



DOWNPATRICK NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL

The Neighbourhood Renewal (NHR) Investment Fund is an initiative supported by the Department for Communities. The Committee meets on a regular basis and members include representatives from the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Department for Communities, Education Authority, South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust, South East Regional College, Surestart and the local community groups in Bridge Street, Meadowlands, Model Farm, Marian Park, Stream Street, Tósu Úr, Flying Horse, New Model Farm and Stream Street.

It provides financial support to projects within the Downpatrick area for example:

Capital Projects

Through funding secured from the Department for Communities, Downpatrick has availed of capital projects. Most recently was the development of a new state of the art Playground in Meadowlands, Downpatrick.

Health and Community Engagement

This programme involves delivering a range of targeted Health and Wellbeing and community initiatives aimed hard to reach groups within the Downpatrick NHR area.

It includes a wide range of community volunteers who engage weekly in various training, events, activities and health promotion courses. There is the Downpatrick Men's Group & Community Allotments who meet on a regular basis. The Downpatrick Women's Club also meet to take part in activities such as Cook It programmes, flower arranging, arts and crafts, jewellery making and yoga.

Downpatrick Schools Speech and Language Therapy

A school-based Speech and Language Therapy Programme aimed at Primary 1 & 2 school children to help to develop their speech, language and communication skills. The project has resulted in the reduction of waiting times to an average of eight days.

The Talk Boost Language Programme) has helped to accelerate children's progress in language and communication. In order to provide more school-based support, the teachers and classroom assistants have been trained by the Speech and Language Therapist to deliver this programme to some children.

Chief Executive, Marie Ward

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

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



Downpatrick Family Health & Wellbeing Programme (Down Surestart)

Down SureStart works in partnership with local families and organisations to ensure every child gets the best possible start in life. They provide a range of support services and health lifestyle/parenting programmes with crèche provision to meet the needs of local families including the New Parent Programme and healthy lifestyle programmes.

SERC Students Drive to Success

This local project aims to engage with people from the Downpatrick NHR area to equip them with practical skills and qualifications to enhance their education and employment opportunities. Students involved can achieve nationally recognised qualifications in Health and Social Care, Hospitality and Customer Services, Personal Development and IT through South Eastern Regional College. In addition, the programme provides driving lessons and an opportunity for students to take their driving theory and practical test to obtain a full driving licence. Following completion of the course many students have developed the confidence to undertake additional courses at SERC.

For Further Information on Neighbourhood Renewal in Downpatrick please contact Katrina Hynds on 03301374602 or katrina.hynds@nmandd.org

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