications that the waiting list is increasing. (*Castlereagh District Housing Plan 2003-2004*, NIHE 2003).

### **Homelessness**

Homelessness does not mean simply having nowhere to stay. It also means living in hostels; resorting to squatting; living in derelict houses; in institutions; in unfit homes; in guest houses; in fear of violence; on friend's sofas; on illegal unserviced travellers' sites; in overcrowded houses, or in fear of evictions. In Northern Ireland, the Housing Executive has an obligation under the Housing Order (1988) to house people who are homeless, or threatened with homelessness within 28 days; not deliberately homeless and in priority need.

Those in priority need include people with dependants under 16, pregnant women, people who are at risk of violence, people who have been made homeless by a disaster such as fire or flood, or people who are vulnerable because of old age, mental difficulty or disability.

As of March 2003, the latest date for which figures were available, a total of 465 people were classified as homeless across Castlereagh. Of these about half, or 265, were deemed to be statutorily homeless as defined above. This figure has risen steadily from 355 people presenting as homeless in 1999, and 105 classified as statutorily homeless. The majority of people presenting as homeless were single, followed by small families. People who fulfil all criteria of homelessness will typically be placed in temporary accommodation while awaiting rehousing.

People who are not deemed to be statutorily homeless or in priority need can apply for NIHE housing, but will not be provided with temporary housing. (Homeless Advice & Assistance leaflet, June 2003, NIHE).

As homelessness is recorded per housing district, no figures of homelessness within Ballybeen are available. (*Castlereagh District Housing Plan 2003-2004*, 2003, NIHE).

### **Sheltered Accommodation**

Oaklee Housing Association has one supported property, Aaron House, on the estate, which provides accommodation for people with learning disabilities. BIH (Belfast Improved Housing) Association also manages a sheltered accommodation unit within Graham's Bridge. (*Castlereagh District Housing Plan 2003-2004*, NIHE 2003).

### **Fuel Poverty**

A household is defined as being in fuel poverty when it needs to use more than 10 % of its income to achieve an acceptable level of heating in the house. 'Acceptable level' is defined as 21 degrees Celsius in the living room, and 18° C in all other rooms. According to the NIHE Housing Stock Condition Survey 2001, about 203 000 households in Northern Ireland, or a third of all households, are fuel poor under this definition. Across Northern Ireland, fuel poverty is particularly prevalent among older people, who often live on low incomes on their own, and tend to live in older properties more often than the rest of the population. Another vulnerable group is young children, and accordingly low income families with small children.

Underoccupancy – having unused space such as extra bedrooms – also makes it harder to heat a house satisfactorily. (*Towards a Fuel Poverty Strategy*, 2003, DSD)

As per the Census 2001, around 97 % of properties in all three wards covering Ballybeen had some kind of central heating – in Carrowreagh the figure was over 99 %. This is higher than the Northern Ireland total of just over 95 %, although slightly lower than in Castlereagh overall at just under 98 %. Typically, most properties in urban areas now have some kind of central heating, while properties without it are somewhat more common in rural areas.

However, many properties in Ballybeen still have the electric Economy 7 heating system, which is by far the most expensive type of central heating. (NIHE, personal communication) The cost of one kilowatt hour (the unit used to measure energy) on the cheaper night rate is 3.51p, but the day rate is 9.87p. This compares with 2.05p at any time for oil heating which is the cheapest option, or 2.57 p for natural gas heating. These figures mean that properties heated with Economy 7 are vulnerable to fuel poverty, although the system can be more convenient to use than glass fronted coal fires. (*Towards a Fuel Poverty Strategy*, 2003, DSD)

**Table 10: Central Heating**

	All house-holds	% of households:			
		With central heating and sole use of bath/shower and toilet	With central heating, without sole use of bath/shower and toilet	Without central heating, with sole use of bath/shower and toilet	Without central heating or sole use of bath/shower and toilet
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>626718</b>	<b>94.67</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>4.61</b>	<b>0.28</b>
<b>Castlereagh</b>	<b>26887</b>	<b>97.69</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>0.03</b>
Carrowreagh	1495	99.13	-	0.74	0.20
Enler	1125	96.80	0.27	2.93	-
Graham's Bridge	1190	96.55	0.76	2.69	-

(NISRA, Census 2001)

NIHE has recently begun installing natural gas heating in its properties, typically replacing coal fires, to increase energy efficiency and alleviate fuel poverty. However, the installation is progressing in phases, and requires a minimum number of households to sign up before the gas main is installed. Some households may therefore be left with inefficient and expensive heating for an unspecified time, which increases vulnerability. Moreover, a number of householders may be concerned about the potential risks associated with gas, and therefore be unwilling to have a gas heating system installed. (NIHE, personal communication)

### ***NIHE Property Maintenance***

Under regular strategic NIHE planning for 2003-2007, there are plans to carry out improvements to individual NIHE owned dwellings in Ballybeen at a total cost of £8,391,500. A total of 277 dwellings across the estate will undergo major improvement and refurbishment, which may include installation of new kitchens, improving insulation and changing room layouts as well as smaller works such as installation of smoke detectors and room heater replacements. These dwellings will be identified on a need basis. External cyclical maintenance, which includes more minor improvements to the exterior of properties and their immediate surroundings, will also be undertaken to over 1100 properties in 2003-2007. (NIHE, personal communication)

Emergency repairs and other minor works are carried out as necessary.

## **Policies and Strategies**

### ***A Strategy to Tackle Fuel Poverty in South and East Belfast and Castlereagh***

In a community consultation arranged in south and east Belfast and Castlereagh in 1999 by National Energy Action NI (NEA NI), participants generally felt that those with Economy 7 heating were worse off than others. It was also concluded that in particular older people were afraid of high heating bills, and therefore reluctant to turn the heating up. In addition, it was stated older people were reluctant to admit they were cold and needed assistance, while many regularly made choices whether to eat or heat their homes. Following this consultation, a strategy for tackling fuel poverty in the area was drawn up, and has been operating since 2001. The strategy includes a number of actions, under the overall aim of raising the profile of fuel poverty and energy efficiency, ensuring that energy efficiency programmes are targeted at those suffering fuel poverty and achieving affordable warmth by improving homes. (*A Strategy to tackle fuel poverty in south and east Belfast and Castlereagh*, NEA NI & SEBT 2001).

### ***Warm Homes***

The Department for Social Development runs a scheme called Warm Homes, under which certain population groups can apply for financial support to improve energy efficiency. These groups include people over 60, families with children under 16, and people in receipt of benefits such as Income Support, JSA or Housing Benefit. Support of up to £750 can be given to draught-proof a house, improve insulation or install oil or gas instead of a solid fuel heating system. In addition, people over 60 who are in receipt of a means tested benefit (above all Income Support) may qualify for a grant of up to £2700 to convert to or install full central heating. ([www.dsdni.gov.uk](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk) 19.1.04)

The scheme is administrated by the EAGA partnership, which manages a number of grant schemes aimed above all at low-income households. ([www.eaga.co.uk](http://www.eaga.co.uk) 19.2.04)

### **Local Views**

*Unless otherwise stated, the views below have come from the Community Steering Group.*

Generally, local residents feel the housing situation in Ballybeen has improved in recent years and is now relatively good.

It is recognised that particularly bedsits and flats are unpopular and hard to let as they are small and unattractive, and often also need environmental improvements to their surroundings. Several of these blocks have, accordingly, stood empty for time periods ranging from a few months up to two years, and are boarded up. Some of these buildings have been used by young people as hang-outs, which has caused a variety of problems.

Local people feel that, as the developments at Strone Park were carried out by private developers, it has reduced the amount of social housing on the estate.

Concern has also been expressed over the housing development plans at Millmount, adjacent to Ballybeen. It is felt the development will put pressure on an already stretched transport and service structure. (Irish News 25.3.04)

Some local residents feel it is a problem there is currently no housing association on the estate. Moreover, NIHE is planning to sell most of the land on which the bedsits and maisonettes stood to private developers. This has been questioned by some residents, who feel a housing association might provide more affordable accommodation on the sites.

Concern has been expressed that the current scoring system for evaluating housing stress does not consider situations where for example an older person is able to function in his or her home, but is housebound because of no access to transport, or because the home is on the first or second floor of a block of flats.

A significant proportion of older people and people with disabilities are transported to day centres in inner east Belfast, and some of them subsequently apply for housing in this area where they also use services. Members of the Community Steering Group, as well as the churches, have expressed concern over the situation, which is felt to put pressure on people to move out of Ballybeen. However, NIHE states it is looking at the need for more sheltered accommodation under the wider Ballybeen regeneration agenda, as it is recognised many older people live on the estate and may face difficulties in their everyday life. (NIHE, personal communication)

Many local residents feel the layout of the estate is far from ideal, in that there are few landmarks, which gives a confusing feeling to movement. There is also a sense that Ballybeen is split into parts on the basis of the layout, with few links to each other. Access across the estate is problematic, as routes centre around key thoroughfares such as Drumadoon Drive and Craigleith Drive. The result of this is that some areas experience isolation, and it is felt that social problems are often concentrated within these areas. In addition, these divisions have largely prevented a sense of community across Ballybeen, which in effect consists of smaller sub-communities such as Ballyoran, Longstone and Enler. This situation has also been characterised as a 'lack of a heart' to Ballybeen.

Public transport only serves a section of Ballybeen, which means that access inside the estate and to destinations outside it is a considerable problem for those without a car – who account for over 20 % in Graham's Bridge and Enler. There are also steep steps in parts, which makes getting around difficult for older people and people with disabilities.

Locally, it is felt that access would be improved if the link road connecting Drumadoon Drive and Millar's Lane was completed.

## Proposals

### **Ballybeen - Towards a Regeneration Vision**

Northern Ireland Housing Executive is developing an overall regeneration scheme for the estate, called Ballybeen - Towards a Regeneration Vision. This vision is an overarching plan, which aims to improve the environment on the estate and quality of life in it. It includes a number of elements, from new housing developments to tree planting and preservation of green space. In addition, it includes and links in with the plans for the Enler site.

- **Private Housing Developments:** NIHE is planning several schemes similar to the one carried out at Strone Park, under which unpopular flats will be demolished and the land sold to private developers, or land of previously demolished buildings will be sold. The three main schemes include Drumadoon bedsits, the two blocks of flats at Ardnoe, the Bennan site and the open space at Morven. In September 2003, the NIHE board approved the sale of these sites, and bids will be sought in the near future. For the Bennan site, it is agreed that Belfast Improved Housing (BIH) housing association will develop 22 new units on the vacant land. (NIHE Board minutes, September 2003).

There are also plans to replace the maisonettes adjacent to Ballybeen Square with more spacious townhouses, with the key aim of providing suitable and affordable housing for young professionals. (Ballybeen - Towards a Regeneration Vision, 2003, NIHE; NIHE Board minutes, September 2003)

The newbuild schemes will have wide implications for the area, by increasing the mix between social and private tenure and potentially bringing in new residents. However, revenue from any sales of land will be returned to the Department for Social Development as the funding body of NIHE, and NIHE cannot exercise any control of how and where the money is spent. (NIHE, personal communication) There are also local concerns over the tendency to favour private developers above housing associations, as housing associations are felt to be more accountable towards residents (Community Steering Group).

- **Boulevard tree planting:** As part of the Ballybeen regeneration agenda, NIHE is planting trees along Drumadoon Drive and Craighleith Drive to make the area better defined and more attractive. This project is described in more detail in the Environment section on page 66. (Ballybeen – Towards a Regeneration Vision, 2003, NIHE)

### **Enler House site**

Many people feel that Ballybeen Square is unsuitable as the estate centre, and the community in partnership with NIHE, South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust and Landmark East, a local property development company, have identified the Enler House site as the desired new centre. At present, Ballybeen Square lies empty except for some shops, Ballybeen Activity Centre and Ballybeen Women's Centre, and it is widely perceived to be intimidating, particularly at night. (Ballybeen - Towards a Regeneration Vision, 2003, NIHE)



The Enler House site is situated some hundred yards from the Square, and is currently grassed over after the former nursing home was taken over by Landmark East and demolished in 2002. This followed several years of attempts by the community to remove the building and regenerate the site. Currently, a steering group with members from NIHE, SEBT, Landmark East and Ballybeen Improvement Group is responsible for developing and taking forward plans for the site.

Under the favoured option, the redeveloped site would become the new village centre of Ballybeen. It would centre around a key development, a multi-purpose healthy living centre which would provide a range of services including health care and social services. The older people's day centre at Millar's Lane would be relocated to the healthy living centre, where capacity would be increased and opening hours extended. The development would also include shops, and a bus stop for easy access to Belfast city centre or Newtownards. (NIHE, personal communication; Landmark East, personal communication)

This plan is considered by many as key to the regeneration of the entire estate. Landmark East, as the manager of the site, and the steering group are currently looking at how the project could be funded, but it is still not certain that funding will be secured. Options for how the new centre would be managed, and who will be appointed as developer, are also open.

If funding can be secured and final plans agreed, the centre might open in 2007, at the earliest. (Landmark East, personal communication)

The Enler House site plan incorporates a number of linked plans, the progress of which is related to overall plans for the site. These are:

- **Ballybeen Square:** Under the Enler House site plan, Ballybeen Women's Centre would remain at Ballybeen Square and NIHE would be in a position to provide the Centre with extra facilities to expand service provision. There are also plans to redevelop Ballybeen Square when the Enler site has been completed, most probably with private housing, but no exact plans are available as yet. (NIHE, personal communication)

- **GP Surgery:** It has been suggested that space could be allocated for GP services in the centre which is the favoured option for the Enler site. This centre might also provide some complementary services. However, no

consultation has as yet been undertaken with GPs who might be interested in opening a surgery in the centre, and it cannot be guaranteed a GP would be prepared to do this. (NIHE, personal communication; SEBT, personal communication)

- **Relocation of Day Centre:** Development of both the day centre and the Women's Centre is closely linked to the wider Ballybeen regeneration strategy, and in particular the plans for the Enler House site. Under the preferred plan, the day centre would be relocated to new premises in a centre built on the site, where places and service provision would be increased. The old building would be demolished and the land sold, potentially to a private company, as it in itself is of little value. (SEBT, personal communication)

- **Relocation of Shops:** Also under the Enler House site plans, the pharmacy would be relocated to the new centre, and other shops would be offered facilities on the premises. It is intended the shops currently operating at Ballybeen Square will be moved as soon as other suitable premises can be found, in order for the remaining blocks of flats at the Square to be demolished. (NIHE, personal communication)

**Fuel Poverty Strategy, DSD:** The Department for Social Development is scheduled to launch a Fuel Poverty Strategy during 2004, following public consultation in late 2003. The consultation document proposed a target to eradicate fuel poverty by 2016, and indicated increased funding for energy efficiency measures as a key solution. DSD proposes to tackle fuel poverty among vulnerable people first, by 2010, and address the problem through a combination of support programmes, benefits and energy efficiency information. (*Towards a Fuel Poverty Strategy*, October 2003, DSD)

# Transport

“Cycling, walking and the use of public transport instead of cars all promote health by increasing physical activity and social contact”

Health 21: An introduction, *World Health Organisation 1998*

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*This section looks at transport and access issues, such as availability of public transport and usage of private cars. It also looks at opportunities to use bikes or to walk.*

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## **Public Transport**

Ballybeen has a direct bus service from Ballybeen Square to Laganside Bus Centre in Belfast. This service provides 30 journeys to Belfast and 30 return trips daily Monday to Saturday, with 12 services on Sundays. On Sundays, services from Ards to Belfast also stop at Ballybeen Square. The cost of a single journey is £1.10. Bus services are subsidised only for persons over 65 who are entitled to free travel on all bus and rail services in Northern Ireland.

According to Translink figures, a total of just under 41 100 people used the bus services from Ballybeen to Belfast between the end of March and late October 2003 (31.3 – 26.10.2003), while about a quarter fewer, or 31,450 people, used the service from Belfast to Ballybeen. (Translink Operations Division, personal communication)

However, the buses only go to the Square, which leaves large parts of the estate uncovered by public transport. According to Translink figures, four miles out of a total road network on the estate of just under 15 miles is served by public transport (Translink, personal communication).

## **Car Ownership**

Within all three wards, over 60 % of the population has access to one or more cars and vans, but this is still lower than for Northern Ireland as a whole, where 74 % of residents have access to a car or van. The figure is considerably lower than the figure for Castlereagh as a whole at 80 %, but closer to that of Belfast, where 43 % of residents do not have a car or van.

In Enler and Graham's Bridge, 35-37 per cent of residents do not have access to a car, which as noted can make getting around very difficult for this group. In Carrowreagh, over 48 % of residents have access to one car or van, and just under 30 % have access to two cars or vans, while 19 % have no access. (Census 2001)

### Travel to Work

A majority of residents in all ward areas travel to work by car – nearly 60 % in Carrowreagh, 50 % in Enler and 48 % in Graham's Bridge. The second most common form of travel is by bus or coach, or by foot. Travel by bus is the second most common option in Carrowreagh and Enler, with 11 % and 15 % respectively using buses. In Graham's Bridge, however, 14 % walk to work, making this option as popular as taking the bus. In Carrowreagh and Enler, 8.5 % and 12 % respectively get to work on foot. In all wards, 7-8 % travel to work as passengers in a car or van, while 4-5 % are part of car or van pools. Train and cycling are very rare forms of travelling to work.

### Provision for Cycling and Walking

The voluntary group Ballybeen Men in Focus, who run a walking group for men, has developed walking routes in and around the estate, which cover a total of 12 miles separated into five different walks. The group has also produced a map of the trail, which includes guidance to key points or sights on each of the walks. (Walking and Talking leaflet, 2002, Ballybeen Men in Focus)

There are currently plans to develop a woodland area next to Enler river, to make walking and cycling in the area more attractive. This proposal will be discussed further in the Environment section. (Woodland Trust; NIHE, personal communication)

**Table 11: Cars or Vans (%)**

	All house-holds	Percentage of households with:				
		No cars or vans	1 car or van	2 cars or vans	3 cars or vans	4+ cars or vans
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>626718</b>	<b>26.32</b>	<b>44.45</b>	<b>23.60</b>	<b>4.28</b>	<b>1.36</b>
<b>Castlereagh</b>	<b>26887</b>	<b>20.19</b>	<b>47.42</b>	<b>27.81</b>	<b>3.62</b>	<b>0.97</b>
Carrowreagh	1495	19.00	48.23	29.36	2.74	0.67
Enler	1125	37.78	47.20	13.24	1.51	0.27
Graham's Bridge	1190	35.13	47.65	13.95	2.61	0.67

(NISRA, Census 2001)

**Table 13: Most Common Forms of Travel to Work (8)**

	All persons aged 16-74 in employment	Percentage of persons who work mainly at or from home	Percentage of persons aged 16-74 in employment who usually travel to work by:			Passenger in a car or van	Car or van pool	Taxi	Bicycle	On foot
			Bus, minibus or coach	Motorcycle, scooter or moped	Driving a car or van					
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>686644</b>	<b>8.80</b>	<b>6.01</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>55.88</b>	<b>8.98</b>	<b>5.73</b>	<b>1.58</b>	<b>0.87</b>	<b>9.73</b>
Carrowreagh	1963	5.09	11.16	1.43	58.79	7.90	4.99	0.82	0.51	8.56
Enler	1009	4.16	15.06	1.88	50.25	8.33	5.25	1.29	0.69	12.19
Graham's Bridge	1006	5.67	13.72	1.69	48.81	6.76	5.67	1.29	1.59	14.02

(NISRA, Census 2001)

## **Policies and Strategies**

### ***Regional Transportation Strategy***

The Regional Transportation Strategy, launched in 2002, sets out the transport priorities in Northern Ireland over the next ten years. The key priorities are improving public transport, and improving roads under an estimated total budget of £3.5 billion. For the Belfast Metropolitan Area, the plan includes introducing over 500 traffic calming zones, dropping kerbs for disabled access, introducing new buses on both Citybus and Ulsterbus and beginning the development of quality bus corridors on main routes into Belfast, as well as regular road maintenance. In addition, the strategy briefly outlines a proposal to develop the E-way. (*Regional Transportation Strategy*, July 2002, DRD)

### ***Road Safety Strategy 2002-2012***

In 2002, the Department of the Environment (DoE) launched a Road Safety Strategy, which aims to reduce the number of casualties on Northern Ireland's roads. Its key aims are to reduce the number of persons killed or seriously injured by a third by 2012, compared to average levels 1996-2000, and to reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured by 50 %. Strategies for achieving these targets include educating children to behave safely on roads (within the school curriculum) and persuade drivers to take children into consideration, improve pedestrian safety and persuading drivers to avoid excessive speed and not drive when drunk, tired or under the influence of medicines or drugs. (*Road Safety Strategy 2002-2012*, November 2002, Department of the Environment)

### ***Walking Northern Ireland – an Action Plan***

All recent Government programmes related to transport have included a focus on encouraging cycling and walking. The *Walking Northern Ireland – An Action Plan*, a strategy launched late in 2003, sets out a set of actions aimed to encourage people to walk, and make it easier to choose walking. Actions included are installing more controlled pedestrian crossings, improving maintenance of footways, improving siting of bus stops and ensuring adequate street lighting. The plan also aims to improve opportunities for leisure walking, by enhancing and creating new walkways, and raising public awareness. All of these actions are to be implemented across Northern Ireland. (*Walking Northern Ireland – An Action Plan*, December 2003, DRD)

### ***Cycling Strategy***

In 2000, a Cycling Strategy was adopted to improve conditions for cyclists, and encourage more people to cycle. It outlines a range of actions, such as developing more cycle routes, providing traffic calming zones with special measures for cyclists, providing secure cycle parking and improving possibilities to transport bikes on public transport. In addition, the strategy encourages schools and workplaces to develop travel plans, and aims to arrange events to create interest in cycling. (*Northern Ireland Cycling Strategy*, June 2000, DRD)

### **Local Views**

*Unless otherwise stated, the views below have come from the Community Steering Group.*

It is felt that poor access to public transport from parts of Ballybeen in practice involves a degree of social exclusion for older people, of whom many live in more remote areas of the estate. Access to the nearest GP or hospital is also often poor from these areas, in particular for people who do not have access to a car.

Access across areas in east Belfast and Castlereagh by public transport is currently felt to be poor or non-existent, with no services across the area serving Ballybeen, except for three early morning services linking Ballybeen with the Ice Bowl, Forestside and Hydebank, which have one return journey at 5pm. This poses a considerable problem for anyone trying to get to a destination not along the main Newtownards Road, such as the Civic Centre or the Ice Bowl, as the only way of doing this is to first take the bus into Belfast, and then take another bus back out.

Locally, it is felt the bus service to Belfast city centre is relatively good, although residents feel there could be more services on Sundays. However, the distance to public transport is felt to be a problem. It is also noted that residents who work in Belfast city centre must get to the Ulster Hospital and take a bus from there to get to work for 9 am.

There are currently no community transport activities in Ballybeen. Taxis are available locally, but the cost of a fare to the city centre can be prohibitive for some residents.

In a response to the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan consultation, the Castlereagh Reference Group suggested a minibus service linking Ballybeen with local services in Dundonald, to improve access to services in particular for older people. The group also highlighted problems related to poor public transport, including difficulties for potential students to attend evening classes due to poor evening services. (<https://pronet.wsatkins.co.uk/Bmtp/bmtptwo-consultationcastlereagh.htm> 18.11.2003)

For households with two or more cars, which comprise 13 % of residents in Enler and Graham's Bridge, and as noted 30 % of all households in Carrowreagh, the layout of the estate poses a problem, in that it is not built to accommodate two-car households. As a result, there is no space available for parking, and parking has become a major issue. At present, roadsides are increasingly used for parking, which makes walking hazardous, and where kerbs are dropped for wheelchair users, they are typically used as parking spaces as well.

In addition, people from outside Ballybeen working in Belfast have begun to use the area as a car park, and continue by bus into the city centre. This has created further parking difficulties particularly in areas near Newtownards Road or Graham's Bridge Road, and is a significant source of frustration for local residents. Residents also fear this problem will further increase, if the scheduled plans to build the E-way go ahead, and a park-and-ride facility is built next to the estate.

There are currently no designated cycle routes or walking trails in the area, although most streets have pavements for pedestrians and main thoroughfares are traffic calmed with speed bumps. Junctions also largely lack crossings for pedestrians, which makes walking hazardous, in particular for children and older people. (*Ballybeen - Towards a Regeneration Vision*, NIHE 2003)

**All the information below was gathered at a meeting of *Ballybeen Improvement Group* in Millar's Lane Day Centre, on 3 February 2004.**

Local people feel that the bus service to and from Belfast city centre is reasonably efficient, but that there is significant room for improvement in the Sunday service. One person commented that the drivers are very courteous.

It was emphasised that not all parts of the estate have access to a bus, and that this is of particular significance to older people living on the outskirts of the estate. It was felt that access would be improved by completing the Drumadoon Drive – Millar's Lane link road.

It was also suggested that the introduction of an internal transport system – a bus which circulates around the estate during the day – would be very helpful, in particular with the school run.

The idea of the E-way was welcomed, with some reservation (see page 49 for more information on the E-way proposal). These reservations related to

concerns over parking in the estate, which currently is a problem for some residents as the estate was not constructed for significant numbers of private cars. The main concern was that some people might decide to park in Ballybeen and continue their journey with public transport on the E-way, and measures to prevent this type of parking are being called for. However, another concern was that measures to prevent outsiders from parking on the estate, such as yellow lines painted on the road, might also prevent residents of the estate from parking outside their own houses.

## Proposals

**Drumadoon Drive – Millar’s Lane Link Road:** A major transport issue on the estate has been the fact that the main thoroughfare, Drumadoon Drive, does not run through the estate, but stops at Longstone, about 150 metres from Millar’s Lane which runs along the southwestern end of the estate. NIHE has applied to the DoE (NI) Planning Service for planning permission to complete this stretch of road, which it believes will improve circulation within the estate, as well as open up possibilities for improved public transport and relieve dumping in the open space between the road networks. An economic feasibility study of completing the road has been carried out, and it is estimated the cost would be around £50 000. NIHE has applied for this funding from Belfast Regeneration Office. Locally, it is felt completion of the road would improve access within the estate, although there has previously been some local opposition to completion of the road. (NIHE, personal communication)

**National Cycle Network:** To improve opportunities for physical activity and recreation, and to encourage cycling as an alternative to the private car, Roads Service is developing a greenway for cycling and walking along the route of the Old Comber railway.

Work has already started on the sections of pathway between Holywood Arches and Sandown Road, and Knock Road to King's Road. It will be built by DRD Roads Service in consultation with the local Councils and Sustrans, a UK wide charity which promotes sustainable forms of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport. The route is to be part of the National Cycle Network, which Sustrans is developing.

This route will be an extension of a greenway currently completed as far as Bloomfield from Belfast city centre. Roads Service are planning to build a cycle route from Knock Road through Dundonald and Tullycarnet, which will be picked up in Ballybeen along the Enler river. The plan is to extend the route all the way to Comber, and further down the coastline and across to the Ards peninsula. The greenway is due to be finished within the next three-four years, and will include links from local areas within Ballybeen. (Sustrans, personal communication; Roads Service, DRD, personal communication)



**E-Way:** The E-way proposal would create a new route between Newtownards and Belfast along the old Comber railway, improving access to public transport on the key route into Belfast. This proposal originated in a study in 1997, which looked at a variety of transport schemes for the area, and recommended an integrated package of measures. It is included in both the Regional Transportation Strategy and the Regional Development Strategy as a long term project, and an indicative budget of £100 million is mentioned in the Regional Transportation Strategy.

The E-way scheme focuses on a rapid transit public transport system, which according to the Roads Service would make links between Newtownards and Belfast quicker and more convenient. Under the scheme, a new highway would be constructed along the old Comber railway between the East Link Road in Dundonald and Holywood Arches, which would give exclusive use to public transport vehicles, and have park and ride facilities along it. Buses would also be given priority lanes from Holywood Arches to the city centre. Along the new highway, there would be a greenway for cycling and walking, as planned by Sustrans and Roads Service. (Roads Service, DRD, personal communication)

In preliminary plans for the E-way, one of the park and ride facilities has been suggested for Millmount adjacent to Ballybeen. These plans outline a facility including a car park for 600 cars and a frequent public transport service, although no decisions have been taken as yet. (NIHE, personal communication) This plan in particular has caused concern for local residents, who are keen to preserve the river landscape. While residents generally welcome the improved public transport links the E-way would provide, they are also concerned that Ballybeen would become an 'open car park' as people from further afield would park in the area and continue by bus into Belfast. (Community Steering Group)

The Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan, due to be published in draft form in 2004, is anticipated to set out some suggestions for the E-way. (Planning Service, DoE, personal communication) However, if plans are approved the project is unlikely to go ahead before 2008. The final plans are also dependent on the outcome of economic appraisals, and funding being secured. (Roads Service, DRD, personal communication)



# Employment

**“People who are unemployed are almost twice as likely to show signs of a possible mental health problem as those in employment”**

Investing for Health, *Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety 2002*

**“Both the quantity and quality of work have a strong influence on many health-related factors in adulthood, including income, social networks and self esteem”**

Health 21: An Introduction, *World Health Organisation 1998*

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*This section consists of two linked but separate parts. The first part looks at deprivation, unemployment and economic activity, while the second discusses areas of employment and employment categories.*

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## **Economic Activity Issues**

### **Unemployment**

In March 2003, the most recent available statistics, Enler had the highest level of unemployment of the three wards, at 4.5 %. Unemployment in Carrowreagh stood at 3.1 % and in Graham's Bridge at 4.1 %. At the same time, unemployment across Northern Ireland was 5.3%. (*Castlereagh Community Profile, 2003, SEBT*) These figures are not significantly different from unemployment figures in the Census, with the exception that unemployment in Enler had decreased from 5 %, while unemployment in the other ward areas had risen slightly. (Census 2001) More recent figures are not available as yet, although recent developments in the area, such as the closure of the car component industry TK-ECC, may have changed the unemployment situation.

In all wards, unemployment is much higher among men than women – in March 2003, it was 4,5 % among men in Carrowreagh compared to 1.5 % among women. In Enler, 7.8 % of men were unemployed against 0.8 % for women, and in Graham's Bridge 6 % of men were without a job as compared to 1.5 % among women. (*Castlereagh Community Profile, 2003, SEBT*) This is partly due to a general trend among women not to register as unemployed, as well as higher economic inactivity among women (see page 54-55 for more information on economic inactivity among both men and women).

**Table 14: Unemployment - All Persons (Numbers)**

	All persons aged 16-74	Unemployed persons aged 16-74	Unemployed persons aged 16-24 years	Unemployed persons aged 50 and over	Unemployed persons who have never	persons aged 16-74 who are long-term
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>1187079</b>	<b>49098</b>	<b>13130</b>	<b>8526</b>	<b>6164</b>	<b>19841</b>
<b>Castlereagh</b>	<b>47155</b>	<b>1194</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>402</b>
Carrowreagh	<b>2909</b>	97	20	21	5	37
Enler	<b>1861</b>	32	5	5	3	9
Graham's Bridge	<b>1828</b>	36	8	7	-	11

(NISRA, Census 2001)

On one hand, unemployed women may not be seen in statistics, as their partner may claim the benefit on behalf of the couple, at a couple rate. On the other hand, their partner may be working full time (over 24 hours per week, as defined by the Social Security Agency), in which case they are not entitled to income-based Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA) or Income Support. They may be entitled to contribution-based JSA for six months, if they have paid full National Insurance contributions for two years before becoming unemployed, but otherwise the only benefit available is a credit toward pension. (Holywood Road Social Security Agency, personal communication) It is arguable that this system, which also works for unemployed men whose partners are working, in effect means a number of unemployed people are obscured in statistics.

### ***Jobseekers' Allowance***

The most recent figures of persons claiming Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA) available from the Department of Social Development (DSD) are from May 2003. These figures also detail whether the claimant is a sole person, claims for a couple or has a family. However, these are much lower than the unemployment statistics, which suggests that many unemployed people do not receive JSA. This benefit is, in the contribution-based format, paid for a limited time of 182 days following redundancy, and is linked to National Insurance contributions paid in previous employment. (See Glossary on page 117 for criteria of JSA entitlement)

In July 2003, a total of 62 people claimed JSA in Carrowreagh, while the figure for Enler was 63 and for Graham's Bridge 56. The vast majority of claimants were sole persons, with less than ten claimants in each ward declaring a partner or family. These figures were almost exactly the same as details provided by DSD for February 2003. (DSD 2003, personal communication)

### **Long term unemployment**

A significant proportion of unemployment in Ballybeen tends to be long term. According to the Census, nearly 40 % of those unemployed had been without a job for over a year (the definition of long term unemployment). The *East*

*Belfast Statement of Need* also notes that a larger proportion of those unemployed are over 50 in greater east Belfast – 20 % as compared to 16 % in north Belfast and 14 % in south and west Belfast. (*East Belfast Statement of Need*, March 2003, Greater East Belfast Partnership) Meanwhile, 10 people on the estate stated in the last Census that they had never worked. (Census 2001)

### **Training and Employment for Young People**

As has been indicated above, there is a tradition of skilled trade in Ballybeen, while relatively few people have gone on into higher formal education. This trend is still prevalent, despite fewer employment opportunities – possibly at least in part due to long formed habits. Locally, it is stated a majority of school leavers go into the Jobskills or Modern Apprenticeships programmes. Under these schemes, young people receive training on the job, while they also undertake studies for an NVQ qualification at a further education college. The schemes last 2-4 years.

### **Economically Inactive Population**

Persons of working age (16-74 years) who are not in employment or actively seeking work are classified as economically inactive. In total, 29 % of residents in Carrowreagh, 40 % of Enler residents and 41 % of Graham's Bridge residents were categorised as economically inactive in the last Census. The most common reason for economic inactivity was retirement, followed by permanent illness or disability. Economic inactivity is, however, considerably higher among women than men. (Census 2001)

### ***Economic Inactivity among Women***

While a relatively low proportion of women are registered as unemployed, this does not reflect the fact that nearly half of all women of working age (16-74) in Ballybeen are outside the economic sphere altogether. In the Census, more women than men were categorised as economically inactive, with 47.92 % of 16-74 year old women in Enler, 50.22 % in Graham's Bridge and 39.40 % in Carrowreagh outside the economic domain. (Census 2001)

The most common reason among women for being economically inactive was retirement. This indicates that the area has a comparatively high proportion of women over 60, and Census figures show that 24 % of women in Graham's Bridge are retired. The figure is twice that of Northern Ireland as a whole, and also considerably higher than in Castlereagh, where 16 % of residents are retired women. In Enler, 16 % of women are retired, while the figure in Carrowreagh, which has a younger population, is just under 10 %. In Carrowreagh, the most common reason for economic inactivity is looking after family.

Generally, however, the proportion of retired women in the population tends to be higher than the proportion of retired men, as women live longer. Retirement age for women is also lower than for men – 60 as opposed to 65. As statistics are calculated for persons aged 16-74, the recording method also results in a higher proportion of retired women in statistics.

**Table 15: Female Economic Activity (%)**

	All females aged 16-74	Percentage of females aged 16-74:									
		Economically active					Economically inactive				
		Employment		Self-employed	Unemployed	Full-time student	Retired	Student	Looking after home/family	Sick/disabled	Permanently sick/disabled
		Full Time	Part Time								
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>605847</b>	<b>28.83</b>	<b>16.64</b>	<b>3.18</b>	<b>2.66</b>	<b>2.67</b>	<b>12.69</b>	<b>6.06</b>	<b>13.17</b>	<b>8.97</b>	<b>5.11</b>
<b>Castlereagh</b>	<b>24629</b>	<b>34.18</b>	<b>19.46</b>	<b>2.99</b>	<b>1.62</b>	<b>2.35</b>	<b>16.12</b>	<b>3.69</b>	<b>9.57</b>	<b>6.91</b>	<b>3.10</b>
Carrowreagh	1491	36.55	20.99	1.81	2.08	2.62	9.52	3.09	10.26	10.13	2.95
Enler	983	26.75	19.43	1.42	2.54	2.24	16.07	2.14	13.53	12.31	3.56
Graham's Bridge	924	25.97	17.86	2.06	2.16	1.73	23.92	2.06	10.93	9.52	3.79

(NISRA, Census 2001)

Among women of all ages, economic inactivity is higher than in Northern Ireland on average, where 46 % of women are economically inactive. This can be partly explained by the comparatively high proportion of retired women in the area, but there are several reasons for economic inactivity.

'Looking after home/family' was the second most common reason for being economically inactive, while a slightly smaller number were permanently sick or disabled. These proportions were roughly the same as for Northern Ireland overall, as can be seen in Table 15. (Census 2001)

### ***Economic Inactivity among Men***

Among men economic inactivity was 21.65 % in Carrowreagh, 32.35 % in Enler and 31.32 % in Graham's Bridge. In Northern Ireland as a whole, 29.11 % of men were classified as economically inactive in the Census 2001. Also among men, retirement was the most common reason, but the percentage of retired men is lower than that of retired women in all wards. In contrast to women, permanent illness or disability was the second most common reason among men for being outside the economy, with this being the most common reason in Enler. Compared to the number of residents, Carrowreagh also has a higher total proportion of persons who are permanently sick or people with disabilities than other wards. (Census 2001)

It can be noted that a larger proportion of men in the area work full time than in Northern Ireland as a whole, but as ward areas are larger than Ballybeen estate, it is again difficult to establish an accurate figure for the estate as a whole and local parts of it. In addition to the unemployment figures, however, it can be noted that according to enumeration level data, or local area data, on the Noble index, several areas show high deprivation in terms of employment.

**Table 16: Male Economic Activity (%)**

	All males aged 16-74	Percentage of males aged 16-74:									
		Economically active					Economically inactive				
		Empl- yees	Self Employed	Unemploy ed	Full time student	Retired	Student	home/farm after	Looking Disabled	Permane ntly sick/ Disab	Other
Full time	Part time										
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>581232</b>	<b>46.64</b>	<b>2.95</b>	<b>13.58</b>	<b>5.67</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>9.19</b>	<b>5.32</b>	<b>1.44</b>	<b>9.71</b>	<b>3.45</b>
<b>Castlereagh</b>	<b>22526</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>10.12</b>	<b>3.53</b>	<b>2.16</b>	<b>12.52</b>	<b>3.87</b>	<b>0.79</b>	<b>7.08</b>	<b>2.02</b>
Carrowreagh	1418	60.37	1.83	9.24	4.65	2.26	8.18	2.40	0.85	8.53	1.69
Enler	878	48.63	2.73	5.92	7.74	2.62	10.82	3.99	1.37	13.21	2.96
Graham's Bridge	904	50.11	2.99	7.85	5.75	1.99	15.82	2.77	1.11	9.85	1.77

(NISRA, Census 2001)

### Income Support

Income Support is the main benefit available to people who are long term unemployed or economically inactive. Figures from July 2003 show that the highest number of claimants in Ballybeen was to be found in Enler, followed by Carrowreagh. These figures also show whether the claimant is a sole person or has a partner or family, and demonstrate that a significant proportion of claimants are lone parents. However, the number of persons in receipt of Income Support, in comparison to total population, is relatively low in all wards. (See Glossary on page 117 for criteria of entitlement to Income Support)

In July 2003, a total of 272 persons received Income Support in Carrowreagh, of whom 76 had a family (54 lone parents). In Enler, 330 persons were in receipt of Income Support, of whom 108 had families (90 lone parents). In Graham's Bridge, the figure was 267 claimants, of whom 52 had families (42 lone parents). These figures correspond to 7 % of residents in Carrowreagh, 12 % in Enler and 11 % in Graham's Bridge. A total of 455 children in the three ward areas lived in families in receipt of Income Support. Of these children, 202 lived in Enler, 148 in Carrowreagh and 85 in Graham's Bridge.

Comparison with figures for February 2003 shows that the number of claimants has increased with 10-20 persons in Enler and Graham's Bridge, while there has been a small decrease in Carrowreagh. These figures also suggest that the majority of Income Support claimants are women, with a particularly high proportion over 65. (Geographical Data on Social Security Benefits, 2003, DSD)

Statistics available also show that a significant proportion of older people in Ballybeen are at least partly reliant on benefits. In Carrowreagh, 460 persons of retirable age were on one or more of six key benefits in August 2002: Income Support, Retirement Pension, Disability Living Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance, Attendance Allowance or Incapacity Benefit. This means that in total 87 % of people over 60 were on one or more benefits,

while the figure in Enler was 86 % (481 people over 60 on benefit). In Graham's Bridge, 80 % of persons over 60 (605 people) were in receipt of one or more benefits. (Geographical Data on Social Security Benefits, 2003, DSD) This further emphasises the cost and access problems older people may face when attempting to access services, as travelling may be prohibitively expensive for some.

## Employment Choices

### Main Areas of Employment

The main industries of employment in Ballybeen are manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles, health and social care and public administration and defence. Together, these industries account for nearly 60 % of employment in all wards. There is a fairly even spread across these industries, with each employing 14-17 % of the population.

**Table 17: Main Industries of Employment – All Persons (%)**

	All persons aged 16-74 in employment	Manufacturing	Mining quarrying, construction	Motor vehicles repair of	Wholesale & retail trade, repair of	Hotels and catering	Storage, communication	Transport, storage, communication	Financial intermediation	Business activities	Real estate, renting and business	Public administration and defence	Education	Health and social work
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>686644</b>	<b>14.18</b>	<b>9.37</b>	<b>16.71</b>	<b>4.52</b>	<b>5.42</b>	<b>2.97</b>	<b>7.84</b>	<b>9.32</b>	<b>8.81</b>	<b>12.74</b>			
<b>Castlereagh</b>	<b>30244</b>	<b>11.36</b>	<b>5.22</b>	<b>15.99</b>	<b>3.67</b>	<b>5.59</b>	<b>5.08</b>	<b>10.20</b>	<b>11.55</b>	<b>9.21</b>	<b>15.79</b>			
Carrowreagh	1963	15.28	5.09	14.67	4.43	6.01	5.50	8.71	13.40	5.96	14.31			
Enler	1009	16.65	6.84	18.53	3.47	5.15	3.57	7.43	8.82	6.54	16.85			
Graham's Bridge	1005	16.62	6.37	16.32	4.08	5.27	4.18	7.86	9.55	5.67	16.12			

(NISRA, Census 2001)

For men, the dominating industries are manufacturing (employing around 25 % of men in each ward) and wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles. Meanwhile, the main areas of employment for women are health and social care (employing 30 % of women) and trade, with public administration a close third.

The main industries have not changed drastically since 1991. In the 1991 Census, which used a somewhat different categorising system, the main industries were manufacturing, craft and related services, clerical and secretarial occupations and 'other services' such as trade (other than distribution, hotels and catering, repairs, transport and communication and banking and finance occupations). (Census 2001; Census 1991)



Traditionally, manufacturing industries have been the major employers particularly of men in the estate. Major employers have been Harland & Wolff, Shorts and Rolls Royce, with smaller industries also important employers. For women in the health and social care sector, Ulster Hospital remains one of the major employers. Today, most people work outside their local area, with many working in Belfast city centre. Nevertheless, manufacturing has remained the major field of employment for a significant proportion of men, who have found work in smaller industries or further away from Ballybeen.

The decline of the manufacturing sector in Northern Ireland has had a major impact on Ballybeen, which became particularly visible when Rolls Royce closed in the 1980s. It is reported that the closure left considerable unemployment and insecurity in the area, as Rolls Royce had been the main employer of Ballybeen residents. The trend has been for persons made redundant from manufacturing to take up employment in the service sector, which is the growing employment sector in the area. However, contracts are often short term and do not remove the insecurity of employment. These jobs may also not utilise all the skills of the employee, which may result in additional stress and frustration.

### ***Closure of TK-ECC plant***

The Rolls Royce site was taken over in 1988 by TK-ECC, a car component industry, which soon became the biggest single employer of Ballybeen residents. However, in February 2004 the plant announced that it was to close in March 2004, following hurried negotiations. Over 500 people, including operatives as well as management, were made redundant through the closure which was seen as a major blow to the manufacturing sector in Northern Ireland overall.

The reason cited for the closure of the industry, owned by the Japanese Takata Corporation, was that the plant had been making a loss for the past two years. In the months prior to the closure, the plant had scaled down and laid off staff following a decline in orders. (Belfast Telegraph 20.2.04) In connection with the closure, it was reported that the funding body Invest Northern Ireland, which had worked with TK-ECC, would seek the return of £800 000 provided in grants to TK-ECC since 1999. Invest NI had been working closely with the industry, and had made an offer of further financial support in February. (Belfast Telegraph 26.2.04).

At the time of the closure, it was reported that Invest NI would work with the Department of Employment and Learning as well as other agencies, to provide counselling for staff made redundant, and assist them in accessing retraining or self employment. (DETI press release 20.2.04) A key element of this was a week long outplacement at the plant, which took place 8 March – 12 March. The essential function of this outplacement was to provide employees with information on how to claim benefits, apply for training or other jobs, or start a business.

Later it was also reported that the pension fund for employees had a shortfall of £40 million. This was said to mean that many staff would receive a pension of less than half the amount they had expected. The trade union Amicus stated that it would put pressure on car manufacturers in business with the Takata Corporation. (Belfast Telegraph 22.3.04)

A significant proportion of TK-ECC employees were from Ballybeen, and the closure is expected to have a major impact on the estate. Local community groups have held emergency meetings to discuss the closure and find ways of assisting those affected. Residents have voiced serious concerns about the closure, which they feel will have major impacts on Ballybeen as a whole, as well as other local business and industry.

### Occupation Groups

Across Ballybeen, the dominating occupation group is administrative and secretarial occupations, followed by elementary and skilled trades and process, plant, machine and other operatives (See Glossary on page 117 for an outline of occupations belonging to each category).

**Table 18: Occupation Groups – All Persons**

	All persons aged 16-74 in employment	Percentage of persons aged 16-74 in employment working in:								
		Managers and senior officials	Professional occupations	Associate professional and technical occupations	Administrative and secretarial occupations	Skilled trades occupations	Personnel service occupations	Customer service occupations	Sales and customer service operatives	Process, plant and machine operatives
Northern Ireland	686644	10.60	10.56	12.53	14.58	15.57	6.67	7.33	10.38	11.79
Castlereagh	30244	12.70	14.11	14.90	18.25	10.12	6.49	7.08	6.86	9.49
Carrowreagh	1963	11.21	8.56	12.63	19.66	11.56	6.98	6.16	9.48	13.75
Enler	1009	7.53	4.66	9.32	14.97	13.78	9.51	8.23	12.19	19.82
Graham's Bridge	1005	8.56	6.07	11.24	18.91	14.53	8.06	6.07	10.05	16.52

(NISRA, Census 2001)

Among men, skilled trades occupations dominate (around 25%), with elementary occupations, such as labouring, (18 %, 12% in Carrowreagh) and different operatives (14 %, 19% in Enler) second and third. The fourth leading occupation group, in contrast, is managers and senior officials at 10-13 %. However, it is possible that these statistics reflect the more affluent areas surrounding Ballybeen, while the proportions for the estate alone would be different.

For women, the leading occupation group is very clearly administrative and secretarial occupations (around 30 %), followed by personal service occupations (14%, 17 % in Enler) and associate professional and technical occupations (11 %, 15% in Graham's Bridge). The exception to this is Enler, where elementary occupations – which include jobs in the catering industry and bar work as well as cleaning jobs – is the dominating group, incorporating 22 % of women living in the ward. (Census 2001)

## **Working Hours**

According to Census statistics, men in Ballybeen work an average of 40 hours a week (Carrowreagh 41 h, Enler 40 h, Graham's Bridge 40 h), while women work around 31 hours a week (Carrowreagh 32 h, Enler 30.6 h, Graham's Bridge 31 h). This means that both men and women on the estate work slightly shorter hours than the Northern Ireland average, which in 2001 was 42 hours per week for men and 32 hours per week for women.

It is relatively common for women to work part time – about 30 % of women in all three wards work 16-30 hours per week, and another 30 % 31-37 hours per week. Across Northern Ireland, 28 % of women work 16-30 hours, while 25 % work 31-37 hours. On the other hand, approximately 30 % of women in the area work 38-48 hours per week, and a small group of 2.5-5 % work over 49 hours. This proportion is the same as among women across Northern Ireland.

Meanwhile, around 55 % of men in all wards work a 38-48 hour week. In total 13 – 17 % work 49 hours per week or more, while around 20 % work 31-37 hours per week. Among men in the area, 4-5 % work part time, or 16-30 hours per week. This compares to 56 % of men across Northern Ireland working 38-48 hours per week, 19 % working over 49 hours and 15 % working 31-37 hours. On average 6 % of men in the region as a whole work 16-30 hour weeks. (Census 2001)

## **Service Provision**

### ***Training Services for Women***

Ballybeen Women's Centre provides a range of courses for women seeking to enhance their skills or update skills before returning to employment. These courses include accredited, introductory IT courses, a text processing Level 1 course and the European Computer Driving Licence. The Centre also arranges GCSE courses. These will be discussed further under Education. (Ballybeen Women's Centre, personal communication)

### ***JobCentre provision***

The East Belfast JobCentre – which is based at Gloucester House in Belfast city centre - runs a number of national programmes for jobseekers, including general training courses, Bridge to Employment, New Deal and WorkTrack.

The **Bridge to Employment** programme is open to people receiving Jobseekers' Allowance, regardless of their experience, and provides training for a specific job in a specific company. The jobs are advertised through the JobCentre, in local press and in local community organisations, and can be for a range of companies. The JobCentre arranges the training, and if the jobseeker successfully completes it, he or she will be interviewed for the position. During the training, the jobseeker receives JSA as normal, and is also entitled to support with travel expenses.

**New Deal** is a programme intended to support unemployed people to find work, and has two different versions for those aged 18-24 and those aged 25+. All unemployed persons are, in principle, required to undertake this programme after a certain period of unemployment.

All 18-24 year olds who have been unemployed for at least six months are required to participate in the programme, which begins with a 'Gateway' period when the jobseeker receives personal support to find employment and can participate in short courses to improve skills. This is followed by subsidised full or part time employment for at least six months, or an education option including Essential Skills Training for those in need of more basic training. For those still unemployed at the end of the programme, a follow-through period, similar to the 'Gateway', is offered.

The 25+ programme is largely similar, except in that jobseekers must be unemployed for at least 18 months before they are required to participate. The programme differs in that those who do not find employment or take up education after the 'Gateway' period are required to take a 20 week Preparation for Employment programme, which consists of work placements and short training courses. New Deal is also available for Lone Parents, partners of JSA claimants and musicians, and in a voluntary version for people with disabilities.

**WorkTrack** is a temporary employment scheme aimed at unemployed people who cannot find employment through New Deal. It is open to both JSA claimants and people who do not receive JSA but have been unemployed for at least 26 weeks. Under WorkTrack, participants are assisted to identify their career aspirations, and then placed in a workplace for 26 weeks, to gain experience. ([www.delni.gov.uk](http://www.delni.gov.uk) 12.01.04)

### ***Training for Work***

Enterprise Ulster, a statutory body providing training for employment, runs a programme known as Training for Work across Northern Ireland. It has recently been in discussion with Ballybeen Women's Centre, to examine opportunities to provide the programme locally. This programme is open to all unemployed people – people on Income Support or no benefits as well as JSA claimants – and also to people working part time less than 10 hours a week. Its aim is to improve skills and support re-entry onto the labour market.

Under the scheme, which runs over 26 weeks, participants get work experience in a number of areas and training in their chosen vocation, and can also train for a recognised qualification. Participants receive a training allowance and support with travel, childcare and training course costs. (Enterprise Ulster, personal communication)

## Local Views

*Unless otherwise stated, the views below have come from the Community Steering Group.*

It is reported that the closure of TK-ECC has resulted in significant uncertainty in Ballybeen. Uncertainty for the future is currently seen as a major cause of stress in the area.

Locally, residents feel there has traditionally been a strong reliance on a few key employers and industries, which typically have employed a significant proportion of Ballybeen residents. This is seen as a problem, particularly in the current decline of manufacturing. It is also felt to be a problem that people in these industries may lack skills required for other jobs, and have few opportunities to develop other skills.

Youth unemployment is also felt to be a problem in the area, and there is a permanent group of long term unemployed young people. Many others experience periods of unemployment between jobs, as young people who leave school with few or no qualifications tend to face a reality of often short term, insecure employment. This insecurity can create stress, which as discussed previously can manifest itself as drink problems and anti-social behaviour.

Ulster Hospital, the single biggest employer in the area, is also a main employer for young people without qualifications, who often can get work as domestic assistants, or cleaners. Another big employer of young people locally is Brunchbox, a sandwich making enterprise at nearby Castlereagh Enterprise Park, which also employs 16-18 year olds. However, these jobs are typically part time and felt to offer low pay, with no prospects for the future.

It has been reported locally that young people on the Modern Apprenticeships, which are very popular in the area, are required to find their own placement. If they do not find one, the programme is not open to them as it is intended for people in employment. This has resulted in a significant problem for a group of 16-18 year olds, who have not found employment for the programme. There are few other job opportunities for them locally, and they are not entitled to benefits. It is reported these young people are either hanging around, or reliant on short term jobs.

In some cases, it is also reported employers do not continue contracts for 18 year olds, as they are entitled to a higher wage than younger workers.

Locally, it is felt there is an urgent need for better training provision for young people in Ballybeen, in particular for training on the job and opportunities for progression. Until the mid-1990s, Dundonald Training Centre provided apprenticeships and training in occupations such as bricklaying and plastering, but it was closed despite significant protest from local residents and students. It is felt provision particularly in vocational training has become poorer since the closure.

In the past, young men who wanted a different career path joined the army, but numbers have now decreased, although the army still is a career option for some.

**All the information below was gathered at a meeting of *Ballybeen Improvement Group* in Millar's Lane Day Centre, on 3 February 2004.**

It was felt that there were many unemployed young people on the estate, both male and female, as well as a lot of long-term unemployment. There was also felt to have been an increase in unemployment over the past few years, which was in part attributed to TK-ECC downsizing. In recent years, the industry concentrated on assembling parts on the site, but no longer manufactured new parts.

People also felt that transport had a bearing on unemployment, as people need to walk to the Ulster Hospital to get a bus which will bring them into Belfast city centre in time to start work for 9am. It was also suggested that there were a number of potential jobs at Forestside and Knockbracken, but that the poor transport service in this direction from Ballybeen prevented people from accessing these jobs.

### **Proposals**

**The Bytes Project:** The Bytes Project, based at one of the units at the Ballyoran Centre, works with young unemployed people aged 16-25 to enhance their skills and confidence. The activities are centred around IT, and the unit is a drop-in centre open four days a week for all young unemployed people. Currently, it has a throughput of around 40 people per month. The project also regularly arranges courses of 6-8 weeks focusing on a special topic, related to personal development. There are currently plans to arrange two courses early in 2004, one called Body Beautiful and including issues around the body, body language and sexual health, and another around single identity. (Bytes Project, personal communication)

# Environment

**“A healthy environment is an important determinant of health and wellbeing. The physical environmental factors which can affect health directly and indirectly include air quality, water quality, environments which contribute to the risk of accident, injury or death”**

Investing for Health, *Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety 2002*

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*This section provides a brief introduction to environmental issues in Ballybeen. The topics discussed are issues which have an impact on human health, such as water and air quality.*

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## **Open Space**

Ballybeen is characterised by areas of open space, scattered around the estate in a way that makes it relatively open and spacious, in comparison to other similar estates. These areas vary in size, but are typically spaces left over after construction or demolition, and at present largely grassland. In some areas, trees or shrubs have been planted to create boundaries as well as to form aesthetic focal points.

A larger, continuous area of open space stretches from Dungoyne Park, between Craigleith Drive and Brooklands Road all the way to the Upper Newtownards Road, covering a total area of 5 hectares or 12.5 acres. Within this area there is a playing field and a playground, but otherwise it is largely grassland. However, Castlereagh Borough Council is planning to construct a new activity centre on part of this space, on a site adjacent to the Upper Newtownards Road. This proposal will be discussed further under the Leisure Services and Recreation section. (*Castlereagh Borough Council Corporate Plan, 2001, Castlereagh Borough Council*)

To the southeast, along the boundary of the estate, there is open space in a natural state along the flood plains of Enler River. Overlooking the estate from hill slopes, the area provides a view for local residents, but most of this land has been reserved for a private housing development in Millmount. (NIHE, personal communication)

Residents typically rate the open character of the estate as a positive feature, and access to walks in the nearby countryside was also listed as a positive feature in an assessment by residents in Ballyoran in 1999. (*Profile and Participatory Appraisal Project, Ballyoran Training & Support Group 1999*)

## **Protected areas**

Within Ballybeen, there are two historic monuments scheduled for protection, the Long Stone, and a mound of raised stones, as yet unnamed, which may be a burial ground from early Christian times. Just outside the estate, in the Greengraves area, is a dolmen, or pile of stones, which dates from around 3000 BC. This site is known as the Kempe Stone, and it is evidently the oldest prehistoric remain of its kind in the region.

([http://www.ehsni.gov.uk/built/mbr/monuments\\_database/mons.asp](http://www.ehsni.gov.uk/built/mbr/monuments_database/mons.asp) 26.11.03)

## **Water Quality**

One river, Enler river, flows through the southern part of the area. On the basis of monitoring carried out by the Environment and Heritage Service (DoE), the water in the river is classified as fair quality, considering biological and chemical indicators. This classification system has six categories, from 'Very Good Quality' to 'Bad Quality', where fair quality comes in as the fourth best. There has been a decline in water quality in Enler River over the last five years, from good quality to fairly good to fair, with a drop in the last year. (Environment and Heritage Service, DoE, personal communication)

The river was culverted (covered) in the mid-1990s, to deal with a rat infestation which now has been largely brought under control.

## **Drinking Water Quality**

Water supplied for domestic or food production purposes must meet the standards contained in the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (NI) 2002.

Drinking water quality at treatment plants, service reservoirs and at customer taps is regularly monitored and tested by Water Service. In 2002 Water Service carried out 103,722 water quality tests in Northern Ireland, and 99.12% of these tests complied with the regulatory standards.

When water quality is analysed and fails a test standard it does not necessarily mean that the water is unfit to drink. Sometimes the failure is caused by the householder's own plumbing system, whilst the water in the mains and in neighbouring properties is good. Even a dirty tap can cause a test failure.

Where a standard has not been met, appropriate immediate investigation and remedial action is undertaken by Water Service to ensure that the water supply does not present any health risk.



Drinking water in the Ballybeen area comes from surface water reservoirs in the Mourne Mountains. The parameter causing the most test failures in Northern Ireland, including the Ballybeen area, is trihalomethanes. Trihalomethanes are by-products of the reaction between organic material in the water and chlorine, which is used to disinfect the water. Water Service has an investment programme designed to reduce the levels of trihalomethanes. (Water Service NI, DRD, personal communication)

Drinking water quality is set to improve within the next year, as Water Service is renewing the treatment works in the Mournes. A new treatment plant, costing £23 million, which will supply drinking water to the Ballybeen area, is currently being built, with construction due for completion before the end of 2004. The new process will remove more organic matter from the water than at present, and reduce the amount of side products created when chlorine is added to the water. (Water Service NI, DRD, personal communication)

### **Waste Water**

Waste water from the area is treated at the Belfast and Kinnegar waste water treatment plants. No waste water is discharged into waterways in the vicinity of the estate. (Water Service NI, DRD, personal communication)

### **Air Quality**

Castlereagh Borough Council was reviewing local air quality during winter 2003 and spring 2004, and a report was scheduled by June 2004. A first stage review was carried out in 2000, gathering and assessing information on local air quality. This review showed that four pollutants risked exceeding guidelines: carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and PM<sub>10</sub>, or small particles. All of these are harmful to human health, and can cause respiratory problems.

All of the above pollutants except particles stem largely from burning of fossil fuels, in particular motor transport. Particles, in turn, can be either natural such as pollen, or man-made such as dust from road use or construction work. Therefore, the largest concentrations of pollution can be expected near major roads, which in the Ballybeen area include Upper Newtownards Road. Incinerators, such as the hospital incinerator at Ulster Hospital, can also emit considerable amounts of carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide.

According to the Environmental Health Department at Castlereagh Borough Council, the main source of air pollution in Ballybeen is solid fuels used for heating. Over recent years, however, heating systems have been upgraded to other types or smokeless solid fuels, which has reduced the number of households using traditional solid fuels, and reduced pollution to some degree. The second main pollutant is traffic, with around 28 000 cars currently using Upper Newtownards Road daily. Ballybeen does, nevertheless, benefit from the open character of the estate, as it helps disperse pollutants. On the contrary, neighbouring Dundonald village is in a valley, which traps pollutants and causes overall poorer air quality. (*First Stage Review and Assessment of Local Air Quality*, Castlereagh Borough Council 2000; Castlereagh Borough Council, personal communication)

## **Radon**

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas formed as a result of the radioactive decay of uranium, which is present to some extent in all rocks and soils, but amounts vary from place to place. Radon rises from the soil into the air, and outdoors, is diluted into the air so that the risk it poses is negligible. Where it enters buildings, the levels can vary from property to property and even between neighbouring dwellings. Radon can build up in homes and, at high concentrations, leads to an increased risk of lung cancer. Smokers who spend long periods of time in a radon affected house are at an increased risk.

Radon dominates the radioactive dose to the population contributing about 50% of the dose at the average level in houses. In Castlereagh, with the exception of Carryduff, radon levels are low and not considered a health hazard. ([www.ehsni.gov.uk/environment/radiation/radon.shtml](http://www.ehsni.gov.uk/environment/radiation/radon.shtml), 5.12.2003).

Regarding other types of radiation, there are no mobile phone masts or other sources of non-ionising radiation in the area.

## **Noise**

Noise can be very stressful and harmful to human health. In Ballybeen, there is no major source of noise, except domestic noise and ambient noise from Upper Newtownards Road. According to the Environmental Health Department of Castlereagh Borough Council, the department receives relatively few complaints of noise, which tend to be about domestic sources such as dogs and loud music. (Castlereagh Borough Council, personal communication)

## **Waste and Recycling**

Castlereagh Borough Council arranges a weekly refuse collection through a wheelie bin system. In 2000, a study of waste arisings in households across the borough was carried out, which showed that the average household produces around 18 kilograms of waste per week. Around a third of this is kitchen waste, with newspapers and other paper as well as garden waste the second major types of waste. Together these types of waste account for around half of all household waste, with the rest a mixture of glass, nappies, cardboard, plastic bottles and other packaging. (*The Northern Ireland Household Waste Characterisation Study 2000*)

There is currently no recycling facility in Ballybeen. The closest one is located at Safeway in Dundonald village about a mile away, although it only accepts glass and cans, as does a recycling facility at Comber Road. There is no facility that accepts paper or plastic bottles nearby. (Castlereagh Borough Council)

## **Policies and Strategies**

### ***Shaping Our Future***

The Regional Development Strategy, *Shaping Our Future*, is the overarching plan setting out future development in Northern Ireland. It will inform all development activity until 2025, to balance economic, social and environmental considerations. For the Belfast Metropolitan Area, the strategy aims to emphasise the re-use of land for buildings and housing, support increased housing need, protect and enhance areas of open space, and improve public transport. The strategy also mentions development of the E-way. Specifically for Castlereagh, the plan aims to protect its environmental setting, but it also states the district should be supported as an important centre within the Belfast Metropolitan Area. (*Shaping Our Future – Regional Development Strategy 2025*, September 2001, DRD)

### **Local Views**

*Unless otherwise stated, the views below have come from the Community Steering Group.*

Enler river lies relatively high, and has occasionally flooded Aaron House and other properties in the Ballyoran area. The river was culverted (covered) in the mid-1990s to remove a rat infestation near the river, which was caused as the river often was blocked by various objects young people had thrown into it. The rat problem has now been largely controlled, but local residents report that the river still is blocked by objects thrown into it and relatively unpleasant. It is reported the Department of the Environment operates a maintenance programme under which the river is regularly unblocked and cleared, but residents would be keen to have formal flood protection measures implemented.

While the rat infestation at Enler river now has been brought under control, locally it is reported that rats and mice still are a problem in parts of Ballybeen. The problem is particularly prevalent in areas where rubbish is dumped along streets, which is also felt to be a problem in certain parts of the estate.

Locally, it is felt loud music can be a considerable nuisance in several parts of the estate.

While the E-way proposal generally has been welcomed by Ballybeen residents, there is concern over how it will affect nature and archaeological heritage in the area.

## Proposals

### Built Environment

**Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan, Planning Service, Department of the Environment:** Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan, which is due to be published in draft form in 2004, will lay out a number of policies and proposals for the Belfast Metropolitan area, which covers the district council areas of Belfast, Castlereagh, Carrickfergus, Lisburn, North Down and Newtownabbey. For example, policies and proposals included will relate to: natural heritage and nature conservation, built heritage (e.g. the designation of areas of townscape character which need to be protected), identifying land to be zoned for employment and housing purposes, and identifying regional, town and district centres. The Plan will also include policies and proposals relating to transportation.

Some of the proposals may impact on Ballybeen. For example, policies and proposals for Dundonald Village might have an impact on the shops and services available to residents of Ballybeen, as well as potentially having an impact on traffic and parking in the area, while any policies which aim to protect countryside and open space, might also have an impact on the countryside area surrounding Ballybeen. Whether or not there is zoning of land for employment purposes in an area accessible for residents of Ballybeen might also have an impact. (DoE Planning Service, personal communication)

**Water Reform:** Over 99% of the population of Northern Ireland are connected to the public water supply. Around 83% of households are also served by the public sewerage system. To maintain and develop this service, the Northern Ireland Office states that £3 billion must be invested in Northern Ireland's infrastructure over the next 20 years. At present, water and sewerage services are paid for using a share of public funds and charges to business customers. The situation is different in other parts of the United Kingdom, where households pay a Council Tax bill and water/sewerage charges per household, at an average cost of £1,032 per year. In Northern Ireland, in contrast, the average household rates bill is £445. To fund investment in water and sewerage services, it is planned to introduce charges before the end of the decade.

The reform also involves restructuring of the Water Service Northern Ireland, and strengthening the voice of the consumer in the management of water and sewerage services. The most likely option for restructuring is some kind of public company, as responses to the initial consultation in 2003 rejected privatisation. The Northern Ireland Office ruled this option out, following analysis of the consultation responses.

Three options for charging were outlined in the initial consultation in 2003.

### **1) Flat charge applied to all households**

This option would introduce a single charge for all households. It has been criticised as it does not take into account the ability to pay, nor provide any incentives to reduce consumption. It was also rejected by respondents to the consultation on water charging, and has since been ruled out by the Northern Ireland Office.

### **2) Charges based on value of property**

Under this option, charges would be based either on capital or rental value of a property. It would, therefore, use the same calculation basis as the new system for household rates, which would provide advantages in billing and administration. It does not, however, take into account that a large proportion of the cost of providing water and sewerage services is fixed, and is not necessarily higher for larger or higher valued properties.

### **3) Combination of fixed and variable charge**

This option involves a fixed element which would be the same for all households, and a variable element, which would be related to the value of property. Following review of consultation responses, it is likely that charges will be based on the value of property in some format.

Responses to the consultation showed that a majority rejected charging, but saw metering as the fairest option. It is therefore still included as a possible option, but only for certain groups who are likely to pay either too much or too little for their consumption. Universal metering has been ruled out as too costly and time consuming to implement at this point.

A definite proposal outlining the planned charging system will be issued for consultation during spring 2004. Charges will be phased in before 2010.

*(The Reform of Water and Sewerage Services in Northern Ireland – a consultation document, March 2003, Northern Ireland Office; DRD, personal communication)*

It can be argued that all of the water charging options are potentially placing an undue burden on those least able to pay. None of the systems proposed are without risk of negative impact, on the most disadvantaged in society.

*(Briefing paper on the proposal to introduce water charges in Northern Ireland, NICVA 2003)*

## **Natural Environment**

**EU Freshwater Fish Directive:** There are plans to include Enler river in designated waters under the EU Freshwater Fish Directive, which will extend protection of lakes, rivers and canals in Northern Ireland to include all waters that potentially could sustain freshwater fish. The directive aims to improve water quality to a level where fish can thrive, and sets water quality standards and monitoring requirements that will need to be met. Under the plan, a Pollution Reduction Programme will be put in place for each waterway included to improve water quality. *(DoE consultation document on Proposals for Additional Designations under the Freshwater Fish Directive, November 2003, DoE).*

**Recycling in Ballybeen:** Castlereagh Borough Council is seeking planning permission to build a Household Recycling Centre in Ballybeen. Although no timescale has been allocated for the development, it is currently envisaged to be constructed in parallel with the leisure centre proposal for the Ballybeen area. (Castlereagh Borough Council, personal communication)

**Woods on Your Doorstep:** The Woodland Trust has been in discussion with Ballybeen Improvement Group to develop 'Woods on Your Doorstep', a project which would see a nature reserve built along the Enler river flood plains, towards the Millmount development. Both the community and Woodland Trust are keen to progress the project, but are waiting for final confirmation and transfer of land from NIHE. If a decision is reached, the Woodland Trust would hope to begin developing the reserve in spring 2004. (Woodland Trust, personal communication)

# Essential Services

**“Financial deprivation leads to prejudice and social exclusion, with increased rates of violence and crime”**

Health 21: An Introduction, *World Health Organisation 1998*

**“It is recognised that crime and the fear of crime in our society can have a severely detrimental effect on physical and mental wellbeing”**

Investing for Health, *Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety 2002*

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*This section looks at provision of essential services, such as policing, ambulance services and fire services. It also presents an overview of available crime statistics for the area.*

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## Security and Safety Issues

### Policing

The closest police station to Ballybeen is Dundonald station in Dundonald village, which in recent years has seen a big reduction in the number of officers, mainly through reorganisation of the District structure. The station now has a unit consisting of a Sergeant and five Constables patrolling Dundonald, and Dundonald sector is under the command of an Inspector. Within this team, there are two Community Police Officers assigned to community policing in Ballybeen on a daily basis. According to the Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI), it is looking at the possibility to increase the number of community officers by four in the near future.

Patrol cars are no longer based at Dundonald, but instead call-outs come from Castlereagh station. This station has one crew of two officers per shift (two shifts per day) covering the Dundonald sector, and two other crews can be made available if needed. (Dundonald PSNI station, personal communication)

### Crime

Details of crime reported to the police show that criminal damage is the major type of crime occurring in the area. In April 2003 – January 2004 a total of 114 incidents were reported to the PSNI, which constituted nearly half of all incidents of criminal damage reported in the Dundonald sector. Overall, relatively low levels of crime were reported, although there were 41 assaults and a total of 47 burglaries in the three ward areas. (PSNI, personal communication)

No statistics are available on the age of offenders.

**Table 19: Reported crime in Carrowreagh, Enler and Graham's Bridge, April 2003 – January 2004**

Crime Type	Incidents at ward level	Incidents at Dundonald sector level	Ward level as % of sector level
Robbery	10	17	58 %
Theft from vehicles	18	61	30 %
Other Burglary	21	65	32 %
Domestic Burglary	26	68	38 %
Vehicle theft	31	56	55 %
Assault	41	99	41 %
Theft	73	157	46 %
Criminal Damage	114	260	44 %

(PSNI 2004)

The table above shows that a significant proportion of reported crime in Dundonald occurs in the three ward areas covering Ballybeen. However, according to the PSNI this can be partly explained by the size of the population in the area, which correlates to the number of incidents occurring. (PSNI, personal communication)

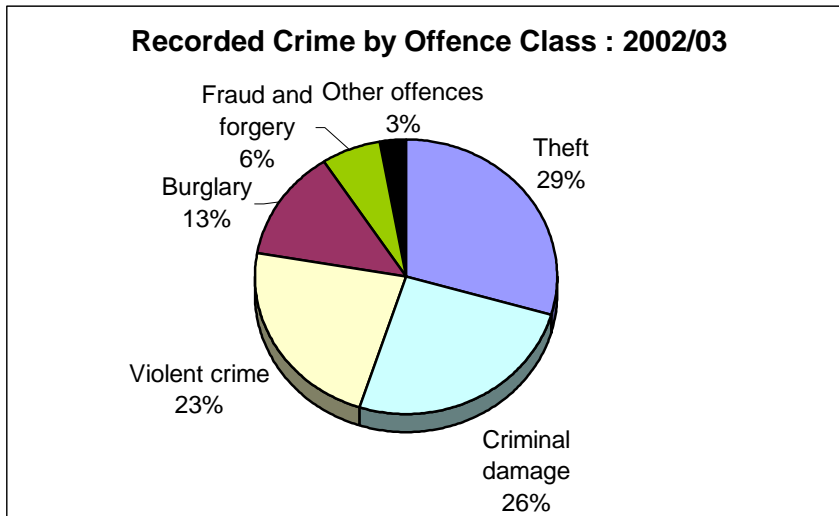
In Northern Ireland as a whole, criminal damage (including vandalism) accounts for a quarter of all crime, with theft and violent crime the two other main groups, each also accounting for about a quarter each. In 2002-2003 a total of 142 500 incidents were reported to the police, which means that approximately 35 000 incidents of criminal damage, violent crime and theft were reported across Northern Ireland.

In Castlereagh District Command Unit area, the most common types of crime in 2002-2003 were thefts (1463 reports), criminal damage (983 reports), burglary (648) and offences against the person (536).

The PSNI reports that crime in the DCU area has fallen by 16.2 % from 1 April 2003 to 23 February 2004. The overall clearance rate for offences against the person is 59.8%, a figure which exceeds the Policing Plan target by almost 5 %. Reported burglary offences were down by 6.7 %, and the DCU clearance rate – number of incidents where someone was brought to responsibility – stands at 20.2 %. This figure is currently the highest in Northern Ireland. Reported offences of robbery have fallen 41.3 %, according to statistics, while the detection rate has risen to 13.7 %. (PSNI, personal communication)



**Table 20: Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland (%)**



(PSNI, Central Statistics Branch)

**Road Traffic Accidents**

Statistics on road traffic accidents are collected for each PSNI District Command Unit (DCU) and sector, which means that no exact local data are available for Ballybeen. However, an account of incidents in the Dundonald sector is given below.

In Castlereagh DCU, which covers the borough council area, a total of 10 people died in road traffic accidents in 2001-2003. One of these fatalities was a woman, while fatalities among men occurred above all in the 17-24 age bracket. During this period, three fatalities occurred within the Dundonald policing sector. (PSNI, personal communication)

**Table 21: Road traffic collision fatalities in Castlereagh DCU (Numbers)**

Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2001-2002	2002-2003	2001-2002	2002-2003
Under 17	1	-	-	-	1	-
17-24	2	4	-	-	2	4
25-44	-	-	-	1	-	1
45-64	-	1	-	-	-	1
65 +	-	1	-	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>

(PSNI, Central Statistics Branch)

However, significantly more people were injured in road traffic accidents, some of them seriously. PSNI statistics show that since 1999-2000, a total of 2043 people have been injured in accidents in the Castlereagh DCU area. Of these, 540 injuries occurred in the Dundonald sector. During the same period, a total of 1230 road traffic accidents occurred in Castlereagh DCU, with 340 of these in the Dundonald sector. Across Castlereagh, statistics indicate that the majority of accidents are caused through careless or dangerous driving. (PSNI, personal communication)

### **Youth crime**

In 1999/2000, a total of 31 children in the three wards aged 5-17 were referred to the Juvenile Liaison Bureau scheme, which is a scheme where offending young people and youth crime are dealt with by a partnership of social services, probation, education and welfare services. Of these youngsters, 15 were from Carrowreagh, which gave a rate of 37.69 children per 1000 population referred to the Bureau. Eleven youngsters were from Enler, which gave a rate of 23.97 per 1000 population, while five youngsters from Graham's Bridge were referred, giving a rate of 20.66 per 1000 population. The proportion of young people referred to the Juvenile Liaison Bureau was slightly higher in Ballybeen than in other similar areas. (*Early Years Information 2000, 2000, EHSSB*)

### **Domestic violence**

Domestic violence is defined as any kind of abuse, including physical, mental, sexual or financial abuse, by a person to another with whom they have or have had an intimate relationship. It is classified as a crime. ([www.niwaf.org](http://www.niwaf.org) 8.1.04)

While local figures for Ballybeen are not available, police figures for Castlereagh show that approximately half of all domestic incidents to which police are called involve domestic violence. The most common offence is common assault, but as Table 21 below demonstrates, offences vary widely. According to the PSNI, a third of all reported violent crime is domestic violence, which means that in total around 8 000 incidents of physical domestic violence are reported to the police every year across Northern Ireland. It is, however, generally accepted that only a relatively small proportion of domestic violence incidents are reported to police.

In Castlereagh DCU area, police attended 399 domestic incidents in 2002-2003, of which 191 or approximately half involved violence.

According to the statistics, women are the victims in the vast majority of domestic violence incidents. ([www.psni.police.gov.uk](http://www.psni.police.gov.uk) 8.1.04)

Women's Aid is an organisation offering support and safe accommodation to all women who are victims of domestic violence. An indication of the extent of domestic violence in Northern Ireland is the number of calls to its helpline, which totalled 17 500 in 2003. In the same year, 407 women and 454 children were also accommodated in the organisation's three refuges in Belfast alone. The organisation estimates that one in four women in Northern Ireland will be subjected to domestic violence during her lifetime. (Women's Aid, personal communication)

**Table 21: Offences in domestic violence incidents attended by police 2002-2003**

Offences	Castlereagh	East Belfast	Northern Ireland
Murder	0	0	7
Attempted murder	0	0	18
Rape	0	0	12
Grievous bodily harm (GBH)	2	5	77
Aggravated or actual bodily harm (AOABH)	12	43	547
Threats to kill	3	1	197
Indecent assault	0	0	24
Common assault	88	182	3593
Criminal damage	24	65	1065
Breach of orders	27	96	1192
Harassment	6	20	449
Public order offences	0	0	244
Other offences	48	46	639
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>8064</b>
<b>Total domestic incidents attended</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>1085</b>	<b>15512</b>

(PSNI Central Statistics Branch)

### **District Policing Partnership Survey**

In connection with the reform of the police service in Northern Ireland, local District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) were established across Northern Ireland to identify local policing issues, act as a forum for discussion of issues affecting policing, and develop a practical way of collaboration between the public and the police. The Castlereagh DPP was established in March 2003, and its membership consists of nine councillors and eight community representatives.

During 2003, the DPP undertook a survey of issues and concerns relating to policing and crime among Castlereagh residents. In the survey, the five areas causing most concern were burglary, youths causing nuisance, vandalism, vehicle crime and speeding. The five areas listed as the main priorities, which resources should be focused on, were beat / foot patrolling, crime prevention, prompt response to emergencies, vehicle patrolling and investigating crime. Overall, 37 % of respondents said they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the police service, while 69 % were dissatisfied with foot patrols and 56 % were dissatisfied with vehicle patrols.

General issues mentioned in consultation workshops were community policing, crimes against the elderly, youth issues, partnership working, road safety issues and dissatisfaction with policing. (*Castlereagh District Policing Partnership Public Consultation Report, 2003, Castlereagh Policing Partnership*)

## **Community Safety Partnership**

The Northern Ireland Community Safety Strategy recommends that community safety issues should be addressed by partnerships consisting of representatives from the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors. As a result, partnerships have been formed in district council areas over recent years, to take on a strategic role in developing local plans and linking to other strategies, deliver and implement local plans and form task groups to take on specific parts of the plans. ([www.communitysafetyni.gov.uk/partner](http://www.communitysafetyni.gov.uk/partner) 13.2.04)

In spring 2004, Castlereagh was in the process of forming a Community Safety Partnership. A staff member has been employed by the Castlereagh Local Strategy Partnership to develop this work.

## **Fire and Rescue Services**

### **Fire Service**

Fire and rescue services for Ballybeen are provided from Knock fire station in inner east Belfast, which covers all of east Belfast. The station has two fire appliances and one special appliance with a hydraulic platform. It is a wholetime station with 72 full time firefighters. (Northern Ireland Fire Brigade, personal communication)

In 2003, there were approximately 30 callouts to the Ballybeen area. The majority were to what is termed secondary incidents, such as rubbish or shrub fires. Primary fires are all house, vehicle and outdoor structure fires, as well as incidents where there are casualties. There were three callouts to house fires, and six to car fires. There were also just under 20 false alarms, although few of these were malicious.

Nationally, approximately 93 % of callouts arrive at the location within the set response time, which is 5-8 minutes in large cities and towns and their suburbs. In Northern Ireland, no exact statistics of response times are collected, but the Northern Ireland Fire Brigade reports that the first appliance in the vast majority of instances will arrive in Ballybeen within 10 minutes of the alarm. (Northern Ireland Fire Brigade, personal communication) Locally, it is also felt that the fire services respond quickly to callouts. (Community Steering Group)

Across Northern Ireland, the majority of incidents – about a third of the total 33 000 alarms in 2002-2003 – are secondary fires, while there were about 6 000 house and other primary fires in the last year. The most common cause of house fires was arson, which according to the Fire Authority is a particular problem in the greater Belfast and Derry areas. In recent years, it has also been reported hoax calls have increased. (*Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2004-2005: Your Views Matter* consultation document, November 2003, Fire Authority for Northern Ireland)

n the statistics for Knock fire station, Dundonald figures with a high proportion of callouts. However, this is mainly due to a high number of callouts to Ulster Hospital, of which the majority were false alarms due to automatic alarms. In total, the station had a total of just under 2100 alarms in 2003. (Northern Ireland Fire Brigade, personal communication)

### **Ambulance Service**

Ambulance cover for Ballybeen is provided in the first instance by the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service's (NIAS) station in Newtownards. According to the service, the average response time is around eight minutes, which is within Orcon standards. These UK wide standards state that ambulances should respond to 50 % of all emergency calls within 8 minutes, and 95 % of all calls within 18 minutes in urban areas.

The Newtownards station has generally four ambulances in operation Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm, with three ambulances on duty 5pm-8pm, and two ambulances during the night shift. This cover is supplemented by ambulances from the station at Templemore Avenue in inner east Belfast.

As a rule, all emergency and most GP referrals are taken to Ulster Hospital. However, occasionally a divert system may result in patients being taken to another hospital, and GPs may also refer patients to other hospitals. (Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, personal communication)

Across Northern Ireland, the ambulance service responded to over 72 000 emergency calls in 2002-2003. However, it reported that increased accident and emergency activity, along with shortages of staff at hospitals, trolley waits at A&E and increased turn around times for ambulances have caused performance to deteriorate. A review of the ambulance service was undertaken in 2001, and included measures for how performance can be improved. ([www.niamb.co.uk](http://www.niamb.co.uk) 13.2.2004)

### **Voluntary ambulance service**

The voluntary organisation St John Ambulance has a unit in Dundonald at Ulster Hospital, which provides first aid cover at various events. The unit currently has 28 members, 14 adults and 14 10-18 year old Cadets. Adults can receive first aid training, as well as training in ambulance service and defibrillator service, while Cadets can train for the Grand Prior Award. This award consists of 12 subjects, such as disability awareness, radio communications and map reading.

A Cadet unit for 10-18 year olds and a Badger Set for 5-10 year olds are also active in Comber. (St John ambulance, personal communication)

### **Local Views**

*Unless otherwise stated, the views below have come from the Community Steering Group.*

Local residents feel that police crews travelling from outside Ballybeen following a call to the police can result in long delays, and it has been reported

police in some instances do not arrive to investigate a crime until some days later.

Local residents state there is a relatively low level of crime in Ballybeen, and have identified this as a positive feature. However, it is felt that many crimes are not reported to the police, which means statistics do not present an accurate picture of crime in the area. It is also stated that the level of unreported crime has increased in the last few years, while residents feel the relationship with the police could be improved.

Fear of crime is believed to be high in the area, in particular among older people. (Victim Support, personal communication)

Vandalism and other anti-social behaviour is common on the estate, which has made some residents feel insecure when moving around. Therefore, many local residents feel security is a major issue for Ballybeen, and locally it is generally felt anti-social behaviour is the main concern in relation to crime.

**All the information below was gathered at a meeting of *Ballybeen Improvement Group* in Millar's Lane Day Centre, on 3 February 2004**

It was reported that relationships between local people and the police had been good for many years, with police officers playing a supportive role in the community, but it is felt that in recent times the approach taken seems to have become less supportive.

Concerns around crime were said to be predominantly around anti-social behaviour rather than serious criminal offences. It was commented that unreported crime seems to have risen in the past 18 months and the response of the police seems to have become less efficient, with the police often taking two to three days to come out, or not coming out at all.

It was also believed that, because expectations are low, people ring the police less and less, and this has led to a situation where the police appear to understand there is less crime in Ballybeen.

It was also commented that the Housing Executive have been very good in responding to house crime, for example, replacing broken locks very quickly.

## Proposals

**Measures to Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour in Northern Ireland:** In January 2004, the Northern Ireland Office put forward for consultation a package of proposals to tackle anti-social behaviour. Proposals include the introduction of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), which have created some controversy in England and Wales since their introduction some years ago. These are civil orders, which a court can impose to exclude a person over 10 from a certain area. Breach of an ASBO is a criminal offence, and carries a maximum penalty of a five year jail term.

The measures also suggest the introduction of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, which are voluntary agreements between a person who has been involved in anti-social behaviour, the police and local agencies. The contract may include support activities, and will typically involve parents of young people. As it is voluntary, it will not be legally enforceable, but may carry with it a threat of further action, such as an ASBO. A final strategy is expected later in 2004. (*Measures To Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour in Northern Ireland - A Consultation Document*, January 2004, Northern Ireland Office)

**Tackling Violence at Home:** The Northern Ireland Office is due to launch a new strategy to tackle domestic violence during 2004, and consulted on proposals in late 2003. The draft strategy is based on three key aims: prevention, protection and justice for victims, and support for those affected by domestic violence. Proposals include increased protection, such as the possibility to link exclusion orders to non-molestation orders, ensuring that victims are treated fairly by the police and justice system, and improving access to information about legal services for those affected by domestic violence. Programmes aimed at preventing perpetrators from re-offending will also be developed. Safety during children's contact visits will be reviewed, and there will be more education to change people's attitudes towards violence against a partner, in particular delivered through the school curriculum. The Northern Ireland strategy builds on a strategy developed by the government for England and Wales. (*Tackling Violence at Home*, October 2003, DHSSPS)

**Fire Service Integrated Risk Management Plan 2004-2005:** Northern Ireland Fire Brigade is developing an Integrated Risk Management Plan, which will set out changes to the fire service over the next few years. Overall, the plan aims to cut the number of deaths and injuries from fires and accidents, and to reduce the damage caused to society, the environment and businesses from these incidents. Under the plan, the Fire Authority will undertake a risk assessment across Northern Ireland, to develop a risk profile as a basis for future developments.

Actions in the draft Plan, which was out for consultation in late 2003, include providing education to reduce the number of fires and accidents, focusing on areas with the highest incidence of accidental house fire, working with other authorities to reduce traffic accidents, devising strategies to reduce the number of arson incidents, and working with community safety initiatives to reduce the number of casualties in house fires. (*Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2004-2005: Your Views Matter* consultation document, November 2003, Fire Authority for Northern Ireland)





# Leisure and Recreation Services

**“Active citizenship promotes social inclusion and leads to greater levels of involvement in the community. All else being equal, a community whose citizens are socially active and engaged, will have higher levels of health and wellbeing”**

Investing for Health, *Department for Health and Social Services and Public Safety 2002*

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*This section provides an overview of leisure services available in Ballybeen, focusing specifically on physical activity and community services provided by the Council and other key organisations. Interest and social groups are profiled in the Community Development section.*

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## **Available Services**

There are relatively limited leisure facilities in Ballybeen, but the two main facilities are popular and provide many activities particularly for children and young people. The Ballybeen Activity Centre is situated at Ballybeen Square, and provides facilities for youth clubs and mother and toddler groups. The Centre also organises activities for young people; trampolining, gymnastics and karate among others. For older people, there is a bingo club at the centre. (Ballybeen Activity Centre, personal communication)

Ballyoran Centre also caters for community groups, and has amenities for hire. Groups using the centre include Greengraves Drama, the Old Tyme Dance Club, the Old Mill Bowling and Social Group and a group of army cadets. The centre also organises armchair aerobics for older people. (Ballyoran Centre, personal communication) There is also a community centre at Dungoyne Park, which among other things acts as the venue for Dungoyne Veterans Bowling Club.

Both the Activity Centre and Ballyoran Centre are owned, managed and funded by Castlereagh Borough Council.

For children, there is a playground adjacent to the Ballyoran Centre. Another playground is situated at Dungoyne, relatively close to the Activity Centre. However, there are generally few recreation opportunities within Ballybeen, which means families are required to travel outside the estate for both physical activity opportunities and entertainment. This, in turn, often involves a cost, and also has transport implications for those who do not have a car. (Community Steering Group)

The voluntary group Ballybeen Men in Focus has developed walking routes in and around the estate, as noted in the Transport section. These routes can be used by anyone, although they have been specifically developed for the Walking and Talking group. (*Walking and Talking* leaflet, Ballybeen Men in Focus 2002)

There are currently no gym or swimming facilities in Ballybeen. Until June 2003, the primary school and some groups were able to use the swimming pool at Dundonald High School, but the pool was closed during the summer due to high maintenance costs for the school. The South Eastern Education and Library Board is currently exploring whether it would be able to fund continued use of the pool, but it requires extensive refurbishment and no guarantees have been given that the pool will be reopened. (Dundonald High School, personal communication).

## **Local Views**

*Unless otherwise stated, the views below have come from the Community Steering Group.*

Locally, it is reported that many young people do not learn how to swim, as a result of lack of facilities.

It is reported that the closure of the swimming pool at Dundonald High School is a concern, as it means P5-P7 pupils, as well as secondary school pupils, have no facilities for PE swimming lessons nearby. The closest swimming pool is in the Robinson Centre in Castlereagh, but it is busy and often fully booked. Similarly, the swimming pool in Bangor is already in heavy use.

## **Proposals**

**Leisure Centre:** Castlereagh Borough Council has obtained planning permission to build a new leisure/activity centre on a site adjacent to Upper Newtownards Road. This centre would provide a large sports hall together with new community and fitness facilities.

Construction of the leisure centre is not expected to begin until 2006-2007 at the earliest. (Castlereagh Borough Council, personal communication )

# Education

**“Education impacts strongly on a person’s self-esteem, lifelong training and employment opportunities, sense of purpose and income...One important way of tackling inequalities in health is to improve educational opportunities for the most disadvantaged young people.”**

Investing for Health, *Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety* 2002

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*This section consists of two linked parts. Firstly, it gives an overview of schools and compulsory education, and secondly, it summarises adult education opportunities and general qualifications in the area.*

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There were a total of 1369 children of school age, aged 5-15, in all wards at the time of the Census in April 2001. Of the school age population at that time, 642 lived in Carrowreagh, 461 in Enler and 266 in Graham’s Bridges. In addition, there were a total of 218 persons aged 16-17, of whom 94 lived in Carrowreagh, 83 in Enler and 41 in Graham’s Bridge. (Census 2001)

## **Statutory Education**

### **Pre-School Education**

Pre school education is provided by Brooklands Primary School, as well as Ballybeen Women’s Centre.

#### ***Brooklands Nursery***

Brooklands Primary School runs a Nursery, which each year caters for 78 children in their pre school year. The majority of children attend on a part time, half day basis five days a week, but there are also 26 full time places. The Nursery follows a broad curriculum, but focuses on development of skills through play. It is housed separately from the Primary School in its own unit. (Brooklands Primary School, personal communication)

#### ***Ballybeen Women’s Centre Pre School***

Ballybeen Women’s Centre also provides pre-school education, in a group which has 16 places per year. The pre-school is run five mornings a week, and follows the curriculum set by the Department of Education. It has its own facilities in a building separate from the Women’s Centre. During the summer, the Centre organises a summer scheme with 16 places for children moving

from pre school to primary education, in order to assist children to make the transition smoothly. The pre school is recognised by NIPPA, the early years organisation. (Ballybeen Women's Centre)

### ***Toy/Book Library***

For 2-3 year old children, Brooklands Primary School has since the late 1980s provided a Toy/Book library, which aims to promote early learning relationships between children and their parents. Children attend one session a week with their parents/parent, and then borrow a book and toy to take home so that experiences in the session can be continued at home. The Toy/Book library accommodates around 70 children per week, most of whom continue to Brooklands Nursery. However, funding for this project, from Belfast Regeneration Office, ended in August 2003. An additional sum of £10 000 was granted thanks to underspend, but no money is available from April 2004. Alternative funding has not been secured, which means that the Toy/Book library may have to close. (Brooklands Primary School, personal communication)

### **Primary education**

There is one primary school on the estate, Brooklands Primary School, which caters for the majority of children in the area. The school has a total of 543 pupils, of whom 138 receive free school meals – a proportion slightly lower than the Northern Ireland average. Of the 75 % of pupils who take the 11+ transfer test, 55-60 % regularly receive A-, B1- or B2-grades, compared to an average of 35 % among all 11-year-olds taking the test. (Brooklands Primary School, personal communication) Across Northern Ireland, on average two thirds or 66 % of P7 pupils sit the transfer test. (DENI press release 23.05.2002)

Brooklands Primary School has a varied after-school club programme, including a wildlife club, school choir, band and flute group, verse speakers and drama club, BAYS science club, French club, football, netball, cricket and girls' hockey teams, and a Scripture Union. The school is striving to become a health promoting school, and has introduced a focus on healthy eating, among other things. Health is also a consideration in the syllabus. (Brooklands Primary School, personal communication)

In the past, swimming was offered to P5-P7 pupils as part of the PE curriculum. This took place at Dundonald High School, but since the pool closed down in June 2003, no swimming is now offered. It is a major concern to the school - and the parents - that there are no facilities for swimming within the local area, if the pool is not reopened under funding from SEELB.

From the early 1970s to the mid-1980s there was a primary school on the site of the current Ballyoran Centre, which was popular and of a modern design, but it was closed and demolished, despite local protest, as population projections at the time suggested the number of children in the area would decline. (*Profile and Participatory Appraisal Project*, 1999, Ballyoran Training & Support Group)

## **Special needs**

Some children face various difficulties in learning, and may need some extra help. These special educational needs may arise from medical needs, physical disabilities or learning disabilities.

Some of these children have a Statement of Special Educational Needs, which outlines extra provision in school required to meet these needs. In Brooklands Primary there are currently 14 children with a statement. (Brooklands Primary School, personal communication)

Assessment of special need (called statementing) is only provided after assessment by an educational psychologist and with parental consent. A child with a 'statement' is entitled to extra help from the board, either in a Special School or if possible in a mainstream school. The statementing process can take quite a long time depending on need, availability of services and the number of children on the educational psychologist's list.

Once a child has been identified by the school and Education and Library Board as having a special need which requires specific provision, the school begins to move the child through the five stages of a Code of Practice. Stage 1 and 2 are when the child receives help within the school either in his/her own class or during withdrawal from the class situation. This may be sufficient to support the child. He/she may not need to go on to stage 3 when the school seeks external support from the Board, i.e. a psychologist's assessment. It is only when the stage 3 referral takes place that the child may go on to 'have a statement'. Many children remain at stage 2 where they receive special help in their own school, and are not included in the official figures of statements from the Boards.

For children with special needs requiring more support than mainstream schools can provide, there is also a Special School, based in Longstone, which provides primary and secondary education for children with moderate learning difficulties or behavioural problems. This school has just over 200 pupils, of whom the majority are transported in from a wide catchment area including Portaferry, North Down, parts of Lisburn and parts of Belfast. The school provides outreach services, including behavioural support in a number of schools and learning support at a facility in Bangor. (Longstone Special School) However, some local children are transported to other special schools, and among parents, it is felt these transports are unnecessary as the Special School is available locally. (Community Steering Group)

## **Secondary and further education**

Students from Brooklands Primary School typically transfer to a wide range of schools for secondary education. In 2002/2003, 78 P7 pupils were transferred to a total of 19 different secondary schools, including six grammar schools, across Belfast, Castlereagh and North Down. (Brooklands Primary School, personal communication)

### ***Dundonald High School***

Just under half of P7s at Brooklands Primary School in 2003, around 30 pupils, transferred to the closest option, Dundonald High School for secondary education. This school is situated immediately across the estate on Newtownards Road, within the Carrowreagh ward. The school provides secondary education until year 12, and traditionally draws its students from Brooklands Primary School, Dundonald Primary School, Tullycarnet Primary School and Gilnahirk Primary School. In 2003-2004, the total number of students at Dundonald High was 532, and 204 or just under 40 % came from the Ballybeen area.

In 2002-2003, over 80 % of year 12 students at the school were entered for five or more GCSEs, and 20 % received grades A\*-C. All pupils were entered for 1-4 GCSEs, and 98 % received at least one pass mark. Of 116 school leavers, 38 % entered Modern Apprenticeships, while 28 % entered further education and five per cent (six students) continued with A-levels at another school. (Dundonald High School, personal communication)

### ***School leavers' qualifications***

Qualification tables for 2001-2002 show that the majority of school leavers in Ballybeen gained at least one GCSE. In that year, less than five school leavers in each ward area left with no GCSEs, which suggests that the number of people with no qualifications is decreasing in the area. On the other hand, in Carrowreagh and Enler less than half of students received five or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C, while the figure in Graham's Bridge was 50 %.

Fewer than five school leavers that year became unemployed immediately after leaving school, while a similar number continued straight into employment. The majority of school leavers continued to training or further education, leading to vocational qualifications, while only a minority chose to pursue higher education with the aim of a university degree. Accordingly, only around 10 % of young people in the area go on to take A-levels – in 2001-2002, less than 30 17-18-year-olds across the area received A-levels of any grade. There were a total of just over 400 16-19 year olds in the area at the time. (Department of Education, personal communication)

These figures reflect a tradition of skilled trade in the area, where training was gained in employment, and further education usually not encouraged. Across east Belfast, the favoured training organisations have included Harland & Wolff, Shorts, North Lancs Training Services in Dundonald Enterprise Park, which is close to Ballybeen, and Castlereagh College. The Dundonald Training Centre, which provided vocational training to many young people from Ballybeen, was closed in the mid-1990s, which meant that training in bricklaying and plastering is no longer available in east Belfast. The closure of the centre provoked an outcry from local people, and there was a campaign to keep it open, as it was one of few local training opportunities for young people. ([www.eastbelfast.com](http://www.eastbelfast.com) 11.12.03)

## **Statutory Youth Services**

The South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) has a statutory duty to provide youth services and support to local youth organisations.

It is running a project called Detached, aimed at young people in Ballybeen on the periphery of service provision, who do not attend youth clubs or centres. The aim of Detached is to incorporate these young people in society, and offer them services according to their needs. At present, there are 18-20 people in the group, which recently has been undergoing a non-contact community relations programme. The group currently meets once a week, as it is managed by part time staff, but SEELB hope to increase activities in the near future. (SEELB, personal communication)

Currently there is one part time youth worker in the Ballybeen area. A full-time post has been advertised, and SEELB hope to have a person in post by late spring 2004. The youth worker will be tasked with building a team of youth leaders, and developing a strategy for youth services in Ballybeen. (SEELB, personal communication)

## **Lifelong Learning and Qualifications**

### **Adult education**

#### ***Castlereagh College for Further Education***

The Women's Centre is an outreach centre for Castlereagh College of Further Education, which provides a limited range of adult education courses in Ballybeen. These courses, taught during the day, are a First Aid course, GCSE maths, and a mixed crafts course. ([www.castlereagh.ac.uk](http://www.castlereagh.ac.uk) 14.1.2004)

#### ***Ballybeen Women's Centre***

The Women's Centre is the main provider of education services in Ballybeen, and its courses are aimed at women in the area. It has received the Adult Learners Award for this. The Centre has a varied range of courses on offer, including essential skills and confidence building courses such as Essential Skills using Information Technology and accredited pre vocational, skill building or pre GCSE courses such as OCR Text Processing, Driving Theory and First Aid. The Centre also provides accredited training courses such as GCSE Maths/English and Desk Top Publishing, as well as pre access and foundation courses such as the European Computer Driving Licence. In addition, the Centre provides training in job search skills and assistance in finding progression routes. There is also a special Women's Health course, which aims to promote health and health awareness among women.

The range of courses varies, and new courses are run throughout the year. In spring 2004, courses included reflexology and Holiday Spanish as well as the type of courses mentioned above. Courses are provided both during the day and in the evenings, and are very popular. In 2002-2003, over 180 women took part in a course arranged at the Centre. (Ballybeen Women's Centre, personal communication)

### ***IT for Older People 1***

The Silver Threads Over 60s club organises information technology (IT) training for older people, in facilities provided by St Mary's parish church. This training, which is run by members of the group, is intended to make older people familiar with computers, and teach them basic IT skills. (Silver Threads, personal communication)

### ***IT for Older People 2***

Engage with Age is running a computer course for older people in the Ballyoran Centre since January 2004, aimed to give older people a taste for IT. (Engage with Age, personal communication)

### ***Participation in adult education***

In 2002, a total of 421 persons in the area were enrolled for further education and 157 persons for higher education. A majority of further education students were women, and studying part time. Carrowreagh had the highest number of adult students, with 122 women and 76 men in further education, and a total of 84 students in higher education. Among Enler residents, 113 persons (61 women and 52 men) were in further education and 32 in higher education. Interest in education was similar in Graham's Bridge, with 110 persons in further and 47 in higher education. In Graham's Bridge, the split between men and women was most even, with 54 women and 52 men participating. The age structure was split into a main group under 19 and another over 26, with the younger group in majority in Enler and Graham's Bridge. (NISRA 2003)

### **Qualifications**

Among persons above compulsory school age (over 16), nearly or just over half of residents in Graham's Bridge (49.62 %) and Enler (52.23 %) have no qualifications at all, while the figure in Carrowreagh is 39.81 %. Across Northern Ireland, 42 % of all persons have no qualifications. However, Castlereagh District Council has a higher education level than Northern Ireland on average, and 64 % of residents have at least a basic qualification.

Among those with qualifications, about 20 % in all wards in Ballybeen have one at Level 1, while 15-17 % have a Level 2 qualification (see list above, or Glossary on page 117 for definition of levels). In Graham's Bridge, just under 12 % had a Level 2 qualification. Between 7 % and 14 % of residents in all wards have a degree or higher, which falls quite far below the Northern Ireland average of 16 %, and the Castlereagh average of 22 %. In particular Enler, where 7 % of residents have a degree or higher qualification, and Graham's Bridge at 10 %, have lower than average education levels. (Census 2001)



**Table 21: Qualifications and Students (%)**

	All persons aged 16-74	Percentage of persons aged 16-74 with:						Total number of full-time students and schoolchildren <sup>6</sup>	
		No qualifications	Highest qualification attained: Level 1 <sup>1</sup>	Highest qualification attained: Level 2 <sup>2</sup>	Highest qualification attained: Level 3 <sup>3</sup>	Highest qualification attained: Level 4 <sup>4</sup>	Highest qualification attained: Level 5 <sup>5</sup>	Aged 16-17	Aged 18-74
Northern Ireland	1187079	41.64	17.23	16.36	8.98	10.93	4.87	43286	50503
Castlereagh	47155	35.52	16.77	16.53	9.02	14.76	7.40	1311	1490
Carrowreagh	2909	39.81	19.87	17.19	8.90	10.86	3.37	71	78
Enler	1861	52.23	20.90	13.49	6.07	5.27	2.04	64	36
Graham's Bridge	1828	49.62	20.40	11.98	7.11	7.82	3.06	34	43

- (1) GCSE (grades D-G), CSE (grades 2-5), 1-4 CSEs (grade 1), 1-4 GCSEs (grades A-C), 1-4 'O' level passes, NVQ level 1, GNVQ Foundation or equivalents.
- (2) 5+ CSEs (grade 1), 5+ GCSEs (grades A-C), 5+ 'O' level passes, Senior Certificate, 1 'A' level, 1-3 AS levels, Advanced Senior Certificate, NVQ level 2, GNVQ Intermediate or equivalents.
- (3) 2+ 'A' levels, 4+ AS levels, NVQ level 3, GNVQ Advanced or equivalents.
- (4) First degree, NVQ level 4, HNC, HND or equivalents.
- (5) Higher degree, NVQ level 5 or equivalents.
- (6) All students and schoolchildren are counted at their term-time address.

(NISRA, Census 2001)

### Library Services

There is no library within Ballybeen, but the nearest library is in Dundonald village just outside the northern end of the estate. This library offers Internet access, as well as reading groups and storytimes for children. ([www.seelb.org.uk](http://www.seelb.org.uk) 15.12.03)

SEELB operates a Bookstart scheme for all young children in the Board area, which operates from the local libraries. Under this scheme, all parents are offered a pack including two books at their child's seven to nine month health check. The pack can be claimed through the local library, and is intended to encourage parents to read to their children and introduce their children to books. ([www.seelb.org.uk](http://www.seelb.org.uk) 15.12.03)

### Local Views

*Unless otherwise stated, the views below have come from the Community Steering Group.*

Locally, the Toy/Book Library is felt to be a valuable resource, and a potential closure is seen as a significant loss to the area. A campaign has been started to secure funding for the library.

A number of children from Ballybeen attend Dundonald Primary School on Graham's Bridge Road, but among local parents it is felt it is difficult to get a place at this school. Brooklands Primary School is also heavily subscribed, and local residents feel more school places would be needed to accommodate all children within the area.

School transport is a major issue for many secondary school pupils and their families. Local knowledge suggests transport can be a major problem for some families, in particular due to the cost involved. Due to school district boundaries, half of the estate is not entitled to the school transport subsidy, while families in the other half are entitled.

Among residents in Ballybeen, it is felt there is something of a stigma to education, which means that young people are not encouraged to pursue further and higher education. It is also felt that young people are discouraged from going on to do A-levels, as they need to transfer to another school which also will involve travelling and an additional cost.

Locally, it is felt lack of education facilities is a significant issue for the estate, which reinforces the traditional issue of low educational attainment. On the other hand, many local people feel both their Ballybeen background, and in some cases the schools they have attended, have a bearing on their prospects. It has been reported people from Ballybeen feel they are disadvantaged when looking for a job, because of their background. In addition, it is felt discipline in schools could be improved, and young people provided with greater encouragement to achieve at school.

Locally, it is reported that recruitment of youth workers is difficult, and those recruited often leave after a short time. This means that young people do not develop trust with a worker, and that provision for young people is very limited. The lack of provision for young people is seen as a major concern, as it is felt this encourages many young people to experiment with anti social behaviour.

Generally, it is reported across the UK that people with low or no qualifications can have difficulties in reading or understanding all the information they are faced with. Locally, it is reported that many people in Ballybeen have poor functional literacy skills, and require help with tasks such as completing forms or applying for benefits. This is felt to have an adverse impact on job as well as wider life opportunities.

**All the information below was gathered at a meeting of *Ballybeen Improvement Group* in Millar's Lane Day Centre, on 3 February 2004.**

It was believed that literacy rates among residents are low, which was evidenced by the number of people requesting help with filling in forms.

The overall view was that there were opportunities for adult education on and within travelling distance of the estate, but that there are a number of factors which contribute to people not always accessing these opportunities. One factor was the insufficient support available to assist people to access opportunities and to support them to stay on a course once they have started.

This was felt to be linked to a lack of infrastructure in the area and a lack of networks.

Other factors mentioned included:

- Lack of confidence and, linked to this, low motivation
- Low literacy rates
- The need to travel
- Inadequate transport
- Cost of travel or childcare if travelling outside the estate

## **Proposals**

**Review of public library services in Northern Ireland:** The library review *Tomorrow's Libraries*, carried out by the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure, provides an overview of changes recommended for the service. . The report makes a number of recommendations, including profiling all Education and Library Board areas to establish local needs, developing a Youth Strategy, regularly reviewing opening hours and ensuring additional funding. All libraries should also provide Internet access, and develop their electronic services. The review also stresses that basic library services should remain free. (*Tomorrow's Libraries: A review of the Library Service in Northern Ireland*, 2002, DCAL)



# Health and Social Services

“The funding of health care should ensure equity and sustainability”

Health 21: An Introduction *World Health Organisation 1998*

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*This section gives a brief overview of health and social services available to residents of Ballybeen.*

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## **GP Services**

There is no GP surgery within Ballybeen. The nearest GP surgery currently is Dundonald Medical Centre on Church Road just outside the estate, where three GPs are practising. This practice books appointments only one day ahead, and in addition has an open surgery each morning, which means that patients usually do not have to wait for an appointment for more than a day. In most cases, it is reported patients are able to see their preferred doctor. (Dundonald Medical Centre, personal communication)

There was a GP surgery in Ballybeen until the 1980s, but it was subjected to vandalism and closed. Ballybeen Women’s Centre campaigned to have the surgery reopened, but this did not happen. (Community Steering Group)

## **Hospital Services**

The nearest hospital is Ulster Hospital in Dundonald Village, which provides a full range of hospital services during daytime, including internal medicine, maternity, outpatient services in a range of specialisms and geriatric medicine. However, accident and emergency services are rotated between the four major hospitals in the area (Belfast City Hospital, Royal Victoria Hospital, Mater Hospital and Ulster Hospital), which means that patients needing hospital admission have to travel into Belfast on days when Ulster Hospital is not on A&E duty. A walk-in A&E service for minor injuries and ailments is available at all times.

## **Dental Services**

There are a number of dentist's surgeries on Newtownards Road, all of which are within Dundonald village. There are indications that dental health is an important health issue for Ballybeen residents, however fewer people use a dentist's services than visit their GP.

Dundonald Health Centre also provides Community Dental Services by a team of dentists, dental nurses, hygienists and educators, who visit the clinic regularly. The team provides education and screening, as well as dental treatment for children and people who may have difficulty accessing other dental services, such as people with disabilities. It has as its overall aim to improve dental health in the Trust area. ([www.sebt.n-i.nhs.uk](http://www.sebt.n-i.nhs.uk) 12.01.04)

## **Other Care Services**

The Social Security office serving Ballybeen residents is located on Holywood Road, some ten miles from the estate. This means considerable travel arrangements for those who do not have access to a car. This office provides a full range of benefit related services. (Holywood Road Social Security Office, personal communication)

Child protection services are provided by the South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust. However, very few children in the area are listed as vulnerable on the Child Protection Register. (SEBT, personal communication)

A range of community services is offered at Dundonald Healthcare Centre, which recently opened in new and refurbished premises. While it is not one of the Community Treatment and Care Centres the Trust is developing across its area, it provides many of the services these centres will provide. Services provided include foot care by podiatrists, district nursing, health visiting, speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, family planning, baby and breastfeeding clinics, and the community dental service mentioned above. There are also clinics led by nurses. (Dundonald Healthcare Centre, personal communication)

In addition, South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust employs home helps, who provide everyday assistance to support above all older people in the area to stay in their home. People who need frequent care can also apply to be included in the Home Care Service, under which an additional Evening Service is available for assistance with getting ready and into bed. This service also includes Cook-Chill meals, where necessary. ([www.sebt.n-i.nhs.uk](http://www.sebt.n-i.nhs.uk) 23.1.04)

Ballybeen is also served by the voluntary organisation Christians Providing Care, which offers a range of support services for vulnerable groups such as homeless people and lone mothers. The organisation also offers short term accommodation on its premises. (Community Steering Group)

## **Local Views**

*Unless otherwise stated, the views below have come from the Community Steering Group.*

Many older residents who have moved to Ballybeen from elsewhere have stayed registered with their GP in their previous area, and therefore Ballybeen residents are registered with GPs as far away as Hollywood Arches. As public transport across the area is poor, access to GPs can be a major issue for those who do not have their own transport.

An investigation into out-of-hours GP services by EBCHIP showed a high degree of dissatisfaction with the service provided in the Ballybeen area, as the closest out-of-hours service is based at Forster Green hospital in Galwally, a significant distance away. Many families cannot afford the taxi fare to Forster Green, and feel their needs have been ignored in the current organisation of services. (*GP Out of Hours Medical Services, 2003, EBCHIP*)

Locally, it is also reported that it is difficult to get a home visit unless the patient is in a certain, typically older age bracket. However, GP guidelines for home visits state that preference should be given to people who are terminally ill or truly bed bound, while most other illnesses can be dealt with at an out-of-hours centre or by telephone advice.

Local residents report that waiting lists for the clinics at Dundonald Healthcare Centre are often long, and would like to see an increase in provision of services such as occupational therapy.

## Proposals

**New General Medical Services Contract:** A new General Medical Services (GMS) contract for GPs came into force on 1 April 2004. This contract regulates all GP practices in the National Health Service (NHS), and also sets out the services they are required to provide. The major change is that GPs will have greater flexibility to choose which services they provide, for instance by opting out of out-of-hours care and some additional services, such as immunisation services. GPs also have the option of increasing the services they provide, and will receive additional resources for this. If a practice was to end some of its services, it will be the responsibility of the Health and Social Services Board to provide these services, for example out-of-hours. In some cases this may result in users travelling either to another GP practice, another service centre, or the hospital to receive care.

Practices are required to follow new quality standards, which focus on clinical services for certain diseases such as cancer, asthma, diabetes and coronary heart disease; improved organisation in practices; patients' experience of care and additional services. These standards are intended to encourage them to provide an overall better service, and practices will be monitored and evaluated against these standards. Nurses will also be able to provide more primary care, where their skills permit.

For patients, another major change is that from April 2004 they will register with the practice, rather than an individual GP. They will, however, still have the choice to see a specific doctor, and all patients will still be allocated a GP regardless of whether local lists are closed.

The contract includes additional funding of £8 billion over the next three years, distributed to all GP practices in the NHS. (*New General Medical Services Contract*, 2003, Department of Health)

Within the Eastern Health and Social Services Board area approximately 98% of GP's have indicated a desire to opt out of out-of-hour service provision. EHSSB is currently developing a plan to ensure provision of these services and at present foresee a continuation of existing services which will be run by the board. This plan will be open for consultation during summer 2004, and alternative arrangements for out-of-hour services will be put in place by January 2005. (GP Unit, EHSSB, personal communication)

**Community Treatment and Care Centres:** South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust is developing three Community Treatment and Care Centres (CTCCs) across the Trust area, of which one will be based in Castlereagh. These centres are a new type of health care service – the first of their kind in the UK – and will provide in one building a range of health services such as rehabilitation services, therapy services including speech therapy and occupational therapy, and social work and nursing services for older people and people with disabilities. There will also be general social workers and child health specialists in the centres. As a rule, however, there will be no GPs in these centres. (SEBT, personal communication)



# Statutory, Voluntary, Community and Private Provision

“ All sectors of society should assume responsibility for the reduction of social and gender inequalities, and the alleviation of their consequences on health”

Health for All: An introduction, *World Health Organisation 1998*

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*This section provides an overview of services available in Ballybeen, provided either by statutory organisations such as the Trust, NIHE, voluntary and community organisations or the private sector. The next section, Community Development, looks at general community activity.*

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## **Statutory Responsibility**

Support services such as childcare, nursing care for older people and community health services are provided by a range of organisations. South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust has a statutory responsibility for providing social and community health services, and manages the provision of all these services in south and east Belfast and Castlereagh. In addition, a number of community groups provide services such as childcare. These organisations are subject to regulation from the Trust and the relevant Government Department for provision of their services. (SEBT, personal communication)

NIHE has responsibility for providing social housing, as well as maintaining its housing stock. In addition, it is involved in community development work, and it is working closely with the community in Ballybeen to regenerate the area. (NIHE, personal communication). Current NIHE projects and plans have been discussed in the Housing section.

## **Childcare**

There is no childcare provision by statutory or private providers in Ballybeen, and no public nurseries in the wider Dundonald area.

### ***Ballybeen Women's Centre Childcare Services***

Ballybeen Women's Centre has a toddler group with 16 places, in addition to the pre school discussed in the Education section. This group operates five mornings per week, and accepts children aged 2 years 9 months to 3 years and 4 months. In addition, there is a crèche with 12 places per session for children whose mothers use the Women's Centre. The crèche is open 9 am – 5pm Monday to Friday, and it is free.

The Early Years Services at the Centre have been recognised as one of three Good Practice Networks in Northern Ireland. (Ballybeen Women's Centre, personal communication)

### ***After School Clubs***

There is a number of after school clubs in the area, run by voluntary and community organisations, or local churches. These include, Oasis after school club and Ballybeen After School Club run by the Activity Centre, and provide afternoon care during some days of the week for some local children. In addition, the Ballybeen Activity Centre organises many activities for young people in the after school hours.

After school activities cater mainly for the primary school age groups, while there is less provision for secondary school pupils outside their schools. There are no organised homework clubs in the area.

### ***Services for Older People and People with Disabilities***

There is no nursing home for older people in Ballybeen. The nearest nursing home is a private one in the Dunlady area, some 1.5 miles from Ballybeen across Newtownards Road. It has 64 places for long or short term nursing care, physically disabled people under and over 65, and people who are terminally ill. There are no nursing homes run by voluntary organisations close to Ballybeen, and the closest public residential home, managed by South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust (SEBT), is on Belmont Road in inner east Belfast.

Aaron House, in the Ballyoran area, has 17 supported accommodation places for people with learning disabilities. (*List of Nursing Homes, 2003*, EHSSB Registration and Inspection Unit)

For older people and people with disabilities, there is also a day centre at Millar's Lane, run by SEBT. However, space in the centre is limited to 30 places, and many older people from Ballybeen are bussed to day centres in inner east Belfast. All day centres are operated on a referral basis, and therefore users of Millar's Lane are not exclusively from Ballybeen. (SEBT, personal communication)

## **Private services in Ballybeen**

A post office is located at Ballybeen Square, where there also is a chemist's shop and a MACE grocery store. The store recently got an ATM (automatic teller machine), which is the only one in the estate. However, the ATM, which is a convenience machine located inside the shop, charges a fee of £1.50 for using it. This charge is imposed by financial authorities, as it is considered an extra service, unlike ordinary ATMs located at banks.

In Ballybeen, there is a branch of Dundonald Credit Union, which was established on an initiative from Ballybeen in the mid-1990s. The union was founded to counter problems with money lenders, who were charging extremely high interest rates to people who were unable to gain ordinary bank credit. The principle of credit unions is that they are jointly owned by members, who save in a common fund. Those needing credit can then be given a loan on reasonable terms from this common fund. The branch is open once a week, on a Saturday morning, and is reported to be relatively well used. (Community Steering Group)

## **Private services in Dundonald Village**

The closest supermarket is Safeway in Dundonald village, where the nearest banks also are located. Dundonald also has a range of other services, such as more specialised shops, optician's and hair dresser's, and cafés. There are few entertainment opportunities, however, and for instance the nearest cinema is in inner east Belfast. For entertainment and specialised services, people from Ballybeen are therefore required to travel into inner east Belfast, or the city centre.

Dundonald village is approximately a mile from the Graham's Bridge end of the estate, but as far as three miles from the Ballyoran area. This means access to shops and services can be difficult for those who do not have access to a car, and in particular for older people of whom many live in the more remote parts of the estate.

## **Policies and Strategies**

### ***Pathways for Change*, Taskforce for Resourcing the Voluntary and Community Sector**

In February 2003, the government appointed a Taskforce to look at how the voluntary and community could be resourced and funded after 2006, when funding from the European Union, through Peace programmes, is expected to decline. The Taskforce had members from government Departments and agencies, the voluntary and community sector, the academic community, Belfast City Council and EHSSB.

In December 2003, the Taskforce launched *Pathways for Change*, which is a consultation on the issues of funding, accountability, infrastructure and relationships. The document provides an outline of the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland, but focuses on the key issue of financial stability. It proposes a number of actions needed, such as a programme to support local community development; support for the sector's work in campaigning and advocacy; support for organisations to strengthen their boards and governing structures; improving partnerships and improving infrastructure in the community.

The report also argues that social investment is the way forward from the voluntary and community sector. Social investment, generally, means a system where a funding package considers targets and outcomes, and where performance is important. Organisations are also encouraged to restructure and form partnerships or merge. Typically, funding under this concept is provided for several years at a time.

*Pathways for Change* was opened for consultation, but represents an early stage in the process of determining how resourcing is best secured. A final report, informed by responses to the consultation, is due during spring 2004. (NICVA Briefing paper on *Pathways for Change*, January 2004, NICVA)

## **Local Views**

*Unless otherwise stated, the views below have come from the Community Steering Group.*

Ballybeen is an area where services have gradually been withdrawn over the last 20 years, leaving it with minimal provision. This has left many residents feeling excluded, and it has in some cases increased initial reluctance towards new initiatives.

Locally, it is stated there is a clear lack of childcare places on the estate, which has implications for parents in general and lone parents in particular. Waiting lists for nurseries across the greater east Belfast area are also typically reported to be long. It is also reported several after school groups have closed in recent times, as funding has run out for the after school club or for the worker tasked with facilitating it.

Among local people, the day centre is seen as an asset, as it provides opportunities for residents to meet and mix with people with disabilities. (*Profile and Participatory Appraisal Project*, Ballyoran Training & Support Group 1999) It is acknowledged that space is limited at the centre, and it is felt a new facility would considerably improve service provision. (SEBT, personal communication)

Local residents also value the collaboration with statutory organisations such as SEBT and NIHE. These organisations are seen to have an interest in the area, and the local community has indicated a willingness to continue working with them.

## Proposals

**Review of Public Administration:** The Review of Public Administration was launched in 2002, and is tasked with finding a model for reforming public administration in Northern Ireland. Criticism against the current system has stated that it is overly bureaucratic, and involves central instead of local government in issues such as planning, roads and water. Meanwhile, local councils have relatively little influence, compared to the public administration elsewhere in the UK. During late 2003 and early 2004, a consultation on how public administration should be reformed was held. The responses are to inform another consultation, due by autumn 2004. It is currently not clear when a new model would be phased in.

The consultation set out five alternative models for the future:

1. **Status Quo:** The current system with a mix of public bodies (such as NIHE or Education and Library Boards) and Departments responsible for services, while local councils have a civic leadership role and limited responsibilities such as waste management and leisure service provision.
2. **Centralised:** A system where government Departments would deliver services through regional and sub regional offices. Under this system, many public bodies would disappear, and central government would have overall control. The role of local councils would not change drastically.
3. **Regional and Sub-Regional Public Bodies:** A system where services would be delivered through public bodies. Functions currently carried out by Departments, such as planning and roads, would be transferred to public bodies directed by Ministers, councillors or a wider stakeholder group. Local councils would be responsible for local services only.
4. **Reformed Status Quo with Enhanced Local Government:** A variation of the current system in which councils get a bigger role. Public bodies would remain, and Departments would still have an input, but local councils would take on a planning role and be members of all bodies related to services they provide. Some responsibilities could also be transferred to councils.
5. **Strong Local Government:** A system where councils would be responsible for delivering most services. This system would involve the biggest changes, as local councils would take on responsibility for almost all services, including education and planning. It is likely the number of councils would be reduced, and the new authorities would have new governance structures.

The Review is not concerned with health and social services, as this is a separate process which will resume when initial results from this Review are known.

The Review will have impacts on all citizens, as it is likely to substantially change the way services are provided. For instance, education may no longer

be the responsibility of the South Eastern Education and Library Board, while housing may become managed locally. (*Review of Public Administration consultation document*, October 2003, Review of Public Administration Team)

It could also be argued that if a number of bodies and agencies disappear, it is also likely some jobs in public administration will be lost.

# Community Development

**“The regeneration schemes and projects that have the greatest impact on the quality of life in disadvantaged areas deal with a range of economic, social, physical and community issues and involve the active involvement of those communities”**

People and Place: A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal, *Department for Social Development 2003*

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*This final section looks at activities and provision by community organisations in Ballybeen. It also looks at general community issues and trends.*

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## **Regeneration**

### ***Ballybeen Improvement Group***

Ballybeen Improvement Group (BIG) was established in 2000 to provide an umbrella group for community organisations and representatives, to contribute to regeneration work in Ballybeen. The group aims to improve quality of life on the estate overall, and is working with statutory service providers to improve services available and address needs within the estate. The group was closely involved in securing the demolition of the Enler site, and has representatives on the current Enler site Steering Group, which is considering plans for the site. BIG has also been involved in Castlereagh Local Strategy Partnership's bid for a grant to develop a model for joint public sector and community activity, and members of the group visited Bromley by Bow in London in summer 2003 to see how this could be done in this community. Another visit took place in February 2004. In addition, BIG has worked with the Woodland Trust to develop a nature reserve along Enler river. (BIG)

Currently the Castlereagh Local Strategy Partnership, as well as Castlereagh Borough Council, are focusing on supporting communities to build their infrastructure, with the aim of creating a strong community sector. (Castlereagh LSP) South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust and NIHE have also been closely involved in community development work over several years, and supported the community to address local issues.

### ***Small Grants Programme***

Castlereagh Local Strategy Partnership has initiated a small grants programme for areas in Castlereagh with a weak community infrastructure. Under this scheme, grants of £1000 - £3000 are available to local voluntary and community groups to strengthen their networks, or deliver activities which respond to an identified need in the community. The small grants programme is planned to run until 2006.

Under this scheme, a number of organisations in Ballybeen have received funding to build capacity as well as arrange events. BIG received a grant to take group members to visit Bromley by Bow in London, to get ideas of how services can be provided in an integrated way. Best Cellars received a grant to support a showcase of local young musicians, who perform regularly at local venues. (Castlereagh Local Strategy Partnership, personal communication)

### ***Supporting Local Communities***

Castlereagh Local Strategy Partnership is also running a borough-wide programme aimed to support local communities to grow, and develop a common community infrastructure for the borough area. This programme is open to community organisations, which can participate in one or more of the four parts of the programme, although some sections are aimed at selected organisations. The four parts are a communication programme, a mentoring programme, a training and skills development programme, and a legacy project.

The communication initiative looks at increasing awareness among audiences of community success stories, as well as activities going on in the sector. The mentoring programme, in turn, is organised by Business in the Community, and aims to provide business knowledge and experience to community groups interested in business opportunities. The training programme, run by Time Associates, offers flexible opportunities to train up on a number of core skills which will help the group tackle local issues and build networks and partnerships. The legacy project, finally, is run by Conflict Trauma Resource Centre and aims to help people understand what the impact of the Troubles has been on their daily lives, and how they can build a new identity in a more peaceful society. (Supporting Local Communities leaflet, 2003, Castlereagh LSP)

### ***East Belfast Community Health Education Project (EBCHIP)***

The EBCHIP initiative targets ten areas across east Belfast, and aims to recruit 100 people to train them as lay health workers, who will pass health information to other local residents. The project has a staff member dedicated to Ballybeen and Knocknagoney, and has recruited 13 people from Ballybeen, with a higher proportion of men than in any other area.



The lay health workers are being trained and supported to access information on their choice of five themes, which include men's health, women's health, drug and alcohol awareness, mental health and family support. (EBCHIP, personal communication)

### ***Ballybeen Action Group Initiative Trust***

Ballybeen Action Group Initiative Trust (BAGIT) is an organisation aiming to support the regeneration of Ballybeen, and focuses on supporting local residents.

In November 2003, BAGIT opened a benefits and housing information shop at Ballybeen Square, which supports residents with benefit and housing issues, including filling out forms. BAGIT has also initiated a project to replace murals throughout the estate. The first new mural was unveiled in summer 2003 near Ballybeen Square, and other new murals are under consideration. (BAGIT leaflet, 2003, BAGIT)

### ***Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy***

The Department for Social Development recently selected 11 areas in greater Belfast as targets for special neighbourhood renewal measures, under the Northern Ireland-wide Neighbourhood Renewal strategy. These areas were selected on the basis of the Noble index, and include wards which rated among the 10 % most deprived overall. However, none of the wards covering Ballybeen were selected under this scheme, as they do not rate among these 10 % most deprived wards. (*Neighbourhood Renewal in Belfast – Draft Implementation Plan*, January 2004, DSD)

A summary of the strategy is given in the Proposals section.

## **Arts Provision**

### ***Ballybeen Community Theatre***

In Ballybeen, there is a writers' collective and a community theatre group, Ballybeen Community Theatre. The theatre group has contributed to the development of a sense of community, through the plays it has set up over the years. In 1995, the group set up and developed a play created by the Ballybeen community as a whole, called 'The Mourning Ring'. This play, which involved in all 250 local people, looked at how people in Ballybeen experienced their local environment and culture, and also touched on issues related to the Troubles. It was performed in Dundonald High School, and established the theatre group firmly, although membership has since declined. (*The Play Was Not the Only Project*, 1997, Ballybeen Community Theatre)

### ***Greengraves Youth Drama***

There is also a youth drama group, Greengraves Youth Drama, which is based at the Ballyoran Centre. This group encourages young people to express themselves through drama, and regularly sets up productions of its own. In April 2003, the group received £5, 000 from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland to set up a production in collaboration with Dundonald High School. ([www.lottery.culture.gov.uk](http://www.lottery.culture.gov.uk) 12.01.2004)

### ***Best Cellars***

A music and media enterprise, Best Cellars, is based in Ballybeen Activity Centre although it serves a wider east Belfast public. The organisation has a rehearsal facility used by 20-30 bands from across east Belfast, and a recording and CD production facility available for local bands. Best Cellars also provides video services, and has a pool of trained volunteers who produce videos for a range of organisations. (Best Cellars, personal communication)

### ***Old Tyme Dancing Group***

There is also an Old Tyme Dancing Group, based at the Ballyoran Centre. This group is aimed above all at older people, and practises a range of old time dances. The group meets once a week.

## **Young People**

### ***Ballybeen Youth Club***

Ballybeen Youth Club is a recognised SEELB club, and is very popular among young people. There is both a Junior and a Senior club, which meet on separate weeknights. The club follows the Department of Education Core Curriculum, and arranges activities varying from arts and crafts to football and health education. Out of club hours there are special projects, such as dance and drama, career guidance and annual camps. (Ballybeen Youth Clubs leaflet, 2002, Ballybeen Youth Clubs)

The club has also been involved with Co-Operation Ireland, and participated in cross-community schemes with youth clubs from the Republic of Ireland. (*Profile and Participatory Appraisal Project*, Ballyoran Training & Support Group 1999) Among other bodies the New Opportunities Fund has funded the activities of the club, which supported a show celebrating Queen Elizabeth's Gold Jubilee in 2002. ([www.lottery.culture.gov.uk](http://www.lottery.culture.gov.uk) 12.01.2004) In addition, South Eastern Education and Library Board provides financial support to the club. (SEELB, personal communication)

### ***Ballybeen Activity Centre***

Ballybeen Activity Centre, which is owned and funded by Castlereagh Borough Council, hosts the Ballybeen Youth Club. The centre is also open on Friday nights, opening separately for the P1-P7 age group, and for older youngsters varying in age from P7 up to 19. There is, in addition, a Saturday morning club. (Ballybeen Activity Centre, personal communication)

### ***Army Cadets***

There is a group of army cadets, aimed at young people aged 13-18, which meets in the Ballyoran Centre. The Cadets offer young people opportunities to develop a range of skills, and also arranges sports activities. The group has contact with other groups in England, Scotland and Wales, and annually attends a UK wide training camp.

### ***Peer Educator Project***

Ballybeen Women's Centre has been running a Peer Educator Project since the early 1990s, when it was established to counter problems with drinking, drug taking and early experiences of sex, and to improve health awareness. The project currently runs five programmes, which provide health information and education to young people aged 10-25. The programmes aim to promote health awareness among young people, and to identify young people's information needs in relation to health and personal development. They focus on key issues affecting young people, such as smoking, lifestyle, sexual health and teenage pregnancy. One of the programmes is an Open College Network accredited course in groupwork, which is intended for trainee peer educators before they become fully involved with groups of young people.

### ***Bytes Project***

The Bytes project is aimed at unemployed teenagers and young adults aged 18-25, and offers personal development and IT training to support the young people's confidence as well as practical skills. It operates a drop-in centre in one of the units at the Ballyoran Centre, which is open four days a week and provides access to computers with Internet facilities. The Bytes project regularly arranges courses on a range of themes, which in 2004 will include a single identity course as well as a Body Beautiful course, focusing on health and body language issues. (Bytes Project, personal communication)

The churches also have very active youth programmes, and for instance the Boys' Brigade has a relatively high membership in Ballybeen. The church youth clubs arrange a variety of activities, from after school provision to outings, and are relatively popular among young people.

In addition, local voluntary youth provision includes a football club, Dungoyne Football Club, and a flute band. (Community Steering Group)

## **Provision for Women**

### ***Ballybeen Women's Centre***

Ballybeen Women's Centre at Ballybeen Square provides a range of services for local women, including a drop-in centre, crèche and ante-natal clinics as well as education services, as discussed in the Education section. The Centre is the first of its type in Northern Ireland, and was established in 1984. Over the years, the Centre has expanded in several stages, as demand has exceeded capacity. The Centre has also been involved in several community development campaigns in Ballybeen, and many women who have taken part in its courses have since become active in community work. (Ballybeen Women's Centre, personal communication)

### ***Other services***

Ballyoran Centre provides facilities for a computer class, which is run by the Open Learning Centre in Castlereagh. A crèche is available for mothers attending the class. (Ballyoran Centre)

All churches also run mother and toddler groups, aimed at giving mothers an opportunity to socialise with other mums. In addition, some churches offer monthly evening meetings for women only. (*Churches Survey 2003*, 2003, East Belfast Community Development Agency)

## **Provision for Men**

### ***Ballybeen Men in Focus***

Ballybeen Men in Focus organises activities including a 'Walking and Talking' group aimed at encouraging men to talk about health and other issues while walking trails developed in and around Ballybeen. The group aims to improve men's health through access to better information and empowerment, and works actively to both involve men in recreational activities and promote men's health in the area. In addition, Ballybeen Men in Focus aims to provide a forum where men can address health issues in a supportive environment, and this way support men to seek medical help at an early stage, when required.

The group has been actively involved in projects relating to health across east Belfast, and has also been involved in establishing other projects for men such as Wise Men of the East, which is a group aiming to organise activities for local men. (Ballybeen Men in Focus, personal communication)

## **Provision for Older People**

### ***Engage with Age***

The interagency partnership organisation Engage with Age provides a range of services for older people across south and east Belfast and Castlereagh. Its programmes in Ballybeen include a cross community project, and an introductory IT course. Engage with Age has also conducted surveys on the needs of older people, and in 2003 produced a directory of services and activities available in the area for older people. In addition, the organisation supports local groups for older people financially, and co-ordinates a working group to tackle loneliness and social isolation among older people in Ballybeen. Other organisations on the group are Dundonald PSNI, Castlereagh PSNI Community Involvement, NIHE, SEBT, Castlereagh Borough Council, EBCHIP, Victim Support, Ballybeen Women's Centre, local churches and older peoples' groups. (Engage with Age, personal communication)

Older people with arthritis can apply to become members of a swimming club organised by Engage with Age, which arranges weekly swimming and exercise sessions at the Robinson Centre.

### ***St Mary's Silver Threads***

The Silver Threads Over 60s Club provides activities for older people, including a regular lunch club every Monday. Silver Threads also runs a computer training programme, as noted in the Education section. (Silver Threads, personal communication)

### ***Ballybeen Women's Centre***

The Women's Centre collaborates with Age Concern, and runs an Actively Ageing Well group, which includes a physical activity programme and quality assurance training for small organisations. The Centre also has an Over 50s group, which meets several times a week for crafts projects.

### ***Age Concern***

Age Concern also runs a weekly group for older people with activities such as arts and crafts and outings. The group meets at Dungoyne Community Centre, which also hosts a women's group meeting to play bingo and chat. (*Older People's Directory*, 2003, Engage with Age)

### ***Dungoyne Veterans Bowling Club***

At Dungoyne, there is also the Dungoyne Veterans Bowling Club, which arranges bowling and other social activities. It recently received a grant from New Opportunities Fund to extend activities, and also to provide training for members. ([www.lottery.culture.uk](http://www.lottery.culture.uk) 9.12.03)

### **Old Mill Bowling and Social Group**

In the Ballyoran area, the Old Mill Bowling and Social Group arranges bowling events for older people as well as unemployed persons, to involve them in the community. The group also regularly arranges events for younger people. (*Profile and Participatory Appraisal Project*, Ballyoran Training & Support Group 1999)

### **Church activity**

There are five churches and religious groups active within Ballybeen - St Mary's, Christ Church Presbyterian, St Elizabeth's, Brooklands Gospel Centre run by the Christian Brethren, the Salvation Army and the City Mission. All of them are very active in the community, and many groups are very popular.

All of the churches organise clubs or groups for children and young people. All also run a range of activities for young people, such as Girls and Boys Brigades, scouts and girl guides, Sunday school and after school clubs. Brooklands Gospel Centre has a very popular Sunday club, a midweek club for children, and a Fellowship for young people.

Christ Church Presbyterian and St Elizabeth's also run mother and toddler groups, and Christ Church has an evening group for women only. Brooklands Gospel Centre has a weekly mums and toddlers group, as well as a monthly Women's Hour. (*Churches Survey 2003*, 2003, East Belfast Community Development Agency)

For older people, the churches arrange weekly social clubs, many of which provide activities and a meal, such as the Monday club arranged by St Mary's Silver Threads. Some of the churches also arrange activities such as weekly bowling clubs. (Community Steering Group)

### **Local Views**

*Unless otherwise stated, the views below have come from the Community Steering Group.*

The local voluntary sector has declined in recent years, particularly due to short term funding arrangements for many projects coming to an end. Many groups were forced to close when funding under the first European Union Peace and Reconciliation Programme (Peace I) ended in 1999, or when other grants have run out in the last couple of years.

There is a general feeling locally that there is a lack of detailed information and statistics on local issues. A general wish has, therefore, been to find a way to redress this, as it would offer a way to highlight issues hidden in statistics which take in the more affluent areas surrounding Ballybeen.

There is, however, an established community infrastructure, which has long traditions in the area. Since the very early days of the estate, there has been a dedicated group of people working to improve living conditions in Ballybeen, and this tradition is continuing. For instance, there are residents' associations, of which a number are still active in their local parts of the estate (such as East Ballybeen Residents' Association). This is widely seen as a positive feature, although it is recognised that more people could be actively involved in the community. Community organisations such as BIG are also seen as important assets and strengths of the area.

As a result of continued community health work in Ballybeen for the past 15 years, there is also a pool of community minded and well informed lay health workers, who still contribute to the community as key sources of information. Recently, this pool has been added to by the 13 lay health workers recruited by EBCHIP. (EBCHIP, personal communication)

It is also noted that many women and young people have been very proactive in tackling issues and solving problems in the area. Many who have initially been involved in one course or initiative have since become very active in the community more generally, and been encouraged to do further training.

Locally, it is felt Ballybeen has been left out of several regeneration programmes over recent years, and local residents feel their concerns are not being taken seriously by planners and policy makers. They have voiced particular concern over the exclusion from the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, and have planned further action to attempt to persuade DSD to include Ballybeen in the special measures.

It is reported youth groups frequently face difficulties relating to funding. St Mary's Church had a youth worker for a two year period, but lost this function as funding ended and no new source was found. In other cases, the rent of facilities has been significantly increased after organisations have made funding applications based on another rent rate.

Provision particularly for older teenagers is limited, and locally it is felt young people are a largely neglected group.

The Women's Centre programmes for young people are felt to be very popular, and in the last year over 60 young people have been involved. The Peer Educator Project in itself has also contributed to improved knowledge of health issues among young people in Ballybeen, and has been recognised as a Flagship Project for its approach to tackling these issues. Many young people undertaking the programmes are subsequently interested in becoming peer educators themselves, and some individuals have continued into university after involvement with the project. (Ballybeen Women's Centre, personal communication)

**All the information below was gathered at a meeting of *Ballybeen Improvement Group* in Millar's Lane Day Centre, on 3 February 2004.**

There were perceived to be a number of people living in Ballybeen who are very active and committed to their community. However, people also expressed concerns that there is a general lack of support and infrastructure to support them, and this related in part to a lack of mainstream funding for community development activities on the estate.

Communicating information about existing community development was also raised as a challenge which people face. Local people do not always know who to get in touch with for information, and, in the absence of funding for mailshots to every house in the area, it is difficult to communicate with residents on a regular basis.

Local people recently started producing a newsletter for Ballybeen which is delivered to every house, and to date two issues have been produced. Assistance in this has been provided by the Housing Executive.

## **Proposals**

**Ballybeen: Partnership in Practice - Department of Social Development Outreach programme:** This programme aims to develop a successful and sustainable model of joint public sector and community working. By doing so, it aims to aid local regeneration by encouraging services to respond to local need. The programme will initially be focused on the Ballybeen estate, working closely with Ballybeen Improvement Group.

It is anticipated that the following organisations will work together under the umbrella of Castlereagh Local Strategy Partnership to implement the outreach programme: Northern Ireland Housing Executive, South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust, South Eastern Education & Library Board, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Castlereagh Borough Council and local community organisations, schools and businesses (represented by the Ballybeen Improvement Group).

The aim is to develop a three year Neighbourhood Development Plan, which will address key issues which have been previously identified. Information regarding the programme will be circulated to everyone in the area, and will be translated as required for those with disability or from ethnic minorities. Residents will be kept informed of progress through regular meetings and through ongoing contact with the estate manager.



The intended benefits of the programme are:

- Joint working between all sectors
- Environmental improvement
- Adoption of innovative approaches to problem solving
- Engagement of all sectors of the community
- Building of a greater sense of identity within the area
- Greater participation in training and education initiatives
- Development of programmes to improve physical and mental wellbeing
- Appointment of an estate manager
- Development of a model for use in other areas
- Increased confidence in the community to work with public sector, leading to more community orientated services
- Increased knowledge of and access to improved coordinated services
- Increased community participation in public sector programmes/services
- A more knowledgeable collective of public sector employees and community members who can continue to work together to tackle issues. (Castlereagh LSP)

In March 2004, the Department of Social Development awarded the Ballybeen Regeneration project £160, 449. Funding was awarded to a total of 13 demonstration projects across Northern Ireland, which actively involve the community and test new approaches to developing relations between communities and the public sector. (DSD press release, 9.3.2004)

### **Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy for Belfast, Department for Social Development**

This strategy was launched for consultation in January 2004, and aims to set out an integrated, long term approach for neighbourhood renewal. The overall aim of the strategy is to tackle social need and exclusion, and renew the most deprived neighbourhoods in greater Belfast. The final Implementation Plan is to be agreed before autumn 2004.

The strategy forms part of the Northern Ireland wide neighbourhood renewal strategy People and Place, which was launched in June 2003. This strategy aims to ensure that the most deprived communities have access to the best services and opportunities to improve their quality of life, and improve the image of these communities. It proposes to achieve these goals through community, economic, social and physical renewal.

The draft strategy proposes to designate 11 areas in Belfast as priority areas for neighbourhood renewal, selected on the basis of their ranking in the Noble index. All selected areas are among the 10 % most deprived in the index. Ballybeen has not been designated a Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRU) under the draft implementation plan.

To achieve objectives, Neighbourhood Partnerships will be set up in each area, and a Neighbourhood Renewal Vision Framework developed, setting out aspirations of the area for the next 7-10 years. Concrete actions will be set in three year action plans.

Actions will focus on improving key public services, and tackling key issues and problems as identified in the Statements of Need prepared by the five Area Partnerships. The draft implementation plan focuses on setting out roles for different stakeholders, and states that final action plans will be agreed by the Neighbourhood Partnerships. The plan includes restructuring Belfast Regeneration Office, although the office will remain the lead agency for delivering the plan.

The draft strategy states that the Ministerial Group will ensure that all Government Departments remain committed to targeting funding at the needs of the most deprived neighbourhoods and to making existing public services as effective as possible by improving the co-ordination of statutory agencies and the targeting of resources. The DSD plans to refocus its existing urban regeneration resources to give priority to regenerating the identified Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. Funding for these areas will also be provided by other Government Departments and agencies as well as the European Union and other funding sources.

Areas located just outside those targeted will receive support through other mainstream programmes. According to the draft strategy

*(People & Place – Neighbourhood Renewal in Belfast: Draft Implementation Plan, January 2004, DSD)*

## Appendix 1

### **Ballybeen CHIA Community Steering Group**

#### **Members**

Paulene Beattie/Paul Carland	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
William Brooks	East Belfast Community Health Information Project ( <i>from 1 April 2004</i> )
Billy Hobson	Castlereagh Lifestyle Forum
Sheelagh Hogg	Ballybeen Improvement Group
Tanya Hughes	Director, Ballybeen Women's Centre
Ian Kerr	Old Mill Bowling and Social Group
David McCartney	Principal, Brooklands Primary School
Mavis McCune	Co-Ordinator, Ballybeen Youth Club
Maurice Meehan	Investing for Health Officer, Eastern Health and Social Services Board
Gabi Mornhinweg	Community Development Officer, South and East Belfast Health & Social Services Trust
Trevor Newman	Chair, Ballybeen Improvement Group
Gerry Potts	Castlereagh Lifestyle Forum
Paula Powell	Health Development Officer, East Belfast Community Health Information Project
David Smyth	Chair, Ballybeen Men in Focus
Mike Wilson	Co-Ordinator, Castlereagh Local Strategy Partnership



## **Appendix 2**

### **Glossary of Terms**

#### **1) Limiting long term illness**

Limiting long-term illness covers any long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits daily activities or work. (Census 2001)

#### **2) Provision of unpaid care**

Provision of unpaid care is defined as looking after, giving help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of long-term physical or mental ill-health or disability or problems relating to old age. (Census 2001)

#### **3) Disability Discrimination Act definitions of disability:**

“A physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on a person’s ability to carry out normal day to day activities.”

Impairment:

- Physical – affecting the senses such as sight and hearing, including diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, epilepsy.
- Mental - impairments including learning disabilities and mental ill health (if it is recognised by a respected body of medical opinion)

Substantial:

- To be substantial it must be more than minor, e.g. inability to see moving traffic, to turn taps or knobs, inability to relay a simple message.

Long-term:

- Having lasted more than 12 months or is likely to last 12 months, or likely to last for the rest of the individual’s life.

Day to day activities:

- Moving from place to place, ability to lift or carry, physical co-ordination, continence, speech, hearing, eyesight, memory.

#### **4) Entitlement to Disability Living Allowance (DLA)**

Persons are entitled to DLA if:

- Because of illness or disability the person has developed care and/or mobility needs before the age of 65 and claim before then; or
- The person has needed help with personal care or getting around for the last three months, and the need is expected to exist for at least a further six months. If the person is terminally ill and is unlikely to live longer than 6 months (the person does not have to satisfy this qualifying period, this rule applies to all customers, including babies under 3 months old).;or
- The person uses a kidney machine at home or in a self care unit two or more times per week (Social Security Agency, 2003).

Low, middle and high rate DLA payments are made depending on whether help is needed during some of the day (low rate) or both day and night (high rate). A higher rate mobility component is payable if the person:

- Cannot walk at all; or
- Is virtually unable to walk; or
- Has had both legs amputated at or above the ankle, or has been born without legs or feet; or
- Is both deaf and blind and needs someone in attendance when outdoors; or
- Is severely mentally impaired with severe behavioural problems and is receiving the highest rate of care component (Social Security Agency, 2003).

#### **5) Entitlement to Incapacity Benefit**

Incapacity Benefit is a source of outcome for people who are unable to work for four or more consecutive days due to illness, and are not entitled to Statutory Sick Pay. It is available in a short term or long term rate, depending on the length of incapacity. To be entitled, persons must have paid National Insurance contributions before they became unable to work.

To receive Incapacity Benefit, persons must demonstrate that they are unable to work in their usual occupation, for the first 28 weeks of incapacity. For longer periods, the criterion is that the person must be unable to perform any work. Persons in receipt of Incapacity Benefit are subject to medical tests and a Personal Capability Assessment, to assess their level of incapacity, and are also expected to take a work focused interview when renewing a claim.

In principle, long term Incapacity Benefit can be paid for an unlimited time, or as long as incapacity lasts. Incapacity Benefit is a supplementary benefit, and persons in receipt of it can also be entitled to Income Support. ([www.ssani.gov.uk](http://www.ssani.gov.uk) 12.2.04)

## **6) Housing Stress**

Housing stress is calculated on the basis of how difficult it is for a tenant to live in a certain property. Tenants are scored on a number of points, which focus on functionality (ability to go about tasks in the property), and anyone rating over 30 points is classified as being in housing stress. (NIHE)

## **7) Working age population**

Working age population is 16-64 inclusive for men and 16-59 inclusive for women. (Census 2001)

## **8) Economically active population**

Persons are classified as economically active if they are in full or part time employment, self employed or unemployed but actively seeking work. Persons in receipt of Income Support are not classified as economically active. (Census 2001)

## **9) Jobseeker's Allowance**

Jobseeker's Allowance is a benefit for unemployed people who are available for and actively seeking work. In addition, the claimant must enter into a Jobseeker's agreement, be capable of work, be under pension age, not be in education and not working more than 16 hours per week. It is payable in two formats, depending on the claimant's circumstances.

Persons may qualify for Jobseeker's Allowance (Contribution based) if they are unemployed, have paid enough National Insurance Contributions and are available for and actively seeking work. It is payable for up to 182 days. No additional benefit is payable for dependants.

Jobseeker's Allowance (Income based) is income related. Persons may qualify for Jobseeker's Allowance (Income Based) if they are unemployed, available for and actively seeking work but have not paid enough National Insurance Contributions to receive Jobseeker's Allowance (Contribution based). The rates payable depend on circumstances, but the benefit is paid for as long as the claimant's income is under a specified limit and he/she fulfils the entitlement criteria.

In most cases, couples where both partners are claiming the income based JSA, they are required to make a joint claim and receive a couple rate. This was introduced in 2001 in order to reduce the number of households where no one works, and to improve the prospects of those working part time. ([www.ssani.gov.uk](http://www.ssani.gov.uk) 14.1.04)

## 10) Income Support

Persons are entitled to Income Support if their income, from all sources, is below the minimum level set by Parliament. Those entitled must fall into one of the following categories:

- a Lone Parent with a child under 16 living with them;
- be incapable or treated as incapable of work because of sickness (subject to all work test and own occupation test);
- be caring for a severely disabled person or a member of their family who is temporarily ill;
- be a disabled person whose earnings are reduced because of their disability;
- be a student (who qualifies for Benefit);
- be pregnant within 11 weeks of the expected date of confinement;
- be single looking after a child placed with them by the Health and Social Services;
- be temporarily looking after another person (for four weeks only after which Carer's Allowance must be claimed);
- be in employment living in a care home;
- a disabled student; or a deaf student;
- a blind person;
- certain persons in education;
- a person who on or before 06/10/96 was aged 50 or over and who has not been in remunerative work for 10 years and has not worked since;
- a refugee learning English;
- a person required to attend court;
- a member of a couple looking after children while the other member is temporarily abroad;
- a person appealing against a decision that they are not incapable of work.
- a person who in addition to one of the above categories also satisfies the criteria for the Parental Leave Scheme.

Claimants must be between 16 and 60 and resident in Northern Ireland. Persons cannot receive Income Support if they work more than 16 hours per week, their partner works more than 24 hours per week or if they have savings over £8 000. Typically, 16-19 year olds are only entitled to Income Support if they are living on their own with no support from their parents and no means of supporting themselves. ([www.ssani.gov.uk](http://www.ssani.gov.uk) 14.1.04)



## 11) Zoned (land)

To mark with or divide into zones (Collins English Dictionary). The purpose of zoning for land use plans is to set aside certain areas for certain purposes.

## 12) Occupation groups

For the purposes of the Census, persons of working age are categorised into a certain occupation group on the basis of their occupation or job role:

**Group 1 Managers and Senior Officials:** all types of managerial jobs, as well as senior public service positions.

**Group 2 Professionals:** senior professional occupations, such as scientists, doctors, lawyers, researchers, engineers, teachers, pharmacists and clergy.

**Group 3 Associate Professional and Technical Occupations:** more junior professional jobs such as technicians, nurses, journalists, junior police officers, actors and dancers, airline pilots, sales representatives and sports coaches and instructors.

**Group 4 Administrative and Secretarial Occupations:** covers most administrative jobs, from civil service executive officers to clerks and all types of secretaries.

**Group 5 Skilled Trades:** Covers skilled tradesmen such as electricians, carpenters, plumbers, bricklayers, weavers and cutters, butchers and bakers, as well as farmers.

**Group 6 Personal Service Occupations:** nursing auxiliaries, nursery nurses, childminders, tour guides, dental nurses, housekeepers, hairdressers.

**Group 7 Sales and Customer Service Occupations:** sales assistants, call centre operators, street traders and debt and cash collectors.

**Group 8 Process, Plant and Machine Operatives:** all types of operative occupations such as food and drink operatives, sewing machine operatives, scaffolders, road construction operatives and van, taxi and forklift drivers.

**Group 9 Elementary Occupations:** This group covers remaining occupations, such as labourers, farm workers, porters, bar staff and waiters, postal workers, traffic wardens and cleaners. (NISRA 2004)

## 13) Qualifications – definition of level 1 to 5

**Level 1=** GCSE (grades D-G), CSE (grades 2-5), 1-4 CSEs (grade 1), 1-4 GCSEs (grades A-C), 1-4 'O' level passes, NVQ level 1, GNVQ Foundation or equivalents.

**Level 2=** 5+ CSEs (grade 1), 5+ GCSEs (grades A-C), 5+ 'O' level passes, Senior Certificate, 1 'A' level, 1-3 AS levels, Advanced Senior Certificate, NVQ level 2, GNVQ Intermediate or equivalents.

**Level 3=** 2+ 'A' levels, 4+ AS levels, NVQ level 3, GNVQ Advanced.

**Level 4=** First degree, NVQ level 4, HNC, HND or equivalents.

**Level 5=** Higher degree, NVQ level 5 or equivalents. (Census 2001)



## **Appendix 3**

### **Abbreviations**

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Abbreviation in Full</b>
BIG	Ballybeen Improvement Group
BMAP	Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015
CTCC	Community Treatment and Care Centre
DCU	District Command Unit (Police)
DENI	Department of Education
DHSSPS	Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
DoE	Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland)
DLA	Disability Living Allowance
DRD	Department for Regional Development
DSD	Department for Social Development
EBCHIP	East Belfast Community Health Information Project
EHSSB	Eastern Health and Social Services Board
JSA	Jobseekers' Allowance
LSP	Local Strategy Partnership
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification
PSNI	Police Service for Northern Ireland
SEBT	South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust
SEELB	South Eastern Education and Library Board



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## Individuals / Organisations

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
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