

December 15th, 2025

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Monday, 15th December 2025** 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 D Lee-Surginor

Councillor O Magennis

Councillor A Mathers

Councillor L McEvoy

Councillor D Murphy

Councillor K Murphy

Councillor J Truesdale

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet of Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held 17 November 2025

📎 *Action Sheet from AHC 2025-11-17.pdf*

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Presentation

4.0 Presentation - NMD Sports Awards 2026

For Discussion/Decision

5.0 District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Update

📎 *5. AHC DEA Report 15 December 2025 - vf.pdf*

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📎 *5a. Slieve Gullion DEA Action Sheet 4th November 2025 - vf.pdf*

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📎 *5b. Newry DEA Forum Action Sheet 13 November 2025 - vf.pdf*

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📎 *5c. Mourne DEA Action Sheet 18 November 2025 - vf.pdf*

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For Noting

6.0 PCSP & Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Update Report

📎 *6. PCSP NR Partnership Report AHC meeting December 2025 - vf.pdf*

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📎 *6a. Newry NRP Meeting Minutes 8 October 2025 - vf.pdf*

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📎 *6b. FINAL PCSP Policing Committee Minutes 30 September 2025 - vf.pdf*

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7.0 2025 Sports Awards

📎 *7. Sports Awards Report - vf.pdf*

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Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Cllr Jim Brennan

Mr Gerard Byrne

Cllr Pete Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Killian Feehan

Cllr Doire Finn

Cllr Conor Galbraith

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Martin Hearty

Cllr Roisin Howell

Cllr Tierna Howie

Cllr Jonathan Jackson

Joanne/Noelle Johnston

Cllr Geraldine Kearns

Miss Veronica Keegan

Cllr Aurla King

Cllr Cathal King

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Cllr Aidan Mathers

Cllr Declan McAteer

Ms Kerri McConnell

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Cllr Kate Murphy

Cllr Declan Murphy

Cllr Siobhan O'Hare

Cllr Michael Ruane

Cllr David Taylor

Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly

Cllr Jill Truesdale

Cllr Helena Young

ACTIONS ARISING FROM ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 17 NOVEMBER 2025

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/097/2025	Action sheet from AHC Meeting held 20/10/25	It was agreed to note the action sheet	A Patterson	Noted	Y
AHC/098/2025	Mid-Year Assessment of AHC Directorate Business Plan 2025-26	It was agreed to approve the Mid-Year Assessment of the AHC Directorate Business Plan 2025-26.	A Patterson	Agreed	Y
AHC/099/2025	District Electoral Area (Dea) Forum Update	It was agreed to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crotlieve DEA Forum Meeting held on 14 October 2025. • Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 14 October 2025 • Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held on 14 October 2025. • Rowallane DEA Forum Meeting held on 21 October 2025. 	A Robb	Noted and actions being progressed	Y
AHC/100/2025	Programme Delivery Partner	It was agreed to proceed with the procurement and appointment of a suitable provider under the revised contract arrangements as outlined within the officer's report.	C Haughey	In progress	Y

AHC/101/2025	AHC Facility Framework Agreement	It was agreed to enter into a Framework Agreement for the design, supply, delivery, installation renewals and inspection of facilities as outlined within the officer's report.	C Haughey	In progress	Y
AHC/102/2025	Neighbourhood Renewal Update Report	It was agreed to note the Minutes of the Newry NRP Meeting held on 25 June 2025, approved at the Newry NRP Meeting held on 8 October 2025, and the Minutes of the Downpatrick NRP Meeting held on 24 June 2025, approved at the Downpatrick NRP meeting held on 15 October 2025.	A Robb	Noted	Y

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 December 2025
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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Note the report. ➤ Agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Meeting held on 4 November 2025 - Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 13 November 2025 - Mourne DEA Forum Meeting held on 18 November 2025 		
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

	<p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation – N/a</i></p> <p>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. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
7.1	<p>Appendix 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Meeting held on 4 November 2025 - Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 13 November 2025 - Mournes DEA Forum Meeting held on 18 November 2025
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Action Sheet of Slieve Gullion District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on Tuesday 4th November 2025 @ 5.30 pm in Whitecross Community Hub**

Chairperson:	Councillor David Taylor
In Attendance:	Councillor Oonagh Magennis Councillor Declan Murphy Councillor Mickey Larkin Councillor Martin Hearty
Independent Members:	Cathy McMahon, Independent Member, Confederation of Community Groups Claire Convery, Independent Member, Clanrye Group Ann Grant, County Down Rural Community Network Barry Traynor, Southern Health & Social Care Trust Teresa Nugent, Independent Member, Rural Health Partnership
Statutory Partners:	Ruth Neary, EA Ryan Crilly, EA Aisling Pyers, NIHE
Council Officials:	Aoife McComiskey, Slieve Gullion DEA Coordinator Elaine Carr, Peace Officer Ciara Burns, Community Facilities Manager Shan McAnena, Curator (Culture, Arts and Heritage events)
Apologies:	Councillor Pete Byrne Councillor Aine Quinn Briege Boyle, Community Facilities Manager Graeme Reynolds, PSNI Slieve Gullion Neighbourhood Inspector

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/SG/59	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made.	Noted.
DEA/SG/60	Matters arising from Action Sheet from meeting held 1 st July 2025	All actions complete.	Noted.
DEA/SG/61	PeacePlus Update	<p>Elaine Carr provided an update: <u>Strand 1 - Local Community Regeneration and Transformation</u> Transformation and Reimaging Programme – Tender out seeking a supplier to design and deliver 21 Local Action Plans (3 in each DEA) that will increase levels of shared pride in individual or collective areas within a community. – Closing date for tender returns 05/11/25</p> <p>Recommendations sought for Slieve Gullion DEA (x 3) – Locations discussed and agreed at meeting were Newtownhamilton, Cullyhanna and Jonesborough. Proposed by Cllr. Martin Hearty and Seconded by Teresa Nugent.</p> <p><u>Strand 2 – Thriving and Peaceful Communities</u> Capacity Building Programmes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitator appointed to deliver a sensory programme for groups in the Slieve Gullion DEA (Amazing Abilities & SNAP) – further details on the programme will be shared once recruitment commences and dates etc. are agreed. - Request for quotation emails sent to potential suppliers for the design and delivery of a Men's Shed Podcasting Initiative – closing date for quotes 14/11/25 - Discussions ongoing with Newtownhamilton re: potential capacity building project in the area <p>Community Led Health and Wellbeing Programme</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

		<p>- District wide programme designed to deliver 4 health and well being programmes in each DEA area. Closing date for tender submissions is 24th November 2025. On appointment of a facilitator we will be seeking participation from groups and clubs in the Slieve Gullion DEA.</p> <p>Events and Festival Programme</p> <p>- Sacred Spaces: Churches, Chapels and Meeting Houses of Slieve Gullion – this is a Cultural/Heritage project and is currently out to tender, seeking suitably qualified suppliers to deliver. Closing date for the receipt of completed tender submissions is 19th November 2025.</p>	Noted.
DEA/SG/62	Newry and Mourne Museum Heritage Project	Shan McAnena provided an update to the Forum members on current programmes and events, as well as plans for a range of exciting upcoming activities. The Museum is currently collaborating with the PeacePLUS programme and expressed a desire to strengthen engagement with the wider community. Information on upcoming programmes and events will be shared with forum members through the DEA Coordinator.	Noted. DEA Co-ordinator to circulate summary and contact details to members.
DEA/SG/63	DEA Coordinator's Report	<p>DEA Coordinator delivered the Coordinator's Report including:</p> <p>Recruitment of Independent Members – No suggestions have been received. If members have identified gaps and there is a person / organisation you feel should be represented, they can be recommended to the DEA Coordinator for further follow up.</p> <p>Activity Update</p> <p><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 took part in a Shared Schools Event on 3 September. The event, held at Newry Leisure Centre, featured sports and gaming activities that helped build friendships, promote inclusion, and develop new skills.</p>	<p>Members to email nominations to DEA Coordinator.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

		<p><i>Slieve Gullion, Newry & Crotlieve DEA Funding Fair</i> - The Funding Information Event was held on 22 October at Cloughreagh Community Centre- well attended by Slieve Gullion groups.</p> <p><i>Communities Leading Change</i> - 21 Slieve Gullion based community groups received funding of up to £1,000 each for health and wellbeing programmes running until March 2026. The DEA has assisted those unsuccessful in seeking alternative funding.</p> <p>Upcoming Events-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Energy Efficiency Support event – Crossmaglen Community Centre date to be confirmed ➤ Supporting Filipino Christmas event in Carrickcruppen on 6th December – over 150 attendees expected ➤ Roller Disco – Cloughreagh Community Centre 3rd January ➤ Blue Monday Event – Cloughreagh Community Centre 19th January ➤ Healthy lunchbox sessions – planning in progress for January ➤ Supporting groups with programme planning for Winter/ Spring ➤ Financial assistance to open in November. DEA coordinator will run a 1:1 support workshop. <p>DEA Action Plan – DEA Coordinator provided an Action Plan mid-year review report at last meeting. Targets have been met or exceeded.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. DEA Coordinator to circulate details for all events for members to promote.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
DEA/SG/64	Emerging Issues	<p>Community Update-</p> <p>(a) Health & Wellbeing</p> <p>Barry Traynor give an update on TILT (tackling isolation and loneliness together) and the "Bend Don't Break" self-compassion training. Well received by local groups of all ages – training can be adapted to suit needs of group. Contact Barry directly.</p> <p>Teresa Nugent provided an update on RHP work. They now have staff trained to deliver workshops in Breast, Bowel and Cervical</p>	<p>DEA coordinator to circulate Barry's details and TILT webpage link.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

	<p>Screening awareness as well as being WRDA trained on "Raise Your Voice Campaign" (for 16+ only) – contact RHP directly to book.</p> <p>RHP are a distributor for the Bryson £200 electricity vouchers – based on eligibility criteria. Referrals should be made to RHP directly.</p> <p>Ann Grant has received requests for the Action Cancer Bus to come to Camlough in the new financial year. Proposed by Cllr. David Taylor and seconded by Cllr. Declan Murphy.</p> <p>(b) Education Authority – Youth Service</p> <p>Ruth provided an update of EA's successful ongoing work in Bessbrook and Jonesborough. EA are hoping to reestablish Mullaghbawn group. Successful shared education programme ongoing – SEN children/young people from St. Paul's; St. Josephs and Newtownhamilton High School. Ryan is now based in Newtownhamilton High School 2 days p/w – links to support T:Buc aims and Newry High 1 day p/w links to support ethnic minority work. Uptake of support is low in Newtownhamilton from ethnic minority families. Successful diversionary Halloween trip for children from Bessbrook; Meigh and Jonesborough. Ruth and Ryan to link with Aoife re. South Armagh Young Men's Football programme – PCSP have confirmed support.</p> <p>(c) Community Update</p> <p>Ciara Burns introduced herself – new to post on temporary basis. Update provided on Areas At Risk programme funded by DfC. Upcoming programmes include flower arranging and driving theory.</p> <p>Newtownhamilton and Cullyhanna building upgrades have been completed.</p> <p>Bessbrook community centre closing Dec 2025 to allow for building works for the new digi hub.</p> <p>Cllr. Martin Hearty noted the numerous successful community events to celebrate Halloween. PSNI report few disturbances this Halloween. Agreement that local events should be collated by DEA coordinator and highlighted/advertised through DEA members.</p>	<p>Agreed. Dea coordinator to arrange with CDRCN.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Agreed. DEA Coordinator to collate and circulate upcoming community events for Halloween / Christmas etc.</p>
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DEA/SG/65	Date of Next Meeting	Tuesday 6 th January 2026 @ 5.30pm – Microsoft Teams .	Noted.
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The meeting ended at: 6.45pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Action Sheet of Newry District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on Wednesday 13th November at 1.00pm in Newry Leisure Centre**

- Chairperson:** Councillor Aidan Mathers
- In Attendance:** Councillor Cathal King
Councillor Valerie Harte
- Independent Members:** Raymond Jackson, Confederation of Community Groups
Eamonn Connolly, Newry BID
- Statutory Partners:** Sergeant Warren Roberts, PSNI
Barry Traynor, SHSCT Promoting Wellbeing Team
- Council Officials:** Pdraig Harte, Newry DEA Coordinator
- Apologies:** Allison Slater, Bolster Community
Noreen Rice, Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
Colin Hanna, Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
DEA/N/2025/1	Declarations of Interest	None.	
DEA/N/2025/2	Matters arising from Action Sheet	<p>Action sheet confirmed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>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.</p>	Approved.
DEA/N/2025/3	Patrick Street site	Submissions made. Under review.	Coordinator to progress.
DEA/N/2025/4	Peace Plus & Community Services Update	<p>Officer update that there are nine active tender opportunities open across a mix of District-wide projects and DEA-specific programmes. DEA members are encouraged to share these opportunities with any interested businesses or community groups.</p> <p>A guide on registering for the MultiQuote portal to be circulated, and all tender documents and queries must be accessed and submitted through the Council's MultiQuote system.</p> <p>Key opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bloom and Branch Greening Project – Deadline: 4 December 2025, 12pm - Community Led Health and Wellbeing Programmes – Deadline: 20 November 2025, 12pm 	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Coordinator to progress.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cultural Programme: "World Textiles" – Deadline: 1 December 2025, 12pm- "Disability and Creativity Festival" – Deadline: 27 November 2025, 12pm- Shared History & Culture: Celtic Languages & Ulster Scots – Deadline: 26 November 2025, 12pm- Shared History & Culture: Port and Town – Deadline: 21 November 2025, 12pm- "History of Social Housing in Newry and Mourne" – Deadline: 20 November 2025, 12pm- Living History Archiving Project – Castlewellan Demesne – Deadline: 19 November 2025, 5pm- "Castles and Tower Houses of East Ulster and Louth" – Deadline: 19 November 2025, 12pm <p>Anyone needing further details to get in touch with Peace Plus officers.</p> <p>Community Services</p> <p>Meigh Community Centre – Insurance works have been approved by Council and will now begin to progress. Building Control has attended the centre and raised no objections to the installation of infrastructure for the new Men’s Hub.</p> <p>Drumalane Community Centre – An update was provided regarding the sinking floor at the fire exit in the front hall. Maintenance is scheduled to carry out a site visit to assess the issue. Quotes are being sought for the necessary repairs, with any additional work</p>	<p>Coordinator to progress.</p> <p>Coordinator to progress.</p>
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		<p>to be completed in-house. Ventilation requirements will also be reviewed as part of this process. Members requested that the DEA Coordinator liaise with Community Services to obtain an estimated timeline for repairs. It was noted that the work had originally been scheduled to progress in August.</p> <p>Derrybeg Community Centre – Members requested an update on the maintenance requests submitted to Community Services. Carnagat Community House – Members sought an update on the maintenance issues that have been reported to the NIHE.</p>	
DEA/N//2025/5	DEA Co-ordinator's Report.	<p>Pride of Place – Davina's Ark Group attended the Pride of Place awards on November 7th in Limerick and won the award for the community wellbeing initiative. Congratulations to everyone at Davina's Ark – Members requested Coordinator liaise with NMDDC Chairperson to facilitate a civic reception for Davina's Ark.</p> <p>Reimaging Project – St Mary's Youth Club - A partnership between Down Community Arts, St Mary's Youth Club, and Newry DEA. A facilitator is working with young people to design a mural for the community building on Boat Street. Funded by Down Community Arts and part-funded by Newry DEA. Currently ongoing and completion is still expected early December.</p>	Noted and Coordinator to progress.

		<p>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 participated in a Shared Schools Event on 3rd October. A joint planning day involving the schools and the Newry and Slieve Gullion DEAs was held to confirm future event dates and activities, scheduled for 20th November, 3rd February, 12th March, and 1st May. Planned activities include Irish dancing, PSNI engagement, drumming workshops, and Good Relations through Sport initiatives, among others.</p> <p>On Tuesday 4th November, the Newry DEA hosted a Shared Primary School Good Relations film screening of Wonder at Newry Town Hall. Pupils from Windsor Hill PS, St Patrick's PS, Bun Scoil An Iúir, and St Malachy's PS (P6/P7 classes) attended. The event included a short interactive presentation exploring young people's views and understanding of good relations, with an emphasis on kindness and inclusion. Over 140 pupils and teaching staff participated in this positive and engaging initiative.</p> <p>Diwali - In partnership with the Swagath Indian Families Community Association, the Newry DEA hosted the Diwali Festival of Light on 26th October at Ballyholland Community Centre. The event featured a vibrant programme of cultural performances, interactive workshops, and traditional refreshments, celebrating</p>	
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	<p>diversity and community spirit. Over 100 attendees participated throughout the afternoon. The event was financially supported by NMDDC.</p> <p>Newry, Slieve Gullion & Crotlieve DEA Funding Fair - The Funding Information Event took place on 22nd October at Cloughreagh Community Centre from 2:00–7:00 p.m. This drop-in session featured key funding bodies offering guidance and advice on application processes. There was steady attendance throughout the afternoon, with a range of sporting clubs, community groups, and local charities benefiting from the direct support and information provided.</p> <p>Community Development Workers Meeting - A meeting of Community Development Workers from across Newry and Slieve Gullion DEAs took place on Wednesday, 12th November at WIN, Newry. The session focused on strengthening collaboration between local organisations and council representatives. Key updates were shared on ongoing community initiatives, with discussions centred on enhancing engagement, developing partnership opportunities, and planning future activities to support community development across the district.</p> <p>Seniors Programme - The next scheduled event, "Tea, Trivia and Times Gone By," will take place on 21st November at the Thomas Davis Complex, supported by Arbour Housing and Radius Housing. Event</p>	
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	<p>information will be reissued to all partners, and members are encouraged to share the details to help boost attendance. Currently 30 participants are registered, with hopes to increase numbers over the coming week.</p> <p>In December, a series of Christmas Flower Planting events will be delivered as part of the senior wellbeing programme. The first will take place on Friday 12th December at Carnagat Community House, engaging participants from Barcroft, Ballybot, Carnagat, Derrybeg, Martins Lane, and Meadow/Armagh Road areas. The second session will be held on Friday, 19th December at Three Ways Community Centre, welcoming residents from Ballinacraig, Drumalane/Quayside Close, Greater Linenhall, St Mary's, and Three Ways areas. These free community wellbeing sessions offer older residents (aged 60+) the opportunity to create a Christmas floral arrangement, enjoy festive refreshments, and take part in health and wellbeing activities. PSNI Neighbourhood Policing Teams, supported by PSCP, will attend the opening of each event to provide personal safety information and advice on protecting belongings when out and about.</p> <p>Ulster Scots - In partnership with Gaeláras Mhic Ardghail and Bun Scoil An Iúir, an event will be held on Thursday 27th November as part of Ulster-Scots Week. The session will introduce P6 and P7 pupils to Ulster-Scots language and culture through the medium of Irish, complemented by an</p>	
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		<p>accompanying display and cultural activities at Gaeláras Mhic Ardghail.</p> <p>Community Support - Ongoing support has been provided to a range of community groups and charities, including Women's Aid, Ballinacraig Community Association, and Meadow/Armagh Road Community Association. Engagement has also included attendance at Barcroft, Derrybeg, and Carnagat Interagency Meetings, and collaboration with Meigh Community Association and The Sanctuary.</p> <p>Recent activities included attendance at the Armagh Road Men's Shed Halloween Event, following their success in securing Communities Leading Change funding, as well as participation in Road Safety Pilot and Bereavement Pilot planning meetings. Additional involvement included attendance at the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership meeting and chairing the Community Physical Meeting.</p> <p>Support was also provided to Downshire Road Youth Club, participation in the Newcomer Stakeholder Forum, and a meeting with the Multi-Disciplinary Team to explore potential partnership opportunities for International Women's Day 2026.</p>	
DEA/N/2025/6	<p>Independent Members and Statutory Partners Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Health and Wellbeing (b) Environmental (c) Economic Development (d) Safety and Good Relations 	<p>(a) An update was provided on the Tackling Isolation and Loneliness Together (TILT) Programme. A new webpage is currently being developed and is expected to go live soon. Support continues to be</p>	Noted and Coordinator to progress.

		<p>available through free workshops, including Bend Don't Break, self-compassion sessions, and other wellbeing initiatives that can be delivered across the district. Members requested that TILT be added as a standing agenda item for future meetings to allow for regular updates and discussion.</p> <p>(b) CCG – Connect & Collaborate Event – Members received an overview of the recent event, which was reported to have been well attended. Norbrook We Care in Christmas Initiative – Members received an update confirming that the Meals on Wheels service will operate over a six-week period, providing 150 meals across Newry and Mourne. Information on the Senior Citizens Meals Day will be circulated, with a focus on reaching individuals most in need. Toy appeals will also form part of the initiative.</p> <p>(c) Members requested an update on street signage. An update was provided, and a follow-up email will be issued by the DEA Coordinator. Members noted the importance of signage that welcomes and encourages people into Newry. The Coordinator will liaise with the relevant department and provide an update at the next meeting.</p>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">(d) Telephone Kiosks – Members were informed that consent has been granted for the removal of telephone kiosks in Newry, with six identified for removal.(e) Members received an update on the recent recognition of local organisations at the Social Enterprise Awards, noting the achievements of Season, Bolster and Café Incredible.(f) City Centre Parking – Members were updated on matters discussed at a recent meeting involving the Minister for Infrastructure and the MP for Newry & Armagh.(g) Retail – Members noted concerns regarding increased crime affecting the retail sector. It was reported that Newry BID continues to engage with and offer support to impacted businesses.(h) Floods – Members were updated on progress relating to the flood scheme. Preventative measures have been introduced, and a training exercise has been completed. While some risks remain, monitoring is continuing.(i) Illegal Pitching – Members received an update on ongoing issues relating to these issues. It was noted that an	
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		<p>Enforcement Officer is scheduled to address the matter.</p> <p>(j) Members were also advised of the upcoming Christmas Charity Lunch on Thursday 4th December.</p> <p>(k) PSNI Update – Members noted concerns regarding the misuse of scramblers and received information on the limitations of current legislation in addressing the issue. Call reports relating to fireworks misuse were noted as being lower this Halloween compared with previous years.</p> <p>Members were reminded that non-emergency incidents can be reported via the PSNI website, where submissions go directly to dispatch. It was suggested that this reporting option could be further promoted within the community. Sergeant Roberts will explore this and provide an update at the next meeting. In the lead-up to Christmas, PSNI advised that activity will focus on the retail sector, with a combination of visible patrols and planned undercover operations across the city centre and local shopping centres. A further update will be provided at the next meeting.</p>	
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DEA/N/2025/7	Date of Next Meeting	Tuesday 9 th December, 1:30pm, Newry Leisure Centre MP2	
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The meeting ended at: 2.30pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Action Sheet of Mournes District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on Tuesday 18 November at 4.00pm in Nautilus Centre Kilkeel**

Chairperson:	Councillor Laura Devlin
In Attendance:	Councillor Henry Reilly Councillor Jill Truesdale
Independent Members:	Lloyd Douglas, Alan Knox
Statutory Partners:	Annie Clarke, Southern Health and Social Care Trust Kenneth Gracey, PSNI
Others in Attendance:	None
Council Officials:	Taucher McDonald, DEA Coordinator, The Mournes Teresa McLaverty, PEACE Plus Officer
Apologies:	Councillor Glyn Hanna Councillor Jill Truesdale Councillor Michael Rice Councillor Leeanne McEvoy Paula Nixon, County Down Rural Community Network

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
DEA/MOU/1/2025	Welcome/Apologies	Welcome by Cllr Reilly	Noted.
DEA/MOU/2/2025	Declarations of Interest	None	Noted.
DEA/MOU/20/2025	Election of Chair and Vice Chair	Councillor Devlin elected as Chair and Councillor Truesdale elected as Vice Chair	Noted.
DEA/MOU/3/2025	Action Sheet 22 July 2025	Brief update of the actions from the previous Forum meeting was given.	Noted.
DEA/MOU/4/2025	DEA Coordinator's Update	<p>Update from DEA Coordinator on projects and programmes that have taken place and those planned for September - November 2025.</p> <p>Festival of Life Events were delivered the first week of September as part of the Suicide Prevention Task Group actions and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. The events featured talks, wellness workshops, and activities and saw over 500 people taking part during the week.</p> <p>Senior Tea Dance – The event brought together over 200 older people and</p>	Noted and Coordinator to progress.

		<p>was aimed at helping to reduce isolation and loneliness.</p> <p>Road Safety Event – 30 students from Kilkeel High School & St. Louis Grammar School took part in road safety workshops and activities on 5 November.</p> <p>PB Event - PB event took place on 15 October in Kilkeel. 17 Groups presented on the night with more than 500 casting their votes.</p> <p>Cancer Focus Bus attended Kilcoo area.</p> <p>Carer’s Event took place in Kitty’s Road. The event brought together over 25 careers for interactive workshops and talks on mental health.</p> <p>Silver Screening Event in partnership with Slieve Croob, Rowallane, and Downpatrick DEAs and CDRCN bringing over 50’s together will take place on 4 December.</p> <p>Carer’s Christmas Event in partnership with Slieve Croob, Downpatrick, and Rowallane DEAs will take place on 16 December.</p>	
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DEA/MOU/5/2025	Agency Updates	SHSCT provided the following updates: Carer's First Programme information Take 5 Ambassador Training Upcoming Parents Information Sessions	Noted.
DEA/MOU/10/24	Donard Carpark	Anti-social behaviour and traffic issues at Donard Park.	Meeting has been organised for 24 November to discuss progress and works taking place in the Car Park.
DEA/MOU/11/2024	Kilkeel Feasibility Study	A Feasibility Study has been undertaken to look at possible potential redevelopment and utilisation of Kilkeel Square and its immediate environs.	Update provided: Tender for consultants has been issued and working group scheduled for mid-January 2026.
DEA/MOU/13/2024	Business Representation on Forum	A need for business representation on the DEA Forum was identified. Forum members to put forward nominations for Kilkeel and Newcastle areas.	DEA Coordinator to forward Cllr. Devlin membership paperwork for Newcastle Chamber of Commerce.
DEA/MOU/16/2025	Newcastle Leisure Centre	Update on Lift and Works.	Works Completed. Noted.
DEA/MOU/22/2025	PEACE PLUS	DEA Forum to suggest 3 areas for re-imaging project.	Noted.
DEA/MOU/23/2025	Facilities Management Update	Facilities Management to attend next DEA Meeting to provide update on works.	DEA Coordinator to invite relevant officers.

The meeting ended at 17.05pm

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 December 2025
Subject:	Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) and Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the report. To note the attached Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meeting held on 8 October 2025 and approved on 26 November 2025. To note the attached Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 30 September, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 25 November 2025. <p>Background The attachments referenced above are provided to update the Committee on the ongoing work of the PCSP and the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership.</p>	
2.0	Key issues	
2.1	None.	
3.0	Recommendations	
3.1	<p>That the Committee note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meeting held on 8 October 2025 and approved on 26 November 2025. Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 30 September, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 25 November 2025. 	
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	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	

5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>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. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
7.1	<p>Appendix 1: Minutes of the Newry NRP Meeting held on 8 October 2025.</p> <p>Appendix 2: Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP meeting held on 30 September 2025.</p>
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None.



Minutes of the Newry NR Partnership Meeting
Wednesday 8th October 2025
At 7.00pm
Room 1, WIN Business Centre

In Attendance:

Mrs Paula McGuigan	Chairperson, NRP (Carnagat CA)
Mrs Joanne Markey,	Carnagat CA
Ms Bernie Mooney,	Education Authority N.I
Mr Pdraig Harte,	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Mr Sean Mc Kevitt,	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Ms Heather Kavanagh,	Southern Regional College
Mr Raymond Jackson,	Confederation of Community Groups
Mr Aiden McCabe,	Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Ms Aisling Pyers	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Ms Noreen Rice,	Meadow Armagh Road CA
Ms Maureen O’Gorman,	Education Authority NI Youth Service
Dr Conor Patterson,	Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency
Mrs Maureen Ruddy,	Martin’s Lane CA
Mrs Catherine O’Hanlon,	Area Manager Department for Communities
Ms Orlagh Morgan,	Greater Linenhall Area CA
Ms Denise Fearon.	Greater Linenhall Area CA
Ms Maeve McParland,	Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency
Mrs Patricia O’Gorman,	Threeways CA
Mrs Amy Fearon,	Threeways CA
Mr Ewan Morgan,	Community Restorative Justice Ireland
Mr Paul Magennis,	Barcroft CA

Apologies:
Ms Kerri Morrow,
Ms Francine Ruddy,
Mr Pat Gorman,

Newry Mourne & Down District Council
Martin’s Lane CA
Dromalane Quayside Close CA

Matters Discussed

- 1. Welcome & Introductions
- 2. Apologies
- 3. Minutes/Matters arising.
- 4. Conflict of Interest.
- 5. NR Action Plan review
- 6. Sub-group updates
- 7. DfC update.
- 8. A.O.B
- 9. Date of next meeting.

ITEM	SUBJECT	MATTERS ARISING/UPDATE	ACTIONS	By Whom
1	Welcome / Introductions	<p>All welcomed to the meeting</p> <p>Recorded condolences to Raphael Crummey and his family on the recent bereavement of his mother. Raphael represented DSD(DfC) for many years on this Partnership.</p> <p>We also offer condolences to the family and friends of the late Joey Larkin. Joey was a community volunteer on the Dromalane CA and the Drumclose Men’s Shed.</p>		
2.	Apologies	Recorded as above.		

3.	Minutes/matters arising.	<p>Minutes agreed as accurate. Proposed by Maureen Ruddy and seconded by Joanne Markey</p> <p>Matters arising: No matters arising.</p>		
4.	Conflict of Interest	No Conflicts of Interest declared.		
5.	NR Action Plan review	<p>The NR Plan must now reflect where it sits with the NMDDC Community Plan and any other relevant plan within the NR area.</p> <p>We need to have a further meeting to discuss before we agree our plan going forward.</p>	Arrange the next NRP to focus on the Action Plan.	Sean
6.	Subgroup updates	<p>Capital:</p> <p>NIHE – Carnagat Extension completed Officially Re-opened on 4 July 2025. Programmes gradually returning to normal.</p> <p><u>Revenue:</u></p> <p><u>EANI:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 programmes funded through Youth Engagement. • Workplans submitted for Count Read Succeed. • Homework Clubs within Derrybeg delivered by St Patrick's and in Dromalane delivered by St Clare's. Mixed response – numbers fluctuate between 4 and 11 attending each group. 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issues with Greater Linenhall. Person identified to run the Homework Club is no longer available - exploring other options.• Aiden suggested looking for someone going through teacher training; Catherine suggested that they get advice from the Jobs and Benefits Office• Meet with Greater Linenhall CA to further discuss. <p>EA Youth Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Busy Summer programme – 100 young people engaged.• Peer mentoring Yr 12. – St Joseph’s, St Mary’s and Newry High• Yr 10 Key Stage 3 work in St Mary’s• Newry High Key Stage 3 yr 10 in Newry High School• Derrybeg programme continues to run one evening per week. Good support from the CA aged 11 + -15 young people• Young women’s work ages 11 – 15• Recruit young men across NR. - 11 – 13• Partnership with the SHSCT - work with SEN young people. Feedback from parents is very positive.• Magnet YAC international experience.• Newry and Mourne Youth Voice – representation from NR areas.• Caring Coins programme.• Funding for Voluntary sector.• All updates on Facebook. <p>Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8 week Physical Activity programme in Carnagat –		
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		<p>variety of activities over the period. 18 – 20 registered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heart screening in WIN, 30 attended – 1 person flagged for urgent referral. Health checks in Carnagat - one to follow in Greater Linenhall on 16 October.• Cancer Focus on 14 November.• Autism reality bus 18/19 November at SRC – 60 places over 2 days.• Verve Centre in ABC Council have recruited 40 health trainers who can work one-to-one with people to support them. <p>SRC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25 people participating in the Cat C.• Option to deliver Childcare Level 2 Early Years in the community or on Campus- 1 evening per week.• Classroom Assistant – require 10 – 12 people.• Other programmes – First Aid/World Host/Digger driver• SIA door security.• Attending the CCG Connect evening.• For any other information contact Heather directly <p>NMEA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lego and computer coding camps for Year 8's.• The annual Summer Numeracy Camp - 50 participants. Computer and Lego Camps- target Year 8.• DJ Academy session in St John Bosco - 20 participants• Chill skills planned for transfer pupils• Contacting career teachers in schools to plan for Pathways and other events.		
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		<p>NMDDC:</p> <p>Community Renewal Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running costs programme ongoing. • Require all receipts and bank statements for July to September – also require 6-month reports. • Reports received dictate payments to groups. <p>Community Renewal Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCG delivering ongoing support to all the groups (governance, funding, training etc.) • Difficulties on engaging with some groups. • A lot of time spent in Dromalane with new volunteers • Sean Maguire has retired. New member of staff recruited. • The Raise action plan at Judicial Review. • 36 NRP's meeting – no change 26/27. • The Minister to date hasn't met with the 36 NRP Forum. • Meeting with Norbrook re: Annual Christmas scheme • Issues recruiting and maintaining level of volunteers. We are working to address this. Barcroft and Martin's Lane have highlighted this as a problem. CCG staff to meet with groups to move forward <p>Outdoor Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very busy to date – 51 activities delivered across NR, including Newry Water Festival and a recent IFA fitness for football course which was oversubscribed. • Arranging further meetings with IFA to explore programmes to target 14+ and programmes targeting females in sport 		
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		<p>Safer Stronger Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From April 25 case referrals – range of family disputes /domestic violence/abuse • 4 recent cases dealt with. • Long term objective to try and end bonfires within communities. Thanks to strong community support, positive examples of inter-agency work • Spike in anti-social behaviour in housing developments. Supported the DEA with reassurance event with range of agencies. • Leaflet drop within the area. • First 2 modules of Restorative Practice delivered to classroom assistants in St Patrick's. • Initial contact with schools to plan for the Fixing Things programme. <p>DEA Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work across the DEA area which includes NR areas. • Seniors programme – Trip to Brownlow, Tickets to show, Tea Dance, Quiz, Christmas event. • Water Festival – 1000 people attended. • Mela Festival – very successful. • PB events – groups can receive £1000 to deliver health and wellbeing programmes (District wide) • Funding fair in Cloughreagh centre – 11 funding bodies in attendance, open to everyone. 		
7.	DfC Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All GFAs with the delivery agencies. • Digital OBA system should have been ready - possible date of 22 October. • Training will be delivered when system is fully ready. • Thanks to all our volunteers for the work they deliver. 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask delivery bodies to submit claims on the old system.•		
8.	A.O.B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sean is attending an OBA evaluation tomorrow.• CCG AGM is scheduled for 23 October. <p><u>No More Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Everyone thanked for attending and NMEA and Sean thanked for the hospitality provided		
9.	Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 26 November 2025 7.00pm in WIN Business Centre	Circulate details and all information	Sean

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 30th September 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*
 Cllr Jill Truesdale, *NMDDC*
 Cllr Declan Murphy, *NMDDC*
 Cllr David Taylor, *NMDDC*
 Chief Inspector Adam Ruston, *PSNI*
 Chief Inspector Joesph Tierney, *PSNI*
 Inspector Darren Hardy, *PSNI*
 Inspector Paddy Heatley, *PSNI*
 Inspector Graeme Reynolds, *PSNI*
 Inspector Kelly Gibson, *PSNI*
 Sergeant Ryan Duffy, *PSNI*
 Maureen O’Gorman, *EANI*
 Michael Heaney, *YJA*
 Bronagh Magorrian, *NIHE*
 Niall Lawlor, *PCSP Independent Member*
 Louise Kennedy, *PCSP Independent Member*
 Michelle Osborne, *PCSP Independent Member*
 William Slater, *PCSP Independent Member*

NMDDC Staff Officials in attendance in Chamber:

Alison Robb, *Assistant Director – Community Development*
 Martina Flynn, *Head of Engagement*
 Shannon Creaney, *Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager*
 Nicola Whyte, *Monitoring & Evaluation Officer – PCSP & Good Relations*
 Jacki Urey, *PCSP Officer*
 Sarah-Louise Taggart, *Democratic Services Manager*

1 Welcome, Chairperson’s Remarks and Apologies

Apologies were received from David Vint, Cllr Doire Finn, Cllr Kate Murphy, Cllr Conor Galbraith, Aileen O’Callghan, Roisin Leckey, Claire Crainey, Aidan McCabe, Anne Sheridan, Superintendent Norman Haslett, Tara Campbell and Martina Byrne.

PCSP Chair Cllr Henry Reilly noted that it has been a very busy time for PCSP events. Cllr Reilly noted that he recently attended two specific PCSP events which were very successful, these were the Community Safety and Wellbeing Event in Downpatrick and the Bishops Court Young Drivers Programme in Downpatrick.

PCSP Chair reminded members that dates for upcoming planning meetings to look at the PCSP Action Plan for 2026/27 have been issued and he requested that Members attend 1 of the PCSP Planning Session in either Newry on 20th October or Newcastle on 21st October.

NMD PCSP Chair, Cllr Reilly then welcomed PCSP Members to the meeting. The Chair noted that Nicola Whyte, the Finance & Monitoring Officer for PCSP and Good Relations will soon be moving posts within Council. He thanked Nicola for her work during her time with the PCSP and wished her all the best in her new role.

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 29 July 2025

Read: Minutes of PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting held on 29 July 2025 (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor T Andrews, seconded by Councillor D Murphy it was agreed to approve the Minutes of the Policing Committee and PCSP Meeting held on 29 July 2025 as a true and accurate record.

4 Matters Arising

PCSP Business

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 PCSP had a very successful summer period, with a number of events taking place in partnership with the PSNI, NIFRS and EA. She added that these events included PCSP attendance at a number of agricultural shows, summer schemes and Youth Clubs. Ms Creaney added that more recently, the PCSP had a successful Rural Crime Week at the beginning of September, which included a number of Trailer Marking Events and pop-up events in rural villages throughout the District in partnership with PSNI. Ms Creaney noted that most recently, PCSP hosted the Safety & Wellbeing Event in Downpatrick Leisure Centre on 24th September. She noted that this event was very well attended and thanked the PCSP Members & Statutory Partners that attended. Ms Creaney advised that PCSP staff also recently held a meeting with PCSP Statutory Partners, which was useful in identifying priorities for the upcoming months. Ms Creaney added to the Chair's update on the Planning Sessions that will take place on 20th & 21st October and advised that Members only need to attend one session to look at plans for the PCSP Action Plan for the incoming financial year.

Ms Creaney noted that there were a number of upcoming PCSP events which include, road safety events with Schools and drugs awareness sessions in SRC. Ms Creaney added that if members wish to attend any events, to let her know and she can send through an updated events list.

6 ASB Sub Group Report

Read: ASB Sub Group Reports (copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Cllr D Taylor and seconded by Niall Lawlor it was agreed the Committee:

- **Approve the reports**
- **Approve the Action Sheet for the ASB Sub Group 1 meeting held on 3 September 2025**
- **Approve the Action Sheet for the ASB Sub Group 2 meeting held on 2 September 2025.**

Policing Committee Business

7 District Commander's Report – September 2025

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

Chief Inspector Adam Ruston provided the District Commander's Report to the Partnership on behalf of Superintendent Norman Haslett, highlighting the following points:

Crime

Chief Inspector Adam Ruston began his report by noting that for August & September, crimes continued to decrease with September seeing a 2% reduction in the yearly crime figures with a downward trend now apparent and crime levels remaining below average. In respect of burglary, he stated there has been an increase by 8%, particularly in residential properties. Chief Inspector Ruston noted that shoplifting has seen an increase in the last 12 months, and while levels have remained steady since June, they are still sitting above average. He noted that peak times in August were Monday & Thursdays showing higher levels between 1pm & 7pm. He noted that the most prominent items to be stolen are alcohol and perfume.

Chief Inspector Ruston noted that there has been a reduction in violence against the person which has decreased by 3% with levels remaining below average. He noted to the Partnership that one of the main drivers to these current figures of violence against the person in the PSNI Report is due to incidents with a resident at a children's home involving numerous assaults on staff. He added that this also affects the violence against women and girls figure, with a female child in the home assaulting female members of staff.

Chief Inspector Ruston noted that the District currently has a clearance rate for crimes of 30%, with the average for PSNI being 26.7%. He added that the following crimes are currently down: violence with injury, sexual offences, robberies and total theft offences, apart from shoplifting. He noted that the main increase is around burglaries

Chief Inspector Ruston noted that the PSNI still faces significant strains on police resourcing, and that they are still in the Chief Constable's recovery plan in increasing police numbers. He added that while numbers are beginning to increase in PSNI Response, Neighbourhood Teams are still under staffed at the moment but continue to deliver.

Chief Inspector Ruston highlighted incidents of good police work; one incident was when a member of the public collapsed in their home in Newcastle and there was no available ambulance to respond. Two Police vehicles responded and were first on scene and commenced CPR to save the person's life. He added that this is becoming more common for officers to be first on scene to these incidents. He also noted a significant incident on the A1 carriageway in August where a young female was threatening to commit suicide from the bridge. The police responded quickly and an officer on scene had built a previous rapport with this girl and was able to talk her down, where she was then taken to hospital. Chief Inspector Ruston also noted a significant incident in Kilkeel where a person's house was attacked. A Police crew attended due to attempts to set the garden on fire and attack the house. Police then came under attack from a group of 30 – 40 masked individuals in the estate. A Police vehicle had its tyres slashed and paint threw over the vehicle. The police managed to get the individual out, but the house was then ransacked. He noted that this violence adds to the current Policing pressures.

Chief Inspector Ruston then noted the recent assaults on police. One officer in the district who was responding to a domestic incident was hit in the face with a frying pan which caused significant injury. Two officers who were attending a call were kicked in the head, slapped and blood spat in their faces. He also noted the assault where a traffic stop resulted in the vehicle driving off with the officer's arm still in the vehicle, they drove for approx. 15 meters at speed. This caused the officer to be off for 6 weeks to recover from arm injuries.

Chief Inspector Ruston noted his thanks to the PCSP and to a number of Councillors, particularly in relation to the parading season which passed off peacefully in the district with no major issues. He thanked the local Councillors and the work of the PCSP for their tireless work over the summer to keep parade season & bonfires peaceful.

Chief Inspector Ruston noted that it has been a busy few months with significant incidents in the district. Firstly, he discussed the murder in Downpatrick and the attempted murder of the Priest. He noted that the suspect was arrested and charged and is currently remanded in custody. He also noted the murder in Newcastle, and that the suspect was a neighbour who has been arrested and is still currently on remand regarding this murder. Chief Inspector Ruston then noted the tragic double fatal RTC in Downpatrick where 2 young males sadly passed away, and 2 people remain in hospital with significant injuries. Chief Inspector Ruston then mentioned the increased protests that are taking place across the district, he added that these do impact Police resources.

Engagement

Chief Inspector Ruston then referred to engagement in the district. In July, Newry NPT and the Armed response Unit did several pieces of work throughout the month with a number of young people and the PCSP on knife crime and 'One Punch can kill,' this was a very successful initiative. In Newcastle PSNI NPT, following the murder mentioned previously, carried out several community engagement initiatives, along with the Coffee with a Cop initiative. He stated that this was very successful and went down well with the local community.

Social Media

Chief Inspector Ruston highlighted that Newry, Mourne and Down District is the best performing on social media within the PSNI. He added that they currently sit with a 77.5k social media reach.

Hate Crime

Chief Inspector Ruston referred to the increased protest activity in Newry, both pro and anti-immigration. He added that hate crime has increased in this 12-month period, with a 12% increase and a 22.1% increase in hate incidents, where a crime is not committed but it has been reported. He noted that sectarian hate crime continues to be the highest hate crime recorded within the district. He noted that there is still work to be done on this. He mentioned the continued anti-immigrant graffiti at the old convent site in Newry which he believes is fuelled by misinformation. He also noted 2 incidents in Newry regarding the removal of Pride Flags which he stated is currently under investigation.

Antisocial Behaviour

Chief Inspector Ruston noted an increase in ASB over the summer period by 6% which amounts to 239 further incidents. He noted that this is expected during the summer months and he added that there were higher levels of ASB at weekends.

Domestic Abuse

Chief Inspector Ruston noted an increase in domestic incidents. He noted that this can be viewed as a positive as it shows an increase in confidence in reporting domestic incidents to Police. He added that the teams are still involved in the One Stop Shop which runs in Newry & Downpatrick, and that these have seen 18 people attending to speak with Women's Aid and the other organisations that support this.

Chief Inspector Ruston noted a 3% increase in violence against women and girls and reiterated his earlier comments that one female offender did influence these figures due to repeat offences. He noted that this young girl has since moved to a different children's home.

Road Safety

Chief Inspector Ruston noted again the 2 tragic fatalities in Downpatrick. He noted that officers made a total of 51 speeding detections, 37 detections for careless & dangerous driving and 10 detections for using a mobile phone while driving. 29 fixed penalties & referrals to the courts were made for vehicles with defects. 54 detections and arrests for drink driving were made which is the highest for any district outside of Belfast. A further 57 vehicles were detected by officers being driven with no insurance. The Road Safety Partnership Speed camera vans were deployed 34 times during these a total of 358 speeding detections were made. He highlighted the amount of speeding detections made by the speed camera van's and how speeding continues to be a major issue.

Drugs

Chief Inspector Ruston noted that the District currently has seen 10 drug deaths this year, he noted that there has not been any increase in this figure over the past few months. He noted that compared to other PSNI districts they continue to have the second highest figures outside of Belfast & Derry/Londonderry for drug detections. He added that NMD are one of the only districts to notice an increase in detections of drug supply. He then referred to the significant

detection of cannabis at a unit in WIN Business Park and a number of other successful seizures. He commented on the issues with drugs being supplied via the postal system.

This concluded the PSNI report from Chief Inspector Ruston.

The PCSP Chair Cllr Reilly thanked Chief Inspector Ruston for his very comprehensive report. He commended the work that the PSNI do and thanked them. He strongly condemned the attack on police in Kilkeel and added that he feels this is completely unacceptable. The Chair did note that tensions may have been high, but that Police were only there to do their job. He condemned all attacks that have happened on Police.

The Chair asked PCSP Members if there were any questions on the District Commander's Report.

Cllr Andrews thanked Chief Inspector Ruston for his comprehensive report. Cllr Andrews offered his thoughts and prayers to all victim's families who have been impacted by the various crimes. Cllr Andrews noted that he fully supports any efforts possible on road safety. Cllr Andrews noted his support for the PSNI's efforts for all that they do and to the statutory bodies that support the PCSP. Cllr Andrews then noted his concerns on the increase in hate crimes and stated he supports any efforts to help those impacted. Cllr Andrews then voiced his sympathies to the family of the victim in Marian Park Downpatrick. Cllr Andrews also passed on a request from Cllr Galbraith asking if the PSNI could confirm the emergency call time with him.

Louise Kennedy thanked the PSNI for their ongoing work. She noted the challenging scenes that officers have faced over the past few months and passed on her support to the officers. Louise Kennedy noted the increase in domestic incident reporting and stated that this was reassuring as it shows a confidence in reporting to PSNI. Ms Kennedy also noted the increase in hate crime statistics and noted that she would be interested to hear more on how the rise in race hate statistics compare to other hate crimes in a regional picture.

Chief Inspector Adam Ruston noted that the statistics can become distorted based on the number of reports of one general issue in the same place.

Cllr Hanlon noted her thanks to the PCSP staff on their work on putting together the 'One Stop Shop' in Downpatrick. Cllr Hanlon said that she feels like now is the time to advertise and promote this service so that as many women as possible can avail of it. Cllr Hanlon also thanked Sgt Cochrane from PSNI and Martina Flynn for organising a talk for women on how to keep themselves safe while out in the district. She noted that this was very successful and helpful to local women. Cllr Hanlon voiced her concerns over issues with the PSNI 101 service. She noted that issues with 101 are discouraging people from reporting. Cllr Hanlon asked if this issue could be passed on to the relevant PSNI department. Cllr Hanlon then touched on Road Safety and how recently it has become a more prevalent issue. She asked if there was a timeframe for when the mobile SID's will be rolled out into the district.

Chief Inspector Ruston confirmed that they are awaiting insurance to be completed for the mobile SID's after PSNI faced unexpected issues with insuring them internally.

Cllr D Murphy voiced his concerns over the creation of fear in Newry for Councillors after the recent rally in Marcus Square. Cllr D Murphy noted that many Councillors are fearful given the number of social media sites and posts targeting Councillors.

Chief Inspector Ruston replied in agreement and noted that it is concerning when false information & narratives are being posted on social media. Chief Inspector Ruston stated that there is a line with social media and said he feels some people cross this when it comes to racism etc. and that this is an offence.

Mrs Martina Flynn also replied to note that she had met with the PSNI, Alison Robb (Assistant Director AHC) and the Council's CEO to discuss these issues. Mrs Flynn stated that they are mindful of the narrative on social media and they spoke on the safeguarding issues around this. Mrs Flynn added that Councillors can contact PSNI directly to discuss social media posts that are concerning and to find out if a criminal offence has taken place.

Cllr D Taylor asked if there was specific engagement on the issue of Violence Against Women & Girls in schools. He added that it would be positive if PCSP & PSNI could work on strengthening this engagement. Cllr Taylor also noted the noticeable increase in Fireworks and asked if PSNI can continue to monitor this issue and check how people are sourcing these. Cllr Taylor also commented on the issue of shoplifting, he asked if this is opportunistic or pre-planned based on PSNI investigations.

Chief Inspector Adam Ruston confirmed that there was no information to suggest that the recent shoplifting incidents were organised or targeted offences.

Mrs Martina Flynn noted that EVAWG is a priority for PCSP but is also a priority for Council which is funded from the Executive Office to deliver on EVAWG initiatives. She added that work on EVAWG is Council led, and so far, 16 projects have been funded by Council. Mrs Flynn added there is collaborative work through these projects within schools. Mrs Flynn added that the EVAWG Strategy is a long-term strategy and along with this there is a focus on working with young males. She finished by noting this work is all ongoing and that she is happy to circulate information on these projects with members.

Cllr Taylor thanked Mrs Flynn for providing further information on EVAWG projects and noted how effective the DSM Drugs plays were and if there was anything in this style that could be done with EVAWG.

Mrs Flynn noted 2 projects that are working on an EVAWG drama piece and stated that PCSP could look at supporting the roll out of these further.

Cllr Truesdale thanked Chief Inspector Ruston for his report and noted that it has been a particularly difficult few months. Cllr Truesdale asked regarding the increase in burglaries on those aged 60+ and if this is due to an increased likelihood of cash & drugs in their homes. Cllr Truesdale also asked if they would work with pharmacies on a more discreet prescription delivery service. Further to this, Cllr Truesdale noted an incident that happened in Newcastle where 3 young people with Autism were involved in an altercation. Cllr Truesdale asked about PSNI training for dealing with Autism, and if it was possible to integrate Autism training through PCSP. Cllr Truesdale noted that a motion she brought forward on Autism Friendly Towns is up for discussion at the next Council Equality & Good Relations Reference Group, and she asked if she could have assurance from the Policing Teams and PCSP that they will feed into this plan in the form of advice & Support. Cllr Truesdale then commented on the hate crime issues and stated that as elected representatives they must be careful how they speak and what they say and that these discussions should be done in democratic forums.

Louise Kennedy followed on from Cllr Taylor and Martina Flynn's comments on EVAWG, she voiced that she believes there is no age too early to begin education on this topic.

The PCSP Chair spoke on the tragic deaths on our roads, and he noted that it was reported to him that family and friends were seeing the scene on social media first. The Chair asked if there is a law that prevents people from posting graphic scenes on social media. PCSP Chair also noted that he hopes those involved in the Kilkeel mob incident are caught and dealt with. The chair then noted the murders and attacks in Newcastle and Downpatrick. He stated that he is glad the Police have followed up so strongly and made arrests so early on. The chair also passed on his condolences to the O'Connor family in Co Louth. The Chair commented on the Mobile SID's and stated that it is disappointing that they have still not been rolled out. The Chair commented on the Marcus Square event and noted that himself & Cllr Glynn Hanna attended this event which was advertised as an information event. He stated that he hopes those that were targeted online after this event get the security that they need.

The Chair also noted that since the previous meeting, Superintendent Haslett had invited PCSP Independent members to Ardmore Station, where he was very thankful for the independent members and the work they do. He encouraged PCSP Independent members to speak up in PCSP Meetings as much as elected members and voice their concerns or opinions. The chair reminded Councillors that the PCSP meeting is not another Council meeting and that everyone attending has equal status. The chair also thanked Shannon Creaney for all of her work on PCSP projects recently.

Cllr Terry Andrews also extended his condolences to the O'Connor family. Cllr Andrews then asked Martina Flynn if there has been any progress in organising a meeting with the Louth Community Safety Partnership.

Mrs Flynn replied and noted that in terms of cross border engagement, she has recently spoken with the new community safety partnership in Louth on organising a meeting with the PCSP. She added that Louth are hoping for some time to allow their new members and partnership to settle before arranging this. She added that this would be something PCSP hope to organise for the new year.

8 AOB

None declared.

The PCSP Chair thanked the PSNI and 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 25th November 2025 in person at the Council Chamber Downpatrick at 6pm.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7:05pm

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 December 2025
Subject:	Council Sports Awards 2026
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey – Assistant Director: Leisure & Sport
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Pat power- Sports Development Manager

For decision	For noting only	x	
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To note the contents of this report.</p> <p><u>Background</u> Preparations are well underway for the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Sports Awards, hosted in association with the Sports Association Newry, Down and South Armagh (SANDSA). The agreed timeline for this event is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominations Open – 5 January 2026 • Nominations Close – 26 January 2026 • Nominations Shortlisting – 28 and 29 January 2026 • Awards Evening Venue: Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle • Awards Evening Date: Friday 20 March 2026 		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	<p>There are eight award categories (see appendix 1) and the eligible period for performance for applicants is from: 1st January 2025 until 9th February 2026.</p> <p>On Thursday 23 February 2026, the community representatives from the SANDSA executive committee will meet as a judging panel to decide the winners of each award category.</p>		
3.0	Recommendations		
3.1	To note the contents of this report.		
4.0	Resource implications		
4.1	The budget requirement for the Sports Awards has been profiled within the AHC Departmental Budget in this financial year.		

5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> opportunity or good relations.</p>
5.2	<p>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision.</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation. <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p>Proposal initiating consultation – N/a</p> <p>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. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)</p> <p>Rationale:</p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)

6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing, or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service.</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed</p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 - Award Categories
8.0	Background Documents
	N/a

Appendix 1 - Award Categories

Junior Club Team of the Year

Senior Club Team of the Year

Sport Volunteer of the Year

Club Coach of the Year

Sportsperson/Team of the Year with a Disability

Life-Time Services to Sport

Junior Sportsperson of the Year

Senior Sportsperson of the Year