

PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan

'Thriving Together'



SEUPB Investment Area 1.1 supports the creation of **Co-Designed Local Community PEACEPLUS 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 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.

Your DEA	
Crotlieve	4&5
Downpatrick	5&6
Newry	7
Rowallane	7,8&9
Slieve Croob	-
Slieve Gullion	9&10
The Mournes	11
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SERC	13

How to get involved ?

If you would like to get involved in any of the projects that will be delivered throughout the Council Areas (DEA's) over the next two years please click on the link below or use the QR code and complete the online form to let us know which of the projects you are interested in.

Please note these are only some of the projects that will be delivered through the lifetime of the programme so keep an eye out for future newsletters to ensure you don't miss out on the exciting opportunities being delivered through our PEACEPLUS Co-designed Action Plan.

If you would like to receive future newsletters please email peace@nmandd.org and ask to be placed on the PEACEPLUS database.

<https://forms.office.com/e/tkS47WStCi>



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What is coming up ?

If you want to get involved in any of the projects listed in this newsletter, please register your interest via the link or QR code on the front page or email peace@nmandd.org

District Wide projects

Community led Health and Wellbeing Programmes

This community-led health and wellbeing programme invites local people to get involved in expanding support across the district, improving holistic wellbeing, and reducing health inequalities. Built around four key themes *Active Lives (physical activity and confidence) *Mind Matters (everyday wellbeing and resilience) *Stress Less (support during stress and crisis), and *Strong Choices (empowering healthy decision-making)—the programme offers inclusive opportunities to strengthen long-term community health.

[Register now](#)

A project supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

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District Wide projects

Transformation and Reimaging Programme



Transformation and Reimaging Programmes are designed to transform and re-image individual or collective areas within a community in a manner which challenge initial perceptions and increases levels of shared pride. Across the District these programmes will take places in 21 areas; Hilltown, Ballyholland, Warrenpoint, Ballyhornan, Ardglass, Killough, Armagh Road/Greater Linenhall Area, Carnagat / Derrybeg, Dublin Road, Ballynahinch, Crossgar/ Kilmore, Shrigley/ Derryboye /Darragh Cross, Drumaness, Drumaroad, Annsborough, Jonnesborough, Newtownhamilton, Cullyhanna, Newcastle, Annalong, Bryansford.

[Register now to join these programmes](#)

Community-Based Social Prescribing Programmes

The Social Prescribing Programme will deliver 4 initiatives that address social prescribing needs using community-led approaches. Each of the 4 initiatives will be delivered across the District area. Social Prescribing initiatives will be delivered in the areas of Social Support: reducing loneliness and isolation, building confidence and social skills, linking people to community groups, clubs, and volunteering, befriending or peer-support programmes. Emotional and Mental Wellbeing: mindfulness, or stress management classes, art, music, or creative therapies, support groups for bereavement, carers, or specific conditions. Physical Health and Lifestyle: Exercise and walking groups, healthy eating or cooking classes. Community Connection and Purpose: Volunteering or skills-building opportunities and encouraging active citizenship and participation.

[Register now to join these programmes](#)

Social and Emotional Support programmes

Community groups, youth organisations, and interested individuals across Newry, Mourne and Down are invited to register for a place in our upcoming Social and Emotional Support Programmes.

A dedicated facilitator will deliver 21 programmes, three in each District Electoral Area, designed for young people aged 12–18. Each programme will focus on building resilience, addressing bullying (including online bullying), and developing key skills such as empathy, emotional regulation, self-confidence, and positive peer support.

[Register now to join these programmes](#)

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District Wide project

Welcome, Navigate & Culture Swap Programme

This programme will deliver two complementary initiatives that promote inclusion, integration, community cohesion, and a stronger sense of belonging across the district. The Minority Community Integration initiative will help newcomer and minority ethnic participants build confidence in accessing local services, understanding available support, and navigating community life through practical workshops and guided visits. The Community Cultural Awareness and Exchange initiative will bring together newcomer, minority ethnic, and indigenous communities to explore culture, identity, traditions, and local history through interactive workshops and shared learning activities.

Register now- info@ffksolutions.com expected start date September

Council district area projects

Although the following projects are based within specific DEAs we welcome participants from across the Newry, Mourne and Down District area.

Crotlieve

Sustainably Served from Kitchen to Market

This project will support local home-based and small-scale food and drink enterprises to adopt sustainable and environmentally responsible business practices, develop market readiness, and build new relationships across the industry. The project will culminate in a showcase event, where participants will have the opportunity to sell their products directly to customers, through a pop-up store or market stall.

Register Now – info@ffksolutions.com

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Although the following projects are based within specific DEAs we welcome participants from across the Newry, Mourne and Down District area.

Crotlieve

Capacity Building Events Training for Community Groups

Inviting participants from community groups to take part in events training. Learn how to plan and manage safe, inclusive and financially sustainable community events. This course will cover first aid and emergency preparedness, safeguarding, stewarding, volunteer coordination and financial management.

Register Now – info@ffksolutions.com

Summer Scheme- Giants and Heroes of Rostrevor

The project will explore the lives and legacy of two remarkable figures connected with Rostrevor: Giant Murphy and Honest John Martin. Through storytelling, drama, music, creative writing, art and local heritage activities, children aged 8-11 will discover how real people become part of a place's memory, folklore and shared identity. The summer scheme will take place at the Cloughmore Centre, Kilbroney Park, from Monday 17 August to Friday 21 August 2026, with a final family and community sharing event at the end of the week.

Register Now-info@culturallanncr.org

Downpatrick

The history of mental health care in Down District

Inviting participants to engage in a project that will use art to explore shared mental health history, challenge stigma, and uncover overlooked narratives at Down County Museum.

Register Now – Start date September

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Although the following projects are based within specific DEAs we welcome participants from across the Newry, Mourne and Down District area.



Downpatrick Food Fusion Festival

Join the Food Fusion Festival through workshops and discover the rich mix of cultures, traditions and flavours that make our community unique. Through food, storytelling and shared experiences, you'll meet new people, learn something new, and help create a vibrant community celebration. The programme will take place between September to October 2026. No previous experience needed.

Register now - admin@artsekt.org.uk

Mental Health First Aid Training

This project will deliver accredited Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training, strengthening the capacity of local community and voluntary groups to identify, respond to, and signpost individuals experiencing mental health challenges. Participants will gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence to recognise the early signs of poor mental health, provide initial support, and connect individuals with appropriate professional services and community-based resources. The training will help create a network of informed and compassionate community members who can promote positive mental wellbeing and reduce stigma surrounding mental health issues.

Register now – Expected start date September 2026

First Aid course with CPR and AED Trainer Programme

This programme will equip members of community and voluntary organisations with accredited First Aid certification, lifesaving CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) skills, and the confidence to cascade essential AED awareness within their own groups. The programme combines formal first aid certification with a train the trainer approach. The train the trainer element will extend the reach and impact of the project, allowing vital lifesaving knowledge to be shared more widely and encouraging greater community confidence in responding to emergencies.

Register now – Expected start date September 2026

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Newry

Capacity Building Events Training for Community Groups

Inviting participants from community groups to take part in events training. Learn how to plan and manage safe, inclusive and financially sustainable community events. This course will cover first aid and emergency preparedness, safeguarding, stewarding, volunteer coordination and financial management.

Register Now – info@ffksolutions.com

Sustainably Made, Ready to Trade

This programme will work directly with local producers, makers, growers, creatives, and early-stage enterprises, supporting them to improve sustainability, develop market readiness, and build new relationships across local home industries. The project will culminate in a showcase event, where participants will have the opportunity to sell their products directly to customers, through a pop-up store or market stall.

Register Now – info@ffksolutions.com

Rowallane

Rowallane People and Places

This is a community led project focused on celebrating the people, places, and traditions of the Rowallane area. The project brings together two key strands: Oral histories of residents, and exploration of significant local landmarks, particularly religious and historic sites of different denominations that relate to these oral histories. The project will capture personal stories, documenting place-based culture and heritage. This project aims to strengthen community identity, promote intergenerational engagement, preserve local culture and history for future generations and highlight how these are connected across the communities.

Register now – Expected start date September 2026

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Rowallane

Rowallane & Beyond Tastes and Traditions Festival

Participants are invited to explore good practice in creating inclusive celebrations, with a particular emphasis on the rich relationship between food and cultural traditions both within the local Rowallane area and around the world. Participants will work collaboratively to plan and deliver a final community event.

[Register now](#) - Expected start date September 2026

Steps Through Time

Running every Tuesday throughout September, we invite participants to explore nature, heritage, folklore, and local history through a series of guided outdoor experiences. Through guided walks and outdoor experiences, participants will discover local history, folklore, wildlife, and cultural heritage while enjoying gentle physical activity and social connection.

[Register now](#) to join this programme- running every Tuesday throughout September

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[Register now](#) – Expected start date September 2026

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Rowallane

Boccia & Inclusive Activity Programme

The programme will introduce participants to Boccia and Indoor Floor Curling, two inclusive and accessible activities that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. The programme is open to everyone and is particularly suitable for less mobile individuals, providing opportunities to take part in sport in a supportive and welcoming environment. Through regular participation, individuals will be encouraged to improve their physical wellbeing, develop coordination and mobility, and maintain an active lifestyle.

[Register now](#) - Expected start date September 2026

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[Register now](#) – Expected start date September 2026

Slieve Gullion

Sacred Spaces: Chapels, Churches and Meeting Houses of Slieve Gullion

We are seeking participants for "Sacred Spaces: Churches, Chapels & Meeting Houses of Slieve Gullion," a new programme exploring the shared history and cultural significance of the area's historic places of worship. The project will create inclusive opportunities for engagement, strengthen community connections through shared storytelling and digital heritage preservation, and support sustainable communities by celebrating, safeguarding, and digitally archiving culturally and historically important local assets.

[Register now](#) – Expected start date August 2026

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Slieve Gullion

Woven Through Time: Exploring the Shared Heritage of Bessbrook

Celebrate the history and industrial heritage of Bessbrook through an engaging programme of expert led talks, workshops, and hands on activities. Explore how the village's industrial past has shaped its identity. Participants will enjoy a guided historical walking tour of Bessbrook, a relevant study visit, and a practical weaving workshop. Join us to discover, learn, and connect with Bessbrook's unique heritage.

[Register now](#) – Expected start Autumn 2026

The Mournes

Mapping the Mournes

This project is a series of indoor and outdoor workshops taking place from summer to winter 2026 celebrating the past and future of Irish, Ulster Scots and the languages of the mountains. Participants will enjoy a series of Walks in the Mournes, Creative mapping workshops, Exploring the Mournes by boat and Arts workshops celebrating Irish and Ulster Scots.

[Register now](#) – Expected start date August 2026

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Register now – Expected start date September 2026

On the PLUS side

Community Planting Session Brings People Together at Meigh Community Centre

Delivered by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), Bloom and Branch focuses on increasing biodiversity, expanding native tree cover, and raising awareness of the important role pollinators play in ecosystems and food production. The programme also promotes community collaboration, encouraging participation from people of different backgrounds and traditions to work together on shared environmental goals.

A recent community planting session at Meigh Community Centre has brought local residents together to support biodiversity and enhance their local environment as part of the ongoing Bloom and Branch initiative. Further sessions and opportunities to get involved in Bloom and Branch will continue to be rolled out across the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area. If you would like to get involved e-mail:

bloomandbranch@tcv.org.uk



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On the PLUS side



Voices of the Land: Poetry and Songs from Crotlieve

During June, Voices of the Land: Poetry and Songs from Crotlieve brought people together for a unique cross-community creative programme celebrating the heritage, stories, and landscapes of the Crotlieve area. Delivered by Oriel Events and acclaimed local singer-songwriter Colum Sands, the programme combined poetry, songwriting, and storytelling with contributions from musicians, cultural practitioners, and local historians.

Participants developed new creative skills, explored the area's shared history and identity, and created original work inspired by Crotlieve. The programme concluded with a celebration event, showcasing the creativity and connections that had been built throughout the workshops. A booklet and celebration event will take place in September to showcase the work by participants.

A lovely course that really brought people together in a safe and meaningful way. Respectfully learning about others experience and culture.

The project was wonderful and important in building community cohesion through the creative use of the arts.

Mourne Stimulus Celebrates Disability Learning Week with Blooming Festival

Mourne Stimulus Kilkeel recently took part in a six-week programme of creative workshops, culminating in a festival celebration for Learning Disability Week. The workshops included flower art, gardening, Makaton, painting, and a day trip to Silent Valley. Participants enjoyed refreshments on arrival before taking part in team-building activities facilitated by Strangford Lough Activity Centre, followed by an interactive music session with local musician CeeV and a visit from an ice-cream van.

"I had a really great day. My favourite part was playing the games and singing along with CeeV. It was lovely getting out for the day, spending time with my friends, and enjoying an ice cream in the sunshine."



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Our Delivery Partner **SERC** are delivering the following programmes:



Project Management and Volunteering:

This exciting programme will support participants to identify, plan and deliver a volunteering project in the local community. Participants will undertake the Level 3 qualifications in Project Management and the OCN Level 2 qualification in Volunteering Skills, that will develop planning, management and stakeholder engagement skills.

Introduction to digital skills:

This programme will be delivered through a series of tailored workshops and mentoring to support the development of skills in Social Media and Digital Marketing, Office 365 applications and a greater understanding of the funding landscape. The Skills Development Programme is ideal for anyone engaged in supporting groups across the community and voluntary sector or for anyone who would like to expand their skills in these areas.

Skills for employment:

The Skills for Employment will provide participants with the support they need to develop skills and build confidence and motivation to support their journey onto employment. Participants will undertake the City and Guilds Level 1 Qualification in Employability that will develop the skills, attributes and values that are needed to enter and succeed in the workplace.

Civic Leadership and mentoring:

The programme aims to increase civic participation on a multigenerational basis, including minority and newcomer communities. This is an introductory programme to enable 'tomorrow's community leaders' to develop the necessary skills and knowledge, supported by group mentoring to help build confidence and capability and develop lasting cross-community relationships.

Gender Empowerment:

This programme will provide fun, engaging and innovative activity programmes for single identity gender groups across Newry, Mourne and Down. Through a six-week workshop-based programme, participants can engage in new skills activity based on the needs of the groups.

To get further details on the above and how to register please visit :
www.serc.ac.uk/Peace-Plus-Programmes-for-Newry-Mourne-and-Down-District-Council

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