

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

PEACEPLUS

Co-designed Local Action Plan

Thriving Together



PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland

Co-funded by the



European Union



UK Government



Northern Ireland
Executive



Riadas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin

**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

Forward



Message from the
Chairperson of Newry,
Mourne and Down District
Council Councillor Pete Byrne.

We are thrilled to have secured €8,645,533.00 funding through the PEACEPLUS Programme, providing Newry, Mourne, and Down District Council with a valuable opportunity to strengthen positive relationships within our community. This funding will support a range of exciting initiatives focused on reconciliation, tackling prejudice, and promoting diversity. It represents a significant investment in our local community and highlights the European Union's ongoing commitment to peace and reconciliation.

Newry, Mourne, and Down District is a vibrant, diverse region, and the Council is dedicated to creating a place that is not only great to work, live, and visit but also welcoming and inclusive for all.

The implementation of the Action Plan will be overseen by the PEACEPLUS Partnership Board, which comprises members who reflect and represent the diverse interests and communities across the district. Led by the Local Authority, this Board is perfectly positioned to ensure that EU funding is directed towards community-based projects that will deliver tangible outcomes and make a real difference in the lives of our residents.

I encourage all residents of Newry, Mourne, and Down District to seize the opportunity to engage with the PEACEPLUS Action Plan, and we look forward to the positive impact the co-designed initiatives will have on our council area.

What is PEACEPLUS ?

PEACEPLUS is a cross-border funding Programme supported by the European Union, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Government of Ireland, and the Northern Ireland administration.

The Programme is designed to support peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, building upon the work of the previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes.

The programme has been divided into six themes. Each new programme aims to address longstanding social and economic challenges which have and continue to impact our communities. Within each theme there are several investment areas - these will have a more specific focus and target specific organisations such as local authorities or community groups.

Our Co-designed Local Action Plan falls within theme 1 – **Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities**. Focusing on local councils, organisations and people from every community working together peacefully. The aim of Theme 1 is to unite communities, help them rebuild and learn from a difficult past. Projects under this theme will help community groups grow stronger, work better together and create spaces for all to share.

Overview of Action Plan 'Thriving Together'

SEUPB Investment Area 1.1 supports the creation of Co-Designed Local Community Peace Action Plans. This enables and empowers local community partnerships to self-determine and deliver priority projects on a cross-community basis; which will result in improved, shared, and inclusive local services, facilities, and spaces; and make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation.

The Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Action Plan 'Thriving Together' has been developed by the PEACEPLUS Partnership Board, utilising a co-design approach involving comprehensive engagement with the local community and other key stakeholders including statutory providers, public bodies, businesses, and Council DEA (District Electoral Area) Forums. The Partnership Board consists of 25 members made up of nine Newry, Mourne and Down District Councillors, five statutory representatives and 11 social partners.

The Plan focuses on a targeted and locally based response to the specific needs identified during the Plan's development, on meaningful and purposeful engagement, and on engaging people from different socio-economic and community backgrounds, with special consideration given to under-represented groups.

The implementation of the Action Plan, led by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and delivered in partnership with South Eastern Regional College, will focus on three pivotal themes: Local Regeneration and Transformation, Thriving and Peaceful Communities, and Celebrating Cultures and Diversity. 8,646 participants from the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area will be engaged in the delivery of the Action Plan.

Thriving Together

Strands 1,2,3

Strand 1	Strand 2	Strand 3
Local Community Regeneration and Transformation	Thriving and Peaceful Communities	Building Respect for all Cultural Identities
1. Transformation and Reimaging	6. Capacity Building and Engagement	14. Social Inclusion Officer (minority and newcomer communities)
2. Enhancement of Existing Community Facilities	7. Leadership Development	15. Minority Community Support
3. Shared Outdoor Spaces	8. Collaborative Interaction	16. Progressive Conflict Resolution
4. Community Navigation	9. Community Action	17. Civic Leadership and Empowerment
5. Co-designed Cross Community Place Making Plans	10. Events and Festivals	18. Themed Diversity Festivals
	11. Social and Emotional Support	19. Responsive Peace Building
	12. Social Prescribing	20. Shared History and Culture
	13. Community Justice Interventions	
Target Participants: 1,296	Target Participants: 4,970	Target Participants: 2,380

Strand 1 - Local Community Regeneration and Transformation

This strand focuses on empowering local people to regenerate and transform their communities on a cross-community basis. The five identified priority projects focus on assistance to transform and reimagine areas, enhancing existing community facilities, the development of new shared outdoor spaces, a community navigation programme to facilitate increased levels of cross community mobility, and co-designed cross community place making plans. There will be small scale capital investments under this strand to enhance existing facilities and development of shared outdoor spaces.

1. Transformation and Reimagining

Programme - Local Action Plans that will increase levels of shared pride in individual or collective areas within a community. 21 Local Action Plans will be developed resulting in 21 Revenue projects.

cross community interaction while capitalising upon our natural assets. 14 projects have been identified through an Expression of Interest process.

2. Enhancement of existing Community

Facilities Programme - Enhancement of existing facilities and corresponding engagement programmes which will enable increased levels of cross community interaction and service provision. 11 capital projects have been identified through an Expression of Interest process.

1. Community Navigation

Programme - Development of a navigation programme that will facilitate increased levels of cross community mobility and better awareness and use of existing spaces and facilities.

3. Development of shared outdoor

spaces programme - Development and engagement programme that will build capacity and increase levels of

2. Co-designed cross community

placemaking plans - Enhancement of existing engagement structures to capitalise on local community assets, inspiration, and potential while promoting the health, happiness, and well-being of the people living within our district.

Strand 2 - Thriving and Peaceful Communities

This strand focuses on thriving and peaceful communities. The eight identified priority projects encompass a broad range of initiatives focused on capacity building, leadership development, cross community relationship building interaction and engagement, social and emotional support, events and festivals and community justice interventions.

1. Capacity Building and Engagement

Programme - Projects designed to build the capacity of local organisations through cross community collaboration. 14 Collaborative and 14 Capacity building projects.

2. Leadership development

programmes - Projects designed to develop new community leaders and enhance the capacity of existing leaders and volunteers to promote and facilitate peace and reconciliation. SERC will deliver the following projects, 7 emerging leadership, 14 female empowerment, 7 civic leadership and 14 skills development projects.

3. Collaborative Interaction

Programme - Building cross-community relationships and bringing people together through their mutual

interests. These will include 1 sustaining Cross-Community Relationships project, 7 Cultural projects and 7 Market Ready projects which aim to support local cottage industries. SERC will also deliver 21 Mutual interest projects.

4. Community Action

Programme - Projects aimed at increasing service provision in key areas within the district. 42 projects will be delivered, these will include 28 Community Led Health & Wellbeing Projects and 14 Cross-Community Civic Pride Environmental Projects. SERC will also deliver 7 investment/ extension of community action initiatives and 7 accredited projects that aim to encourage volunteering roles within the community.

5. Events and Festivals Programme

Celebrating the area's diverse range of communities, cultures, languages, history and other assets. 14 projects will be delivered, including 7 Cross community festival projects, and 7 Community led shared history and culture projects.

6. Social and Emotional Support

Programme- Projects designed to help improve health and well-being within the district. 49 projects will be delivered, including 28 Intergenerational projects and 21 social and emotional support projects. SERC will also deliver 7 access to employment projects that will include accreditation.

7. Social Prescribing Programme - Social prescribing initiatives that will assist in addressing the current needs within the district. Four council wide projects will be delivered throughout the district.

8. Community Justice interventions programme – 7 projects aimed at engaging individuals that would not normally partake in Peace or Good relations.



Strand 3 - Celebrating Cultures and Diversity

This strand focuses on cultural diversity and in increasing understanding of and respect for cultural identities and needs of minority and newcomer communities throughout the Council area. Minority communities include, but this is not an exhaustive list: minority communities (including migrants, refugees and those from the Traveller Community); women; LGBTQ+ community; older people; those living with a disability; and those with issues arising from the Conflict, including ex-prisoners and security service personnel.

1. Appointment of a Social Inclusion

Officer who will be responsible for development and monitoring of relationships and needs of minority and newcomer communities (inc Traveller Community) throughout the Council and ensuring meaningful engagement of minority communities in PEACEPLUS projects across all themes within the Action Plan.

2. Minority Community Support

Programmes - delivered in the areas of social, cultural integration and educational support. These will include 14 Minority Communities Social Support, 14 Minority Communities Integration and a Language School Support Programme. SERC will deliver 10 Minority Communities Educational/ Employment Support Projects.

3. Conflict resolution interventions

(including anti-sectarian initiatives) which contribute towards building positive relations – 7 Progressive Conflict Resolution Projects.

4. Civic Leadership and Empowerment

Programmes which aim to increase civic participation, including those by minority and newcomer communities. This will include 7 gender empowerment and 7 civic leadership and mentoring projects that will be delivered by SERC.

5. Themed Diversity Festivals

- which facilitate positive cultural expression within diverse communities, which increase levels of mutual understanding,



trust and respect. 6 themed festivals delivered throughout the district over the lifetime of the action plan.

6. Responsive Peace Building

Programmes – 7 Projects engaging on challenging issues with hard-to-reach groups and which engage with opposing and dissenting views, which if not challenged, will contribute to continued segregation and endanger the Peace Process.

7. Shared History & Culture

Programmes – 14 projects which increase knowledge and understanding of individual and collective history and heritage. Utilising local historical sites to identify/develop our shared history.

Delivery of the Action Plan began in early 2025 and will run until September 2027.

To keep informed of engagement opportunities and progress please visit [**www.newrymournedown.org/peaceplus**](http://www.newrymournedown.org/peaceplus) or email [**peace@nmandd.org**](mailto:peace@nmandd.org) and request to be placed on our database.

If you need information on the wider PEACEPLUS Programme managed by SEUPB (Special European Union's Programmes Body), please see their website where detailed information is available: [**www.seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS**](http://www.seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS)

