October 7th, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Wednesday, 14th October 2026** at **7:00 pm** in **Church Street, Newtownards.**

Agenda

Agenda

Attachment: Agenda AHCC October 2026 (2).pdf ***Page 1***

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of interest

Reports for Approval

3. EVAWAG Task and Finish Group

Report attached.

Attachment: 3. EVAWAG Task and Finish Group.pdf ***Page 4***

Attachment: 3.1 Appendix 1-EVAWAG Terms of Reference.pdf ***Page 7***

Reports for Noting

4. Response to Notice of Motion 680 - Swimming

Report attached.

Attachment: 4. Response to Notice of Motion 680 Swimming.pdf ***Page 9***

5. Community Development Annual Report

Report attached.

Attachment: 5. Community Development Annual Report.pdf ***Page 18***

Attachment: 5.1 Appendix 1 - Annual Report Community Development Team 2025-2026.pdf ***Page 22***

6. Response to Notice of Motion 697 - Motor Neurone Disease

Report attached

Attachment: 6. Response to Notice of Motion 697 Motor Neurone Disease.pdf ***Page 76***

Attachment: 6.1 Appendix 1 Response from Catherine McFarland, Interim Chief Executive of the NIHE.pdf ***Page 79***

Attachment: 6.2 Appendix 2 Response dated 19th June 2026 from Department of Communities.pdf ***Page 83***

7. PCSP Annual Report

Report attached.

Attachment: 7. PCSP Annual Report.pdf ***Page 85***

Attachment: 7.1 PCSP Annual Report 2025-2026.pdf ***Page 88***

8. Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants Update Q2 2026/27

Report attached.

Attachment: 8. Ards and North Down Sports Forum (Quarter 2 2026-27).pdf ***Page 124***

Attachment: 8.1 Appendix 1 - Successful Anniversary Report for Noting 2026-27 (1).pdf ***Page 127***

Attachment: 8.2 Appendix 2 - Successful Coach Education Report for Noting 2026-27.pdf ***Page 128***

Attachment: 8.3 Appendix 3 - Successful Goldcard Report for Noting 2026 -27.pdf ***Page 129***

Attachment: 8.4 Appendix 4 - Successful Seeding Report for Noting 2026 -27 (1).pdf ***Page 130***

Attachment: 8.5 Appendix 5 - Successful Individual Travel Accommodation Report for Noting 2026-27 (3).pdf ***Page 131***

Attachment: 8.6 Appendix 6 - Unsuccessful Report for Noting 2026-27 (1).pdf ***Page 135***

9. Correspondence from EVAWAG - Response to Notice of Motion 723

Report attached

Attachment: 9.1 Appendix 1 - Minister Lyons - NDAWA.pdf ***Page 136***

Attachment: 9.2 Appendix 2 - Letter to Executive Office - EVAWG.pdf ***Page 137***

Attachment: 9.3 Appendix 3 - Response to NoM 723.pdf ***Page 139***

10. Notices of Motion

10.1 Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman McRandal and Councillor

Harbinson

That this Council acknowledges the financial costs that it incurs in dealing with and disposing of litter and in seeking to take enforcement action. That this Council acknowledges that it needs to take further action to positively influence the attitude of some people towards littering. This Council therefore resolves to consider what additional actions it can reasonably take both to inform the public about the various harms that result from littering and to seek to change people's attitudes towards littering.

10.2 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Douglas and Alderman Cummings

That officers are tasked with engaging with boxing clubs and groups in Comber to explore how the Council can assist those clubs and groups and encourage growth of the sport in the town and further that officers look at a feasibility study into the development of the sport.

10.3 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Boyle and Alderman McAlpine

That officers bring back an options paper as to how Council could assist the Portaferry Gala Fest Committee & Community, to recognise the forthcoming very special occasion within the Borough involving the 60th anniversary of Gala Week taking place in July 2027.

11. Any Other Notified Business

ITEMS ***IN CONFIDENCE***

Reports for Approval

12. Leisure Strategy Pilot Capital Funding

Report attached.

Attachment: 12. Leisure Strategy Pilot Capital Funding.pdf	***Not included***
Attachment: 12.1 Appendix 1 - Ards Rangers FC Letter to Ards North Down Council.pdf	***Not included***
Attachment: 12.2 Appendix 2 - Ards Rangers Football Club's Business Case.pdf	***Not included***
Attachment: 12.3 Appendix 3 - DCMS Grassroots Needs Assessment.pdf	***Not included***

Attachment: 12.4 Appendix 4 - Ards Rangers Football Club History and Development.pdf	***Not included***
Attachment: 12.5 Appendix 5 - People and Clubs Accreditation Certificate Ards Rangers FC - Irish FA.pdf	***Not included***
Attachment: 12.6 Appendix 6 - Ards Rangers FC Club Constitution.pdf	***Not included***
Attachment: 12.7 Appendix 7 - Ards Rangers Football Club Committee Member Profiles.pdf	***Not included***
Attachment: 12.8 Appendix 8 - User Groups, Current Usage, Projected Target Growth (1).pdf	***Not included***
Attachment: 12.9 Appendix 9 - Haffey Sportsgrounds Quotation - 2026 Ards Rangers 3G.pdf	***Not included***

13. PEACEPLUS Minutes & Update

Report attached

Attachment: 13. PEACEPLUS - Minutes & Update.pdf	***Not included***
Attachment: 13.1 Appendix 1 - Minutes 25 June 2026.pdf	***Not included***

Reports for Noting

14. NCLT Q1 2026/27 Performance Report Update

Report attached.

Attachment: 14. NCLT Q1 2026 27 Performance Report Update.pdf	***Not included***
Attachment: 14.1 Appendix 1 - NCLT Performance Report Q1 2026 - 27.pdf	***Not included***
Attachment: 14.2 Appendix 2 - NCLT Finance report Q1 2026 - 27.pdf	***Not included***

15. Leisure Provision Model Update

Report attached.

Attachment: 15. Leisure Provision Model Update.pdf	***Not included***

16. PCSP Minutes

Report attached

Attachment: 16. PCSP Minutes.pdf	***Not included***

Attachment: 16.1 Appendix 1- PCSP Minutes 01.06.2026.pdf ***Not included***

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

7 October 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby invited to attend a hybrid meeting (in person and via zoom) of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee of Ards and North Down Borough in the Council Chamber, 2 Church Street, Newtownards and via Zoom on **Wednesday 14 October 2026 commencing at 7pm**.

Yours faithfully

Susie McCullough
Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council

A G E N D A

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

Reports for Approval

3. EVAWAG Task and Finish Group (Report attached)

Reports for Noting

4. Response to Notice of Motion 680 – Swimming (Report attached)

5. Community Development Annual Report (Report attached)

6. Response to Notice of Motion 697- Motor Neurone Disease (Report attached)

7. PCSP Annual Report (Report attached)

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Reports for Noting

14. NCLT Q1 2026 – 27 Performance Report Update (Report attached)

15. Leisure Provision Model Update (Report attached)

16. PCSP Minutes (Report attached)

MEMBERSHIP OF ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE (16 MEMBERS)

Councillor Ashe	Councillor S Irvine (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Boyle	Councillor W Irvine
Alderman Brooks	Councillor Kerr
Councillor Chambers	Councillor McBurney
Councillor Cochrane	Councillor McClean
Alderman Cummings (Chair)	Councillor McKee
Councillor Douglas	Councillor Moore
Councillor Hollywood	Councillor Quinn

Ards and North Down Borough Council

ITEM 3

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	14 October 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community Services
Report title	EVAWAG Task and Finish Group
Attachments	Appendix 1 -Terms of Reference (amended)
File Reference (if applicable)	PCSP 209
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 Justice Act (NI) 2011
Resource Implications	Budget Narrative:
Screening Requirements	*The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:* Screening of decision not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 3: Social 5. Safe, welcoming and inclusive communities that are flourishing If multiple:

Background

In June 2026 Council agreed Terms of Reference for a Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWAG) Task and Finish Group and appointed six elected members to produce a local Strategy on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

The evidence led local Strategy would be developed for 2027-2031 and aligned to The Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (2024-2031) launched by the Executive Office in 2024.

The local Strategy should identify gaps in EVAWG programmes in the Borough and analyse the information collected to identify any areas not receiving targeted information or support. This in-depth research should map local VAWG incidents, highlight gaps and high-risk areas to ensure that the EVAWG message is clear to all. The research should enable the full Action Plan for 2027-2028 to target resources to areas most at risk, while working closely with VAWG specialists to ensure the plan is relevant and sustainable.

Context

Six members were appointed to the dedicated advisory and co-design forum in June 2026. The Group has no decision making powers and reports through Active and Healthy Communities Committee.

The first meeting of the Group was held on 16th September 2026. At the meeting members agreed that it would be beneficial to invite relevant specialists onto the Group to assist with the preparation of the local Strategy. Their expertise in current and future needs was paramount in ensuring the Strategy was relevant to the Borough.

It was agreed that all members of the South Eastern Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership should be members of the Task and Finish Group. Current SEDSVP membership includes staff from the following organisations:

- Ards and North Down Women's Aid (Chair of SEDSVP)
- South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
- Kilcooley Women's Centre
- PSNI
- Ards and North Down Borough Council (PCSP)
- Men's Advisory Project (MAPNI)
- NI Housing Executive
- County Down Rural Community Network
- Assist NI

It was also noted that advice and guidance may be required from experts who were not members of SEDSVP and that the group would like to be able to call on relevant experts, if required in the development of the Strategy.

A specialist consultant has been appointed to assist with the production of the Strategy which should be complete by January 2027.

Next steps
The EVAWAG Task and Finish Group requests approval to amend its Terms of Reference to include all members of the SEDSVP and to be granted approval to invite relevant experts to attend meetings of the Group as and when required to assist with the production of the Ards and North Down EVAWAG Strategy.

The Working Group would like to continue meeting after the production of the Strategy to enable it to monitor the targets and outcomes set but a further report on the this will come to members in due course, once work on the Strategy has been undertaken.

RECOMMENDED

It is recommended that Council **Approves** the amendment to the Terms of Reference of the EVAWAG Task and Finish Group.

APPENDIX 1

SUBJECT: Establishment and Terms of Reference: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Strategy Working Group (Task and Finish)

1. Purpose & Governance Status

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Member approval for the establishment and Draft Terms of Reference of the **Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Working Group**.

1.2 Members are asked to note that this is a **non-decision-making group**. It will function as a dedicated advisory and co-design forum, reporting through AHC Committee.

1.3 Any strategic recommendations, resource allocations, or final policy adoptions developed by the Working Group will be presented officer reports to the AHC Committee for formal Council ratification.

2. Membership & Nominations

2.1 In line with standard Council protocol, it is proposed that the Working Group consists of 6 **places** allocated to Elected Members.
2.2 Nominations will be requested from political groups according to standard quota/proportionality arrangements as the AGM.
2.3 To ensure a holistic "whole-council" approach, the group will be supported by the EVAWAG Officer under the Direction of the PCSP Manager and Head of Community Services.
2.4 All members of the South Eastern Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership

3. Operational Terms of Reference

- **Frequency of Meetings:** The group will meet **bi-monthly** (every two months) in the first instance, moving to an *ad-hoc* basis once the Strategy is launched.
- **Secretariat Support:** Administrative support, minutes, and agenda setting will be provided by Community services.

4. Deliverables: What the Working Group Will Actually Do

- **Action 1: Setting and Agreeing Strategic Aim and Objectives**

Define the localised objectives of the Council's EVAWG Strategy, ensuring strict alignment with the regional strategic pillars set by The Executive Office (TEO).
Action 2; Align with the Northern Ireland wide strategy and the South Eastern Domestic Violence Partnership Members will review baseline data and community feedback to define

- **Action 2: Design Oversight and Monitoring arrangement**

The group will define milestones, tracking and performance indicators fr the delivery of the Strategy as reported to Council through the Active and Health Communities Committee.

5. Resource & Financial Implications

5.1 Staffing Resources

- **Dedicated Officer Post:** Council is currently in the process of employing a dedicated **EVAWG Officer** (or equivalent Community Safety/PCSP role). Once in post, this officer will act as the principal technical advisor and secretariat to the Working Group.
- **Workload Management:** The dedicated officer will be responsible for drafting the strategy, coordinating public consultations, managing the local Change Fund, and preparing all progress reports. This mitigates additional administrative burdens on existing departmental staff.
- **Cross-Departmental Input:** Minor officer time will be required from existing senior staff to attend bi-monthly meetings and align departmental actions.

5.2 Financial Implications

- **Salary Costs:** The salary and on-costs for the dedicated officer post are met through **[Insert Funding Source, e.g., The Executive Office (TEO) EVAWG Core Funding / existing PCSP budgets]**.
- **Operational Budget:** Any subsequent costs relating to the borough-wide public consultation, venue hire for workshops, or promotional materials will be delivered within existing operational budgets or offset by regional EVAWG grant allocations.
- **Capital Works:** Any physical interventions identified by the group (e.g., upgraded CCTV or street lighting) will be subject to separate business cases and presented to the relevant parent Committee for capital budget approval.
-

6. Timeline & Key Milestones

- **Month 1–2:** Establish working group, agree ToR, and launch public and stakeholder consultations.
- **Month 3–4:** write strategy
- **Month 5:** Deliver draft strategy t
- **Month 6:** Present final EVAWG Strategy to Full Council for formal adoption and launch.

Ards and North Down Borough Council

ITEM 4

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	14 October 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure
Report title	Response to Notice of Motion 680 – Swimming
Attachments	N/A
File Reference (if applicable)	LEI32
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Resource Implications	None Narrative:
Screening Requirements	*The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:* Screening of report not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 3: Social 6. Opportunities for people to be active and healthy If multiple:

Background
Notice of Motion 680 was agreed by Council on 24th September 2025 that, 'this Council recognises the importance of every child having the opportunity to learn to swim - a vital life skill that supports physical health, mental wellbeing, and water safety. Swimming is not only one of the most effective forms of exercise, but also a key activity for building confidence and resilience in young people.
Further to this Council agrees to;

1. - An audit of current indoor swimming lesson provision and also open water safety awareness programmes across the Borough against local demand; and

2. - The development of a strategy to ensure that no child is denied access to swimming lessons or safety awareness programmes due to cost or capacity.

Approach
An officer report to the 15th June 2026 Committee provided an update as to the intended next steps by Leisure officers to work towards the completion of this NoM. As detailed in that report the following approach was implemented;

1. Baseline Audit of swimming lesson provision
   - 1a; An audit of swimming lesson programmes at the Borough's leisure centres and private pools
   - 1b; Analysis of class capacity, utilisation, and any waiting lists
   - 1c; Review of instructor resources and pool availability
   - 1d; Overview of pricing structures and concessionary access

2. Baseline Audit of Water Safety Provision Review
   - 2a; An audit of current water safety and open water awareness programmes
   - 2b; Identification of partnership opportunities either within Council departments and / or other providers

3. Demand Assessment
   - Analysis of demand through engagement with schools, clubs, community stakeholders and swimming lesson providers

4. Analysis of findings
   - 4a; Identification of capacity shortfalls and service pressures
   - 4b; Assessment of barriers to access (cost, availability, location, timing)
   - 4c; Consideration of equality and inclusion factors

5. Development of Options
   - Based upon the results from points 1 – 4 the development of options that may inform a potential strategy.

Key findings

1. Baseline Audit of swimming lesson provision

1a. Children's swimming lesson provision within the Borough can be categorised into two groups: leisure centre provision and private pool provision.

Leisure Centre provision
Ards and North Down Borough Council has two Leisure centres with swimming pools.

Ards Blair Mayne Wellbeing and Leisure Complex (ABMWLC)
ABMWLC has two swimming pools used for swimming lessons. The Main Pool is 25 metres in length, has 6 lanes, and has a maximum depth of 2 metres. Two lanes have a permanent depth of 2 metres with a moveable wall separating the static lanes from the 4 lanes that have a movable floor, adjustable to a maximum depth of 2 metres to 0.8 metres to accommodate the various swimming lessons and other pool uses that take place. Access into the pool is via steps, hoist and a modern deck level platform to allow access without using steps or via a wheelchair.

The Minor Pool is 21 metres in length, has 4 lanes, and has a maximum depth of 2 metres. The Minor Pool is located separately from the Main Pool with its own private gallery which is purpose built for swimming lessons. The entire pool floor is adjustable between the depth of 2 metres and 0.8 metres to accommodate the various swimming lessons and other pool uses that take place. Access to the pool is via steps, hoist and a modern deck level platform lift to allow all to participate.

ABMWLC teaches the 'Waves Learn to Swim Programme', this programme is delivered 48-weeks of the year in 4 x 12-week terms, teaching participants from 3 months old up to adult lessons, the programme has a capacity of 1,750 spaces for swimmers to swim in weekly lessons.

Over the summer in addition to the weekly Waves learn to swim programme crash course weeks are delivered in a weekly 4 x 45-minute group lessons in format. These intensive lessons accommodate people that are unable to commit to the once-a-week lessons and enable a greater capacity equal to an additional 200 participants in these lessons.

In addition to the full Waves programme 20 private lessons are delivered weekly, priority is given to the most in need of these lessons i.e. swimmers with a disability or additional needs and this can cover anything including a fear of water, or participants already enrolled on swimming lessons that need additional support.

ABMWLC also delivers the majority of the Borough's School swimming lessons programme teaching 44 schools delivering lessons to 77 classes of children, 1,185 school children swim weekly during term time. This includes 5 SEN schools and 1 adult day centre.

ABMWLC delivers pan-disability courses which include weekly swimming as part of this programme throughout the year.

Bangor Aurora Aquatic & Leisure Complex (Aurora)
Aurora has three main swimming pools. The Main Pool is a 10-lane, 50 metre FINA-standard pool used for lane swimming, club training sessions and long course galas. This pool can be divided 3 x 25 metre pools, pools 1 & 3 have movable floor depths to accommodate shallow water activates with the middle pool remaining as a 10 lane 25 metre pool 2-metre-deep pool.

Aurora teaches a continuous year-round programme delivering the Swim Ireland Aquatic Academy; Learn to swim, Learn Lifesaving Skills, Learn Aquatic Skills for Life.

Similarly to ABMWLC, movable floors, pool platforms and hoists are available for ease of access to the pools for people with mobility issues.

Private Pool provision
From research it has been found that there are 10 private pools offering swimming lessons in the Borough. The information that can be gleaned, mainly from their booking sites, shows that there is availability on these programmes and that the operators teach classes with smaller capacity than the Council run swimming lessons.

1b. Analysis of class capacity, utilisation, costs and waiting lists

Class capacity
ABMWLC provides capacity for over 2,900 swimming lesson places per week through its Waves programme. This total comprises of the following;

- School swimming places capacity = 1,185
- Pre-school lesson in a Baby wave and Toddler wave programme = 500
- Ripples lessons for school age children in the minor pool = 800
- Ripple 6, Personal Survival and Stroke & stamina classes delivered in deep water in the gala pool = 375
- beginners, improver, and advanced learn to swim lesson spaces = 75

Aurora provides capacity for over 3,000 swimming lesson places per week through its various programmes. This total comprises of the following;

- 2,180 places in the weekly Swim Ireland lessons these include;
    - Adult with Child Lessons
    - Pre-School Swimming Lessons
    - Children's Swimming Lessons
    - Teenage Swimming Lessons
    - Adult Swimming Lessons

The remainder of the weekly spaces, approximately 800, are part of the following classes School Swimming Lessons Programme attended by 22 schools.

1b. Utilisation

Swimming is a statutory component of the Northern Ireland Physical Education curriculum at Key Stage 2 (P5-P7), ensuring all children have the opportunity to develop basic swimming and water safety skills during their primary education. Furthermore, although swimming is not a compulsory element of the Key Stage 3 (Years 8-10) curriculum Physical Education itself remains a statutory subject and many schools continue to use swimming as part of the Key Stage 3 curriculum. Based on the this, it is reasonable to expect that the vast majority of school children through either Key Stage 2 and/or 3 have the opportunity to participate in swimming lessons. It is worth noting that several schools using either ABMWLC or Aurora avail of swimming lessons during the Key Stage 1 (P3 – P4) further giving confidence that the majority of children have access to swimming lessons during their Key Stages.

ABMWLC facilitates 44 schools swimming lessons on a weekly basis with these schools ranging from locations in Newtownards, Holywood, Comber, and several from the lower peninsula (Kircubbin, Portaferry, Portavogie, and Greyabbey for example).

Aurora facilitates 22 schools swimming lessons on a weekly basis with these schools ranging from locations in Bangor, Holywood, and the wider North Down part of the Borough. The lesson programmes at both ABMWLC and Aurora operate at between 80-90% capacity depending on time of year

Analysis of unmet demand through waiting lists

The swimming lesson software used by both ABMWLC and Aurora helps manage waiting lists on both sites. This software indicates that current swimming lesson provision is sufficient to meet demand, as spaces remain available across the majority of classes and ability levels. There is a managed waiting list function on the software which is primarily used so a parent / guardian can be notified if a space opens in a class at their preferred day time. Both centres adjust their timetables according to demand i.e. additional beginner level spaces at the more popular entry times between September and January.

1c. Review of instructor resources and pool availability

Staffing has previously been a limiting factor in the delivery of large swimming lesson programmes however both ABMWLC and Aurora have on site Swim Instructors and staffing structures that support the delivery of both programmes. Pool availability in both Centres during ‘peak’ swimming lesson time may be a limiting factor, however this is not deemed to be significantly prohibitive to customers.

1d. Cost of Swimming lessons

Leisure officers and NCLT staff have sought to harmonise swimming lesson and casual swimming prices where possible, while recognising differences in class sizes, pool facilities and operating models. There is alignment in several swimming prices between the two Centres, for example adult, concession, schools, and under 4’s prices are all the same.

It should be noted that it was challenging to find the same information in section 1 from the private pool operators. As before, research indicates that the majority of private pool operators has capacity within their programmes albeit their pools tend to be smaller in size, facilitate a smaller number of spaces on each class, and are generally independently operated and therefore these lessons tend to be more expensive than Council operated swimming lessons.

2. Baseline Audit of Water Safety Provision Review

Water safety are elements of both ABMWLC and Aurora's swimming lesson programmes and school learn to swim programmes. ABMWLC teaches 3 levels of personal Survival as part of their Waves programme and Aurora offer Rookie Lifeguard programmes. Both Centres deliver National Pool Lifeguard Qualification (NPLQ) training and courses, and both deliver the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) prevention of drowning programme to the schools.

2a. Open Water Safety programmes

Two established open-water safety programmes currently have a connection to the Council. The Get Wet Stay Safe programme delivers practical open-water safety sessions from Council-managed coastal sites including Donaghadee, Millisle, Crawfordsburn and Ballywalter. The RNLI and Swim Ulster Open Water Safety education initiatives are promoted by the Council and aim to support the safe use of these coastal assets. Collectively, these programmes help improve participant awareness of open-water risks, self-rescue techniques and safe participation in open water activities.

In addition to Council-supported initiatives, the Borough benefits from the presence of other established open-water safety programmes operating within the Borough. Examples include the Bangor-based Safer Waters charity which provides safety boat support and accredited training for water users, and the nationally recognised programmes delivered by RLSS UK, which develop competencies in water safety, rescue and risk management.

2b. Identification of partnership opportunities

It is hoped that the open water safety programmes will encourage and enable greater participation in open water activities and therefore contribute towards wider health, wellbeing and active lifestyle objectives in the Borough's 'Blue Spaces' aligned the KPIs from the Getting Active, Staying Active Leisure Strategy 2025 – 2034. However, given the Borough's extensive coastline and growing participation in open water activities there may be opportunities for the Council to further develop partnerships with established organisations including Get Wet Stay Safe, RNLI, Swim Ulster, RLSS UK and Safer Waters. Such partnerships could support the delivery of open water safety education, open-water awareness training, rescue skills, and community engagement initiatives.

Partnership opportunities are being discussed between Leisure Services and Environmental Health officers exploring how potentially Water Safety could be

incorporated into the 2027 BeeSafe campaign. Earlier this year the campaign had a reach of over 1,700 P7 children from over 40 different schools in the Borough.

3 Demand Assessment

The Borough has approximately 44 primary schools and 22 post-primary and specialist educational establishments.as detailed in 1b, every one of these schools is accommodated in one of the Centres swimming lesson programmes. It is worth noting that 3 schools from Dundonald which is outside the Borough are also accommodated in ABMWLC.

Demand for swimming lessons outside the school swimming programme fluctuates as participants progress at different rates, requiring periodic adjustments to capacity and lesson provision. However, from a review of the software used at both ABMWLC and Aurora it is clear that both Centres operate at between 80% and 90% of their total swimming lesson capacity. This is a positive percentage indicating cost, timing, locations, and standard of instruction are all well received by customers. Additionally, these percentages indicate that demand is being meet whilst some capacity continues to exist, this is further evidenced by the fact that waiting lists are only used as a mechanism to change a child's swimming lesson to a preferred day or time.

While it is reasonable to assume that some of the estimated 10-20% of children not attending swimming lessons at either centre are enrolled in lessons at private pools, this cannot be verified through the limitations of the research undertaken.

4 Analysis of Findings

4a. Identification of capacity shortfalls and service pressures

Through the monitoring of capacity levels and waiting lists neither Centre is demonstrating a capacity shortfall. It should however be noted that in response to evolving trends in service pressures, for example an increased demand for weekend swimming lessons, both Centres have evolved their swimming lesson programmes to meet this demand as much as feasibly possible.

4b. Assessment of barriers to access (cost, availability, location, timing)

The ability for a child to participate in swimming lessons is influenced by a range of potential barriers beyond the cost of the lessons alone. While swimming lesson fees may be relatively affordable, the total cost to families and schools can be significantly higher when transport expenses and the duration required to achieve swimming competency are considered.

Whilst not specific to children's swimming lessons, the extensive engagement process undertaken as part of the development of the Leisure Strategy identifies cost as a key barrier to participation, with both activity charges and transport costs affecting access. This may be evidenced by the fact that there appears to be an increase in the number of local schools walking their pupils to the Centres for their swimming lessons.

Mentioned previously within this report was the harmonisation of pricing between ABMWLC and Aurora swimming activities. While full harmonisation between

ABMWLC and Aurora's swimming and swimming lesson activities is challenging, efforts to align pricing and minimise annual price increases whilst reflecting inflation and rising operating costs help reduce affordability barriers for residents as far as feasible.

Location also presents challenges whereby residents living in rural communities and areas of deprivation often experience additional barriers due to distance from facilities and the associated travel costs. These groups may be among those who would benefit most from increased participation in swimming and physical activity but may have the least ability to access opportunities.

Future actions identified through the Leisure Strategy include targeted engagement within rural communities and areas of deprivation to raise awareness of leisure opportunities and support participation. Whilst the development of additional swimming facilities within the peninsula or other areas within the Borough is considered unlikely, there may be opportunities to improve accessibility for example through engagement with transport providers.

The swimming lesson timetable is reviewed quarterly to respond to trends in capacity, participation levels and customer feedback, ensuring swimming lesson provision is optimised to maximise opportunities for children to participate.

4c. Consideration of equality and inclusion factors

ABMWLC and Aurora have implemented a range of measures to improve accessibility to swimming pools and lessons including programmes for different age groups, specialist disability provision, accessible equipment, SEN sessions and lessons, and initiatives aimed at supporting participation amongst those minority groups who may otherwise be unable to participate in swimming lesson or casual swimming opportunities. These positive inclusions to our swimming facilities and lesson programmes have proved popular and are included in the review process of both Centre's swimming timetables.

5. Development of Options Based upon the findings from points 1 – 4 the development of potential options informing a strategy.

Members will be aware that the second element of this Notice of Motion requested the development of a strategy to ensure that no child is denied access to swimming lessons or water safety programmes due to cost or capacity constraints.

The evidence gathered through this review does not indicate a requirement for a swimming strategy specific to Ards and North Down Borough. Current swimming lesson provision appears sufficient to meet demand, with no significant capacity shortfalls identified. While opportunities exist to enhance participation and water safety initiatives, many of the challenges identified are regional in nature and may be more effectively addressed through a coordinated Northern Ireland-wide approach involving councils, schools, governing bodies and other key stakeholders.

Furthermore, the Council's Leisure Strategy already provides the strategic framework through which participation in physical activity, health and wellbeing outcomes,

accessibility and inclusion can be advanced. Swimming provision and water safety initiatives can therefore continue to be considered and developed within the broader objectives and delivery plans of the Leisure Strategy, removing the need for a separate Borough-specific swimming strategy.

Attendance at the Swimming for Life: A Call to Action for Northern Ireland event, held at Stormont Parliament Buildings on 21 September 2026, reinforced this position. Discussions highlighted a number of province-wide issues affecting swimming participation, including transport costs, reporting arrangements and accessibility challenges. The event also identified opportunities for collaborative working between councils, the Education Authority, the Department of Education and community partners to remove barriers to swimming education and improve access for all children.

Summary
The review found that current swimming lesson provision within Ards and North Down Borough is meeting demand and that no significant capacity shortfalls exist. While some barriers to participation remain, these relate primarily to wider issues such as transport, geography and affordability rather than a lack of swimming lesson capacity.

Consequently, the evidence does not support the development of a standalone swimming strategy for the Borough at this time. Instead, swimming participation, accessibility and water safety initiatives can continue to be progressed through the Council's Leisure Strategy and associated action plans, while wider systemic issues are more appropriately addressed through regional partnership working involving councils, schools, governing bodies, the Education Authority, the Department of Education and other relevant stakeholders.

Officers will continue to monitor swimming lesson provision and participation levels across the Borough and contribute to regional discussions and collaborative initiatives arising from the Swimming for Life event and other sector-wide forums. Based on the findings of this review, officers consider this to be the most proportionate and effective course of action.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Notes** this report.

ITEM 5

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	14 October 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community
Report title	Community Development Annual Report 2025-2026
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Annual Report Community Development Team 2025-2026
File Reference (if applicable)	CDV54
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Resource Implications	None Narrative:
Screening Requirements	*The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:* Screening of decision not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 3: Social 6. Opportunities for people to be active and healthy If multiple: 5 Safe. welcoming and inclusive communtities that are florishing

Background
The purpose of this report is to present the Community Development Annual Report 2025-2026, attached at Annex 1, and to provide Members with an overview of the key areas of delivery, outcomes achieved, emerging issues and proposed next steps.

The Community Development Section delivers a broad range of direct provision, partnership support, grant funding and capacity-building activity across Ards and North Down. This includes play clubs, activities for adults with additional needs, over 50s provision, summer schemes, community festivals, Christmas festivals, Neighbourhood Renewal, Youth Voice, support to the three Community Networks through Service Level Agreements, Community Advice Ards and North Down, social supermarket provision and wider support to community and voluntary organisations.

Context
The work of the Community Development Section is delivered in line with the current Community Development Strategy, "The Game Plan", which structures activity under six agreed outcomes. During 2025-2026, the Section continued to support communities to connect, engage, develop skills, access funding, address local need and deliver services within local neighbourhoods.

Community Development works closely with other Council services, including those within Community and Culture, to avoid duplication, support joined-up delivery and maximise the impact of available resources. The Annual Report demonstrates the breadth of this work and evidences the continued role of Community Development in enabling strong, inclusive and sustainable communities across the Borough.

Overview
Key delivery highlights during the reporting period included partnership working through the Community Networks, continued support for advice services, facilitation of Neighbourhood Renewal activity, delivery of direct provision clubs and summer schemes, volunteering recognition, community training, information sharing through the Community Information Register and administration of a significant range of grant programmes.

What's New in 2025-2026
- Consultation and development of a 10-year Community Strategy, September 2026
- Pilot of Stay Connected Stay Active, in partnership with Community Halls
- Pilot of Connecting Families
- Pilot of Young Leader programme
- International Women's Day

Grants
During the reporting period, Community Development administered 150 individual grant awards. Event-based grant programmes contributed to the delivery of activities and festivals attended by 67,272 participants across the Borough. Demand for grant funding remains high and available budgets are not sufficient to provide full funding to all successful applicants across some schemes. Officers continue to support groups to identify alternative sources of funding and make use of third-party funding opportunities.

Community information and capacity building
The Community Development weekly information email continued to provide a valuable route for sharing Council grants, third-party grants and community information. The team continues to expand membership of the Community Development database to increase access to funding and community information, provide targeted support and capacity-building opportunities to improve the success rate of community groups applying for third-party funding and use survey feedback to shape future information sharing, advice and support for community and voluntary organisations.

Programmes
Community Development direct provision remains well used and valued by participants. Term-time programmes, including play clubs, the over 50s club and the Hub additional needs disco, recorded 3,665 attendances. Monitoring information and participant feedback demonstrate that these programmes support social connection, confidence, inclusion, wellbeing, independence and skills development. The team will continue to explore opportunities to establish or strengthen community delivery partnerships, review programme delivery models and consider how provision can be extended or adapted to meet needs across the Borough.

Summer scheme provision continued to experience high demand. In 2025, 1,024 places were provided across Council-led, community partner-led and facilitator-led delivery. The introduction of an additional Council-led scheme in Comber and a facilitator-led pilot in Millisle provided useful learning on alternative delivery models and cost-effective approaches to increasing access.

Mae Murray Accessible Beach Initiative
The Mae Murray Accessible Beach Initiative at Groomsport continued to provide inclusive beach access through the specialist equipment loan scheme. The 2025 season marked the fourth anniversary of the programme and the wider inclusive beach and family fun days attracted more than 1,962 people. The team will continue partnership working with the Mae Murray Foundation to identify barriers to participation, promote the scheme, review operational arrangements and consider options to improve usage where feasible.

Stay Connected, Stay Active
The Stay Connected, Stay Active pilot engaged 83 participants aged 65 and over through a six-week programme delivered across five Council community centres.

The programme combined light physical activity with social time and information sessions delivered by partner organisations. Feedback from participants highlighted the importance of opportunities to connect with others, improve wellbeing and access local support.

RECOMMENDED

It is recommended that Council **notes** the Community Development Annual Report 2025-2026, attached at Annex 1.

APPENDIX 1

Ards and North Down Borough Council

ANNEX 1



Community Development Annual Report April 2025 - March 2026

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Community Development Overview

Ards and North Down Borough Council's Community Development section includes direct provision in the form of play clubs, additional needs disco, 50+ Club, Staffing, Neighbourhood Renewal, Christmas Festivals, Community Festivals, Youth Voice, support for three Networks via Service level Agreements and Community Advice Services. Community Development running costs includes salaries, training, room hire and Grantfinder subscription. The budget for 2025/2026 was a total of £1,510,423.30

Community Development Staff

Community Development Service Unit Manager – Beverley Skillen (36 hours)

Community Development Officers: -

- Kirk Marshall – Peninsula and Rural areas (36 hours)
- Stephen Archibald – Bangor, Holywood and Donaghadee (29 hours)
- Linda McAllister - Ards and Comber (29 hours)
- Julia Harkness – Project - club's evaluations (8 hours)

Community Development Grants and Funding Co-ordinator – Nicola McClurg (36 hours)

Community and Culture Assistant – Sharon Murphy (36 hours)

Neighbourhood Renewal Officer – Lindzi Chevalier (21.75 hours)

Administrative Officer – Vacant post

Community Programme Co-ordinator – Stuart Boyd (36 hours) and Tori West McKinney (16 hours)

Community Programme Workers - Various part time hours
Michael Moorhead
Mischa Wisniewska
Andrea Edgar
Denice McClusker
Julie Crossier
Jill Quiery
Amanda Marshall
Other vacancies are filled with agency workers.

As a team we pride ourselves in following and delivering Community Development Values and Principles.

The Community Development Team continues to provide communities with opportunities to connect and engage, to enhance skills base, to participate in training relevant to the needs of the group, to avail of funding opportunities and support, both Council and 3rd party, to create and develop new groups, to enable strong sustainable communities, providing support and much needed services within the heart of the community.

The CD Team continued to deliver a high-quality range of direct provision clubs to communities within the Ards and North Down Area during 2025 - 2026. The Team assisted in the enablement and empowerment of community organisations and groups in the form of support and guidance with funding, governance, volunteer support, building relationships and connections within the groups and the community networks.

What's New

- Consultation and development of a 10-year Community Strategy, for CD and CH and a 3-year action plan for Community Development completion due September 2026
- Pilot of Stay Connected Stay Active, in partnership with Community Halls
- Pilot of Connecting Families
- Pilot of Young Leader programme
- International Women's Day

Community Development Values

Our Values	Our Promise
Honesty	We will always operate with integrity through our honest and transparent action.
Championing Empowerment	We will work with and support local communities to build their capacity to address their specific needs.
Openness	We will publish our yearly 'Game Plan' and demonstrate our performance against agreed targets.
Fairness	We will address imbalances and bring about positive change founded on social justice and inclusion.
Efficiency	We will work with other statutory and non-statutory organisations together with the community to ensure common goals are targeted and co-ordinated effectively

Community Development Strategic Priorities 2024/2025

The 'Game Plan' outlines how the CD Team can support and enable communities and how the Plan related to Community Planning 'The Big Plan' and the Corporate Plan.

Outcome 1: Partnership Solutions

"Through the development of a collaborative process or through the development of collaborative processes our communities can work with us, and each other, to identify solutions that address local needs."

Community Development Partners – Service Level Agreements – Budget Awarded £12,645.44 per network x 3 = £37,936.32.

Community Development section is fortunate to work in partnership with the three Community Networks that cover the Borough, namely Ards Development Bureau, County Down Rural Community Network, and Community Network and North Down Community Network. Through our SLA's the Networks are enabled to facilitate and support a wide range of community groups and associations in each of their areas of responsibility. In their quarterly reports they highlight the range of work they have undertaken, and any emerging themes or concerns present in the communities they serve. This year, due to a one-off uplift from the department.

The Community Networks outcomes are outlined in the table below. This does not reflect the full extent of the work of the Networks but rather it covers elements of their work which we capture in the reviews of their SLAs.

ACTIVITY OF NETWORKS	NUMBERS 2025/26	Changes from 2024/25
Groups/ Individuals Signposted to Appropriate Services/Support	6980	-1305
Groups/Individuals Supported Towards Identifying Appropriate Funding Opportunities	223	+ 107
Groups / Individuals Supported Through Training Opportunities	651	+12

Bangor Neighbourhood Renewal Area 2025/ 2026

The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme (NRP) aims to reduce the social and economic inequalities which characterise the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy 'People and Place' was published in June 2003 to close the gap between the quality of life for people in these neighbourhoods and the rest of society.

The Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership (KNP) was established in 2004/2005 to take forward the NRP in Bangor. The Partnership is defined as a non-constituted entity acting in an advisory capacity to Department for Communities on issues identified in the designated Bangor NRA. The Partnership comprises of members from the community/voluntary and statutory sectors.

The overall aim of the KNP is to engage in effective working partnerships with key stakeholders from all relevant sectors to pro-actively deliver priorities detailed in the Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan to improve the well-being and quality of life for residents.

The vision for Bangor NRA as defined in the Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan for 2025 - 2026 is:
'Kilcooley is an attractive, inclusive and safe estate where the residents enjoy healthy, active lifestyles with access to opportunities.'

Ards and North Down Borough Council – Kilcooley Technical Assistance

The Neighbourhood Renewal Officer continues
to facilitate the Kilcooley Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership, as well as the Health Improvement and Education subgroups.

Meetings April 2025 - March 2026
The NRO organised and hosted 18 Partnership and Subgroup meetings, as well as a full partnership and subgroup meeting, so that all members and partners could meet if they had not already done so and to promote knowledge sharing.

NRO also represented NRA at 20 forums and meetings.

Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership	5
Education Sub-Group	6
Health Improvement Group	6
Action Planning Days	2
Joint events held	1

KNRP meetings are regularly held in person, with the online option available for those unable to make the meeting in person, this is working well for the Partnership and helps with attendance at each meeting. In person meetings are hosted in various locations in Kilcooley, as suits the expected attendees and the planned discussion - meetings have been help in Kilcooley Community Centre, Kilcooley Women's Centre, Kilcooley Primary School and EA Youth.

The NRO remains in contact with Partners between meetings, sharing relevant information where appropriate, as well as sharing any relevant grant and funding opportunities via a weekly email.

Partnership members

The Partnership welcomed new members from; Alzheimer's Society, Suicide Down to Zero and SureStart. There are now 14 organisations represented in the Partnership; AGENDA,

Alternatives, Alzheimer's Society, ANDBC, DfC, Education Authority NI, Executive Office NI, HSCNI, Kilcooley Community Forum, Kilcooley Primary School, Kilcooley Women's Centre, NI Housing Executive, PSNI, Southeastern Regional College.

Kilcooley Neighbourhood Renewal Newsletter

The new Kilcooley Neighbourhood Renewal Newsletter continues being compiled by the NRO with input from the Partnership, as a collaborative project between all partners. Kilcooley Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Newsletter was published and shared in Autumn and Winter to share news, contacts, services and information with the community as well as act as a collaborative project between all partners. 500 paper copies were shared in the community as well as shared digitally online via partnership contacts and the Kilcooley Primary School's Seesaw parent communication platform.

Subgroups

The Health Improvement Subgroup (HI) introduced Alzheimer's Society, Suicide Down to Zero and SureStart to the subgroup, creating further knowledge sharing and signposting opportunities. NRO has invited the community pharmacist and the manager of Ravara day centre to attend HI meetings.

The Partnership assisted in hosting a VE Day Anniversary Tea Dance in Kilcooley Community Centre in April, attended by over 60 people from the community. The Mayor attended and we received great feedback.

The Health Improvement Subgroup are continuing plans to introduce regular free tea dance events in Kilcooley for the health and wellbeing of older residents, with support from the full partnership. A tea dance was held on 19th January 'Blue Monday' with over 60 attendees, there were also information stands in a separate room with representatives from health and wellbeing organisations providing information and signposting.

The Education subgroup collaborative project around bullying is continuing, and NRO has created surveys with input from the partnership to gather the children and young people's perspective, the partnership are distributing this to their contacts along with an information sheet of bullying helplines and resources. Reports of data gathered thus far have been created and discussed to plan next steps.

Updated Kilcooley Vison and Action Plan

NRO worked to reimagine and redevelop the outdated Vision and Action plan into a useful and accessible document for the partners and subgroup members, including breaking down each outcome as set by DfC and laying out the description of these and how they are relevant to the partnership, researching and compiling area specific data and creating easily read tables and

graphs to support partners in evidence gathering, and working with partners on what they feel the document needs to work for them.
As part of this work NRO attended two workshops in Ulster University on 'Using Census Data for the V&C Sector' and is creating guidance for the partners and the Community Development team to share this valuable knowledge.

Community Advice Ards and North Down (CAAND)

Ards and North Down Borough Council provide funding support to CAAND. This support for Advice Services in the Borough is jointly funded by the Department for Communities and Council. The 2025/26 funding provision for CAAND was £405,884.06 for Advice services and a further £138,966.71 was awarded by DfC for the Integrated Advice Partnership fund, making a total award of £544,850.77. The purpose of the IAP funding from DfC is to increase the reach of debt advice, focusing on funding proposals which enable better integration of debt advice funding and services, collaboration for early intervention and prevention to increase the reach of debt advice. This approach is grounded in joint advice partnerships; connecting services to improve the uptake of debt advice reach via an integrated approach. CAAND have trailed this at local GP surgeries to bring debt advice to those locations as an easy referral pathway from GPs.

In 2025-26 CAAND supported 5,945 people, income generated (general) £1.4million, Income generated (Advocacy) £940,733. Debt dealt with £2.4million

CAAND work collaboratively other organisations including, Women's Aid, North Down Community Network, YMCA, Ards Community Network, Bangor and Ards foodbank, CFC Warehouse, NIHE, The Salvation army, Assisi, SVP, Arnd and Bangor Jobs and Benefit Office, KWC, Local churches and The Link.

CAAND operates in their main centre, Bangor, Newtownards and Holywood and have also operated outreach advice clinics in various locations including Carrowdore, Kilcooley Kircubbin and Comber, 726 clients used the outreach clinic's.

The provision of local advice services is an integral part of the Community Support Programme. The Department for Communities awards the "Advice Grant" in addition to the expenditure the Council sets aside for this purpose.

Community Development Support

Holywood, Bangor and Donaghadee – Stephen Archibald, Community Development Officer
Ards, Comber and Ballygowan – Linda McAllister, Community Development Officer
Rural Villages – Kirk Marshall, Community Development Officer (start Jan. 2026)

Type of meetings		Type of meeting	
Interagency Meetings	28	Steering Group	9
Support meetings	45	Programme development meetings	61
Partnership working meetings	18	Agency recruitment	16
Internal working meeting	2	Inaugural / AGM	9
Staff support and development	10	Christmas & Community Events	14
Community Programme Facilitation	63	Networking Events	2
Grant application Support	13	Promotion of Food banks	4
Service Level Agreement Review	24	Peer working	13
Delivery of Safeguard Training	8	Consultations	3
Training	6	Operational Partnership	6

Community Development Officers have continued to provide support and guidance to community groups and attend meetings to enable the communities to share their achievements and any problems or concerns. Where the problem or concerns are the responsibility of Council, Officers report them to the relevant department for action. Officers are on hand to provide advice and support for third party funding applications and conduct searches on Grantfinder system for any specific funding requirements.

Officers offer support with volunteer support, enabling young people and adults to sign up as ANDBC Volunteers, advising of the policy and assisting volunteers through the process of registration.

Officers deliver safeguarding awareness training to Council staff and volunteers within community groups on an annual basis.

Officers Monitor Service Level Agreements and engage with the relevant agencies ensuring all information is collected, recorded, ensuring value for money, and working within budget.

Mae Murray Accessible Beach initiative

The Mae Murray Foundation is a registered charity, with a vision to bring fundamental change to environments so that people of restricted mobility are no longer excluded. Making beaches accessible to all to enjoy together. A partnership with Council resulted in the creation of the first/only inclusive beach in the Ards and North Down area, where people of differing physical abilities can take part in activities independently on Groomsport Beach.

Council officers supported and organised the launch of 2025 season, which was officially opened by the Mayor, with 65 people in attendance. A range of family friendly activities were provided throughout the event, including African drumming workshops and inclusive dance session with Talia, helping to create an engaging and welcoming atmosphere for all ages and abilities.

Council also worked with Mae Murray to explore whether different operational days would attract more visitors to the inclusive beach. As part of this, the loan scheme was opened on Fridays and Sundays, along with additional days during the first two weeks of July 2025 to coincide with the start of the school holidays.



The initiative operates on a seasonal basis and is supported by Council through the provision of staff to deliver the specialised equipment loan scheme.

The 2025 season marked the fourth anniversary of the programme with more than 1,962 people attending the Groomsport inclusive beach and family fun days organised by the Mae Murray Foundation. These events, funded by ANDBC through Community Festival Fund 25/26 complemented the inclusive beach service and provided opportunities for families and individuals of all abilities to enjoy the beach in an accessible and welcoming environment.

Evaluation Report — MMF Beach Equipment Log
Seasonal delivery - period covered - 30 May 2025 — 24 August 2025

Summary

Over the reporting period, June to August 2025, the Groomsport Inclusive beach - specialised loan scheme showed consistent public interest and several busy days with strong attendance, but actual recorded bookings were modest, and performance was strongly weather dependent. Maintenance issues occurred repeatedly and affected operations.

Usage Statistics

- Total logged dates: 30
- High attendance days: 5
- Days with bookings: 4
- Total booking instances recorded: at least 6
- Walk-ins: 5
- Days with no traction/no walk-ins: 9
- Days with public enquiries: 12
- Days with maintenance/issues: 6

Key Observations & Trends

1. Weather strongly affects footfall.
2. Public interest is high even when equipment is unused.
3. Bookings are modest but consistent.
4. Operational problems recur.

Youth Voice AND

Community Development has an SLA for £24,000 towards the Youth Voice.

Youth Voice is an initiative delivered by Education Authority, Youth Service, offering a range of programmes and campaigns shaped by young people. The campaigns are developed around the issues that matter most to the young people, from local community concerns to wider global challenges affecting young people today.

By working together, young people take part in activities that build leadership, communication and citizenship skills, while also growing confidence, social connections and overall personal development.

Youth Voice gives young people the opportunity and platform to speak on issues affecting their communities, represent the views of other young people in their area, connect with new people, engage with decision-makers and take part in accredited training that supports their growth and future opportunities.

Some of the highlights this year.

- Young people took part in three consultations contributing to views on
- Re-imagining Bangor Waterfront / Finance management for young people and non-fatal strangulation awareness campaign.
- Cohort than finished in June 2025 were nominated for the Pride of Place award
- Several members of the June 2025 cohort would like to have ambassador group
- Recruitment drive event with potential of 25 new members.
- Holocaust Memorial Day Project – encouraging discussions around inclusion, misinformation, racism and community awareness.
- Youth Voice Ambassadors – contributed to planning for Participation Conference scheduled for May 2026.
- Young people explored the UNCRC, identifying rights and issues most important to them and discussing areas where improvements could be made locally.
- New Cohort of young people started in quarter 4 – 16 participants

Outcomes 2025-26 -

More young people are empowered to become active citizens	Total number of Youth Voice members	Weekly Meetings	EA Engagements	Consultations
	22	45	454	5
More young people's knowledge of leadership, citizenship, and communication	Number of sessions to support leadership	Number of sessions to support citizenship	Number of sessions to support communication	
	47	75	57	

Outcome 2: Start-up/Sustainable Support

"Support Local groups are sustainable and able to meet their own needs due to an empowering start-up and support process."

"Local groups are sustainable and able to meet their own needs due to an empowering start up and support process."

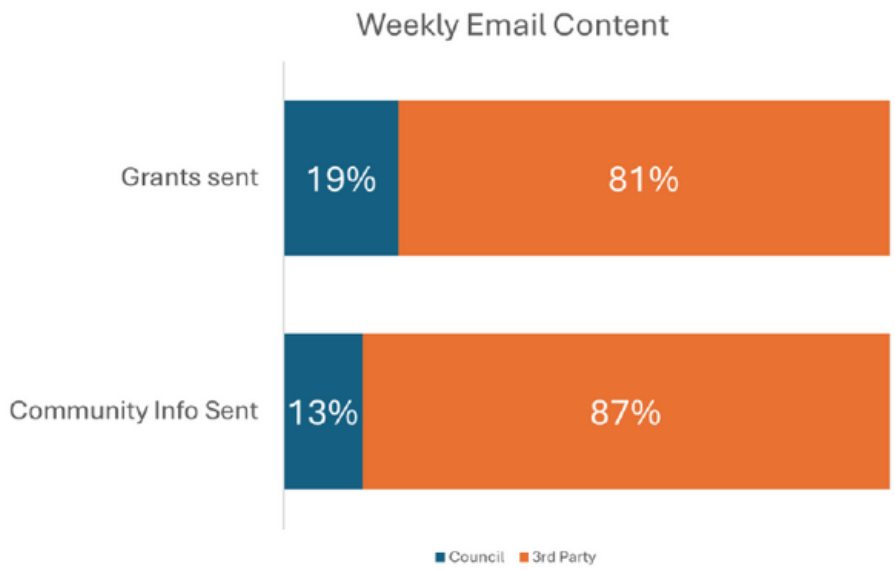
Community Information Register

The community register was created to convey information to a range of groups and organisations in a fast and efficient method. An email is sent out to the community register every Wednesday evening with updated grants and information. It enables the CD section to share information on both Council grants, third party grants and community information that is relevant to the groups within the Borough.

Community Development conduct a survey to evaluate this service twice yearly of those who avail of the community information database and the weekly email of funding opportunities and community news, so that the weekly email can develop to meet the needs of the customer/community. Results and feedback enable the email to reflect the need of those on the register, results shown below.

No. of council grants shared	No. of 3rd party grants shared	No. of council community info shared	No. of 3rd party community info shared
24	161	68	293

Figures from April 25 – March 26



The Community Information Register currently contains 367 contacts; 91 new contacts have been added since April 2025. This is a 31% increase.

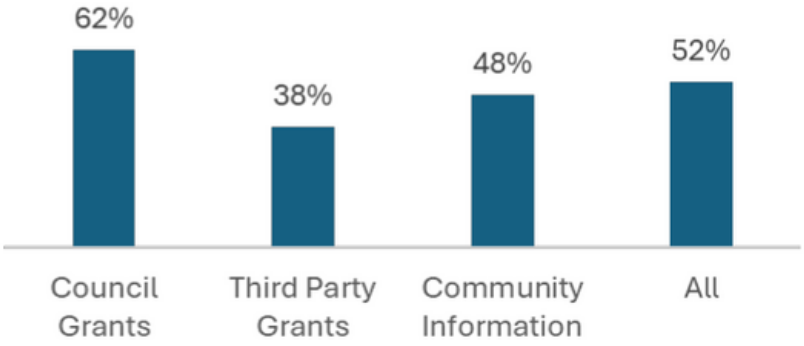
Feedback from Community Register contacts on the weekly email;



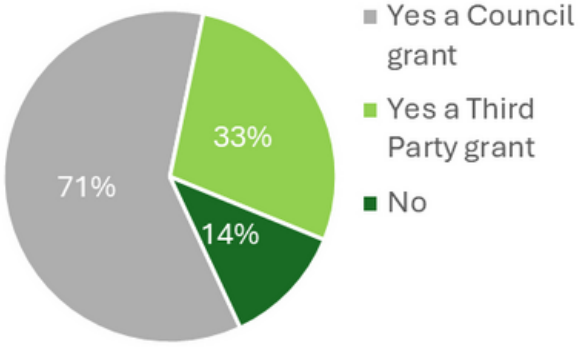
Which aspect/ aspects of the email do you find most useful to you/ your organisation?

Most respondents find the council grants info most useful.
No one selected 'none'.

(Respondents 21, those who answered; Council Grants' 13, 'Third Party Grants' 8, 'Community Info' 10, All' 11, ' None' 0, 'Neither' 0.)

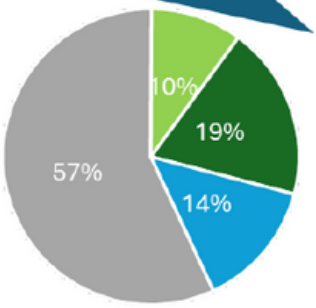


Have you / your organisation applied for a grant or funding opportunity that was shared with you in the emails?



Were you/ your organisation successful in the application?

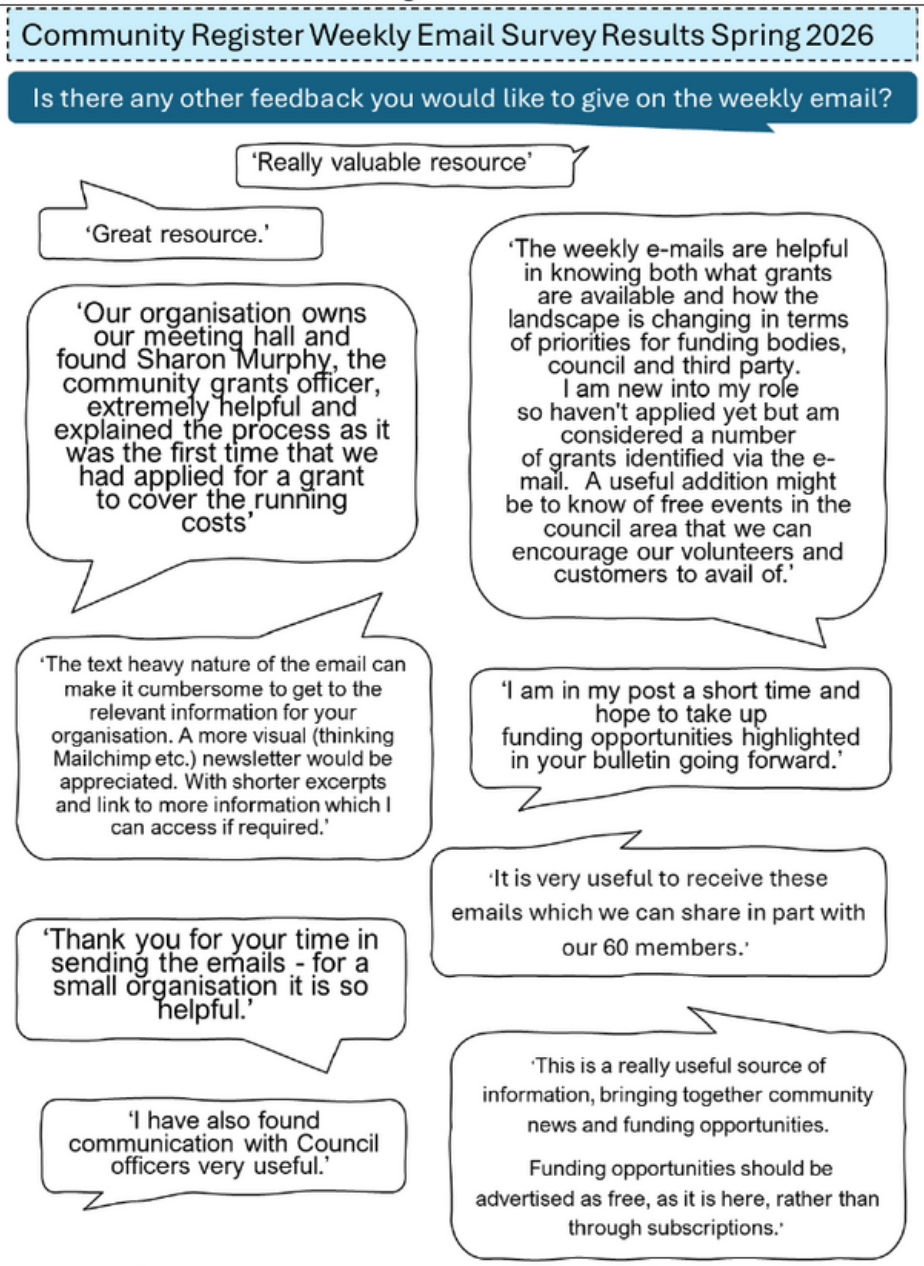
86% of respondents who applied for a grant or funding opportunity shared in the emails were successful



(Respondents 18 (those why replied 'Yes' to previous question) Those who answered; 'Yes Council' 12, 'Yes 3rd Party' 2, 'Both council and 3rd party' 4 'No' 3)

Successful third-party grant application experience
'An application for Musical Instruments was made to DAERA IN 2024/2025 which was successful. A tuition grant was also successfully applied for from the Ulster Scots Agency in 2025. These applications were reasonably straight forward easy to use and not very time consuming.'
'Rural Micro Grant Schemes. Successful on two recent occasions.'
'Application processes vary widely - the Lottery is perhaps the most straightforward. If I was to offer advice to anyone applying for a grant the key thing is to make things easy for the assessment panel so look at the aims of the programme and describe in bullet point, succinct form how your proposal promotes these. If successful then the key thing is to make sure you capture all the data, especially evaluation data so that you can report back. This increases the credibility of the organisation and helps with future applications'
'An officer helped me apply for a start - up grant in 2017 - we started in October 2017. We received a start - up grant for running expenses. Although we applied for further grant aid, we did not receive any further grants.'

Unsuccessful third-party grant application experience
'An application for instruments was made (twice) to the Arts Council in recent years. Both were unsuccessful. This particular process is difficult to use, time consuming in comparison to other funding applications.'
'Arts Council - ours was a poorly framed application and was up against bids from groups in areas which better met the criteria. King Charles III - a good project but others must have scored higher.'
'Unfortunately, the criteria for nearly all third part grants excludes organisations that have a regional or national head office even though our work is all done in local communities.'



Community Ezine - the Community Ezine had to be paused from 2025-26 due to staff vacancy and sickness.

Outcome 3: Volunteering

"Communities are happy and healthy due to the opportunities available for people to maximise their skills and talents."

Volunteering

The Annual Volunteer Recognition Event took place during Volunteer Week, an annual UK-wide campaign celebrating the incredible impact of volunteers that takes place during the first week in June. The event took place at the Art & Heritage Centre in the Londonderry room where the CD team welcomed 60 people from the community and Volunteer sector.

The event was designed to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work and dedication that many volunteers continue to provide their time and skills base to various community and voluntary groups and initiatives across the Ards and North Down Borough. The evening consisted of a lovely meal, refreshments, networking, connecting while listening to the live music entertainment provided. Speaker guest Deputy Mayor Cllr Vicky Moore attended to welcome everyone and present certificates of recognition for all the volunteers. In additional there was an opportunity for people attending to find out more about services provide via information tables representing – PCSP, Women's Aid, Community planning Dementia Awareness, Holywood Street Pastors and Youth Voice.

Feedback from attendees:

Very friendly people with the community around the council areas different backgrounds for disability awareness	Deputy Mayor was delightful and your team were so helpful and considerate. Well done
Nicely timed, not too long, plenty of time for networking.	Maybe a photo opportunity with attendees would've given a bit more chance for mingling/networking.
Would have liked to have learned a little more about what some of the volunteers do.	I really enjoyed the event. There was plenty of activities and no time to waste.
I enjoyed the evening.	It was a lovely evening. Meeting other like-minded people. The venue and background music were lovely.
We enjoyed the event tremendously. Thank you to all who organised it.	

Outcome 4: Training and Development

"Our communities are skilled, engaged and empowered through training and development opportunities."

Community Development Toolkit – available ANDBC website

The toolkit is also offered to all new groups and groups changing their management structure.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding training is part of the compliance Council needs to meet annually.
Council has 2 trainers who are trained and up skilled on a regular basis to comply and meet standards. This role also reviews policy and makes recommendations as part of a small group of officers (OD & HR, Equality and Safeguarding Officer, Leisure Service Manger (trainer) and Community Development Officer).

Training sessions delivered	2	Safeguarding awareness – Community groups
Training session delivered	1	Summer scheme partner
Review group meetings	2	Policy reviews and recs
SG issue-based meetings/discussions on teams	6	Equality & SG Officer, Leisure Manager/SG trainer, Volunteer Now, other trainers outside council

Safeguarding Accredited Training

Safeguarding Children and Adults at risk accredited training was delivered to 9 community volunteers from 8 community/voluntary groups across the Borough by Volunteer Now. This training opportunity was advertised to all groups on the Community Development database.

Community First Aid Training

Community Development delivered a combined course in Emergency First Aid and Emergency Paediatric First Aid to volunteers from Community and Voluntary organisations. Training was delivered in both Carrowdore Community Centre and Alderman George Green Community Centre. The course was advertised to all groups on the community development database, a total of 23 volunteers from 17 different community and voluntary organisations attended the first aid training sessions. The training was delivered over 2 evening sessions with a total of 8 learning hours required to complete the course.

All participants in the training programme are now Ofqual CEA accredited first aiders, making a difference to groups in their local community.

Some of the comments of those who attended the training included:

'I found it informative and pleasurable to attend'.
'I enjoyed learning how to prevent someone from choking and learning how to do CPR on children, babies and adults.'
'Engaging and very knowledge filled. The trainer made it fun.'





Community Marshall Training

Community Development delivered Community Marshalling training to 20 volunteers from 12 community and voluntary organisations across the Borough this opportunity was advertised to all groups on the community development database.

Outcome 5: Clubs and Community Summer Schemes

"Needs are addressed through the delivery of quality programmes with relevant partners in shared spaces."

Ards and North Down Borough Council Community Development Section support a wide range of clubs offering opportunities for people to engage, learn and thrive together. These include Play Clubs, over 50's Activities and Activities for Adults with Additional.

The Location, type of provision and weekly attendance over a 36-week period from April 2025 to March 2026 is outlined in the table below.

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	NUMBERS ATTENDING
Redburn	Play Club (Tuesday)	321
Alderman George Green, Rathgill	Play Club (Monday)	373
Kilcooley CC	Play Club (Wednesday)	348
Green Road CC	Play Club (Thursday)	378
Skipperstone CC	Play Club (Friday)	444
Redburn CC	Over 50s Club (Monday)	636
Community Hub, Bangor	Additional Needs Disco (Monday	1195
Total 2025-26		**3665**

Play clubs

The play clubs operate on a term time basis, and the programme content reflects many aspects of the world around us, national celebratory days such as Chinese New Year, St Patrick's day, seasonal themed activities such as Easter, Halloween and Christmas, Health, and wellbeing. The aims of the programme are to ensure that the provision of the following elements is considered and reflects our play club outcomes:

Child outcomes.

SPICE supports children's development and growth.

Social	Learning to share, cooperate, take turns, and build friendships through play
Physical	Developing coordination, balance, and gross/fine motor skills through active play

Intellectual	Stimulating curiosity, imagination, and problem-solving through exploration and learning
Creative	Encouraging imagination and self-expression through art, music, and role play
Emotional	Building confidence, resilience, and understanding of emotions through safe play

All programmes are well-managed, safe and shared spaces. Play clubs provision performs strongly in terms of engagement and child wellbeing, aligning with local strategic priorities in child development. The staff weekly monitoring forms demonstrate that children show improvements in confidence, social interaction, learn new skills and understand the dynamics of teamwork.

Example of programme content.

Activity	Health and Wellbeing
• Themed pirates – making boats and masks. • Halloween Crafts and party – including optional costume dress. • National anti-bullying week and awareness	• Team building games. • Music games • Sharing news • Soft archery
• Cookery • Christmas crafts and party – Christmas crafts and songs, lette to Santa and visit • St Johns 1st Aid Taster Session • Recycling team visit – craft activity and interactive educational games • Music Bloom workshop	• Playground games • Pancake day • Games of yesterday

Highlights of this year's clubs include –



Looking at nationalities of those attending our clubs



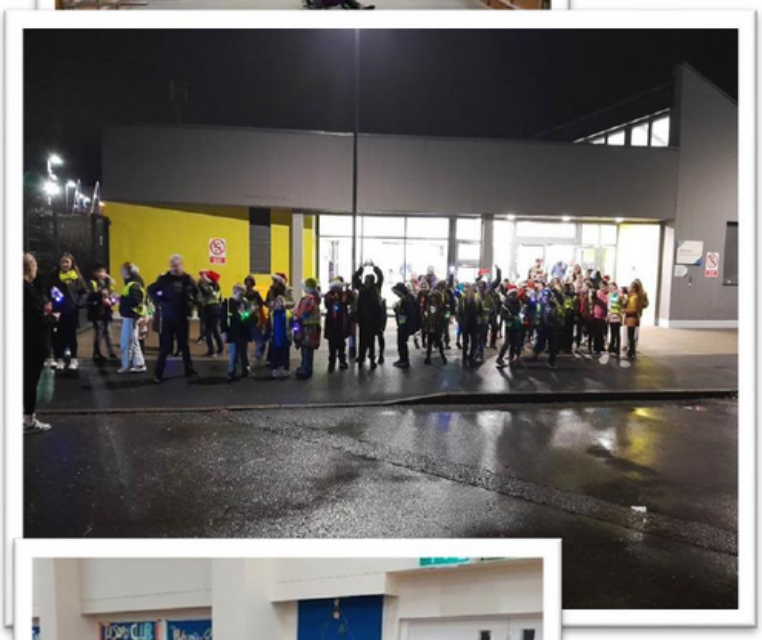
Healthy snacks and socialising



Cardboard boxing instead of screen time



Super Mario live carting



All the Play clubs came together for a Christmas Lantern parade along the new Greenway at Green Road before a Christmas party and visit from Santa.



Visit from Arc 21



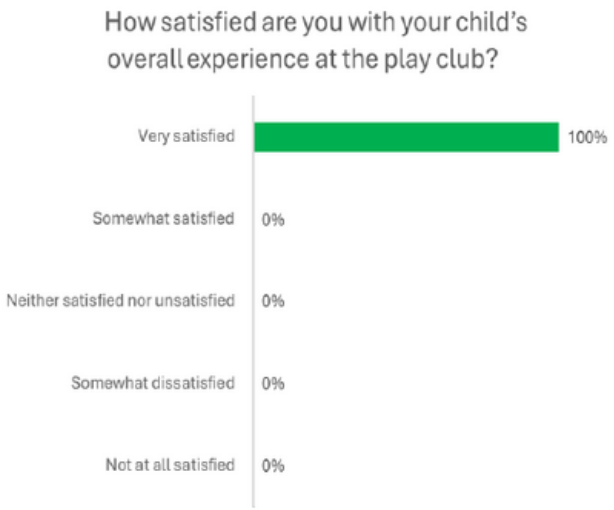
Tallest Lego tower for National Lego day

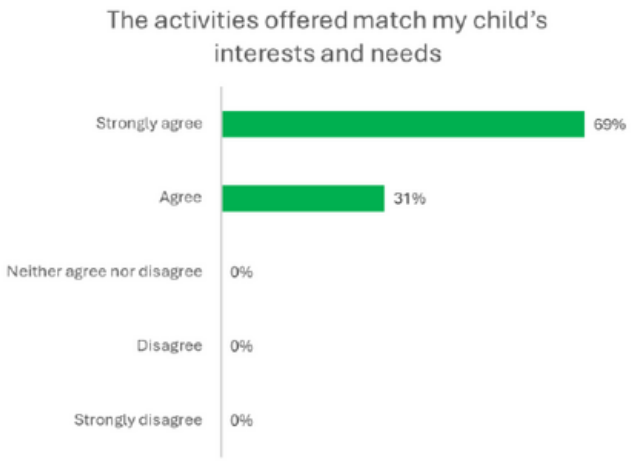
World Holocaust exhibition at Bangor Library with the design of a large mural, worked on by all clubs.

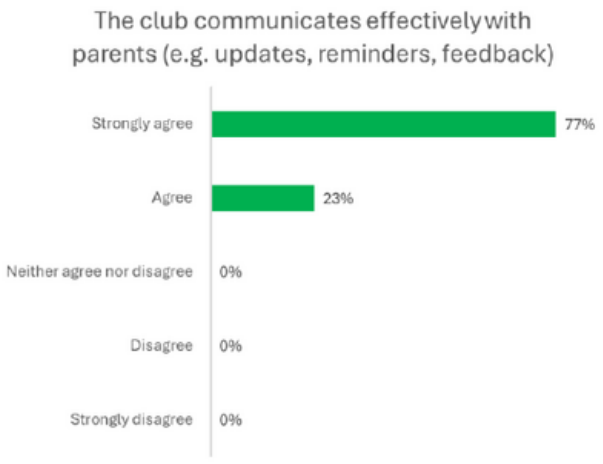


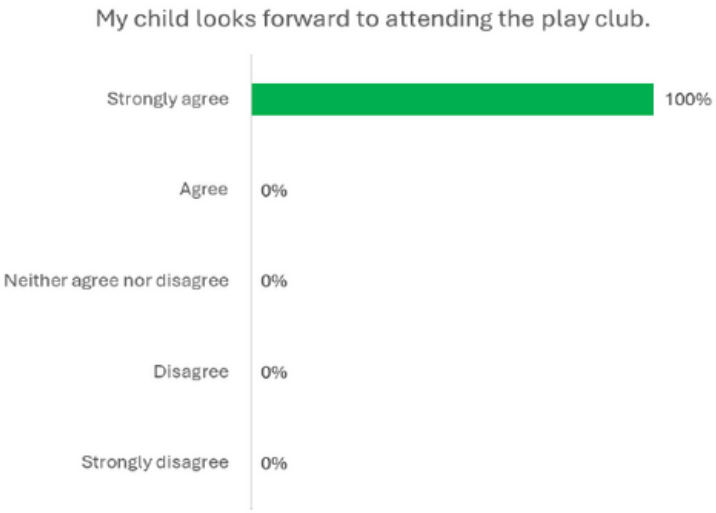
Play Club Parent Feedback Feb 2026

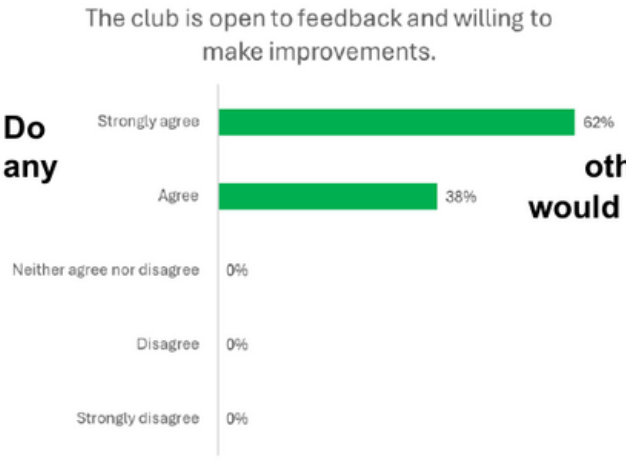
We are delighted with the feedback from 14 parents who obviously really value having a council run play club on their doorstep











Do you have any other comments about the play club you would like to share?



"Great club, the staff go above and beyond and are very good with the kids!"	"The staff have always been great with my kids. There used to be an outing once or twice a year, but I understand funding is probably why it has stopped. Keep up the good work."
"We are very grateful for everything these clubs offer; my daughter has made some amazing memories whilst attending and they have really helped my daughter socialise outside of school which she has found difficult as she doesn't really attend other activities and with the rising cost of living these groups have been such an amazing support & help. I Cannot rate them enough as the staff are incredible with the children. Thank you all"	"My two daughters love going to this club! They come out with so many great craft activities they have completed and love getting juice and toast. A really well set up club. Would recommend the club to everyone 😄 Thank you for all your hard work."

Hub Disco

The Hub holds a very popular weekly disco that provides a weekly social engagement opportunity for adults 18+ with complex needs to come together and enjoy music and activities. The weekly hub disco is a safe, welcoming, and inclusive social night designed especially for adults with Complex needs Each session offers an upbeat, accessible environment where everyone can enjoy music, dancing, and time with friends.

The evening features a mixture of classic hits and current favourites, with the volume and lighting adjusted to suit a range of sensory needs. Friendly staff and volunteers are on hand to offer support, encouragement, and a warm smile.

Beyond the dancing, the monitoring forms demonstrate that the disco provides a valuable opportunity for socialising, building confidence, and developing independence. Members can relax, express themselves, and be part of a community that celebrates individuality and fun. Whether someone loves to dance, listen to music, or simply spend time with others, the weekly disco is a valued highlight of the week for many.

The hub disco promotes independence, inclusion, and self-expression.

Social	Encouraging inclusion, communication, social confidence in their disco
Physical	Supporting independence and physical wellbeing (e.g. movement sessions, gentle exercise).
Intellectual	Promoting life skills, decision-making, and cognitive engagement (money management at tuck-shop).
Creative	Providing opportunities for creative expression and confidence (music, dancing)
Emotional	Building confidence, resilience, and understanding of emotions in a safe place

Two members volunteer at the Disco which has provided opportunities for development and building confidence.

Christmas party at the Hub



Members of the Hub have also formed their own steering group this year to come up with ideas for future activities which have included Karaoke nights, Disco Bingo, Line Dancing exercise starting at the end of February 2026. Club Formal in March. The club has also enjoyed live music from both inside and outside the club's members. The two volunteer DJs have also passed a First Aid course and are training other members on the Disco equipment.

Hub Highlights 2025 2026

There was a lot of the usual fun along with the Monday night discos, and the members Birthday celebrations with the now regular Happy Birthday singer Caira who will belt out Happy Birthday to all.

The Halloween party brought in the usual array of witches and warlocks along with monsters and ghosts howling at the moon.

Christmas time we had a visit from the Red hatted, white bearded person himself, handing out a wee selection box or 2 to our members before disappearing up the stairs of the Hub to his awaiting sleigh.

Our annual High Tea and awards ceremony in March was attended by the Mayor Gillian McCollum, who handed out awards for all our members.



The karaoke nights are always well received, with many of our star singers performing at our awards and party nights. There was a visit from Country fringe to show our members how to Line dance.

The Hubs resident DJs are as usual doing a great job of keeping the members dancing and our DJ trainees are eager to go live on the decks.



The disco provides a valuable opportunity for socialising, building confidence, and developing independence. Members can relax, express themselves, and be part of a community that celebrates individuality and fun. Whether someone loves to dance, listen to music, or simply spend time with others, the weekly disco is a valued highlight of the week for many.

The hub disco promotes independence, inclusion, and self-expression.

Young Leaders (pilot scheme)

The Young Leaders programme offers young people aged 14-18 years opportunities for personal growth, skills development, leadership capability, networking and civic participation



Young Leaders after receiving their new uniforms.

The young leaders have worked hard throughout the clubs and taken part in various training sessions including Safeguarding, Food Hygiene, with Play craft and First Aid. Some have also volunteered at the local food banks and the National Trust.

The Young Leaders programme is a concept of supporting those young people who at the age of 11yrs must now move from Junior to Higher education. This for many means that they leave behind their time at junior play groups and those friends that they have made over the years. Some of the members have been in the schemes from 5 years of age so when they reach 11 years, leaving their past life behind can be daunting and they are not yet ready to move onwards to the youth clubs ran by Education authority. Young Leaders scheme gives space for transition, while developing skills and gaining confidence.

Project Aims

1. To offer support and help to young people through their transition from primary to secondary.
2. To recruit, encourage and retain young people into a volunteer role within our clubs.
3. To provide suitable training in relation to age and ability.
4. To help and nurture their development of life skills through volunteering.
5. To provide a safe and secure setting for them to freely express their thoughts and views without fear.

The Role of the Young Leaders

Is to assist our CPW teams in our play clubs, they achieve this by –

- Helping to set up and take down equipment.
- Assisting in art and craft activities.
- Assisting in games activities.
- Assisting in making the break time food offering.

- Helping to develop activities both within the club and the Young Leaders programme.
- Attend Young Leader Training Sessions.
- Mentoring and befriending children that attend the club.
- Helping to encourage children to take part in activities.

Aims

- To build confidence
- To learn skills
- To make friends
- To learn about the benefits of volunteering
- Create belonging

The AGGCC on a Monday night was the most popular club for them to attend. We also had Young Leaders in both our Kilcooley and Skipperstone clubs. Redburn and Green Road had no Young Leaders. We have started to inform parents of recruitment for September 2026 through notes to parents and as such we have had several positive responses.

What has happened this year -

The Young Leaders have attended several training sessions throughout the year as well as on-site training in the clubs.

Training completed with the Young Leaders has included –

- Safeguarding awareness
- Food hygiene awareness
- Mindfulness



The Young Leaders have been taking part in a series of on-site challenges which are directly related to the ongoing programmes within the clubs.

These include –

- Art and craft.
- Sports activities.
- Cooking.
- Running disco for parties.
- Litter picking.
- Volunteering at local food warehouse.



- Discussing and choosing their uniform.

Going forward with the scheme development

1. Recruitment/ retainment of Young Leaders.
We will continue to recruit for September 2026 over the next few months.

2. Training and Programme for 26/27
We will be evaluating with our present Young Leaders in June on:

- how they feel the training went.
- what training they would like to do.
- What night suits best for training sessions
- When/what would they consider for a team building event.
- What do they feel is the best way to develop the project.

3. Setting up a meeting with interested parties (e.g. parents, schools, facilitators etc.) for recruitment

Young leaders Evaluation -

We had 5 returns out of 9 young leaders on our **Young Leader Feed Back Form.**

Answers were on a scale of 5. 1 being that they strongly disagree and 5 that they strongly agree

Q1) We hope that being involved with the clubs has been a positive experience for you and has helped to nurture your confidence and sense of wellbeing. Have you found this to be the case?

100% of responses scoring 4 or 5 showing increased confidence and sense of wellbeing

Commented: "increased confidence in communicating with leaders and children" and "increased confidence through playing games with and communicating with children"

Q2) How effective has your experience in the clubs been in allowing you to develop new skills?

100% of young people answered 4 or 5 having developed new skills

Commented: "learned how to interact with younger children better."

Q3) How did you find the Training?

Food Hygiene – 100% rated it 4 or 5

Safeguarding – 100% rated it 4 or 5

Mindfulness - 100% rated it 4 or 5

Q4) Do you feel able to talk to Leaders about ideas or issues you may have?

100% rated it 4 or 5

Q5) We try to have an exciting and varied programme to deliver in the clubs and value your input. Are there any other ideas or feedback regarding training or the programme?

Comments 'play more games', 'Good, could be more interactive' 'I would love more training sessions, especially the First aid which we missed", "I have enjoyed learning new skills and gaining connections with the young people and being someone for them to turn to", "The programme is great for learning and to enjoy while creating bonds with the children, leaders and parents."

Over 50's club

The monitoring forms demonstrate that the weekly afternoon club provides a popular, much needed welcoming, social space which supports the wellbeing of older people. The programme provides opportunities for relaxed activities, conversation, lunch, and shared experiences.

The club helps members stay connected with others in their community and reduces feelings of isolation. Regular attendance clearly promotes emotional wellbeing, and helps our older people stay connected and maintain physical and mental wellbeing

Social	Preventing isolation, maintaining friendships, and encouraging social interaction (e.g. clubs, coffee mornings)
Physical	Maintaining mobility, balance, and dexterity through gentle physical activity (e.g. walking, stretching, chair yoga).
Intellectual	Keeping the mind active with memory games, quizzes, or learning new hobbies.
Creative	Supporting self-expression, identity, and joy through arts, crafts, and reminiscence activities
Emotional	Supporting emotional wellbeing and connections

Some highlights of the year for the Over 50s Club include:

- The fare share food sharing on a weekly basis; (the group get donations from euro spar Torgrange who provide treats with a cup of tea)
- Links with Radius Housing and Redburn Loughview Community Forum who are looking at funding/grants for our club.
- Carers NI helps the club by supplying a armchair based yoga Keep Fit class.
- John Gray funeral directors who have supplied food for the last couple of party days
- PSNI is taking 10 older people today to ice bowl 10 pin bowling Having kids from Mitchell house school here for a game's day.



Over 50's taking part in the Reading Borough project in partnership with Libraries NI.

This club's connection with the local community has added huge benefits to its members in terms of programming and investment and is a model that should be encouraged

The Redburn Group where the pilot for the reading Borough project in partnership with Community Development, Community Planning Community halls and Libraries N.I. have along with the council installed a small lending library in Redburn C.C. which is being well used and showing a good turnaround of books and jigsaws.

They have also had their usual Christmas, Halloween and ST. Patricks celebrations with visits from the local primary school choir. They were invited down to the National trusts Mt. Stewart for a walk through the gardens followed by a cuppa and a scone. Along with support from the local FARESHARE and Spar the group is going from strength to strength and are looking forward to some summer activities.

Summer Schemes

The value of play and its benefits in the shaping of human development are widely documented. It is central to children's learning, development, confidence, and wellbeing.

It is recognised that children have the **right** to play (UNCRC Article 31- children and young people have the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to their age, and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.)



In 2025 Council led Summer Scheme delivered by the Community Development team across 8 sites, this increased by one site from last year by working in partnership with colleagues in Leisure which enabled the delivery of one extra scheme in Comber. Summer Schemes were held at the following locations:

- Redburn Community Centre
- Alderman George Green Community Centre
- West Winds Primary School
- Ballygowan Village Hall
- Bowtown Estate: Movilla Abbey Church Buildings
- Comber Leisure Centre
- Donaghadee Community Centre
- Portavogie Community Centre

A different delivery approach was adopted this year; to maximise staffing across the 8 schemes, four teams of staff were employed to deliver 4 locations per week for 4 weeks of summer schemes. Capacity for Council led schemes was standardised across all schemes with 48 children being registered per week, per location. In total this represents 768 places available and booked.

Community Partner led schemes Partners delivered across two sites, each for two weeks.

- Kilcooley Women's Centre, Kilcooley
- Ballyphilip Youth Club, Portaferry One of the Community Partner's,
- Millisle Youth Forum withdrew due to reduced volunteer capacity. Millisle have already expressed that they wish to be part of the summer programme in 2026.

A facilitator led pilot was delivered within Millisle as they were unable to run a community led scheme this year. Council went out to quote to find a facilitator to fill this temporary gap in provision within Millisle. Active Youth NI won the quotation exercise. The process was a simple and straightforward, with Active Youth Ni using their own booking system and it was advertised across Council social media sites. It was a slightly different approach, but parents found the registration straightforward and the children had a really good time, the primary aim of the two-week programme was to deliver fun, accessible, and innovative summer schemes that support physical, mental and social wellbeing.

The schemes are non-sport specific, that are filled with active games, mindful movement, nature crafting and healthy eating as part of a holistic approach to wellbeing; building habits for a lifetime of healthy living.

The pilot also stablished that this is a cost-effective method of delivery. From the evaluation process below, it is noted that this type of programme was well received by parent and children alike. Council will further develop this pilot as a further funding alternative model, as it may be better value and enable the role out of more children's spaces. Numbers of children registered per week per location.

SITE DURATION NUMBER PER WEEK TOTAL NUMBER 2025 TOTAL NUMBER 2024

Site	Duration	Number Per Week	Total No. 2025	Total No. Per week 2024
Redburn	2 weeks	48	96	96
Alderman George Green	2 weeks	48	96	96
Bowtown	2 weeks	48	96	96
Comber	2 weeks	48	96	New scheme
Donaghadee	2 weeks	48	96	96
Portavogie	2 weeks	48	96	96
Westwind's	2 weeks	48	96	64
Ballygowan	2 weeks	48	96	96
Council Pilot – Facilitator - Millisle	2 weeks	32	64	Pilot - new
Total Council Facilitated			**832**	**640**
Community Partners				
Kilcooley	2 weeks	53	106	260
Portaferry	2 weeks	43	86	87

Total Community Partners			**192**	**347**
			1,024	***987***

Demand remains high every year. Both Council and Community Partner Led Summer Schemes do their utmost, within both budgetary and people power constraints, to meet these demands. Summer Scheme Promotion was advertised on Council website and social media channels prior to schemes opening for registration, for both Council, Community led, and facilitator led schemes. They were also promoted via the Community Development Database. Training Council increased the number of training days to ensure policies, procedures, play skills and managing challenging behaviours could be embedded prior to start of scheme, and that on site staff team building could take place in advance of the commencement of summer scheme. Program delivery Programme delivery maintained a two-bane structure, P1-P3 age group and P4-P7 age group. Local trips are to help sustain our Borough's economy by utilising as many local venues as possible. Council destinations were Ards Blair Maine Wellbeing & Leisure Centre, Comber Leisure Centre. There were also visits to Ark Farm, Mount Stewart, Dundonald Ice bowl, Sir Samuel Kelly Lifeboat, IMC cinema Ards and Castle Espie. The onsite programme is equally exciting, with facilitators and artists visiting children at community centre settings.

These included: First Aid by Red Cross, Multi Sports Joe, Party Animals, Amazon Jungle animals and Clayful Minds. The summer schemes did continue to tackle holiday hunger, by providing fruit, yoghurts, soft drinks and a cereal bar to snack on during the day when children were hungry, this worked better than offering breakfast.

ANDBC Tea Dances

ANDBC Tea Dances are organised for residents aged 50 and over and open to all residents across Ards and North Down. Delivered through cross departmental collaboration involving Age friendly, Community Development, Arts & Heritage and Community Halls, the tea dances continue to provide valuable opportunities for older adults to come together in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

- Autumn Tea Dance: 81 number attendees
- Christmas Tea Dance 76 attendees
- Spring Tea Dance - over 130 attendees.
- Total attendances for 2025-26 = 287

The Spring Tea Dance delivered in March, was particularly well attended with over 130 attendees and created a strong sense of community and belonging for those that attended.

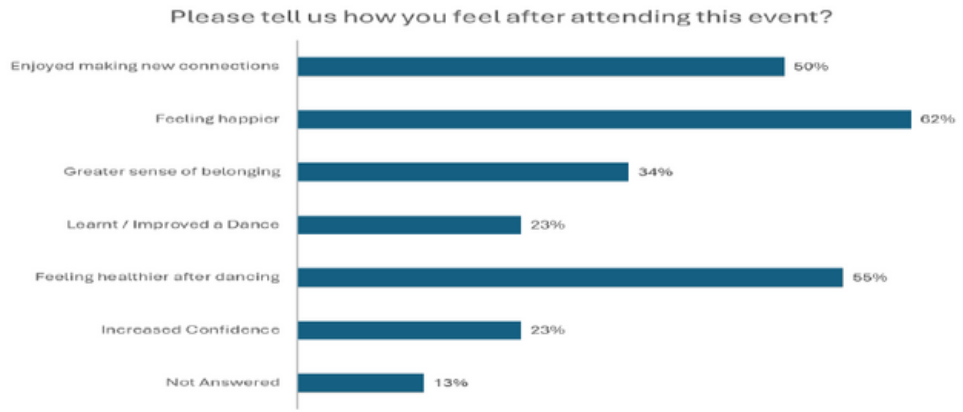
The tea dances continue to play an important role within the borough, highlighting the positive impact these events have on the community. They provide valuable opportunities for older adults, particularly those experiencing isolation or major life changes, to socialise, build friendship, and strengthen community connections, helping to reduce loneliness. Feedback from attendees

continues to shape the programme, influencing the style and variety of dances delivered throughout the year.

The gentle physical activity involved in the tea dances helps to improve mobility, balance and flexibility while also supporting emotional wellbeing and boosting mood.







(Feedback from Spring Tea Dance March 2026, 101 responses to survey)

Tea Dance Feedback Summary of Comments

Feedback about the Refreshments

- Some felt there was limited variety with biscuits, with comments noting the absence of scones and sandwiches.
- Suggestions were made to revisit the catering to better reflect past offerings.

Liked the Most

- Dancing was the clear favourite — mentioned by nearly everyone!
- Music and companionship created a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

- Many appreciated the chance to meet old friends, socialise, and enjoy good exercise.
- Thomas received glowing praise for his dancing and music.
- The large dance floor, free entry, and accessible parking were also well received.

Liked Least

- A few attendees were surprised that the dances were geared toward those with prior lessons — some felt this might discourage newcomers.
- Car parking, room temperature, and the layout of tables.
- One attendee mentioned discomfort with the form provided.
- A request was made for Latin music to be included in future playlists.
- An attendee expressed concern over the potential closure of the hall.

Additional Comments

- Calls for more Tea Dances in future.
- Many felt this event was a big improvement over previous one.
- One word summed it up for several attendees: Brilliant!

Stay Connected Stay Active

In February 2026 Community Development and Community Halls launched a 6-week pilot programme for the over 65's. The programme was designed to tackle social isolation and encourage physical activity amongst the over 65's living in the Borough. The programme consisted of a 45-minute light armchair exercise class followed by 1hr social time with an information talk on support available in your area. Some of the key partners delivering the community information talks included Ards and North Down Borough Council Home Safety Team, Southeastern Trust Safe and Well Team, PCSP Scam wise/Home Security Programme and Deaf Blind UK.

The programme was tailored to all levels of mobility, and had 4 **key objectives:**

1. Fostering Inclusion
2. Reducing social isolation
3. Building Relationships
4. Encouraging mobility

The Stay Connected-Stay Active programme was delivered in the following community centres:

- Ballygowan Village Hall
- Carrowdore Community Centre

- Donaghadee Community Centre
- Portaferry Market House
- Redburn Community Centre

A total of 83 individuals participated in the Stay Connected – Stay Active Programme.





Participant Feedback

Do you feel any of the below apply after attending the programme?



(58 respondents)

Star rating – Week 6

- 54 respondents gave a star rating, 4 respondents rated the programme 4 star, 50 respondents rated the programme 5 star. This gives a star rating of 4.93



Some of the comments from participants in the programme

'Groups like these are so important for people to get together and feel-good taking part. thank you.'

'Please could we have a longer programme in the future, especially over the summer. This has been a wonderful experience.'

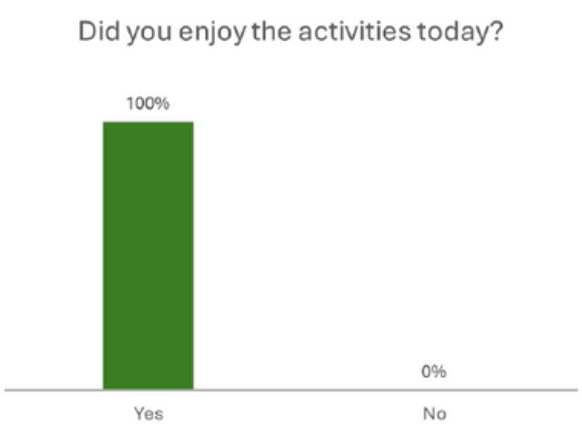
'Having lost my husband 6 months ago the classes gave me a reason to go out and was much appreciated by my family.'

Additional outcomes

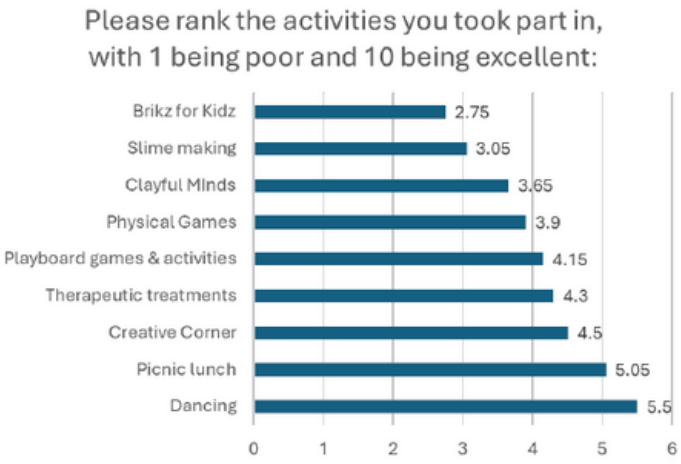
- Following the sessions in Portaferry, some of the attendees have continued to meet for a weekly walk.
- 5 attendees in Reburn joined The Council's over 50's group
- Several of the attendees swapped numbers and had been meeting for coffee, social connection and friendship made

Connecting Families

Community Developments pilot of "***Connecting Families"*** took place on February 2026 at Queens Hall, Newtownards, 100 people enjoyed a wide range of play activities and ideas. This was a great opportunity for children to experience fun play ideas away from the screens and devices. Play can happen anywhere in the living room, garden, yard or street and let's not forget about, our beautiful green spaces around the Borough Parks, playparks and walkways – there were lots of ideas for parents and guardians to play along with their kids. From crafty ideas – how to make costumes and cardboard construction from "stuff" lying around the house, to activities like Clay and slime making to big games where lots more energy is used running around in a big space. We had arts and crafts and board games, a graffiti table and finished off with a big dance off, to music brought to us by volunteer resident DJ's Conor and Gemma followed by a packed lunch.



(There were 20 responses to this question)



(There were 14 responses to this question)

International Women's Day

Community Development Team celebrated Women Community Champions at the City Hall on 9 March to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contribution Women Champions have made to our community.

The theme "Give to Gain" is very much the heart of our Women Champions Volunteering within the Borough.

Lata Sharma, our Keynote Speaker, also gave a short biography of each recipient and the Mayor, Cllr Gillian McCollum who also opened the event, presented certificates. Many Thanks to all our speaker and to Adele Faulkner, Director of Active and Healthy Communities Dept and, of course, our amazing Recipients.

The Recipients:

Moira Ritchie - *Portaferry Community Collective*
Janet Scott - *Bangor Foodbank and Community Support*
Kate Boyd - *Donaghadee Community Development Association*
Linda Steel - *Community Advice Ards and North Down*
Dr Jenny Gingles - *Peninsula Healthy Living*
Barbara Workman - *Greyabbey Village Hall Management Committee*
Rhonda McIlveen - *Ballygowan & District Community Association*

Outcome 6: Grants

"Our communities have capacity to avail of Council funds to address locally identified needs."

Community Development Grants and Funding

Funding/Grant Stream	Amount awarded in 2025/26
DfC Community Support Staff	£449,300.00
DfC Advice Contract - CAAND	£316,786.19
DfC Community Support – Network SLAs	£37,936.33
DfC Welfare Reform Fund	£89,097.87
DfC Integrated Debt Partnership Fund	£138,966.71
Social Supermarket	£134,630.84
Community Festival Fund	£95,301.15
Community Development Running Costs	£100,405.96
Christmas Festivals 2025	£21,449.00
VE Day Commemoration Fund	£46,265.00
Youth Voice	£24,000.00
Total	**£1,454,139.05**

Grants Information Sessions

Ards and North Down Grants working group was set up to progress the development of the Council Grants policy. Representation from all Council departments sat on the group, as part of this group a grants information session was Held October 2025 at Aurora Bangor, with two drop-in times available to members of the public.

For Community Development this was a very successful event, we had groups for the whole first two-hour session asking advice, and at the evening event, there was a lot of people within the first hour and then it slowed down, there was not time to take a tally of people that

came to discuss grants, the lesson learned is that the two members of staff that were in attendance was not enough for CD and we will take more staff next time and get an accurate record of the number of attendees but it is estimated that we talked to 60 individual groups of over the course of the event. We also took along community information registration forms to get new signups for our weekly email, in which we do 3rd party grant searches, send out grant opportunities for Council and share community information. We were able to raise awareness of this service and had 19 new people signed up to the database.

Community Development Running Costs Grant 2025/26

The Community Development running costs grants for 2025/26 were open for applications from 16 April 2025 until 09 May 2026. The Total funding budget was £92,000 and the number of groups supported was 60.

The Community Development Fund (CD) is jointly provided by Ards and North Down Borough Council and the Department of Communities, under the Community Support Programme.

The purpose of the Council's Community Development Fund is to support local Community groups who require running costs for local community bases, and groups (e.g. insurance, utilities, rent/venue hire etc.), which aim to improve the quality of life in our communities.

Out of the 66 applications received 60 were successful, 5 applications did not reach the pass mark of 50% and 1 group were not eligible to apply. Table 1 below shows the successful applicants and Table 2 the unsuccessful and ineligible applicants.

The 60 successful applicants were awarded 81% of the eligible running costs they applied for with a total value awarded of **£100,405.96**

Table 1: Successful Applicants

#	Group / Organisation	Amount Awarded @ 81%
1	1st Newtownards Scout Group	£2,025.00
2	Ards Peninsula Village Partnership	£1,782.00
3	Ballygowan & District Community Association	£858.60
4	Ballyhalbert & District Community Association	£1,603.80
5	Ballyphilip Youth Club	£2,025.00
6	Ballysallagh WI	£1,109.70
7	Ballywalter & District Historical Society	£356.40
8	Ballywalter Community Action Group	£477.90
9	Ballywalter Men's Shed	£396.90

10	Bangor & North Down Samaritans	£2,025.00
11	Bangor Sea Cadets	£1,111.32
12	Beyond the Battlefield	£2,025.00
13	Bloomfield Community Association	£2,025.00
14	Breezemount Community Association	£2,025.00
15	Carrowdore & District Community Association	£2,025.00
16	Clandeboye Village Community Association	£2,025.00
17	Cloughey & District Community Association	£957.42
18	Cloughey Heritage Group Ltd	£989.81
19	Comber Community Residents Group	£1,255.50
20	Comber Regeneration Community Partnership	£1,966.68
21	Conlig Community Regeneration Group	£2,025.00
22	Cottown LOL 1029	£2,025.00
23	DAD BODS NI CIC	£2,025.00
24	Discover Groomsport	£1,911.60
25	Donaghadee Community Development Association	£2,025.00
26	Gifted	£2,025.00
27	Glenside Farm Comber CIC	£1,798.20
28	Greyabbey Village Hall Management Committee	£2,025.00
29	Groomsport Village Association	£1,863.00
30	Holywood Family Trust	£2,025.00
31	Holywood Shared Town	£2,025.00
32	Inspiring Yarns	£2,025.00
33	Kilcooley Women's Centre	£2,025.00
34	Killinchy & District Community Development Association	£2,025.00
35	Killinchy Activity Group	£2,025.00
36	Killinchy Senior Citizens Group	£1,620.00
37	Ladybirds Children's Services	£1,701.00
38	Lisbarnett & Lisbane Community Association	£2,025.00
39	Love Ballyholme	£299.70
40	Millisle & District Community Association	£2,025.00
41	Millisle Health & Wellbeing Group	£2,025.00
42	Millisle Regeneration	£2,025.00
43	Millisle Youth Forum	£2,025.00
44	Newtownards 1st Somme Society	£2,025.00
45	North Down YMCA	£2,025.00
46	Polish Association Bangor	£2,025.00

47	Portaferry and Strangford Trust	£2,025.00
48	Portaferry Community Collective	£1,254.69
49	Portaferry Community Services Ltd	£2,025.00
50	Portaferry Gala Festival	£2,025.00
51	Portaferry in Bloom	£899.10
52	Portaferry Regeneration Ltd	£2,025.00
53	Portaferry WI	£780.44
54	Portavogie Regeneration Forum	£801.41
55	Redburn Loughview Community Forum	£1,385.10
56	St Patricks Community Centre Portaferry	£1,702.69
57	The Link Family and Community Centre	£2,025.00
58	United Ulster History Forum	£648.00
59	Warehouse Open Centre CIC	£2,025.00
60	Whitehill Community Association	£2,025.00
	TOTAL AWARDED	£100,405.96

Table 2: Unsuccessful Applicants: -

#	Group / Organisation	Reason for Unsuccessful Application
1	Ards Community & Wellbeing Association	Didn't reach pass mark
2	Ballywalter Youth & Community Cooperative	Didn't reach pass mark
3	Bangor Chess Club - Not Scored Not Eligible Group	Group not eligible to apply
4	Comber U3A	Didn't reach pass mark
5	Holywood Co-Farm Community Benefit Society	Didn't reach pass mark
6	North Down and Ards Down Syndrome Support Group	Didn't reach pass mark

Community Festivals Fund 2025/26

Total allocation to Community Festivals: – £95,301.15 Total number of groups funded: 24

Total numbers of festival attendees: 40,654 attendees

After trialling the merging of Community festival grants with Tourisms events grants for two years it became apparent that the Events and Festivals grant scheme was not working for the Community Groups and it was decided that Community Development would return to running the Community Festivals Funding.

Total budget for the Community Festivals Fund 25/26 was £95,000 the Events and this amount included match funding from Department of Communities (DfC) of £31,530.

There are 3 levels of grant available within the Community Festivals Fund. These are:

Event/Festival Type	Guidance attendee/participant numbers	Support available
Local	Attracts up to 500 attendees and participants	Up to £1,000
Neighbourhood	Attracts between 501 and 2,000 attendees and participants	Between £1,000 and £4,000
Medium/Large	Attracts over 1,500 attendees and participants	Between £4,001 and £15,000

The Community Festival Fund opened for applications on Tuesday 25 March 2025 and closed on Wednesday 15 April 2025.

There were 29 applications received by the closing date requesting a total value of £120,175.00. 24 community applications received were successful, 5 failed to reach the pass mark of 60%.

Table 1: Local Festivals recommended for Award.

	Group / Organisation	Name of Festival	Amount awarded	Attendee numbers at festival
1	Bloomfield Community Association	Bloomfield Community Festival	£1,000.00	350
2	Cloughey & District Community Association	Cloughey Family Beach Fun Day	£885.00	250
3	Conlig Community Regeneration Group	Conlig Community Festival	£1,000.00	200
4	Killinchy & District Community Development Association	Killinchy Together – A Community Connection Festival	£1,000.00	400
5	Killinchy Presbyterian Church	Killinchy Community Funday & Craft Fair	£1,000.00	200
6	Mae Murray Foundation	All-ability Family Fun Days	£1,000.00	1576
7	Millisle & District Community Association	Millisle Reflects	£1,000.00	10
8	St Marys Kircubbin Parent Support Group	SpringFest at St Mary's Kircubbin	£1,000.00	400

9	St Marys Portaferry Parent Support Group	Bank Holiday Tractor Run and Family Fun Day	£1,000.00	400
10	The Reeling Rascals Dance Academy	Comber Highland Dance Competition	£1,000.00	30
11	Whitehill Community Association	Whitehill Community Festival	£1,000.00	100
TOTAL of Local Community Festivals			**£10,885.00**	**3,916**

Table 2: Neighbourhood Festivals recommended for award

	Group / Organisation	Name of Festival	Amount awarded	Attendee Numbers at event/festival
1	Cottown LOL 1029	Cottown Community Summer Day	**£3,640.00**	1000
2	Dad Bods NI	DadFest	**£3,640.00**	100
3	Gifted Enterprise	Autumn Artisan Market	**£3,549.00**	900
4	Holywood Shared Town	The Creative Holywood Festival	**£3,640.00**	788
5	Polish Association Bangor	Independence Day & Cultural Christmas	**£3,640.00**	500
6	Portaferry Regeneration Limited	Peninsula Community Artisan Fair	**£3,626.35**	1000
7	Portaferry Sailing & Social Club	THE NARROWS SERIES FEST	**£3,640.00**	1700
8	St Patricks Community Centre	"WICKED" Themed "FOR GOOD"	**£3,640.00**	1100
Total of Neighbourhood Community Festivals			**£29,015.35**	**7088**

Table 3: Medium and Large Festivals recommended for award

	Group / Organisation	Name of Event	Amount awarded	Attendee numbers at Festival
1	Comber Regeneration Community Partnership	Comber Earlies Fringe Festival	**£7,170.80**	**1300**

2	Donaghadee Community Development Association	Donaghadee Summer Festival 2025 - Community & Culture	**£13,650.00**	**19500**
3	Kilcooley Women's Centre	The Bingham Lane and Old Market House Sea Bangor Festival	**£7,280.00**	**2650**
4	Portaferry Gala	Portaferry Gala Fest 2025	**£13,650.00**	**1700**
5	Seacourt Print Workshop Ltd	Bingham Lane Festival	**£13,650.00**	**4500**
	Total Medium/Large Community Festivals		**£55,400.80**	**29,650**
	Overall totals for all funded Community Festivals		**£95,301.15**	**40,654 attendees**

Table 4: Unsuccessful applications

	Group / Organisation	**Name of Festival**	**Reason for unsuccessful application**
1	Friends of St Patricks Ballygalget	Race Night	Didn't reach pass mark
2	North Down Cricket Club – Comber	North Down Music Fest	Didn't reach pass mark
3	Cloughey Heritage Group Ltd	Country Musical Evening	Didn't reach pass mark
	Lisbarnett & Lisbane Community Association Ltd	Lisbane Community Summer Fair	Didn't reach pass mark
	St. Comgall's Primary School PTA	St. Comgall's Summer Festival	Didn't reach pass mark

Christmas Festival Grants 2025/26

Total funding awarded was £21,449.00
Total attendees: 13,077

The Council invited applications for the 2025 Christmas Festival Fund with a closing date of 12 noon on Monday 4th August 2025. Funding for each of the 14 villages was a maximum of

£1,000 and for the 3 towns the maximum applicable was £3,000. Villages (Table 1) and Towns (Table 2). Carrowdore did not apply for the Christmas Festival funding in 2025. Although Council did put the Christmas tree in Carrowdore there was no Christmas light festival in 2025.

Table 1 (VILLAGES)

	Group / Organisation	Amount Awarded	Attendee Numbers
1	Ballygowan & District Community Association	£850.00	180
2	Ballyhalbert Community Association	£1,000.00	90
3	Ballywalter Community Action Group	£1,000.00	450
4	Cloughey & District Community Association	£599.00	130
5	Conlig Community Regeneration Group	£1,000.00	400
6	Discover Groomsport	£1,000.00	110
7	Greyabbey & District Community Association	£1,000.00	100
8	Bayburn CA formerly Helens Bay & Crawfordsburn Residents Assoc.	£1,000.00	190
9	Killinchy & District Community Development Association	£1,000.00	200
10	Kircubbin & District Community Association	£1,000.00	340
11	Millisle & District Community Association	£1,000.00	350
12	Portaferry Gala Fest	£1,000.00	912
13	Portavogie Regeneration Forum	£1,000.00	300
	Village's Total	**£12,449.00**	**3,752 attendees**

Table 2 (TOWNS)

	Name of group	Amount Awarded	Attendee numbers
1	Comber Regeneration Community Partnership	£3,000.00	4000
2	Donaghadee Community Development Association	£3,000.00	2825
3	Holywood & District Community Council	£3,000.00	2500
	Town's Total	**£9,000.00**	**9325 attendees**
	Overall Christmas 2025 Fund Totals	**£21,449.00**	**13,077 attendees**

Conlig held their Christmas Light Festival on 6th December









VE Day Commemoration Fund 2025/26

Total Budget: £60,000.00 and total amount awarded in grants was £46,265.00. The total amount of attendees was 13,541.

Total amount of groups supported: 50 groups were funded.

Council approved a budget of £60,000 for the provision of a VE grant scheme and that the grants would be made available to Community groups and organisations up to a maximum of £1,000.

Applications were welcomed from constituted community organisations to hold events between 3rd May – 12th May 2025.

The call initially opened on 10th March 2025 and closed on 24th March 2025 at 12 noon. The call was then reopened from 10th April 2025 and closed on 24th April 2025 at noon. There were 40 groups from the first call and 10 from the second call.

There were 50 successful applicants who were awarded, see table 1 below.

Table 1: VE Day Commemoration Fund Successful applications:

Successful VE Day Commemoration Fund - Pass mark 45%			
#	**Name of Group - Successful**	**Amount Awarded**	**Attendee No's**
1	1st Newtownards Somme Society	£450.00	300
2	Alexander Dickson PTA	£1,000.00	250
3	Ards Community & Wellbeing Association	£1,000.00	400
4	Ballygowan & District Community Association	£400.00	60
5	Ballyhalbert & District Community Association	£940.00	160
6	Ballywalter Community Action Group	£1,000.00	350
7	Bangor Academy Sixth Form PTA	£505.00	850
8	Bangor Ex Services	£500.00	70
9	BayBurn Community Association	£1,000.00	350
10	Beyond the Battlefield	£1,000.00	300
11	Bowtown Community Development Group	£1,000.00	120
12	Bryansburn Rangers FC	£970.00	210
13	Clandeboye Village Community Association	£1,000.00	40
14	Comber Rec FC	£1,000.00	200
15	Comber Regeneration Community Partnership	£1,000.00	2000
16	Conlig Community Regeneration Group	£1,000.00	175
17	Cottown LOL 1029	£1,000.00	100
18	Crawfordsburn Chosen Few LOL 1091	£950.00	240
19	Decorum NI	£1,000.00	45
20	Discover Groomsport	£1,000.00	500
21	Donaghadee Community Development Association	£1,000.00	500
22	Donaghadee Primary PTA	£1,000.00	438
23	Friends of Millisle Primary School	£1,000.00	270

24	Gifted	£1,000.00	114
25	Glastry College PTFA	£1,000.00	600
26	Glen Ward Community Development Association	£1,000.00	200
27	Greyabbey Primary School PTA	£1,000.00	100
28	Groomsport Village Association	£1,000.00	240
29	Harmoni	£320.00	30
30	Kilcooley Community Forum Ltd	£1,000.00	45
31	Kilcooley Women's Centre	£1,000.00	88
32	Ladybirds Childcare	£1,000.00	40
33	Millisle & District Community Association	£1,000.00	400
34	Millisle Royal British Legion	£1,000.00	100
35	Millisle Youth Forum	£670.00	400
36	Newtownards British Legion	£975.00	375
37	Newtownards Cultural Society	£1,000.00	300
38	North Down & Ards U3A	£1,000.00	88
39	Portaferry Community Services Ltd	£1,000.00	396
40	Portaferry Sailing Club	£1,000.00	200
41	Portaferry WI	£1,000.00	70
42	Portavogie PTA	£1,000.00	250
43	Portavogie True Blues LOL 552	£1,000.00	300
44	Redburn Loughview Community Forum	£1,000.00	40
45	Regimental Association of the Ulster Defence Regiment CGC (Bangor Branch).	£1,000.00	65
46	Saintfield District LOL No. 5	£1,000.00	1000
47	Scrabo Residents Association	£600.00	60
48	Seahaven Residents Association	£985.00	108
49	St Andrews Presbyterian Church	£1,000.00	280
50	West Winds Development Association	£1,000.00	300
	Total	**£46,265.00**	**13,541 attendees**

In addition to the VE Day Grants there was the opportunity provided to residents and non-constituted groups who were delivered street parties, garden parties and other community celebrations to receive a Commemoration pack. The packs consisted of lamp post signs, bunting, table clothes, napkins, cutlery and cups. 11 Resident groups delivering garden / street parties with an approximate attendance of 250 people. A further 40 non-constituted groups from across the borough received a party pack. The total expenditure for the materials £4,760.00.

Social Supermarkets

In the 2025/26 financial year Council awarded £134,630.84 in funding to two local community providers towards funding local Social Supermarkets through letters of offer (LoO) that are monitored on a quarterly basis, as a means of addressing increasing food poverty across the

Borough. The LoO are aimed at providing support 'beyond food' that enabled clients to access wraparound support services geared to transition people out of food poverty whilst respecting the dignity of the service users. They were intended to maximise existing support structures, services and partnerships ensuring that wraparound support was achieved.

Two local organisations were awarded funding through the 2025/26 scheme, Kilcooley Women's Centre and Bangor Foodbank and Community Support (BFCS).

The aim was to make social supermarket services available across the Borough. Kilcooley Women's Centre covers Bangor, Holywood and Bangor while BFCS cover Ballygowan, Comber, Killinchy, Newtownards and the Ards Peninsula. In 2025/26 the two Social Supermarkets provided their services to a total of 889 individuals across the Borough.

Cross Council department initiatives that Community Development staff are involved with:

- ANDBC Community Resuscitation Group
- ANDBC Sustainable tourism Group
- ANDBC All system approach to obesity group
- ANDBC Community Planning third sector group
- ANDBC Climate Action and Sustainability Champions Working Group
- ANDBC Age Friendly
- ANDBC Staff Consultative Committee
- ANDBC Community Support Steering Group
- ANDBC Grants Scheme Development Working Group
- Ards and North Down Locality planning group
- ANDBC Reading Borough
- 3rd Sector
- LMP
- Strategic Community Planning Partnership
- ASPE
- Peace Plus scoring panels

Conclusion

Community development has had a successful year delivering programme, supporting communities and delivering grant funding. 2025 – 26 has been evaluated and processes will be put in place to continue to grow and improve Community development offering. It was exciting for the team to offer out pilots this year and deliver programme in a more diverse way to maximise impact while streamlining budgets. Community development continues to work in partnership with other Council departments and with other stakeholders in the statutory and community and voluntary sectors.

Glossary

SLA – Service Level Agreement
DfC – Department for Communities
DfE – Department for Economy
CD – Community Development
LoO – Letter of Offer
KNP – Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership
NRP – Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
NRA – Neighbourhood Renewal Area
V&C – Vountary and Community
IAP – Integrated Advice Partnership
CAAND – Community Advice Ards and North Down

Unclassified

ITEM 6

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	14 October 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community
Report title	Response to NoM 697-Motor Neurone Disease
Attachments	(Appendix 1) Response from Catherine McFarland, Interim Chief Executive of the NIHE. (Appendix 2) Response dated 19th June 2026 from Department of Communities.
File Reference (if applicable)	CDV 67
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Resource Implications	Budget Narrative: None
Screening Requirements	*The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:* Screening of decision not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 3: Social 5. Safe, welcoming and inclusive communities that are flourishing If multiple:

Background

At the Council meeting on 11 February 2026, Members agreed Notice of Motion 697 requesting that Council write to the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and the Minister for Communities in relation to delays experienced by people living with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) in accessing home adaptations through the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) process. The Notice of Motion sought details of current timescales for completion of adaptations for people living with MND and requested consideration of a fast-track process for these vital and time-sensitive works.

Key issues

Correspondence was issued to the NIHE and the Minister for Communities on 21 May 2026, seeking information on the time taken to deliver DFG-funded adaptations for people living with MND and asking that urgent consideration be given to arrangements that would allow such cases to be progressed more quickly.

A response dated 15 June 2026 was received from Catherine McFarland, Interim Chief Executive of the NIHE, and is attached at Appendix 1. The response acknowledges the significant challenges faced by people with progressive and life-limiting conditions and recognises the importance of delivering timely home adaptations that support safety, independence and dignity.

The NIHE advised that its does not hold waiting lists for DFGs by medical diagnosis and therefore does not record waiting times specifically for people living with MND. Instead, cases progress through a structured nine-stage process from receipt of the Occupational Therapist recommendation through to final payment of grant aid.

The NIHE also advised that it is working with the Department for Communities and the Department of Health on the Review of Administered Grants, including DFGs. The review is focused on improving access to grant funding, creating a more user-friendly customer journey and using customer feedback to inform service improvement.

NIHE advised that it is not currently in a position to introduce a fast-track process based solely on a specific medical diagnosis. However, it acknowledged the need for a more responsive approach in urgent or complex cases and confirmed that it is working with Health and Social Care Trust Occupational Therapy services to pilot an accelerated process for exceptional cases where urgency is critical.

A response dated 19 June 2026 was received from the Department for Communities and is attached at Appendix 2. The Department confirmed that it is working with the Department of Health and the NIHE on a wider review of Private Sector Grants, aimed at improving the efficiency of the grants process and reducing waiting times. Further proposals to improve the grants process are expected to be brought forward for public consultation in 2026.

RECOMMENDED

It is recommended that Council **notes** the responses received from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Department for Communities.

Housing Executive

INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Catherine McFarland
2 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8PB
chiefexecutive@nihe.gov.uk
028 9598 2724
nihe.gov.uk

Nicola Dorrian
Head of Community Services (Interim)
Ards and North Down Borough Council

Via Email: Nicola.Dorrian@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

15th June 2026

Dear Ms Dorrian

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of Ards and North Down Borough Council regarding the provision of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) and the concern expressed in respect of individuals living with Motor Neurone Disease (MND).

The Housing Executive recognises the significant challenges faced by individuals with progressive and life-limiting conditions and fully appreciates the importance of delivering timely home adaptations that support safety, independence and dignity.

Timescales for Adaptations
Disabled Facilities Grants are demand-led and may only be initiated following a recommendation from a Health and Social Care Trust Occupational Therapist (OT); there is no direct application process to the Housing Executive.

The Housing Executive does not maintain 'waiting lists' for DFGs, nor do we hold a record of any applicants' medical diagnosis, including MND. The Housing Executive is provided with the housing need as recommended by the OT only; medical condition or diagnosis is not shared. Each case progresses through a structured nine stage process, and an applicant's position will change as they move through the various stages.

We do, however, monitor processing times across the stages of the scheme, measured in calendar days.

Nine-Stage Disabled Facilities Grant Process
A DFG progresses through nine defined stages, from the receipt of an OT recommendation to the final payment of grant aid:

APPENDIX 1

1. OT recommendation received to Test of Resources commenced.
2. Test of Resources commenced to completion.
3. Completion of Test of Resources to Housing Executive Technical Officer inspection.
4. Inspection to issue of List of Grant-Aided Works.
5. Issue of List of Works to receipt of all required plans and documentation.
6. Receipt of completed documentation to Approval to Start Work.
7. Issue of formal approval to completion of works and submission of final documentation.
8. Receipt of completion notice and documentation to final inspection.
9. Final inspection to authorisation of grant payment.

Recommendations proceed through each stage, moving on to the next stage only as the previous one is completed. It is important to note that stages 2, 5 and 7 are generally outside the Housing Executive's direct control, as they rely on the applicant, or their appointed agent, to provide the necessary information and documentation. In addition, applicants must provide all supporting documentation before their case can be considered a formal application; it can take time to have all necessary documents received.

In 2025/26, the average end-to-end processing time for DFG applications in the Ards and North Down area was 1,175 calendar days, measured from initiation at stage one through to final payment at stage nine. Analysis of Northern Ireland wide data indicates that approximately 8% (94 days) of this timeframe relates to stages within the Housing Executive's control, while 92% (1,081 days) relates to stages outside our control.

Review of Administered Grants

The Housing Executive is currently working with the Department for Communities (DfC) and the Department of Health (DoH) on the Review of Administered Grants, including DFGs. This review is focused on three key outcomes:

1. Quicker Access to Grant Funding

A number of practical improvements have been introduced. Since 1 September 2024, applicants undertaking works valued over £10,000 have greater flexibility in appointing contractors, with the option to engage either a warranted builder or a non-warranted contractor under an appropriate building contract (e.g. JCT).

In addition, since February 2025, Grants Offices have had access to the Landweb system, enabling more efficient verification of property ownership. This has contributed to an approximate reduction of 65 days in overall processing times.

2. A More User-Friendly Customer Journey
Enhancements have been made to improve the experience for applicants and their representatives. Updated guidance has been issued for applicants, architects and contractors, including practical advice on contractor selection and project requirements.

A comprehensive Disabled Facilities Grant booklet, co-designed with the Disabled Adaptations Working Group and available in accessible formats, has also been introduced. This resource is provided by Occupational Therapists at the outset and is available on the Housing Executive website to support applicants in navigating the process.

3. Service Improvements Informed by Lived Experience
Customer feedback is gathered through post-completion Customer Satisfaction Surveys. A pilot scheme undertaken between April and December 2025 recorded a 90% satisfaction rate, with insights from participants contributing to ongoing service improvements.

Fast-Track Arrangements
At present, the Housing Executive is not in a position to introduce a fast-track process based solely on a specific medical diagnosis, including MND. However, we fully acknowledge the need for a more responsive approach in urgent or complex cases.

To address this, we are working in collaboration with Health and Social Care Trust Occupational Therapy services to pilot an accelerated process for exceptional cases.

This pilot, endorsed by both the Department for Communities and the Department of Health, aims to:

- Identify cases where urgency is critical.
- Develop processes to expedite the delivery of adaptations.
- Inform future service improvements to better support those with the most pressing needs.

This process is initiated by the Health and Social Care Trust and cannot be commenced directly by the Housing Executive.

Conclusion
In conclusion, while the delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants involves a multi-stage process with a number of dependencies outside the Housing Executive's direct control, we fully recognise the need to improve both timeliness and the overall customer experience.

APPENDIX 1

Through the ongoing Review of Administered Grants, the introduction of practical process improvements, and close collaboration with Health and Social Care partners, we are actively working to reduce delays and ensure that those with the greatest need, particularly individuals with progressive conditions such as MND, receive appropriate and timely support.

I trust this response is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine McFarland Interim Chief Executive

Appendix 2

Department for Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Tracey Millar
Level 4
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG
Email:DfCNIHESponsorTeam@communities-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: TOF-0547-2026

19th June 2026

Nicola Dorrian

Via email: nicola.dorrian@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Dear Nicola,

Thank you for your email of 2 June to Minister Lyons regarding waiting times for Disabled Facilities Grants for people living with Motor Neurone Disease (MND). Your email has been passed to me for response.

The Housing Executive does not record waiting times by specific medical diagnosis, and there is no single waiting list, as applications progress through several stages which vary depending on individual circumstances.

However, during 2025/26, the average end-to-end processing time for applications in the Ards and North Down area was 1,175 calendar days. It is important to note that much of this time relates to stages outside the Housing Executive's direct control.
The Department, alongside the Department of Health and the Housing Executive, is currently undertaking a wider review of Private Sector Grants, aimed at improving the efficiency of the grants process and reducing waiting times. This work has already

Department for Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

delivered a number of improvements, including clearer guidance, a simplified application process and more streamlined ways of working.

Further proposals to improve the grants process are expected to be brought forward for public consultation in 2026. It is expected that these measures will contribute to a more efficient process and reduce waiting times for adaptations.

While I have been unable to give you the detail requested, I hope you find this information useful.

Yours Sincerely,

Tracey Millar
NIHE Sponsor Team

Ards and North Down Borough Council

ITEM 7

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	08 October 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community
Report title	PCSP Annual report 2025 - 2026
Attachments	Appendix 1- PCSP Annual report 2025 - 2026
File Reference (if applicable)	PCSP 1
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 Justice Act (NI) 2011
Resource Implications	Budget Narrative:
Screening Requirements	*The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:* Screening of decision not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 3: Social 5. Safe, welcoming and inclusive communities that are flourishing If multiple:

Background
The Code of Practice for the Exercise and Functions of Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) states that Council must receive a copy of the PCSP Annual report each year.

The report includes general information on the exercise of functions, both in terms of policing and community safety.

The PCSP Annual report for 2025 – 2026 which was approved by PCSP at its meeting held on 14th September 2026, is attached in Appendix 1.

Summary
A summary of achievements from the report is presented below;

Strategic Priority 1: Effective Engagement, Consultation and Awareness
- Reached over 28,000 residents through social media, communications and awareness campaigns.
- Delivered 9 community consultation events across all DEAs to inform the PCSP Action Plan and Strategic Review.
- Facilitated regular multi-agency engagement through 36 partnership meetings addressing anti-social behaviour and community safety issues.
- Supported youth participation through Youth Voice, engaging 23 young people and developing leadership, advocacy and citizenship skills.

Strategic Priority 2: Improving Community Safety
- Engaged over 3,000 children and young people in programmes addressing anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, personal safety and positive decision-making.
- Delivered 135 Voluntary Safety Warden patrols and targeted interventions in ASB hotspot areas.
- Secured 137 homes through the 4-Tier Home Secure Scheme, supporting vulnerable residents and victims of crime and domestic abuse.
- Removed 11,642 drug items through RAPID Bin initiatives and provided substance misuse interventions to over 1,200 young people.
- Delivered hate crime, domestic abuse and cyber safety programmes, improving awareness, support and access to services.
- Installed 6 Speed Indicator Devices and delivered road safety initiatives reaching over 2,500 residents and 700+ sixth-form students.

Strategic Priority 3: Building Confidence in Policing
- Held 4 Policing Committee meetings and a public meeting involving PSNI and local communities.
- Delivered community engagement initiatives with PSNI, including Operation Safer Season, engaging over 200 local residents.
- Maintained a Neighbourhood Watch network covering 1,628 households across the Borough.
- Participants reported increased awareness of policing priorities and greater confidence in engaging with PSNI.

Financial Performance

- Total expenditure of £323,413 against a budget of £330,333, representing 98% budget utilisation.
- Investment focused on community safety, crime prevention, youth engagement, road safety, vulnerability reduction and confidence in policing.

Headline Achievements

- 28,000+ residents reached through awareness and engagement activity.
- 3,000+ young people engaged in prevention and education programmes.
- 137 homes secured through crime prevention measures.
- 11,642 drugs disposed of safely through RAPID Bins.
- 135 safety patrols completed by community wardens.
- 1,628 households supported through Neighbourhood Watch.
- 98% of available funding invested in local community safety outcomes

RECOMMENDED

It is recommended that Council **Notes** the report.

Appendix 1

Policing & Community Safety Partnership

making Ards and North Down safer

Ards & North Down PCSP

Annual Report 2025-2026



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Chairperson Foreword

I am pleased to present the 2025-2026 Annual Report for the Ards and North Down Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP), which outlines the progress of the Partnership against the local outcomes and strategic objectives set out in the 2025-2026 Action Plan and approved by the Department of Justice and Northern Ireland Policing Board.

Throughout the year, PCSP Members and staff have continued to focus on building safer communities across the borough through initiatives designed to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, raise public awareness of community safety initiatives, and increase confidence in policing. As a PCSP, we have worked with community and voluntary organisations in towns and villages, as well as statutory partners, delivering innovative and impactful projects that address local needs. The PCSP staff team has continued to develop positive relationships with colleagues in PSNI, statutory agencies, and the community and voluntary groups who deliver so many of our projects.

We continue to be encouraged by the growing level of public interest in the work of PCSP. We acknowledge and thank those people who have participated in our projects, and who have engaged with us through consultation to help shape the incoming 2026-2027 Action Plan. The feedback we receive from the public is invaluable, and enables us as local representatives to ensure that community safety challenges are addressed swiftly and appropriately.

I would like to thank my fellow PCSP Members for their commitment throughout this past year, and for the motivation and enthusiasm they bring to their roles. As a Partnership, we will continue to consult, engage and discuss the community safety matters that are most important to the people we represent, making the Borough of Ards and North Down a safer place to live and work.

Cllr Pete Wray

Chairperson

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PCSP Introduction

Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) play a vital role in fostering safe and resilient communities across Northern Ireland. Established to bridge the gap between communities, local councils, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), and other statutory partners, PCSPs bring together representatives from various sectors to address local safety and policing concerns. By developing collaborative approaches and supporting community-led initiatives, PCSPs enhance public safety, promote community cohesion, and work proactively to address issues such as anti-social behaviour, substance abuse, hate crime, and domestic violence. PCSPs also aim to improve community confidence in the policing system by providing opportunities for local engagement, feedback, and accountability, thereby ensuring that policing reflects the needs and priorities of each unique community.

PCSPs are unique in that they are locally driven partnerships that operate at the council level, giving them a clear mandate to address the specific needs of the communities they serve. By coordinating between local authorities, statutory organisations, the PSNI, and community and voluntary organisations, PCSPs can design their initiatives to target the most pressing issues in each area. They work to ensure that communities feel both engaged in and accountable for the policing strategies impacting their neighbourhoods. This collaborative approach allows for a more responsive, inclusive, and flexible system of public safety that empowers communities to take an active role in their well-being.

Background to PCSPs in Northern Ireland

PCSPs were established in Northern Ireland as part of the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, which brought together two previous structures—the District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)—under a single entity. The aim was to streamline efforts, reduce duplication, and create a more cohesive approach to community safety and policing.

The Joint Committee (Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) and the Department of Justice) oversees PCSPs, while local councils are responsible for their administration and day-to-day operations. The Joint Committee provides guidance, funding, and support to ensure that PCSPs meet their statutory obligations, while local councils ensure the PCSPs are effectively resourced and aligned with local priorities. This governance structure helps maintain accountability while allowing PCSPs the flexibility to design interventions that address community-specific issues, from rural crime to urban anti-social behaviour.

PCSPs are made up of a combination of elected councillors, independent community members, and statutory representatives, including the PSNI and other agencies. This mix ensures that PCSPs benefit from diverse perspectives and expertise, fostering a more comprehensive approach to community safety. Through this multi-sectoral membership, PCSPs can draw on insights from different community groups and professionals, facilitating a holistic approach to identifying and addressing local safety challenges. This collaborative model has allowed PCSPs to deliver a wide range of projects and initiatives aimed at reducing crime, promoting social inclusion, and building safer, more supportive communities across Northern Ireland.

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Ards and North Down Council and PCSP

Ards and North Down Borough Council (ANDBC) serves a vibrant and diverse Borough. This council area combines busy town centres, rural communities, and scenic coastal regions, offering unique challenges and opportunities for community safety, cohesion, and wellbeing.

The council is committed to delivering high-quality services that meet the needs of its residents while fostering a safe, healthy, and welcoming environment. Key areas of focus for ANDBC include community development, economic growth, environmental sustainability, and public safety—all of which align with the objectives of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP).

Ards and North Down Borough Council Active and Health Communities Structure can be found in Appendix A.

Within the Council structure, the PCSP operates within the Active and Healthy Communities Department. Oversight of the PCSP falls under the responsibility of the Externally Funded Programmes Manager, who ensures alignment with Council's community-focused objectives and strategic priorities. Day-to-day operations are managed by the dedicated PCSP Officer, who is responsible for implementing the PCSP strategy and Action Plan, coordinating with stakeholders, and driving community engagement efforts. The PCSP Assistant Officer is responsible for day-to-day delivery, while further support is provided by the PCSP Administrative Assistant.

Ards and North Down PCSP

The Ards and North Down PCSP plays a vital role within the council by addressing community safety concerns, building trust in policing, and supporting initiatives that promote safer neighbourhoods and a more cohesive community. The PCSP operates as a collaborative body that brings together representatives from various sectors, including elected officials, statutory bodies, voluntary organisations, and community representatives.

The PCSP's role is to create a space for dialogue and problem-solving on pressing community issues, ensuring that a wide range of perspectives and voices contribute to decision-making. By fostering strong partnerships with organisations such as the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), local schools, youth services, and voluntary groups, the PCSP has been able to drive impactful initiatives and respond flexibly to emerging issues in the borough.

PCSP Members

The membership of the Ards and North Down PCSP reflects the diversity and expertise required to address complex community safety needs. Members include representatives from the council, the PSNI, community and voluntary sector groups, statutory agencies, and independent members from the local area. This multidisciplinary approach helps the PCSP to develop well-rounded strategies and targeted interventions that are sensitive to local needs and effectively support community wellbeing. The following tables outline the PCSP Members:

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ELECTED MEMBERS	
NAME	**PARTY**
Cllr Alistair Cathcart	DUP
Ald. Trevor Cummings	DUP
Cllr Libby Douglas	DUP
Cllr Nigel Edmund	DUP
Cllr Hannah Irwin	Alliance
Cllr Victoria Moore	Alliance
Ald. Lorna McAlpine	Alliance
Cllr Gillian McCollum	Alliance
Cllr Richard Smart	UUP
Cllr Pete Wray	UUP

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS
Stuart Piper
Sandra Henderson
Michael Palmer
Deborah Marcus
Stephen Gibson
Alison Blayney
Karen Smith
Sarah Collyer
Sarah Robinson

STATUTORY ORGANISATIONS
Education Authority
Health & Social Care Trust
Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service
Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Probation Board for Northern Ireland
Police Service of Northern Ireland
Youth Justice Agency

Subgroups and Relevant Forums

To enhance its effectiveness and ensure specialised attention to key areas, the PCSP has established various subgroups and participates in relevant forums. These subgroups allow the PCSP to focus on specific themes, such as anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, and support for vulnerable populations. Each subgroup operates with a clear mandate, meeting regularly to review progress, address emerging challenges, and align efforts with broader PCSP objectives. These subgroups and forums include:

- PCSP Community Safety Sub-Group
- Ards and North Down PCSP Monitoring Subgroup
- Community Safety Team (CST)
- South Eastern Drugs & Alcohol Team (SEDACT)
- South Eastern Domestic & Sexual Violence Partnership
- Anti-Social Behaviour Forum
- Multi-Agency Support Hub

The AND PCSP also actively engages in district-wide forums and collaborative networks. This includes participation in multi-agency meetings, community planning forums, and partnerships with organisations focused on social cohesion, youth engagement, and public health.

PCSP Member Meeting Attendance

	PCSP Meeting	Policing Committee Meeting
Political Members		
Number held	**8**	**4**
Cllr Alistair Cathcart	7	3
Ald. Trevor Cummings	5	4
Cllr Libby Douglas	5	2
Cllr Nigel Edmund	4	3
Cllr Hannah Irwin	2	1
Cllr Victoria Moore	6	3
Ald. Lorna McAlpine	6	4
Cllr Gillian McCollum	6	3
Cllr Richard Smart	3	2
Cllr Pete Wray (Chair)	7	4
Independent Members		
Number held	**8**	**4**
Stuart Piper	6	4
Sandra Henderson	5	3
Michael Palmer	5	4
Deborah Marcus	7	4
Stephen Gibson	5	3
Alison Blayney	4	3
Karen Smith	7	4
Sarah Collyer	4	3
Sarah Robinson (Vice-Chair)	6	3
Statutory Organisations		
Number held	**8**	**4**
Education Authority	8	4
Health and Social Care Trust	3	2
Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service	7	3
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	4	3
Youth Justice Agency	2	0
Probation Board NI	2	1
Police Service of Northern Ireland	8	4

PCSP Contact Details

PCSP Members can be contacted via pcsp@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

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PCSP funding by Action Plan theme

Strategic Objective 1: Form & Deliver functions of PCSP	Expenditure 2025-2026
PCSP Delivery of PCSP meetings	2554.52
PCSP Awareness raising including PR and Communications	22,223.83
Local Community Engagement Initiatives including road safety, rural crime, and crime prevention.	11,677.80
Youth Voice	4000
PCSP Strategy 2025-2028	0
	40,456.15

Strategic Objective 2: Improve Community Safety	Expenditure 2025-2026
Drugs Early Intervention Training Programme	9462.90
RAPID Bin Initiative	200
Substance Abuse Awareness Project	10,000
Addressing ASB hotspots areas: Community Safety Team & Multi-Agency Approach	5501.47
Voluntary Safety Wardens	38,000
Youth Education Programme: Addressing ASB	13,715.59
Enhanced Detached Youth Programme (EA)	14,000
Domestic Violence Awareness & SED&SVP	3999.78
Healthy Relationships Awareness	0
DV Female Victim Support Programme	0
DV Male Victim Support Programme	5972.22
Hate Crime Initiative	2000
Cybercrime Initiatives	2000
4 -Tier Home Secure Project	34,999.96
P7 BeeSafe Programme	8000

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Small Grants Programme	40,099.65
	187,951.57

Strategic Priority 3 – To support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities	**Expenditure 2025-2026**
Policing Public and Private Meetings	1009.38
Building confidence in Policing	26,999.90
Paramilitary Crime	0
	28,009.28

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Year-end Financials

2025/2026 Expenditure

Budget Line	*Allocated amount*	*Amount spent*
Administration and Operational	£317,833	£317,533
Meeting Expenses	£12,500	£5,880
Total Budget (Admin, Operational and Meeting Expenses)	**£330,333**	**£323,413**

The full financial statement is contained in Appendix B.

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Strategic Priority 1

To ensure effective delivery in response to local need and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective consultation, communication and engagement.

through:

- *carrying out meaningful engagement in the district with the local community, relevant statutory partners / agencies, businesses and the community & voluntary sector in the development and implementation of PCSP Action Plans;*
- *ensuring ongoing two-way engagement in the district with the local community, relevant statutory partners / agencies, businesses and the community & voluntary sector to provide a problem-solving forum to identify effective solutions to local issues, ensuring sufficient flexibility to address issues as they emerge, and seeking relevant expertise from the designated organisations as appropriate;*
- *using a range of platforms, including multi-media, to communicate and promote the work of the PCSP; and*
- *increasing awareness of the work of the PCSP.*

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PCSP Awareness Raising including PR and Communications

PCSP uses a range of methods to communicate with residents, community groups and other stakeholders throughout the borough, including social media, traditional print communications, and other promotional materials.

How much did we do?

- 2812 followers on Ards and North Down PCSP Facebook page.
- PCSP articles in local newspapers relating to announcement of the 'New Chair and PCSP Members', 'Launch of PCSP Small Grants Programme', various local newspaper promotions on domestic violence issues.
- Promotional Adshel raising awareness of domestic violence placed in locations within the borough.

How well did we do it?

- 28,058 people reached with AND PCSP Facebook posts in 2025-2026.
- Local newspaper reached 80,000.
- 3723 social media interactions in 2025-2026.

Is anyone better off?

- Increased public awareness of AND PCSP through social media and local newspapers.

Local Community Engagement Initiatives

Throughout the year, PCSP staff deliver a range of local community engagement initiatives. These are an opportunity to provide information and guidance to members of the community around safety issues, to support the PSNI in engaging with the public, and to build awareness about the work of PCSP.

How much did we do?

- Completed 7 trailer marking and 9 bike marking events for members of the public.
- Attended 5 public fun days with PCSP info stand for community engagement.
- Attended BikeSafe 2025 to promote road safety among motorbike riders.
- Attended Freshers Week at SERC with PCSP info stand to promote community safety to new students.
- Attended the Positive Ageing Roadshow, delivering a talk on scams and information stand to approx. 250 people.
- Delivered PCSP info stands in 4 different shopping centres in Bangor and Newtownards, as well as at the Armed Forces event with over 3000 people in attendance.
- Delivered 2 PCSP info stands in partnership with Danske Bank in Bangor and Newtownards.
- Delivered PCSP info stand at GrANDFest cultural diversity festival.
- Delivered the Road Safe Roadshow in partnership with PSNI to 900 school pupils from across the borough.
- Delivered Car Maintenance for Women event

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- Facilitated 12 monthly ASB Forum meetings.
- Facilitated 12 monthly Multi-Agency Support Hub meetings.
- Facilitated 12 monthly Ards Blair Mayne & Aurora ASB Forum meetings.
- Delivered 9 community consultation sessions across the borough, including a minimum of one per DEA, to inform the development of the PCSP Action Plan 2025-2026 and Strategic Review 225-2028.

How well did we do it?

- 100% of participants are better informed about community safety issues.

Is anyone better off?

- 100% of participants are aware of PCSP and the support available if needed.

Best practice example:

Name of engagement activity/event: CAR MAINTENANCE FOR WOMEN

Cost of event: £255.34

Partners: Road Safe NI & PSNI Neighbourhood Policing Team

Description of activity/event:

PCSP community engagement events in recent years have often focused on older members of the community, with a much-needed emphasis on issues around scams, internet safety, and so on. To increase public awareness of PCSP and its activities, there was a need identified to engage different audiences and communities. By focusing on specific issues that engage people, we can make the link to community safety messages.



This led to the delivery of the first Car Maintenance for Women event on Saturday 31 January 2026.

PCSP partnered with Road Safe NI to deliver a two-hour car maintenance session. Participants learned how to interpret dashboard warning lights, check oil and water levels, measure tyre pressure, and safely change a tyre. The event also emphasised awareness of the *Fatal Five* driving behaviours that contribute to serious road collisions.

2 PSNI Neighbourhood Police Officers were in attendance to answer questions. In addition, PCSP and Road Safe NI provided all attendees with a goody bag containing personal safety items for use and information to refer to.

Impact of the work:

27 people attended the Car Maintenance for Women event.



Participant Feedback:

"Really well organised event, and I felt that it was very useful and informative. I am really glad I attended."

"This was an interactive session with knowledge and good facilitation shared. Thank you."

"I have never before been shown how to change a tyre – this was very helpful and knowledgeable"

"Great rapport with the speakers"

"Really useful and informative. Very accessible in terms of cost. Really appreciated and needed for women's empowerment."

"Brilliant presentation. Relevant, informative, and well delivered in a down-to-earth manner, yet professional with humour thrown in."

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How Much Did We Do?

- One Car Maintenance event was held on Saturday 31st January 2026, with 27 participants

How Well Did We Do?

- 100% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the engagement event

Is Anyone Better Off?

- 100% of respondents reported feeling safer as a result of the assistance and information provided at the event
- 100% of respondents said they had increased knowledge of car maintenance following their engagement with the event

Best practice example:

Name of engagement activity/event: Meeting in Public

Cost of event: £1850.74

Partners: Education Authority, Lisburn YMCA

Description of activity/event:

A PCSP Public Meeting was held on Monday 09 March 2026 in Ards Arena, Newtownards. Historically, PCSP Public meetings often engage adults or the elderly; this year, AND PCSP decided to target youths from across the borough.

The meeting was facilitated by the Education Authority and Lisburn YMCA, where youth people and PCSP Members engaged in a series of mini-workshops. There were lively workshop discussions on drugs - including the fun 'Spice vs Spicy' challenge -



conversations around the stereotypes young people often face, and some great engagement on Ending Violence Against Women & Girls. This was a great opportunity for young people to discuss these sensitive topics in a safe space, and to engage with statutory agencies, such as PSNI, as well as local elected members.

OBA

How Much Did We Do?

- 1 Meeting in Public held on Monday 9th March 2026

How Well Did We Do?

- 100% of participants had increased awareness of PCSP

Is Anyone Better Off?

- 100% of respondents reported increased confidence in policing

Best practice example:

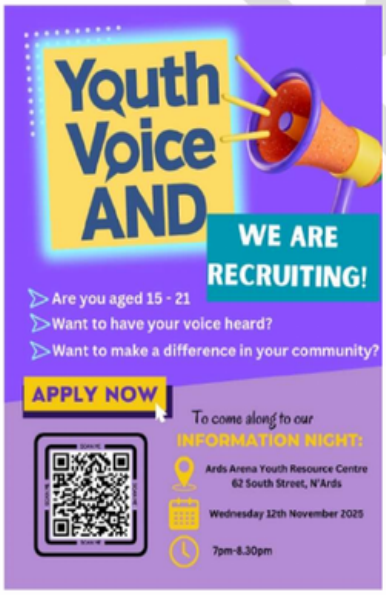
Name of engagement activity/event: Youth Voice

Cost of event: £4000

Partners: Education Authority & PSNI

Description of activity/event:

Youth Voice is a youth participative structure which has been established as a platform for young people's voices to be heard across the Ards & North Down area. Youth Voice provides a forum for key agencies to consult young people on a range of civic and youth issues. It also provides a key forum for partner agencies to have meaningful engagement with young people, including PSNI, PCSP, ANDBC and Education Authority. Youth Voice provides a direct link with Elected Members and enables young people to lobby on behalf of other young people.



Impact of the work:

Quarter 2:

ANDBC nominated Youth Voice for a Pride of Place award. 9 members developed and delivered a presentation to the Price of Place judging panel, reflecting on their time with Youth Voice and showcasing the impact their campaigns have had. Members were invited to the award ceremony in Limerick.

17 young people completed OCN level 2 in Representation & Advocacy. 6 young people completed OCN level 2 in understanding the roles & responsibilities of a youth council.

Quarter 3:

Members engaged with 2 consultations, and felt they had significant influence in the Community Development Strategy. Youth Voice members took the lead in planning and developing every stage of the recruitment process for new members. Youth Voice worked with the ANDBC Good Relations team, spending time researching the Holocaust and exploring themes of bridging generations. This engagement provided them with an opportunity to reflect on their own perspectives of the Holocaust and its impact across generations, prompting conversations around current global conflicts.

Quarter 4:
16 new members joined Youth Voice in Q4. The new and existing members participated in relationship building activities. The young people explored the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, reflecting on what rights they feel are most important to them personally and exploring where they feel improvements could be made.

Feedback from Participants:

"It is a true achievement to be recognised for the hard work and dedication that these young people have invested in their Youth Voice journey"

"I have made new friends, tried new experiences, learned new skills, and exited my comfort zone semi-regularly."

"I'm really glad that I've been able to participate in such a wide variety of events and activities."

"I've really enjoyed strengthening my relationships with Youth Voice Members"

"I have made lots of new friends and have had really good conversations with people I wouldn't have had the chance to talk to usually."

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How Much Did We Do?

- 27 weekly meetings delivered to 23 youth attendees, with 284 individual engagements.

How Well Did We Do?

- 100% of participants were satisfied with the Youth Voice meetings.

Is Anyone Better Off?

- 100% of participants had an increased confidence in policing following activities
- 100% of participants reported improved knowledge.
- 95% of participants reported improved leadership skills.
- 95% of participants reported improved citizenship knowledge and understanding.
- 100% of participants reported improved communication skills.



Strategic Priority 2:

Strategic Priority 2 *- To improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour*

through:

- *utilising the partnership created by the statutory, elected and independent/ community membership of the PCSP to initiate and lead work to improve community safety and tackle ASB locally;*
- *working in partnership to develop outcome and locality focused interventions to address the most pressing crime types and behaviours impacting local community safety, as evidenced by local need, with appropriate targets and indicators so that impacts can be measured;*
- *drawing on best practice, promote early intervention and collaborating effectively to improve PCSP-supported projects and programmes that address the underlying causes of ASB, crime and the fear of crime in the community, including, where appropriate, a focus on changing behaviours;*
- *enhancing safety and feelings of safety, in particular for those who might be more vulnerable;*
- *engaging with partners in the district, to horizon scan in order to respond to and re-direct resources to respond to emerging local community safety issues;*
- *having cognisance of the Community Safety Framework in developing local plans, and providing a feedback loop to the Community Safety Board on local issues in order to inform community safety policy development – and vice versa; and*
- *Providing comprehensive community input into decision making processes about tackling actual and perceived anti-social behaviour and giving feedback to the community on the effectiveness of interventions on meeting outcomes.*

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Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

How much did we do?

- Delivered the 'Addressing ASB Hotspot Areas' project with AND's Community Safety Team, including diversionary activities, information events, foot patrols, e-bike hotspot patrols, and community safety campaigns.
- Delivered the 'Voluntary Safety Wardens' project with AND Street Pastors, with 135 patrols completed.
- Delivered the 'Youth Education Programme for ASB' with AND's Community Safety Team, engaging over 730 young people in raising awareness of anti-social behaviour and the consequences of risk-taking behaviours.
- Delivered 95 ASB awareness raising sessions to 1700 school pupils from 43 participating schools at the annual BeeSafe event.
- Delivered the 'Enhanced Detached Youth Programme' by Education Authority, engaging 590 youth participants in 123 sessions.

How well did we do it?

- 100% of participants in the 'Addressing ASB Hotspot Areas' programme were satisfied with their participation.
- 98% of participants engaged, educated and supported through the Voluntary Safety Wardens programme were satisfied with their experience.
- 100% of participants in the Youth Education Programme for ASB have better understanding of ASB and how the Community Safety Team works to tackle ASB.
- 100% of participants in the Enhanced Detached Youth Programme were satisfied with their experiences on the programme.

Is anyone better off?

- 100% of participants in diversionary activities through the 'Addressing ASB Hotspot Areas' programme with increased awareness of the consequences of ASB.
- 100% of users of the Voluntary Safety Wardens programme reported changed attitudes as a result of engagement.
- Over 730+ participants in the Youth Education Programme for ASB have increased knowledge and understanding of the issues around ASB and its consequences.
- 590 / 100% of participants in the Enhanced Detached Youth Programme have a raised awareness of ASB.

Best practice example:

Name of Project: Neurodiversity UK
Funded amount: £4493
Partners: PSNI, YJA, PBNI, Newtownards Magistrates Court
Description of project: This programme was designed to increase awareness of neurodivergent conditions such as ASH, ADHA, ODD etc. the project would empower neurodivergent young people to understand their rights and how to interact with police through awareness workshops, scenario based training, community dialogues, resource development, and ongoing collaboration.

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Impact of the project:

Over the 3 quarters of delivery, Neurodiversity UK delivered 11 workshops to young, neurodiverse people. The workshop topics included:

1. *Understanding Neurodiversity & Rights*
2. *Emotional Regulation & Safety Planning*
3. *Power, Authority & Boundaries*
4. *What to Expect in Police Encounters*
5. *Communicating Needs & Rights*
6. *Managing Conflict & Misunderstandings*
7. *'Know Your Rights' for neurodivergent young people*
8. *'Community Engagement Day' with PSNI officers, to foster positive relationships between police & neurodivergent young people*
9. *'Collaborative Policy Review Session' to enable neurodivergent young people to provide input on police policies & procedures*
10. *'Forward Planning Workshop', supporting the group to arrange logistics to Bangor PSNI station, Ards magistrates court, and ideas for inclusion at PSNI training*
11. *'Reducing Escalation', helping neurodivergent young people recognise rising street or conflict, and learn practical ways to slow situations down, community clearly & reduce risk of escalation*

A further 5 workshops were delivered in partnership with the PSNI, ANDBC Community Safety Team, and the Youth Justice Agency. These workshops focused on guiding officers and support staff to understand the complexities and issues facing young people with neurodiversity.

Feedback from PSNI participants:

"The video showed in the session gave me understanding of how different individuals process information."

"I gathered an understanding of how neurodivergent people might react/cope in stressful situations – which is when we will more than likely be a part of."

"Today was very informative and helpful. I think knowledge and understanding of neurodiversity is becoming a lot more widespread, especially through social media, so we can help build on this."

OBA

How Much Did We Do?

- 16 sessions delivered to a total of 47 participants.

How Well Did We Do?

- 100% of participants were satisfied with their experiences on the programme.

Is Anyone Better Off?

- 100% of participants had increased awareness of the consequences of ASB.
- 100% of participants had a better understanding of what a young people with neurodiverse needs experiences when being dealt with by authority figures

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Fear of Crime/Vulnerability/Home Security Programmes

How much did we do?

- 261 items of home security equipment provided to 121 homes under 4-Tier Home Secure Project.
- 167 referrals under 4-Tier Home Secure Project.
- 14 property marking events where trailers/bikes and tools were marked.
- 110 local businesses signed up to PCSP's Business Watch scheme.

How well did we do it?

- 100% of participants satisfied with the property marking events.
- 100% of equipment beneficiaries satisfied with the 4-Tier Home Secure scheme.

Is anyone better off?

- 100% of participants feel safer as a result of engaging with the service.
- 100% of participants more likely to report crime as a result of engaging with the service.

Best practice example:

Name of Project: 4 Tier Home Secure Project
Funded amount: £35,000
Partners: Keyhole Surgery Locksmiths, PSNI, SEHSCT, NIHE, PBNI, & Women's Aid
Description of project: Ards and North Down PCSP have continued to support the 4-Tier Home Secure Scheme, which secures residential homes through providing and fitting target-hardening security equipment. The 4-Tier Home Secure Scheme is aimed at vulnerable people who have been victims of crime, domestic abuse, and anti-social behaviour, and the scheme works in partnership with the PSNI Crime Prevention Officer.
Impact of the project The 4-Tier Home Secure Scheme continues to be an asset to the partnership approach to address issues of crime and the fear of crime across the Council area. Referral levels have remained consistent throughout the year. Referrals in the Tier 4 category have represented over 50% of total referrals, as the scheme continues to provide interventions in the most serious cases and to those clients most at risk within local communities. A key focus of the scheme is Domestic Abuse / Violence, which account for over 50% of total scheme referrals. These referrals often require more resources in terms of equipment to be fitted, and the cost of intervention can be high with Tier 4 equipment such as Wi-Fi cameras and video doorbells to provide enhanced security for clients.
OBA ***How Much Did We Do?*** • 167 persons referred to the 4-Tier Home Secure Scheme as follows: - Tier 1: 37 referrals - Tier 2: 47 referrals - Tier 3: 42 referrals - Tier 4: 39 referrals • 261 security equipment items (Tiers 2-4) were installed in 137 homes • In addition, the following Tier 1 items were supplied / fitted: - 76 door alarms

- 46 panic alarms
- 27 door braces
- 51 personal alarms
- 6 padlocks
- **11** window alarms
- 6 light timers
- 2 TV simulators

- Referrals in Tiers 3 & 4 were 75% of total referrals.

How Well Did We Do?

- 100% of beneficiaries were satisfied with the equipment and service they received.

Is Anyone Better Off?

- 100% of beneficiaries reported feeling safer to some degree depending on the risk they faced.

Alcohol, Drug and Substance Abuse Awareness

How much did we do?

- Delivered the 'Early Intervention Training Programme' with Lisburn YMCA, engaging 760+ school pupils in 10 sessions of Tier 1 intervention, and 470 pupils in 60 sessions of Tier 2 interventions.
- Delivered the 'Substance Abuse Awareness Project' with Dunlewey Addiction Services, engaging 80 participants in 314 counselling sessions to support them to overcome substance addiction.
- 5 Rapid Bins currently in use across the borough.

How well did we do it?

- 100% of participants satisfied with the events.
- 100% of partners satisfied with RAPID Bin Initiative.

Is anyone better off?

- 11.642 drug items removed from the community through the RAPID Bin Initiative.
- 100% of participants more aware of the impact of drug/substance misuse.

Best practice example:

Name of Project: Lisburn YMCA – Drugs Early Intervention Training Programme
Funded amount: £9500
Partners: Secondary schools, EOTAS (Education Other Than At School), PSNI, Community Groups

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Description of project:

The Drugs Early Intervention Training Programme at Tiers 1 and 2 supports young people aged 13-20 years old who live in the Ards and North Down Borough, who require support to address substance addiction. Following a successful quotations process, this work for 2025-2026 was awarded to Lisburn YMCA.



Lisburn YMCA's programme consisted of Tier 1 interventions comprising drug-related information and advice, screening, assessment, and referral to specialised drug treatment as required. In addition, Tier 2 interventions comprised of drug-related information and advice, screening, assessment, referral to structured drug treatment, brief psychosocial interventions, harm reduction interventions (including needle exchange) and aftercare.

Lisburn YMCA currently deliver drug prevention interventions to young people across the borough on behalf of Public Health Agency. To complement this work, the PCSP-funded programme 'What's Your Playlist?' was offered to post primary schools to all pupils of selected year groups. Lisburn YMCA's programme is based on the positive psychology principle of Flourishing (Seligman, 2016). Many academic studies have identified a lack of resilience as a key factor for drug and alcohol misuse among young people. 'What's Your Playlist?' is centred on building resilience and coping skills across the board for young people. This often helps Lisburn YMCA's team of skilled facilitators to identify the most at-risk pupils for the more targeted PHA drug and alcohol interventions.

Impact of the project:

Lisburn YMCA committed to deliver the following:

- Tier 1 Intervention: 10 Escape the Vape interventions / assemblies to whole year groups of young people on vaping, illegal substance consumption by vape, and the health and social consequences

- Tier 2 Intervention: Develop a bespoke early intervention programme for larger groups of targeted young people. 60 x 1-hour sessions would be delivered to 30 groups of approximately 30 pupils per group. These 60 sessions would be delivered in a minimum of 6 schools or colleges in the Borough including SERC. Each centre would be asked to identify and target 4-5 groups of students.

OBA

How Much Did We Do?

- 10 sessions of Tier 1 intervention delivered in 10 schools.
- 760+ pupils participants in Tier 1.
- 60 sessions of Tier 2 intervention delivered in 3 schools.
- 470 pupils participants in Tier 2.

How Well Did We Do?

- 83% of Tier 1 participants felt the training was useful.
- 83% of Tier 2 participants felt that the programme was useful
- 87% of Tier 2 participants were satisfied with the programme

Is Anyone Better Off?

- 83% of Tier 1 participants felt they learned new information about vaping.
- 49% of Tier 1 participants plan to not start or to stop vaping.
- 78% of Tier 2 participants felt they understood the causes of drug misuse better.
- 80% of Tier 2 participants now recognise the importance of mental wellbeing as a way to combat drug use.
- 76% of Tier 2 participants now recognise the harm of drug use on mental wellbeing.
- 82% of Tier 2 participants believe this programme has given them tools to improve their own wellbeing and resilience.

Hate Crime

PCSP issued a Service Level Agreement to AND's Good Relations department to deliver a project addressing Hate Crime issues in the borough. This was done through the delivery of GrANDFest, a cultural diversity festival for the borough, which is detailed below.

Best practice example:

Name of Project: GrANDFest
Funded amount: £2000
Partners: ANDBC Good Relations, PSNI, ImageNation NI, & AMFam
Description of project: GrANDfest 2025 was a one-day festival to celebrate local and ethnic diversity from across the borough of Ards and North Down. Delivered by ANDBC's Good Relations department, this was a free family-friendly festival of food, music, arts and dance, which aimed to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the multicultural community within Ards and North Down. It was widely promoted throughout the borough, and open to all.
Impact of the project: GrANDfest was attended by around 200 people from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures. The event was held in Queen's Hall, Newtownards, and included the following: • Polish arts & crafts • Colombian arts & crafts • Indian arts & crafts • Christmas crafts with the ANDBC Good Relations team • Free selection of culturally diverse foods • Indian music performance • Indian folk dance • Estonian dancers • Salsa dancers • African music The various cultural performances, arts, crafts, and food stations provided attendees with a unique opportunity to explore and celebrate diverse cultures. From Indian folk dances to Estonian and Salsa performances, the event showcased the artistic richness that different cultures bring to the borough.

The arts and crafts stalls (including Polish, Colombian and Indian offerings) provided a hands-on opportunity for attendees to engage with cultural expressions from different parts of the world. The food stations were a particular highlight, giving attendees a chance to taste dishes from a range of cultural traditions.

In addition, PCSP had an information stand at the event, providing information on various community safety initiatives, as well as giving out small items to enhance people's personal security, such as personal alarms, torches, and information leaflets. PSNI neighbourhood police officers were also in attendance, and available to speak with individuals. It was a great opportunity for both PCSP and PSNI to engage with culturally diverse groups, to both inform and reassure them about the support available to them within the community.

The festival attracted a diverse crowd, with positive feedback received from attendees, many of whom expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn more about different cultures. The inclusion of interactive elements such as the arts & crafts tables and the Indian dress trial allowed for a hands-on experience, making the event both informative and enjoyable.

OBA

How Much Did We Do?

- GrANDFest was delivered to approximately 200 participants, including representatives from the following communities in the borough: Polish, Colombian, Indian, Estonian and African.

How Well Did We Do?

- 100% of participants were satisfied with the project.

Is Anyone Better Off?

- 100% of participants in GrANDFest had opportunity to engage with members of diverse communities within the borough.
- 100% of participants engaged with PCSP, receiving information, guidance and support, including small items of equipment to enhance personal safety.
- 100% of participants engaged with PSNI neighbourhood officers and Community Safety Team, building important relationships and connections.
- 100% of participants feel safer as a result of the service.
- 100% of participants feel an increase in confidence to report hate crime.

Domestic and Sexual Violence

How much did we do?

- Funded and participated in the South Eastern Sexual and Domestic Violence Partnership, delivering the 'Nowhere to Run To' fun-run to raise awareness of domestic abuse, delivery of a one-day conference on Female Genital Mutilation & So-Called Honour-Based Abuse, and development of a dedicated SEDSVP website.
- Delivered the 'Domestic Violence Male Victim Support Programme' with Men's Advisory Project, providing 84 counselling sessions to 20 men experiencing domestic abuse.

How well did we do it?

- 100% of participants in the Domestic Violence Male Victim Support Programme rated the service as good or very good.

Is anyone better off?

- 85% of participants in the Healthy Relationships Programme now understand the role of choices in healthy friendships and relationships.

- 100% of participants in the Domestic Violence Female Victim Support Programme reported feeling safer and more supported as a result of the programme and also reported improved awareness of how to gain help in relation to domestic and sexual violence.
- 100% of participants in the SEDSVP find value in meeting and working together to tackle issues.
- 100% of men reported feeling less isolated due to the support they received, and information provided about services in the area through the Domestic Violence Male Victim Support Programme.

Best practice example:

Name of Project: Domestic Violence Male Victim Support Programme
Funded amount: £6,000
Partners: NEXUS NI
Description of project: The brief for this project was to deliver a programme of support and counselling for men in the borough who are victims of domestic and sexual abuse. In addition, the project would raise awareness of the range of support and advice services available from relevant statutory agencies and community / voluntary organisations. The project was required to include the following: • A minimum of 140 counselling / therapeutic sessions to male victims of domestic and/or sexual abuse. • Support a minimum of 20 male victims of domestic and/or sexual abuse who are resident in the borough. • Deliver a promotional campaign to support awareness of the programme.
OBA ***How Much Did We Do?*** • 84 counselling sessions delivered to 20 male participants. ***How Well Did We Do?*** • 20 participants engaged in the programme. • 100% of participants were satisfied with the support provided through the programme. ***Is Anyone Better Off?*** • 100% of participants with improved awareness of how to gain help in relation to domestic and sexual violence. • 100% of participants feel safer after receiving support.

Cyber Crime

There is a growing recognition of the use of digital technology in facilitating domestic abuse, through surveillance, stalking, and online harassment. PCSP funded North Down & Ards Women's Aid to deliver a programme of workshops directly addressing these emerging challenges, and this is detailed below.

Best practice example:

Name of Project: North Down & Ards Women's Aid

Funded amount: £2000

Partners: Ineqe Safeguarding Group

Description of project:

North Down & Ards Women's Aid work with women, children and young people affected by domestic and sexual abuse. We are now seeing more domestic abuse facilitated by technology, for example:



- *Stalking and Surveillance:* Abusers can use technology to stalk and monitor victims, including through social media, GPS tracking, and spyware.
- *Cyberbullying and Harassment:* Abusers can use technology to harass and intimidate victims through online platforms, such as social media, email, and messaging apps.
- *Financial Control:* Abusers can use technology to control victims' finances, such as by limiting access to bank accounts or monitoring spend.
- *Isolation:* Abusers can use technology to isolate victims from friends and family, making it more difficult for them to seek help.

Through this Cybercrime project, North Down & Ards Women's Aid partnered with Ineqe Safeguarding Group to deliver sessions on:

- Increasing awareness for women currently working with NDAWA on how they can stay safe on their phones, in connection with their ex-partners who stalk/harass/intimidate via technology, and may have spyware downloaded on the women's phone, that they are not aware of. The aim of the session would be to help the women check her phone, show her how to stay safe, and link in with support agencies.
- Training for NDAWA staff on keeping them safe, and being able to pass onto NDAWA clients.
- Workshops for children and young people on how to stay safe online.

Impact of the project:

In partnership with Ineqe Safeguarding Group, NDAWA delivered a range of sessions, including:

- 1 face-to-face session for young people, empowering young people in a digital world, with 4 young people in attendance
- 2 online webinars to NDAWA staff and other agencies such as SETRUST and Education Authority.
- The first webinar was on *'Masculinity, Misogyny, Incels: A Safeguarding Insight'*. 66 individuals were registered and 31 attended.
- The second webinar was on *'Sextortion'*. 53 participants registered for the event and 20 attended.



Feeback from participants:

"Delivery and content was excellent. I was given a lot of food for thought and signposting on how to improve my knowledge further."

"This was very relevant, insightful, and great use of up-to-date information, stats, and cases. There was helpful, practical advice to provide to the young people, parents, and carers that I support in my role."

OBA

How Much Did We Do?

- 1 face-to-face session delivered, with 4 attendees
- 2 online webinars facilitated, with a total of 51 attendees

How Well Did We Do?

- 100% of participants said the information in the session was clear and easy to understand
- 100% of the young people in attendance enjoyed the session.

Is Anyone Better Off?

- 100% of participants agreed that they felt more confident staying safe online following the session.
- 100% of participants agreed that the session helped them safeguard children more effectively.



Road Safety



How much did we do?

- 6 Permanent Speed Indicator Devices (SID) installed across the borough.
- 4 awareness raising events or roadshows attended by an estimated 2500+ members of the public – including the Road Safe Roadshow for post-primary pupils, BeeSafe for primary school pupils, Schools Road Safety Quiz, and Bike Safe for motorcyclists.
- 1 Car Maintenance for Women event held with 26 participants.
- New Driver magazine provided to 1850+ Year 13 & 14 pupils in all post-primary schools in the borough.
- Street Safe magazine distributed to all P7 pupils in primary schools across the borough.
- 7 Tintmeter devices provided to the PSNI to allow police to measure the visible light transmission percentage of automotive window films.
- 6 'No Parking Here' signs provided to primary schools across the borough.
- 2 'New Driver' presentations hosted in post-primary schools, with PCSP Members in attendance.

How well did we do it?



- 100% of partners / local community reporting satisfaction with the SIDs .
- 100% of participants satisfied with the awareness raising events and roadshows.
- 100% of post-primary schools in the borough satisfied with the delivery of the New Driver magazine to all Year 13 & 14 pupils.
- 100% of participants reported being very satisfied with the Car Maintenance event.

Is anyone better off?

- 100% of participants will apply knowledge from events to improve road safety.
- 100% of participants reported increased knowledge of how to keep themselves safe on the road.

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Best practice example:

Name of Project: Road Safe Roadshow

Funded amount: £1012.50

Partners: PSNI, PCSP Members, Community Safety Team, Cool FM, NIAS, AXA NI

Description of project:



Sixth form students across the borough attended the Cool FM PSNI Roadsafe Roadshow event on Tuesday 4th November 2025. The roadshow shared the shocking figures about death of the roads, through the use of storytelling, personal lived experience, and video clips. During the presentation, upon arrival students walk into a club atmosphere with music blaring, to uplift the pupils and make them feel comfortable. The mood changes where the story of Craig, an inexperienced young driver, has a tragic accident with his girlfriend in the car. The story was told by Cool FM presenter, Pete Snodden. The Roadsafe roadshow makes no apologies for being hard hitting as it may help save the lives of young people.



Impact of the project:

Cllr Pete Wray, Chair of PCSP, said: "The Roadsafe Roadshow Event was one of the most powerful initiatives I have witnessed. I was genuinely moved by the content and contributions that were made. In a room full of teenagers you could hear a pin drop, such was the impact this had on them. I've every confidence that many of these young people will think twice about speeding or driving carelessly thanks to this presentation. If I had my wish, every young person in the borough would take part in this. I want to thank all of those involved in making this happen."

OBA



How Much Did We Do?

- 1 session was delivered with over 700 participants in attendance.

How Well Did We Do?

- 100% of participants were satisfied with the quality of the Roadshow.

Is Anyone Better Off?

- 100% reported an increased awareness of road safety.
- 100% reported increased awareness of the consequences of reckless driving.

Strategic Priority 3:

Strategic Priority 3 *– To support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities*

through

- *ensuring local accountability through the Policing Committee's role in monitoring police performance;*
- *identifying priorities from the PCSP Plan for consideration in the development of the local Policing Plan which are consistent with the Northern Ireland Policing Plan;*
- *providing views to the District Commander through the Policing Committee and supporting the PSNI to engage with the community to identify and address local problems;*
- *delivering initiatives that link to identified local problems that impact confidence in policing;*
- *carrying out meaningful local events aimed at increasing PSNI engagement with local communities to build and strengthen public confidence in policing;*
- *delivering PCSP initiatives in the hardest to reach communities;*
- *providing a platform for the PCSP and PSNI to engage with young people, including on the themes of upholding the rule of law, and of ways of increasing confidence in policing; and*
- *building community confidence in the rule of law by helping mitigate the harm caused to people and communities by paramilitarism, criminality and organised crime consistent with wider Programme for Government objectives and through use of co-design principles, where appropriate.*

OBA Overview

How much did we do?

- 4 Policing Committees held
- 4 Monitoring Sub-Group meetings held
- 1 public PCSP meeting involving PSNI and local communities, with over 80 participants

How well did we do it?

- 100% members of the public satisfied with meeting/event
- 100% PCSP Members who feel supported to effectively deliver the Policing Committee functions

Is anyone better off?

- 100% of attendees with an increased knowledge of local policing priorities after attending the public meeting
- 100% of attendees with increased in confidence in policing following event/meeting
- 100% of participants more likely to engage with the police positively following meeting/event

Local Community Engagement with the PSNI

Best practice examples – PSNI engaging with the public

Best practice example:

Name of Project/Initiative/Event: Operation Safer Season
Funded amount: £1000
Partners: PCSP Chair & Vice Chair, Bangor Alternatives, West Church Kilcooley
Description of project/initiative/event: The project involves pumpkin carving and craft stations for Halloween, and a Santa meet and greet in December for seasonal engagement to allow for local police to engage with residents in a relaxed, non-enforcement setting.
Impact of the project/initiative/event: Events were hosted in October and December 2025 where local residents engaged in events that were designed to build trust and confidence in local policing. In the months leading up to the events, there were increasing tensions due to a minority engaging in hate motivated incidents in the area. These events provided an informal venue for residents to engage with Police Officers to build trust and participate in conversations around the issues in the community. Building trust increases legitimacy of policing and creates a community that feel confident to discuss issues within their community to try and work collaboratively together to address them. These events were important in current times where people get their information and misinformation from the internet. 

OBA

How Much Did We Do?

- 200 participants engaged.
- 6 activities held.

How Well Did We Do?

- 100% of participants reported that they were satisfied with the activities.



Is Anyone Better Off?

- 100% of participants with a changed attitude.
- 100% of participants more likely to engage with PSNI.
- 100% of participants who have more confidence in PSNI.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Ards and North Down PCSP currently have 20 Neighbourhood Coordinators covering 1628 addresses within the borough.

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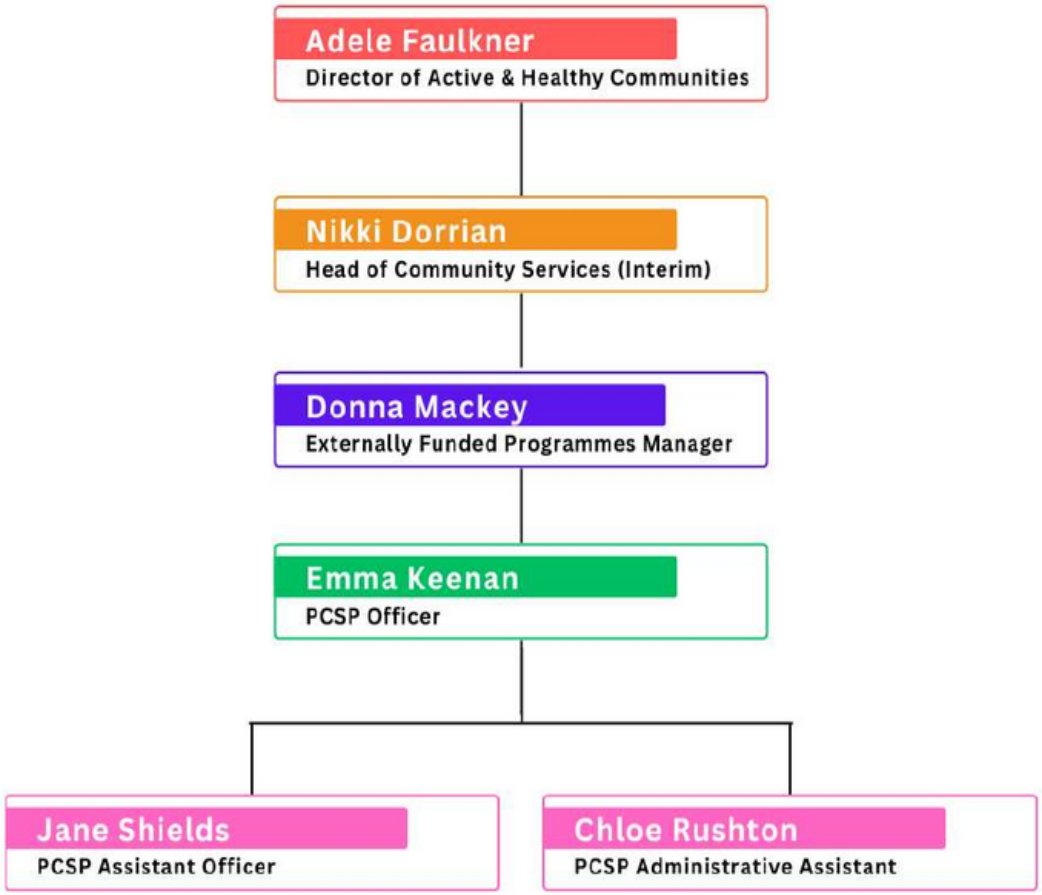
Appendices

Appendix A: Organisational Structure of Ards and North Down Borough Council Community and Wellbeing Department

Appendix B: Financial Statement, Ards & North Down PCSP, 2025-2026

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Appendix A


Adele Faulkner
Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Nikki Dorrian
Head of Community Services (Interim)
Donna Mackey
Externally Funded Programmes Manager
Emma Keenan
PCSP Officer
Jane Shields
PCSP Assistant Officer
Chloe Rushton
PCSP Administrative Assistant

Appendix B: Ards & North Down PCSP Financial Statement 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

Budget Category	Budget agreed Apr 25-Mar 26	Changes to budget less than 25%	Revised Budget Apr 25-Mar 26	Actual Expenditure 2025/26	Expenditure Accrued	Total Expenditure to date	Q1 Payment Apr - Jun	Q2 Payment Jul - Sep	Q3 Payment Oct - Dec	Q4 Payment Jan - Mar	Total Payments to date
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries	**57,766.00**	0.00	**57,766.00**	57,766.00	0.00	**57,766.00**	37,970.80	19,795.20	0.00	0.00	**57,766.00**
Running Costs											
Staff Mileage (inc. essential car allowance)	**1,600.00**	120.40	**1,720.40**	1,352.46	367.94	**1,720.40**	192.11	251.93	503.21	773.15	**1,720.40**
Staff mileage	**50.00**	-8.40	**41.60**	6.50	35.10	**41.60**	0.00	0.00	6.50	35.10	**41.60**
Printing & Stationery	**200.00**	-50.00	**150.00**	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
Staff Mobiles	**200.00**	-50.00	**150.00**	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
Training Courses	**1,600.00**	-12.00	**1,588.00**	1,588.00	0.00	**1,588.00**	0.00	0.00	225.00	1,363.00	**1,588.00**
Sub-total running costs	**3,650.00**	-	**3,650.00**	**2,946.96**	**403.04**	**3,350.00**	**192.11**	**251.93**	**734.71**	**2,171.25**	**3,350.00**
Total Administration	**61,416.00**	-	**61,416.00**	**60,712.96**	**403.04**	**61,116.00**	**38,162.91**	**20,047.13**	**734.71**	**2,171.25**	**61,116.00**
OPERATIONAL											
Strategic Objective 1: Form & Deliver functions of PCSP											
PCSP Delivery of PCSP meetings	**3,000.00**	-445.48	**2,554.52**	2,554.52	0.00	**2,554.52**	364.90	86.46	730.26	1,372.90	**2,554.52**
PCSP Awareness raising including PR and Communications	**20,567.00**	1,656.83	**22,223.83**	17,697.87	4,525.96	**22,223.83**	1,520.46	1,442.89	6,413.79	12,846.69	**22,223.83**
Local Community Engagement Initiatives including road safety, rural crime, and crime prevention.	**12,150.00**	-472.20	**11,677.80**	10,236.18	1,441.62	**11,677.80**	98.75	3,586.00	1,793.00	6,200.05	**11,677.80**
Youth Voice	**4,000.00**	0.00	**4,000.00**	4,000.00	0.00	**4,000.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	**4,000.00**
PCSP Strategy 2025-2028	**0.00**	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
Strategic Objective 2: Improve Community Safety											
Early Intervention training programme and RAPID bin initiative.	**9,500.00**	-37.10	**9,462.90**	7,009.40	2,453.50	**9,462.90**	0.00	0.00	1,315.00	8,147.90	**9,462.90**
RAPID bin initiative	**200.00**	0.00	**200.00**	200.00	0.00	**200.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	**200.00**
Substance Abuse Awareness Project	**10,000.00**	0.00	**10,000.00**	10,000.00	0.00	**10,000.00**	0.00	1,860.00	7,416.07	723.93	**10,000.00**
Addressing ASB hotspots areas- Community safety & multi-agency approach	**6,000.00**	-498.53	**5,501.47**	2,272.47	3,229.00	**5,501.47**	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,501.47	**5,501.47**
Voluntary Safety Wardens	**38,000.00**	0.00	**38,000.00**	38,000.00	0.00	**38,000.00**	9,498.00	12,664.00	6,332.00	9,506.00	**38,000.00**
Youth Education Programme: Addressing ASB	**13,000.00**	715.59	**13,715.59**	11,043.16	2,672.43	**13,715.59**	66.10	3,499.24	4,138.06	6,012.19	**13,715.59**
Enhanced Detached Youth Programme (EA)	**14,000.00**	0.00	**14,000.00**	0.00	14,000.00	**14,000.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,000.00	**14,000.00**
Domestic Violence Awareness & SED&SVP	**4,000.00**	-0.22	**3,999.78**	3,999.78	0.00	**3,999.78**	485.64	501.25	895.00	2,117.89	**3,999.78**
Healthy Relationships Awareness	**0.00**	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
DV Female Victim Support Programme	**0.00**	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
DV Male Victim Support Programme	**6,000.00**	-27.78	**5,972.22**	5,972.22	0.00	**5,972.22**	0.00	85.72	772.00	5,114.50	**5,972.22**

Hate Crime Initiative	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Cybercrime Initiatives	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
4 -Tier Home Secure Project	35,000.00	-0.04	34,999.96	34,999.96	0.00	34,999.96	8,749.98	11,666.64	14,583.34	0.00	34,999.96
The P7 Be Safe Programme -with community safety team	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
Small Grants Programme to address community safety issues	41,000.00	-900.35	40,099.65	25,045.77	15,053.88	40,099.65	1,500.00	0.00	9,341.82	29,257.83	40,099.65
Support Hub	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Strategic Priority 3 – To support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities											
Policing Public and Private Meetings	1,000.00	9.38	1,009.38	155.21	854.17	1,009.38	155.21	155.21	0.00	698.96	1,009.38
Building confidence in Policing	27,000.00	-0.10	26,999.90	26,441.00	558.90	26,999.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	26,999.90	26,999.90
Total Operational	256,417.00	(0.00)	256,417.00	211,627.54	44,789.46	256,417.00	22,439.04	37,547.41	53,730.34	142,700.21	256,417.00
TOTAL ADMIN & OPERATIONAL	317,833.00	(0.00)	317,833.00	272,340.50	45,192.50	317,533.00	60,601.95	57,594.54	54,465.05	144,871.46	317,533.00
Meeting Expenses	12,500.00	-	12,500.00	5,520.00	360.00	5,880.00	360.00	480.00	1,380.00	3,660.00	5,880.00
OVERALL TOTAL	330,333.00	(0.00)	330,333.00	277,860.50	45,552.50	323,413.00	60,961.95	58,074.54	55,845.05	148,531.46	323,413.00

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ITEM 8

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	07 October 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure
Report title	Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants Update Q2 Report 2026/27
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Successful Anniversary Report for Noting 2026-27 Appendix 2 - Successful Coach Education Report for Noting 2026-27 Appendix 3 - Successful Goldcard Report for Noting 2026-27 Appendix 4 - Successful Seeding Report for Noting 2026-27 Appendix 5 - Successful Individual Travel and Accommodation Report for Noting 2026-27 Appendix 6 – Unsuccessful Report for Noting 2026-27
File Reference (if applicable)	SD155
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Resource Implications	Budget Narrative:

If multiple:

Screening Requirements	*The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:* Screening of report not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 3: Social 6. Opportunities for people to be active and healthy If multiple:

Background

Members will be aware that on the 26th August 2015 Council delegated authority to the Ards and North Down Sports Forum, in order to allow it to administer sports grants funding on behalf of the Council. £90,000 has been allocated within the 2026/2027 revenue budget for this purpose.

Key Issues

During July, August & September (Q2 2026/27), the Forum received a total of 117 applications: (4 Anniversary, 7 Coach Education, 22 Goldcards, 1 Seeding and 83 Individual Travel/Accommodation).

A summary of the **102 successful** applications is detailed in the attached 2026/27 Successful Anniversary, Coach Education, Goldcard, Seeding and Travel/Accommodation Appendices.

2026/27 Budget £90,000	Annual Budget	Awarded to Date	Committed Funding Awarded in Q2	**Remaining Budget**
Anniversary	£3,000.00	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	**£1,500.00**
Coach Education	£2,500.00	£1,787.50	£1,037.50	**£712.50**
Equipment	£28,000.00	£7,814.21	£0.00	**£20,185.79**
Events	£13,000.00	£11,345.46	£0.00	**£1,654.54**
Seeding	£2,000	£924.00	£924.00	**£1,076.00**
Travel and Accommodation	£38,500.00	£30,756.64	£16,066.15	**£7,743.36**
Discretionary	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	**£1,000.00**
Schools/Sports Club Pathway	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	**£2,000.00**
	17 Goldcards Awarded in Q2 2026 **(24 Goldcards in total during Q1 and Q2 2026/27)**			

Budget remaining
Please note that the following budget remaining breakdown is subject to receipt of all outstanding information required to process payments, such as proof of travel, accommodation or equipment purchases. In the rare event that committed funding is not awarded, the budget will be returned to the relevant funding stream.

The remaining budget for Anniversary of **£1,500** is based on a proposed award for Q2 of **£1,500**

The remaining budget for Coach Education of **£712.50** is based on a proposed award for Q2 of **£1,037.50**

The remaining budget for Seeding of **£1,076.00** is based on a proposed award for Q2 of **£924.00**

The remaining budget for Travel and Accommodation of **£7,743.36** is based on a proposed award for Q2 of **£16,066.15**

Remaining budget allocations not awarded during Q2:

- Equipment Fund: **£20,185.79**
- Events Fund: **£1,654.54**
- Discretionary Fund: **£1,000.00**
- Schools/Sports Club Pathway **£2,000.00**

The remaining budget for 2026/27 is **£35,872.19** (i.e. 60% of the 2026/27 budget has been committed).

This report outlines the Q2 (July – September 2026 inclusively) of grants that have been administered and approved by the Ards and North Down Sports Forum and is for noting purposes only. This is in line with the Council's Grant Policy and the Council ratifying delegated authority to the Sports Forum in 12th November 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Notes** this report.

APPENDIX 1 - SUCCESSFUL ANNIVERSARY REPORT FOR NOTING 2026-Q2

REFERENCE	MONTH	SPORT	EVENT/TYPE	DATES	Location	DETAIL / REPRESENTING	COSTS	Requested	FUNDED	Notes
2327	SEPT	Cycling	50th Anniversary	6th November 2027	Ards and North Down	A number of events across the year, ending with a Gala Ball on the 6th November	£3,150.00	£750.00	£750.00	All documentation provided, recommend funding of £750.00
2354	SEPT	Hurling and Camogie	Dinner Dance, 50th anniversary celebration and presentation	21st November 2026	Kirkistown Castle Golf Club, Cloughey	Annual dinner dance and 50th anniversary of club winning the Ulster Championship.	£3,188.51	£750.00	£750.00	All documentation provided, recommend funding of £750.00
Grand Total							£6,338.51	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	

APPENDIX 2 - SUCCESSFUL COACH EDUCATION REPORT FOR NOTING 2026-Q2

REFERENCE	MONTH	SPORT	COURSE	DATES	BENEFIT	COSTS	Requested	FUNDED	Notes
2258	JULY	Hockey	Level 2 Coaching Coaching Course	14-16 June 2026 & 26 October 2026	The coaching course will help with technical knowledge, session planning skills and methodologies, which will directly translate to higher quality and more engaging sessions for our members. It will help our players develop with better feedback and help accelerate their skill development.	£335.00	£251.25	£251.25	All documentation provided. Total cost of course is £335.00. As per our guidelines we will fund up to a maximum of 75%. Recommend funding of £251.25.
2281	JULY	Sailing	Dinghy Instructor course	3 - 8 July 2026	Four sailors being put through their Dinghy Instructor course. equire a constant stream of instructors moving up through the levels to ensure no interruption in our programme delivery to the community.	£1,270.00	£400.00	£400.00	All documentation provided. Total cost of course is £1,270.00 As per our guidelines we will fund up to a maximum of 75%. Recommend funding of £400.
2312	AUGUST	Basketball	Introduction to Coaching course	14-15th August 2026	A foundation in coaching principles and practice. Having coaches trained at this level will allow us to offer greater opportunities for play for our young people, including the introduction of a new U14 team this coming season.	£225.00	£168.75	£168.75	All documentation provided. Total cost of courses is £225.00, £45pp. As per our guidelines we will fund up to a maximum of 75%. Recommend funding of £168.75.
2313	AUGUST	Gymnastics	LEVEL 3 TEACHNICAL MODULE 1, 2 AND 3	14 - 18 August 2026	Two coaches who can provide the safety of being able to double hold skills, whihc will provide the coaches and gymnasts a like the extra confidence to perform the skills.	£702.00	£300.00	£300.00	All documentation provided. Total cost of courses is £702.00, £234per module. As per our guidelines we will fund up to a maximum of 75%. Recommend funding of £300 based on a conditional offer.
2340	SEPT	Running	X1 Coach in Running Fitness Course (CIRF)	12 September 2026 - 22 November 2026	Enhance our sustainability to continue to offer a weekly programme of coaching to our members.	£370.00	£250.00	£250.00	All documentation provided. Recommend funding of £250.00. The club has now reached their maximum of £500.00 of funding for this financial year.
2349	SEPT	Basketball	Introduction to Coaching course	Saturday 19 September	Having coaches trained at this level will allow us to offer greater opportunities for play for our young people, including the introduction of a new U14 team this coming season.	£90.00	£67.50	£67.50	All documentation provided. Total cost of courses is £90.00, £45pp. As per our guidelines we will fund up to a maximum of 75%. Recommend funding of £67.50.
Grand Total						£2,992.00	£1,437.50	£1,437.50	

APPENDIX 3 - SUCCESSFUL GOLDCARD REPORT FOR NOTING 2026-Q2

REFERENCE	MONTH	SPORT	EVENT TYPE	DATES	LOCATION	GOLDCARD	PROPOSED	NOTES
2246	JULY	Sailing	ILCA U21 Europeans	9-16 October 2026	Bodrum, Turkey	BA - Pool	Yes	A letter from RYANI confirms that the applicant has been selected to compete at the Europeans and Open European Trophys from 9-16 October 2026 in Bodrum, Turkey. Goldcard recommended until 16 October 2026.
2257	JULY	Powerlifting	European Bench Press Championships / Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships	2-9 August 2026 / 17-27 September 2026	Lithuania / Canada	ABM, BA, BS, CLC, LDPK, QLC & PF - Gym, Health Suite, Pool & Cryo	Yes	A letter from British Powerlifting confirms that the applicant has been selected to compete at European Bench Press Championships from 2-9 August 2026 in Lithuania. Her second event is the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships from 17-27 September 2026 in Canada. Goldcard recommended until 17 September 2026.
2261	JULY	Football	International Friendlies	November & December 2026	Lithuania	ABM, BA, LDPK - Gym, Health Suite, Pool & Cryo	Yes	A letter from the IFA confirms that the applicanthas been selected to compete at International Friendlies in November and December 2026 in Lithuania. Goldcard recommended until 31 December 2026.
2272	JULY	Powerlifting	IPF Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships	17 - 27 September 2026	Holiday Inn Express, Winnipeg Airport	ABM, BA, LDPK, Gym, Health Suite, Pool & Cryo	Yes	A letter from British Powerlifting confirms that the applicanthas been selected to compete at the IPF Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships from 17th - 27th September 2026 in Canada. Goldcard recommended until 17 September 2026.
2278	JULY	Powerlifting	European Bench Press Championships / Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships	2 - 9 August 2026 / 17 - 27 September 2026	Lithuania / Canada	ABM, BA, BS, CLC, LDPK, QLC & PF - Gym, Health Suite, Pool & Cryo	Yes	A letter from British Powerlifting confirms that the applicant has been selected to compete at the European Bench Press Championships on 2nd - 9th August and IPF Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships from 17th - 27th September 2026 in Canada. Goldcard recommended until 17 September 2026.
2283	JULY	Powerlifting	2026 Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships	17 - 27 September 2026	Canada	ABM, BA, LDPK, Gym, Health Suite, Pool & Cryo	Yes	A letter from British Powerlifting confirms that the applicant has been selected to compete at the IPF Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships from 17th - 27th September 2026 in Canada. Goldcard recommended until 17 September 2026.
2285	JULY	Powerlifting	2026 Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships	17 - 27 September 2026	Canada	ABM, BA, BS, CLC, LDPK & QLC - Gym, Health Suite, Pool & Cryo	Yes	A letter from British Powerlifting confirms that the applicant has been selected to compete at the IPF Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships from 17th - 27th September 2026 in Canada. Goldcard recommended until 17 September 2026.
2293	AUGUST	Powerlifting	2026 Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships	17-27 September 2026	Canada	ABM, BA, BS, CLC, LDPK, QLC & PF - Gym, Health Suite, Pool & Cryo	Yes	A letter from British Powerlifting confirms that the applicant has been selected to compete at the IPF Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships from 17-27 September 2026 in Canada. Goldcard recommended until 27 September 2026.
2296	AUGUST	Swimming	World Transplant Games 2027	1-8 August 2027	Leuven, Belgium	ABM & BA - Pool	Yes	A letter from the World Transplant Games 2027 confirms that the applicant has been selected to compete at the World Transplant Games 2027 from 1-8 August 2026 in Belgium. Goldcard recommended until 8 August 2027.
2304	AUGUST	Pickleball	Premier Pickleball League	18 July 2026 - 14 February 2027	England	ABM, BA & LDPK - Gym, Pool, Health Suite & Cyro	Yes	A letter from Pickleball Ireland confirms that the applicant has been selected to compete at the Premier Pickleball League from 18 July - 14 February 2027 in England. Goldcard recommended until 14 February 2027.
2305	AUGUST	Pickleball	Premier Pickleball League	18 July 2026 - 14 February 2027	England	ABM, BA & LDPK - Gym, Pool, Health Suite & Cyro	Yes	A letter from Pickleball Ireland confirms that the applicant has been selected to compete at the Premier Pickleball League from 18 July - 14 February 2027 in England. Goldcard recommended until 14 February 2027.
2306	AUGUST	Foorball	Europeans Championships Qualifers	05 December 2026	Austria	ABM & LDPK - Gym, Pool, Health Suite & Cyro	Yes	A letter from the IFA confirms that the applicant has been selected to compete at the Europeans Championships Qualifers from 26 November - 5 December 2026 in Austria. Goldcard recommended until 5 December 2026.
2308	AUGUST	Netball	U17 European Championships	08 March 2027	Wales	BA, BS & QLC - Gym, Pool, Cryo & Track	Yes	A letter from the Netball NI confirms that the applicant has been selected to compete at the U17 European Championships from 5-8 March 2027 in Wales. Goldcard recommended until 8 March 2027.
2309	AUGUST	Hockey	Netherlands tour & UK school games	20-23 August & 3-6 September	Netherlands & Loughborough	BA - Gym & Health Suite	Yes	A letter from the Ulster Hockey confirms that the applicant has been selected to compete at the Netherlands tour from 3-6 September 2026. Goldcard recommended until 6th September 2026.
2323	AUGUST	Hockey	Europeans	28 July 2027	London	AMB, BA,BS, Comber, Queens - Gym, Health Suite, Pool & Cryo	Yes	A email from the Hockey Ireland confirms that the applicant has been selected to compete at the Europeans in July 2027. Goldcard recommended until 28 July 2027.
2338	SEPT	Trampolining	Loule Cup	7th -10 October 2026	Portugal	ABM & BA - Gym, Pool, Health Suite & Cyro Spa	Yes	A letter from Gymnastics NI confirms that the applicant has been selected to compete at the Loule Cup from 7-10 October in Portugal. Goldcard recommended until 10 October 2026.
2339	SEPT	Trampolining	Loule Cup	7th -10 October 2026	Portugal	ABM & BA - Gym, Pool, Health Suite & Cyro Spa	Yes	A letter from Gymnastics NI confirms that the applicant has been selected to compete at the Loule Cup from 7-10 October in Portugal. Goldcard recommended until 10 October 2026.
Grand Total							17	

APPENDIX 4 - SUCCESSFUL SEEDING REPORT FOR NOTING 2026-Q2

REFERENCE	MONTH	SPORT	DETAIL / REPRESENTING	DATES	LOCATION	BENEFIT	COST	FUNDED	NOTES
2248	JULY	Basketball	The Club was founded in August 2025. The club does not have their own facilities therefore needs funding for court hire for training and match play.	September, October and November	Bangor Aurora Aquatic & Leisure Complex	The funding will allow the club to reduce membership costs as the hall hire is a significant part of the cost of running the club. Reduced membership costs will allow a wider range of participants to take part in competitive basketball without money being a barrier.	£924.00	£924.00	All documentation provided. Recommend funding of £924.00.
Grand Total							£924.00	£924.00	

APPENDIX 5 - SUCCESSFUL INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL/ACCOMMODATION REPORT FOR APPROVAL 2026-Q2

REFERENCE	MONTH	SPORT	EVENT	DATES	LOCATION	COSTS	REQUESTED	FUNDED	Notes
2240	JULY	Sailing	2026 RS Feva World Championships	20-26 July 2026	Travemunde, Germany	£2,484.31	£600.00	£250.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the 2026 RS Feva World Championships in Germany, from 20-26 July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from RYA NI. Recommend funding of £250.00.
2241	JULY	Gymnastics	Inter-Regional Challenge Cup Final	3-4 July 2026	Birmingham, England	£449.50	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Inter-Regional Challenge Cup Final in Birmingham, England from 3-4 July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Gymnastics NI. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2242	JULY	Hockey	Masters World Cup	23 July - 1 August 2026	Rotterdam, Holland	£1,000.00	£250.00	£250.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Masters World Cup in Rotterdam, Holland from 23 July - 1 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Hockey Ireland. Recommend funding of £250.00.
2243	JULY	Hockey	Home Nations	19-21 June 2026	Swansea, Wales	£220.00	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Home Nations in Swansea, Wales from 19-21 June 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Hockey Ireland. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2245	JULY	Hockey	Home Nations Over 45's	19-21 June 2026	Swansea, Wales	£465.64	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Home Nations in Swansea, Wales from 19-21 June 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Hockey Ireland. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2247	JULY	Hockey	Ulster Hockey Series vs Scotland	5-7 June 2026	Glasgow	£215.00	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Ulster Hockey Series vs Scotland, Glasgow from 5-7 June 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Ulster Hockey. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2249	JULY	Hockey	World Cup	22 July - 1 August 2026	Rotterdam	£1,278.16	£250.00	£250.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the World Cup in Rotterdam, Holland from 22 July - 1 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Hockey Ireland. Recommend funding of £250.00.
2250	JULY	Hockey	Home Nations	19-21 June 2026	Swansea, Wales	£476.14	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Home Nations in Swansea, Wales from 19-21 June 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Hockey Ireland. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2251	JULY	Sailing	RS Feva Irish Championships	21-23 August 2026	Killaloe Saling Club	£199.35	£150.00	£150.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the RS Feva Irish Championships in Killaloe Saling Club, from 21-23 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from RYA NI. Recommend funding of £150.00.
2252	JULY	Sailing	RS Feva Inlands	18-19 July 2026	Blessington, Co Wicklow	£119.70	£119.70	£119.70	The applicant has been selected to compete at the RS Feva Inlands in Blessington, Co Wicklow, from 18-19 July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from RYA NI. Recommend funding of £119.70.
2253	JULY	Sailing	9er Nationals	19-21 June 2026	St George Yacht Club, Dublin	£102.60	£102.60	£102.60	The applicant has been selected to compete at the 9er Nationals in St George Yacht Club, Dublin, from 19-21 June 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from RYA NI. Recommend funding of £102.60.
2254	JULY	Sailing	RS Feva Worlds and RS Ganes	22-26 July 2026	Travemunde , Germany	£436.24	£250.00	£227.70	The applicant has been selected to compete at the RS Feva Worlds and RS Ganes in Travemunde, Germany, from 22-26 July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from RYA NI. Recommend funding of £227.70 as Ellie has reached her £600 maximum funding for this financial year.
2255	JULY	Powerlifting	European Bench Press Championships	2-9 August 2026	Druskininkai, Lithuania	£746.45	£250.00	£250.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the European Bench Press Championships in Druskininkai, Lithuania from 2-9 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from British Powerlifting. Recommend funding of £250.00.
2256	JULY	Powerlifting	Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships	17-27 September 2026	Winnipeg, Canada	£1,109.94	£300.00	£300.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships in Winnipeg, Canada from 17- 27 September 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Commonwealth Championships 2026 Invitation. Recommend funding of £300.00.
2260	JULY	Hockey	U13 Regional Tournament	19-21 June 2026	Nottingham, England	£480.00	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the U13 Regional Tournament in Nottingham, England from 19-21 June 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Ulster Hockey. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2262	JULY	Hockey	World Cup	22 July - 1 August 2026	Rotterdam	£1,193.97	£250.00	£250.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the World Cup in Rotterdam from 22 July - 1 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Hockey Ireland. Recommend funding of £250.00.
2265	JULY	Hockey	U13 Regional Hockey Cham	19-21 June 2026	Nottingham	£590.00	£189.98	£189.98	The applicant has been selected to compete at the U13 Regional Hockey Cham from 19-21 June 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Ulster Hockey. Recommend funding of £189.98.
2266	JULY	Sailing	Topper Worlds 2026	27-31 July 2026	Quiberon, France	£632.40	£600.00	£250.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Topper Worlds 2026 in France from 27-31 July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from RYA NI. Recommend funding of £250.00.

2267	JULY	Sailing	RS Games 2026 Feva Worlds	20-26 July 2026	Travemünder Woche, Germany	£1,739.64	£250.00	£250.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the RS Games 2026 Feva Worlds in Germany from 20-26 July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from RYA NI. Recommend funding of £250.00.
2268	JULY	Sailing	RS Games 2026 Feva Worlds	20-26 July 2026	Travemünder Woche, Germany	£1,739.64	£250.00	£250.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at theRS Games 2026 Feva Worlds in Germany from 20-26 July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from RYA NI. Recommend funding of £250.00.
2269	JULY	Gymnastics	inter regional challenge cup finals	3-5 July 2026	Birmingham	£342.00	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Inter-Regional Challenge Cup Final in Birmingham from 3-5 July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Gymnastics NI. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2270	JULY	Gymnastics	Inter-Regional Challenge Cup	3-5 July 2026	Birmingham	£333.23	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Inter-Regional Challenge Cup Final in Birmingham from 3-5 July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Gymnastics NI. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2271	JULY	Walking Football	The World Masters Walking Football Cup	13-16 August 2026	Swansea Wales	£507.01	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the The World Masters Walking Football Cup in Wales from 13-16 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from N.I Football. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2273	JULY	Powerlifting	IPF Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships	17 - 27 September 2026	Winnipeg, Canada	£593.70	£300.00	£300.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships in Winnipeg, Canada from 17- 27 September 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Commonwealth Championships 2026 Invitation. Recommend funding of £300.00.
2274	JULY	Triathlon	2026 World Triathlon Cup	18 July 2026	Edmonton, Cananda	£999.00	£300.00	£300.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the 2026 World Triathlon Cup in Canada on 18th July2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Triathlon Ireland. Recommend funding of £300.00.
2275	JULY	Walking Football	World Masters Walking Football Tournament	13 - 16 August 2026	Swansea, Wales	£507.01	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the World Masters Walking Football Tournament in Wales on the 13th to 16th August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Northern Ireland Football Association. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2276	JULY	Powerlifting	Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships	17 - 27 September, 2026	Canada	£1,109.54	£300.00	£300.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships in Canada from 17- 27 September 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from British Powerlifting. Recommend funding of £300.00.
2277	JULY	Powerlifting	European Bench Press CHampionships	2 - 9 August 2026	Lithuania	£746.45	£250.00	£250.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the European Bench Press Championships in Lithuania from 2-9 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from British Powerlifting. Recommend funding of £250.00.
2279	JULY	Hockey	UK Regional Tournament	10 - 12 July 2026	Nottingham	£560.00	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the UK Regional Tournament in Nottingham from 10th - 12th July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Ulster Hockey. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2280	JULY	Hockey	UK Regional Tournament	10 - 12 July 2026	Nottingham	£560.00	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the UK Regional Tournament in Nottingham from 10th - 12th July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Ulster Hockey. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2282	JULY	Powerlifting	2026 Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships	17 - 27 September, 2026	Canada	£750.28	£300.00	£300.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships in Canada from 17- 27 September 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from British Powerlifting. Recommend funding of £300.00.
2284	JULY	Powerlifting	2026 Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships	17 - 27 September, 2026	Canada	£981.51	£300.00	£300.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships in Canada from 17- 27 September 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from British Powerlifting. Recommend funding of £300.00.
2287	JULY	Walking Football	Limerick Walking Football Festival	4 - 5 July 2026	Limerick	£200.00	£150.00	£150.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Limerick Walking Football Festival in Limerick from 4th and 5th July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Northern Ireland Football Association. Recommend funding of £150.00.
2288	JULY	Hockey	UK Regional Tournament	10 - 12 July 2026	Nottingham	£560.00	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the UK Regional Tournament in Nottingham from 10th - 12th July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Ulster Hockey. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2289	AUGUST	Hockey	U13 Championships	10 - 12 July 2026	Nottingham, England		£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the U13 Championships in Nottingham, England, from 10-12 July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Ulster Hockey. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2290	AUGUST	Walking Football	The World Masters Walking Football Cup	13-16 August 2026	Swansea Wales		£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the The World Masters Walking Football Cup in Wales from 13-16 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from N.I Football. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2291	AUGUST	Walking Football	Limerick Walking Football Festival	4-5 July 2026	Limerick		£150.00	£150.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Limerick Walking Football Festival in Limerick from 4-5 July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Northern Ireland Football Association. Recommend funding of £150.00.
2292	AUGUST	Powerlifting	Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships	17 - 27 September 2026	Canada		£300.00	£300.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships in Canada from 17- 27 September 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from British Powerlifting. Recommend funding of £300.00.

2294	AUGUST	Sailing	Topper British Nationals 2026	9-14 August 2026	Weymouth, England		£521.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Topper British Nationals 2026 in Weymouth, Engla from 9-14 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from RYANI. Recommend fundi £200.00.
2295	AUGUST	Gymnastics	Inter-Regional Challenge Cup Final	3-5 July 2026	Birmingham, England		£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Inter-Regional Challenge Cup in Birmingham, England from 3-5 July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Gymnastics NI. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2297	AUGUST	Walking Football	The World Masters Walking Football Cup	13-16 August 2026	Swansea Wales		£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the The World Masters Walking Football Cup in Wales from 13-16 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from N.I Football. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2298	AUGUST	Hockey	World Cup Over 45's	22 July - 1 August 2026	Rotterdam		£1,200.06	£250.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the World Cup Over 45's in Rotterdam from 22nd July - 1st August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Hockey Ireland. Recommend funding of £250.00.
2299	AUGUST	Walking Football	World Masters Walking Football Tournament	13-16 August 2026	Swansea, Wales	£507.01	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the The World Masters Walking Football Cup in Wales from 13-16 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from N.I Football. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2300	AUGUST	Gymnastics	Inter-Regional Challenge Cup Final	3-5 July 2026	Birmingham, England		£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Inter-Regional Challenge Cup in Birmingham, England from 3-5 July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Gymnastics NI. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2301	AUGUST	Gymnastics	Inter-Regional Challenge Cup Final	3-5 July 2026	Birmingham, England		£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Inter-Regional Challenge Cup in Birmingham, England from 3-5 July 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Gymnastics NI. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2302	AUGUST	Pickleball	Premier Pickleball League	18 July 2026 - 14 February 2027	England		£600.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Premier Pickleball League from 18 July - 14 February 2027 in England. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Pickleball Ireland. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2303	AUGUST	Pickleball	Premier Pickleball League	18 July 2026 - 14 February 2027	England		£600.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Premier Pickleball League from 18 July - 14 February 2027 in England. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Pickleball Ireland. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2307	AUGUST	Walking Football	Masters Walking Football World Cup	13-16 August 2026	Swansea	£507.01	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the The World Masters Walking Football Cup in Wales from 13-16 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from N.I Football. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2310	AUGUST	Walking Football	Masters Walking Football World Cup	13-16 August 2026	Swansea	£507.01	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the The World Masters Walking Football Cup in Wales from 13-16 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from N.I Football. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2311	AUGUST	Hockey	World Youth Hockey Festival	20-23 August 2026	Amsterdam	£530.00	£250.00	£250.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the World Youth Hockey Festival in Amsterdam from 20-23 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Ulster Hockey. Recommend funding of £250.00.
2315	AUGUST	Powerlifting	Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships	17 - 27 September 2026	Canada	£1,200.00	£300.00	£300.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships from 17th - 27th September 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from British Powerlifting . Recommend funding of £300.00.
2316	AUGUST	Walking Football	World Masters Walking Football Tournament	13-16 August 2026	Wales	£507.01	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the The World Masters Walking Football Cup in Wales from 13-16 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from N.I Football. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2317	AUGUST	Powerlifting	Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships	17-27 September 2026	Canada	£1,050.00	£300.00	£300.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships from 17th - 27th September 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from British Powerlifting . Recommend funding of £300.00.
2318	AUGUST	Powerlifting	Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships	17-27 September 2026	Canada	£1,050.00	£300.00	£300.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships from 17th - 27th September 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from British Powerlifting . Recommend funding of £300.00.
2320	AUGUST	Walking Football	WORLD MASTERS WALKING FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT	13-16 August 2026	Wales	£507.01	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the The World Masters Walking Football Cup in Wales from 13-16 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from N.I Football. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2321	AUGUST	Equestrian	Pony Club National Championships	14 -22 August 2026	Warwickshire	£653.96	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Pony Club National Championships in Warwickshire from 14th - 22nd August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from British Equestrian Federation. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2322	AUGUST	Walking Football	World Masters Walking Football Tournament	13-16 August 2026	Wales	£507.01	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the The World Masters Walking Football Cup in Wales from 13-16 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from N.I Football. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2325	AUGUST	EQUESTRIAN	Pony Club Championships	16-22 August2026	BURY	£264.00	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Pony Club Championships in Bury from 16th - 22nd August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from British Equestrian Federation. Recommend funding of £200.00.

2326	SEPT	Weightlifting	European Weightlifting Federation Youth and U15 Championships 2026	20-27 August 2026	Kosovo	£271.97	£250.00	£250.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the The European Weightlifting Federation Youth and Championships in Kosovo from 20-27 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Weightlifting Ireland. Recommend funding of £250.00.
2328	SEPT	Trampolining	Loule Cup	7-10 October 2026	Portugal	£744.10	£250.00	£250.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Loule Cup in Portugal from 7th - 10th October 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Gymnastics NI. Recommend funding of £250.00.
2329	SEPT	Trampolining	British Championships Final	3-4 October 2026	Birmingham	£290.00	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the British Championships Final in Birmingham from 3rd - 4th October 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Gymnastics NI. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2330	SEPT	Walking Football	World Masters, walking Football Competition.	13- 16 August 2026	Wales	£465.35	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the The World Masters Walking Football Cup in Wales from 13-16 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from N.I Football. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2332	SEPT	Pool	International Blackball Federation (IBF) 2026 World Championship	23 October - 1 November 2026	South Africa	£1,734.40	£300.00	£300.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the International Blackball Federation (IBF) 2026 World Championship in South Africa from 23 October -1 November 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Northern Ireland Pool Association. Recommend funding of £300.00.
2333	SEPT	Gymnastics	Loule Cup	7-10 October 2026	Portugal	£400.00	£250.00	£250.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Loule Cup in Portugal from 7 -10 October 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Gymnastics NI. Recommend funding of £250.00.
2335	SEPT	Sailing	Feva RS Irish Nationals	21-23 August 2026	Ireland	£307.00	£150.00	£150.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Feva RS Irish Nationals in Ireland from 21-23 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from RYANI. Recommend funding of £150.00.
2336	SEPT	Polocrosse	Pony Club Championships 2026	15-17 August 2026	Offchurch Bury, England	£755.00	£200.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Pony Club Championships 2026 from 15-17 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from British Equestrian. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2341	SEPT	Clay Target Shooting	Home Countries International Tournament	21- 22 August 2026	Ireland	£656.00	£150.00	£150.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Home Countries International Tournament in Ireland from 21-22 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Ulster Clay Pigeon Shooting. Recommend funding of £150.00.
2342	SEPT	Clay Target Shooting	Home Countries International Tournament	21- 22 August 2026	Ireland	£656.00	£150.00	£150.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Home Countries International Tournament in Ireland from 21-22 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Ulster Clay Pigeon Shooting. Recommend funding of £150.00.
2345	SEPT	Sailing	Royal Yachting Association Northern Ireland	21-23 August 2026	Killaloe Sailing Club, Carrownakilly	£247.00	£150.00	£150.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Royal Yachting Association Northern Irelands in Carrownakilly from 21-23 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from RYA NI. Recommend funding of £150.00.
2346	SEPT	Hockey	U16 Girls Hockey Interprovincial Championships	28- 30 August 2026	Dublin	£365.00	£300.00	£150.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the U16 Girls Hockey Interprovincial Championships from 28-30 August 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Ulster Hockey. Recommend funding of £150.00.
2347	SEPT	Hockey	UK School Games	03-06 September 2026	Loughborough University	£350.00	£250.00	£200.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the UK School Games from 3-6 September 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Ulster Hockey. Recommend funding of £200.00.
2350	SEPT	Football	Northern Ireland U19	September, October and November	Belfast	£89.64	£89.64	£50.00	The applicant has been selected to train at the NI Under 19 training camp in September, October and November. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Irish Football Association. Recommend funding of £50.00.
2352	SEPT	Gymnastics	Loule Cup	7-11 October 2026	Portugal	£609.69	£250.00	£250.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Loule Cup in Portugal from 7 -11 October 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Gymnastics NI. Recommend funding of £250.00.
2353	SEPT	Gymnastics	Loule Cup	8-10 October 2026	Portugal	£682.98	£250.00	£250.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Loule Cup in Portugal from 8 -10 October 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Gymnastics NI. Recommend funding of £250.00.
2355	SEPT	Tenpin Bowling	Adult Triple Crown Championships	17 - 20 September 2026	Dublin	£419.50	£419.50	£150.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Adult Triple Crown Championships in Dublin from 17th - 20th October 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Tenpin Ireland. Recommend funding of £150.00.
2356	SEPT	Tenpin Bowling	Adult Triple Crown Championships	17 - 20 September 2026	Dublin	£420.85	£420.85	£150.00	The applicant has been selected to compete at the Adult Triple Crown Championships in Dublin from 17th - 20th October 2026. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from Tenpin Ireland. Recommend funding of £150.00.
Grand Total						£41,682.91	£19,863.33	£16,289.98	

APPENDIX 6 - UNSUCCESSFUL REPORT for Noting 2026-Q2

FUNDING STREAM	REFERENCE	MONTH	SPORT	EVENT TYPE	DATES	LOCATION	COSTS	REQUESTED	FUNDED	NOTES
ANNIVERSARY	2348	SEPT	Gymnastics	50th Anniversay Gala	19 September 2026	Clandeboye Lodge Hotel	£7,320.00	£750.00	N/A	Funding not recommended, as our guidelines state "The club request for a grant should be made three months prior to the anniversary month being commemorated."
ANNIVERSARY	2351	SEPT	Coastal rowing	Fund raiser	12 September 2026	North shore Portavogie	£290.00	£290.00	N/A	Funding not recommended, as our guidelines state "The club request for a grant should be made three months prior to the anniversary month being commemorated."
COACHING	2259	JULY	Football	Irish FA National Coaching Certificate (NCC) Course x1	06/09/2026 - 13/09/2026		£220.00	£165.00	N/A	Funding not recommended as the club have not provided booking confirmation of course. Our guidelines state, "Courses MUST be booked prior to submitting application, course confirmation is required to be submitted along with application."
GOLDCARD	2319	AUGUST	Athletics	UK Schools games	3-6 September 2026	Loughborough, England		AMB, BA,BS -Gym, Health Suite & Pool	N/A	Funding not recommended as competition is 5 weeks away, the applicant will have more competitions after this date however no selection letter is available for future competitions. Our guidelines state, "Goldcards will ONLY be granted if the event/competition exceeds more than 2 months from the date of application. " Goldcard would only be valid for approx 5 weeks.
GOLDCARD	2334	SEPT	Powerlifting	2026 Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships	17- 27 September 2026	Canada		ABM & LDPK - Gym, Pool, Health Suite & Cryo Spa	N/A	Goldcard not recommended, Application was received on 8 August 2026. Our guidelines state, "Goldcards will ONLY be granted if the event or competition exceeds more than 2 months from the date of application."
GOLDCARD	2337	SEPT	Trampolining	Loule Cup	7-10 October 2026	Portugal		ABM - Gym, Pool & Health Suite	N/A	Goldcard not recommended as the applicant lives in Belfast. Our guidelines state, "Applicants must be resident in the Ards and North Down Borough Council area."
GOLDCARD	2343	SEPT	Clay Target Shooting	Home Countries International Tournament	21- 22 August 2026	Ireland		BA - Gym, Health Suite & Pool	N/A	Goldcard not recommended, Application was received on 15 August 2026 for an event that commences on the 21 August. Our guidelines state, "Goldcards will ONLY be granted if the event or competition exceeds more than 2 months from the date of application."
GOLDCARD	2344	SEPT	Clay Target Shooting	Home Countries International Tournament	21- 22 August 2026	Ireland		BA - Gym, Health Suite & Pool	N/A	Goldcard not recommended, Application was received on 15 August 2026 for an event that commences on the 21 August. Our guidelines state, "Goldcards will ONLY be granted if the event or competition exceeds more than 2 months from the date of application."
TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION	2244	JULY	Hockey	2026 Home Nations Tournament	8-10 May 2026	Aberdeen, Scotland	£378.20	£200.00	N/A	Funding not recommended as the application was received on 2 June 2026 for a event that commenced on 8 May 2026. Our guidelines state, "the application must be submitted prior to the event commencing."
TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION	2263	JULY	Cricket	Hone-McGregor Trophy	9-12 June 2026	Fenners, Cambridge	£275.00	£200.00	N/A	Funding not recommended as the application was received on 18 June 2026 for a event that commenced on 9 June 2026. Our guidelines state, "the application must be submitted prior to the event commencing."
TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION	2264	JULY	Cricket	Irish Universities vs MCC	29/05/2026	College Park, Dublin	£114.75	£114.75	N/A	Funding not recommended as the application was received on 18 June 2026 for a event that commenced on 29 May 2026. Our guidelines state, "the application must be submitted prior to the event commencing."
TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION	2286	JULY	Athletics	FISEC GAMES	13 - 19 July 2026	Budapest	£826.23	£250.00	N/A	Funding not recommended as the applicant has not submitted a selection letter from a National Governing Body. Our guidelines state, "provide specific selection letter for the event from the relevant Sport NI/Sport Ireland Recognised National Governing Body . Incomplete applications will not proceed for assessment."
TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION	2314	AUGUST	Boxing	National Under 15 Championship	31 July to 2 August	Tallaght Dublin	£456.00	£150.00	N/A	Funding not recommended as we have not received a Selection Letter. Staff did get in contact to advise, but no communication back. Our guidelines state, "all applications must be completed in full, signed and submitted with all mandatory supporting documentation. Incomplete applications will not proceed for assessment"
TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION	2324	AUGUST	Walking Football	Limerick festival walking Football	4-5 July 2026	Limerick	£200.00	£150.00	N/A	Funding not recommended as the application was received on 27 July 2026 for a event that commenced on 3 July 2026. Our guidelines state, "the application must be submitted prior to the event commencing."
TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION	2331	SEPT	Walking Football	Inter Provincial Festival of Walking Football	4-5 July 2026	Limerick		£200.00	N/A	Funding not recommended as the application was received on 4 August 2026 for a event that commenced on 3 July 2026. Our guidelines state, "the application must be submitted prior to the event commencing."
Grand Total										

Appendix 1

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Our Ref: NoM 723

16 September 2026

Minister Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities
Department for Communities
Room 354
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Send via email only: private.office@communities-ni.gov.uk

Dear Minister Lyons,

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

On 29th July 2026 Ards and North Down Borough Council acknowledged the increased demand for services of North Down and Ards Women's Aid.

Council was informed that over the last three years referrals to North Down and Ards Women's Aid for floating support have increased by over 33% and referrals for refuge have increased by over 186%. Council is committed to the campaign of ending violence against women and girls, and to providing the best possible support service to victims.

Council therefore requests a review into the funding provided to North Down Women's Aid through the Northern Ireland Housing Executive Supporting People Grant.

I look forward to your response. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Susie McCullough
Chief Executive

Ards and North Down Borough Council
City Hall, The Castle
Bangor, BT20 4BT

0300 013 3333
enquiries@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk
www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Susie McCullough
Chief Executive

Appendix 2

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Our Ref: NoM 723

16 September 2026

The Executive Office
SD03 Stormont Castle
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3TT

Sent via email only: EVAWG@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

On 29th July 2026 Ards and North Down Borough Council acknowledged the increased demand for services of North Down and Ards Women's Aid.

Council was informed that over the last three years referrals to North Down and Ards Women's Aid for floating support have increased by over 33% and referrals for refuge have increased by over 186%. Council is committed to the campaign of ending violence against women and girls, and to providing the best possible support service to victims.

Council welcomes the funding provided but expresses concern that the EVAWG programme is primarily resourced to support prevention activity, rather than provision of services. While investment in prevention is essential, it is already resulting in increased disclosures and referrals, particularly to Women's Aid services.

Council highlights the need for multi-year funding and increased funding allocation for Tier 3 of the EVAWG programme. The limit of funding accessible via Tier 3 does not cover the cost of one additional member of staff for Women's Aid.

Council also requests the establishment of a dedicated emergency fund in Northern Ireland to support women who are fleeing domestic abuse but face immediate financial barriers to accessing safety. Many women, particularly those who are working or have limited access to benefits, are unable to afford refuge accommodation costs or secure private rental housing due to high upfront expenses such as deposits and rent in advance. As a result, they are often forced to remain in unsafe environments or face homelessness. This fund would provide flexible, rapid financial assistance to cover emergency costs, refuge stays, and access to long-term housing, ensuring that no

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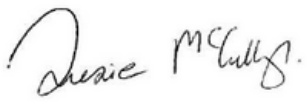
Susie McCullough
Chief Executive

Ards and North Down Borough Council

woman is prevented from leaving an abusive situation due to a lack of financial resources.

I look forward to your response. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Susie McCullough
Chief Executive

Ards and North Down Borough Council
City Hall, The Castle
Bangor, BT20 4BT

0300 013 3333
enquiries@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk
www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Susie McCullough
Chief Executive

Appendix 3

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
The Executive Office
Castle Buildings
Stormont
BT4 3SR

Email: EVAWG@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

The Executive Office
www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

Susie McCullough
Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council
City Hall, The Castle
Bangor, BT20 4BT

Dear Susie,

RE: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls – service demand, funding and support provision

Thank you for your letter of 16 September 2026 regarding Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, and for setting out the concerns raised by Ards and North Down Borough Council in relation to increased demand for support services, upper funding limit of the Local Change Fund and the need for emergency financial support for women fleeing domestic abuse.

The Executive Office appreciates your commitment to this important work. The Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls (2024-31), was approved by the Executive in September 2024. The first two-year Delivery Plan focused on prevention through community investment, targeted campaigns, and strategic collaboration and the second Delivery Plan, which launched in April, builds on that momentum with a continued focus on driving action by sustaining grassroots investments, introducing new campaigns to shift attitudes, and expanding partnerships into new sectors.

The Change Fund has supported over 5,000 events, reaching more than 96,000 participants to date. Awareness campaigns, including the Power to Change, and Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes, are increasing public understanding. Ending violence against women and girls is included in the Programme for Government and remains a priority for the Executive.

We have noted the pressure on services highlighted in your correspondence, including the significant increase in referrals to North Down and Ards Women's Aid for floating support and refuge provision. When awareness raising is effective, it can increase recognition, disclosure and demand for routes into support. That is a positive sign of reach and trust, but it also brings pressures we need to understand properly.

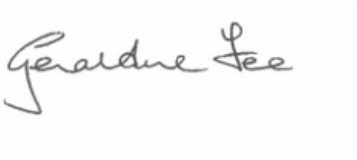
As you know, responsibility for domestic and sexual abuse services lies with the Department of Health, the Department of Justice, and the Department for Communities via the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. The Executive's EVAWG Strategic Framework does not displace or duplicate existing policy remits or funding streams. Where there is a change in demand for services funded by other Departments, it may be helpful to raise these initially with the relevant Department, who can advise on available options.

TEO's activity under the EVAWG Strategic Framework, and particularly through the Change Fund, focuses on prevention while also working closely with other Departments to consider the wider landscape, including any impact the strategy is having on support services. This is a particular focus of the cross-departmental EVAWG Programme Board, as part of a coordinated whole-of-government approach. The information you have provided, and the need you have identified for an emergency fund, will inform those considerations to ensure that the links between prevention, provision, demand and capacity are considered through the wider cross-departmental approach.

Council's comments are also noted on the level of Tier 3 funding, including the concern that current levels do not cover the cost of one additional Women's Aid worker, and the request for multi-year funding. This feedback is appreciated and will be considered as part of the funding structure review for the next Delivery Plan, within the constraints of Executive budget availability and future funding decisions.

I hope this provides assurance that Council's concerns are recognised and will continue to inform the wider cross-departmental approach to ending violence against women and girls.

Yours sincerely



Geraldine Fee
Director, Ending Violence Against Women and Girls