



## **Update 02.04.2020 Community Coordination Hub Ready to Help our Vulnerable Residents**

A Community Coordination Hub set up by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to ensure vulnerable residents receive essential supplies is now in operation.

The Council has been working in partnership with colleagues across Local Government, the Health Trusts and the Department for Communities to set up the hub and is now ready to play its part in delivering the service on the ground.

Newry Leisure Centre, Down Leisure Centre and Kilkeel Leisure Centre have been repurposed as processing centres to organise deliveries and other sites are currently being identified should they be required. When fully operational over 100 leisure centre staff will be redeployed to work across all sites. Other staff from across the Council are helping operate a 'virtual' hub to coordinate the response.

Staff training is currently underway for those who will be working in split shifts at the centres while observing social distancing and other safety protocols. The service launches on Monday 6 April across our seven District Electoral Areas, with deliveries expected to centre on food supplies.

The Covid-19 Community Helpline is already operational. Those in vulnerable groups seeking support can make contact between 9am to 5pm, seven days a week:

**Freephone number:** 0808 802 0020

**Email:** covid19@adviceni.net

**Text:** ACTION to 81025

The helpline is being managed by Advice NI, who are processing calls from across Northern Ireland. Calls that are relevant to the Council's Community Coordination

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### **Chief Executive, Marie Ward**

**Oifig an Iúir, Newry Office,** O'Hagan House, Monaghan Row, Newry BT35 8DJ

**Oifig Dhún Pádraig, Downpatrick Office,** Downshire Civic Centre, Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road, Downpatrick BT30 6GQ



Hub will be passed on to the Council for action, including referrals from the Southern and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts.

County Down Rural Community Network in Downpatrick, the Confederation of Community Groups in Newry and Community Advice Newry Mourne and Down, will also be acting as lead organisations for the community groups involved in this response. These three bodies are the key lead organisations in our CVS Strategic Stakeholder Forum, part of our Community Planning structures. Any volunteers required are being recruited via Volunteer Now.

Please note that our distribution centres are not open to members of the public or community groups.

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