



January 15th, 2016

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are invited to attend the Active and Healthy Communities Committee meeting to be held on **Monday, 18th January 2016 at 6:00 pm** in **Commedagh Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick.**

**Chair:** Cllr L Kimmins

**Vice:** Cllr L Devlin

**Members:** Cllr S Burns Cllr M Carr  
Cllr S Doran Cllr C Enright  
Cllr G Fitzpatrick Cllr V Harte  
Cllr H Harvey Cllr D Hyland  
Cllr K Loughran Cllr B Ó'Muirí  
Cllr D Taylor Cllr G Sharvin  
Cllr W Walker

# Agenda

1 **Apologies & Chairperson's Remarks**

2 **Declarations of Interest**

3 **Action Sheet arising from AHC Committee Meeting held on 21 December 2015**

[AHC-21122015.pdf](#)

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## *Presentations*

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4 **Clanrye Family Foundations**

Dan McHugh in attendance

5 **Departmental Business Plan**

[Directorate Business Plan 2015 - 2016 FINAL.pdf](#)

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## *Community Engagement*

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6 **PCSP Update Report**

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[PCSP Minutes 22.9.2015.pdf](#)

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[Policing Committee Minutes 22 09 2015.pdf](#)

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7 **DEA Fora Update Report**

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*Health & Wellbeing*

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<b>9</b>	<b>Private Rented Sector Consultation</b>	
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<b>10</b>	<b>Environmental Governance Consultation</b>	
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<b>11</b>	<b>Climate Change Legislation Consultation</b>	
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	<u><a href="#">Consultation Response - NI Climate Change Legislation.pdf</a></u>	Page 143
	<u><a href="#">Discussion Paper - Proposals for taking Forward NI Climate Change Legislation.pdf</a></u>	Page 145

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*Leisure and Sports*

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<b>12</b>	<b>Proposed Overspend for Various Works to Newcastle Centre</b>	
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# Invitees

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**ACTION SHEET- ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – MONDAY 21 DECEMBER 2015**

1

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DECISION</b>	<b>FOR COMPLETION BY DIRECTOR – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed</b>
<b>AHC/102/2015</b>	Request to make presentations to AHC Committee	<b>It was agreed to invite Clanrye Family Foundations and Stepping Stones to make presentations to future Committee Meetings.</b>	Clanrye Family Foundations attending 18/01/16 meeting. E-mail sent to Stepping Stones regarding attending 15/02/16 meeting.
<b>AHC/103/2015</b>	Sports Association Newry & Down SAND	<b>It was agreed to appoint the Chairperson of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to the Executive Committee of SAND.</b>	Actioned.
<b>AHC/104/2015</b>	Adjustment to Affordable Warmth Programme	<b>It was agreed to approve the officer's recommendation.</b>	Actioned
<b>AHC/106/2015</b>	Public Health Act Consultation	<b>It was agreed that the consultation response be submitted to the Department. It was also agreed that Councillors be briefed on the new Council's Emergency Plan Procedures.</b>	Ongoing
<b>AHC/107/2015</b>	INTERREG VA Programme	<b>It was agreed that approval be given for Council to act as lead partner for INTERREG VA Project 'Thematic Objective 2 – Environment, Priority 2.1 Recovery of Protected Habitats and Priority Species.'</b>	Actioned
<b>AHC/108/2015</b>	Active Communities/Every Body Active 2020	<b>It was agreed that Council appoint five delivery partners to deliver the targets for a 6 month period only and to seek expressions of interest by an open process from other groups who may be in a position to deliver on the targets on expiry of the six month period.</b>	To commence following launch of SAND.

# Active & Healthy Communities

**Directorate Business Plan  
2015-2016**



Comhairle Ceantair  
**an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin**

**Newry, Mourne  
and Down**  
District Council

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Active and Healthy Communities Directorate is a recently formed Department of the new Newry, Mourne & Down District Council which is responsible for developing Leisure and Sporting Facilities, Health and Wellbeing Programmes and Community Engagement structures across the district. The Directorate has overall responsibility for the management of Peace and Good Relations and performs a lead role in Biodiversity and Environmental Education across the district. It is also responsible for all the Statutory functions in relation to the Environmental Health Service.
- 1.2 The core responsibilities of the department are:
  - **Health & Wellbeing**
  - **Leisure & Sport**
  - **Community Engagement**
  - **Environmental Education**
  - **Peace & Good Relations**
  - **Environmental Health**

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Corporate Plan sets out in strategic terms what the Council intends to achieve over the lifetime of the Council (2015-19). In doing so, it guides our own activities and how we as a department allocate the resources at our disposal.
- 2.2 Whilst the Corporate Plan focuses on issues which cut across the organisation and are strategic in nature, the Directorate Business Plan is more focused on the operational delivery of those issues, as well as those services which are provided on an on-going and continual basis.
- 2.3 This plan describes how the Active & Healthy Communities Directorate's proposed actions and targets for the year 2015-16 complement those in the Corporate Plan by explicitly linking directorate activity with the desired outcomes of the Corporate Plan. It is also the basis upon which the directorate is managed by the Active & Healthy Communities Committee and the Directorate Management Team (DMT).

### 3.0 Purpose & Values

#### 3.1 Purpose

- 3.1.1 The Active & Healthy Communities Directorate’s primary purpose is to develop, implement and monitor key corporate (strategic) frameworks to support improved leisure, sport, health and well-being outcomes, improve environmental education across the district, and build positive relations to develop communities that deliver improved outcomes within their local areas.
- 3.1.2 The bulk of departmental activity is aligned with three of the Council’s strategic objectives: “By 2019, we will have improved and supported health and wellbeing outcomes, protected our natural and built environment, with improved empowerment and capacity within our community”.
- 3.1.3 There are other important Council strategic objectives where the department makes a significant contribution. More detailed information is provided in Sections 5.0 (Alignment with the Corporate Plan) and 6.0 (Key Actions) of this Plan.

#### 3.2 Values

3.2.1 The Department adheres to the Council’s values which state:

Citizen Focused	We will actively encourage citizen and community engagement, as well as be a listening and responsive Council.
Accountable	We will make decisions based on an objective assessment of need and operate in a transparent way as well as openly reporting on our performance.
Collaborative	We will actively encourage and pursue working in partnership and at all levels to deliver for our District.
Sustainable	We will take into account the social, economic and environmental impacts of our decisions on current and future generations.
Fairness	We will proactively target actions at those who are marginalised in our community.

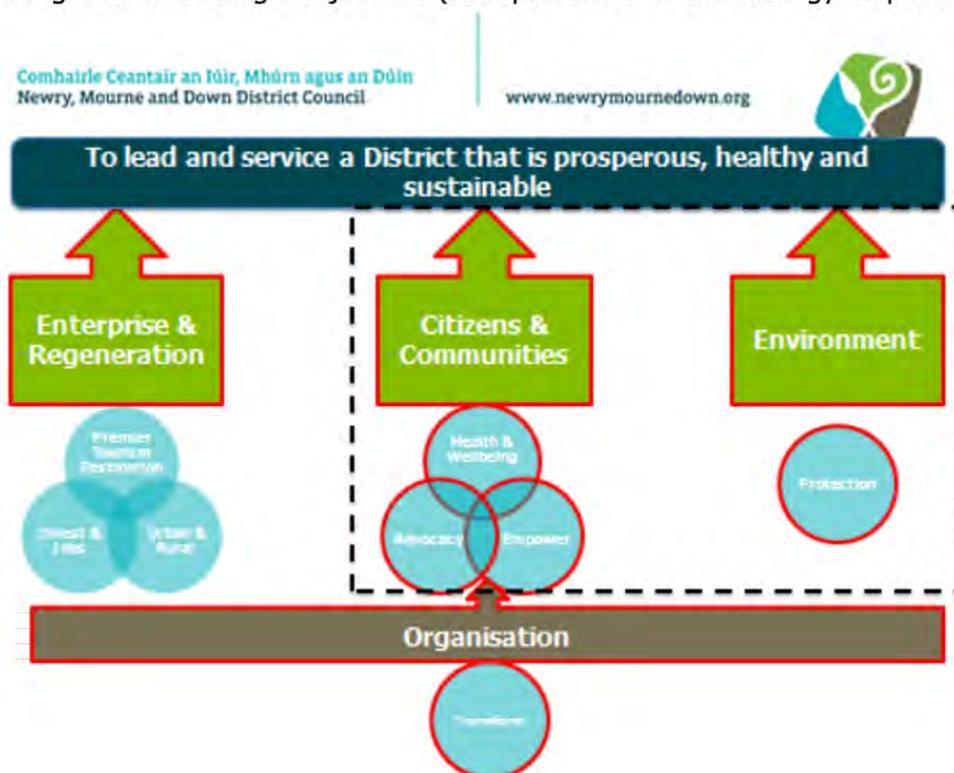
3.2.2 We are also committed to delivering on the promotion of equality and diversity in accordance with our statutory requirements as laid out in Section 75 of The Northern Ireland Act (2008).

## 4.0 Challenges & Opportunities

- 4.1 The Active & Healthy Communities Directorate was established in December 2014, as part of the organisational design of the new Council, to centralise the management of a number of existing Council functions as well as new powers which were transferred to the Council on the 1 April 2015.
- 4.2 It is still in its developmental stage however over the course of this financial year, the directorate will continue to develop the necessary corporate frameworks, policies, processes and systems to deliver strategic improvement across the organisation, specifically in the areas of Leisure & Sport, Health and Wellbeing, Community Engagement, Environmental Health and Peace and Good Relations. Changes in the external environment reflect heavily upon the operations of the Directorate.
- 4.3 The various (internal and external) challenges and opportunities for the department are summarised as follows:
  - **Management** – successfully establishing the new directorate in terms of its structure, governance and internal processes.
  - **Resources** – identifying and securing the financial and non-financial resources needed for the directorate to successfully develop, as well as implement, the key corporate frameworks that will drive improved healthier, more sustainable communities with the capacity to develop and grow.
  - **Legislation** – ensuring corporate legislative compliance in respect of key statutory obligations, including Equality (Section 75), Performance Improvement as well as Community Planning which augments existing service delivery.
  - **Community Planning** – developing partnerships that will deliver local area based plans to deliver on the Council's Community Plan.
  - **Performance Management** – continually monitoring and reviewing departments performance, highlighting areas of high-performance as well as identifying areas for intervention.
  - **Transformation & Improvement** – successfully developing and implementing a transformational programme of change that drives out the efficiencies and improvements that both members and the public demand.
  - **Property & Land Assets** – successfully developing and implementing the necessary frameworks, policies and processes to support the effective and efficient management of the department's estate.
  - **Peace & Good Relations** – successfully developing programmes and initiatives which provide a good quality of life for young and old, especially for those groups who may need more support than others, and securing better outcomes for all. To deliver more cohesive communities which are actively engaged in civic life and where people live safe from crime and disorder.

## 5.0 Alignment with the Corporate Plan (2015-19)

5.1 The Active & Healthy Communities Directorate contributes to the achievement of the following Council strategic objectives (as represented in the strategy map below):



- 5.2 This is reflected in a combination of the management of specific programmes and projects, as well as the delivery of business as usual services. Further alignment is demonstrated by the strategic read-across in Table 1 Objectives, Actions and Inductions (overleaf) which summarises the key directorate actions that will support the realisation of the Council’s strategic objectives.
- 5.3 More specific information concerning the timetabling of key directorate actions during 2015-16 is provided in section 6.0

**Table 1. Objectives, Actions and Inductions**

Corporate Plan Theme	Corporate Objective	Directorate Objective	Supporting Actions	Target Indicators
<p><b>Citizens &amp; Communities</b></p>	<p>3. Supported improved health and wellbeing outcomes</p>	<p>1. In partnership with others, lead the design and development of specific health &amp; wellbeing programmes, projects and plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling participation in the provision of leisure &amp; community infrastructure, facilities &amp; programmes</li> <li>• Work with local health trusts and PHA to support improved Health and Wellbeing outcomes (4 per annum)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 1 – completion of an audit on the provision in each facility to feed into a year 2 plan</li> <li>• Develop joint Community Engagement, Health &amp; Wellbeing &amp; Sports Development programmes (at least 4 per annum year 2 onwards)</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove barriers to the creation of improved health &amp; wellbeing outcomes via addressing social issues, support for ethnic groups and diversionary activities</li> <li>• Support interventions that address the physical signs of sectarianism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for ethnic minority groups via – the Ethnic Minority Support Centre support sessions (2 per week) and the Traveller Forum (4 per annum)</li> <li>• Deliver at least 10 bespoke sessions/forums per year</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace the two existing leisure centres in Newry City and Downpatrick</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake organisation and structural changes to facilitate new centres to open in 2018</li> </ul>

**Table 1. Objectives, Actions and Inductions**

Corporate Plan Theme	Corporate Objective	Directorate Objective	Supporting Actions	Target Indicators
<p><b>Citizens &amp; Communities</b></p>	<p>3. Supported improved health and wellbeing outcomes</p>	<p>2. In partnership with others, lead the design and development of specific health &amp; wellbeing programmes, projects and plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop targeted programmes to tackle obesity and diabetes</li>   <li>• Promote increased levels of physical activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of marketing plan and separate leisure brand to tie in with the opening of two new centres (in 2018)</li>   <li>• Year 1 - Develop Play &amp; Leisure, Facilities, Sports Development and Recreation Strategies</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement Play &amp; Leisure, Facilities, Sports Development and Recreation Strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 1 - Develop and implement SAND</li>   <li>• Year 2 – Develop Play &amp; Leisure, Facilities, Sports Development and Recreation strategies</li>   <li>• Year 2 - Develop programme of leisure activities for indoor &amp; outdoor facilities</li> </ul>

**Table 1. Objectives, Actions and Inductions**

Corporate Plan Theme	Corporate Objective	Directorate Objective	Supporting Actions	Target Indicators
<b>Environment</b>	3. Protect our natural and built environment	1. To work collaboratively with NIEA in the protection & promotion of the District's heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify opportunities to pilot programmes designed to develop natural and built heritage sites with community partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing shared history visits and workshops. (4 sessions per annum)</li> </ul>
		2. To deliver on our statutory requirements for Environmental Health, Environmental Education and Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the protection of the environment via statutory role in Planning consultation &amp; direct provision of protection services (e.g. pollution control, biodiversity, environmental awareness activities, air quality management)</li> <li>Enforcement of our statutory responsibilities in respect of pollution of Land and Air</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver district wide expression of Live Here Love Here/Down Our Street (100 plus interventions per annum)</li> <li>Continued development of Biodiversity Implementation Plans (New plan by 2017)</li> <li>Production of Schools Environmental Calendar (annually)</li> <li>Implementation of Local air quality action plans</li> </ul>

Table 1. Objectives, Actions and Inductions

Corporate Plan Theme	Corporate Objective	Directorate Objective	Supporting Actions	Target Indicators
<b>Citizens &amp; Communities</b>	6. Advocated on your behalf specifically in relation to those issues which really matter to you	1. In partnership with the community/voluntary sector and other Government Departments, lead the design and development of needs driven programmes and projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting community programmes/projects and (wider) policy development of other Government Departments &amp; Agencies</li> <li>Key role in responding to external consultation requests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 1 - Support new Community Planning structures through DEA fora</li> <li>Explore opportunities to further develop social enterprise projects with community partners (1 per annum)</li> </ul>
	7. Empowered and improved capacity of our communities	<p>1. Assist the delivery of village and town plans (including preparation &amp; submission of funding applications)</p> <p>Supporting the creation of a cohesive community base via programme delivery of (DSD) Neighbourhood Renewal projects, areas at risk programme, development &amp; project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of the Community Plan via input at operational, thematic and strategic levels</li> <li>Full implementation of statutory responsibilities in relation to Policing and Community Safety</li> <li>Development and delivery of 7 District Electoral Area Forum Localised Action Plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainability workshops in each DEA. 7 delivered in Autumn Winter 2015</li> <li>Develop and Implement 1 year PCSP Transitional Action Plan</li> <li>Year 1 - Review of village plans in line with DEA fora</li> <li>Year 2 - Development of DEA Plans</li> </ul>

**Table 1. Objectives, Actions and Inductions**

Corporate Plan Theme	Corporate Objective	Directorate Objective	Supporting Actions	Target Indicators
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leading on embedding sustainability across the organisation (Environmental Health)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of 3 year PCSP Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Year 2 - Delivery of DSD Neighbourhood Renewal projects and areas at risk programme.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Organisation</b></p>	<p><b>8.</b> Transformed and modernised the Council, providing accessible as well as value for money services</p>	<p><b>1.</b> Create a strong community base to improve empowerment and capacity within our community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Design of new structures (e.g. Directorate structure &amp; DEAs)</li> <li>▪ Design of new processes to support external financial assistance (Community Services)</li> <li>▪ Mainstreaming of Good Relations (as part of Equality Screening Process) across all Council departments</li> <li>▪ Design of criteria to support future investment decisions specifically in relation to community centre provision (Community Services)</li> <li>▪ Develop new operating models for service delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of DEA Fora (7 in total)</li> <li>• Review of recurrent expenditure and future sustainability</li> <li>• Implement new structure as beginning of transformation process</li> <li>• Year 2 - Consultation on social economy models through DEA fora</li> <li>• Harmonise policies and procedures to ensure consistency and equality of service</li> </ul>

**Table 1. Objectives, Actions and Inductions**

Corporate Plan Theme	Corporate Objective	Directorate Objective	Supporting Actions (e.g. Leisure & Recreation)	Target Indicators
		2. Improve the accessibility of services, facilities and programmes, taking account of the wider external environment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate Ballyward area into departmental workloads</li> </ul> <p>Year 2 - Undertake a review of operating model</p>

## 6.0 Key Actions for 2015-16

### 6.1 Corporate Objective: Support improved health and wellbeing outcomes

This is the key corporate directive that the Leisure and Sports Department will help deliver.

The Community Planning process will help in achieving this outcome in collaboration with the Health and Wellbeing Department. This will seek to increase the number of users of all of our leisure facilities and will be assisted by the development of two new leisure facilities in our district. Achieving this objective will also have a positive impact on the tourism product being offered in respect of the availability of leisure services/facilities for tourists.

#### Leisure & Sports - Key Actions:

- Develop and implement a Play and Leisure Strategy. (March 2017)
- Develop and implement a Facilities Strategy. (March 2016)
- Develop and implement a Sports Development Strategy. (March 2017)
- Develop plan of programmes across the full department for targeting obesity and diabetes with a range of partnerships. (March 2017)
- Implement a rolling programme of events to target customers/ratepayers not engaged in any form of leisure or activity. (March 2017)

#### Community Engagement - Key Actions:

- Undertake an audit of community and leisure facilities, infrastructure and programmes to determine priorities for Year 2 Community Engagement Plan (March 2016)
- Establish partnerships with key agencies to develop programmes to support improved health and wellbeing outcomes (February 2016).
- Identify opportunities to work with communities on key issues such as suicide prevention (March 2016).

#### Health and Wellbeing - Key Actions:

- Carry out statutory functions in relation to Food Safety, Health and Safety at Work, Public Health and Housing and Consumer Protection (on-going)
- Implement all actions within Investing for Health/Health Inequalities Locality Plan (by March 2016)
- Carry out joint 'New to the Job' initiative in partnership with HSENI by (March 2016)
- Carry out home safety visits for over 65s and under 5s as per plan targets (on-going)

- Complete at least 1000 completed surveys to refer to DSD Affordable Warmth scheme (by March 2016)
- Declare further air quality management area in Newry City (by March 2016)
- Continue monitoring of air quality across District (on-going)

## 6.2 Corporate Objective: Protected our natural and built environment

### Leisure & Sports - Key Actions:

- Develop and implement a Recreation Strategy for outdoor leisure facilities. (March 2017)
- Develop of leisure activities programmes for outdoor facilities. (March 2017)

### Health & Well Being - Key Actions:

- Promote uptake of 'Live Here Love Here/Down Your Street' programme (on-going)
- Investigate all complaints in relation to noise, air and land pollution (on-going)
- Declare further air quality management areas in Newry City (by March 2016)
- Continue monitoring of air quality across district (on-going)
- Review legacy councils local Biodiversity Action plans and develop for new district (by March 2016)

### Community Engagement – Key Actions

- Undertake a review through each DEA forum to identify places of community significance, with particular focus on natural and built heritage sites. (March 2016).
- Research models of good practice and funding streams in order to engage with local communities, explore opportunities and further develop places of community significance (with particular focus on the development of the social economy/enterprise). (March 2016).

## 6.3 Corporate Objective: Empower and improve the capacity of our communities.

### Leisure & Sports - Key Actions:

- Develop and implement SAND. (March 2016)

### Health & Well Being - Key Actions:

- Support new Community Planning Fora by March 2016.

- Maintain 'Home to Hospital' volunteer driver scheme in Killeel area (on-going)
- Promote uptake of 'Live Here Love Here/Down Your Street' programme (on-going)

### **Community Engagement – Key Actions**

- Support the implementation of the Community Plan via input at operational, thematic and strategic levels (March 2016).
- Development of infrastructure to support the creation of a cohesive community base (DEA Fora) (November 2015).
- Design and roll out a comprehensive capacity building programme to develop sustainable skill base at community level (February 2016).
- Explore opportunities to develop creative and innovative engagement models in line with emerging good practice (March 2016).
- Full implementation of statutory responsibilities in relation to Policing and Community Safety (March 2016).

## **6.4 Corporate Objective: Transform & modernise the Council, providing accessible as well as value for money services.**

### **Leisure & Sports - Key Actions:**

- Implement new structure at beginning of transformation process. (March 2016)
- Harmonise policies and procedures to ensure consistency and equality of service for leisure facilities. (March 2017)
- Development of marketing plan and separate leisure brand to tie in with the opening of two new centres. (March 2017)
- Undertake organisational and structural changes to facilitate the two new leisure centres to open. (March 2017)
- A review of the various operating models should be undertaken to inform how our leisure services can be delivered in the most efficient and effective way. (March 2017)

### **Health & Well Being - Key Actions:**

- Undertake a review of existing operating model in comparison with market alternatives.
- Creation of new structure for section within A&HC Directorate (by March 2016)
- Alignment of work to corporate priorities (by December 2015)
- Create new strong team across the Newry and Downpatrick offices (by March 2016)

- Incorporate Ballyward area into departmental workloads (on-going)
- Ensure consistency of approach across new council area (by March 2016)
- Maintain and improve level of service to our customers (on-going)
- Support new Community Planning structures through DEA Fora (by December 2015 and on-going)
- Work with local Health Trusts and PHA to support improved Health and Wellbeing outcomes (on-going)

### **Community Engagement – Key Actions**

- Establishment of new structures to support enhanced service delivery with key community stakeholders. (February 2016)
- Align processes to ensure more effective targeting of council resources and external funding opportunities. (March 2016)

## **6.5 Corporate Objective: Advocacy**

### **Leisure & Sports - Key Actions:**

- Develop partnerships with third parties for children's involvement in sports i.e. schools, sports clubs, etc. (March 2017)

### **Health & Well Being - Key Actions:**

- Respond to consultations as required
- Support new Task and Finish Health Service working group (by November 2015)

### **Community Engagement – Key Actions**

- Develop infrastructure which enables effective consultation and engagement with the community sector on a range of relevant strategic matters. (March 2016)
- Develop mechanism to undertake dialogue with identified marginalised groups in the district. (February 2016)

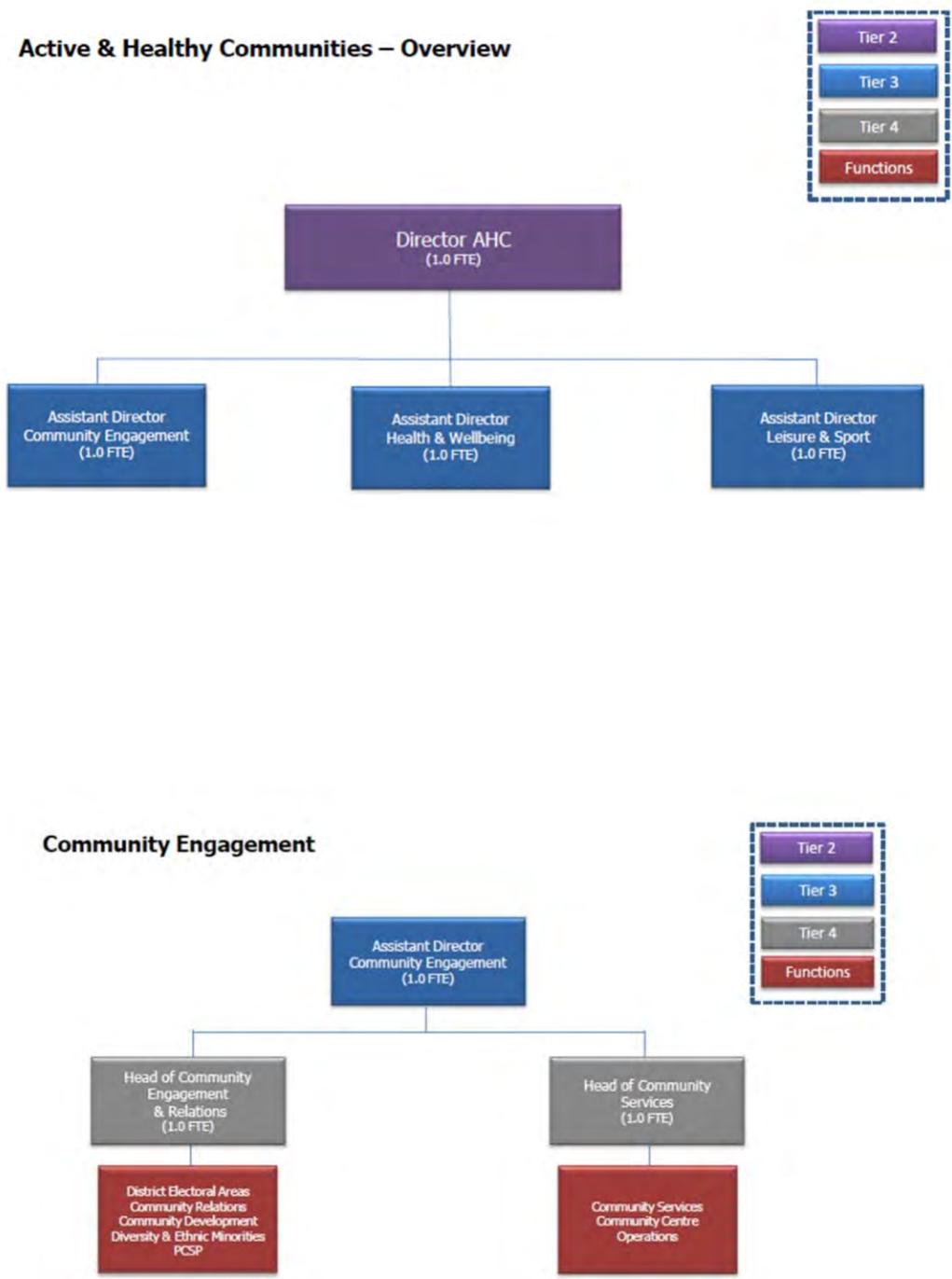
## 7.0 Directorate Structure

7.1 The Active & Healthy Communities Directorate is one of five service Departments, which together comprise the management structure of the Council. The management structure of the Council is set-out in Figure 1 and the Directorate it is set-out in Figure 2.

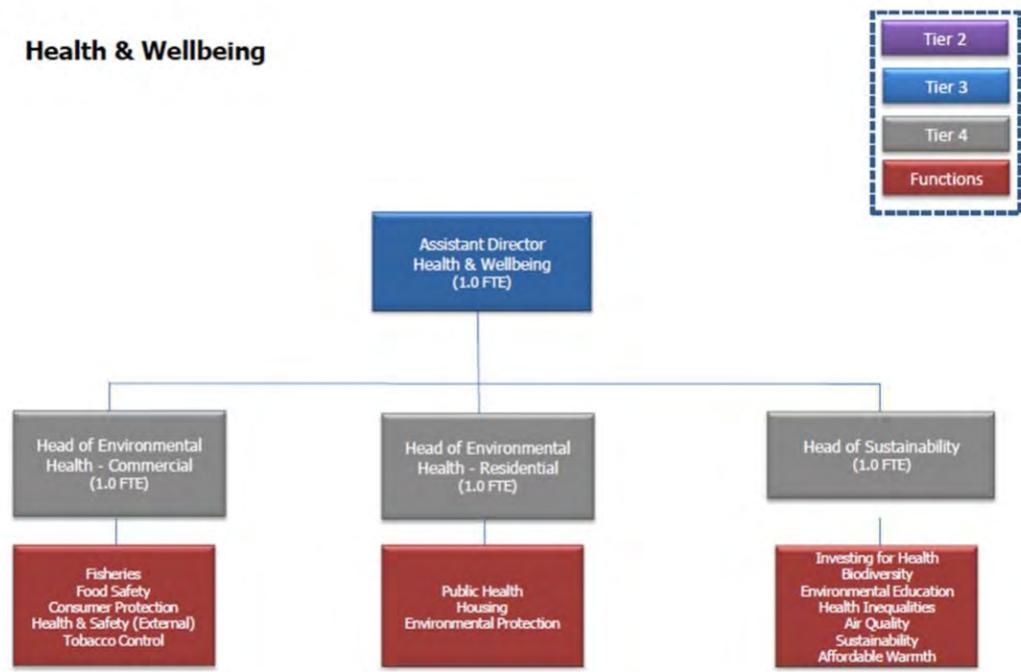
7.2 Figure 1 - Directorate Management Structure



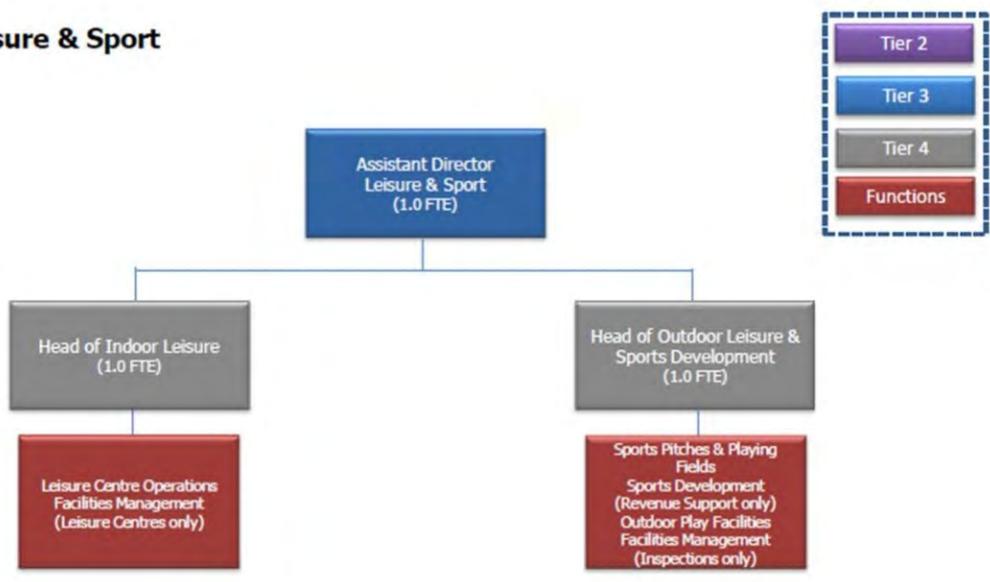
7.3 Figure 2 - Directorate Management Structure



### Health & Wellbeing



### Leisure & Sport



## 8.0 Financial Information

	<b>Estimated Expenditure (2015-16)</b>
<b>Leisure &amp; Sport</b>	<b>£7.1M</b>
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	<b>£1.7M</b>
<b>Community Engagement</b>	<b>£1.3M</b>

## 9.0 Political Governance

### **Strategic Planning & Resources Committee**

Chairman: Councillor Liz Kimmins

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Laura Devlin

Councillors:

- Councillor Stephen Burns
- Councillor Sean Doran
- Councillor Michael Carr
- Councillor Cadogan Enright
- Councillor Gillian Fitzpatrick
- Councillor Valerie Harte
- Councillor Harry Harvey
- Councillor Davy Hyland
- Councillor Kate Loughran
- Councillor Barra O'Muirí
- Councillor Gareth Sharvin
- Councillor David Taylor
- Councillor William Walker

Ag freastal ar an Dún  
agus Ard Mhacha Theas  
Serving Down  
and South Armagh

0300 013 2233 (Council)  
0300 200 7830 (Planning)  
council@nmandd.org  
www.newrymournedown.org

**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

<b>Report to:</b>	Active Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	PCSP Update Report
<b>Date:</b>	18 January 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Janine Hillen

### Decision Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report

<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Background</b></p> <p>Minutes &amp; report of previous PCSP Meeting &amp; Policing Committee Meeting (22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015) are attached for noting.</p> <p><b>Issues arising</b></p> <p>Maintenance and Warranty contract for CCTV is currently due for renewal. Tender documentation is currently being drafted and will be publically procured in the coming weeks.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>Members are asked to note the contents of the report and the upcoming procurement exercise.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>Officer time</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>Appendix A – PCSP Minutes Appendix B – Policing Committee Minutes</p>

## POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

### Minutes of the Policing & Community Safety Partnership Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held at Newry Fire Station, Newry on 22 September 2015 at 6pm.

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**In attendance:** Terry Andrews, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
 Audrey Byrne, Independent Member  
 William Clarke, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
 Jude Cumisky, Independent Member  
 Sean Doran, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
 Martin Fahy, Education Authority NI  
 Andy Freeburn, Chief Inspector, PSNI  
 Daniel McEvoy, Independent Member  
 Harry Harvey, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
 Michael Heaney, Youth Justice Agency  
 Una Kelly, Independent Member  
 Mickey Larkin, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
 (Chair)  
 Roisin Leckey, Probation Board  
 Kate Loughran, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
 Grace McQuiston, Independent Member  
 Ewan Morgan, Independent Member  
 Fergal O'Brien, Southern Health & Social Care Trust  
 Brian Quinn, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
 John Parrott, Independent Member  
 Fiona Stephens, Independent Member  
 David Taylor (Newry, Mourne & Down District Council)  
 Simon Walls, Superintendent, PSNI  
 Tom Young, Sergeant, PSNI  
 Brendan Whittle, South Eastern Health and Social Care  
 Trust

**Also in attendance:** Siobhan Fearon, Partnership Manager  
 Ellen Brennan, Community Safety Project Officer  
 Caroline Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:-

Shirley Burden, DOJ  
 Laura Devlin (Newry, Mourne & Down District Council)  
 Sinead Ennis (Newry, Mourne & Down District Council)  
 Janine Hillen, Partnership Manager  
 Katrina Hynds, PCSP Project Officer  
 Andrew Kernaghan, PCSP Project Officer  
 Rod O'Hare, Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service

## 2. Chairman's Remarks

- The Chairman, Mickey Larkin, welcomed the Members back to the PCSP Committee and thanked the hosts, the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service for allowing the use of their facilities.
- Sympathies were extended to Ms Katrina Hynds, PCSP Project Officer, upon the recent death of her father.
- Sympathies were extended to Mr Rod O'Hare, NIFRS, upon a recent family bereavement.
- Members were asked to take note of the planned diary dates and inform the PCSP officers if they could attend the CCTV visit in Lisburn on 9 October.
- Members who had not yet completed their Register of Interest form, were asked to do so and forward to the PCSP in the Downpatrick offices.
- Members who had experienced difficulties in receiving their Agendas were asked to let the PCSP officers know. The Chairman extended apologies for any inconvenience caused.
- The Chairman extended congratulations to Mr Dan McEvoy upon his election as Vice-Chair of the PCSP.

## 3. Rowan Centre Presentation

The Chairman welcomed Ms Karen Douglas, Service Manager from the Rowan Centre to the meeting.

Ms Douglas provided a comprehensive overview of the purpose and work of the Rowan Centre. A copy of the presentation can be found at **Appendix 1**.

Questions from Members were answered as follows:

- Victims were from all over Northern Ireland, most of them coming through the PSNI. The Rowan Centre had gone out to victims at prisons and elderly people's residence, but most victims came to the Centre in person.
- Victims were either brought by the PSNI or came themselves to the Rowan Centre.
- Follow up clinics were provided and long appointments were offered.
- There was a team of registered nurses and follow up calls were provided.
- Victims could call in person, or telephone the Centre. Some victims did not come back and some engaged with psychological therapies.
- Victims were provided with details of the support network available to them in Northern Ireland.

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked Ms Douglas for the presentation and she departed from the meeting.

#### 4. **Lisburn Commerce Against Crime (LCAC)**

The Chairman welcomed representatives from Lisburn Commerce Against Crime: Mr E Knox (Chairman, LCAC) Mr S Clements (Consultant) and Mr R O'Neill (Controlling Supervisor) to the meeting.

Mr Knox and Mr O'Neill gave a comprehensive and detailed presentation on the work of the LCAC, explaining that their mission statement was to make the town centres safer places. A copy of the presentation can be found at **Appendix 2**.

Highlights from the presentation were as follows:

- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council was a major partner.
- There were 76 radios around the retailers in Lisburn.
- There were cameras in the town centre of Lisburn, Leisureplex and at Lisburn Valley Hospital and LCAC were in talks to provide other hospitals with cameras.
- A tender process was being worked on to integrate cameras with all the Council cameras to enable a comprehensive view of the city of Lisburn.
- The CCTV suite was based in Lisburn Police Station.
- There had been 178 arrests so far in 2015.
- There was a direct radio link with all police officers on the ground and also to the police helicopter, if necessary.
- The Facebook page was City Watch Lisburn.

Questions from Members were answered by the representatives of LCAC as follows:

- 2 trained operators monitored the CCTV cameras in Lisburn Police station.
- Funding was available to provide radio installation in off-licences in Lisburn.

Representatives from LCAC asked that Newcastle be considered for funding of crime preventing initiatives and added they would be keen to work with the PSNI in this regard. Funding from Lisburn PCSP last year had gone towards tackling underage drinking.

In response to a comment from Terry Andrews, Mr Knox said it may be possible to extend radio links before the Christmas period, when shop theft was at its worst.

The Chairman thanked the representatives from Lisburn Commerce Against Crime and they departed from the meeting.

#### 5. **Minutes of PCSP Meeting held on 29 August 2015**

Read: Minutes of PCSP Meeting held on 29 August 2015 (copy attached)

On a point of accuracy, Mr Whittle advised that Ms Simons was from the South Eastern Trust, not the Southern Trust.

**ACTION: It was AGREED on the PROPOSAL of Dan McEvoy, SECONDED by Sean Doran, that the Minutes be agreed as an accurate record subject to the above amendment**

## 6. CCTV Report, City Watch Lisburn

Read: Report by Siobhan Fearon dated 22 September 2015 regarding CCTV Report, City Watch Lisburn (copy attached)

Read: CCTV Report from City Watch Lisburn (copy attached)

Read: Letter from Killyleagh Development Association re Report on CCTV System managed by Killyleagh Development Association Ltd (copy attached)

Terry Andrews referred to the Killyleagh Voluntary Association and asked that the PCSP consider providing funding to assist them with their initiatives.

## 7. Budget Update

Read: Report by Siobhan Fearon dated 22 September 2015 regarding Budget Update (copy attached)

Read: Letter from DoJ to Chief Executive, NMD, dated 8 September 2015 regarding PCSP Funding 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016 – Letter of Offer

Read: Letter from Chairman of PCSP to the Minister for Justice dated 1 September 2015.

The Partnership Manager, referred to the Letter of Offer received from the Department of Justice dated 8 September 2015 referring to the 50% reduction in budget. Once this was signed, the reduced action plan could be rolled out. She informed Members that no response had been received yet in relation to the Chairman's letter of 1 September 2015.

A discussion took place regarding the budget cuts, the main points of which were as follows:

- The budget cuts had been raised at Active and Healthy Communities Committee where it had been agreed to raise the issue at the Partnership Panel at Stormont.
- The ethos behind the PCSP was that more funding was needed, not less and by signing the Letter of Offer, community and educational activities would be limited.
- The risk was if the Letter of Offer was not signed, the PCSP could be suspended.

- All PCSP's had their funding reduced by 50%, although some had different arrangements with their Councils so the impact varied from Council to Council.
- EB outlined the Bonfire Management Policy, whereby groups who had previously engaged re bonfires / beacons could apply for funding of up to £750 through the Financial Contribution policy, £250 of which to be spent on training. All groups previously engaged with either Newry and Mourne Council or Down District Council, had been contacted and advised of the existence of the new policy.
- Future staffing levels in the PCSP would be looked at with the reorganisation of the Council structures, but were as yet unknown. Funding for staffing had previously been taken out of Council budgets to allow for as much funding for projects as possible to be rolled out.
- If the Letter of Offer was not signed, it could put a halt to all projects being rolled out.
- A strong letter of concern should be sent to the DoJ regarding the reduction in funding of 50%.
- The Letter of Offer was received on 8 September 2015 and there was a 4 week turnaround. If the Letter of Offer was not returned, the PCSP could be suspended.
- The reduction in funding was linked to the reduction in block grant from Westminster.

In response to a query from Ms Cumisky, the Partnership Manager suggested sending a supplementary letter requesting the DoJ to respond to the PCSP's initial letter of 1 September 2015.

Terry Andrews proposed sending a reminder letter to the DoJ requesting details of the current situation, advising them of Members concerns and asking for an answer as soon as possible.

Dan McEvoy said he was happy that the Letter of Offer be signed by the PCSP to safeguard the PCSP staff, although people should be aware that the PCSP is being held back in its efforts.

Willie Clarke said it was important that the PCSP negotiated for more funding as a collective voice.

Audrey Byrne suggested working with the other PCSP's and negotiating in number for more impact.

Brian Quinn asked officers to look at a mechanism for letting the public know about the 50% reduction in funding.

**ACTION: It was unanimously AGREED that :**

- 1. The Letter of Offer from the Department of Justice advising of the 50% budget cut, be signed and returned.**
- 2. That the letter previously sent to the Minister for Justice dated 1 September 2015, expressing the PCSPs concerns, be noted.**

3. **A reminder letter be sent to the Department of Justice, following up on the PCSP's previous letter dated 1 September 2015.**
4. **The PCSP's letter of concern be attached to the Letter of Offer.**
5. **Officers would explore working with the other PCSPs in trying to achieve more funding.**
6. **Officers would look at a mechanism for letting the public know about the reduction in funding.**

## 8. Officer Updates

Read: Report by Ellen Brennan dated 22 September 2015 regarding Officers Report (copy attached)

The Community Safety Project Officer provided Members with a comprehensive overview and update of the highlights of the work of the PCSP officers to action plan.

Brian Quinn referred to the recent 'black dot' campaign on Facebook for victims of abuse. Ms Brennan said this was not a campaign recommended by ONUS or by Women's Aid. She referred to the 'Safe Place Initiative' rolled out by shops, where victims could avail of help. PCSP agreed to support Council in attaining Silver Award status. Brian Quinn said there were no campaigns for children. Ms Fearon stated we could only support campaigns undertaken with established reputable agencies ie. NSPCC, Banardos and Childline.

Dan McEvoy referred to the recent Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators meeting held at the Canal Court. He said the PCSP had an obligation to provide support and requested PCSP officers put together a document that could lead to the establishment of a district wide Community Safety Network. He added the proposal would be to meet 2-3 times per year with the PSNI to facilitate discussion at a local level and host a yearly conference. He explained that there had been a very successful Community Safety Network in the legacy Down District which had enabled deputations from Statutory bodies regarding the criminal justice system. He requested officers to examine the Terms of Reference and bring a report back to the Partnership.

In response to questions from Ms Cumisky, Ms Brennan explained that a meeting had been undertaken with Helen Black from the PSNI Road Safety Team and Newry officers. There were plans to expand this group further. Previously, work had been undertaken on the 'Drive Alive' programme which had been rolled out to schools and colleges and had involved DRD Roads Service. It had worked well, but had been expensive. Ms Brennan advised that a similar but not so graphically visually impacting, and cheaper scheme would be rolled out. Ms Fearon explained that the Domestic Violence Intervention Programme was a 30 week programme for victims of domestic violence around building self-esteem, confidence and capacity. Previously this scheme was in partnership with Women's Aid, but this was now going out to tender. Ms Brennan advised that the Education Board had worked closely

with young people in both legacy areas with a view to establishing a Youth Council which would shadow the Council. This would create a sense of citizenship which the young people could carry on into adult life.

Terry Andrews seconded to Dan McEvoy's earlier proposal regarding the Community Safety Network.

**ACTION: It was AGREED on the PROPOSAL of Dan McEvoy, SECONDED by Terry Andrews, that a report be brought back to the Partnership regarding setting up a Community Safety Network including Terms of Reference.**

Brian Quinn referred to the rural burglary campaign and stated PCS{P should be linki8jng in with existing campaigns / events n rural community to address rural crime

Willie Clarke referred to the Safer Choices Programme and requested that the influential women would be relevant to the 14-16 year olds interests and aspirations. Ms Brennan provided details of which influential women would be attending and undertook to speak with Ms Hynds, the programme co-ordinator, on this issue. She added that a further report would be brought back to the next meeting.

Fergal O'Brien said in order to save time at future meetings, officers would not go through the reports, but questions could be submitted in advance of the meeting.

Sean Doran requested that only 1 presentation would be received at future PCSP meetings.

Ms Kelly concurred with Fergal O'Brien's suggestion and requested a hard copy of the Agenda the week prior to the meeting, which would allow ample time to submit questions.

In response to a query from Ms Kelly, Ms Fearon advised that the Coffee with a Cop initiative would be rolled out initially in Newry on a weekly basis over a 12 week period. This would be reviewed in January 2016 and if it was successful, discussions could begin on being replicated in other areas of the District dependent on PSNI and PSCP resources.

In response to a query from Ewan Morgan, Ms Fearon explained that the centrally located McGrath House had been used well, and that there was good uptake by ethnic minority groups as promoted through Ethnic Minority Support Centre

**ACTION: It was AGREED that:**

- 1. A rural crime campaign be looked at in conjunction with the Departments/Ulster Farmers Union.**

2. Reports be considered as read and Members' questions could be submitted in advance of future meetings.
3. Presentations would be limited to one per PCSP meeting in future.

9. **TIDES Report and Evaluation**

Read: Report by Siobhan Fearon dated 22 September 2015 regarding TIDES Report and Evaluation

Ms Fearon requested that any factual inaccuracies be emailed through to her.

**NOTED: The Away Day Report and Evaluation Report were noted.**

10. **Planned Visits/Diary Dates**

Read: Report by Siobhan Fearon dated 22 September 2015 regarding Planned Visits/Diary Dates

Ms Fearon advised that she would email Members requesting them to confirm their attendance (or otherwise) at the CCTV suite visit in Lisburn on 9 October 2015 and/or if interested in being invited to the Onus Safe Place Awards in Newry on 4 November.

11. **Training Updates**

Read: Report by Siobhan Fearon dated 22 September 2015 regarding Training Updates.

Ms Fearon asked Members to email her regarding which training events they wished to attend. She highlighted that the Policing Board had agreed to fund attendance of up to 5 of the training events additional to the existing allowance of 10 meetings.

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

After discussion, it was **AGREED** that the PCSP meeting on 15 December at 10am would be moved to the later time of 6pm (this would apply to all future meetings) and be held at the new PSNI Station in Downpatrick. If not finished, then the meeting would be held in the Council Chamber, Downpatrick at 6pm on 15 December 2015.

13. **Any Other Business**

Roisin Leckey raised the issue of a community service beach clean-up, for which public liability insurance would be required. Ms Brennan undertook to investigate this issue.

Brian Quinn referred to a monthly beach clean-up in Carlingford carried out by groups. Ms Brennan advised that the clean-up would have to be run by Council or the PCSP to avail of the public liability insurance.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 8.10pm.



Presentation to:

Newry, Mourne and Down  
Police and Community Safety Partnership

22.09.15.



## What is a S.A.R.C.?

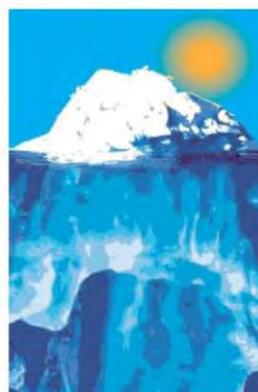
A one stop centre which will deliver a comprehensive and coordinated inter-agency response to all victims of sexual assault and rape, irrespective of their age, gender, sexual identity /orientation, ethnicity, or geographical location.



## The Strategic Driver Regional Strategy

Long-term objectives of the strategy are:-

1. To ensure a joined-up, targeted approach by all government departments, agencies and partner organisations;
2. To reduce risk and prevent sexual violence and abuse;
3. To build confidence in the criminal justice system, through an appropriate, professional and sensitive approach to reported crime; and
4. To provide and deliver easily accessible, co-ordinated, quality support services for victims/survivors of sexual violence and abuse and their families.



Tackling  
Sexual  
Violence  
and Abuse  
A Regional  
Strategy  
2008 - 2013

June 2008



## Sexual violence and abuse defined

The regional strategy defines sexual violence and abuse as:

*'Any behaviour perceived to be of a sexual nature which is unwanted or takes place without consent or understanding' (p.17).*





## Statistics

[DHSSPS / DoJ (2008) Tackling Sexual Violence and Abuse: a Regional Strategy 2008-2013]

The incidence of sexual violence and abuse is much greater than people think:-

- Around 21% of girls and 11% of boys experience some form of child sexual abuse;
- Some 23% of women and 3% of men experience sexual assault as an adult; and
- About 5% of women and 0.4% of men experience rape.

Many people believe that sexual violence towards adults or the sexual abuse of children is usually perpetrated by strangers. In fact, perpetrators are often known to victims and many are their victims' partners or family members.



## Disclosure

- 80% of victims do not report the offence(s) to the Police
- 72% of sexually abused children do not tell anyone at time
- 1 in 3 victims will never tell ANYONE



## Barriers to Disclosure

- Fear of the perpetrator
- Fear of not being believed
- Fear of being blamed
- Fear for their family's safety
- No-one to tell
- Feelings of shame or guilt
- Loyalty to the perpetrator
- Minimise or do not recognise the act was wrong
- Propagation of myths and stereotypes





# Guiding Principles

- Recovery
- Inclusivity
- Victim Choice / empowerment
- Promoting of safety & wellbeing
- Rights-based
- Partnership working
- Service integration
- Striving for excellence



## The Rowan Team

- Service Manager (wte)
- Clinical Director & Lead Forensic Medical Officer (0.4)
- Consultant Paediatrics (0.4)
- Consultant in Genitourinary Medicine (0.2)
- Registered (Band 7) Lead Nurse (wte)
- Registered Rowan Nurses (Band 5) (2.2)
- Administrator (Band 4) (wte)
- Administrator (Band 2) (wte)
- Rota of Forensic Medical Officers
- Rota of Registered Rowan Nurses (Band 5)
- Rota of Consultant Paediatricians
- ISVAs – to be developed



## The Rowan Services:

- Access to 24 hour 7 day a week support and information via 0800 389 4424;
- Emotional support;
- Assessment for and administration of Emergency Contraception;
- Risk Assessment of HIV, and immediate access to PEPSE (<72 hours post-assault) to reduce likelihood of contracting HIV (by 80%);
- A Medical Assessment by a Forensic Medical Officer ( $\leq 7$  days for swabs for forensic analysis);
- For children <13 years, a joint Forensic Medical assessment with a Consultant Paediatrician;
- Risk Assessment for self harm, vulnerability, and safeguarding;



... continued . . .

- For those adults who self-refer and have not reported to the Police, forensic samples can be stored securely for ≤ 7 years to give the victim an opportunity to consider reporting to the Police;
- Support in meeting with a Police officer from a specialist unit: Public Protection Unit (PPU) or Rape Crime Unit (RCU) to discuss engaging with the criminal justice system;
- Rowan Sexual Health Clinic: testing and treatment (where required) for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs);
- Referral into local counselling and support services e.g. Victim Support NI;
- Referrals into other support / acute services: Emergency Department, Mental Health Services, Social Services (Gateway / Regional Out of Hours);
- Liaison with existing support agencies / professionals;
- Follow-up support from the Rowan Team: telephone, face-to-face contact.



## Referral Process

- Phone: 0800 389 4424 - 24/7 (no drop-in facility)
  - ✓ for information & advice,
  - ✓ support & services
- Anyone can make the call
  - ✓ the person directly affected by the abuse / violence (self-referral),
  - ✓ a carer / relative, other professional (3<sup>rd</sup> Party referral); or
  - ✓ Police



# Outcomes

- Victim to have choices and gain control
- Victim to be treated with dignity and sensitivity
- Emotional support
- Medical care and treatment
- Gather evidence / intelligence
- Provide comprehensive aftercare
- Debunk myths and stereotypes



## The Rowan . . . the reality . . .

- The Rowan Team has offered support, advice and direct care to over 1600 individuals since we went live on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013.
- Year 2 saw an increase in referrals by 18%. Year 3 has seen to date, five months in, a 23% increase on year 2 rate of referrals.
- 1279 individuals were referred into the Rowan for support services, with a further 338 individuals seeking support, information and signposting onwards only.
- 49% of referrals were received within normal business hours i.e. Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm, and 51% out of hours.
- Source of referral: 77% (n=971) came from the police, with 12% (n=156) being made by the individual affected him/herself; and the remaining 11% (n=134) came from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.



## The Rowan . . . the reality . . .

- 39% of those referred into the Rowan were children and young people i.e. <18 years; 61% were adults. Sexual violence and sexual abuse affects people across all age ranges, from infants to the very elderly.
- In relation to gender breakdown: the majority of individuals referred were female 87%; 13% were male.
- 4% of individuals identified as BAME. For a number of individuals and families who have engaged with the service English was their second language (2.4%).
- 43% attending The Rowan presented with complex and / or additional needs: living with chronic and enduring mental ill-health, physical ill-health and/or learning disabilities.
- 8% report of sexual violence related to intimate partner violence.
- 75% were reporting acute assaults i.e. an assault which had occurred within 7 days, usually ≤ 72 hours.

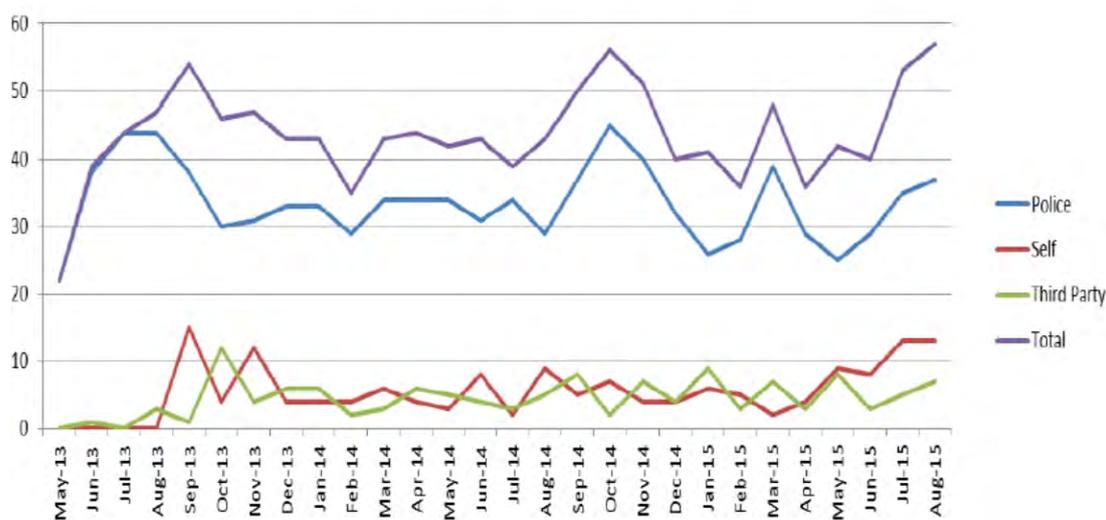


## The Rowan . . . the reality . . .

- A number of individuals (n=21) have re-presented to The Rowan with a further and separate incident of sexual assault.
- Drug-facilitated sexual assault (DFSA) remains low at 5%.
- Individuals and families reporting sexual abuse and sexual violence have come from across the region, and a small number from outside the jurisdiction.
- The vast majority of victims knew their perpetrator(s).
- The Rowan Sexual Health Clinic: 64% of individuals aged 13+ have attended; 81% of children and young people (< 13 years) have been brought to their paediatric sexual health appointments.



**Number and Source of referrals received**





### Legal Considerations re. Self-Referrers

#### Section 5 - Penalties for concealing offences etc. N.I.

(1) Subject to the succeeding provisions of this section, where a person has committed [a relevant offence], it shall be the duty of every other person, who knows or believes -

(a) that the offence or some [other relevant offence] has been committed; and

(b) that he has information which is likely to secure, or to be of material assistance in securing, the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of any person for that offence; to give that information, within a reasonable time, to a constable and if, without reasonable excuse, he fails to do so he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment according to the gravity of the offence about which he does not give that information

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/apni/1967/18/section/5>



### Public and Personal Involvement (PPI)

*'There should be more places like The Rowan centre, the care and support they show others is outstanding in every way' (female).*

*'Made me feel safe and important, and with respect explained why I had to wait for consent' (young female).*

*'Its nice to have a place like this rather than a police station' (female).  
'The facility as a whole is a fantastic place for those who unfortunately need it. I'm pleased it is there' (parent).*

*'Stayed with me and made me feel like I wasn't going through this on my own' (female).*

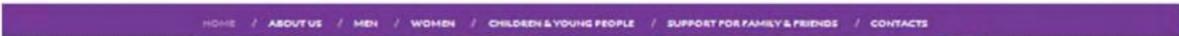
*'I feel that the STI screen within the centre is great, if it had not been here I would not have went anywhere else to get tested' (female).*



Freephone helpline

0800 389 4424

Calls may be charged when calling from a mobile



### Welcome

The Rowan is the regional Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for Northern Ireland. The service is jointly funded by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) and the Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI).

Our professional and highly trained Team deliver a range of support and services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to children, young people, women and men who have been sexually abused, assaulted or raped, whether this happened in the past or more recently.

The Rowan Support Team is here for you.



[Sexual violence against men](#)



[Sexual violence against women](#)



[Support for children & young people](#)



[Support for family & friends](#)



Services we offer



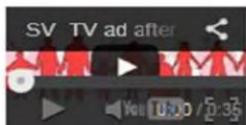
How to get here



What happens when you arrive



FAQs



IN AN EMERGENCY, CONTACT THE PSNI ON 999

[www.therowan.net](http://www.therowan.net)



## Contact

Karen Douglas  
Service Manager

[karen.douglas@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:karen.douglas@northerntrust.hscni.net)

Tel. 02894 424340

The Rowan Team

Tel. 0800 389 4424

website: [www.therowan.net](http://www.therowan.net)

## POLICING COMMITTEE

### **Minutes of PCSP Policing Partnership of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held at Newry Fire Station, Newry on Tuesday 22 September 2015 at 8:20pm**

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**In attendance:** Terry Andrews, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Audrey Byrne, Independent Member  
William Clarke, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Jude Cumisky, Independent Member  
Sean Doran, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Andy Freeburn, Chief Inspector, PSNI  
Harry Harvey, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Daniel McEvoy, Independent Member  
Una Kelly, Independent Member  
Mickey Larkin, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
(Chair)  
Kate Loughran, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Ewan Morgan, Independent Member  
Brian Quinn, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Fiona Stephens, Independent Member  
Grace McQuiston, Independent Member  
John Parrott, Independent Member  
Simon Walls, District Commander, PSNI  
David Taylor, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Tom Young, Sergeant, PSNI

**Also in attendance:** Siobhan Fearon, PCSP Manager  
Caroline Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from:-

Laura Devlin (Newry, Mourne & Down District Council)  
Amy Ward (Independent Member)  
Gillian West (Chief Inspector, PSNI)

#### **4. Minutes of PCSP Policing Partnership held on 29 August 2015**

Read: Minutes of PCSP Policing Partnership held on 29 August 2015 (copy attached)

**ACTION:** It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Harry Harvey **SECONDED** by Terry Andrews, that the Minutes be agreed as an accurate record.

## 6. Public v Private Meetings

Read: Report by Siobhan Fearon dated 22 September 2015 re Public v Private Policing Partnership meetings (copy attached)

Ms Fearon advised of the 3 options for decision. A discussion ensued and members agreed they required additional information.

Simon Walls undertook to speak to other District Commanders

Terry Andrews suggested liaising with the other 10 Policing Partnerships to ascertain how they were dealing with this issue, Siobhan Fearon to follow up

**ACTION:** It was unanimously **AGREED** that the issue of Public v Private Policing Partnership meetings be deferred to the December meeting in order that further work be undertaken.

## 7. Report from Area Commander

The Chief Inspector Andy Freeburn made a presentation to the Partnership which Ms Fearon undertook to email out to Members of the Partnership (copy attached).

Highlights of the presentation were as follows:

- Structures within the PSNI would be changing from 28 September 2015.
- Budgets were shrinking. There had been £220m of cuts in the past 4 years and there were more cuts to come.
- The structures would see a different style of policing with the formation of 4 Local Policing Teams (LPTs) and 3 Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs). The 2 key changes would be a new style of delivery and geographical ownership.
- The policing teams would mirror the 7 DEAs within the District.
- Anyone reporting a crime was encouraged to use the telephone numbers 999 or 101. Crimes should not be reported on line.
- A senior management team member at the PSNI would be online on Twitter for 1 hour per month to answer queries and concerns from the public.
- The LPT Sergeants in Newry and Downpatrick would be contactable via mobile phone, the number of which would be given out to all Members of the Policing Partnership. This telephone number was not to be given out to the public.

Chief Inspector Freeburn undertook to add the LPT Sergeants mobile contact number to the presentation prior to circulation to Members.

Questions from Members were answered by PSNI Officers as follows:

- Different calls would be allocated to officers. One day they could be dealing with traffic issue, the next with a different type of issue. The idea was to free up officers to undertake engagement, not response work.
- A lot of thought had gone into the LPT and NPT style of policing. The PSNI will continue to monitor the success of the new approach.
- It was irrelevant where a police car was deployed from, the nearest PSNI officer to an incident in the District, would attend.
- Vehicles would be moving throughout the District and software was used to know exactly where the cars were.
- The LPTs will be available 24/7
- Under the new model, it was envisaged that response times would improve, not worsen.
- The concentration of crime was in Newry and Downpatrick, rather than the rural areas.
- Police dogs were a central resource at the Headquarters and were not located within the District.
- There would be a 24/7 police presence in the new PSNI station in Downpatrick.
- Police estate was kept under constant review although no details were available of stations facing potential closure.
- Feedback from PSNI officers attending the LPTR awareness sessions had been good.
- Newry, Mourne and Down were the last District to adopt this model of policing.
- Resource allocation had been matched to demand as much as possible.
- There would not be a custody suite in the new police station in Downpatrick as custody space was expensive to resource and run.

Ewan Morgan referred to the CCTV in the Gough and encouraged Members to visit the CCTV centre in Lisburn as this was a worthwhile activity.

Superintendent Walls thanked PCSP officers for the residential at the Burrendale, which he said was a positive, constructive way to start the PCSP. He referred to Willie Clarke's earlier comment about morale and said that the PSNI were nervous about the next few months, but it was borne out of a commitment to Newry, Mourne and Down to community policing and an aspiration and strong ambition to make the new style of policing work.

Highlights from Superintendents Walls' were as follows:

- There had been a 22% rise in criminal damage in the District. There had been 155 incidents of criminal damage in the District since 1 April 2015, the reasons for which had been drinking and neighbourhood disputes among other things.
- Criminal damage was challenging for the PSNI as it was often random and happened at night. An operational plan had been put in place to drive down the number of incidents.
- Anti-social behaviour usually increased with criminal damage statistics, but anti-social behaviour had reduced.

Superintendent Walls made a verbal report on the Newry, Mourne and Down District Performance Against The Policing Plan September 2015 (copy attached).

For the next meeting, the performance data would be shared with Members prior to the meeting. Superintendent Walls said at the December meeting he would provide Members with information on what the local policing teams were working on.

Highlights from the report were as follows:

#### Tackling Illegal Drugs

There had been a few more arrests, but a reduction in charges. The number of seizures incidents had gone down but amount seized had risen. There had been increased amounts of cannabis resin, herbal cannabis and cannabis plant seized as well as cocaine and MDMA drug seizures. Operation Torus had taken place over the past few weeks to tackle illegal street drug dealing. The amount of drugs taken off the streets had increased.

#### Burglaries

There had been a small rise in the number of burglaries (additional 11 this year). Detection rates were improved. Neighbourhood Watch schemes were a good way of contributing to a sense of community well-being and an effective way of identifying if anything was out of place. Superintendent Walls asked Members to encourage the public to set up Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

There had been a rise of 30% service wide in the number of burglaries in old people's homes.

#### Non-Domestic Violent Crimes Involving Injuries

There had been a rise of 14% in non-domestic violent crimes involving injuries (136 incidents). There was a clear link between non-domestic violent crime, alcohol and the night time economy.

#### Anti-Social Behaviour

Levels of anti-social behaviour had reduced by 8%.

#### Road Collisions

6 people had lost their lives in road traffic accidents since the beginning of the year.

In response to a query from David Taylor, Superintendent Walls explained that the PSNI experienced a good relationship with publicans.

Brian Quinn advised of the use of mobile phones whilst driving and said he received daily complaints especially around the primary school areas. He asked for a promotion to be undertaken in the school areas to prevent this issue.

In response to a query from Jude Cumisky regarding alcohol abuse and the increase in the number of incidents, Superintendent Walls said he was aware that licencing

legislation was being looked at. Ms Fearon advised that there had been a Civic Alcohol and Drug Forum in Newry and a similar forum in Down and a piece of work would be progressed over the next few months relating to this. Examples of campaigns run by such fora were the “Just Add Water” and “Get Home Safe” campaigns

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.24pm.

Keeping People Safe 

# Community Engagement

## Newry, Mourne and Down District

Chief Inspector Andrew Freeburn

Keeping People Safe 

### WHY?

- RPA Co-Terminosity
- Shrinking budgets
- Great opportunity to restructure to improve delivery in significantly changing environment

Keeping People Safe



## WHAT?

- 28<sup>TH</sup> September 2015
- Formation of 4 Local Policing Team (LPT) sites
- And 3 Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) sites

## 2 Key Changes

1. New style of delivery
2. Geographical ownership



Keeping People Safe 

## HOW?

LPT Role – Attendance, Engagement & Investigation  
 NPT Role – critical engagement

Keeping People Safe is what we do.  
 Policing with the Community is how we do it.

Emphasis on relationship building and partnership working.

Keeping People Safe 

## CONTACTING THE POLICE

999 – Emergency / Crime in Action  
101 – Reporting a crime, all other general enquiries

E-Mail: [newrymouredownsecretariat@psni.pnn.police.uk](mailto:newrymouredownsecretariat@psni.pnn.police.uk)

 PSNI Newry & Mourne / PSNI Down

 @PSNINewry / @PSNIDown

Keeping People Safe 

## NEWRY NPT

Inspector Jacqui Gillespie	078 2793 3504
Sergeant Colin Massey	075 8597 9171
Constable Kenny Gracey	
Constable Lisa Stevenson	
Constable Neil Cornwell	
Constable Mark Scott	
Constable Michaela Wilson	
Constable Paul McCardle	

Keeping People Safe



## **KILKEEL NPT**

Inspector Andy McGowan      078 0173 8663

Constable Graeme Offor  
Constable John Leathem  
Constable Warren Roberts  
Constable Natalie Brennan  
Constable Alex Beck  
Constable Stuart Finn

Keeping People Safe



## **NEWCASTLE NPT**

Inspector Mark Peters      077 9560 7419  
Sergeant Jim McIlveen      077 9560 7430

Constable Veronica Bailie  
Constable Karen Revels-Ward  
Constable Karen Thomas  
Constable Sandy Boyd  
Constable Alan McGregor  
Constable Philip Quinn





Keeping People Safe

### Newry, Mourne and Down District Performance Against The Policing Plan September 2015

Figures extracted 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015  
(Figures for current financial year are provisional)

To report on activity to tackle illegal drugs (FYTD 1 <sup>st</sup> April 15 – End of July 2015)				
Newry, Mourne & Down	PFYTD	FYTD	Change	% Change
Arrested	68	72	+4	5.88%
Charged	35	32	-3	-8.57%
Seizure Incidents	197	154	-43	-21.83%

To reduce the number of non-domestic violent crimes involving injury. (FYTD 1 <sup>st</sup> April 15 – 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2015)				
	PFYTD	FYTD	Change	% Change
PSNI	11306	11042	-264	-2.3%
South Area	4471	4472	+1	+0.02%
Newry, Mourne & Down	936	1072	+136	+14.5%

To achieve a reduction of 2% in the number of burglaries. (FYTD 1 <sup>st</sup> April 15 – 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2015)				
	PFYTD	FYTD	Change	% Change
PSNI	3712	3847	+135	+3.6%
South Area	1498	1411	-87	-5.8%
Newry, Mourne & Down	276	287	+11	+3.9%

To increase the outcome rate in respect of burglary by 2% points (FYTD 1 <sup>st</sup> April 15 – 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2015)				
	PFYTD	FYTD	Change	% Change
PSNI	10.1%	10.8%	+0.7	+0.7%
South Area	11.1%	10.9%	-0.2	+0.2%
Newry, Mourne & Down	9.8%	13.6%	+3.8	+3.8%



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To report on the number of burglaries and robberies where older people are victims and to work with the PCSP to reduce the risk of such crimes  
(FYTD 1<sup>st</sup> April 15 – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015)

Burglaries	PFYTD	FYTD	Change	% Change
PSNI	633	788	+155	+24.5%
South Area	327	350	+23	+7.0%
Newry, Moume & Down	66	70	+4	+6.1%
Robberies	PFYTD	FYTD	Change	% Change
PSNI	27	21	-6	-22.2%
South Area	11	4	-7	-63.4%
Newry, Moume & Down	3	1	-2	-66.7%

To reduce the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour by 3%.  
(FYTD 1<sup>st</sup> April 15 – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015)

	PFYTD	FYTD	Change	% Change
PSNI	30883	27944	-2939	-9.5%
South Area	12974	11466	-1508	-11.8%
Newry, Moume & Down	2261	2085	-176	-7.8%

In partnership with other agencies, to achieve a reduction in the number of people killed in road collisions by at least 60% by 2020.  
(FYTD 1<sup>st</sup> April 15 – End of June 2015)

	PFYTD	FYTD	Change	% Change
PSNI	20	23	+3	+15.0%
South Area	13	12	-1	-7.6%
Newry, Moume & Down	3	1	-2	-66.7%

In partnership with other agencies, to achieve a reduction in the number of people seriously injured in road collisions by 45% by 2020.  
(FYTD 1<sup>st</sup> April 15 – End of June 2015)

	PFYTD	FYTD	Change	% Change
PSNI	170	173	+3	+1.8%
South Area	81	96	+15	+18.5%
Newry, Moume & Down	30	19	-11	-36.7%



Keeping People Safe

## Newry, Mourne & Down

Newry, Mourne & Down									
Offence group	Recorded crime				Crime outcomes (rate, %)			Crime outcomes (number)	
	Apr-Jul 14/15	Apr-Jul 15/16	change	% change	Apr-Jul 14/15	Apr-Jul 15/16	% point change	Apr-Jul 14/15	Apr-Jul 15/16
<b>VICTIM-BASED CRIME</b>									
<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON</b>	1,031	1,064	53	5.1	31.6	32.3	0.7	326	360
<i>Violence with injury (including homicide)</i>	430	459	29	6.7	35.3	30.1	-5.3	152	138
<i>Violence without injury</i>	601	625	24	4.0	29.0	33.9	5.0	174	212
<b>SEXUAL OFFENCES</b>	78	79	1	1.3	20.5	10.1	-10.4	16	8
<b>ROBBERY</b>	16	5	-11	-	25.0	40.0	15.0	4	2
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	14	4	-10	-	7.1	0.0	-7.1	1	0
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	2	1	-1	-	150.0	200.0	50.0	3	2
<b>THEFT OFFENCES</b>	862	915	53	6.1	20.8	25.2	4.5	179	231
<i>Burglary</i>	214	230	16	7.5	9.8	14.3	4.5	21	33
<i>Domestic burglary</i>	138	148	10	7.2	8.0	10.8	2.8	11	16
<i>Non-domestic burglary</i>	76	82	6	7.9	13.2	20.7	7.6	10	17
<i>Theft from the person</i>	7	11	4	-	14.3	0.0	-14.3	1	0
<i>Vehicle offences</i>	168	132	-36	-21.4	15.5	28.0	12.6	26	37
<i>Bicycle theft</i>	14	14	0	-	7.1	0.0	-7.1	1	0
<i>Shoplifting</i>	151	181	30	19.9	62.9	68.0	5.0	96	123
<i>All other theft offences</i>	308	347	39	12.7	11.4	11.0	-0.4	35	38
<b>CRIMINAL DAMAGE</b>	536	647	111	20.7	22.0	15.3	-6.7	118	99
<b>OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY</b>									
<b>DRUG OFFENCES</b>	211	166	-45	-21.3	81.5	77.1	-4.4	172	128
<i>Trafficking of drugs</i>	25	24	-1	-	84.0	87.5	3.5	21	21
<i>Possession of drugs</i>	186	142	-44	-23.7	81.2	75.4	-5.8	151	107
<b>POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES</b>	23	30	7	-	52.2	56.7	4.5	12	17
<b>PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES</b>	70	39	-31	-44.3	65.7	71.8	6.1	46	28
<b>MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY</b>	108	131	23	21.3	57.4	54.2	-3.2	62	71
<b>TOTAL RECORDED CRIME - ALL OFFENCES</b>	2,935	3,117	182	6.2	31.9	30.1	-1.8	935	934

Above summary of District recorded crime statistics was lifted from the PSNI website on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2015.  
[http://www.psnipolice.uk/index/updates/updates\\_statistics/updates\\_crime\\_statistics.htm](http://www.psnipolice.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates_crime_statistics.htm)



**District Policing Plan (Insert Date)**

<b>The following information captures local initiatives and partnership working on the following (Insert Date) (Insert District) Local Policing Plan Targets.</b>								
Target: To participate in 6 community events across Newry, Mourne and Down District to address local identified issues.								
Target: To work in partnership at events, where at least one event will be rural crime, one in respect of young people and one related to alcohol motivated violent crime.								
Target: To work in partnership at events, where at least one event will be in respect of young people.								
Target: To work in partnership at events, where at least one event will be related to alcohol motivated violent crime.								
Target: To work with PCSP and other partner to raise awareness and reporting of domestic violence and abuse.								
Target: To work with the PCSP to develop partnerships across the District aimed at reducing the harm done by antisocial behaviour								
Date	Location Of Event	Topic	Initiative aimed at	In partnership with PCSP or other agency	Alcohol Related	Officer In-Charge		
						Name	No.	Unit

<b>Report to:</b>	Active Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	DEA Fora Update Report
<b>Date:</b>	18 January 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Janine Hillen

<b>Decision Required</b>	
Members are asked to note the contents of the report and consider recommendations contained within.	
<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Background</b></p> <p><b>Action Planning:</b> Each of the 7 DEA Forums have held initial planning workshops with a range of key statutory partners. Feedback and priorities identified at events will be collated into draft discussion documents to inform local action plans.</p> <p><b>Coordinators:</b> All 7 DEA Coordinators are now in post and are currently meeting locally elected Members and representatives from relevant organisations to begin promoting the work of the Forum. A 3 day training programme for Coordinators has commenced to ensure that the development of the Fora is consistent and links strategically to corporate objectives relating to the development of Councils Community Plan.</p> <p><b>Public Meetings:</b> Forums are finalising preparations for their inaugural public meetings, which will focus primarily on the recruitment of members from the community/voluntary/business sector. A schedule of public and private meetings has also been collated (Appendix A).</p> <p><b>PR &amp; Publicity:</b> DEA Coordinators are currently developing information resources relating to each specific Forum, including details of Elected Members.</p> <p><b>Actions arising:</b> The overwhelming actions arising from meetings have related to the practical operation of Forums (i.e. times, agenda items). With the exception of Crotlieve DEA Forum who have included a specific recommendation to Committee (detailed below).</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>Members are asked to note the contents of the report and</p>

	consider the recommendation to Committee by Crotlieve DEA Forum, that the <i>'relevant Council department explore the possibility of developing the unsuitable land at Kilbroney Graveyard for additional car parking.'</i>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>  Officer time
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>  Appendix A – DEA Schedule of Meetings

## District Electoral Area Master Meeting Schedule 2016 (some dates are subject to change) 66

		DEA Foras						
Month	AHC Meetings	Slieve Gullion Kate Bingham	Slieve Croob Priscilla McAlinden	Rowallane Ellen Brennan	Downpatrick David Patterson	The Mournes Kathleen Magee	Crotlieve Suzanne Rice	Newry Kerri Morrow
<b>January</b>	Monday 18 January @ 6pm Location: Down Civic Centre	Tuesday 12 January @ 4pm Location: Cullyhanna CC	Thursday 14 January @ 3pm Location: The Old School House	Friday 22 January @ 3pm Location: TBC		Tuesday 5 January @ 3pm Location: Annalong CC (Private)	Wednesday 20 January @ 3pm Location: TBC	Thursday 21 January @ 3pm Location: TBC (Private)
<b>February</b>	Monday 22 February @ 6pm Location: Down Civic Centre	Tuesday 9 February @ 4pm Location: TBC (Private)	Thursday 25 February @ 7pm Location: The Lodge (Public)	Tuesday 23rd February @ 7pm Location: TBC (Public)	Wednesday 24 February @ 7pm Location: TBC (Public)	Tuesday 9 February @ 3pm Location: Annalong CC (Private)	Thursday 18 February @ 3pm Location: TBC (Private)	Thursday 11 February @ 3pm Location: TBC (Private)
<b>March</b>	Monday 21 March @ 6pm Location: Down Civic Centre	Tuesday 1 March @ 6pm Location: TBC (Public)	Tuesday 22 March @ 3pm Location: TBC (Private)	Thursday 24 March @ 3pm Location: TBC (Private)		Tuesday 8 March @ 6pm Location: Annalong CC (Public)	Wednesday 2 March @ 7pm (Public)	Thursday 3 March @ 6pm Location: TBC (Public)
<b>April</b>	Monday 18 April @ 6pm Location: Down Civic Centre	Wednesday 6 April @ 4pm Location: TBC (Private)	Tuesday 19 April @ 3pm Location: TBC (Private)	Tuesday 19 April @ 10am Location: TBC (Private)	Wednesday 6 April @ 10am Location: TBC (Private)	Tuesday 5 April @ 3pm Location: Annalong CC (Private)	Tuesday 5 April (Private)	Thursday 7 April @ 3pm Location: TBC (Private)
<b>May</b>	Monday 16 May @ 6pm Location: Down Civic Centre	Wednesday 4 May @ 4PM Location: TBC (Private)	Tuesday 24 May @ 3pm Location: TBC (Private)	Thursday 26 May @ 3pm Location: TBC (Private)	Wednesday 4 May pm/ evening TBC (Private/Public TBC)	Tuesday 3 May @ 3pm Location: Annalong CC (Private)	Wednesday 4 May (Private)	Thursday 5 May @ 3pm Location: TBC (Private)

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	2015 - 2016 Community Facilities Running Costs, Review of Agreed List and Future Allocations
<b>Date:</b>	18 January 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Janine Hillen

<p><b>Decisions Required</b></p> <p>Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and consider and agree to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Approve the recommendations at Section 2.</b></li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Background</b></p> <p>The Shadow Council agreed allocations for community facilities through the rates process and also subsequently agreed that for this year, (2015-2016), the status quo previously held with organisations would be transferred.</p> <p>It was agreed at the April Committee meeting to adopt the Facilities Management Agreement, the Service Level Agreements and that the list of groups be reviewed for completeness. The reviewed list attached in Appendix A was approved in August AHC and agreements have been issued to organisations so that claims for expenditure can now be submitted.</p> <p>Since this agreement, contact has been made requesting Ballyholland Community Association are added to the current community facilities allocation list. The following rationale has been provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That Ballyholland Community Association (BCA) was provided with recurrent expenditure prior to their old centre being demolished. While the new build was being developed the legacy Newry &amp; Mourne District Council placed a moratorium on new recurrent expenditure requests. The new facility was therefore not placed on the list of centres given to the Shadow Council and was not included in the rates for 2015/2016.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed at a Ballyholland Team Meeting (16 Jan</li> </ul>

	<p>2015) that BCA should be re-instated onto the list of community facilities and provided with recurrent expenditure following discussion at the next available Rates Meeting. This item was never addressed at any subsequent Council meeting.</p> <p>It should be noted that the budget for financial assistant has been fully expended and that there are a number of other facilities across the district which have also not been added to the list. Therefore, a decision to add Ballyholland Community Centre to the list would have to be subjected to an equality impact assessment.</p> <p>Within the context of Community Planning and the establishment of initial structures (DEA Fora), the committee should now consider how allocations for community facilities will be provided in the future, based on proven need as identified through the community planning process.</p> <p>The Committee have therefore a number of options at their disposal:</p> <p><b>Option 1:</b> To continue allocations in line with the reviewed and approved list for one further financial year (Appendix A). Thereby providing an opportunity for the full development and implementation of the Councils Facilities Strategy, DEA Action Plans and draft Community Plan ensuring therefore that future allocations are based on proven need and equitable distribution. This will also provide an opportunity to carry out a holistic review of allocations, including an audit of facility effectiveness and initiating a consultation exercise through the DEA Fora on the facilities currently funded. In order to prepare for the implementation of any new scheme the DEA Coordinators will also develop a capacity building programme for those centre representatives who have been in receipt of council support for a considerable time from the legacy Councils.</p> <p><b>Option 2:</b> To reduce allocations to all funded facilities on a gradual basis over the remaining life of the Council (percentage reduction to be agreed during the rates process), DEA Coordinators to work with centre representatives and to explore opportunities relating to social economy models (in partnership with organisations such as Development Trust N.I.) so that centres can aspire to be self-sufficient in the future.</p>
<p><b>2.0</b></p>	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee should not add Ballyholland Community Association to funded facilities list.</li> <li>• And should proceed with implementation of Option 1 – based on the rationale that an initial assessment by Officers concludes that facilities currently funded are more reliant on Council support than previously anticipated and support is required for a longer period of time.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional recurrent expenditure to Ballyholland Community Association if agreed (45% of total approved expenditure i.e. heating, lighting and overheads up to a maximum of £5,000). This will result in an overspend of the financial assistance budget</li> <li>• Officer time</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>Appendix A – List of funded facilities</p>

Group - Community Centre (CC) Community Hall (CH)	Maximum amount available £
Annalong CC	4000
Annesley Community Hall, Newcastle	3000
Ardglass CC	3000
Ballinran CC	281
Ballyhornan CFC	3000
Barnmeen CC	4000
Bright CC	3000
Burren CC	2000
Cabra CC	2100
Camlough CC	500
Castlewellan CC	6000
Crossgar War Memorial Hall	3000
Cullyhanna CC	4000
Derrybeg CC	4000
Dorsey CC	4000
Dromintee CC	400
Dunsford Cross Community Centre	3000
Forkhill CC	4000
Hilltown CC	2600
Inverbrena Community Hall, Strangford	3000
Jerretzpass CC	1000
Killough Community Hall	3000
Lislea CC	900
Lisnacree CC	1600
Loanda House CC	4000
Mayobridge CC	3000
Meadow CC	6250
Meigh CC	4000
Mullaghbane CC	4000
Newtownhamilton CC	4000
Three Ways CC	4000
Whitecross CC	2500
<b>Total allocation</b>	<b>97131</b>

(trade waste)

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	Consultation on review of the Private Rented Sector
<b>Date:</b>	18 January 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Eoin Devlin

### Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and consider and agree to:

- **Approve the attached consultation response**

<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Background</b></p> <p>The Department's Private Rented Branch has published a Discussion Document on the Review of the Role and Regulation of the Private Rented Sector. The aim of the review is to consider the current and potential future role of the sector and assess the effectiveness of current regulation, identifying where improvements can be made to help make the private rented sector a more attractive housing option. The council will have an integral role in the regulation of this sector.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>That the attached consultation response is returned to DSD</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>Private rented Sector Consultation response Jan 16</p>

**Review of the Role and Regulation of the Private Rented Sector**

**Role of the Private Rented Sector**

We want to make the Private Rented Sector a more attractive housing sector where people choose to live. We are asking for your views on issues impacting the private rented sector. Your views will help shape future policy proposals. Thank you for taking the time to complete these questions

1. Please select from the list below the title that best represents you

- |                         |                                  |                       |                       |                      |                       |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Landlord                | <input type="radio"/>            | Tenant                | <input type="radio"/> | Letting Agent        | <input type="radio"/> |
| Landlord Representative | <input type="radio"/>            | Tenant Representative | <input type="radio"/> | Estate Agent         | <input type="radio"/> |
| Council Representative  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | Housing Professional  | <input type="radio"/> | Other Government     | <input type="radio"/> |
| MLA                     | <input type="radio"/>            | NIHE                  | <input type="radio"/> | Department           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Voluntary Organisation  | <input type="radio"/>            |                       |                       | Member of the Public | <input type="radio"/> |

2. Do you agree that further support should be available to tenants living in the private rented sector?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

**The Council agrees that further support should be available to tenant’s living in the private rented sector.**

**The existing networks which exist in the social housing sector which identify and support vulnerable people does not exist in the private rented sector. Similar support mechanisms should be developed as the sector grows and more vulnerable people are placed in the private rented sector. This would require improved partnership working between all the statutory agencies who are involved with private sector tenants.**

**Longer tenure for tenancies would improve stability for tenants and increased participation in the sector access scheme would improve support for tenants.**

**The Northern Ireland Private Tenant’s Forum should be supported and encouraged to expand to provide tenants with a voice**

**Also assistance in dealing with anti- social behaviour would be welcomed.**

3. Do you agree that further support should be available to landlords operating in the private rented sector?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

**Yes, further support should be available to landlords. The private sector access scheme should be promoted to landlords. Training and support for landlords, for example the CIH training course ; Level 2 award in letting and managing residential property, could be subsidised to increase participation.**

**Financial assistance to landlords who are in difficulty could be explored to prevent re-possession. Tax incentives.**

## Review of the Role and Regulation of the Private Rented Sector

### Supply and Investment

4. Do you agree that the private rented sector should play a role in bridging the identified shortage in housing supply?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

Given the current level of provision of social housing there is no short term alternative to meeting the prevalent need.

The provision of such housing does need to be adequately policed.

5. Would it be appropriate for Government to incentivise growth and investment in the private rented sector?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

As above



## Review of the Role and Regulation of the Private Rented Sector

### Housing and Tenancy Management

6. The Department should consider making changes to the Landlord Registration Scheme. Do you agree?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

**The Council would like the introduction of mandatory licensing for all tenancies. This would ensure that all tenants in the private rented sector would be guaranteed of a uniform standard of repairs and tenancy management.**

**In the interim, the Council would request that the information held by the landlord registrar can be used for all parts of the Private Tenancies Order and other Council enforcement activities.**

**Also the issue of landlords who live outside the jurisdiction is still a concern for Councils, as registrations for these addresses are being accepted by the system. Landlords appear to be able to override the system which allows them to submit incorrect details including postcodes which can often make a landlord search extremely difficult. The system should ensure that the addresses can be verified and not manually changed.**

7. The Department should consider making changes to the Tenancy Deposit Scheme. Do you agree?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

**The offence of failing to secure a deposit requires a technical amendment to remove the 6 month time barred limit.**

**In the event of non-payment of a fixed penalty, the legislation should state that the**

**minimum fine should be more than the fixed penalty.**

8. Is licensing of landlords needed in Northern Ireland?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

**The Council believes that mandatory licensing for the entire private rented sector is necessary in order to ensure that there is consistent standard across the sector. In order for the Private Rented Sector to play a greater role in the provision of homes for the future, the key aspect will be to ensure that there is a regulatory framework to let the sector develop and ensure homes are suitable and well managed.**

**Licensing is only part of a number of changes required to improve standards in Private Rented Sector but its introduction would give Councils the powers to address the issues of concern.**

9. Is Landlord Accreditation needed in Northern Ireland?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

**The Council would support the introduction of mandatory licensing of all Private Sector properties. Landlord accreditation would be a soft touch approach and would not address sub-standard properties or poor standards of tenancy management.**



10. Do you think the private rented sector needs to be further professionalised?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

**Providing training and support to landlords in private rented sector is critical if the sector is to develop and adequately respond to the demands of tenants. Licensing of all of private rented sector would ensure the sector is professionalized.**

11. Are there other amendments to the Private Tenancies Order that should be considered?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

**Please see attached response from the Public Health and Regulatory Services Group in relation to changes to "Council Guidance on the Private Rented Sector Version 1" issued by the DSD on 22 November 2010.**

12. Is further regulation of the private rented sector necessary?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

The Council would welcome the introduction of mandatory licensing for all privately rented properties as this would improve standards of repair and tenancy management across the sector.

The Council would welcome the introduction of the Housing Health and Safety rating system as the new statutory fitness standard.

The Council would also welcome increasing rent control for all properties which do not meet the fitness standard, not just those built before 1945 or 1956.

The Council would welcome additional resources to ensure that any changes to the regulation of the private rented do not result in an increased burden to Council finances.

13. Do you agree that longer term tenancies are a good thing?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

In order for the private rented sector to play a greater role in providing safe and secure tenancies particularly for families who traditionally lived in the social housing sector, longer term tenancies are to be encouraged. Many private sector landlords would support longer secure tenancies also.

Longer, secure tenancies help to build sustainable communities and assist in building community cohesion.



14. Are the current notice to quit periods appropriate?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

The recent changes have provided greater security for longer term tenants.

15. Is the current eviction process fit for purpose?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

The current process costly and too lengthy for landlords who need legitimate possession of their property.  
The Council would welcome discussion to look at the fast track provisions in England and Wales and how it could be applied here.  
The option of Council's issuing fixed penalties could also be explored.

16. Is overcrowding an issue in the private rented sector in Northern Ireland?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

The statistics produced by the Department are in relation to all households. The private rented sector would tend to be over-occupied. Statistics from the 2011 NI Census would also show that ethnic minority households are more likely to be overcrowded. These communities are more likely to be renting in the private rented sector so require protection from overcrowding. Mandatory licensing of the entire private rented sector would ensure that the issue of overcrowding is addressed.

17. Do you agree that the regulation of letting agents needs to be addressed?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

There is evidence to show that some agents are not managing their client's portfolio in a professional manner. There are no specific requirements for agents to act in a professional manner. Most of the legislation only covers landlords and not agents. We are aware of unfair contracts including fees being issued to tenants in the private rented sector and this should be addressed. Block management and common parts management should also be regulated as we often encounter issues with bins not being emptied and inadequate maintenance of common parts.


18. Do you agree there should be an alternative means to resolving disputes other than small claims court action?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

The Council would welcome the introduction of a specific panel to deal with dispute resolution. This would remove the burden on Councils who frequently deal with landlord/tenant disputes.

## Review of the Role and Regulation of the Private Rented Sector

### Property Standards

19. Do you agree that it is important to enforce minimum property standards in the private rented sector?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

The Council agrees that the enforcement of minimum standards is critical to the private rented sector. It is important that the correct standard is in place and that Councils are given the resources and flexibility and to deliver this important area of the PRS e.g. Licensing of the private rented sector and HHSRS.

20. In relation to fitness what specific areas warrant further improvement and what means should be used to drive improvement. (i.e. through regulation or some form of non-regulatory route such as guidance)?

The Council advocates the introduction of the Housing Health and Safety rating system as the new statutory fitness standard in line with England and Wales.

21. Should the current system of applying rent control to unfit properties built before 1945 be extended to include other private rented property?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

The Council advocates introduction of rent control for all properties which do not meet the statutory fitness standard.

This measure would ensure consistency across the private rented sector and provide encouragement for landlords to ensure their properties meet the minimum standards.

22. Should consideration be given to introducing standards similar to those in place in other parts of the UK around requirements to install additional safety measures, such as smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, and requiring periodic electrical inspections?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

Yes but the standard for occupation should be completely reviewed and not just introducing a requirement for certificates for installations and specific risks.

23. Should consideration be given to requiring a minimum standard of energy efficiency for all private rented properties as in England and Wales?

Yes

No

Please provide your reasons

Fuel poverty is a major issue affecting Health and wellbeing in Northern Ireland. It is in everyones long term interest to ensure that our Housing stock is as energy efficient as possible and it will again allow prospective tenants to make informed choices

**Review of the Role and Regulation of the Private Rented Sector**

**Contact Details**

24. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

Proposals in Annex B ;  
 Council is unsure what the proposals for amendment Article 5 are.  
 HHSRS and licensing would address art 7 and 9 so no need to amend.  
 The Council has no objection to Articles 18 and 19 being amended.  
 The Council has no objection to Article 28 being amended.  
 The Council has no objection to Article 34 being amended.  
 In respect of Article 35, the Council would support keeping this clause allowing the landlord to have the right to make representation to the Council.

25. If you wish to be kept up to date with progress on the review please give your name and contact details

Name	Eoin Devlin
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Email Address	Eoin.devlin@nmandd.org
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Phone Number	0300 013 2233
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## QUERIES REGARDING

### “COUNCIL GUIDANCE ON THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR – VERSION 1”

#### ISSUED BY DSD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2010

- **Page 100 – Point 12**  
This section makes reference to ‘this statutory guidance’. We would be grateful if DSD would clarify and advise on the status of this guidance document. Is it statutory or advisory?
  
- **Page 5 – Re 1.1.1**  
This should be qualified with a statement such as “this list is not exhaustive” as our understanding is that the PTO does not cover a tenancy where the landlord is the District Council.
  
- **Page 6/7 – Re 1.2.2**  
We would believe that a comment should be added either at the start or the end of this section indicating that there is no enforcing authority for Article 6 to 12; that they can only be enforced by civil action.
  
- **Page 8 – Re 1.3**  
There are a number of issues here that need clarification.
  - A. Starting with ‘A Notice of Refusal’. We would believe that this paragraph should be deleted as it is liable to cause an element of confusion.

Pages 8 to 14 of the Guidance document are in relation to Part 3 of the Order. A Notice of Refusal is only referred to in Part 4 of the PTO. A Notice of Refusal made under Article 36 (5) is only ever issued after a dwelling has been found to be unfit, following an inspection triggered by the receipt of a valid application for a Certificate of Fitness. It is a notice refusing to issue a Certificate of Fitness. It has nothing to do with Notices of Unfitness or Disrepair. A Notice of Refusal is mentioned in the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph on page 20. Perhaps that would be the appropriate place to indicate that a Notice of Refusal would have implications in the area of Rent Control.

- B. 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph – The first sentence in his paragraph gives the impression that only unfit dwellings identified through Certificate of Fitness applications will be subject to Rent Control. Our understanding is that all unfit dwelling should be subject to both statutory enforcement action and rent control no matter how identified.
- **Page 9 – Provision of Alternative Accommodation**  
It should be clarified that this is only a recommendation and it is not enforceable by the local authority.
  - **Page 10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph**  
This will be expanded on later but more extensive guidance is needed on “reasonable standard”, “substantial disrepair” and “condition such as to interfere materially with the personal comfort of the occupying tenant”.
  - **Page 14 – Re 1.3.11**  
It is our belief that a Repairs Grant is still available for a Notice of Disrepair served on a protected tenancy. We would be grateful if this could be clarified.
  - **Page 15 – Re 1.4.1**  
The advice that any new tenancy after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 which is found to be unfit is also rent controlled would appear to be at variance with the comments on rent control on page 8.
  - **Page 16 – Re 1.4.3**  
We would question the wisdom of including a table of figures in this section as they will quickly go out of date. We understand what the Department are trying to illustrate but would wonder if the point could be made in a different way. Secondly it is difficult to prove properties are made fit due to rent control alone. Is enforcement action not also a factor?
  - **Page 18 – Re 1.4.6**  
On the question of the inspection being conducted within the 28 days a little extra clarification on what circumstances would allow the inspection to be undertaken earlier would be helpful. Perhaps something like “an inspection can be carried out earlier if the parties are agreeable”?
  - **Page 21 – Re 1.4.10**

Should this section not be entitled “Cessation of Certificate of Fitness”? Also to avoid confusion it should be clarified that the Repairs Notice in this section refers to a Housing Executive Repairs Notice and not a Notice of Disrepair served under PTO.

- **Page 23 – Property Condition**

This is in the section 1.4.11 regarding Rent Control. With regard to the 6<sup>th</sup> bullet point on this page we would be grateful if the Department could clarify if it is actually now necessary for a local authority to notify DSD of the service of a Notice of Disrepair. It was our understanding that a Notice of Disrepair had no implications for Rent Control.

- **Page 37 & 38 – Re 3.7 Best Practice**

“Name and Praise” is a better tactic than “Name and shame” but we question whether the document should be personalised in this way. This advice would be just as effective if the section opened with “one District Council has an innovative approach . . .”

Some of these 16 bullet points on pages 37 & 38 are in relation to items previously covered.

2<sup>nd</sup> bullet point – This could be better drafted. It appears to mix up Parts 3 and 4 of the Order. If you receive an application for a Certificate of Fitness and if the premises is unfit and informal action is ineffective then you must serve a Notice of Refusal. You must follow a procedure. It is not as if one notice is better than another. Both notices have their place.

3<sup>rd</sup> Bullet Point – We have difficulty in understanding with this means. If a landlord will not apply for a Certificate of Fitness then he may have committed an offence and you can then prosecute using article 68 of the PTO. Just because he does not apply does not mean that you can go ahead and issue a Notice of Refusal. To issue a Notice of Refusal (or a Certificate of Fitness) you first have to conduct an inspection.

4<sup>th</sup> Bullet Point – This appears to be at variance with the advice given in the 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph in 1.3 on page 8. We agree with the concept that a landlord should be given all the relevant information as early as possible. We would consider that you only list the unfitness items on a Notice of Refusal or Notice of Unfitness and that any additional disrepair items (if present) are notified separately by means, in the first instance, of an informal letter. This course of action often means a Notice of Disrepair is unnecessary.

5<sup>th</sup> Bullet Point – as drafted this 5<sup>th</sup> Bullet Point has similarities to the equally confusing 3<sup>rd</sup> Bullet Point. Do you mean to say something like ‘if after an informal request an application for a Certificate of Fitness does not materialise an EH Department is under an obligation to follow this up’.

6<sup>th</sup> Bullet Point – We can understand what is meant but would think it would be clearer if it stated ‘a’ tenant initiated inspection for a Certificate of Fitness can be free of charge, at the discretion of the Council.

8<sup>th</sup> Bullet Point – please see our earlier comments about provision of alternative accommodation.

- a. Annex A – Page 52. Three words are missing from the end of this subsection. Subsection 3 should read ‘Subsection (1) applies in relation to a house in multiple occupation with the substitution of a reference to the house for any reference to a house in multiple occupation.
- b. Annex B – Page 101.  
Section 13 on appeals could be misunderstood because of the way it is drafted. It could be read that on appeal against a notice of unfitness the only two options possible would be the substitution of a Closing Order or of a Demolition Order. Our misunderstanding would be that ‘any person aggrieved’ could appeal that the dwelling is not unfit etc as well as that there are more satisfactory courses of action than the service of a Notice of Unfitness.
- c. Links with Housing Executive enforcement powers – Page 102. Paragraph 3 – we acknowledge that a local authority has a requirement to consult the Housing Executive if they intend to issue a Notice of Unfitness. But we were unaware of any similar provision in relation to Notices of Disrepair. We always considered there was no need to consult the Housing Executive if we are issuing a Notice of Disrepair.
- d. Page 104 – Pre-formal enforcement action procedures  
Paragraph 9  
  
In relation to ‘drawing this informally to the attention of the owner’ – could this be done verbally or would it be considered to be ‘good practice’ to do so in an informal letter?
- e. Page 104 – Pre-formal enforcement action procedures  
Paragraph 10  
  
Would the Department consider it appropriate to include a recommended period for representations to be made. We cannot have a process stalled if a landlord will not get back to us. The consensus of opinion within Environmental Health would be that a 2 week period may be a good balance.

- f. Page 109 – Paragraph 6  
The case referred to was NCB v Thorne (not Thorpe). Also the ‘Thorne’ case involved which of the two limbs of the definition of a statutory nuisance the case should be taken on.
  
- g. Page 109 – Paragraphs 8&9  
Our comments here would be similar to those stated earlier in relation to paragraphs 9 & 10 on page 104.

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	Environmental Governance in Northern Ireland
<b>Date:</b>	18 January 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Eoin Devlin

<b>Decisions Required</b>	
Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and consider and agree to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Return the attached consultation response to DOE</b></li> </ul>	
<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Background</b></p> <p>The DOE last sought the views of key stakeholders on the issue of environmental governance in August 2011. At that time a significant majority of respondents expressed a preference for an independent agency in one form or other. However, at the time there was not sufficient political support to achieve that outcome.</p> <p>Instead, recognising there were fundamental issues to be addressed, a root and branch review of the NIEA was undertaken resulting in a programme of initiatives and reforms with a view to improving the performance of NIEA as an organisation and achieving better environmental outcomes.</p> <p>The Minister has made it clear that he supports an independent environment agency and recognises that there is still a strong desire in many quarters for the creation of such a body.</p> <p>On this issue, the North is out of step with every other jurisdiction across these islands, leading to a perception that the environment, one of the North’s key selling points, may be less well protected than in other jurisdictions. While changes have been made to both the structure and objectives of NIEA, which are fully expected to bear fruit, it is prudent at this time to consider alternatives that might improve environmental outcomes still further.</p> <p>Views are now being sought from a wide range of stakeholders</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>

	Approve the attached response
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p><b>Discussion document</b>  <a href="https://www.doeni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/doe/environmental-governance-paper.pdf">https://www.doeni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/doe/environmental-governance-paper.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Consultation Response - Governance in NI</b></p>

**Consultation Response to the Department of the Environment Discussion Document on *'Environmental Governance in Northern Ireland'***

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council supports in principle the creation of an independent Environment Agency which is focussed on delivering a more robust and efficient regulation of the local environment. It supports the view that an independent agency, freed from the Departmental constraints of NIEA, should be more responsive to local issues, more flexible in its approach and result in quicker decision-making.

The Council would wish to highlight the importance of the aims and objectives of any such agency to create the culture necessary to deliver the improved protection of the environment, alongside the need for suitable accountability for the functions and actions of an independent agency.

Therefore, Council would ask that in taking this matter forward, the Government Departments undertake further public consultation on this matter when the draft legislation containing the aims and objectives of the proposed agency and the fully-costed business case becomes available.

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	Discussion Document on Climate Change Legislation
<b>Date:</b>	18 January 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Eoin Devlin

### Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and consider and agree to:

- **Approve the attached consultation response**

1.0

#### Purpose & Background

In March 2013, the Department of the Environment issued a pre-consultation paper seeking views on the need for Northern Ireland climate change legislation. The paper invited comment on the value of an overall Bill in the context of its potential elements including a statutory target (or targets) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; the creation of a new independent climate change committee; and the introduction of new statutory duties on public authorities to promote and report actions to reduce emissions and on their adaptation measures. The responses to the pre-consultation document represented a wide spectrum of organisations and individuals which showed a broad support for climate change legislation specific to the North. However, concerns were also raised including the robustness of the data which might be used to set a target in legislation and the possible adverse impacts on our economy.

The purpose of this discussion paper is to update stakeholders and the public on developments since the 2013 pre-consultation exercise seeking views on the need for climate change legislation here and to provide the Department's current thinking on a future Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill. The paper

- provides a background to the climate change debate;
- gives an overview of the outcome and concerns raised as part of the pre-consultation exercise;
- gives an overview of the progress and developments since the pre-consultation exercise;
- presents the latest rationale and policy proposals for Northern Ireland climate change legislation; and

	<p><input type="checkbox"/> invites further comments on the need for a Climate Change Bill and its content.</p> <p>Views on the issue of introducing climate change legislation for Northern Ireland are plentiful and varied. There is wide interest in the subject with many organisations from across the spectrum of central and local government, environmental non-governmental organisations, social development organisations and bodies representing the interests of business and industry, agriculture, etc. having already expressed policy positions. While there is a general consensus among these groups that reducing greenhouse emissions is an important issue, there are differing views on how this may be achieved. 8</p> <p>The Department values the input from all of these organisations and sees the consideration of their views as a very important aspect of creating the right set of policy proposals for any future agreed Bill. This paper is your opportunity to give your views on the Department’s current thinking on what should be included in a future Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill, which the Department believes should be introduced in the next Assembly mandate.</p> <p>The Department will continue to collect evidence and engage with stakeholders throughout the policy development process to ensure that its considerations take full account of both what is needed and what is possible.</p>
<p><b>2.0</b></p>	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>Return the attached consultation response to DOE</p>
<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices</b>  <b>Discussion Paper – Proposals for Taking Forward NI Climate Change Legislation</b></p> <p>Consultation Response - NI Climate Change Legislation</p>

**Consultation Response to the Department of the Environment Discussion Document '*Proposals for Taking Forward NI Climate Change Legislation*'**

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council welcome the proposal to introduce specific legislation to Northern Ireland to address the local contribution to the efforts to minimise the adverse effects of climate change.

We agree that Northern Ireland's particular location offers unique opportunities for the development of green technology and that the agricultural, power-generation and industrial bases differ from other UK regions and therefore that any local climate change legislation should take account of these factors. However, we also agree that in a global climate system, international, European Union and UK and Ireland policy frameworks must be taken into account so that any legislation brought forward is comparable, equitable and robust in seeking to reduce the adverse effects of climate change.

The following responses are provided to the specific proposals stated within the discussion document:

***1. Make provisions for a long term target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;***

The Council supports the use of a long-term target to provide certainty to stakeholders about the transition of Northern Ireland to a low carbon economy. Whilst we agree that the target should be ambitious and aim to make the region a world leader in carbon reduction, any targets must have regard to the global policy framework to achieve reductions.

***2. Make provisions for interim targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;***

The Council agrees with the use of interim targets to evaluate progress towards the long-term target but also as a means of determining the economic impact of climate change proposals.

***3. Place a duty to set limits in carbon budgets on the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions that can be emitted in Northern Ireland.***

The Council supports the system of carbon budgeting but to be as meaningful as possible this must take into account not only emissions, but also the existing carbon sinks within the environment and how they make an important contribution to carbon reduction.

***4. Provide powers to request specified public bodies to report on their transition towards a low carbon economy and their plans to adapt to the effects of climate change.***

The Council acts as a civic leader and as such supports the mechanism whereby public bodies shall report on carbon reduction and adaptation matters.

***5. Contain provisions to establish a Northern Ireland Committee on Climate Change or to designate an existing body to exercise advisory functions should it be decided that this is appropriate.***

There is insufficient information available at this stage on the existing frameworks to form a robust view on this point. The Council will reconsider this matter in any subsequent consultations.

***6. Contain a requirement for Northern Ireland to obtain an independent assessment for progress made towards implementing the objectives, proposals and policies set out in the Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme.***

There is insufficient information available at this stage on the existing frameworks to form a robust view on this point. The Council will reconsider this matter in any subsequent consultations.

***In addition, the Department values and respects your views and would ask you to:***

***7. Provide any other comments you may have in respect of the above proposals or on any other important issues you feel may have not been adequately covered in this paper.***

In addition to the previous responses, the Council believes that greater focus must be placed upon the economic benefits of taking carbon reduction action, both in terms of cost reductions where these can be achieved, but also by negating the need for expensive retrospective action to address the adverse effects of climate change. We believe that a broad consensus of support for climate change actions needs to be built, and that alongside any climate change legislative proposals a to engender the support of industry, commuters, businesses, visitors and every resident of Northern Ireland must be developed through a programme of action by Government.

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	Proposed Overspend for various works to Newcastle Centre
<b>Date:</b>	18 January 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kevin Scullion

**Decisions Required**

Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and consider and agree to:

- **An overspend of approximately £64,000.00 in this year’s Capital Budget for various works to Newcastle Centre.**

1.0

**Purpose & Background**

It is understood that at present there is a predicted underspend in the Councils Capital budget for 2015/2016. Officers were requested to consider if there were any capital works required for the Newcastle Centre planned for 2016/2017 which could be pulled forward to have completion before end of March 2016. The table below provides a list of works which could be undertaken within this time frame.

Item	Cost £	Reason
Replace back up oil boiler	17000.00	Business continuity
Replacement Windows	25000.00	Health and Safety/Energy Efficiency
Replacement Crash Barrier/railing	2000.00	Health and Safety
Refurbishment of solid timber flooring – Auditorium	7000.00	Health and Safety
Installation of Lobby area at front entrance	1000.00	Energy Efficiency
Upgrade BMS – Heating Controls	5000.00	Energy Efficiency
Inspection of Tropicana Equipment	2000.00	Health and Safety
External repair to building plus cavity insulation	5000.00	Pest Control/ Energy Efficiency
<b>Total</b>	<b>64000.00</b>	

The Councils Senior Management Team have considered the matter and have recommended that the approval of the Council is sought to

	<p>allow Officers to undertake these works within this financial year.</p> <p>As there is no budget for these works in this financial year this will result in an overspend of £64,000.00. However, given a predicted underspend in the Council's overall Capital Budget it is considered that this will not result in an actual overspend in the overall Capital Budget for 2015/2016.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>It is recommended that an overspend of approximately £64,000.00 in this year's Capital Budget for various works to Newcastle Centre.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>If all works proposed are undertaken it is expected that the cost will be £64,000.00.</p> <p>There is a predicted underspend in the Council's Capital Budget for 2015/2016. The works proposed for the Newcastle Centre are required and if not undertaken in this financial year will be planned for in 2016/2017.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>None</p>