

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	5
Downpatrick	5&6
The Mournes	6&7
Newry	7&8
Rowallane	8&9
Slieve Croob	-
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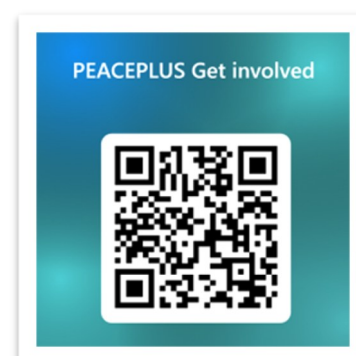
How to get involved ?

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 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.

These programmes focus on resilience training for young people aged approximately 12-18 years, addressing bullying (including online bullying) and harassment, and fostering skills in empathy, emotional regulation, self confidence, and peer support.

[Further details can be obtained by emailing chloe@bolstercommunity.org](mailto:chloe@bolstercommunity.org)

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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 October

Rhythm Across Generations

This intergenerational music and dance project will bring people of all ages together to explore how music and dance has evolved through the decades. Through fun, interactive workshops, participants will have the opportunity to learn new skills, play music, dance, and share personal stories and memories. The project celebrates our shared heritage while fostering understanding, connection, and lasting friendships across generations.

Register now: expected start – November

Responsive Peace Building - United through Play and Expression

This programme will engage young people aged 12 to 18 from across Newry, Mourne and Down in a series of activities designed to build positive relationships, understanding, and respect between communities. Using sport, play, and creative activities, participants will explore topics such as identity, culture, inclusion, stereotypes, discrimination and emotional wellbeing. Through shared experiences, guided discussions, and practical learning, the programme will help young people develop empathy, strengthen connections, and apply these skills within their schools, clubs, and communities.

Register Now: expected start date November

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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 showcase their products through a pop-up store or market stall.

Register Now – info@ffksolutions.com

Farmers Festival

This project celebrates the farming heritage of the Mourne area while bringing people together through shared learning and experiences. Participants can attend heritage trips to the NI Ploughing Championships 26 September and the Ulster Folk Museum, Cultra 10 October, or take part in the Farmers Festival at Hilltown Hall 24 October. The festival will feature traditional craft demonstrations, bread-making, a seed and cuttings exchange, historical film screenings, shared food, and live music, creating opportunities for learning, cultural exchange, and community connection.

Register now- sinead.mcaleavey@gmail.com

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 October

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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 happen every Tuesday in November, with the festival day happening on Saturday 21st November.

Register now: [start date November](#)

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. 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 – [Start date October](#)

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.

Register now – [Start date October 2026](#)

The Mournes

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. [Register now – Start date October 2026](#)

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The Mournes

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. 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 – Start date October

Newry

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 showcase their products through a pop-up store or market stall.

Register Now – info@ffksolutions.com

Graphic design Training

Learn how to create posters, flyers and social media graphics using Canva in this practical 6-week course. Starting Wednesday 21st October 2026 6.30pm – 8.30pm at Ballybot House Newry.

Register now—Start date 21st October :

Inclusive Sports Festival

This programme will equip coaches, volunteers, and community leaders with the skills and confidence to ensure sports are more inclusive for people with disabilities and additional needs. It will culminate in an Inclusive Sports Festival at Newry Leisure Centre on 3 December 2026, bringing together around 200 people to experience adapted sports, learn about inclusion, and connect with local clubs and organisations.

Register now: Beginning in October

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Newry

The Arabic Learning Hub

This Arabic language and cultural programme will help children and families develop language skills while exploring Arabic culture and traditions. Through interactive workshops, participants learn everyday vocabulary, family themes, food, stories, and celebrations using games, songs, role play, and creative activities. Parents are encouraged to support learning at home, and the programme concludes with a showcase event where children share their achievements through storytelling, speeches, and performances.

Register now: [Beginning in October - eileen@craicni.com](mailto:eileen@craicni.com)

Rowallane

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. 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 – [Start date October](#)

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 - [Start date October 2026](#)

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Rowallane

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.

Register now – Start date October 2026

Slieve Gullion

Market Ready, Makers of the Mountain; Crafted by Community

This initiative seeks to revive a small number of endangered local craft traditions and transform them into viable visitor experiences, supporting both cultural preservation and rural economic development.

Register now: info@ffksolutions.com

Sports for all

Join us for an exciting Sports for All programme designed specifically for children with Special Educational Needs and their families. From adapted sports sessions to fun family activity days, the project will provide safe and supportive opportunities to stay active, make friends, and build confidence. Together, we're creating a community where everyone can participate, achieve, and enjoy the benefits of sport.

Register now – event date: Saturday 17th October 1pm – 6pm, Camlough

Women in Farming

This programme will support women living and working within farming families by building confidence, improving health and wellbeing, and developing practical farming and life skills. It will also help strengthen family and community support networks. The programme will include a range of workshops, practical demonstrations, peer support sessions, and networking opportunities, providing women with the chance to learn new skills, share experiences, and build meaningful connections.

For further information, please contact: majellagollogly@rhpsa.org

Register now: expected start date mid October.

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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

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: edie@craicni.com start date 6th October

On the PLUS side

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

This project created inclusive opportunities for 22 participants, strengthening community connections through shared storytelling and digital heritage preservation. The participants have thoroughly enjoyed this programme, and are now eagerly awaiting their celebration event, which is due to take place in the coming weeks.



Voices & Traditions Summer Scheme – Slieve Croob

The summer scheme provided a welcoming and inclusive environment where children could learn about local customs and cultural practices whilst having fun during their school holidays. Through interactive workshops and hands-on activities, participants were encouraged to share their own experiences and learn from one another, fostering respect, understanding and positive relationships.



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On the PLUS side



Flowering in the Mournes Celebrates Heritage and Community

Participants gathered at Bagenal's Castle with Cllr Terry Andrews our PEACEPLUS chairperson to celebrate the completion of the Flowering in the Mournes Whitework Programme, a project that brought 22 people together to learn traditional embroidery skills while exploring the rich heritage of Mourne whitework. The programme provided participants with the opportunity to develop embroidery techniques, learn about the history of flowering, and share personal stories and experiences throughout a series of creative workshops.



Giants and Heroes of Rostrevor Summer Scheme Celebrates Local Heritage

Twenty-one children from across Crotlieve took part in the Giants and Heroes of Rostrevor Summer Scheme in August, an inclusive programme exploring the stories and legends of Honest John Martin and Giant Murphy. The five-day programme combined local heritage, creativity, and fun through storytelling, drama, music, art, and a guided heritage walk. Participants explored the lives and legends of two iconic local figures while learning about themes of courage, fairness, belonging, and community. The programme concluded with a family and community celebration event, where participants proudly showcased their work through music, storytelling, displays, and a child-led performance.



Weaving the Past Into Our Future Project.

This project revived and celebrated traditional heritage skills through a series of weaving workshops and oral history story circles. By combining hands-on learning with storytelling, participants had the opportunity to learn about loom weaving, share local stories, and explore ways of preserving and adapting these important crafts for future generations.

Click on the [link](#) to hear directly from participants.



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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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