

**Living Well Together**

**A Community Plan for  
Newry, Mourne and  
Down**

**Statement of Progress  
2022-2023**

## Our Vision

"Newry, Mourne and Down is a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high-quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people's needs."

## Community Planning – Review of Community Plan

The Partnership undertook to commence a review process in 2021. To enable this, the Partnership agreed that a programme of engagement be undertaken with key stakeholders to ascertain views on what is working well within the current structures as well as asking them to identify areas for improvement and reflect on the impact of COVID19.

The structure of the consultation and subsequent engagement activities were as follows:

1. Speak NMD online engagement
2. Older peoples Forum x2 (Downpatrick & Newry)
3. Youth Voice
4. 7 DEA Forums (Downpatrick/Newry)
5. Strategic Stakeholder Forum
6. Community Planning Strategic Partnership Board
7. NMD Officers/CEO Consultation

The consultation meetings took the form of a short presentation to set the scene followed by facilitated and interactive discussions. All the information and feedback from the stakeholder engagement was collated and presented to the Community Planning Partnership Board on 9 January 2023. The Board were also provided with data describing progress to date, baseline data about each of the outcomes and the feedback from the NMDDC residents survey. The Partnership was asked to consider all this information and reflect on what worked well, and how we get there.

### Key Findings:

These recommendations were endorsed by the Partnership at their Board meeting in June 2023, and the Partnership continues to implement these recommendations:

- The redesign of priority areas, working groups and actions; prioritising fewer action with clear outcomes and identified lead partners. The thematic mechanisms should be employed to review and refine the priorities through regular summits.
- Improved linkages between the Community Planning Partnership, DEA Fora and other partnerships to increase the flow of information, improve coordination and reduce duplication of activity.
- Build on the lessons learned from the COVID response with greater support for the Community Voluntary sector and more flexible and responsive approached to meet the emerging needs within the district.
- Explore the opportunities for to improve funding models through pooling of Partners resources and increasing the role of Participatory Budgeting within the District.
- The Partnership should review their terms of reference and meeting structures to ensure they make the most effective use of Partners time.

- The Partnership explore the role of Community Wealth Building approaches in achieving the outcomes within their plan.
- Update the indicators and measures within the Community Plan
- Include reference to the needs of older people within the plan

## Review of Indicators and measures

The Community Plan contained 21 indicators, each of these indicators had a list of suggested measures against them. While some of these measures identified a specific data set, others did not have any specific, measurable data to support them or required several “proxy” measures to be included in their place.

In 2021 the Statement of Progress presented data relating to 63 measures, included in these were:

- proxy data had to be included in lieu of suggested measures,
- data which contained no longitudinal data for comparison,
- data that could not be reported at all.

The Stakeholder engagement conducted in 2023 identified that the indicators and measures within the Community Plan should be reviewed

The Councils Evidence and Research team conducted an appraisal of these existing indicators and measures. The team made a recommendation in relation to each measure that it is either, retained, removed, or replaced or amended. The agreed changes were reviewed and subsequently agreed by the Partnership board. The agreed indicators and measures were subject to public consultation. **Appendix 1** outlines the reviewed outcomes, indicators and the measures and includes the latest baseline data around each measure.

## Progress to date

### Health And Wellbeing Thematic Summit

Newry, Mourne and Down Community Planning Partnership hosted the Living Well Together: Health and Wellbeing Thematic Summit on Thursday 26 October in the Canal Court Hotel. The aim of the summit was to bring together key stakeholders from Council's Community Planning Partnership, Statutory Partners, Community Voluntary groups and local elected representatives, who share a passion for improving health and wellbeing to learn from best practise elsewhere and to identify the key health and wellbeing needs for our District.

Over 100 people attended the summit hosted by freelance broadcaster and champion of local voices and stories, Lynette Faye. Keynote speaker was Catherine Murnin, Director of The Wellbeing Pathway, panel speakers were from the health and Wellbeing sector, including specialists from the Public Health Agency, the Department of Health, Department of Education and the Southern and the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts.

The summit provided opportunity for key participants breakout into workshops to identify the current challenges facing across the sector and highlight opportunities for collaborative action around themes that included:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Young People and Health
- Physical Activity
- Health and Wellbeing among Young People

Key findings from the event have been collated, while many detailed, and practical examples were given, several cross-cutting themes were identified across the workshops, these highlight the need for:

- Improved sharing of information
- Better coordination of activity.
- Joint promotion of key messaging.
- Increased sharing of facilities.
- Increased emphasis of transportation needs
- A coordinated focus around older people
- Identification of pooled budgets to enable community led activity.

This summit will provide important feedback to the Community Planning Partnership as they develop a Health and Wellbeing subgroup to consider the key findings and develop an action plan.

### Labour Market Partnerships

Newry, Mourne and Down Labour Market Partnership are continuing to deliver on their action plans, the aims of which are to improve employability outcomes and labour market

conditions of Newry, Mourne and Down residents through extensive engagement with partners at local and regional levels to make informed and evidence-based decisions.

During 2022/23 the action plan, delivered several programs including:

- Work Start Programme
- Business Start Up Development Programme
- Upskilling for Growth
- Chef's Bootcamps
- Transport Academy
- Childcare Academy
- Construction Academy

The LMP action plan Action Plan 2023 – 2024 has developed a program of activity for this financial year, this was developed through individual meetings with a number of the LMP partners, which concluded with engagement sessions with all partners of the LMP. As a result of this engagement, it has been agreed to drive progress in 3 core strategic and cross cutting themes which focus on outcomes which improve employability and labour market conditions across the NMD area:

- Theme 1: Economic Inactivity
- Theme 2: Skilled Labour Supply
- Theme 3: Disability

A summary of the 2023/ 24 actions are included in **appendix 2**.

### Addressing Digital Poverty

The digital poverty working group was formed in August 2021 during the COVID pandemic and brought together representatives from the community voluntary, education and local government sectors with the aims:

- Utilising the knowledge and experience of members to better understand the nature of digital poverty across the District and identify where further initiatives are required.
- To understand current activity addressing digital poverty and identify "gaps" in provision as well as opportunities for better coordination and collaboration.
- To identify funding opportunities to support community-based short-term initiatives to address the identified needs.
- To design, implement, monitor and report on initiatives assisting families in gaining access to online learning, adequate broadband or appropriate computer equipment.

The group secured funding through the Covid Recovery Fund to establish a financial assistance scheme. The awarded money was provided to the Strategic Stakeholder Forum who were well placed to identify local need within the community and through additional assessment provide appropriate support to those experiencing digital poverty or digital

exclusion in the form of either hardware devices such as laptops and tablets or by assisting with internet connections.

Wrap around services were also provided such as assisting individuals in using Facebook portal which allowed them to reconnect with people as well as contacting officials in areas such as welfare. Packs were distributed which signposted users to library facilities and other useful information/Services available. It also included leaflets on basic training on how to set up a laptop from the Regional College.

In August 2022 the Partnership decided that the project was completed, and a final project scorecard was produced **Appendix 3**

### Housing Needs Conference 2021

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in partnership with the Housing Executive have now hosted two very successful Housing Conferences (2019 & 2021) which have been attended by a large number of guests from statutory agencies, housing professionals, MPs, elected members and the community and voluntary sector.

An action plan was produced in 2019 and there has been considerable progress made to date, this was highlighted at the conference in 2021 and is detailed in the Statement of Progress 2019-2021.

The Housing needs subgroup are producing an updated Action Plan with the progress to date and are developing solutions to housing need while also considering how to continue innovative partnership working in 2024.

Other Thematic areas are considering this model of approach to partnership working as due to the success of these events.

### Sustainable Food Partnership

In 2021 the Partnership agreed to support the work of the Sustainable Food Places (SFP) Core Partnership Group, with several partners represented across their working groups.

With a focus on developing a comprehensive framework for sustainable food practices within the district, the Partnership initiated inclusive dialogue with individuals, community groups, businesses and council services engaged in sustainable food practices. This collaborative approach aimed to weave together ongoing projects, success stories, future plans, aspirations, and potential partnerships to shape a sustainable food landscape. By engaging a range of stakeholders, the Council aspires to enact positive change, closely monitor progress, and ultimately deliver impactful outcomes in its pursuit of a sustainable food future for the district.

In November 2023 the Council was awarded a Sustainable food places Bronze award. This award acknowledges the collaborative efforts to address societal challenges, ranging from food poverty and diet-related health issues to the preservation of family farms and independent food retailers.

## Community Support Partnership

Newry, Mourne and Down Community Support Partnership is a multi-agency partnership which aims to support vulnerable adults who are known to a range of partner agencies including the PSNI, NIHE, NIFRS and NIAS. The Partnership is chaired by Council's Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager and other partners include the SHSCT, SEHSCT, the Education Authority, Probation Board and three voluntary sector partners – Bolster Community, County Down Rural Community Network and Community Advice Newry, Mourne & Down.

Since its formation in late 2019 the Partnership has provided dedicated support to 33 individuals. This support has included help to access a range of services (including mental health, addiction and general health services), assistance with housing issues and return to education, employment and volunteering opportunities. Mental health and addiction issues were identified as being amongst the main challenges faced by clients. Additionally, domestic violence is a common issue faced by those referred to the Partnership. Housing/family issues as one of the main challenges, whilst anti-social behaviour and loneliness to be common challenges. Additional challenges commonly faced in some areas included self-harm/suicidal ideation, adverse childhood experiences, financial issues, learning difficulties, hoarding, physical health and being a victim of crime.

In other areas of NI these partnerships are known as Multi-Agency Support Hubs. NMD Community Support Partnership is the only group in NI to have substantive voluntary sector partners and this approach is now being considered as a model of best practice. The Support Partnership Chairperson and PSNI personnel have recently been invited to present on the CSP to staff from An Garda Síochána, Department of Justice (RoI) and the pilot Community Safety Partnerships in the RoI where a similar initiative is due to be rolled out during 2023 – and modelled on the involvement of the community / voluntary sector within Newry, Mourne & Down partnership.

## Speak NMD Citizen Engagement Project

Speak NMD engagement platform provides citizens with an opportunity to engage with members of the Newry, Mourne and Down Community Planning Partnership, the community sector, and other local organisations on a range of current topics, issues and challenges facing the district.

Currently the site has had 13 live engagements across 10 projects ranging from community assets projects to economic development engagements. There are currently 610 active users of this platform.

## Youth Voice

Newry, Mourne & Down Youth Council hosted a Youth Conference for the young people of the district on Tuesday 21st March 2023 in the Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle. The conference was planned, organised and run by young people from the Youth Council for young people engaging in Youth groups across the district of Newry, Mourne & Down.

The conference focused on their 3 themes for this year:

- Education & Life Skills
- Mental Health & Isolation



- Environment

These themes were chosen by the youth voice member to align to the objectives of the Districts Community Plan.

108 young people from across the district attended and engaged in a number of Workshop by the Youth Voice members supported by statutory/ community partners. A project scorecard for the conference is included under **Appendix 4**

### Participatory Budgeting – The Feedback Event

Newry Mourne and Down District Council Community Planning partners have recently completed three Communities Leading Change Participatory Budgeting celebration events across the district. £57,000 was allocated to 39 community groups voted for by the public.

Three events to celebrate how these groups spent their funding took place in March 2022. Each project aimed to promote positive mental health through social connectivity. The three events were held in Ballybot House Newry, The Burrendale Hotel Newcastle and Murphys Bar and Restaurant Downpatrick. Over 100 people attended these three events to showcase their projects.

Each group stood up in front of the community and presented how the funding was spent, how many people participated and how their project has helped contribute to positive mental health. The public decided who would receive funding by voting on the SpeakNMD platform, in which over 6000 votes were cast. Below are some examples:

### Case Study: Annalong Community Empowerment (ACE)



Annalong Together at Christmas brought the Annalong community together to decorate pre-made pallet Christmas trees which were displayed at shared spaces in the village – the community square at the bottom of Majors Hill and Annalong Community Centre. The trees, along with all Christmas lighting, were illuminated at an Annalong Together at Christmas event. Following the illuminations an event took place outside Annalong Community Centre. Children from local primary schools and local performers sang carols, Santa was in attendance and refreshments were provided. Over the Christmas period carol singing also took place across the village to ensure those less able could enjoy the singing.

*"So proud to be involved on behalf of The Jenny Foundation"*

*"It was a pleasure to be involved! Well done to everyone who put the display together and organised the project"*

*"Absolutely brilliant - well done to all involved"*

*"Just wanted to say thanks very much for leaving a tree to our house. It has been a hard few days for my kids and they really enjoyed painting it this morning.... My kids will miss Thursday night as they will be in isolation but delighted they still got to be a part of it!"*

*"Such a lovely event to be involved in and we look forward to taking part again next year"*



## Case Study: The Happiness Café



The project was to create a 6ft X 4ft mural and ensure it was a brightly coloured 3D depiction of topics that provide comfort and stimulation for people who have Dementia and their carers. We use the mural to increase Dementia Awareness and during Café sessions. It is an educational tool to prompt discussions of 'safe' subjects of conversation. It also can invoke memories of happier times.

*"Love that this will help people understand that we can still achieve things and have fun"*

*"This will help people understand people with Dementia are still people"*

*"This made me realise just how much we can still achieve together"*

*"I couldn't wait to continue our project each week"*

- **33 participants – everyone played a part in making items for the mural**
- **Outsourced building of the frame to Rostrevor Mens Shed**
- **We spent 10 weeks making a mural to illustrate the activities that our folks enjoy – these were additional sessions**

## Community Co-ordination Hub and Strategic Stakeholder forum

The Community Coordination Hub and Stakeholder Forum continue to bring together Community Voluntary sector representative and Statutory Partners to address ongoing and emerging needs across the District. Examples of projects they have led are highlighted below.

### Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has been working with The Executive Office and Community Planning partners, both statutory and Community voluntary to support the arrival of refugees and asylum seekers.

In April 2022, the Ukraine Assistance Centre was established in Newry Leisure Centre as a central point of support for those who were forced to leave their country after the Russian invasion. Services within the assistance centre included Jobs and Benefits, Education, Health, Housing and legal support. Between April 2022 and May 2023, 184 Ukrainian families visited the Centre and received support from the partner organisations.

Since January 2023, the District has welcomed a number of asylum seeker families in the emergency contingency accommodation in Newcastle as well as in dispersed housing across the District. With funding provided by the Executive Office, the Council has been providing

support to the new families through the Ethnic Minority Support Centre, and needs-based services and projects in partnership with local community/voluntary sector organisations.

### Social Supermarket

The Social Supermarket was set up by the Strategic Stakeholder Forum and led by Clanrye to provide food and a wraparound service to give support to 250 people over a 12-week period in exchange for a nominal weekly membership fee. Wraparound support included Community Nutrition, cooking on a Budget, Benefits advice, Budgeting, Health and Wellbeing and Training and employability skills. It was aimed at Participants who declared themselves as experiencing hardship and at risk of experiencing food poverty. They also had to live in the Downpatrick, Kilkeel, Newry and South Armagh areas and willing to avail of support focused on improving wellbeing. Total Budget/Spend: £178 462 provided by Department of Communities (DfC) from the Covid Recovery Funding.

Achievements to date:

- 301 people have been referred into the SSM Pilot
- 121 people in total received food vouchers.
- 117 of them were referred to Community Advice NMD for support.
- 72 people received a 1:1 consult with Community Advice NMD and the income generated for these individuals was £23,787.24.
- 60 people received Air fryers.
- 42 counselling sessions provided by MyMy have taken place.
- 24 counselling sessions provided by Mourne Matters have taken place and 50 counselling sessions have happened in-house via RHP.
- 50 people achieved a qualification in a range of areas including: Food Hygiene, Customer Service, First Aid, Mental Health.
- 6 people successfully found employment. Online training and health and wellbeing courses were popular with those people who worked part time. Entry and Exit interviews/surveys were completed and the feedback is excellent.

### Hardship Fund

The hardship fund is a project funded by the Covid Recovery Fund from DfC delivered by the Strategic Stakeholder forum using a trusted partner scheme. The project aim was to provide support to vulnerable families and most in need during the cost-of-living crises to include: provision of vouchers for essential items, food, gas, electric and heating. Targeted at those "most in need" and restricted to Food / Food Vouchers and utility bills.

The Lead partners were Confederation of Community Groups (£291,265.77- 103 Households to date) County Down Rural Community Network (£91,617.23 - 174 Households to date) Other partners are Women's Aid (£49280 41 families to date), Rural Health partnership (£33000 - 189 vulnerable people to date) and Bolster (£66000 30 Households to date).

## District Electoral Area Statement of Progress

DEA Forums continued to meet regularly during 2022 and 2023. Although, during part of 2023 meetings were paused to allow for Purdah in respect of the Council elections and a recruitment period for Independent Members. The recruitment exercise proved successful with the recruitment of 36 Independent Members representing a broad spectrum of sectors.

In 2022 and 2023 the DEAs returned to programme activity under their action plans although, during 2022, some activity was still impacted by Covid restrictions. In addition, Good Relations activity was limited in 2023 due to significant cuts in budget from The Executive Office

In 2023, a significant proportion of DEA activity focused on addressing the legacy of isolation experienced by some individuals due to covid and to helping to alleviate the stresses caused by the Cost of Living Crisis.

### [Newry Open House](#)

We provided a warm welcoming space each Monday morning in Newry Leisure Centre giving people an opportunity to spend time with friends and family, meet new people and find out information whilst enjoying a free cup of tea or coffee. The programme operated between October 2022 and April 23 and was attended by approximately 80 people per week.

### [South Armagh Champions League Programme](#)

The DEA worked in partnership with the Education Authority Youth Service and Councils Health Inequalities team to deliver a South Armagh Champions League Programme. Teams from across South Armagh were transported to Killeavy every Friday night for 10 weeks in the winter months to complete in a football league. The programme also involved weekly off pitch tasks which have a Health and Wellbeing focus. 94 young people from across South Armagh participated in the programme.

### [Men's Health Week](#)

Several projects were organised to mark Men's Health Week in June including a Viking Experience event for over 60 local men. Those attending had the chance to taste traditional foods from the era, visit the textile worker and the herbalist, try their hands at longbow archery and axe throwing as well as many more ancient crafts and skills.

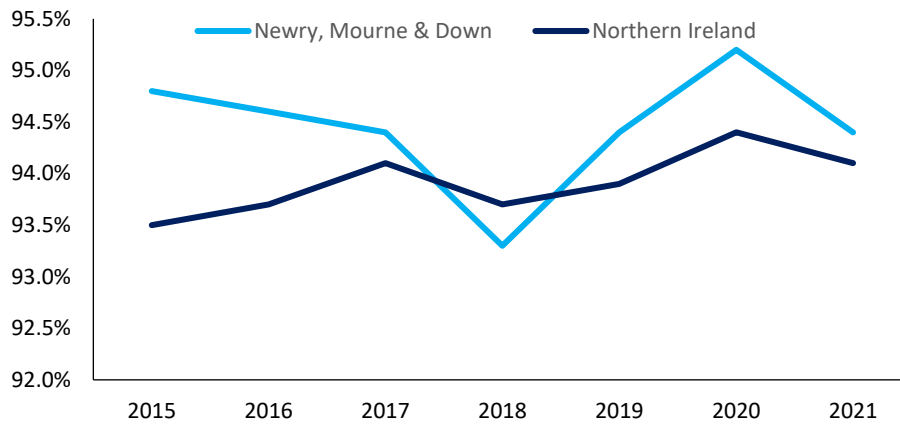
## **Appendix 1. Update on Indicators and Measures**

The charts below set out the latest data trends in relation to the Partnership's updated indicators and measures. Where possible the data is set out in a longitudinal graph over time to allow for easy identification of the trends within each measure during the period of the plan.

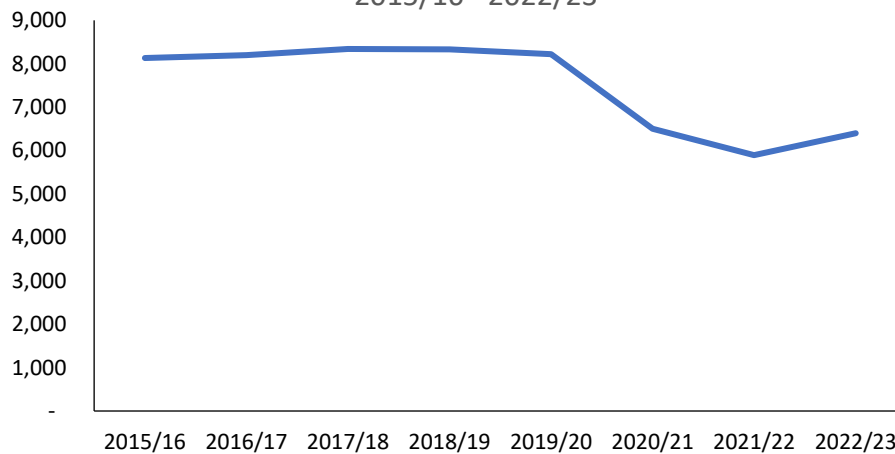
# 1. All people in Newry, Mourne and Down get a good start in life and fulfil their life long potential.

## Level of early year support

1.1.1: % of babies born at healthy weight, NMD vs NI, 2015-2021



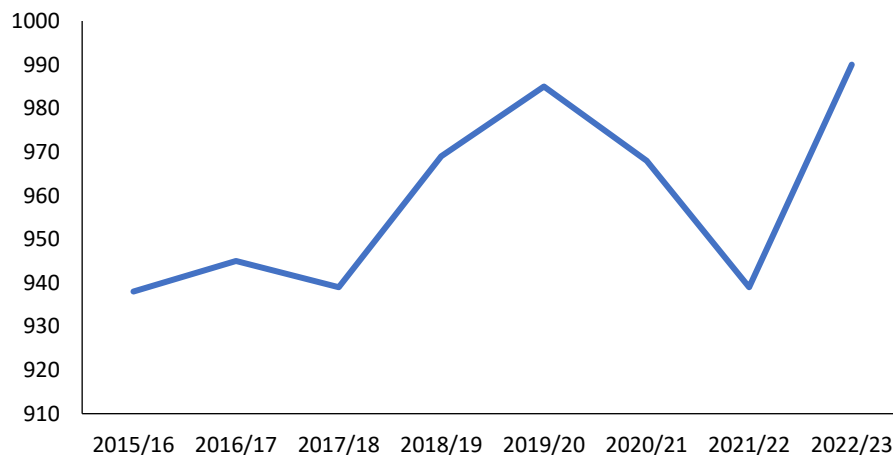
1.1.2: Children aged 0-5 registered with dentist, NMD, 2015/16 - 2022/23



Source: NISRA

Source: NISRA, BSO

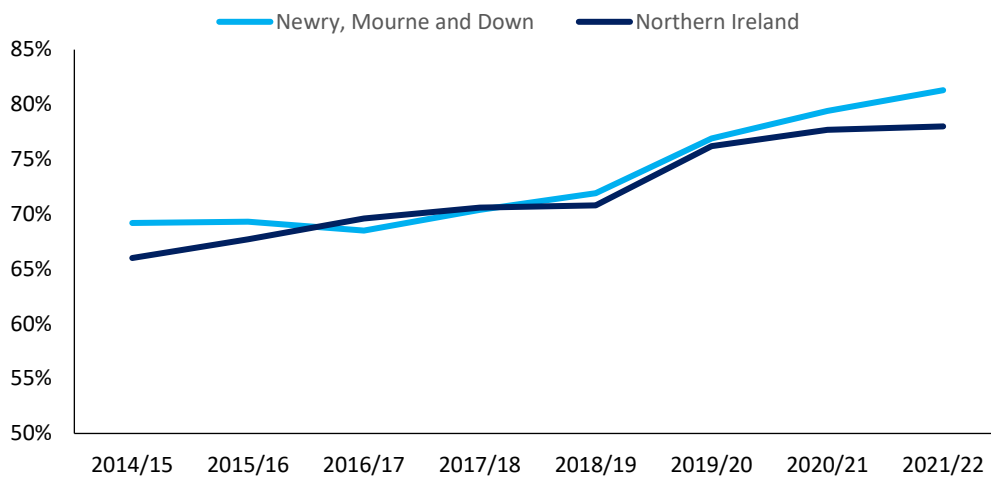
1.1.3: Available nursery places, NMD, 2015/16 - 2022/23



Source: NISRA

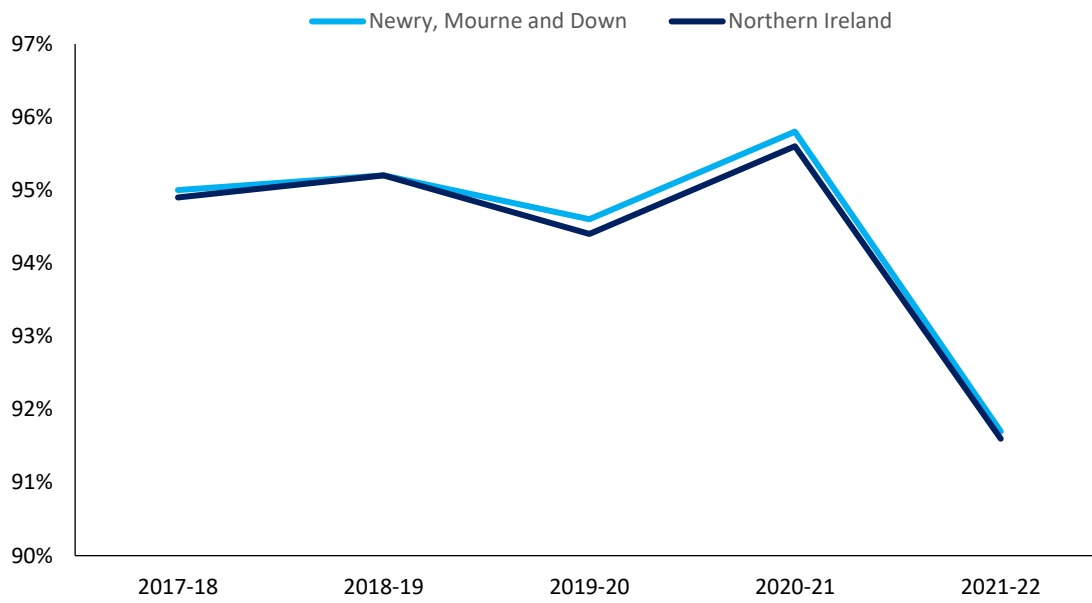
## Level of Educational Wellbeing

1.2.1: % of school leavers achieving level 5 GCSE including in English and Maths, NMD vs NI, 2014/15 - 2021/22



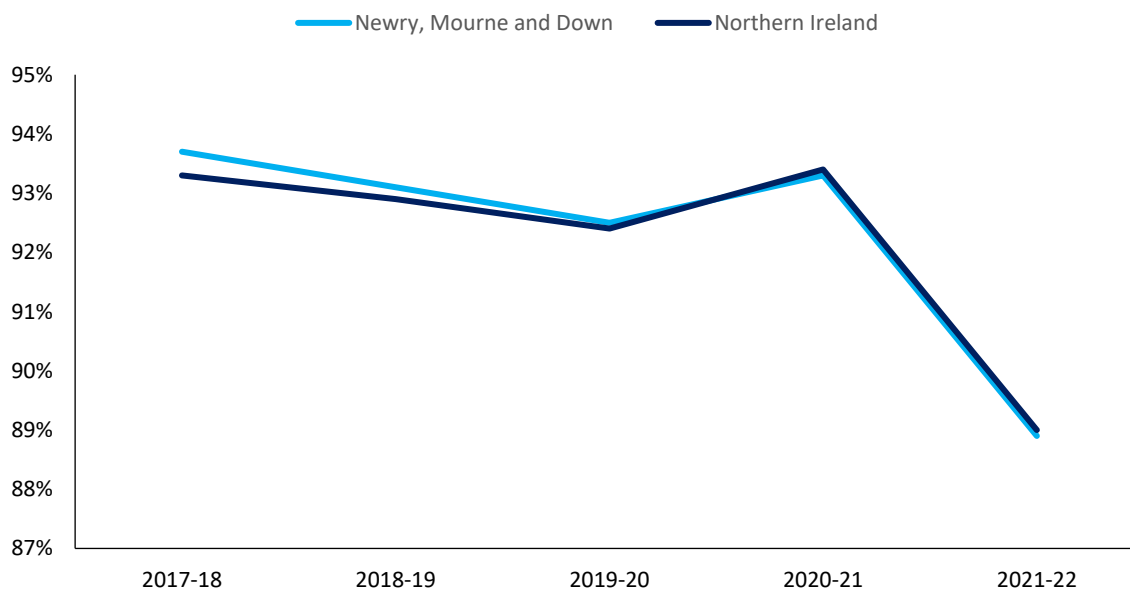
Source: NISRA

1.3a: Attendance level at primary schools, NMD vs NI, 2017-18 - 2021/22



Source: NISRA

1.3b: Attendance level at secondary schools, NMD vs NI, 2017-18 - 2021/22

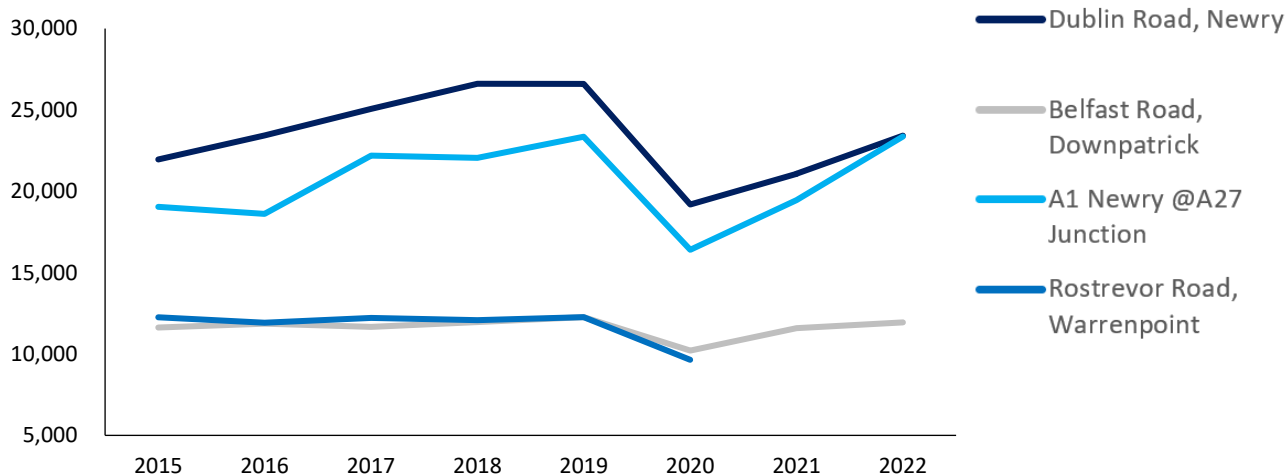


Source: NISRA



## Level of Connectivity

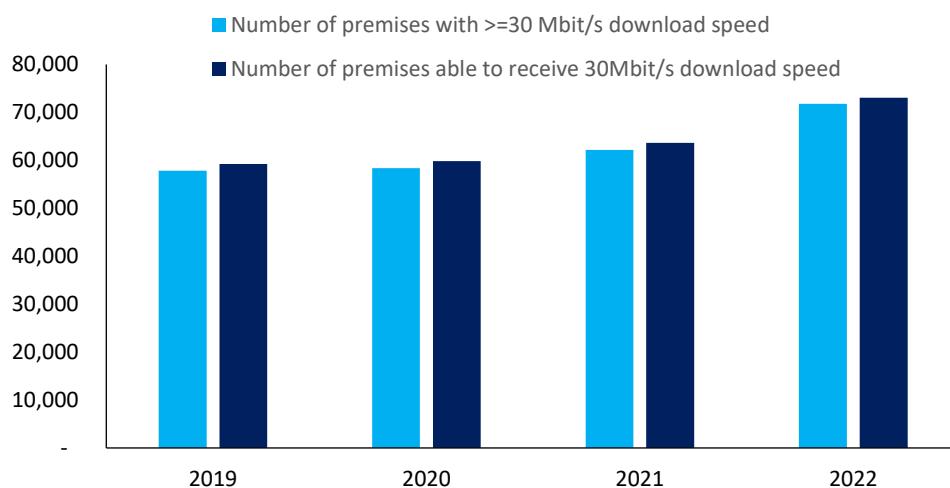
1.4.1: Traffic at NMD count points, 2015 - 2022



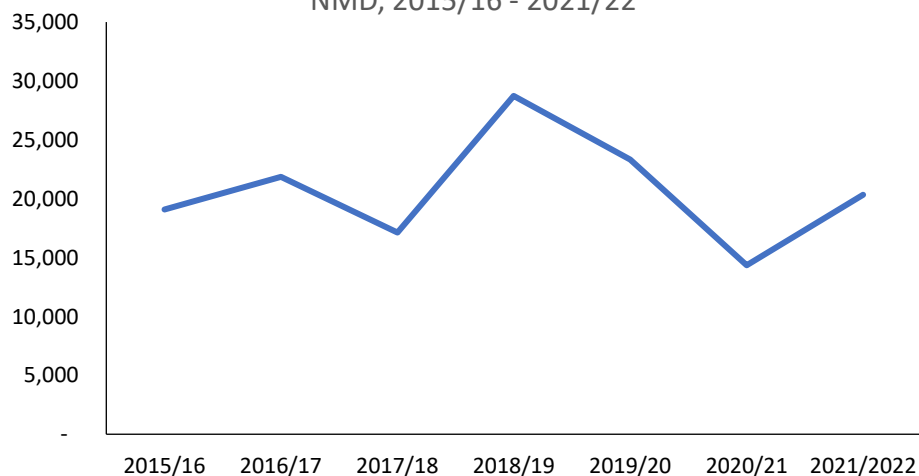
Source: Open Data NI

Note: Rostrevor Road 2021 & 2022 data unavailable, Belfast Road 2018 value is estimated based on mid-point between 2017 & 2019. Dublin Road 2022 value is estimated based on average of previous years.

1.4.2: Number of Households receiving high speed broadband, NMD, 2019 - 2022



1.4.3: Number of reported carriageway defects, NMD, 2015/16 - 2021/22

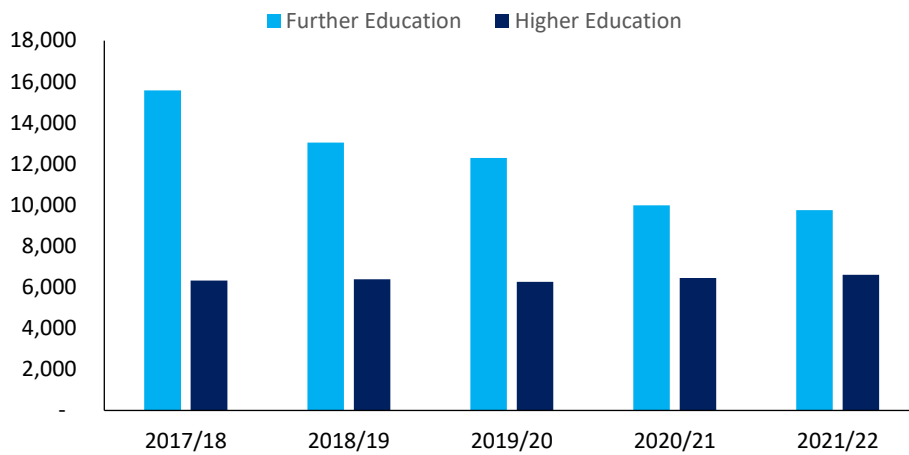


Source: OFCOM

Source: Open Data NI

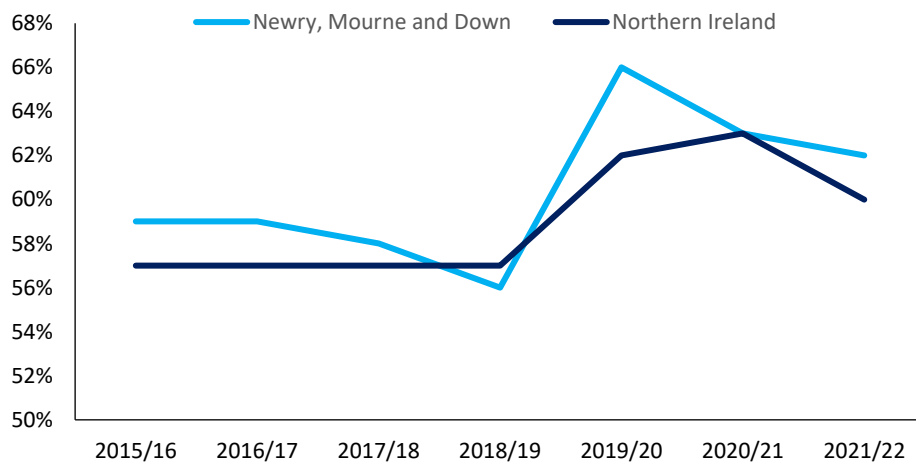
## Level of Lifelong Learning

1.5.1: Number of enrolments in Further and Higher Education, NMD, 2017/18 - 2021/22



Source: NISRA

1.5.2: School leavers not entering further education or employment (%), NMD vs NI, 2015/16 - 2021/22

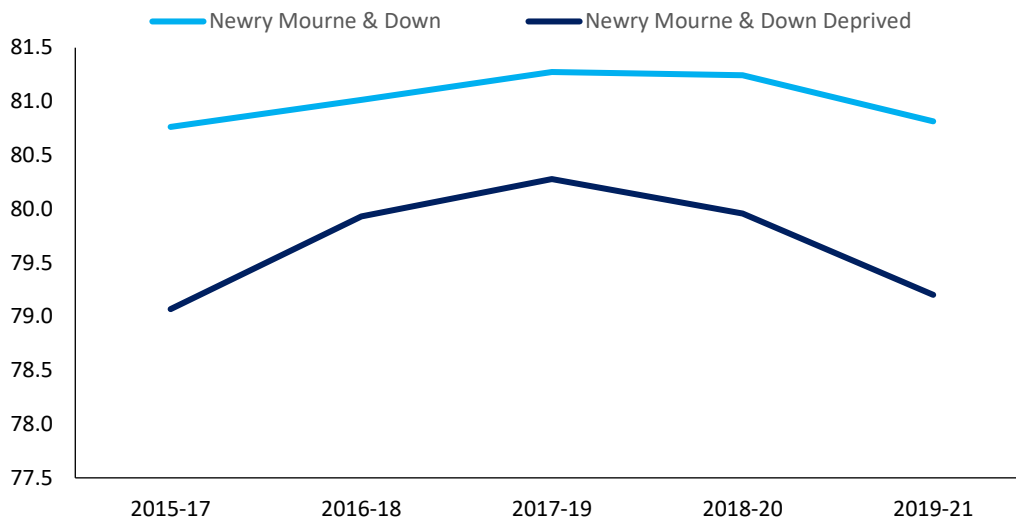


Source: NISRA

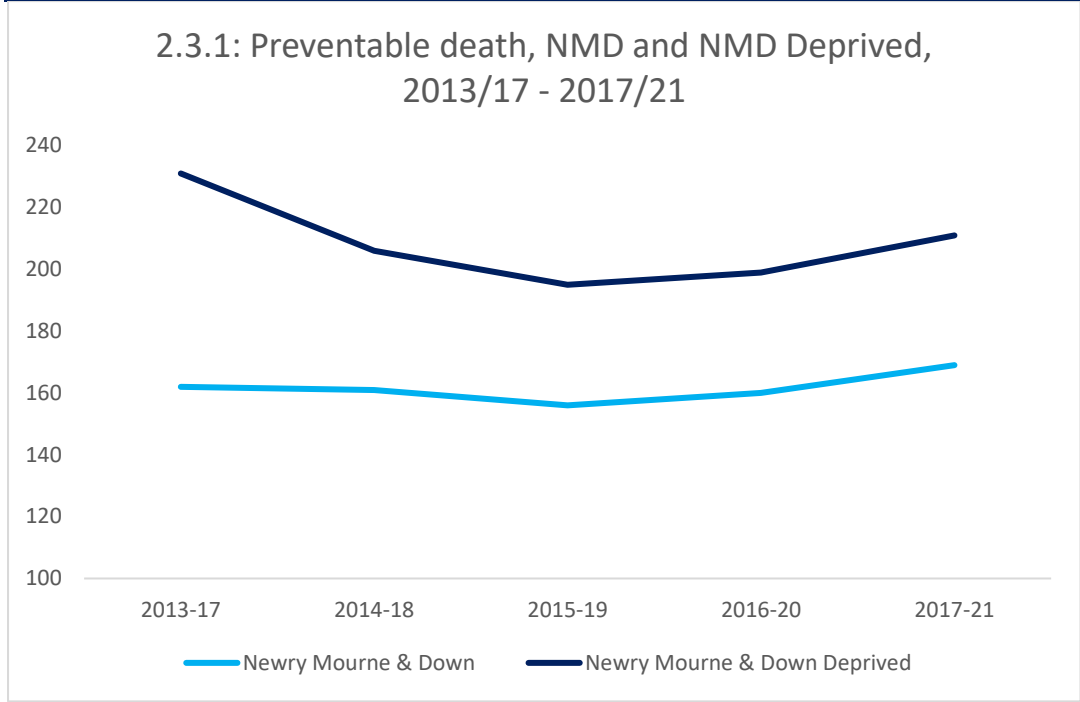
## 2. All people in Newry, Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing.

### Level of Life Expectancy

2.1.1: Life expectancy at birth, NMD and NMD Deprived, 2015-17 - 2019-21

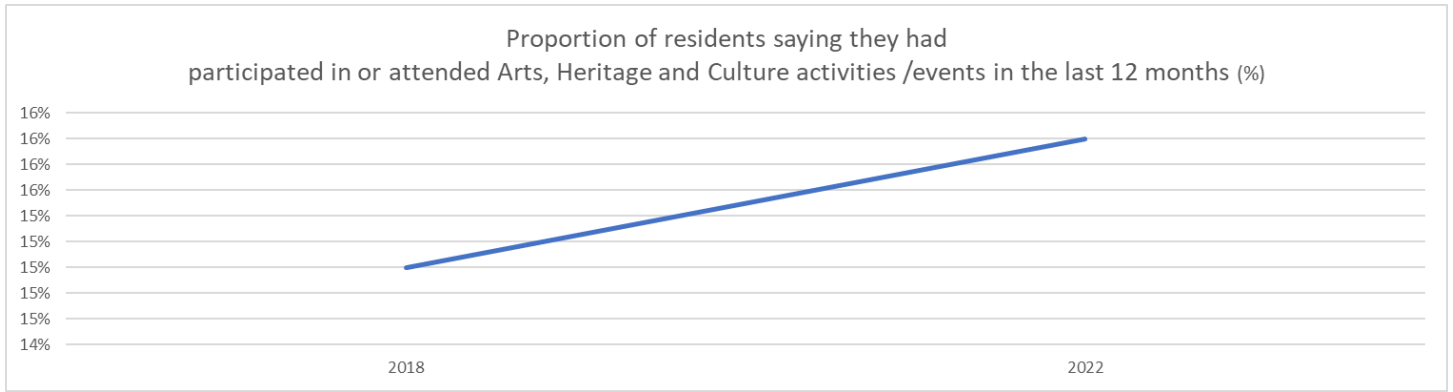


Source: Dept of Health

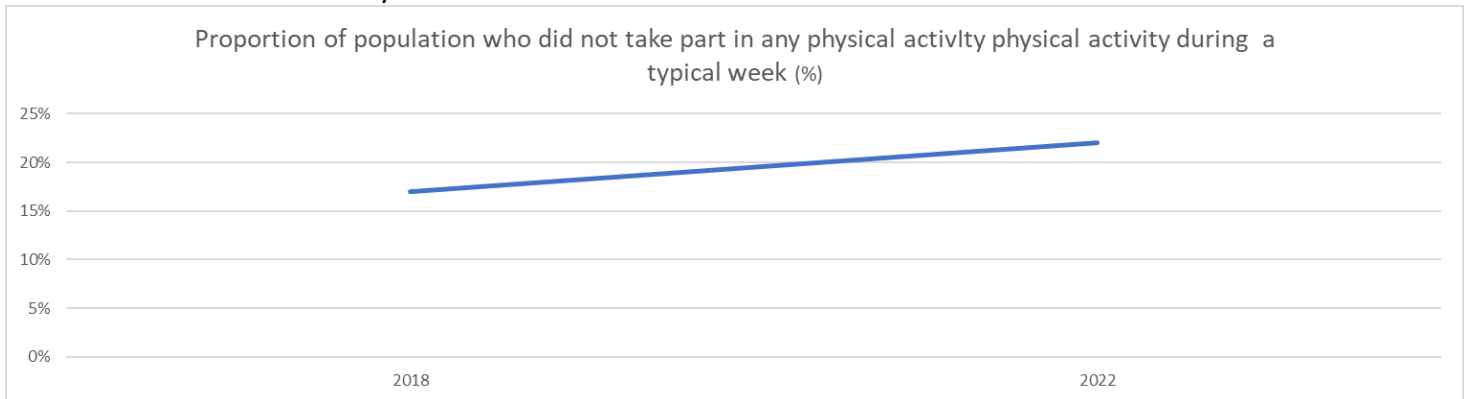


Source: Dept of Health

## Level of Work Life Balance

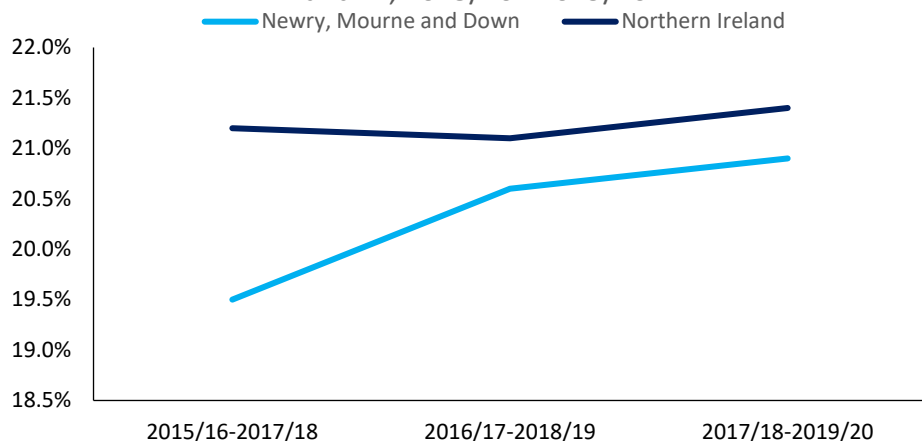


Source: NMD Resident Survey



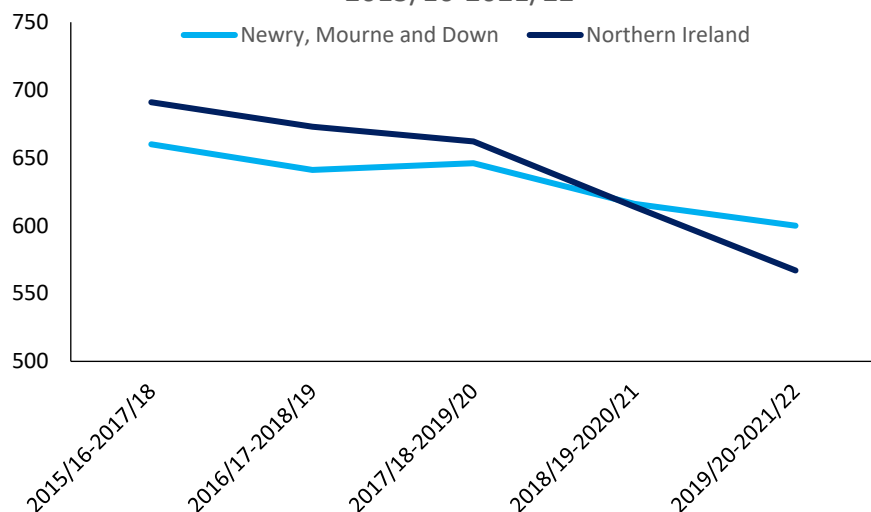
Source: NMD Resident Survey

2.4.2: % of Primary 1 children overweight or obese, NMD and NI, 2015/16 - 2019/20



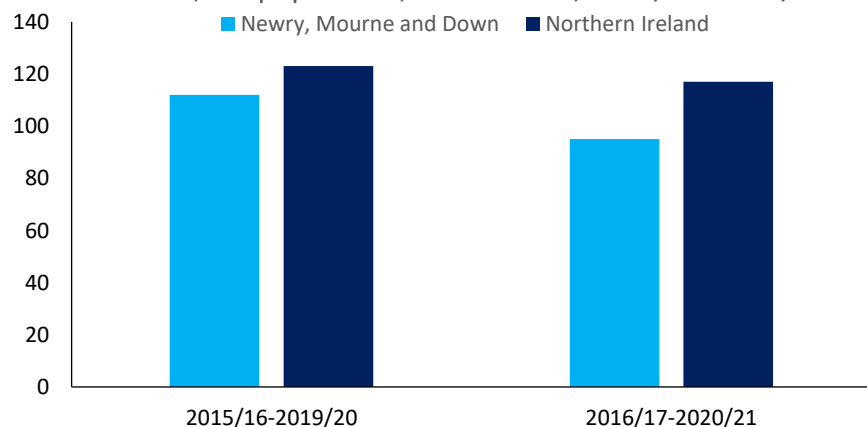
Source: NISRA

2.4.3: Number of admissions for alcohol and drug related causes per 100,000 population, NMD and NI, 2015/16-2021/22



Source: NISRA

2.4.4: Number of admissions for self harm per 100,000 population, NMD and NI, 2015/16 - 2020/21

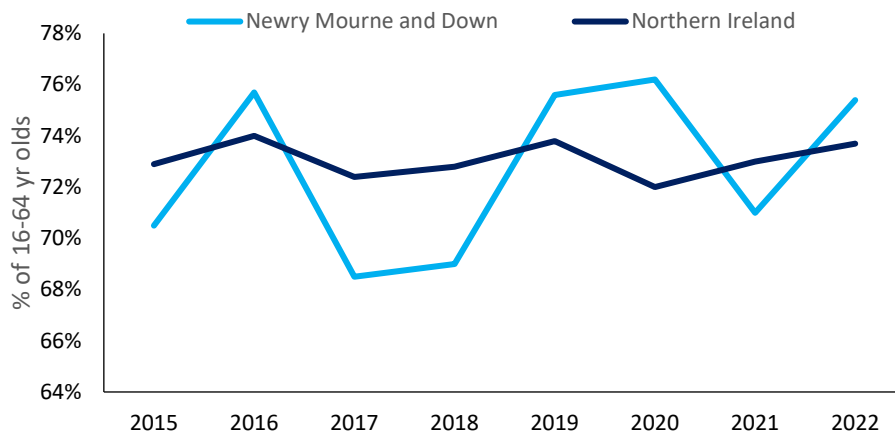


Source: NISRA

### 3. All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities

#### Level of Employment and Wealth

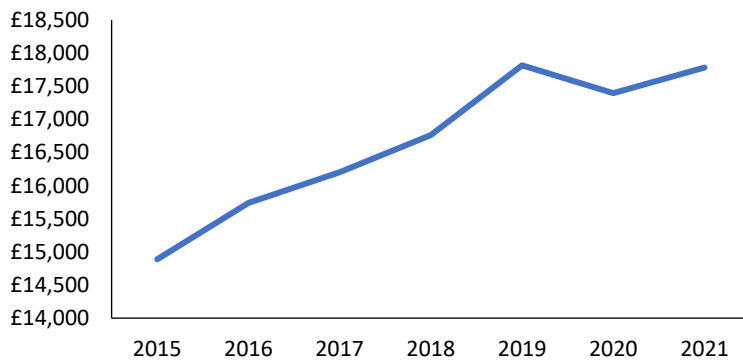
3.1.1: Economic activity rate, NMD and NI, 2015 - 2022



Source: NISRA

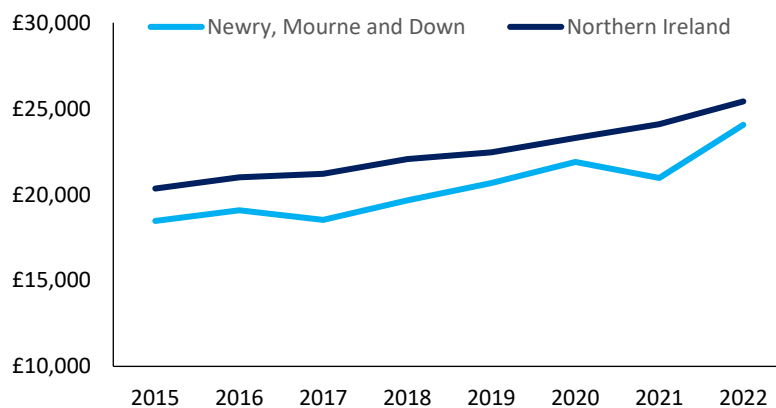
Note: Economic activity included both employed and unemployed persons.

3.1.2: GVA per capita, NMD, 2015 -2021



Source: ONS

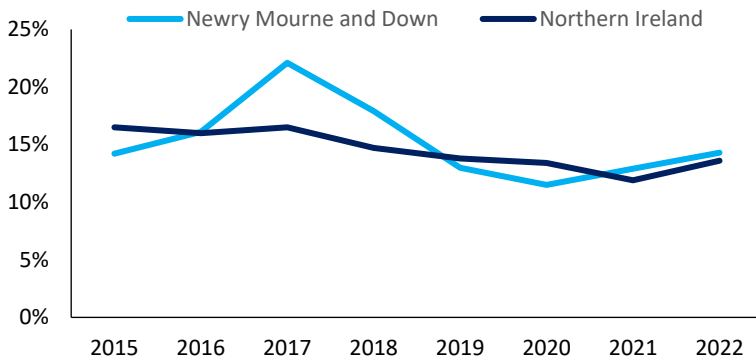
3.1.3: Median Annual Resident Earnings, NMD and NI, 2015 - 2022



Source: NISRA, ASHE



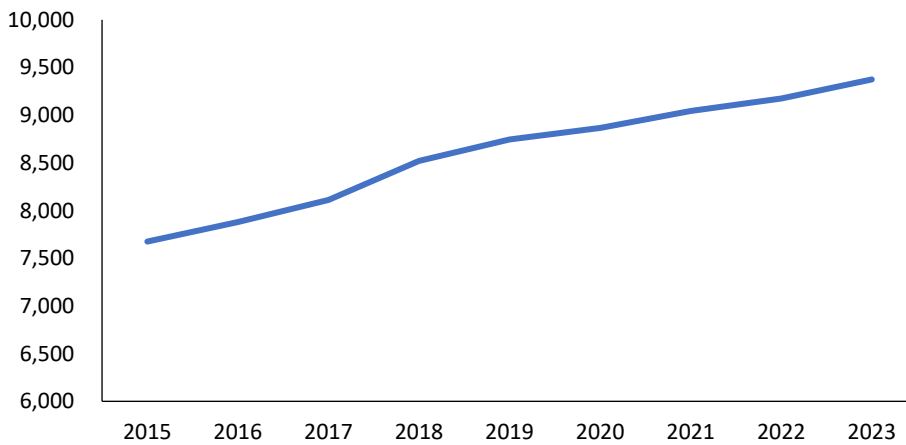
3.1.4: % of population without formal qualification, NMD and NI, 2015 - 2022



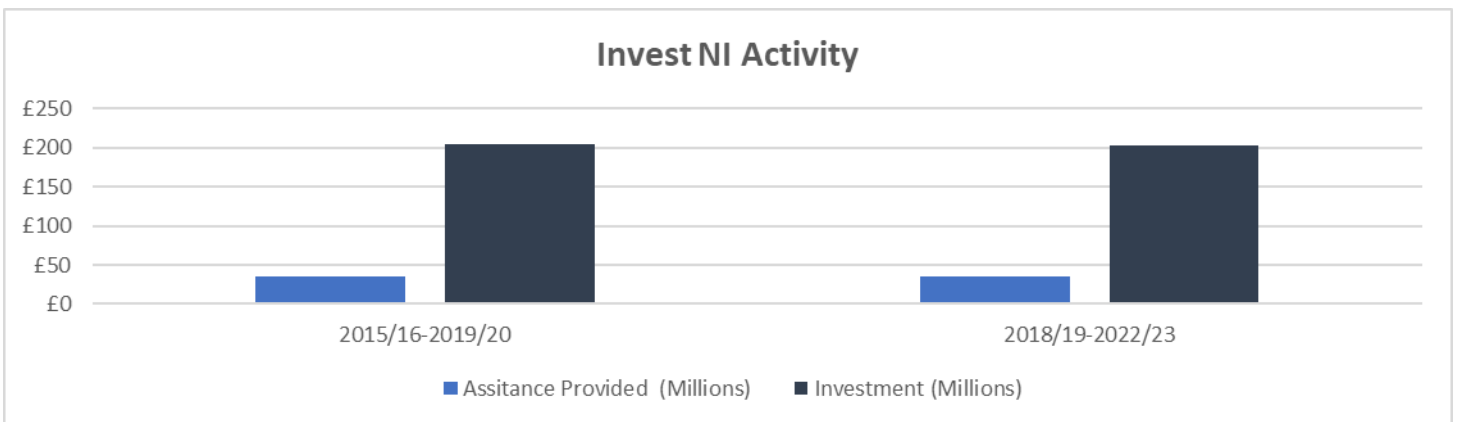
Source: NISRA

## Level of Economic Investment

3.2.2: Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses, NMD, 2015 -2023

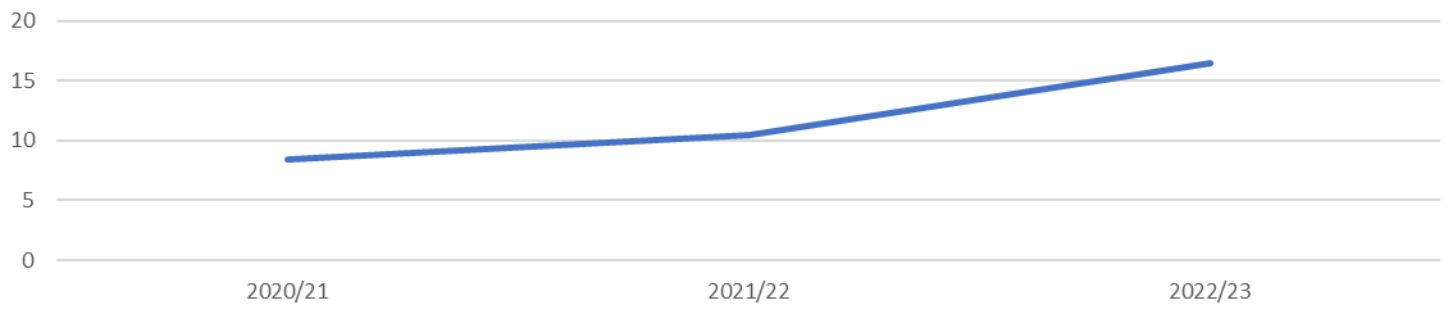


Source: NISRA, IDBR



Source: Invest NI

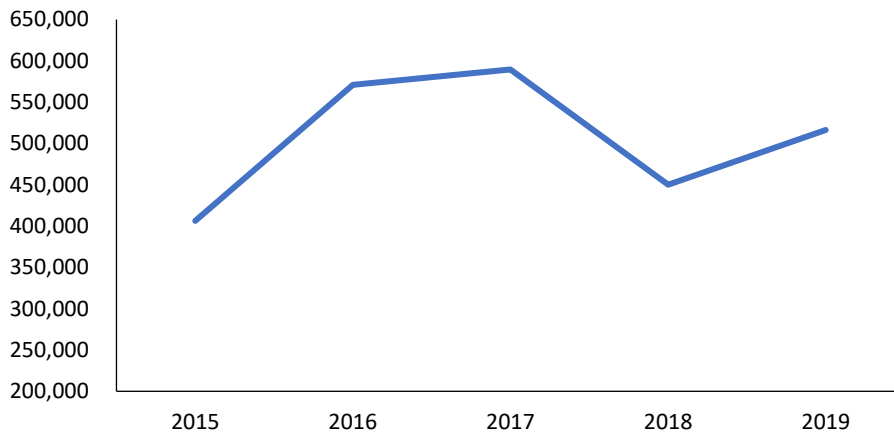
Value of Newry, Mourne and Down funding contracts held for investment in economic development and regeneration (million)



Source NMDDC

## Level of Tourism Revenue

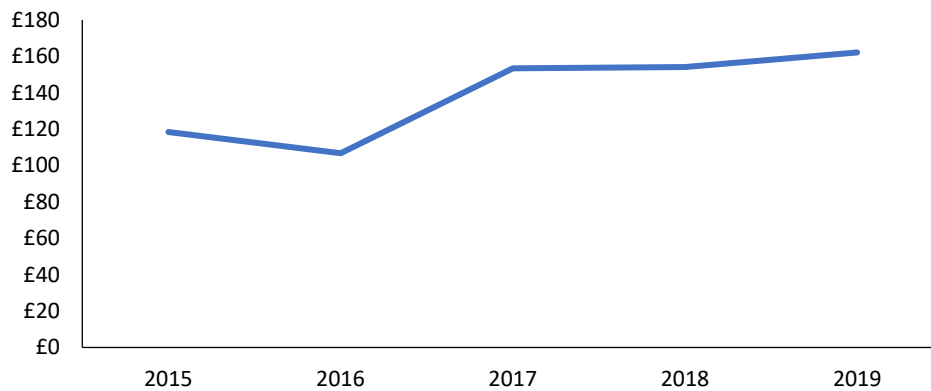
3.3.1: Level of overnight visitors, NMD, 2015 - 2019



Source: NISRA

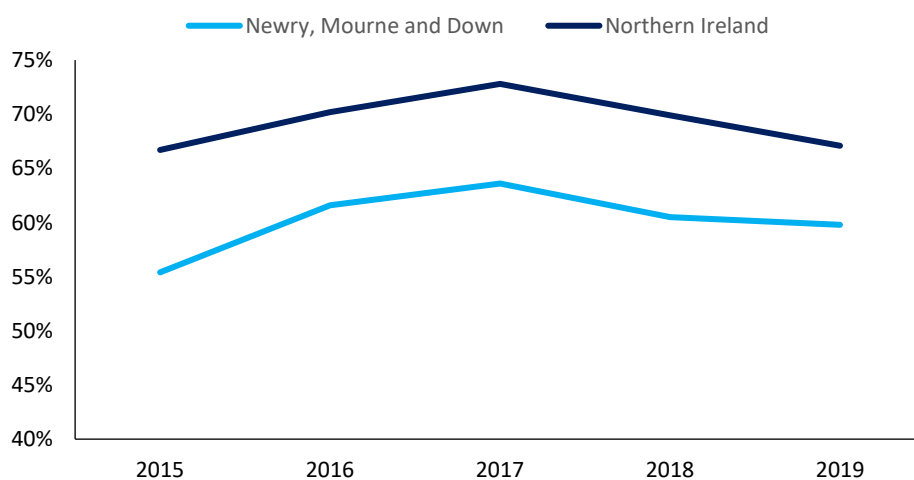
Note: 2019 is the latest available data.

3.3.2: Average spend per trip by visitors (£), NMD, 2015 - 2019



Source: Tourism NI

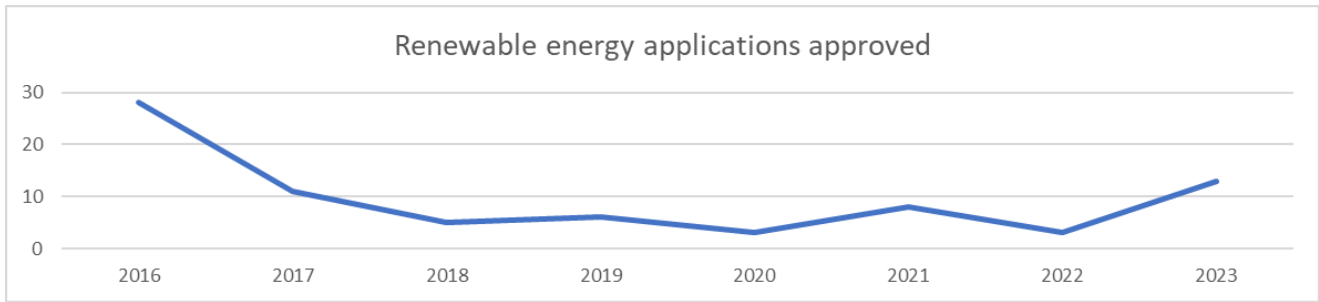
3.3.3: Occupancy level, NMD and NI, 2015 - 2019



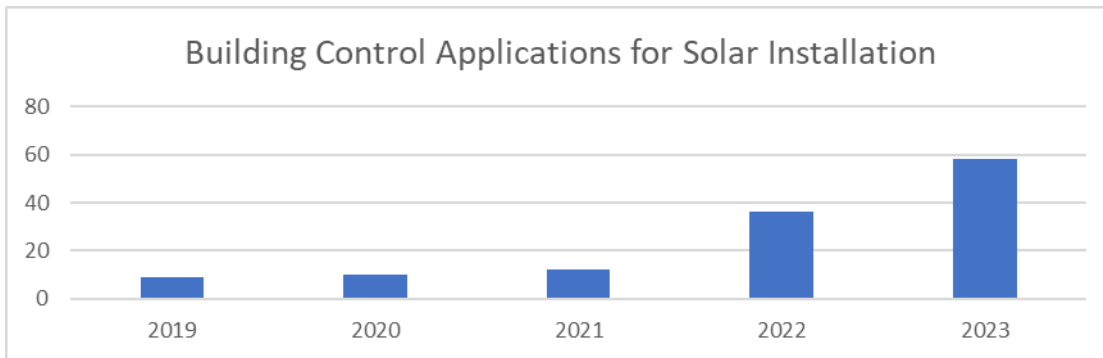
Source: NISRA

## 4. All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment

### Level of Sustainable Energy

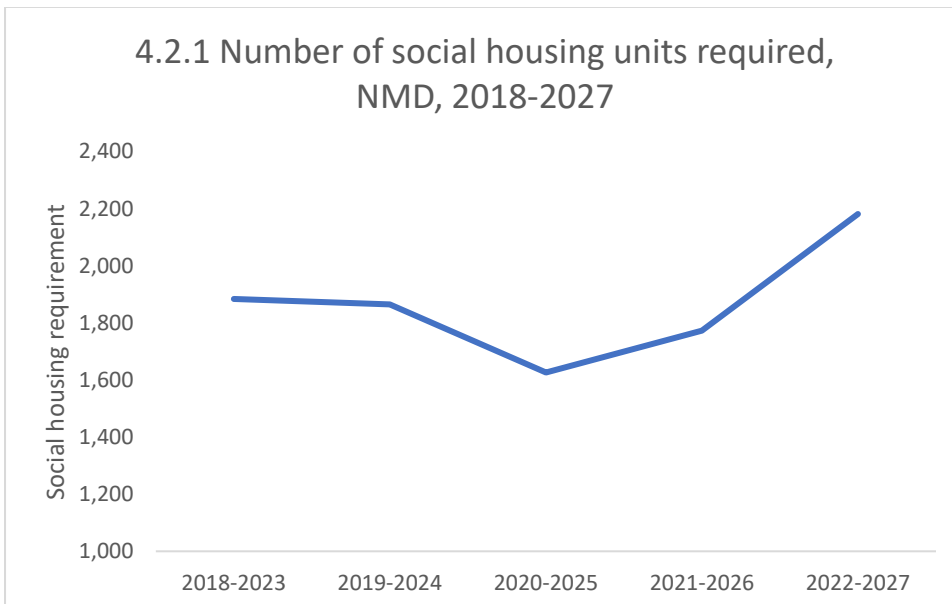


Source NMDDC Planning



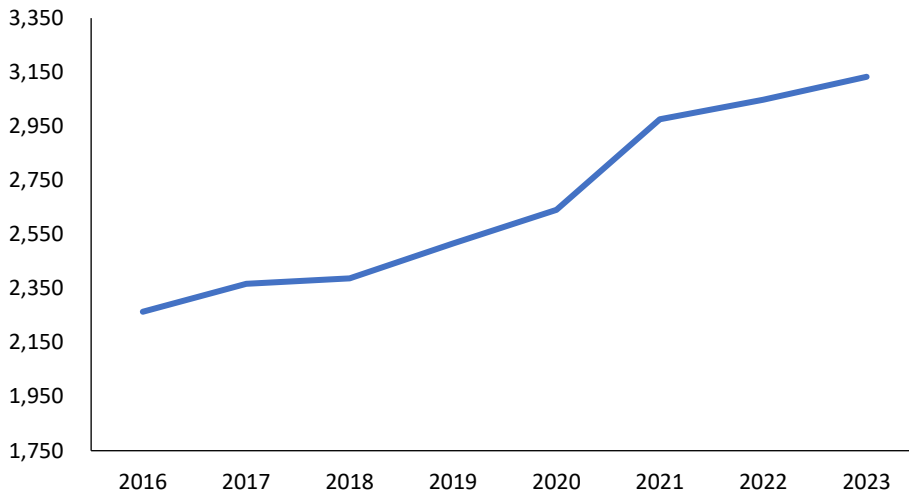
Source NMDDC

### Level of Quality Housing



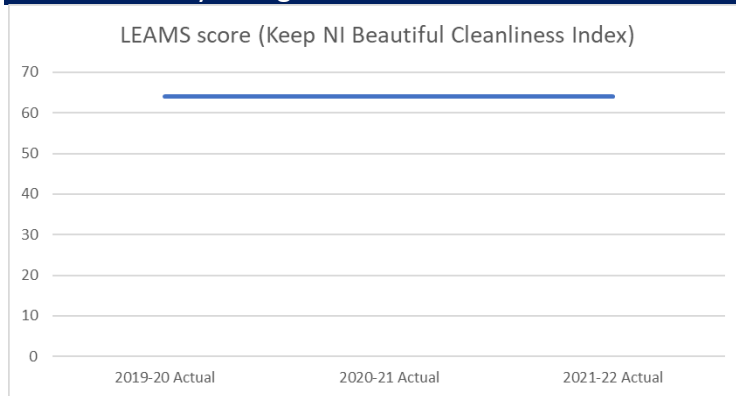
Source: NIHE Housing Improvement Plans

4.2.2: Levels of Housing stress, NMD, 2016 -2023

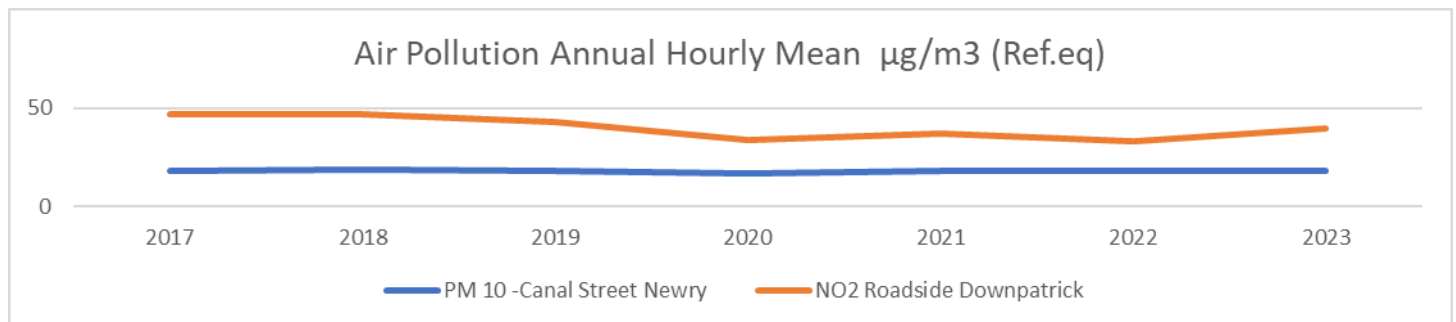


Source: NIHE

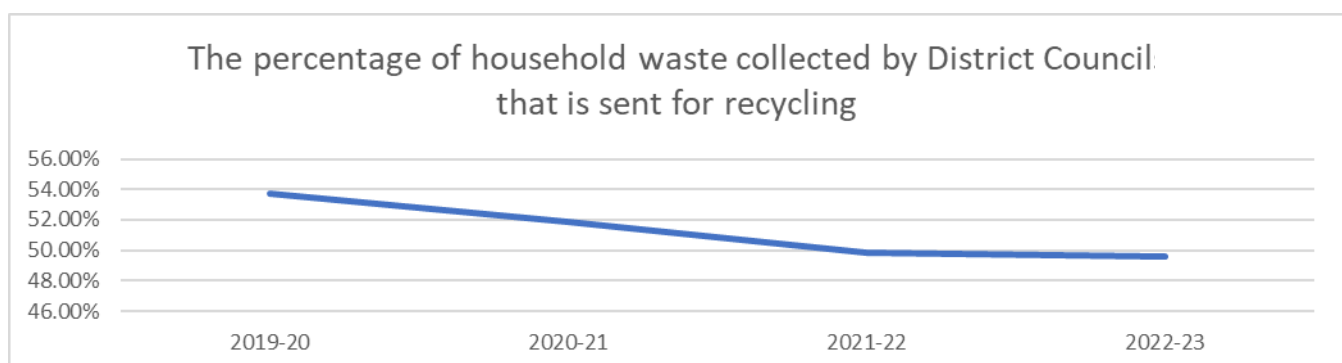
### Level of Quality Living Environment



Source: Keep NI Beautiful

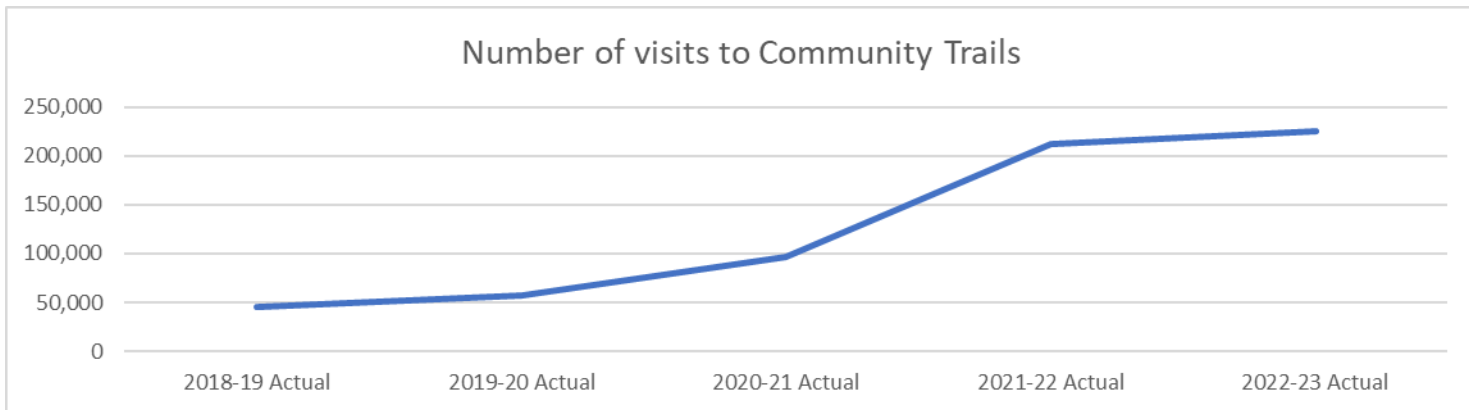


Source: <https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/data>

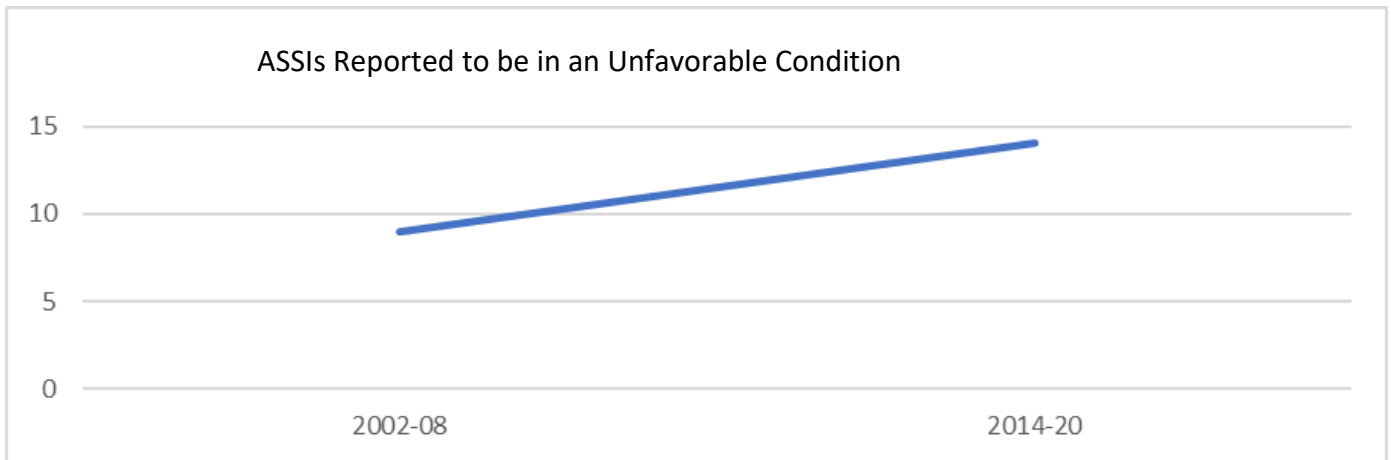


Source NMDCC

## Level of Rich, Diverse Natural Environment



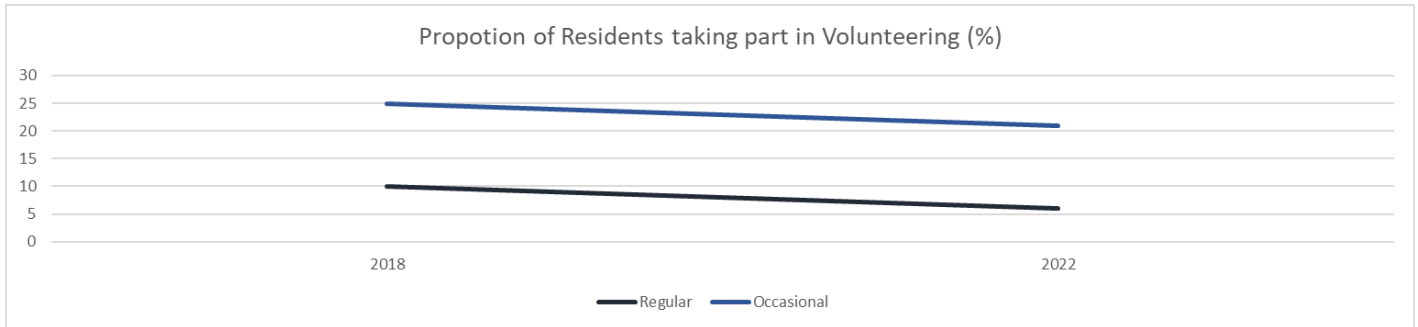
Source: NMDDC



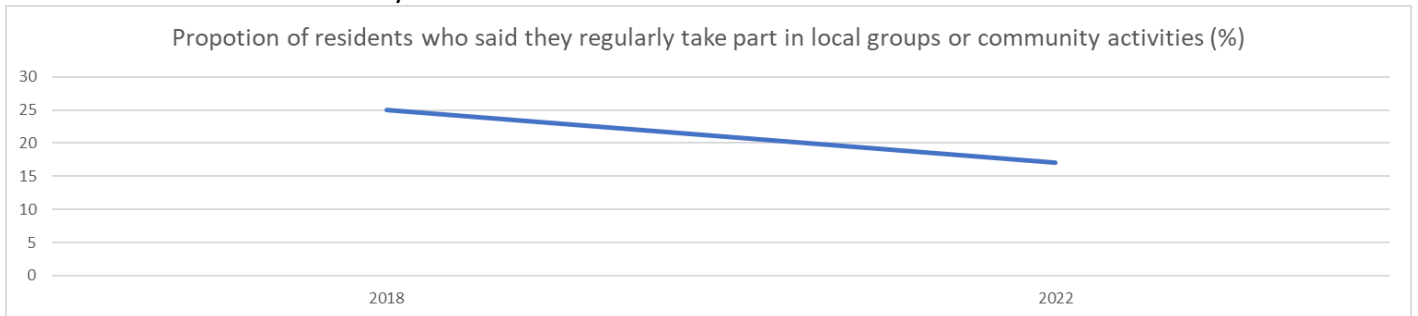
Source: NMDDC

# 5. All people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities

## Level of Social Capital and Connections

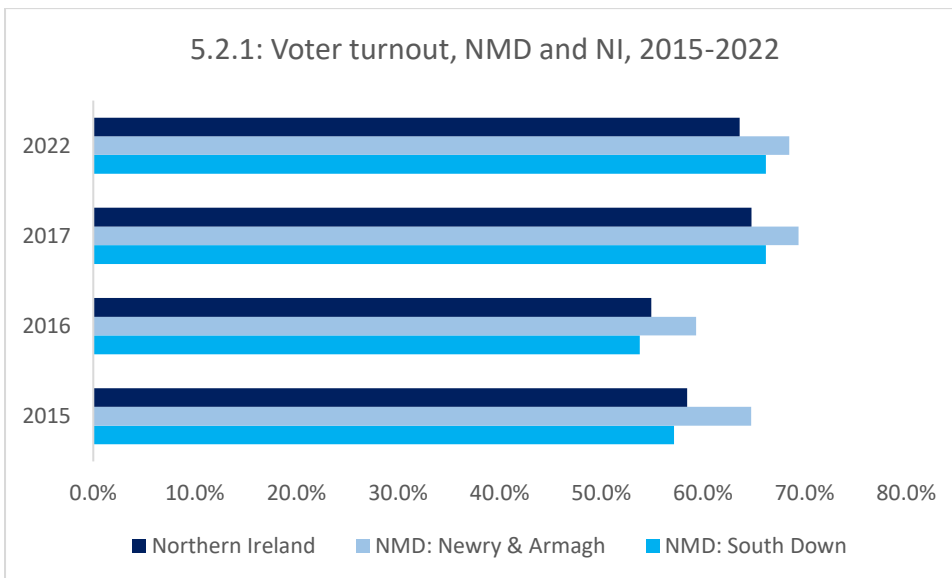


Source: NMD Residents Survey



Source: NMD Residents Survey

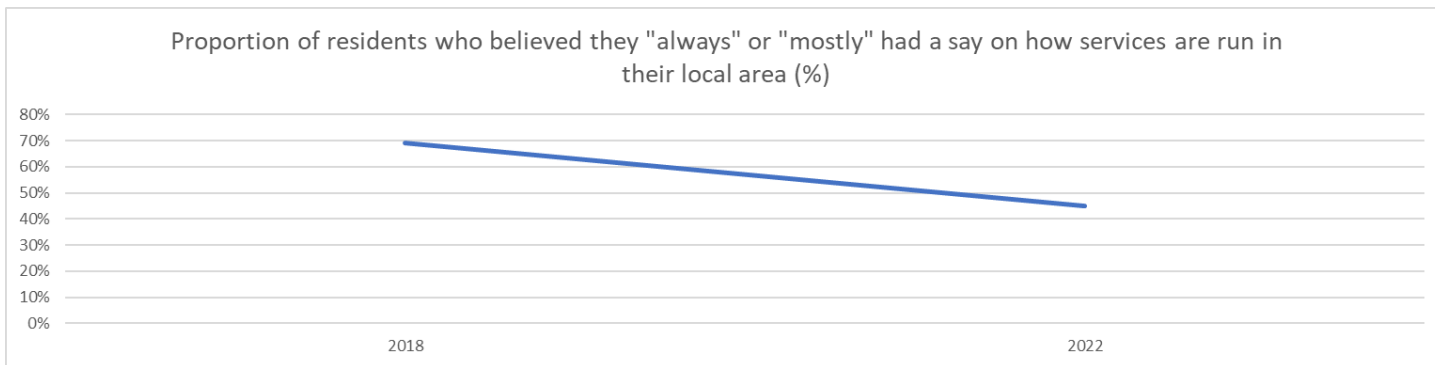
## Level of Civic Participation



Source: Electoral Office NI

Note: No elections in 2018, 2020, 2021.

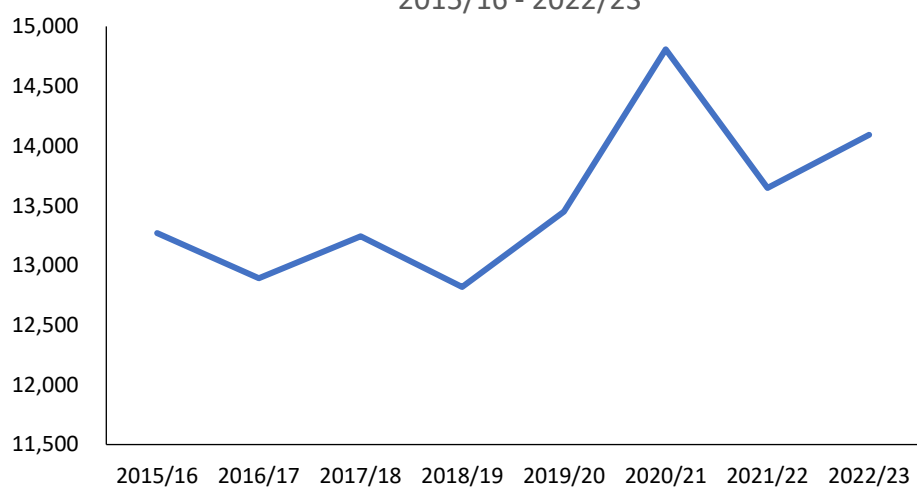




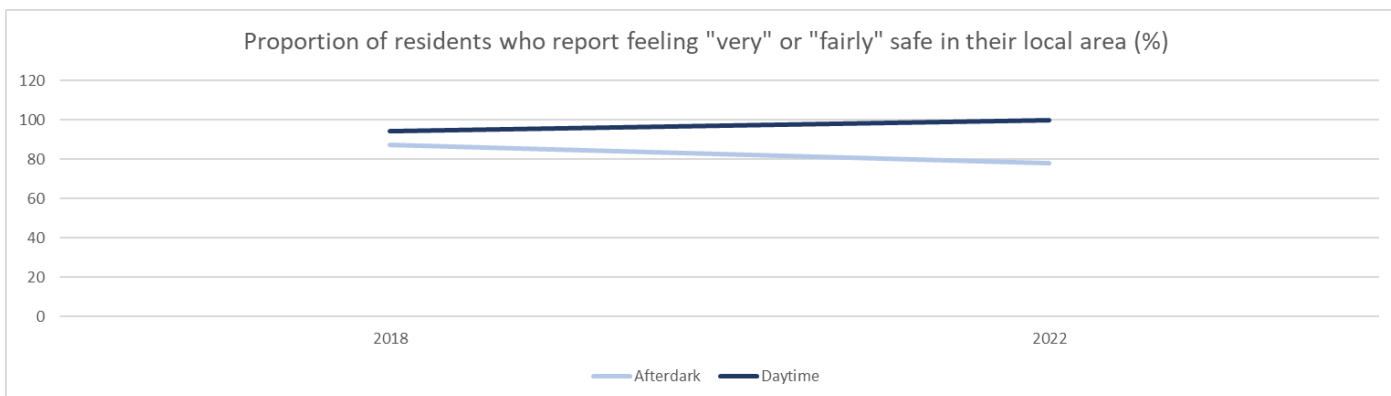
Source: NMD Residents Survey

## Level of Personal Safety and Crime Rate

5.3.1: Reported crimes and Anti- Social Behaviour, NMD, 2015/16 - 2022/23



Source: NISRA



Source: NMD Residents Survey

## Appendix 2. Labour Market Partnership - A Summary of actions

Newry, Mourne and Down Labour Market Partnership are continuing to deliver on the 23/24 action plan, the aims of which are to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions of Newry, Mourne and Down residents through extensive engagement with partners at local and regional levels to make informed and evidence-based decisions.

<b>A Summary of actions</b>	
<b>LMP Delivery and Development</b>	
1.1 Effective delivery of the LMP	Ensure the delivery of the 2023/24 Action Plan and respond to new challenges of the labour market.
1.2 24-27 Strategic Assessment for 24-27 and 23/24 Action Plan	A consultation exercise will be undertaken to research, identify and inform current and future employability and skills supply. It will aid in the scoping of interventions to meet skill gaps, vacancies and recruitment challenges for a future 2024-27 Action Plan.
<b>Economic Inactivity</b>	
2.1 Get Work Ready: pre-employment support	Personalised employment pathways programme, supporting participants into employment, education or training.
2.2 Enterprise Pathways Programme – Go Succeed	Specialised, mentoring and business support between 'Go Succeed' participation (the creation of a business plan) and establishing a trading business which offers either PT or FT self-employment for the business owner.
<b>Skilled Labour Supply</b>	
2.3 Upskilling for Growth	Employee upskilling: Meeting employer needs and supporting career progression. Provide support to employers to upskill staff to enable career progression for those in employment and open up vacancies and opportunities for those entering the labour market.
2.4 Employability Academies	Identify, design and deliver a range of employment academies for skill interventions in sectors and occupations where opportunities for employment is identified with local employers.
2.5 A Place to Work	Build on the 'Place to Work Campaign' which promotes NMD as a good place to work with opportunities for career progression. Promoting improved information on employers, employment opportunities and career pathways via existing YouTube channel building on linkages with schools / job seeker and local businesses to promote the district as a leading employment location, creating awareness of key sectors, employment and upskilling opportunities.
<b>Disability</b>	
2.6 Employer Engagement – Disability Awareness	Break down barriers for people with disabilities to gain employment - host an event to engage local employers, provide advice and update on legislation around disability and employment issues.
<b>Increased Awareness</b>	

3.1 Employment Pathway Events	Support delivery of Jobs Fairs and Career fairs and events, including sectoral focused events where scope and opportunity exists.
3.2 Increased awareness of employability and skills programmes	Increase awareness among job seekers and those who wish to upskill of the range of employability and training support there are available.
3.3 Promote apprenticeships, traineeships and placements as pathways to employment	Promote to employers the benefits of recruiting through opportunity pathways, such as Apprenticeships, Traineeships, and work experience placements.

## Appendix 3. Addressing Digital Poverty Scorecard

**OUTCOME:** ALL PEOPLE IN NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN GET A GOOD START IN LIFE AND FULFILL THEIR LIFELONG POTENTIAL



**INDICATOR:** Level of Connectivity

### **Digital Poverty:**

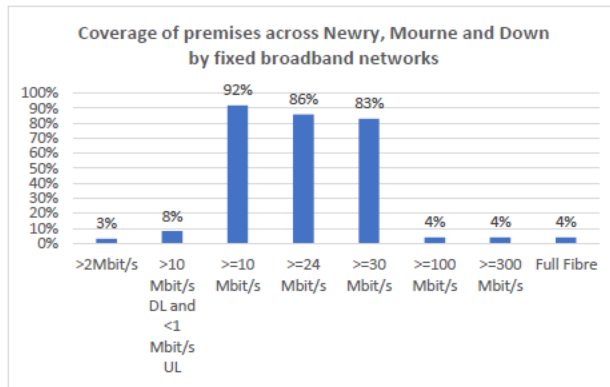
Digital poverty can be defined as 'The inability to interact with the online world fully, when where and how an individual needs to.'

The Carnegie Trust states that *"the current crisis has re-emphasised both our increasing reliance on technology as a society, as communities and as individuals; and the significant disadvantage experienced by those who are not sufficiently digitally connected. The negative impacts of digital exclusion are felt in all areas of life, from our ability to access work and resulting impacts on income, quality of education, availability of healthcare, costs of goods or services, and even the ability to connect with loved ones during incredibly challenging times."*

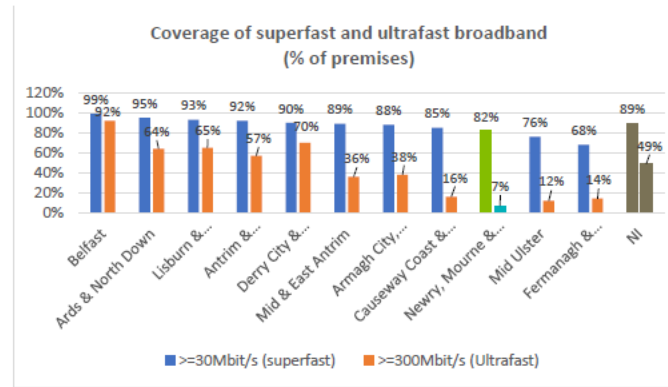
Following a notice of motion from Council regarding digital poverty and its' need to be urgently addressed across the District to tackle growing inequalities in education with children in many families unable to access online learning due to lack of computers in the home and lack of access to adequate broadband. a working group was set up to work with local schools, community groups, youth organisations and sports clubs to devise a community-based short-term initiative to assist families to gain access to online learning and adequate broadband.

This initiative involved using the money that was available through the Covid Recovery Fund to establish a financial assistance scheme. The awarded money was provided to the Strategic Stakeholder Forum who were well placed to identify local need within the community and through additional assessment provide appropriate support to those experiencing digital poverty or digital exclusion in the form of either hardware devices such as laptops and tablets or by assisting with internet connections.

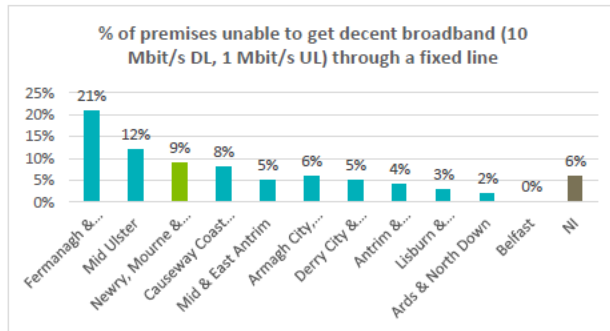
**Baseline Data:**



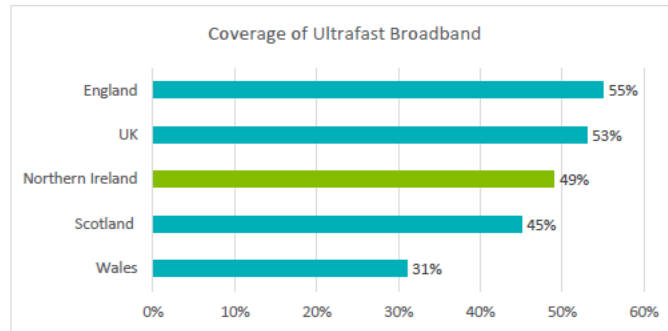
Connected Nations 2019 Data



Connected Nations 2019 Data




Connected Nations 2019 Data



Connected Nations 2019 Data

**OUTCOME: ALL PEOPLE IN NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN GET A GOOD START IN LIFE AND FULFILL THEIR LIFELONG POTENTIAL**

<p><b>How much did we do?</b></p> <p>£15,000 in funding provided to assist with digital poverty</p>  <p>15 groups supported to administer the funding</p> <p>44 households / 193 individuals benefitted from the funding</p> <p>100 laptops refurbished and donated to schools in the District</p>	<p><b>How well did we do it?</b></p> <p>A group of older people were assisted in using facebook portal which allowed them to reconnect with people as well as contacting officials in areas such as welfare.</p> <p>Packs were distributed which signposted users to library facilities and other useful information/Services available. It also included leaflets on basic training on how to set up a laptop from SERC.</p> <p>The people that benefitted from the project are now much more confident in using tablets and other IT equipment</p>
<p><b>Is anyone better off?</b></p> <p>As part of the project, 3 Laptops were donated to individuals in a local Primary School in Bessbrook in their learning support unit. The devices were tailored to the individual's needs, with large keys and an additional mouse. This had a huge impact on both the learners and Teachers in terms of building capacity and much needed support.</p> <p>Six Elderly and Disabled ex service personal were assisted in reconnecting with family and friends through the project. They can now have a daily chat with family and a weekly call with overseas relations. As one of the organisations supporting the rollout of the project is now in contact with the ex service personal they can now ensure their health and well being plus any assistance required.</p> <p>A single mum experiencing many difficulties and challenges with 2 boys in secondary school and older siblings struggling with addiction issues. The provision of a laptop and a tablet means that the 2 boys have a device each to complete school work. assignments. course work and much more. They will also be able to stay in contact with their peers over the school holidays which will make a difference to their school lives, home lives and overall health and well-being as well as easing pressure on their mum.</p>	

## Appendix 4. Youth Voice Conference Scorecard

**OUTCOME: ALL PEOPLE IN NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN LIVE IN RESPECTABLE, SAFE AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES.**



**INDICATOR:** Level of Civic Participation

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Newry, Mourne & Down Youth Council hosted a Youth Conference for the young people of the district on Tuesday 21st March 2023 in the Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle. The conference was planned, organised and run by young people from the Youth Council for young people engaging in Youth groups across the district of Newry, Mourne & Down.

The Newry, Mourne & Down Youth Council are a consultative group under the Northern Ireland structure of Youth Voice which gives young people the opportunity to engage with decision makers and have a say on local issues. This group has been set up in partnership with Newry, Mourne & Down District Council and the group work very closely with the District Council as the representative voice of young people for this district. This conference was kindly sponsored by the Newry, Mourne & Down District Council as part of our partnership work that we embark on over the course of the year.

This year the Youth Council choose to focus on 3 themes:

Education & Life  
Skills

Mental Health &  
Isolation

Environment



The outcomes of the conference were:



Having their voices heard and listened to



Collaborating on themes and topics that are important to them



Engaging with stakeholders and interested groups



Having an opportunity to showcase their creativity



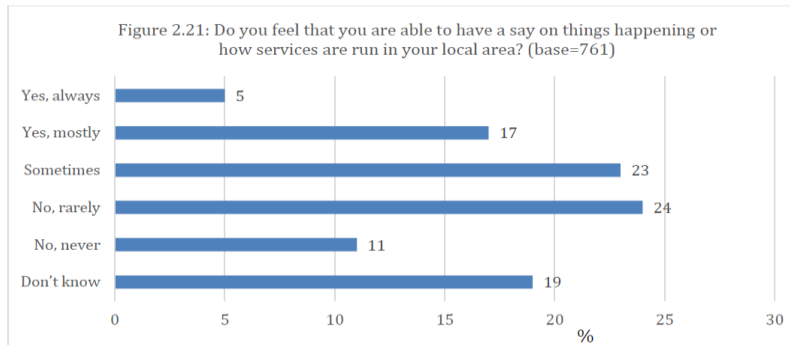
Gain confidence in their own ability to carry out a project from its inception to final product



Gain experience in public speaking and market research

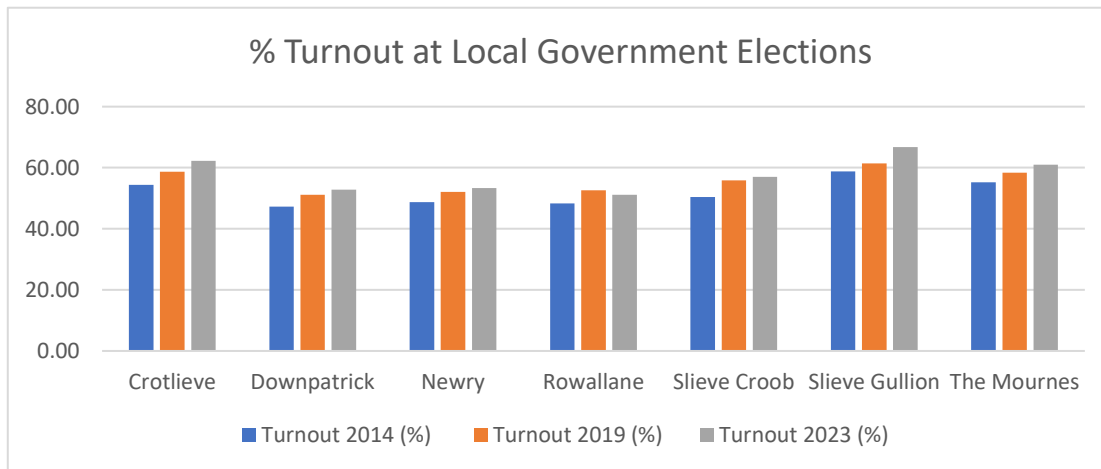
## Baseline Data:

### Having a Say on Things Happening or How Services are Run



Almost half (45%) of residents said they feel they always (5%), mostly (17%) or sometimes (23%) have a say on things happening or how services are run in their local area, with approximately one in three (35%) saying they feel they rarely (24%) or never (11%) have a say. Nineteen percent answered 'don't know'. (Source: NMD Residence Survey 2022)

### Turnout at Local Government Elections



**OUTCOME: ALL PEOPLE IN NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN LIVE IN RESPECTABLE, SAFE AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES.**

**How much did we do?**

108 Young people attended from several groups across the district namely:

- Horizons, Newcastle.
- Horizons, Newry.
- Cloughreagh Community Group.
- Newry Youth Forum.
- Kingdom Youth Club.
- YMCA, Newcastle.
- Mourne Youth Forum.
- Ballymote Youth Groups.

**How well did we do it?**

100% Of all participants felt completely uncomfortable with getting lift from someone they know had consumed alcohol.

93% Of participants felt completely happy that their level of awareness of the dangers of drink driving had increased after partaking in the workshop.

One participant reported back that after the workshop on an outing to Belfast they met a person who was having complications and they were able to put them into the recovery position while awaiting the arrival of paramedics.

Comments Include:

“Getting the chance to inform people about the environment”.

“First aid was very interactive”.

“Overall experience was enjoyable”.

“We felt as though we needed more space and equipment”.

“It felt crowded and could become rowdy”.

“We are proud of how we worked together on the night”.

## Is anyone better off?

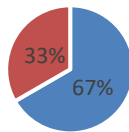
Comments Include:

"I learned what it takes to run an event of this size and learned to rely on and trust my fellow youth councillors as well as how to act under pressure".

"I learnt a lot from this experience like how to educate people about the problems that occur around them, and I learnt and developed my communication and confidence skills during this conference".

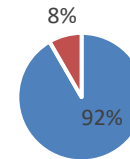
Before attending this workshop, how comfortable would you have felt administering first aid to a friend on a night out?

■ Unsure ■ Comfortable



After attending the workshop, how has your comfort level changed?

■ Comfortable ■ Extremely comfortable



How comfortable would you feel getting a lift from someone you know has consumed alcohol?

■ Extremely uncomfortable



To what degree has this workshop increased your awareness of the dangers of drink driving?

■ Unsure ■ Good

