



## **Update 26.03.2020 Temporary Changes to Downe Hospital Services**

Statement from Party Leaders, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council:

“We are living in challenging times and hard decisions need to be made to support the Health Service. The Downe Hospital is an important hospital providing key services to our community including A&E.

“But we are in extraordinary times. We must trust the advice, guidance and actions of our doctors. In the coming weeks, the capacity of the Health Service will be stretched. It is important that the maximum support is provided in our area to deal with Covid-19. If that means changes to how the Downe Hospital operates to support the Covid-19 response, then we have to support the decisions of our doctors.

“Everything they are doing at the moment is to protect public health in our area and we must support them in their work. We have been assured that this measure is only required during Covid-19 and current service will resume once this public health emergency is over. We trust and support them in this decision.”

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

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