



Update 08.04.2020 Community Coordination Hub Opens

A Community Coordination Hub set up by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and its community partners to ensure vulnerable residents receive essential supplies is now in operation.

Distribution centres established at Newry Leisure Centre, Down Leisure Centre and Kilkeel Leisure Centre have received their first boxes of supplies from the Department for Communities, with the first deliveries to residents expected to be made this week.

Those in vulnerable groups seeking support can make contact on a Freephone Helpline between 9am to 5pm, seven days a week:

Freephone number: 0808 802 0020

Email: covid19@adviceni.net

Text: ACTION to 81025

The helpline is being managed by Advice NI, who are processing calls from across Northern Ireland. Calls relevant to the Council's Community Coordination Hub will be passed on to the Council and its voluntary and community partners for action, including referrals from the Southern and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts.

County Down Rural Community Network in Downpatrick, the Confederation of Community Groups in Newry and Community Advice Newry Mourne and Down are acting as lead organisations for the community groups involved in this response. These three bodies are communicating daily with all the organisations in the Council's Strategic Stakeholder Forum as part of its Community Planning and response structures.

Any other volunteers who wish to assist in the delivery of supplies or ensure residents on their own receive phone calls to help ease their isolation, are encouraged to register with Volunteer Now via their website. Their Covid-19 #HelpEachOther campaign has been launched at <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteering/> to refer volunteers to its Be Collective platform for opportunities.

The Council's distribution centres are not open to members of the public or community groups other than by official invitation. Anyone in touch with the Freephone Helpline for assistance with essential supplies will have a parcel delivered directly to them.

Chief Executive, Marie Ward

Oifig an Iúir, Newry Office, O'Hagan House, Monaghan Row, Newry BT35 8DJ

Oifig Dhún Pádraig, Downpatrick Office, Downshire Civic Centre, Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road, Downpatrick BT30 6GQ