

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.

Your DEA

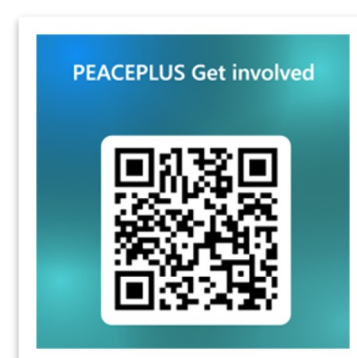
Crotlieve	4
Downpatrick	4
Newry	5
Rowallane	6
Slieve Croob	6
Slieve Gullion	6 & 7
The Mournes	7
SERC	8

How to get involved ?

If you would like to get involved in any of the projects that will be delivered throughout the Councils (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.

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



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Community Engagement Events

Below is a list of community engagement events taking place for you to hear more about the projects being delivered in your area and how to get involved please come along to one of the following events. Please call 0330 137 4949 or visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/newry-mourne-down-district-council to confirm attendance.

Please note evening sessions will be run through out the District in late spring.



Venue	Date	Time
Crossmaglen Community Centre	Monday 08 th December	12-2pm
Newry Leisure Centre	Tuesday 09 th December	11:30-1pm
Newcastle Centre	Wednesday 10 th December	12-2pm
Saintfield Community Centre	Thursday 11 th December	12-2pm
Castlewellan Centre	Monday 15 th December	12-2pm
Hilltown Community Centre	Tuesday 16 th December	12-2pm
Down Leisure Centre	Wednesday 17 th December	12-2pm
Online (Teams)	Thursday 18 th December	12-2pm



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

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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 Reimaging Programme

Across the District we will be delivering 21 transformation and re-imaging 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 challenges initial perceptions and increases 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 Jan/Feb 2026

Community led Health and Wellbeing Programmes

Inviting participants to join this community-led health and wellbeing programme, which aims to expand service provision in key areas across the district and bring local people together to improve holistic wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.

Register now – Expected Start Date Jan/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.



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](#) – Expected Start date Jan/Feb 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 Jan/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 Jan/Feb 2026

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 Jan/Feb 2026

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Newry

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. They'll learn about construction, key engineers, and technical drawing through hands-on activities and guided research.

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

Community Journalism and Media Training: Inviting participants to participate in this training programme, that will empower community members with the necessary skills to produce and share credible, ethical and impactful local stories. This programme will equip participants with foundational and advanced skills in news gathering, multimedia storytelling, ethics in journalism and local reporting.

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

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 Jan/Feb 2026

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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

Living History Project – Castlewellan Historic Demense: We are seeking participants for a programme celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Castlewellan Historic Demesne. Participants will take part in creative, heritage-inspired activities and cross-community collaboration. The programme will conclude with a shared archive and celebratory event showcasing the project's outcomes for future generations.

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

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

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

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Slieve Gullion

Mens 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 Jan/Feb 2026

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 Jan/Feb 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.

Get Registered Before Jan 2026



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



Civic Leadership:

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.

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