

Newry, Mourne and
Down Community
Planning Partnership



Appendix 5 Update on Indicators and Measures

This appendix outlines the latest data trends based on the revised indicators and measures. Where possible, charts track changes over time to support clearer insights into progress across key outcome areas of the Community Plan.

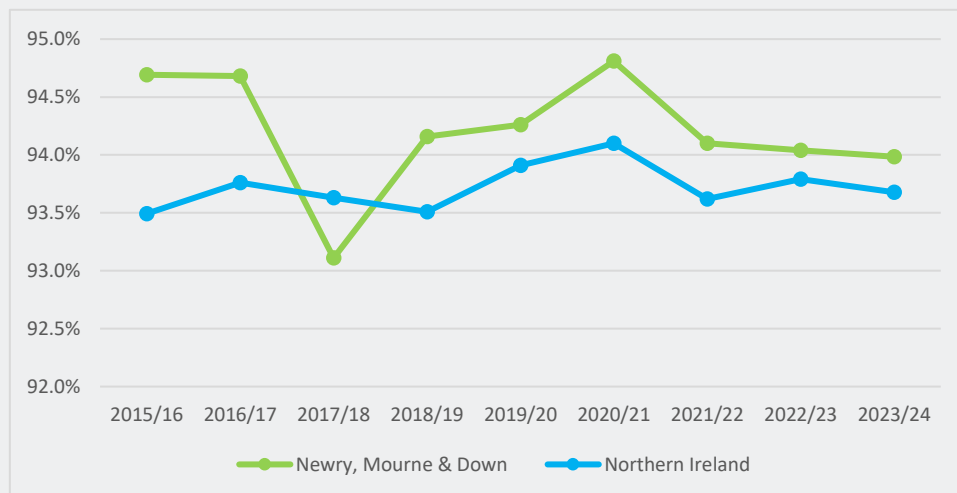
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All people in Newry, Mourne and Down get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential

This section outlines how Newry, Mourne and Down supports residents from birth to adulthood by promoting equitable access to health, education, infrastructure, and lifelong learning. The data highlights progress across key areas that contribute to personal development and overall community wellbeing.

Level of early year support

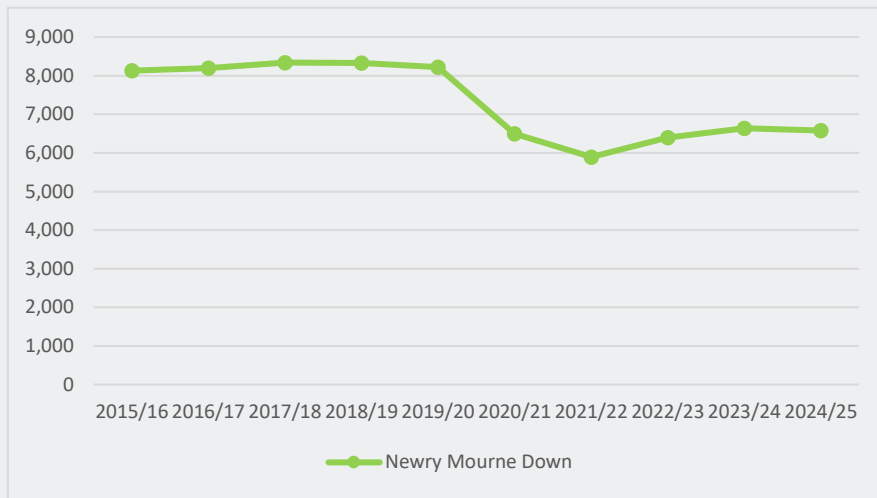
- **% of Babies Born at a Healthy Weight: Newry, Mourne and Down vs Northern Ireland (2015/16 to 2023/24)**



Source - RUAG Children's Health Report NI (HSCNI)

Over the past nine years, Newry, Mourne & Down has consistently maintained high healthy birth weight rates, averaging 94.2%. The district performed better than the Northern Ireland average in eight of the nine years and continues to do so in the most recent figures. While rates have remained stable overall, there has been a small decrease of 0.7 percentage points locally since 2015/16, compared to a slight increase across Northern Ireland as a whole.

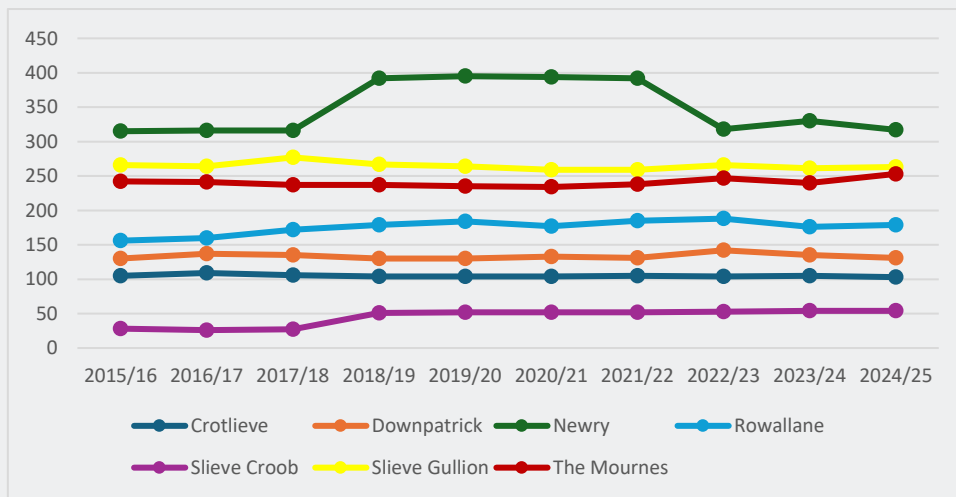
- **Children Aged 0-5 Registered with a Dentist in Newry, Mourne and Down, (2015/16 to 2024/25)**



Source - General Dental Services Dental Registrations 2025 (NISRA)

Young children’s dental registrations were consistently above 8,000 before 2020 but fell significantly during the pandemic, reaching a low of under 5,900 in 2021/22. Although registrations have since begun to recover, they remain around 20% below pre-pandemic levels.

- **Available nursery places, Newry, Mourne and Down (2015/16 -to 2024/25)**

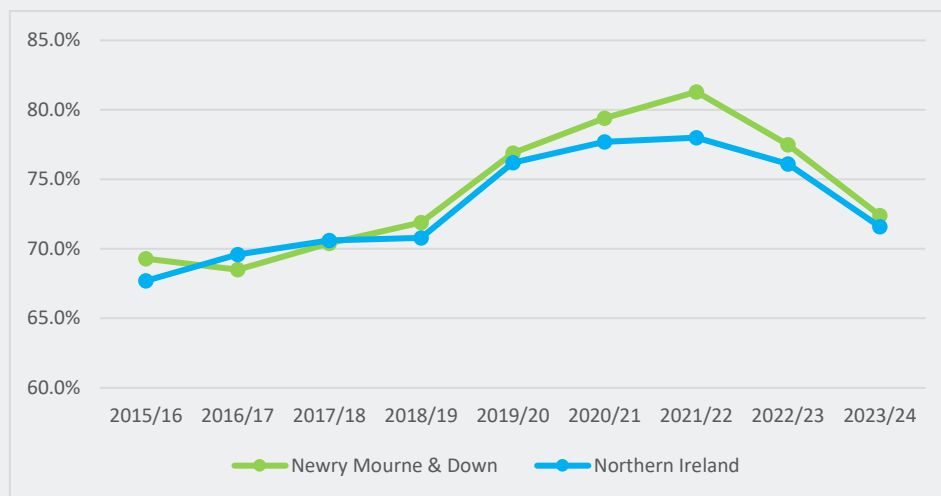


Source - School enrolment - School Level Data 2015-2025 (DoE)

Nursery availability across the district increased significantly since 2015, peaking at 1,364 places before stabilizing at 1,300 today. Newry remains the largest provider of places, while Slieve Croob has seen the most growth, doubling its capacity over the decade. Most areas have maintained steady numbers, ensuring a consistent and reliable level of childcare provision for local families.

Level of Educational Wellbeing

- **% of School Leavers Achieving Five or More GCSEs (Including English and Maths): Newry, Mourne and Down vs Northern Ireland - (2015/16 to 2023/24)**

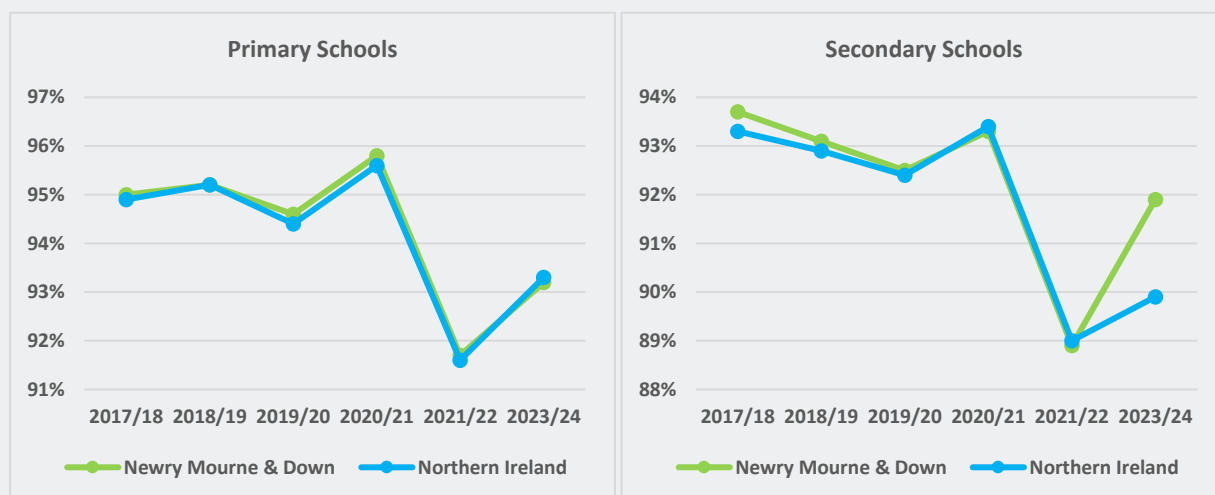


Source - School Leavers Survey - Attainment (NISRA)

Attainment increased steadily up to 2019/20, with a sharper rise in 2020/21 and 2021/22 influenced using predicted grades during the Covid-19 period. The subsequent decline in 2022/23 and 2023/24 reflects a correction following this period, with performance remaining slightly above the Northern Ireland average.

Level of Quality of School Life

- **School Attendance Rates - (2017/18 to 2023/24)**

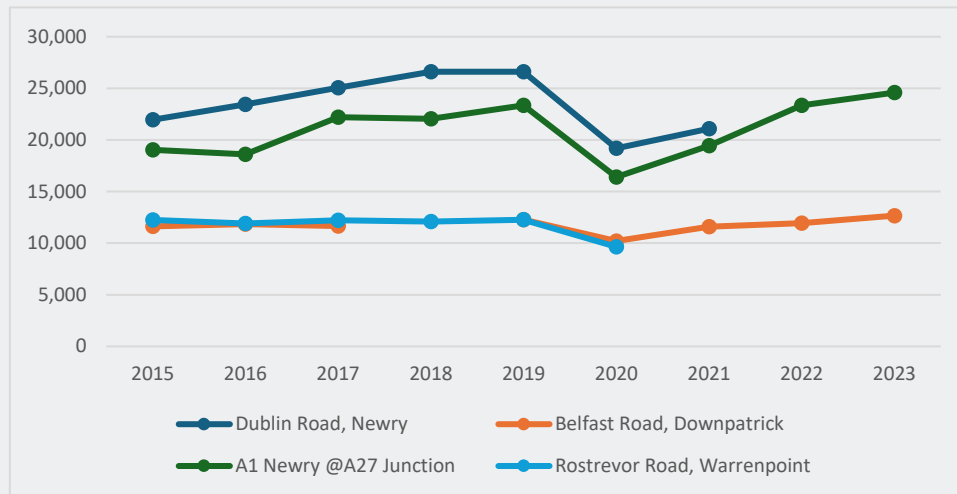


Source: Pupil Attendance (NISRA)

Pupil attendance in Newry, Mourne & Down was broadly in line with the Northern Ireland average up to 2020/21, before falling sharply in 2021/22 due to Covid-related disruption. Attendance has since partially recovered, with 2023/24 levels close to the Northern Ireland average at both primary and secondary stages.

Level of Connectivity

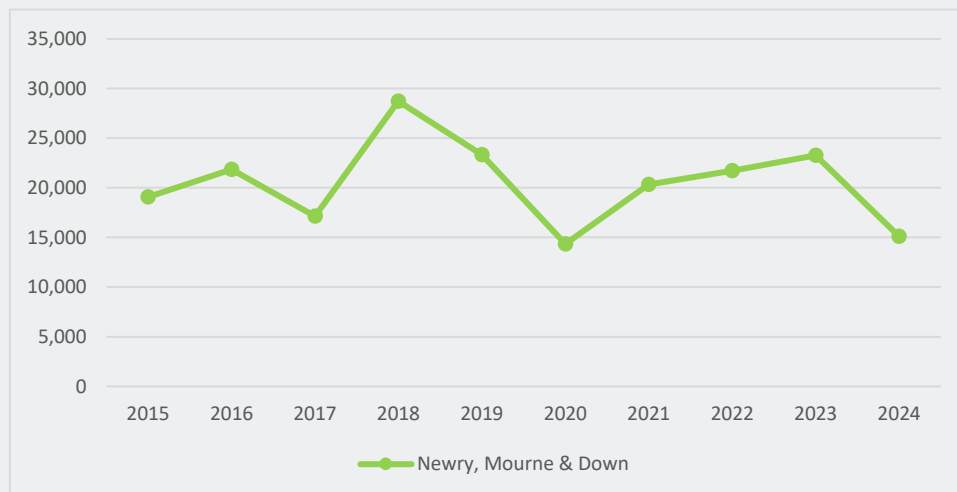
Traffic at Newry, Mourne and Down count points, 2015 - 2023



Source - Northern Ireland Traffic Count Data (OpenDataNI)

Traffic volumes in Newry, Mourne and Down dropped sharply in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions but have since recovered at most sites. The A1 at the A27 Junction surpassed pre-pandemic levels by 2023, while Belfast Road, Downpatrick showed steady year-on-year growth. Data gaps for Dublin Road, Newry and Rostrevor Road, Warrenpoint limit full trend analysis.

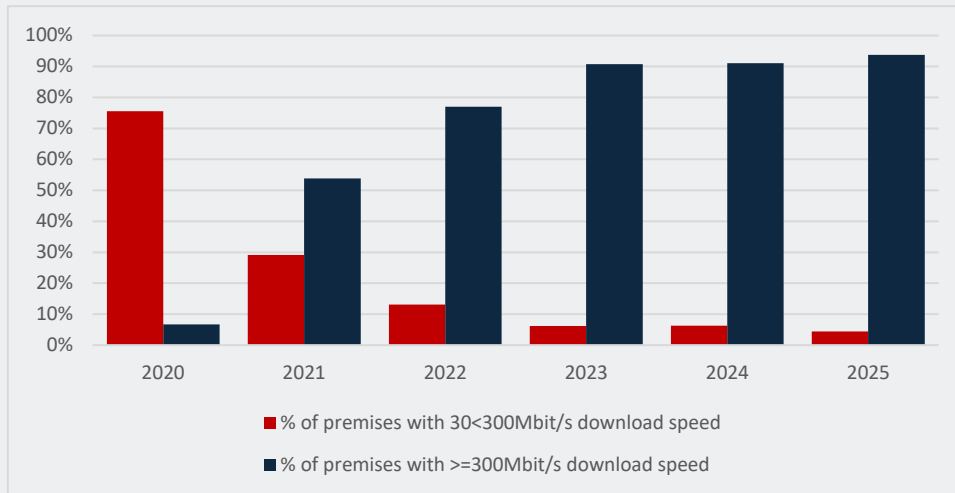
Number of reported carriageway defects 2015/16 to 2024/25



Source - Carriageway and Footway Surface Defects (OpenDataNI)

Carriageway defects in the Newry, Mourne & Down area have varied significantly over the past decade, reaching a high of 28,731 in 2018 before dropping to their lowest point of 14,348 in 2020, likely reflecting reduced road usage during the Covid-19 pandemic, with figures rising again in subsequent years before falling back to 15,127 in 2024.

- **Households with Access to High-Speed Broadband (2020-2025)**

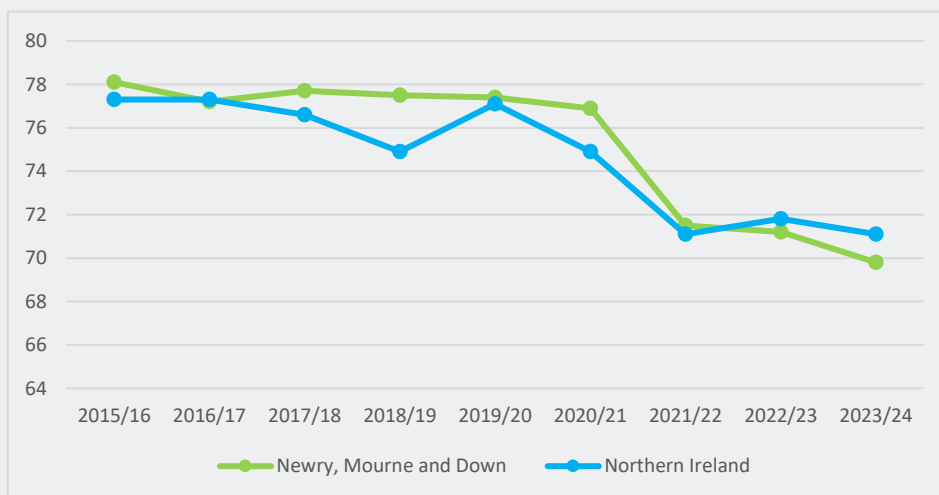


Source - Connected Nations Report 2020 - 2025 (OFCOM)

Broadband connectivity in Newry, Mourne and Down has improved dramatically over the past five years, with ultrafast availability rising from just 6.7% in 2020 to 93.7% in 2025, representing a near-complete transformation from mid-speed access to ultrafast coverage across the area.

Level of Lifelong Learning

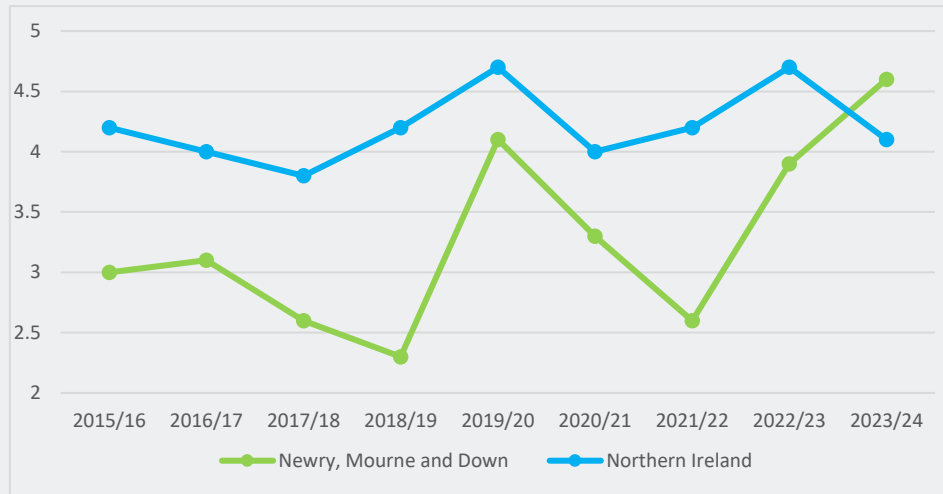
- **Number of enrolments in Further and Higher Education, NMD, 2015/16 to 2023/24**



Source - School Leavers Survey - Destination (NISRA)

Enrolments in Further and Higher Education in Newry, Mourne and Down remained broadly stable and close to the Northern Ireland average between 2015/16 and 2020/21, hovering around 77-78. However, both areas saw a sharp decline from 2021/22 onwards, with Newry, Mourne and Down falling to 69.9 by 2023/24, slightly below the Northern Ireland figure of 71.2.

- **School leavers not entering further education or employment (%), NMD vs NI, 2015/16 - 2023/24**



Source - School Leavers Survey - Destination (NISRA)

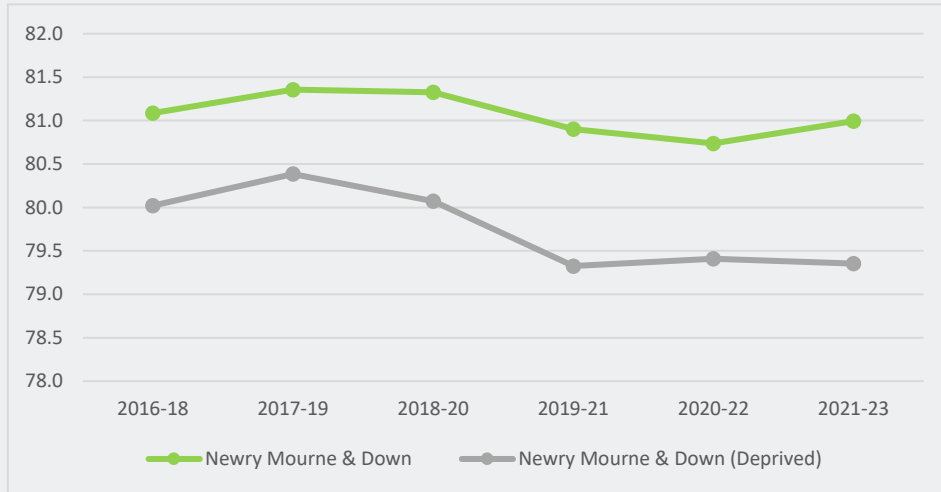
The percentage of school leavers in Newry, Mourne and Down not entering further education or employment has consistently remained below the Northern Ireland average throughout the period, suggesting relatively better outcomes for young people in the area. However, after reaching a low of 2.3% in 2018/19, the local figure has risen steadily, climbing to 4.6% in 2023/24, which for the first time exceeds the Northern Ireland average of 4.1%

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

Level of Life Expectancy

- Life Expectancy at birth, NMD and NMD Deprived, 2016-18 to 2021-23

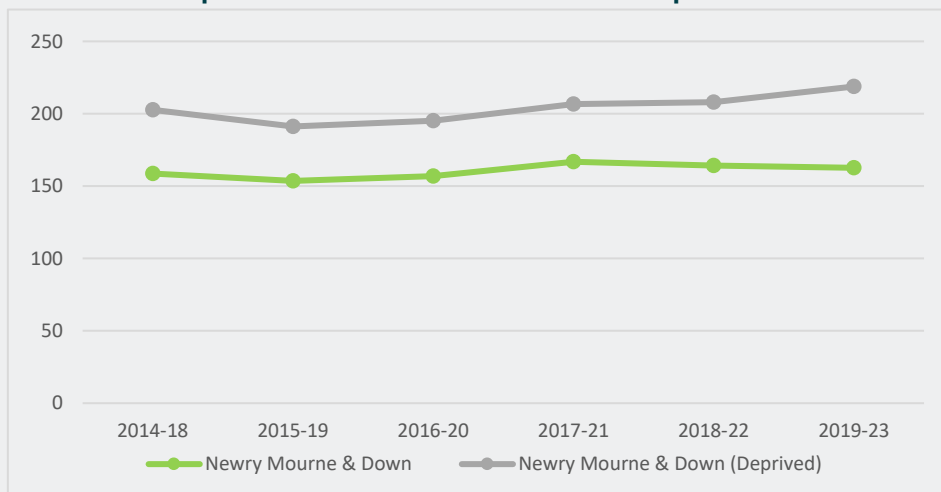


Source - Health Inequalities Report 2024 (Health NI)

Life expectancy at birth in Newry, Mourne and Down has remained relatively stable across the period, consistently sitting around 81 years. However, a clear and persistent gap exists between the overall area figure and that of its most deprived communities, where life expectancy is notably lower at around 79.4 years in 21-23.

Level of Preventable Death

- Preventable death per 100,000, NMD and NMD Deprived, 2014/18 to 2019/23

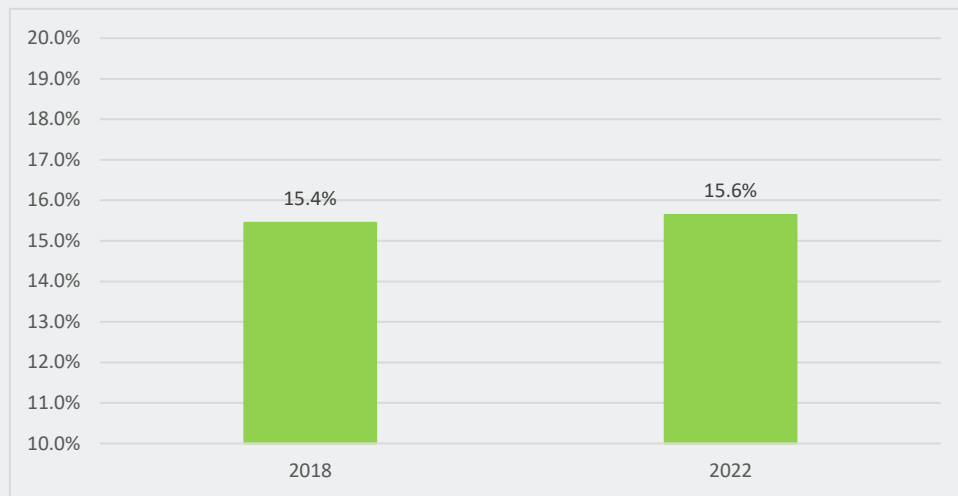


Source - Health Inequalities Report 2024 (Health NI)

Preventable death rates have remained stable overall at around 160 per 100,000, but rates in the most deprived areas have increased from 204 to 219 per 100,000, highlighting growing health inequalities linked to deprivation.

Level of Work Life Balance

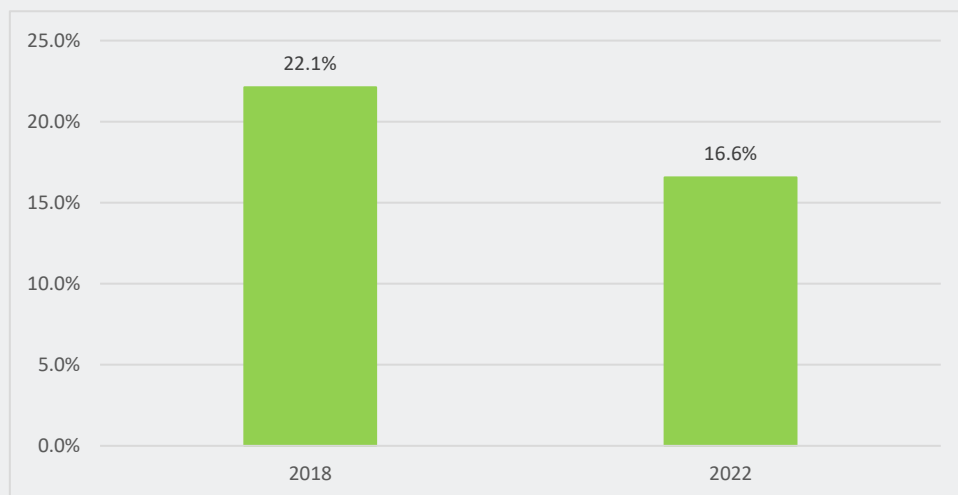
- **% of Residents Attending or Participating in Arts, Heritage & Culture**



Source - Residents Survey 2018 & 2022 (NM&D)

Resident participation in arts, heritage and culture in Newry, Mourne and Down has remained largely unchanged, with attendance rates of 15.4% in 2018 and 15.6% in 2022, suggesting little progress in engaging the wider population in cultural activity over this period.

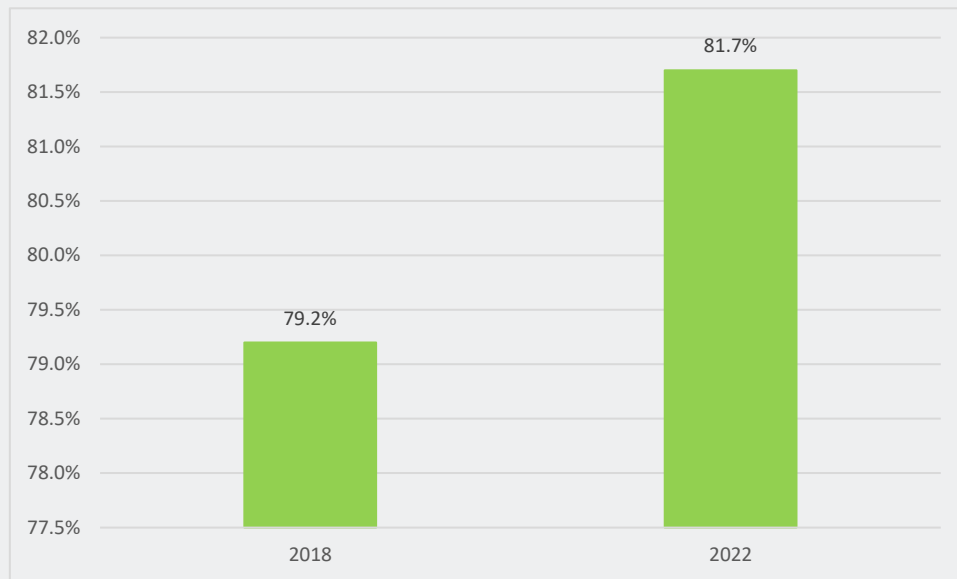
- **% of residents who don't take part in any physical activity in a week**



Source - Residents Survey 2018 & 2022 (NM&D)

The percentage of residents in Newry, Mourne and Down who do not take part in any physical activity in a given week has fallen notably, from 22.1% in 2018 to 16.6% in 2022, indicating a positive shift towards more active lifestyles across the area.

- **% of residents who are reporting good to very good health**

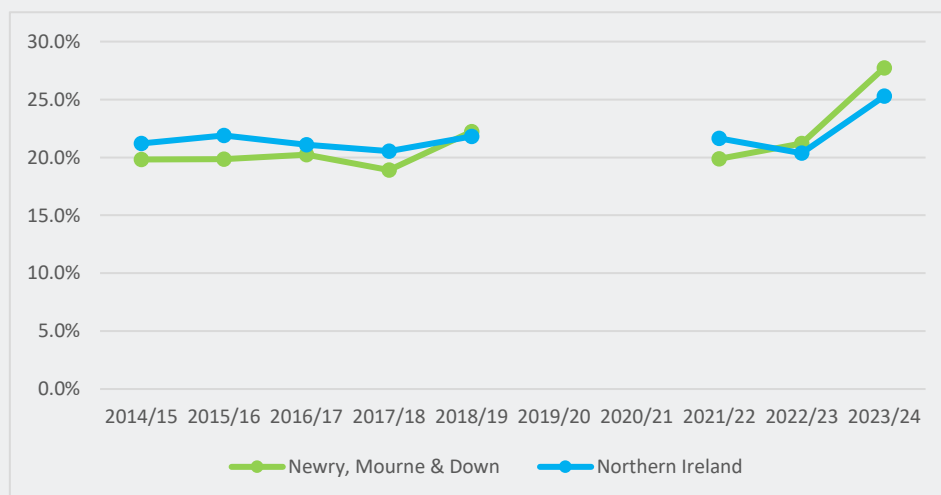


Source - Residents Survey 2018 & 2022 (NM&D)

The proportion of residents in Newry, Mourne and Down reporting good to very good health has improved modestly, rising from 79.2% in 2018 to 81.7% in 2022, suggesting a generally positive trend in self-reported health across the area.

Level of Health Status

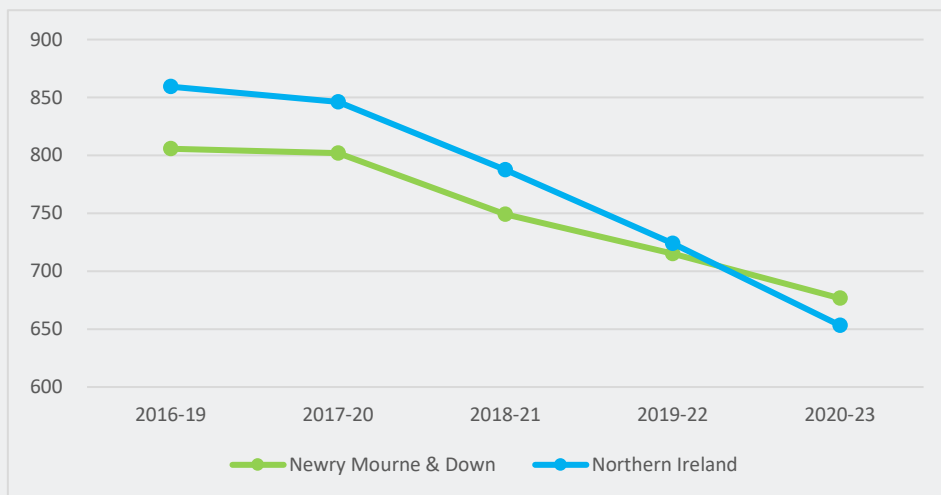
- **% of Primary 1 children overweight or obese, NMD and NI, 2014/15 - 2023/24**



Source - RUAG Children's Health Report NI (HSCNI)

The percentage of Primary 1 children who are overweight or obese has increased significantly since 2021/22, reaching around 27% in 2023/24 and exceeding the Northern Ireland average, indicating a growing local concern around childhood obesity.

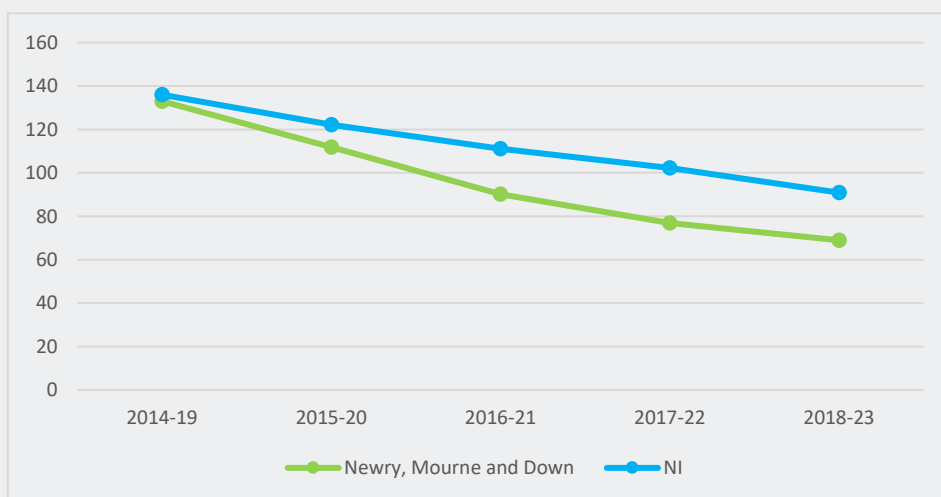
- **Number of admissions for alcohol and drug related causes per 100,000, NMD and NI, 2016-19 to 2020-23**



Source - Health Inequalities Report 2024 (Health NI)

Standardised admission rates for alcohol and drug-related causes declined steadily in both Newry, Mourne and Down and Northern Ireland between 2016-19 and 2020-23. In the latest period, NMD's rate (677 per 100,000) slightly exceeded the Northern Ireland average (653) for the first time during this timeframe.

- **Number of admissions for self-harm per 100,000 population, NMD and NI, 2014-19 to 2018-23**



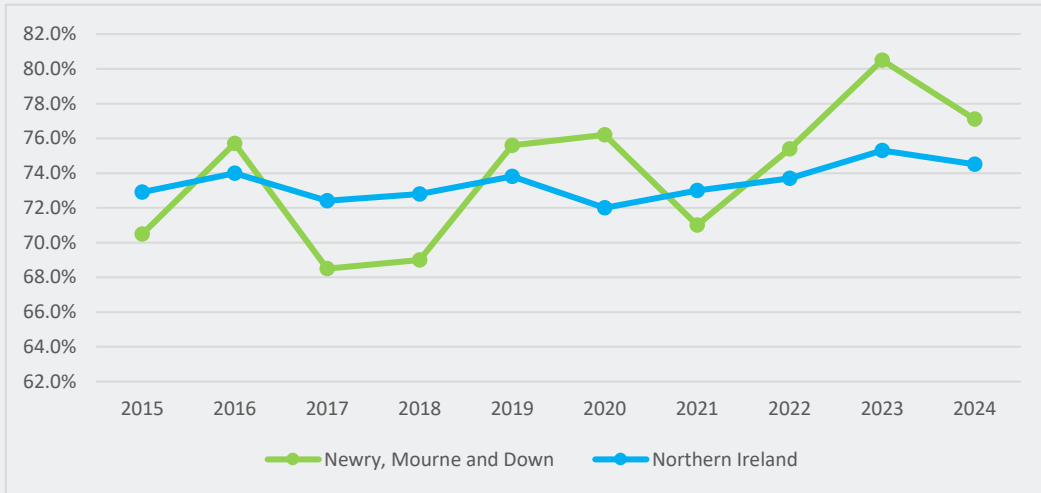
Source - Health Inequalities Report 2024 (Health NI)

Self-harm-related admissions declined steadily between 2014/15–2018/19 and 2018/19–2022/23 in both Newry, Mourne and Down and Northern Ireland. While both trends are positive, the gap between the two areas widened significantly over time, with Newry, Mourne and Down now reporting substantially lower rates than the Northern Ireland average.

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

Level of Employment and Wealth

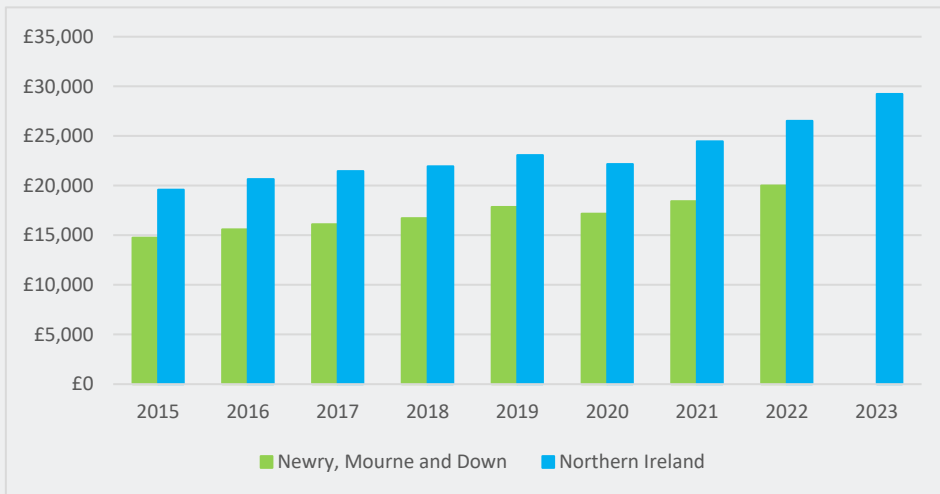
- Economic Activity rate, NMD and NI, 2015 to 2024



Source - Labour Force Survey Tables for LGDs 2009-2024 (NISRA)

Economic activity rates in Newry, Mourne and Down showed considerable volatility between 2015 and 2024, including notable dips in 2017-2018 and 2021, before reaching a peak of 80.2% in 2023. While the district's rate declined slightly to 76.8% in 2024, it remained above the Northern Ireland average of 74.2%.

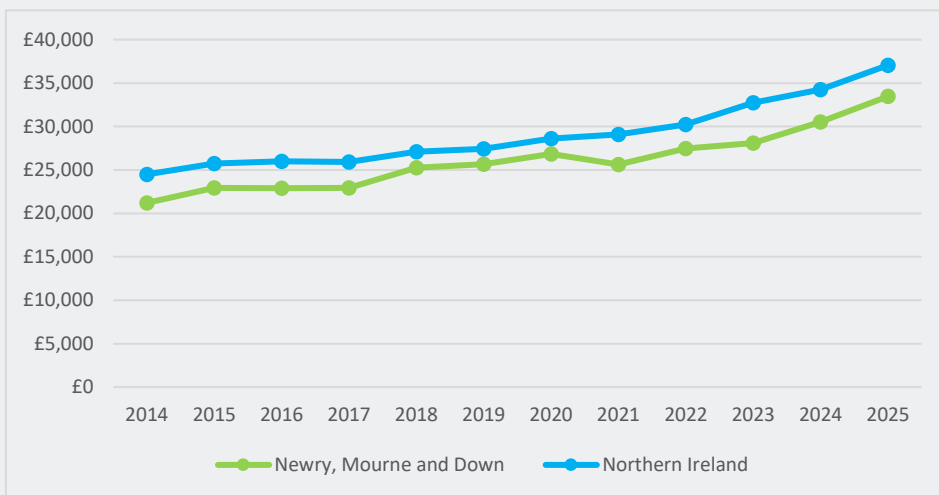
- Per Capita Gross Value Added (GVA) - NMD and NI Comparison, 2015 to 2023



Source: ONS - GVA per Capita (Balanced), Current Basic Prices (£)

Per capita GVA increased steadily in both Newry, Mourne and Down and Northern Ireland between 2015 and 2023, with the district rising from £15,000 to £19,800 by 2022. However, a persistent and widening gap remained throughout this period, with the district's per capita GVA consistently lower than the Northern Ireland average.

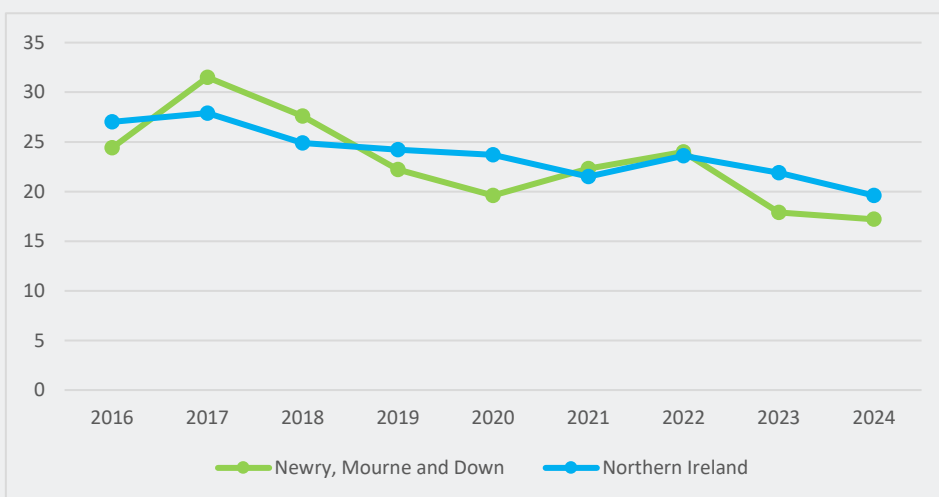
• **Median Annual Resident Earnings, NMD and NI, 2014 to 2025**



Source - Gross Annual Pay: Median Wage (£) (NISRA)

Median annual resident earnings increased consistently in both Newry, Mourne and Down and Northern Ireland between 2014 and 2025, rising from approximately £21,500 to £33,500 and £24,700 to £37,000 respectively. Throughout this period, earnings in the district remained consistently below the Northern Ireland average, with the gap widening from around £3,200 in 2014 to approximately £3,500 by 2025.

• **% of population without formal qualification, NMD and NI, (2016 - 2024)**

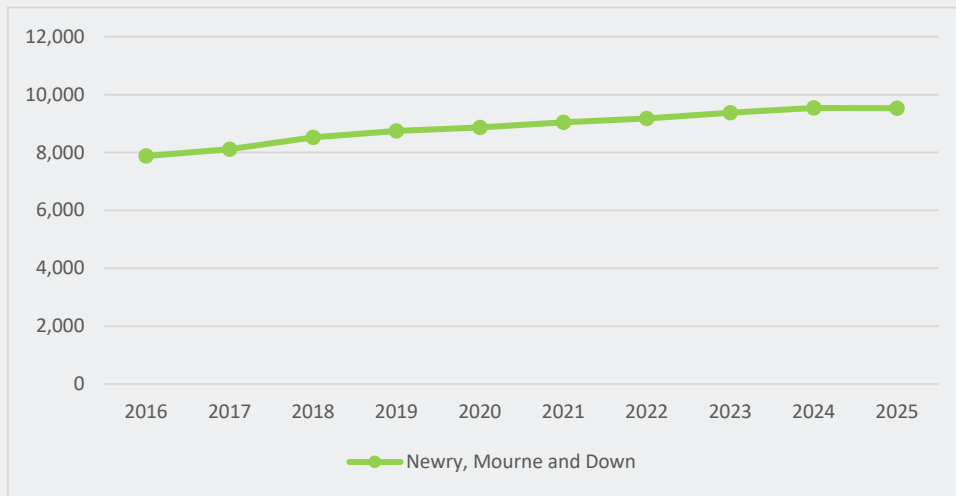


Source - Indicator: Skills (NISRA)

The percentage of the population without formal qualifications declined in both Newry, Mourne and Down and Northern Ireland between 2016 and 2024, falling from approximately 24.5% to 17.3% and 27.5% to 19.5% respectively. Both areas showed steady improvement over time, with rates converging to similar levels by 2024.

Level of Economic Investment

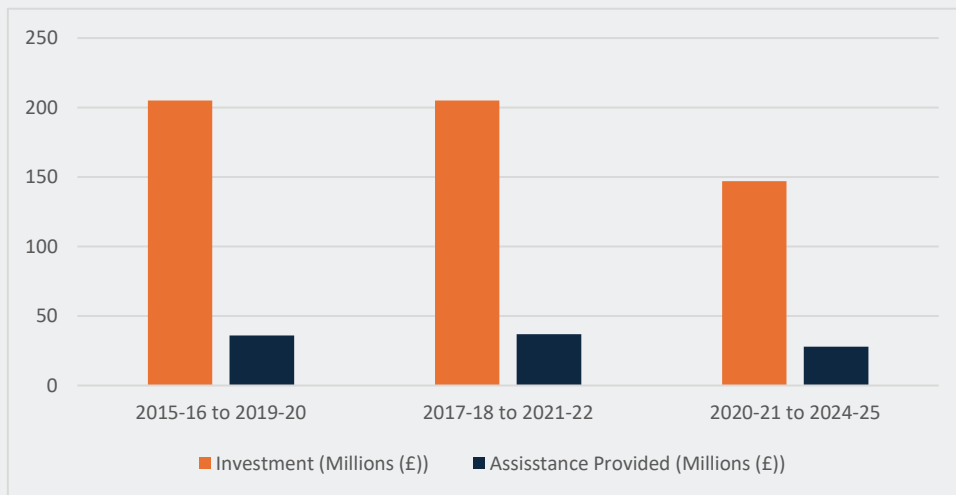
- **Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses NMD, (2016 - 2025)**



Source - Inter Departmental Business Register (NISRA)

The number of VAT-registered businesses in Newry, Mourne and Down increased steadily between 2016 and 2025, rising from approximately 7,900 to 9,500. This represents consistent growth of around 1,600 businesses over the nine-year period, indicating sustained expansion in the district's business base.

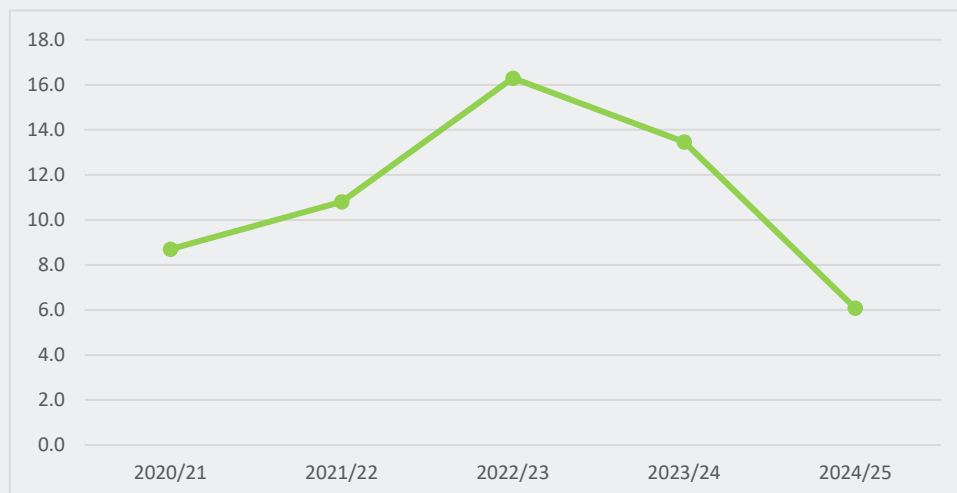
- **Invest NI Support in Newry, Mourne and Down District: Investment and Assistance Trends (2015-2025)**



Source - Invest NI Supported Business Performance - Council Briefing

Investment levels in the Newry, Mourne and Down district remained stable at £205 million across the first two five-year periods before declining by 28% to £147 million in 2020-21 to 2024-25. Assistance provided followed a similar pattern, dropping from £36-37 million in the earlier periods to £28 million in the most recent timeframe.

- **Funding Contracts for Economic Development and Regeneration (£millions), 2020 to 2025**

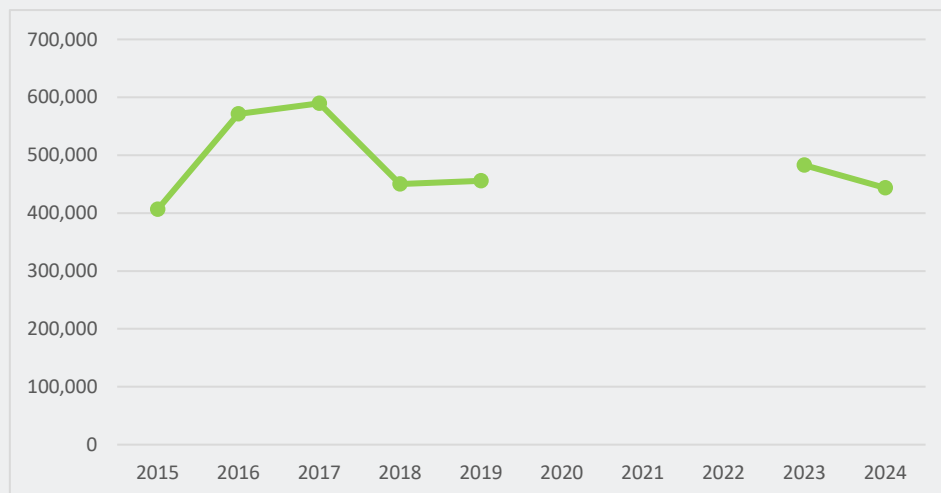


Source - NMD Assessment of Performance 2024/25

The value of economic development and regeneration contracts increased to a peak of £16.3 million in 2022/23 before falling sharply to £6.1 million in 2024/25, representing a 63% decline over the last two years.

Level of Tourism Revenue

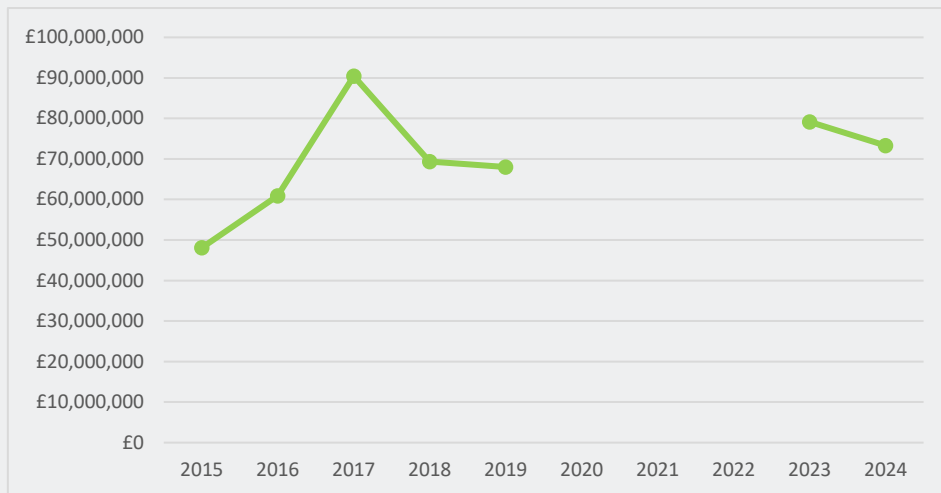
- **Number of Overnight Trips in Newry, Mourne and Down, 2015 - 2024**



Source - Estimated Overnight Trips, Nights and Expenditure (NISRA)

The number of overnight trips in Newry, Mourne and Down showed significant volatility between 2015 and 2024, peaking at approximately 590,000 in 2017 before declining sharply to around 450,000 by 2018-2019. Data gaps during 2020-2022 reflect COVID-19 disruptions, with trips recovering to approximately 480,000 by 2023 before declining slightly to 445,000 in 2024, remaining below pre-pandemic levels.

- **Tourist Expenditure: Newry, Mourne and Down, 2015 - 2024**



Source - Estimated Overnight Trips, Nights and Expenditure (NISRA)

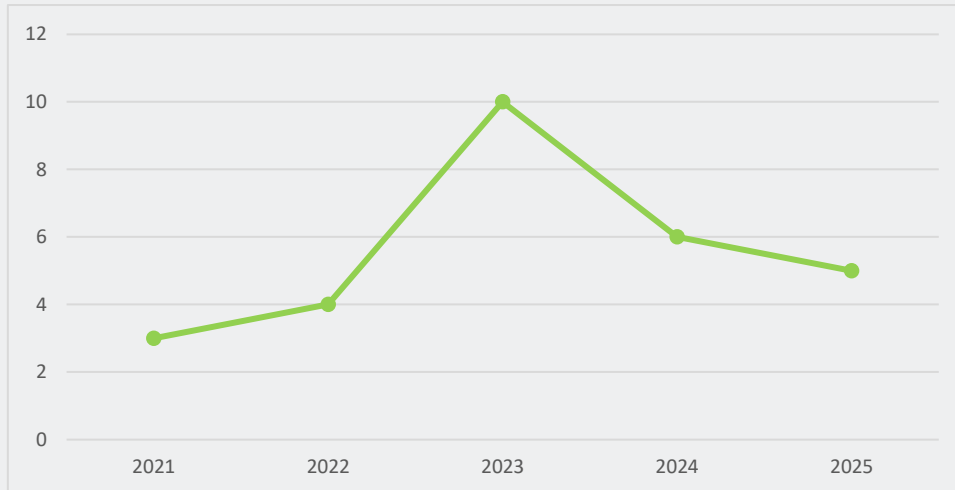
Tourist expenditure in Newry, Mourne and Down rose sharply from £48 million in 2015 to peak at £90 million in 2017, before declining to approximately £68 million by 2018-2019. Data gaps during 2020-2022 reflect COVID-19 disruptions, with expenditure recovering to around £79 million by 2023 before declining slightly to £74 million in 2024, remaining below the 2017 peak.

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

Level of Sustainable Energy

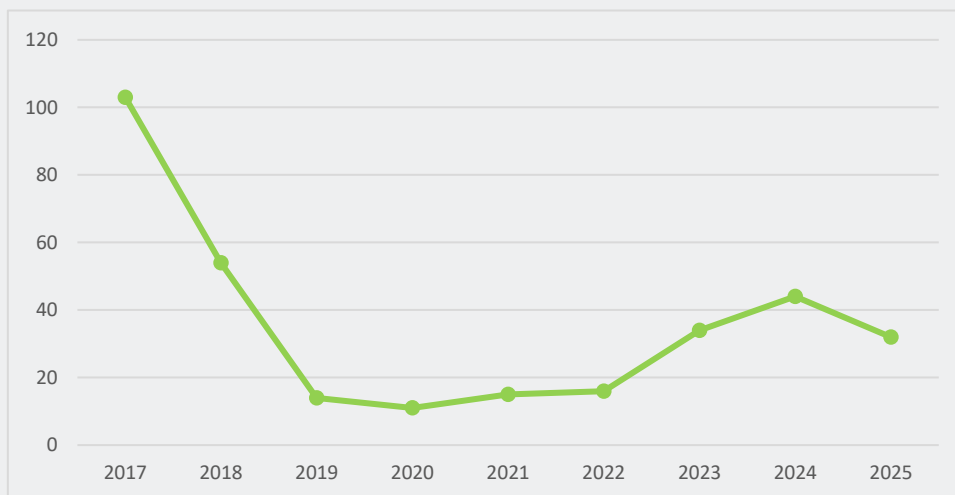
- **Number of Approved Renewable Energy Installations, 2021 to 2025**



Source - Renewable Energy Applications (NMD Planning Department)

The number of approved renewable energy installations in Newry, Mourne and Down increased from 3 in 2021 to peak at 10 in 2023, before declining to 6 in 2024 and 5 in 2025.

- **Building control applications for Solar Installations**

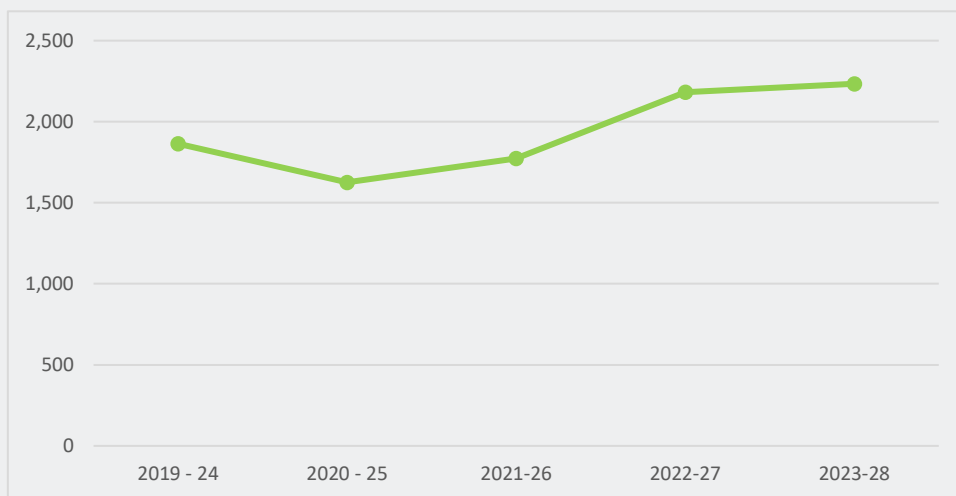


Source - LPS Completion Stats

Building control applications for solar installations in Newry, Mourne and Down peaked significantly in 2017 at 103, before declining sharply to a low of 11 in 2020. Applications have since gradually recovered, rising to 44 in 2024, though they remain well below the 2017 peak, suggesting renewed but still modest interest in solar installations across the area.

Level of Quality Housing

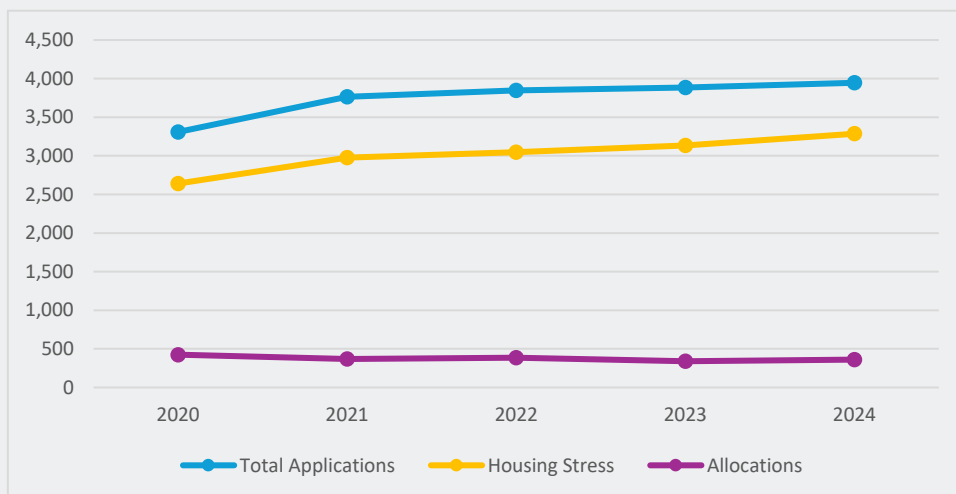
- **Number of social housing units required in Newry, Mourne & Down, 2019 - 2028**



Source - NIHE Housing Improvement Plan

The number of social housing units required in Newry, Mourne and Down declined from approximately 1,880 in 2019-24 to around 1,630 in 2020-25, before rising steadily to reach approximately 2,220 by 2023-28. This represents an overall increase of around 340 units in projected need over the nine-year period.

- **Social Housing Demand and Levels of Housing Stress**

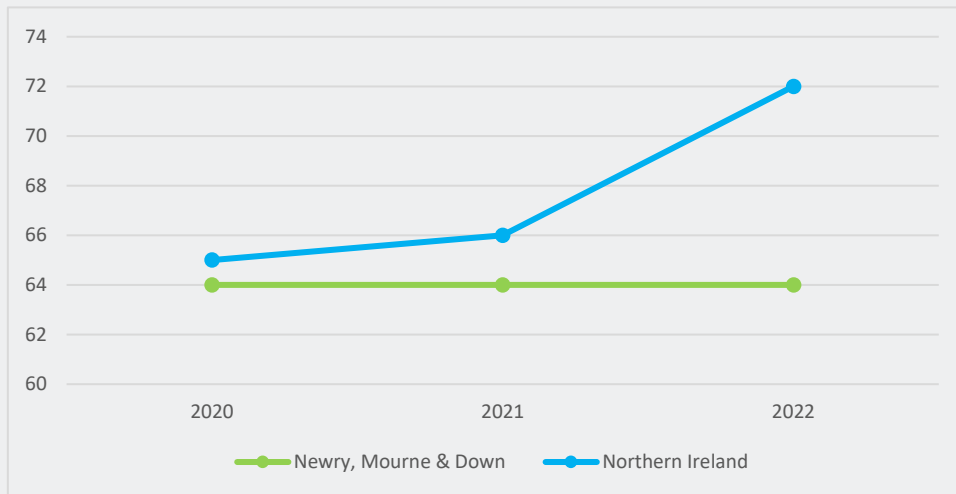


Source - NIHE Housing Improvement Plan

Social housing demand in Newry, Mourne and Down increased steadily between 2020 and 2024, with total applications rising from approximately 3,300 to 3,950 and households in housing stress growing from around 2,650 to 3,250. However, allocations remained relatively flat at approximately 400 units per year throughout this period, highlighting a widening gap between demand and supply.

Level of Quality Living Environment

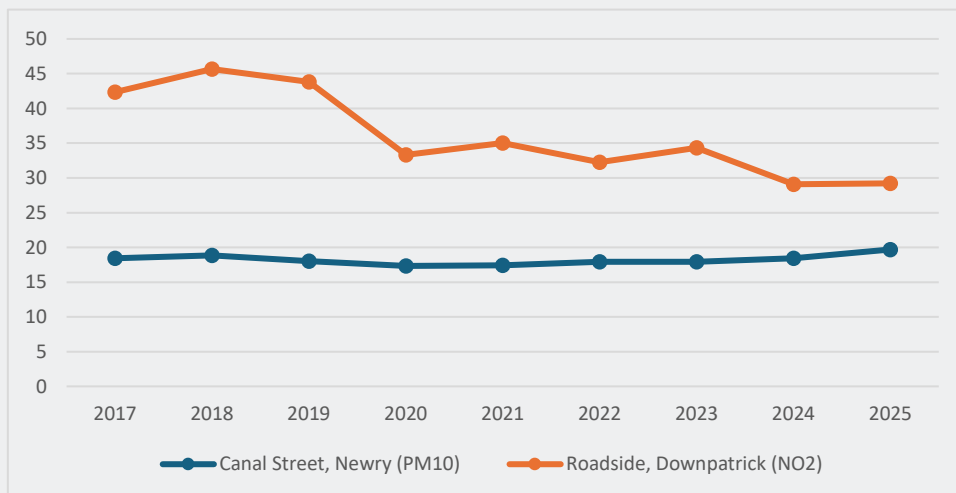
- **LEAMS Score (Keep NI Beautiful Cleanliness Index)**



Source - Cleaner Neighbourhood Report (Keep NI Beautiful)

From 2020 to 2022, Newry, Mourne & Down’s LEAMS score held at 64, falling short of the acceptable standard of 66. In contrast, Northern Ireland improved from 65 to 72, underscoring a growing gap in cleanliness performance. After 2022 LEAMS is not available for our district.

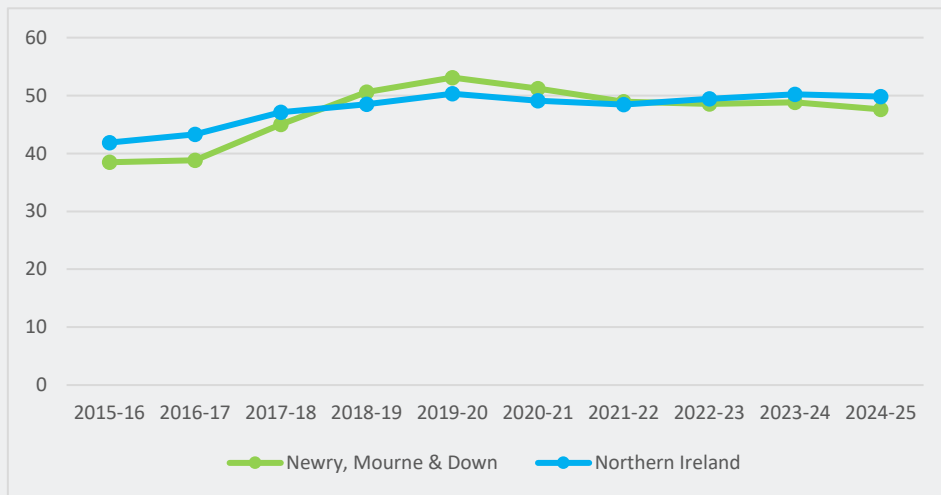
- **Air Quality Trends: PM10 and NO2 Levels at Monitoring Sites, 2017-2025**



Source - Air Quality in Northern Ireland (DEARA)

Air pollution levels showed contrasting trends at the two monitoring sites between 2017 and 2025. While Canal Street in Newry (PM10) remained relatively stable at around 18-19 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ throughout the period, Roadside in Downpatrick (NO2) declined significantly from approximately 42 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2018 to around 29 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ by 2025, representing a substantial improvement in nitrogen dioxide levels.

- **Household Recycling rate, 2015/16 to 2024/25**

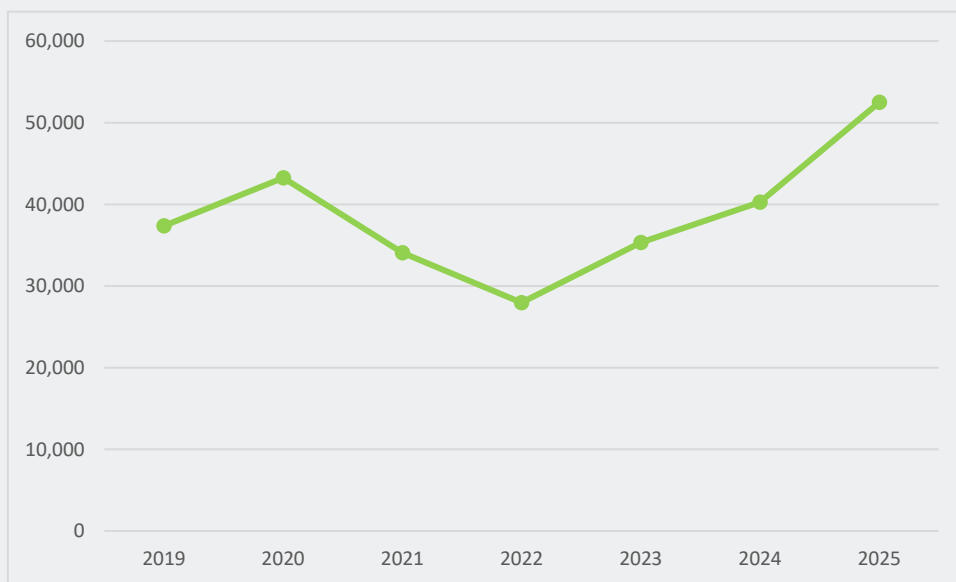


LAC Municipal Waste Management Report (2015 - 2025) (DAERA)

Recycling performance in Newry, Mourne and Down reached a high point in 2019-20, with the district recycling just over 50% of its household waste. The most recent figure stands at 49%, representing a marginal decrease and placing the district just below the national average.

Level of Rich, Diverse Natural Environment

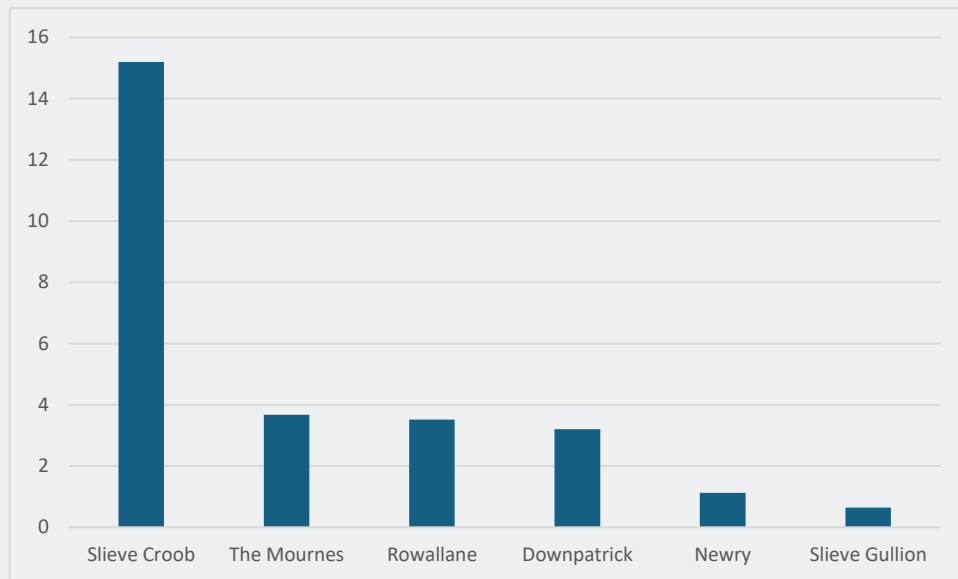
- **Newry, Mourne & Down Greenways Pedestrian and Cyclist Counts**



Source - Newry, Mourne and Down Economy, Growth and Tourism

The number of pedestrian and bike users on Newry, Mourne and Down Greenways has grown considerably over the recorded period, rising from 37,357 in 2019 to 75,530 in 2025, with the sharpest increases seen in the most recent years, reflecting growing public engagement with the Greenway network.

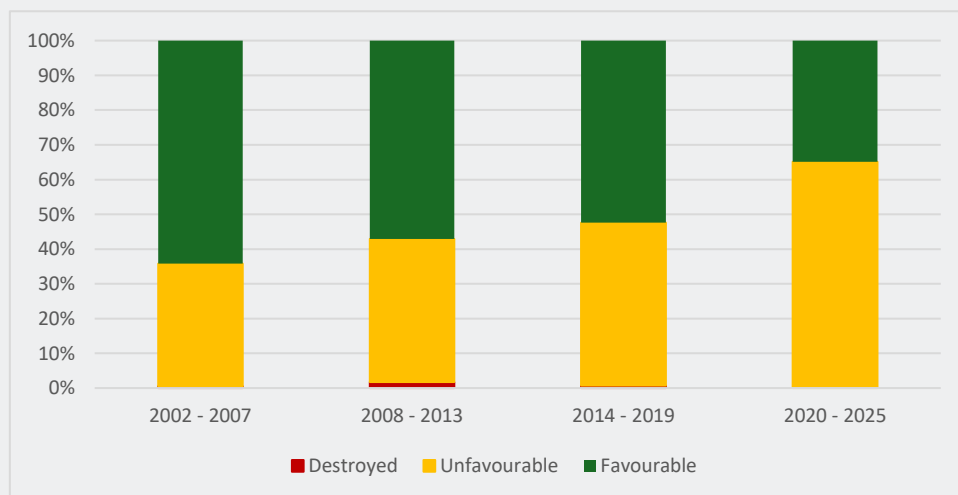
- **Total Length of Community Trails (km) per DEA in Newry, Mourne & Down**



Source - Newry, Mourne & Down Outdoor Leisure

The total distance of community trails across Newry, Mourne and Down stands at 27.36km, with Slieve Croob accounting for the largest share at 15.2km, followed by The Mournes at 3.68km and Rowallane at 3.52km. It is worth noting that Crotlieve currently has no community trails

- **Condition of Assessed ASSI Sites in Newry, Mourne & Down, 2002-2025**



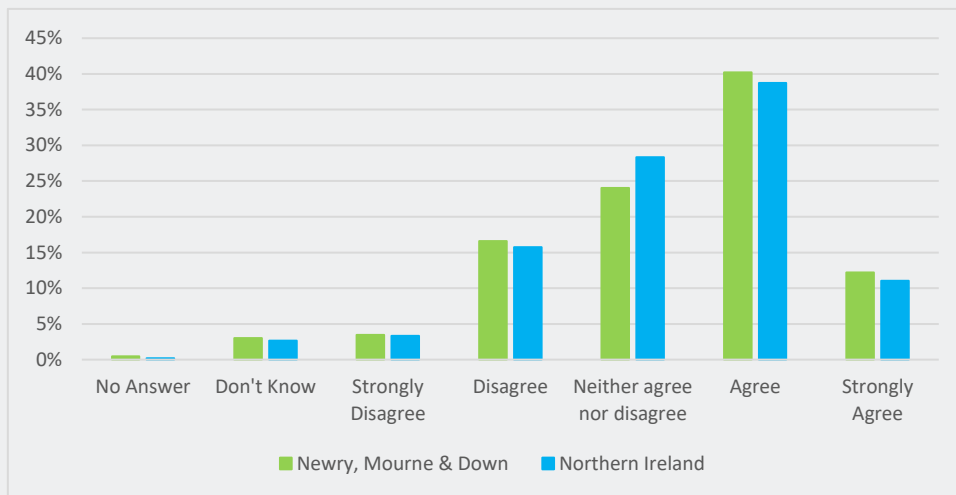
Source - ASSI Plus by LGD (DEARA)

From 2002-2007 to 2020-2025, the proportion of ASSI sites in favourable condition declined sharply from 64.2% to 34.8%, while unfavourable conditions rose significantly from 35.3% to 65.2%. The destroyed category remained very low throughout, dropping to 0% in the latest period, though it should be noted that the number of assessed sites decreased with each period.

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

Level of Social Capital and Connections

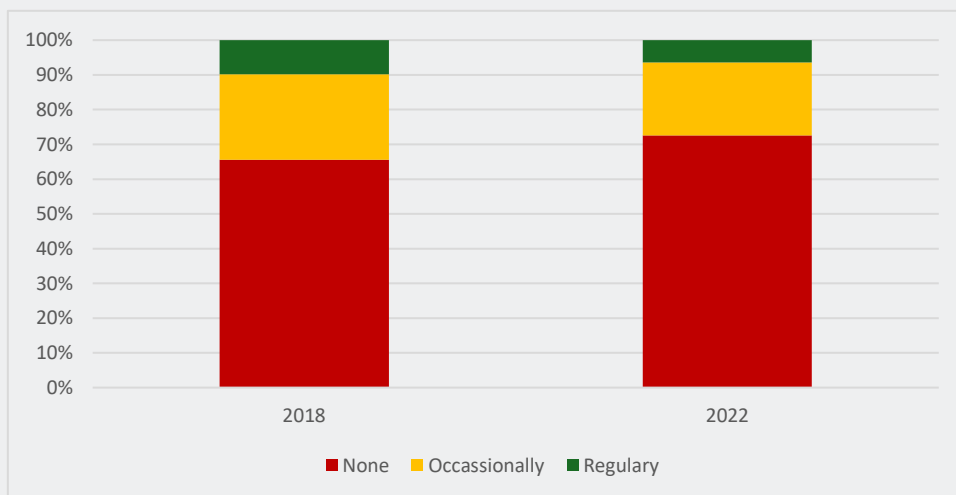
- **% of Population who believe their cultural identity is respected**



Source - Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2022-24

In Newry, Mourne and Down, just over half of residents (52.4%) agree or strongly agree that their cultural identity is respected, slightly above the Northern Ireland average of 49.7%. However, with 20.1% disagreeing and 24% neutral, views remain notably mixed across the district.

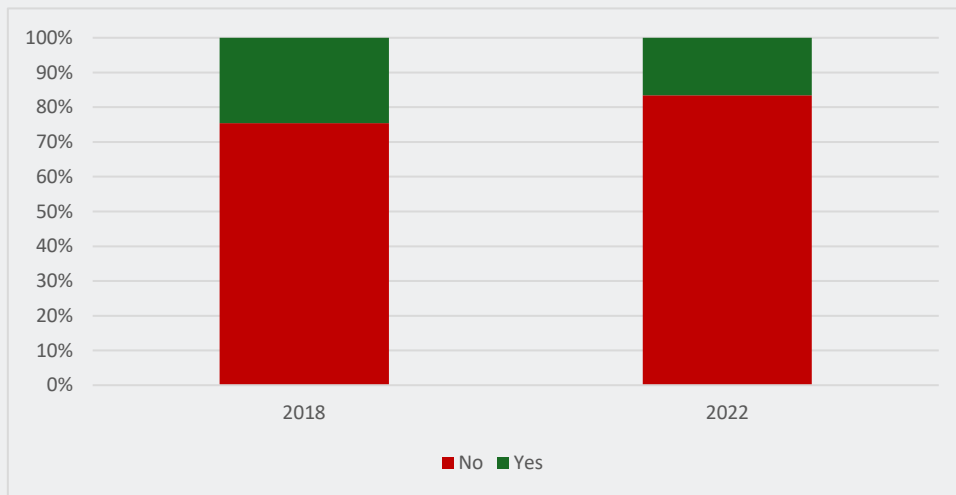
- **Proportion of residents taking part in volunteering (%)**



Source - NMD Residents Survey 2018 & 2022

Volunteering participation among Newry, Mourne and Down residents declined between 2018 and 2022, with occasional volunteering decreasing modestly while regular volunteering experienced a more pronounced reduction. This downward trend reflects a broader weakening of civic engagement within the district during this period.

• **Residents' Participation in Local Groups and Community Activities (%)**



Source - NMD Residents Survey 2018 & 2022

Resident participation in local groups and community activities declined markedly in Newry, Mourne and Down between 2018 and 2022. The proportion of residents actively taking part fell from 24.6% to 16.6%, representing a one-third reduction, while non-participation rose correspondingly to 83.4%, suggesting a significant weakening of community engagement across the district

Level of Civic Participation

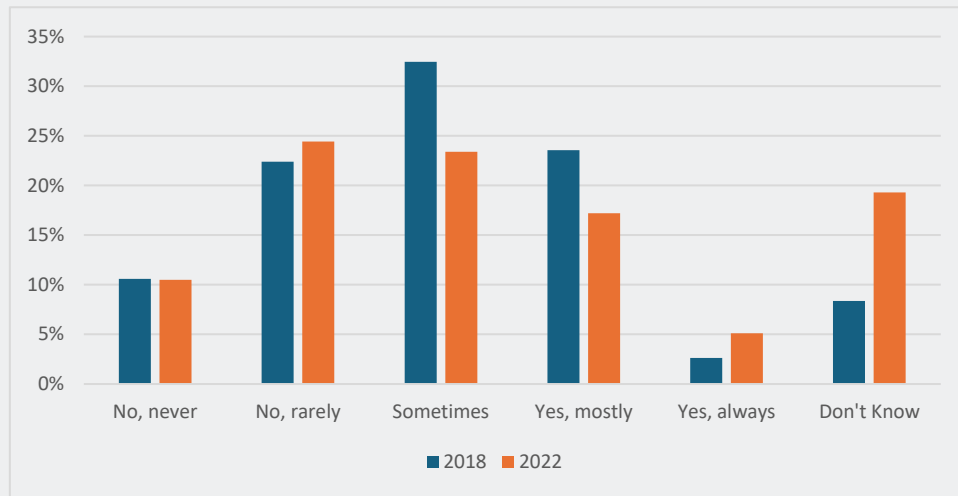
• **Trends in Local Election Turnout: Newry, Mourne and Down (2014–2023)**



Source - Election Office NI

Electoral turnout increased across all seven DEAs in Newry, Mourne and Down between 2014 and 2023, with Slieve Gullion recording the most substantial growth from 57.3% to 65.8%. Four DEAs—Crotlieve (62.2%), Slieve Croob (57.0%), Slieve Gullion (65.8%), and The Mournes (61.0%)—exceeded the Northern Ireland average of 54.7% in 2023, while Downpatrick (52.8%), Newry (53.4%), and Rowallane (51.2%) remained below the national benchmark.

- **Residents' perception on if they have a say on how services are run in their local area (%)**

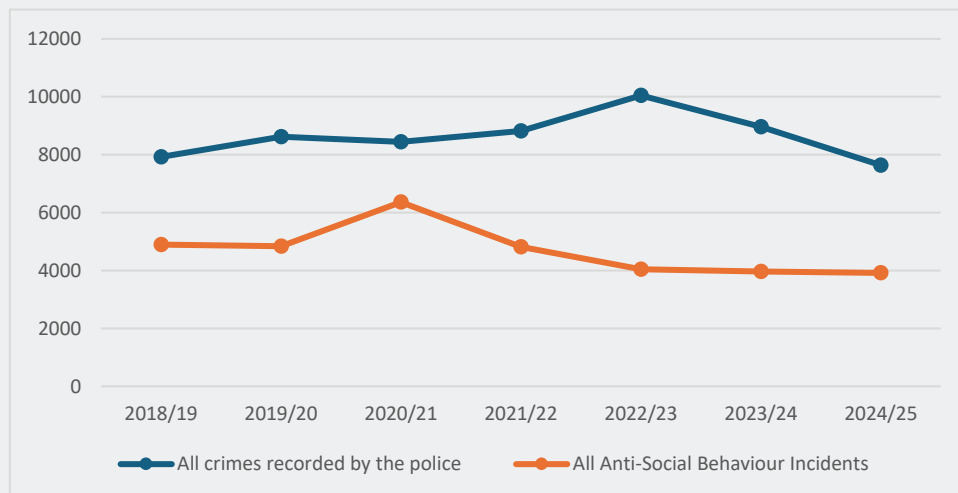


Source - NMD Residents Survey 2018 & 2022

Residents perceived influence over local services in Newry, Mourne and Down deteriorated between 2018 and 2022, with fewer people feeling they had a say and "don't know" responses more than doubling, reflecting weakening confidence in civic engagement over the period.

Level of Personal Safety and Crime Rate

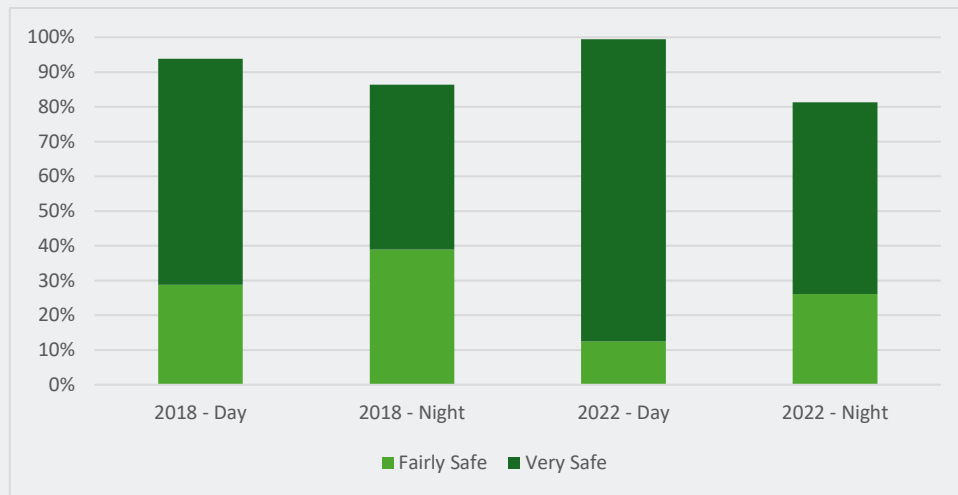
- **Recorded Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in Newry, Mourne and Down 2018 - 2025**



Source - Police Recorded Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents (NISRA)

Recorded crime in Newry, Mourne and Down fluctuated over the period, peaking in 2022/23 before falling back to 7,638 incidents in 2024/25, marginally below the 2018/19 baseline. Anti-social behaviour showed a more consistent decline, dropping from 4,898 incidents in 2018/19 to 3,916 in 2024/25, despite a temporary spike in 2020/21.

- **Proportion of Residents Feeling “Fairly” or “Very” Safe in Their Area**



Source - NMD Residents Survey 2018 & 2022

Between 2018 and 2022, perceptions of safety among Newry, Mourne and Down residents improved markedly, with those feeling "very" safe during the day increasing from 65% to 87%. While "fairly" safe responses declined across all measures and night-time safety perceptions showed more modest gains, the overall trend indicates a significant enhancement in residents' sense of security within the district.

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