

February 10th, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Monday, 16th February 2026** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre.**

Committee Membership 2025-26

Councillor C Bowsie **Chairperson**

Councillor M Gibbons **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor J Brennan

Councillor D Finn

Councillor C Galbraith

Councillor R Howell

Councillor J Jackson

Councillor A King

Councillor N Lawlor

Councillor D Lee-Surginor

Councillor O Magennis

Councillor A Mathers

Councillor D Murphy

Councillor K Murphy

Councillor J Truesdale

Agenda

1.0 Introduction and Apologies

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet of Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held 26 January 2026

For Information

📎 *Action Sheet from AHC 26.01.2026.pdf*

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For Discussion/Decision

4.0 DEA Forum Action Sheets Jan 2026

For Decision

📎 *AHC Report - DEA Meetings .pdf*

Page 3

📎 *Appx. DEA Action Sheets.pdf*

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Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

5.0 Community Trail Development

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

📎 *AHC Report - Hilltown Community Trail Development.pdf*

Not included

📎 *Appx. Hilltown Community Trail Development Map.pdf*

Not included

For Noting

6.0 Policing & Community Safety Partnership

For Information

📎 *AHC Report - Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP).pdf*

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📎 *Appx. PCSP Committee Minutes 25.11.25.pdf*

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7.0 Youth and Future Talent Awards

For Information

Report to Follow

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Fionnuala Branagh

Cllr Jim Brennan

Cllr Pete Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Killian Feehan

Cllr Doire Finn

Cllr Conor Galbraith

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mr Conor Haughey

Cllr Martin Hearty

Cllr Roisin Howell

Cllr Tiarna Howie

Cllr Jonathan Jackson

Joanne/Noelle Johnston

Cllr Geraldine Kearns

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Aurla King

Cllr Cathal King

Ms Elaine Kirk

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Niall Lawlor

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Aidan Mathers

Cllr Declan McAteer

Ms Kerri McConnell

Mr Martin McKibbin

Sinead Murphy

Cllr Declan Murphy

Cllr Selina Murphy

Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Áine Quinn
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Ms Alison Robb
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Conor Smyth
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Donna Starkey
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr Jill Truesdale
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Mrs Marie Ward
.....
Cllr Helena Young
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ACTIONS ARISING FROM ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 26 JANUARY 2026

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/003/2026	Action sheet from AHC Meeting held 15/12/25	It was agreed to note the action sheet	A Patterson	Noted	Y
AHC/004/2026	District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Update	It was agreed to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for: • Crotlieve DEA Forum Meeting held 9 December 2025 • Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held 9 December 2025 • Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 9 December 2025 • Slieve Croob DEA Forum Meeting held on 9 December 2025 • Rowallane DEA Forum Meeting held on 9 December 2025	A Robb	Noted and actions being progressed	Y
AHC/005/2026	Leasing Of Council Land and Facilities	It was agreed to progress the request to lease Council lands at Meigh Community Centre through the Council's Sport and Community Leasing Policy.	A Robb	Matter being actioned	Y
AHC/006/2026	Procurement For PCSP Contracted Services	It was agreed to approve the procurement for PCSP Contracted Services for 2026/27 as detailed within the Officer's Report.	A Robb	Matter being actioned	Y

AHC/007/2026	Usage Agreement for AHC Facility	It was agreed to approve the sporting clubs' sole use of the Council facility for the duration of their development works until March 2027, subject to agreed terms and periodic review.	C Haughey	In progress	Y
AHC/008/2026	Good Relations Action Plan 2026-27	It was agreed to note the report and the attached draft of the NMDDC Good Relations Action Plan for 2026/27.	A Robb	Noted	Y

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 16 February 2026
Subject:	District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Alison Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Martina Flynn, Head of Engagement

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	Purpose - To note the report. - To consider and agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached from the DEA Forum Private Meetings listed in 3.1 below.		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	None.		
3.0	Recommendations		
3.1	That the Committee: - ➤ Note the report. ➤ Agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached for: - Mournes DEA Forum Meeting held on 20 January 2026 - Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held on 3 February 2026 - Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Meeting held on 6 January 2026 - Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 15 January 2026 -		
4.0	Resource implications		
4.1	Support and assistance from partners to deliver actions in the DEA Action Plans.		
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)		
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>		

	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation – N/a</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves. ☐ ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☒
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1: - Mournes DEA Forum Meeting held on 20 January 2026 - Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held on 3 February 2026 - Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Meeting held on 6 January 2026 - Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 15 January 2026
8.0	Background Documents

8.1	None.
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Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Action Sheet of Downpatrick District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on 3 February 2026 at 4.45pm via Teams**

Chairperson:	Councillor Oonagh Hanlon
In Attendance:	Councillor Aurla King Councillor Philip Campbell
Independent Members:	Jenny Lavery, NI Housing Executive Housing Community Network Daniella McCarry, County Down Rural Community Network Dan McEvoy, Downpatrick Housing Community Network
Statutory Partners:	
Council Officials:	Katrina Hynds, Downpatrick DEA Co-Ordinator Theresa McLaverty, PeacePlus Officer
Others in Attendance:	
Apologies:	Jim Masson, Down Business Connect, Down Community Health Committee Macartan Digney, Downpatrick Community Collective Councillor Cadogan Enright

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/DPK/25/01	Apologies	As recorded above.	Noted.
DEA/DPK/25/02	Declarations of Interest	None were declared.	Noted
DEA/DPK/25/03	Action Sheet of Meeting held 9 December 2025	The Action Sheet was noted.	Noted
DEA/DPK/25/04	Update from Peace Plus Officer	The PeacePlus Officer gave Members an update on projects for the Downpatrick DEA. Members to forward proposed areas to the DEA Co-Ordinator for consideration and approval at the April DEA Meeting.	DEA Forum & Peace Plus Officers
DEA/DPK/25/06	DEA Co-Ordinators Update	The DEA Co-Ordinator presented her report to Members, including detail on activities including – The Dance the Blues Away Event in Ballymote Community Centre on 29th January to tackle isolation & loneliness. A number of Primary & Secondary School Events including Mini Medics, Building Resilience and Our Diverse Community. Also a Post Primary School performance of a play on	Noted

		Domestic Violence to support the Council’s Ending Violence Against Women Campaign. Self Defence Programme with women from local Newcomer Families. The installation of 2 Chatty Benches in Killough and Downpatrick to support engagement and connection.	
DEA/DPK/25/08	Date of Next Meeting	The DEA Co-Ordinator advised Members that the next meeting has been scheduled for 14 April 2026 at 10.00 am. Also a schedule of meeting dates for the remainder of the year to be forwarded to Members.	DEA Co-Ordinator

The meeting ended at: 5.30pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Action Sheet of Mournes District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 4.00pm via Teams**

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Chairperson: Councillor Laura Devlin

In Attendance: Councillor Henry Reilly
Councillor Jill Truesdale
Councillor Glyn Hanna
Councillor Niall Lawlor

Independent Members: Lloyd Douglas, Alan Knox

Statutory Partners: Annie Clarke, Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Paula Nixon, County Down Rural Community Network
Clare Shiels, County Down Rural Community Network

Others in Attendance: None

Council Officials: Taucher McDonald, DEA Coordinator, The Mournes
Lois Kennedy, PEACE Plus MayWe

Apologies: Councillor Michael Rice

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
DEA/MOU/1/2026	Welcome/Apologies	Welcome by Cllr Reilly	Noted.
DEA/MOU/2/2026	Declarations of Interest	None	Noted.
DEA/MOU/3/2026	Action Sheet 18 November	Brief update of the actions from the previous Forum meeting was given.	Noted.
DEA/MOU/4/2026	DEA Coordinator's Update	Update from DEA Coordinator on projects and programmes that have taken place and those planned for December 2025 - February 2026. Silver Screening Event, December 2025 – (in partnership with CDRCN). Over 400 older people attended from across the Mournes, Slieve Croob, and Downpatrick DEAs. Carer's Luncheon – The event brought together over 150 carers and was aimed at helping to reduce isolation and loneliness among carers. The event was delivered in partnership with the SEHSCT. Newcastle Blue Monday Event – Delivered in partnership with CDRCN brought together over 200 people suffering from grief and loneliness to take part in a luncheon event. Annalong Blue Monday Event – Delivered Boccia taster sessions, health and safety and PSNI scam awareness talks. Signposting to a range of mental health and wellbeing supports for local luncheon clubs.	Noted and Coordinator to progress.

		Ballymartin Blue Monday Event – Delivered talks on mental health, and PCSP Home Secure Scheme as well as strength and balance taster session. EVAWG Play – District wide drama initiative to support Council's work on Ending Violence Against Women & Girls. Play for Mournes DEA to be delivered in Kilkeel High School and St. Louis Grammar School. Chinese New Year Event – A Chinese New Year event for Primary Schools has been organised for P4 classes. Three schools will take part in interactive workshops on Chinese culture and traditions. Cancer Focus Bus – A second Cancer Focus bus has been organized for 14 February in Kilkeel. Road Safety Event – Mournes DEA (in partnership with the PCSP & PSNI) will be supporting a Road Safety at Shimna Integrated Secondary School event in March.	
DEA/MOU/5/2026	Agency Updates	SHSCT provided the following updates: Carer's First Programme information Take 5 Ambassador Training Upcoming Parents Information Sessions	Noted.
DEA/MOU/6/2026	Donard Car Park	Anti-social behaviour and traffic issues at Donard Park.	Updates on progress to be discussed at next Forum meeting. Item to be kept on Agenda
DEA/MOU/7/2026	Kilkeel Feasibility Study	Appointment of consultant and working group.	Update on consultant and working group to be given at next meeting.
DEA/MOU/8/2026	Business Representation on Forum	A need for business representation on the DEA Forum was identified.	Nomination Forms have been forwarded to Newcastle Chamber of Commerce.

DEA/MOU/09/2026	PEACE PLUS	DEA Forum to suggest 3 areas for re-imaging project.	Forum to identify and liaise with Lois from Maywe.
DEA/MOU/10/2026	Facilities Management Update	Facilities Management to attend next DEA Meeting to provide update on works.	DEA Coordinator to invite relevant officers.
DEA/MOU/11/2026	Thank You Letter	Thank You letter to Leeanne McEvoy to be drafted and sent in light of her resignation from Council and Mournes DEA Forum	DEA Coordinator to draft.
DEA/MOU/12/2026	Master Diary	Members requested that DEA forum Meetings be added into Council Decision Time diary as well as the master diary.	DEA Coordinator to progress.
DEA/MOU/13/2026	Housing Needs	Housing Needs presentation to be forwarded to DEA Forum.	DEA Coordinator to forward.

The meeting ended at 16.54pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Action Sheet of Newry District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 15th January 2026 at 1.30pm in Newry Leisure Centre

Chairperson:	Councillor Aidan Mathers
In Attendance:	Councillor Cathal King
Independent Members:	Raymond Jackson, Confederation of Community Groups Eamonn Connolly, Newry BID Colin Hanna, Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency
Statutory Partners:	Sergeant Warren Roberts, PSNI Aisling Pryers, Housing Executive
Council Officials:	Padraig Harte, Newry DEA Coordinator Edel McGeeney, Peace Officer
Apologies:	Councillor Valerie Harte Councillor Geraldine Kearns Allison Slater, Bolster Community Ciara Burns, Community Services NMDDC Pauline McQuillan, Education Authority

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
DEA/N/2026/1	Declarations of Interest	None.	
DEA/N/2026/2	Matters arising from Action Sheet	Action sheet confirmed as a true and accurate record. Members were advised that the Action Sheet remains in draft form for this meeting, as it precedes the NMDDC Active and Healthy Communities Committee meeting.	Approved.
DEA/N/2026/3	Patrick Street Park	Submissions made. Under review.	Coordinator to progress.
DEA/N/2026/4	Peace Plus	Outcome 1.1 – LEP and Reimaging Contract awarded to MayWe. MayWe will make contact with the DEA Coordinator to commence Phase 1, including consultation on priority areas. Members requested that MayWe also engage with the Forum in advance of commencement. Outcome 2.1 – Capacity Building Two contracts have been awarded to Bolster Community and Slackpress. Bolster Community will work with Newry Gateway, while Slackpress is delivering a community journalism programme. This programme has commenced, with 24 participants registered to take part over a six-week period. Two additional projects under this outcome are yet to be agreed. Outcome 2.3 – Social Housing Project Contract awarded to Kevin Cameron. The project will include talks and workshops exploring the history of social housing and will culminate in the creation of a piece of artwork. Date of commencement to be confirmed.	Noted.

		Outcome 2.4 – Community Action and Civic Pride Contract awarded to Clanrye Group to deliver a health and wellbeing programme over an 18-month period. Bloom and Branch - Contract awarded to Conservation Volunteers. Programme scheduled to commence in January 2026 for a duration of 18 months. Outcome 2.5 – Festivals - Contract awarded to MayWe. Programme due to commence in January 2026. Outcome 2.6 - Social / Emotional Project - Project will focus on intergenerational work. First 2 projects will focus on Ending Violence against Women & Girls and Arts and Crafts. Procurement process scheduled to commence in January 2026. Outcome 3.5 – Disability and Creative Arts Contract awarded to MayWe Events (single tender return). Programme will focus on the Mournes Stimulus, with groups travelling to participate. Outcome 3.7 – Shared History and Culture Contract awarded to Intelligent Marketing Solutions. Project will focus on Newry Canal and is scheduled to run from January 2026 to August 2026. Some tenders did not receive any returns. These projects will be reviewed and amended if required before republishing.	
DEA/N/2026/5	DEA Co-ordinator's Report.	Reimaging Project – St Mary's Youth Club - The project is nearing completion. An official launch is planned for January, and an invitation will be issued to all Forum Members once the date is confirmed. Shared Education Programme - Year 8 students from Newtownhamilton High School, St Paul's High School (Bessbrook), St Joseph's High School (Crossmaglen), and Newry High School are participating in a Shared	Noted and Coordinator to progress.

	Schools Programme. The next session is scheduled to take place on 3 February at Newry High School. The Newry and Slieve Gullion DEAs will be attending and coordinating this session. Financial Assistance – several community groups and charities were supported throughout the process by providing advice and guidance. Seniors Programme - Christmas Flower Planting events were delivered as part of the Senior Wellbeing Programme. The first session took place on 12 December at Carnagat Community House. The second session was held on 19 December at Three Ways Community Centre. The next event is scheduled for 19 January. Christmas Event with Sound Friends Group - Newry DEA facilitated the Sound Friends Community Group on 20 December, delivering a mixed sports event at Newry Leisure Centre. Twelve young people participated in a coached sports session, followed by a drop-in visit from Santa. Blue Monday - On 19 January, Newry, Slieve Gullion, and Crotlieve DEAs will host a "Laugh Your Blues Away" social afternoon at Cloughreagh Community Centre. The event is funded under the Tackling Isolation and Loneliness Together initiative and is scheduled to coincide with Blue Monday. The event is fully booked with 150 attendees registered Community Support Hubs - Newry DEA, alongside the other six DEAs, is supporting Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Community Support Hub, which will take place on Tuesday 27 January at Newry Leisure Centre. The DEAs will facilitate a shared stand at the event, showcasing the work delivered across the district. Chinese New Year Celebration Event - Newry and Slieve Gullion DEAs will host a Chinese New Year Celebration evening on Friday 6 February, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Tí Chulainn, Mullaghbawn. The event is	
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		open to all ages and will feature a Chinese dragon display, traditional dance, cultural art activities, a live cooking demonstration, and Chinese appetisers. International Women's Day – Event planned in partnership with the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), SHSCT Promoting Wellbeing Team, and the Council's Health Inequalities Team. More details at next DEA Forum. Community Support - The following additional engagement and support activities were undertaken: - Supported the Norbrook Christmas Appeal in December 2025 - Supported the CYSP Teaching Staff Speed Networking event - Attended planning meetings in preparation for Mela 2026.	
DEA/N/2026/6	Independent Members and Statutory Partners Update (a) Health and Wellbeing (b) Environmental (c) Economic Development (d) Safety and Good Relations	<i>CCG Update:</i> Provided support to NR community associations in applications submitted under Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's recent Financial Assistance Call 1. Facilitated a meeting with the nine community associations in relation to the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan 2026–27. Coordinated the Norbrook Christmas Appeal in partnership with key stakeholders, which was delivered very successfully. The Credit Union Programme continued throughout the Christmas period; while there was a slight decrease in uptake compared to the previous year the programme remained active and continued through to the end of January. <i>Housing Executive Update:</i> An update was provided on the Rural Housing Meeting. The next meeting will take place online on 26 January for members who were	Noted and Coordinator to progress.

		unable to attend the previous session. The DEA Coordinator will circulate the presentation to members. <i>Environmental Update</i> Councillor King informed members that a motion had been brought before the Council regarding the rollout of CCTV across the District in response to the increase in illegal dumping. <i>Economic Update:</i> NMEA – Go Succeed: 11 Plans completed, 35 currently on the programme with more to commence. Growth programme: 4 established businesses currently receiving support. Newry BID – Christmas Business Dinner Charity event was a huge success, E Connolly thanked all involved as the outcome will be distributed directly throughout Newry. On-street parking over the Christmas period was a positive pilot project through DFI and NMDDC supported by Newry BID. Current legislation needs reviewed, Newry BID working with relevant departments. <i>Community Safety Update:</i> Members noted concerns around ASB happening in the centre of the city with a small cohort of young people. Currently working with PSNI Youth Diversionary officer – remains a priority for the PSNI team across Newry.	
DEA/N/2026/7	Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 17 th February @ 1:30pm, Newry Leisure Centre MP2	

The meeting ended at: 2.45pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Action Sheet of Slieve Gullion District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 6th January 2026 @ 5.30 pm Via TEAMS

Chairperson:	Councillor David Taylor
In Attendance:	Councillor Declan Murphy Councillor Mickey Larkin
Independent Members:	Cathy McMahon, Independent Member, Confederation of Community Groups Claire Convery, Independent Member, Clanrye Group Ann Grant, County Down Rural Community Network Teresa Nugent, Independent Member, Rural Health Partnership
Statutory Partners:	Aisling Pyers, NIHE Graeme Reynolds, PSNI Slieve Gullion Neighbourhood Inspector Ryan Crilly, Education Authority
Council Officials:	Aoife McComiskey, Slieve Gullion DEA Coordinator Elaine Carr, Peace Officer Ciara Burns, Community Facilities Manager
Apologies:	Councillor Oonagh Magennis Briege Boyle, Community Facilities Manager Barry Traynor, Southern Health & Social Care Trust Therese Hamill, NMDDC AONB

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/SG/66	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made.	Noted.
DEA/SG/67	Matters arising from Action Sheet from meeting held 6 January 2026	Members requested that it be noted that there are still outstanding maintenance works to be carried out at Newtownhamilton Community Centre. Item to be kept on agenda.	Noted.
DEA/SG/68	PeacePlus Update	Elaine Carr provided an update: PeacePlus newsletter to be issued every 2 months and shared by DEA coordinator. Community Led Health and Wellbeing Programme – A facilitator has been appointed and will attend next DEA forum meeting. Capacity Building Projects -Men's Shed podcast. Facilitator appointed. -Sensory project has commenced (Silverbridge/ Forkhill) Bloom and Branch - A facilitator has been appointed and will attend next DEA Forum meeting. Reimaging Project - A facilitator has been appointed, delivery target is 3 projects per DEA. Slieve Gullion areas approved at last meeting. Facilitator to attend next meeting. Sacred Spaces Project - Facilitator has not yet appointed.	Noted.
DEA/SG/69	DEA Coordinator's Report	DEA Coordinator delivered the Coordinator's Report including: Recruitment of Independent Members – No suggestions have been received. If members have identified gaps and there is a	Members to email nominations to DEA Coordinator.

	person / organisation you feel should be represented, they can be recommended to the DEA Coordinator for further follow up. Activity Update <i>Warm, Informed and Supported Event – Crossmaglen Community Centre 4th December.</i> Over 60 attendees visited a range of information support stands, took part in a slow cooker demonstration and attended a advice session from National Energy Action. <i>Roller Disco - 3rd January, Cloughreagh Community Centre</i> -Over 60 attendees/ 15 families. Project funded in partnership with NMDDC Health Inequalities Team. <i>Filipino Christmas Event – 6th December Carrickcruppen.</i> Over 150 attendees enjoyed a Christmas celebration – talks from PCSP, DEA and SHSCT Promoting Wellbeing Team. <i>Shared Education Programme</i> - Year 8 students from Newtownhamilton High School, St Paul’s High School (Bessbrook), St Joseph’s High School (Crossmaglen), and Newry High School are participating in a Shared Schools Programme. The next session is scheduled to take place on 3 February at Newry High School. <i>Ulster Scots Language Event – Tuesday 18th November in Canal Court Hotel.</i> Facilitated by Schomberg Society. Over 50 attendees participated in a workshop about the history of the Ulster Scots language and the common phrases used in daily life. <i>Community Group Support</i> - Supported provided to Bessbrook, Crossmaglen and Newtownhamilton Christmas events. Cookery and TAKE 5 courses in Camlough and Whitecross. Upcoming Events- • Blue Monday Event – Cloughreagh Community Centre,19th January • Chinese New Year event – Ti Chulainn, 6th February • Women’s Car Maintenance Workshops in partnership with PCSP – dates tbc	Noted. Noted. DEA Coordinator to circulate details for all events for members to promote.
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		- Housing Meeting for Forum Members – TEAMS Tuesday 13th January - EVAWG Plays – dates and schools tbc - Newry and Slieve Gullion Schools Networking Event – 4th February, Newry High School - International Women's Day Event - 5th March, Dromantine - Men's Bereavement Pilot – 25th March, Armagh (in partnership with Crotlieve and Newry DEA) - Healthy Lunchbox Programme – planning in progress for April delivery (Forkhill) and May (Bessbrook) - Ongoing work with NIHE / Supporting Communities supporting groups to access grants (meetings in Newtownhamilton and Bessbrook) DEA Action Plan – Targets have been met or exceeded.	Noted.
DEA/SG/70	Emerging Issues	Community Update- (a) Health & Wellbeing Teresa Nugent provided an update on Rural Health Partnership work. RHP have been successful in their Lottery application for 5 years of funding. A number of programmes to be rolled out including pain management; rooted together. farming families and community food initiatives. Between October and December 250 Bryson electricity vouchers (£250 value each) were given out. Limited vouchers remaining – referrals can be made to RHP. Claire Covery provided an update on Clanrye's ongoing work. Clanrye have been appointed as the facilitator for the PeacePlus Thriving Together programme. More details will be provided at next meeting. DEA Forum Members conveyed their support and well wishes to PSNI Officers involved in recent incident in Forkhill. (b) Education Authority – Youth Service	Noted. Noted. Sgt Reynolds to pass on.

		Ryan provided an update of EA's successful ongoing work including their celebration events over the Christmas period. Due to the temporary closure of Bessbrook Community Centre, Bessbrook youth provision is moving to Brain Injury Foundation Camlough – currently recruiting participants. (c) Community Update PSNI Neighbourhood Policing Team have been working with the Newtownhamilton Bulgarian community. There is an interest to set up a community group. Support required for developing a constitution and governance. Sgt Graeme Reynolds provided an update on crime rates for Slieve Gullion and Crossmaglen. Small reduction of anti-social behaviour during Halloween with the exception of Jonesborough – will be considered for next year. Co-operation has increased between An Garda Siochana in Monaghan / Louth and PSNI re. rural crime including theft. Priority for PSNI is EVAWG – reporting statistics are not reflecting number of incidents. Work ongoing to increase confidence to report. (d) Environment It was noted that there has been three RTC's in Dromintee in recent weeks. Elected representatives will continue to liaise with PSNI and DfI regarding this. AONB update sent through from Therese Hamill for circulation.	Noted. DEA coordinator to liaise with PSNI, Ann and Cathy to arrange a meeting. Noted. Noted. DEA coordinator to circulate update.
DEA/SG/71	Date of Next Meeting	AGM Tuesday 3 rd March 2026 @ 5.30pm – Cloughreagh Community Centre.	Noted.

The meeting ended at: 6.50pm

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 16 February 2026
Subject:	Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Report
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Alison Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Martina Flynn, Head of Engagement

For decision	For noting only	X
1.0	Purpose and Background	
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> - To note the report. - To note the attached Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 25 November 2025, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 3 February 2026. <u>Background</u> The attachments referenced above are provided to update the Committee on the ongoing work of the PCSP.	
2.0	Key issues	
2.1	None.	
3.0	Recommendations	
3.1	That the Committee note the following: Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 25 November 2025, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 3 February 2026.	
4.0	Resource implications	
4.1	None.	
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)	
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>	

	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves. ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☒
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1: Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP meeting held on 25 November 2025, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 3 February 2026.
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None

POLICING COMMITTEE AND POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**Minutes of the Newry, Mourne & Down Policing Committee and Policing & Community Safety Partnership Meeting held on Tuesday 25 November 2025 at 6.00pm at Downshire Chamber, Downpatrick****In attendance in Chamber:**

Cllr Henry Reilly, *Chair*
 Cllr Terry Andrews, *NMDDC*
 Cllr Oonagh Hanlon, *NMDDC*
 Cllr Aidan Mathers, *NMDDC*
 Superintendent Lynne Corbett, *PSNI*
 Chief Inspector Joesph Tierney, *PSNI*
 Inspector Darren Hardy, *PSNI*
 Inspector Paddy Heatley, *PSNI*
 Inspector Graeme Reynolds, *PSNI*
 Sergeant Warren Roberts, *PSNI*
 Sergeant Ryan Duffy, *PSNI*
 Sergeant Stacey Arnott, *PSNI*
 Aileen O'Callaghan, *EANI*
 Michael Heaney, *YJA*
 Niall Lawlor, *PCSP Independent Member*
 Louise Kennedy, *PCSP Independent Member*
 Jill Hughes, *NI Policing Board*
 Joanne Davidson, *Department of Justice*

NMDDC Staff Officials in attendance in the Chamber:

Alison Robb, *Assistant Director – Community Development*
 Shannon Creaney, *Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager*
 Kaitlyn Martin, *PCSP Officer*

1 Welcome, Chairperson's Remarks and Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Kate Murphy, Roisin Leckey, Claire Crainey, Aidan McCabe, Cllr Jill Truesdale, William Slater, Cllr David Taylor, Michelle Osbourne, Kyle Peters and Tara Campbell.

The PCSP Chair Cllr Henry Reilly opened the meeting and noted there is a major change from the last meeting as Superintendent Norman Hasslet has now moved on to a temporary position as Chief Superintendent South Area Commander – The chair on behalf of the PCSP extended his thanks to Norman, for all his work & extended his well wishes to him in his new role. The Chair also welcomed Superintendent Lynne Corbett to her first PSCP meeting as District Commander for Newry Mourne & Down & noted how he looked forward to working with Superintendent Corbett as Chair of the PCSP. The Chair also extended the welcome on behalf of the partnership to Superintendent Corbett as she returns to Newry & Mourne District in her new role. The Chair further noted that unfortunately Martina Byrne has had to leave the PCSP as an Independent Member due to other commitments. Chair Cllr Henry Reilly extended his thanks on behalf of the partnership to Martina for her work & support during her time as a PCSP Independent Member.

The Chair also extended thanks to members for attending the recent planning sessions and for their input into the development of the PCSP action plan for 26/27 – The Chair noted

that the draft action plan is included in the meeting papers & will be tabled for approval at tonight's meeting. Chairperson Henry Reilly also noted that he is aware of the work that has went into the action plan from the consultation meetings in Newry & in Newcastle and that a lot of great information has went into the action plan from this. Chairperson Reilly then congratulated Shannon Creaney on her recent promotion to PCSP Manager and noted that it is a very worthy promotion.

The Chair discussed housekeeping rules before the formal business of the meeting began.

2 Declarations of Interest

None recorded.

3 Draft Minutes of previous PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting held on 30 September 2025

Read: Minutes of PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting held on 30 September 2025 (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Cllr Andrews seconded by Cllr O. Hanlon it was agreed to approve the Minutes of the Policing Committee and PCSP Meeting held on 30th September 2025 as a true and accurate record.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5 PCSP Officer Report

Read: PCSP Officer Report (copy circulated)

Shannon Creaney advised that the PCSP Officer Report is for noting.

Ms Creaney highlighted that the PCSP Small Grants programme is now opened from the 17 of November & will close on the 12 January at 12 noon. Ms Creaney advised that this is for grants for community groups for up to £2000, covering themes such as anti-social behaviour, community safety & vulnerability or confidence in policing. Ms Creaney noted that this could be events covering the summer period of 2026, however it also could be for events that cover the Halloween & Christmas period next year, therefore it is for groups to start looking forward to projects they could do in the upcoming financial year. Ms Creaney advised that at the moment, the PCSP are promoting these Small Grants on their social media platforms and asked that members look at the PCSP Facebook page for information & guidance on the grants. Ms Creaney also asked members to share these posts to help with promotion and also send the information to any community or voluntary groups that may be interested. Ms Creaney notes that in the 2025/26 Financial Year, PCSP Small Grants is currently supporting around 42 different groups across the district, and she would be keen to keep to those numbers to help as many groups as possible through the small grants scheme.

Ms Creaney noted that in the PCSP Officer Report there are several events that are detailed. Ms Creaney pointed out some of the bigger events that PCSP has recently delivered. These included workshops that were delivered during Rural Crime Week to do with property marking & trailer marking in areas such as Kilkeel & Hilltown in collaboration with colleagues in PSNI Neighbourhood Teams. Ms Creaney also noted a very successful Hate Crime Awareness Week where the PCSP delivered talks with the PSNI & Victim Support in SRC Newry Campuses. Ms Creaney also advised that PCSP, along with Good Relations also delivered a 'Small Worlds' workshop with the EA where young people were able to hear from other cultures and educate themselves on how to prevent hate crime happening in their community.

Ms Creaney noted that during Halloween, several of the financial assistance programmes that were mentioned previously took place. She advised that these projects were able to act as a diversionary for young people during the Halloween period and over the school midterm break. Ms Creaney advised PCSP supported events in areas such as Crossmaglen, Camlough & Kilkeel, where several talks to youth groups with colleagues in the PSNI were delivered on topics such as fireworks, staying safe & how to avoid causing anti-social behaviour in the local area. One event that was slightly different delivered by PCSP this year, was a large Halloween disco that was held for vulnerable adults run in collaboration with Bolster Community. Ms Creaney advised this event allowed young adults to celebrate Halloween safely & in their own style and advised you can see from Bolster social media pages how successful this event was, as the participants were seen dancing and having fun. Ms Creaney advised this clearly meant a lot to them as they were able to celebrate Halloween in an inclusive and safe environment.

Ms Creaney spoke also about how there was a lot of Coffee with a Cop events being delivered by PCSP, as recent as the previous Friday in Ballynahinch. Ms Creaney noted how they have also had a very successful road safety awareness week and noted that it is a huge topic at the moment given the recent press around road traffic accidents in the recent weeks both across the border and in our own district. Ms Creaney noted that PCSP in collaboration with the NIFRS have been delivering a large number of 'Your Choice' presentations which includes a crash cut-out demo. They have also delivered young driver courses with the council DEA officers in the likes of Bishops Court in Downpatrick. Ms Creaney advised that the aim of these event is to get as much information out as possible, especially to young drivers, about how they can drive safely, and what the consequence of dangerous driving is.

Ms Creaney finished by noting that they are looking forward for the rest of the financial year and that in Spring 2026, the PCSP plans to work with the DSM foundation on their drug awareness play that has been mentioned at previous PCSP meetings. Ms Creaney noted that this will be rolled out in schools across the district – and once there is further information on this, it will be shared with PCSP Members. Ms Creaney encouraged members to attend one of these, so that they can see first-hand the information it can give to young people on topics such as drugs, alcohol and peer pressure.

Ms Creaney ended here, however encouraged members to let herself or a member of the PCSP team know if there were any upcoming events they would like to attend.

Chairperson Henry Reilly commended Ms Creaney and her team for the work they have done throughout the district. He referred to the PCSP small grants on how he feels it is money well spent, as in Kilkeel, and the areas he would be most familiar with in Annalong, there was a notable reduction in the number of fire work incidents and pets being petrified in their homes during Halloween. He also noted that events which took place in his local town with the Schomberg Society had great cross community attendance and it was great seeing these interactions with the community.

Chairperson Henry Reilly then noted on the matter of road safety about a gentleman in Newry who was run over by a lorry. Referring to a photo which was shared after this incident on social media, Cllr Reilly questioned if now would be a good time to put forward new legislation to Stormont that would make it easier to convict people who send such distressing images over social media. Cllr Reilly also commented on the event in Downpatrick, where relatives learned on social media that their loved one's cars had been smashed up.

The PCSP Chairperson also spoke about how PSNI social media was working well & referred to a meeting he attended where a member of An Garda Síochána and a member of the PSNI were there and it was discussed that the member An Garda Síochána was envious of the way Newry Mourne & Down PSNI promoted their social media, and that they were going to try and emulate it. The Chair commented that he believed Newry, Mourne and Down were ahead of the curve in terms of social media.

6 **PCSP Action Plan 2026/27**

Read: Draft Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP Action Plan 2026/27 (copy circulated)

Ms Creaney advised that the 2026/27 PCSP Action Plan was for approval (including approval to proceed with procurement of PCSP contracted services detailed in the plan such as the PCSP Community Safety Wardens and Home Secure Service). Ms Creaney thanked members for their attendance at recent planning sessions in both Newry and Newcastle where they made contributions to the PCSP Action Plan and also thanked members who made further contributions to the Plan with comments via email.

Agreed: On the proposal of Louise Kennedy seconded by Niall Lawlor it was agreed the Committee:

- **Note the report**
- **Approve the attached draft Action Plan for the PCSP for 2026/27**

Policing Committee Business

7 **District Commander's Report – November 2025**

Read: District Commander's Report – Period 3 (copy circulated)

District Commander Lynne Corbett introduced herself in her new role – noting that she has been in D district from 2014 in various different roles and now returns as District Commander.

Crime

District Commander Lynne Corbett began her report by commenting that overall crime is down, however she noted there were a couple of areas such as domestic violence where crime has increased slightly.

Domestic Violence

Ms Corbett continued on her opening statement by noting Newry, Mourne and Down were also seeing an increase in familial violence. Superintendent Corbett gave a couple of examples of incidents which PSNI were called to – one where a female victim was left with a very deep gash in her leg as a result of a being attacked with a Stanley knife by her partner, after being threatened previously with a hammer. Superintendent Corbett also mentioned a familial incident where police received a report of an ongoing issue with a 45-year-old mother and her 23-year-old son. Police ascertained from the victims statement that her son attended her house and demanded her car keys and she wouldn't give them to him as he had no licence. While the mother was trying to get into the vehicle, the son became very irate and dragged her out of the vehicle. As the mother tried to defend herself, the son then assaulted her numerous times before fleeing the scene in the vehicle. The PSNI later arrested this individual for 11 offences including hijacking, aggravated attack, taking & driving away, AOBH and also a number of driving & drug offences. He was then charged to Lisburn Court the following day.

Most notably Superintendent Lynne Corbett mentioned that in November, there was an incident in the district which ended up being an attempted murder on a woman that stemmed from the result of a domestic dispute. Superintendent Corbett advised that this is an ongoing investigation but wanted to note how serious some of the events were. Superintendent Corbett then wanted to offer some reassurance in terms of Domestic Violence as it is something that is in constant review within the district and within PSNI. She then referred to the One Stop Shop that the PSNI & PCSP are heavily involved in, along with Woman's Aid. Superintendent Corbett stated this has been running across the district with 12 attendees recently attending in Downpatrick & Newry. Superintendent Corbett advised this is paramount to allowing victims to attend and gain expert advice before being referred on to the relevant agencies. Superintendent Corbett asked PCSP members to push this initiative in their local communities, as while she advised it isn't heavily advertised for obvious reasons, it is a great piece of work that victims should be able to avail of. Superintendent Corbett then also advised that there is ongoing training within the district for police officers to be able to pick up on the early signs of domestic violence in incidents they attend.

Superintendent Corbett also noted that Operation Encompass continues to be fully operational within the district and stated that in September & October alone 300 children have been referred into the programme. This means that there were 300 children subject to an adverse childhood trauma relating to domestic violence in the home. Superintendent Corbett notes that coming into the Christmas period, this may be a turbulent time & therefore PSNI will continue to monitor Domestic Violence in the district, making sure anyone reporting an incident gets the help they need.

Hate Crime

Superintendent Corbett continued with mentioning Hate Crime, which she noted has also increased in the district; however, she stated she is confident that it is now going on a downward trend. Superintendent Corbett advised that the majority of the incidents reported to PSNI have been racial, and she believes this is to do with the anti-immigration incidents that have been seen across Ireland, Northern Ireland & the whole of the UK. An incident included in their figure on this includes one where elected representatives in Newry, Mourne and Down received a threatening voice note on WhatsApp. So far, Superintendent Corbett

advised that everyone involved in this incident has been spoken to, but she stated this shows these things can touch everyone & anyone, commenting that the PSNI continues to monitor hate crime as an organisation and locally.

Road Safety

Superintendent Corbett advised that in terms of road safety, NMD district are sitting with 5 road fatalities, while this is 1 less than this time last year, she advised this is still too many. Superintendent Corbett comments that Mr Norman Haslett spoke last month about the 2 males that died as the result of a tragic accident, and the unfortunate event that happened in Newry where an 87-year-old man was hit by the lorry. Superintendent Corbett seconds the sentiment behind social media referred to earlier by the PCSP Chair and asked for any help and support that can be put behind stopping the sharing of these incidents on social media. For reassurance Superintendent Corbett also advised that Inspector Heatley is doing a super job around road safety for the PSNI in this district. As an example of what the PSNI has been doing to support Road safety initiatives, Superintendent Corbett shares that they have recently been into Kilkeel High School to talk to 150 young people and reiterated Ms Creaney's sentiments of talking to young people about the dangers of their driving.

Superintendent Corbett went on to share that on the 24th & 27th of October, PSNI Officers from NMD joined colleagues across the service & the Road Safety Partnership for a 2-day Op Life Saver, targeting speeding offences. During the September/October reporting period she advised PSNI Officers have continued to focus on the fatal 5 that places road users in the most risk, making 43 speeding detections, 53 detections for careless driving, 17 detections for using a mobile phone, or driving without a seatbelt. Further to this, Superintendent Corbett advised of a further 32 fixed penalty tickets and referrals to the court for vehicles with defects. 43 detections & arrests for drink driving, which was the highest number for any area outside of Belfast. Noting that there is a lot of good work going on in the district in trying to keep the roads safe. Superintendent Corbett also advised during this period, the Road Safety Partnership van was out 30 times and detected 284 speeding motorists.

With the Christmas Period pending, Superintendent Corbett advised she is aware that road safety is paramount, and there are still people who are tempted to drink and drive. Noting that yesterday (24th October 2025) PSNI launched their Operation Season Greetings, Superintendent Corbett advised one of the main priorities of this is keeping the roads safer and that PSNI will focus on this within the next 5-6 weeks, with an increase visibility of police presence at this time.

Engagement

Superintendent Corbett touched on some of the good work being done by PSNI within local neighbourhoods. She advised Newry Neighbourhood team had been out to the 'Stronger Her' event in the Newry Leisure Centre, which gave the Neighbourhood Teams the chance to engage with different groups about ending violence against women initiatives. She also advised the East down neighbourhood team had 'pizza with a peeler' in Cuan Court children's home back in September. Further to this, Superintendent Corbett referred to South down Neighbourhood Team who were engaged with an older people's group in the Kilmorey Arms Hotel in Kilkeel in September, and she advised this was very well timed, as PSNI in this district are prioritising burglary at this time of the year – coming into the winter months. Finally, she stated Slieve Gullion NPT have been busy out and about in Crossmaglen, especially during the Halloween festivities. She also referred to a joint operation this team had with HMRC where they were able to seize a large sum of cash and cigarettes.

Social Media

Superintendent Corbett then went on to mention social media and advised the PSNI in our district is also the best performing social media across the province – noting that Inspector Heatley has really driven this.

Good Police Work

Superintendent Corbett noted that she wanted to commend some good police work., highlighting that on 28th October a 60-year-old homeowner interrupted a burglary in progress in his home and was assaulted in the process. Following this, the PSNI did a CCTV trawl & a door to door visitation, and as a result a 31-year-old was arrested initially for burglary, and then further arrested for aggravated burglary, common assault & possession of an offensive weapon with intent on committing undoubtable offence. She advised this individual was taken to Banbridge custody suite and has subsequently been remanded in custody – which is a great example of good police work and protecting the most vulnerable in our community.

Another example Superintendent Corbett referred to was on the 9th of November, where police reported a vehicle failing to stop, however the vehicle was then found a short distance away with 2 males on board. Inside, £1000 of cash and suspected class A & C drugs were located and a 47-year-old male was arrested for possession of class A & C – driving with no insurance and failing to stop as well as the intention to sell class B drugs.

Assault on Police

Superintendent Corbett stated she felt this is an ongoing issue within the police and notes it was discussed during her time in the district 2 years ago. She stated that she believes it's becoming a societal issue in that people feel assaulting a police officer is OK. In the last reporting period, Superintendent Corbett advised there have been 13 separate incidents, and 30 officers assaulted. 1 of these incidents included a male who rang the PSNI stating that he felt suicidal & wanted help. When the officers attended, he assaulted 5 of them punching the officers and knocking one of them to the ground.

Significant Incidents.

Superintendent Corbett detailed the below incidents –

On the 1st of October the PSNI received a call from a 44-year-old woman in Downpatrick, stating that shots had been fired through her front window. Police attended the incident & the investigation is ongoing with CID in Ardmore.

A suspicious device was found on Monaghan Street in Newry at the Sinn Fein office, again Superintendent Corbett advised the investigation is ongoing and there has been progress surrounding that incident. She advised the victims have been well updated & CID in Ardmore are progressing this.

Superintendent Corbett mentioned the arson attack at Bishops Court, outside Downpatrick on Thursday 16th October. Here she refers, the police received a report of a wind turbine that had been set alight with the estimated cost of £1.1million of damage. She advised this is an ongoing investigation.

Concluding the District Commanders Report, Superintendent Lynne Corbett stated she welcomes any questions or comments.

Chair Cllr Henry Reilly opened by commending Superintendent Corbett for the PSNI effort, expressing that it is astonishing the work that the team does for our local area. Cllr Reilly went on to mention that he is disappointed to hear that 300 children have been referred to Op Encompass due to domestic violence in the local area. Cllr Reilly then expressed his disappointment about the 30 police officers who have been assaulted in the district and retells that he heard a female police officer had blood squirted into her face & expressed his concern of the dangers that arises from this with blood-borne diseases. Cllr Reilly stated he is perplexed at the mindset of some people who do these things and pressed the importance of supporting our local police officers & the work they do.

PCSP Chair Cllr Reilly then opened the floor up for questions & comments.

Cllr Mathers stated he welcomes Superintendent Corbett into her new role and comments that he looks forward to working with her and reiterates what a good team there is within the NMD area. In relation to the mother & son incident, Cllr Mathers indicated that the arrest of that young man was very welcome, however he notes that the residents in the area still feel very vulnerable & fearful of this individual returning. Cllr Mathers asked the police to keep this in their mind as they move forward and try to work through the issues in that particular area.

Cllr Mathers continues with an incident that he doesn't believe was mentioned, where the PSNI Neighbourhood Team came across a male with a hatchet who was going around attacking people. Cllr Mathers wanted to commend the quick action of the PSNI Neighbourhood Team who apprehended those responsible for this.

Cllr Mathers went on to say he is glad that Superintendent Corbett mentioned the incident that happened outside Sinn Féin offices in her report, however comments that it wasn't a 'suspicious device' and rather a confirmed pipe bomb, that was a viable device. He went on to say that while they have been updated about that incident, he would like an update on the threatening voice note, to see where the investigation is – as they haven't heard much about it.

Superintendent Corbett responded to confirm that attempts to identify the IP address from the voice note within this incident have been progressing – she confirmed she hopes to be able to give a full update before the next PCSP meeting, as it is still with CID at the moment, but it is still being prioritised on CID's workload.

Chair Henry Reilly asks the floor if there are any further questions

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon commented on the success of the One Stop Shop in Downpatrick – she commented on the fear of pushing it out on social media but stated she continues to share as required. Further to this, Cllr Hanlon advised that she received a lovely anonymous letter that morning from a victim who had seen the One Stop Shop shared on her Facebook and due to this, she had decided to go along to the Downpatrick One Stop Shop. In the victims' words, within the letter, she stated that when she got to the door her legs buckled, however Jacqui the PCSP officer noticed her and brought her in & she was able to get the help and advice she needed. Cllr Hanlon went on to thank Jacqui for helping that victim and stated she is glad that her sharing the post was able to save a domestic violence victim. Cllr Hanlon went on to say that Jacqui deserves credit for this, as it clearly meant a lot to the victim. Cllr Hanlon said it was lovely to receive that letter and stated it really goes to show the good work that is being done.

Chair Henry Reilly goes on to say that it's strange how social media works – and that when the One Stop Shop post was shared for circulation, he shared it on his page, and it only

received 1 like. However, he received numerous messages, which he stated he will of course keep anonymous, from people wanting to know if the One Stop Shop is an anonymous initiative. He went on to say that some of the victims are people you would never expect to be in that situation. Chair Henry Reilly shared his sympathies with anyone who is going through these issues and highlighted the importance of the One Stop Shop for these victims.

Louise Kennedy then went on to comment on the importance of these support initiatives for domestic violence victims and shared the previous sentiments. Louise further commented on the example of the lady whose legs buckled when she got to the door & stated that in the same way, that's how victims might feel when they are leaving the abusive relationship. Louise Kennedy explained that just like leaving an abusive relationship, leaving is also a process and not an event. She explained that she feels it is so important to keep pushing the message out – as someone may see it one month, but it will take them another month or two to actually get the help they need. Louise Kennedy said she knows that Cllr Hanlon and King are very good at promoting the message and said she was in The Bar & Denvirs' recently and seen the One Stop Shop being promoted in the back of the ladies toilets. Louise Kennedy also stated she has had people reaching out to her, and also people telling her that they have reached out to friends who they feel may need the help. Louise Kennedy continued by saying what a great service the One Stop Shop is and commended the team in all their efforts.

On a different note, Louise Kennedy then went on to thank the PSCP and the Crime Prevention Officer who recently ran a scam awareness talk for Saul Community Association. Louise Kennedy admitted it was her mother who came back to tell her all about scams and how to avoid them. Louise advised her mother had come home to say that herself and the other women who attended felt it was a fabulous session which was very informative, and they would recommend everyone going to something similar to educate themselves as they left feeling well equipped should something similar occur to them. Louise Kennedy said it was especially helpful in the lead up to Christmas where there will be a lot of people who are looking to scam people out of their money.

Chair Cllr Henry Reilly commented that he also attended one of the scam awareness sessions in Annalong which he also found excellent as it raised awareness of the issue.

Chair Cllr Reilly then invited Niall Lawlor to speak.

Niall Lawlor began by again commending the work of the One Stop Shop. He then went on to ask about the speeding and road safety issues in Newcastle. He stated he is aware it is likely downstream of the ASB in Donard park however he would like to check as increased presence had been discussed. Niall Lawlor advised he would also like to know if the speed camera vans have been deployed in Newcastle, specifically on the Shimna & Castlewellan Road.

Inspector Paddy Heatley commented that the Road safety Partnership will be deploying one of their vans to the Castlewellan Road when they find an appropriate site. He went on to say in his opinion there is lots of places he feels they could sit – however they have specific needs which they need to fulfil for a site to be viable. In terms of Shimna Road – Inspector Heatley advised it has been looked at and the van cannot be deployed there as there is no safe space for it to sit. Inspector Heatley also said in this case the PSNI have been out there with their 'Hairdryer', and he said he has been out himself, however, the highest speed he has caught was around 42mph. Inspector Heatley stated he is aware of the speeding problem in this area and that PSNI will continue to focus on it.

Cllr Terry Andrews went on to speak and thanked the District Commander for such a comprehensive report. He commented that everyone has been very busy on all fronts. Cllr

Andrews stated he welcomes the PSNI updates especially on the voice-note threats and said as Cllr Mathers touched on asking for an update on the threat – he would also like to be updated. Cllr Andrews commented that he has been in touch with the Department of Communities & the Department of Justice in relation to this incident, and he will keep everyone up to date. Cllr Andrews then commented on an incident from last year where a police officer got targeted with a sword – and stated he believes it to be very concerning how things have slipped, with PSNI Constables being spat at with blood. He stated he thinks this is worrying and wanted to reiterate the Chairpersons comments that our thoughts are with that officer & all the officers who find themselves in very tricky situations. Cllr Andrews then mentioned the stressful time on the lead up to Christmas & welcomes the PCSP plans & the other social agency plans that have been put in place to deal with that.

Cllr Andrews then stated he wanted to finish with road safety issues, saying that he has some concerns about the Downpatrick Road, Crossgar. He stated he believes that while this is now a heavily built-up area, that there is a lot of pedestrians who use the Monastery as a walk and the speed at which cars approach the area is a cause for concern. He stated he hopes that this can be looked at. Cllr Andrews finished by saying that he very much welcomes all that is being done and can be done for the district through PCSP.

Chair Cllr Henry Reilly then asked if Inspector Heatley is aware of the street pasters in Newcastle and advised that a member from this organisation has asked him as PCSP Chair if he could speak with the PSNI in relation to late night street fighting. Cllr Reilly said this person was very concerned and had contacted him recently regarding this as it's starting to get out of hand.

Chair Reilly then went on to say, that he wanted the 30 PSNI officers assaulted in the area in this reporting period to know that the work they are doing is really valued. Cllr Reilly went on to say there was a satisfaction survey done recently and that D District ranked highest in the UK & he wants the PSNI to know their work is truly appreciated.

8 AOB

None Declared.

The PCSP Chair thanked the PSNI and PCSP Members for attending before moving on to the date of the next meeting.

9 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair confirmed the next PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting will be held on 27 January 2026 online via Microsoft Teams at 6pm.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 18:49.