



**NEWRY
CHAMBER**
SINCE 1820

NEWRY, MOURNE
AND DOWN
Labour Market Partnership
Working Together



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down
District Council



PROGRAMME: NMD RECRUITMENT & SKILLS CONFERENCE

Meeting the District's Workforce Challenge

DATE: Wednesday 8th October 2025 **VENUE:** The Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle

TIME: 9am - 3pm

COST: FREE

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 9am | Registration, Networking & Tea/Coffee |
| 9:30am | Welcome by MC, Mark Simpson, Broadcaster & Journalist |
| 9:35am | Welcome Address by Edwina Flynn, President, Newry Chamber |
| 9:40am | Welcome Address by Cllr Philip Campbell, Chairperson,
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council |
| 9:45am | Presentation by Ana Desmond, Senior Economist,
Ulster University Economic Policy Centre
Tackling the Workplace Challenge in NMD: Current & Future Labour Markets |
| 10:05am | Address by Michelle Furphy, Director of Labour Market Policy and Delivery,
Department for Communities NI |
| 10:20am | Panel Discussion: Employer/Employee
Promoting Economic Inclusion & Championing Diversity in the Workplace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle Furphy, Director of Labour Market Policy and Delivery, DfC • Christine Kearney, Director of Development, Autism NI • Liam Devine, CEO, Clanrye Group • Danielle Rice, Jark Healthcare, Employ Me Programme Employer • Rosemary McVerry, Get Work Ready Programme Participant • Fionnuala Ellis, Harbour House, Newcastle |
| 10:55am | Interactive Roundtable Session with Feedback (SLIDO) |
| 11:10am | Tea/Coffee Break |



**NEWRY
CHAMBER**
SINCE 1820

NEWRY, MOURNE
AND DOWN
Labour Market Partnership
Working Together



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down
District Council



- 11:25am** **Presentation by Justin Kerr, Head of the DfE Careers Service**
Joint DfE/DE Careers Action Plan 2025-28
- 11:40am** **Panel Discussion:**
The Pathway to a Career & The NI Curriculum
- Justin Kerr, Head of the DfE Careers Service
 - Representative from the Department of Education
 - Heather McKee, Deputy Principal, Planning, Performance and Engagement, SERC
 - Elizabeth O'Connor, Director of People & Governance, MJM Marine
 - Steven Pagan, Principal, Shimna Integrated College, Newcastle
 - Local School Representative TBC
- 12:15pm** **Interactive Roundtable Session with Feedback (SLIDO)**
- 12:30pm** **Networking & Lunch**
- 1:30pm** **Emma Mullen, Head of HR, People and Culture, Deli Lites Ireland**
CSR & ESG at the Heart of Recruitment & Retention
- 1:45pm** **Presentation by Mark Palmer, Director of Executive Education (UK & Ireland)**
William J Clinton Leadership Institute, Queen's University Belfast
Upskilling & Leadership Development
- 2pm** **Panel Discussion: Attracting & Developing Talent**
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Environmental Social & Governance (ESG)
- Emma Mullen, Head of HR, People and Culture, Deli Lites Ireland
 - Mark Palmer, William J Clinton Leadership Institute, QUB
 - Melissa Mackey, Head of Talent, Finnebrogue
 - Tracy Rice, Head of Business Engagement, SRC
 - Maeve Finnegan, Managing Director, Mitso, Help To Grow Programme Participant
 - Becky Bell from Walter Watson Ltd, SRC Upskilling for Growth Programme



**NEWRY
CHAMBER**
SINCE 1820

NEWRY, MOURNE
AND DOWN
Labour Market Partnership
Working Together



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down
District Council



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 2:35pm | Interactive Roundtable Session with Feedback (SLIDO) |
| 2:40pm | Summary of Interactive Roundtable Sessions (SLIDO) |
| 2:50pm | Closing Address by Dr Conor Patterson, Chair
Newry, Mourne and Down Labour Market Partnership (LMP) |
| 3pm | Depart |