

# PEACEPLUS Local 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 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.

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## 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](mailto:peace@nmandd.org) and ask to be placed on the PEACEPLUS database.

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



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## Community Engagement Events



We delivered a number of community engagement events throughout the District in December for you to hear more about the projects being delivered in your area and how to get involved.

We will be delivering a further series of engagement events across the district in the week beginning **8th April 2026**. Promotion of these events will take place via social media, local press, and appropriate contact databases.

If you would like to receive future newsletters please email [peace@nmandd.org](mailto:peace@nmandd.org) and ask to be placed on the PEACEPLUS database.



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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.



## District Wide projects

### Transformation Reimagining Programme

Across the District we will be delivering 21 transformation and re-imagining projects which will be 3 in each DEA. An example of a project would be development of a community garden, play zone or cafe which are aimed at challenging perceptions and increasing shared pride in the Council area. These projects aim to challenge initial perceptions and increase levels of shared pride in the Council area.

**Send Recommendations in now via the link or QR code on the front page**

### Cross community Civic Pride Programme Bloom and Branch

Inviting participants to participate in this community-led environmental action programme, focusing on enhancing pollinator-friendly native habitats and promoting awareness of pollinators' vital role in biodiversity, ecosystem health and food production across the district. The project will also increase tree cover, enhance biodiversity, and support climate change mitigation.

**Register Now – Expected Start date Feb 2026**

### 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 – Expected Start Date Feb 2026**

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### Crotlieve

**Capacity building programme First aid training:** Inviting participants to participate in First aid training, which will enable community volunteers to respond quickly and confidently during emergencies, preventing injuries from worsening and improving overall community safety. It will also strengthen community resilience by equipping more people with essential, practical lifesaving skills.

[Register Now](#) – Start date 19th Feb 2026

**Cultural programme Voices of the Land, Poetry and songs from Crotlieve:** Take part in an inspiring cultural programme combining workshops, guided site visits, and group writing sessions. Deepen your creative practice and discover the rich heritage of the Crotlieve area through shared learning and exploration.

[Register Now](#) – Start date March 2026

### Downpatrick

**World Textiles Cultural Programme:** Inviting participants to take part in a Cultural Programme "World Textiles" to bring together people from different backgrounds. The aim is to help them learn about textiles, fashion, and costume traditions from different cultures, including local traditions and those from around the world. The programme will explore how textiles and clothing are connected to personal identity, family history, and the wider history of communities.

[Register Now](#) – Expected Start date Feb 2026

**Port and Town History & Culture Programme:** Inviting participants to take part in a Community Led Shared History and Culture Programme, Port and Town, a community designed project looking at the heritage of the Quoile River and the development of Downpatrick focusing on 'what connects us'. Dispelling myths & perceptions and providing understanding on how our past links to our future.

[Register Now](#) – Expected Start date March/ April 2026

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### 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](#) – Expected Start date March/April 2026

### 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](#) – Expected Start date April/May 2026

**Newry Canal & Our Engineering Heritage:** Inviting Participants to take part in workshops, talks, and site visits to explore the region's canal history and engineering. You will learn about construction, key engineers, and technical drawing through hands-on activities and guided research.

[Register Now](#) – Expected Start date Feb/March 2026

**A History of Social Housing in Newry and Mourne:** Inviting participants to participate in this cultural programme that will celebrate the history of social housing communities in Newry Mourne & Down and raise the consciousness of the contribution of socially housed communities in Newry to the history and politics of the city and provide a forum for grassroots engagement regarding the challenges and opportunities of social housing.

[Register Now](#) – Expected Start date Feb 2026

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### Newry

**Castles and Tower Houses of East Ulster and Louth:** Inviting participants to participate in this cultural programme highlight the rich network of medieval tower houses and castles across East Ulster and County Louth, showing how they illuminate the region's built heritage, shifting settlement patterns, community relationships, land use and ownership, internal and external conflicts, cultural and economic change, maritime heritage, and the development of towns.

[Register Now – Expected Start date Feb 2026](#)

### Rowallane

**Family History & Immigrations Project/ local landmark explorations:** invites participants to explore the stories of families who shaped the region, tracing ancestral roots through local records, landscapes, and long-standing community landmarks. Through guided research, on-site explorations and recording of local stories the project connects personal histories with the cultural and environmental heritage of Rowallane.

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

### Slieve Croob

**Martin Waddell Project:** We are seeking participants for a programme celebrating the work of internationally acclaimed children's author Martin Waddell, whose stories have inspired generations. A Newcastle native, Waddell draws much of his inspiration from the Slieve Croob area. The project will use his works to engage the community, foster cross-community connections, promote literacy, and encourage cultural exploration rooted in the local environment.

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

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### Slieve Croob

**Nature and Heritage in Harmony Programme:** This programme aims to bring people together across Castlewellan through shared environmental, horticultural, and cultural activities. Participants build sustainable living skills, learn about biodiversity, and celebrate local traditions. By encouraging stewardship, collaboration, and cross-community connection, the project strengthens community identity and lays the groundwork for future cultural and environmental initiatives.

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

### Slieve Gullion

**Together Empowering Abilities and Minds:** We invite participants to join a new capacity-building programme, designed to support children with additional needs by enhancing inclusive play, sensory engagement, and social interaction. The programme will also equip parents and volunteers with the skills and confidence to create safe, stimulating environments while strengthening the sustainability and community presence of local groups.

[This project is now fully subscribed.](#)

**Men's Shed Podcasting Initiative:** We are seeking participants for a collaborative Men's Sheds project. This initiative will bring local sheds together to build practical digital skills such as: recording, editing, and online promotion, while also creating a safe space for open conversations about men's health. The project aims to strengthen connections between sheds and leave a lasting legacy of shared skills, equipment, and experience.

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

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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.



### 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 spring 2026

### The Mournes

**Disability and Creativity Festival:** Inviting participants to participate in creative workshops, accredited training, and inclusive visits. This programme will culminate in a free public festival in the Mournes, celebrating the contributions of people with disabilities and fostering cross-community engagement and peacebuilding.

Register Now Expected Start Date Spring/Summer 2026

### History and Culture Programme, Exploring the past and the future for Celtic Languages & Ulster Scots:

Inviting participants to take part in a Community Led Shared History and Culture Programme, exploring the past and the future for Celtic Languages & Ulster Scots focusing on 'what connects us', dispelling myths & perceptions and providing understanding on how our past links to our future.

Register Now – Expected Start date March 2026

**Our Mournes Our Stories:** Inviting participants aged 50+ to join a community film and storytelling project celebrating our shared heritage through interviews, workshops and film. Learn digital and storytelling skills. Meet new people and build connections, be a part of a televised documentary, preserve your story for future generations.

Register Now—Expected Start date Feb 2026

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### Volunteers Trained in Essential First Aid



The first of our **capacity-building programmes** has successfully taken place in Crotlieve, with 11 active community representatives from a range of local groups completing certified first aid training. Participants undertook an intensive course covering essential life-saving skills, including CPR, the use of defibrillators, wound care, and how to respond calmly and confidently in emergency situations.

One participant spoke highly of the experience, saying: *"I thoroughly enjoyed the training. It has given me confidence, and I really enjoyed interacting with everyone on the course."*

As a result of this training, the community is now better equipped to support local events, activities, and everyday situations, providing added reassurance for residents and visitors alike.



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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](http://www.serc.ac.uk/Peace-Plus-Programmes-for-Newry-Mourne-and-Down-District-Council)

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