

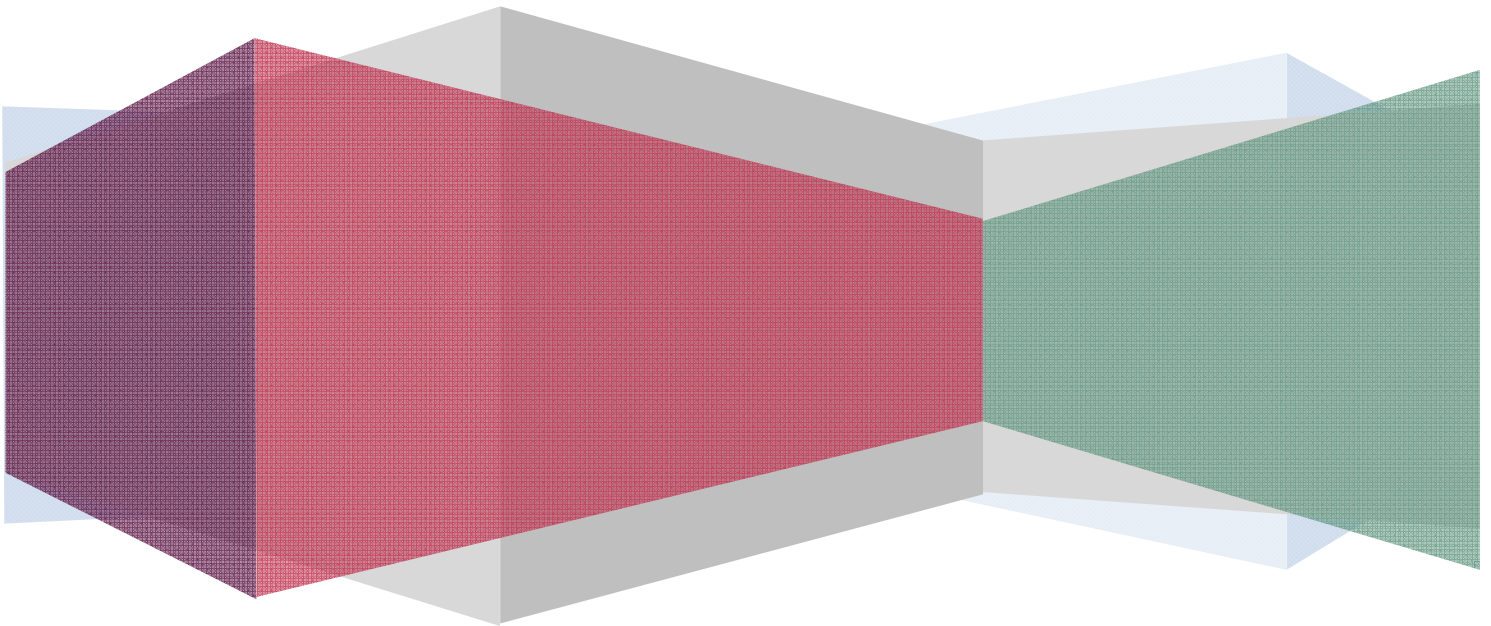
Community Places

# Community Planning is here: Get Involved!

Community Visioning Workshop

Annalong Community Centre

Friday 27 November 2015



This report was prepared by Community Places.



## **Community Planning is here: Get Involved!**

### **Community Visioning Workshops and Citizen Reporting**

This is the first in a series of three community visioning workshops taking place in the Mourne District Electoral Area, Newry Mourne and Down District Council. The visioning workshops are part of the Community Planning is here Get Involved! Project which aims to raise awareness of the new power of Community Planning and to provide opportunities for people to get involved in shaping the planning and provision of places and local services which matter to them.

Community Places, working together with Co Down Rural Community Network; Confederation of Community Groups Newry and District and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, will facilitate the Community Visioning Workshops.

The visioning workshops will offer participants the opportunity to:

- find out more about the new Power of Community Planning
- contribute ideas to improve the Mourne DEA
- discuss the role which Community Transport can play in addressing rural isolation and improving access to services
- work together with others to identify actions to make a difference.

The visioning workshops will create a space for local people and organisations; councillors; council officers; service providers and other interested individuals to discuss these issues and to work together to address them. Complementing the community visioning process participants will also be invited to take part in Citizen Reporting.

The project is supported through the Building Change Trust's Civic Activism Programme [www.buildingchangetrust.org/civic-thinking/Civic-Activism](http://www.buildingchangetrust.org/civic-thinking/Civic-Activism)

## Welcome

Nicholas McCrickard welcomed participants to Annalong Community Centre and stressed the importance of service providers, councils and local people working together to tailor services to local needs. He noted that the visioning workshop offered a unique opportunity for everyone in the room to work together to improve the local area and to contribute to the Community Planning process in the Mournes. Raymond Jackson extended the warm welcome and highlighted the important role which Community Transport can play in helping to address social and rural isolation and in improving access to services.

## Hidden Gems

Participants were asked to identify some of the 'hidden gems' within the area, responses are presented below in the form of a word cloud. The Mourne Mountains, Coastline and coastal paths and Mourne Home to Hospital Service were some of the key gems featured.



Wordle Word Cloud

## **Introduction to Community Planning**

Louise O’Kane from Community Places gave an introduction to the new power of Community Planning outlining its definition, duty of community involvement and the proposed community planning partners.

The Local government Act states: the Community Plan must identify long-term objectives and actions for:

- improving social, economic and environmental well-being and tackling poverty, exclusion and disadvantage;
- contributing to achieving sustainable development across the region; and
- planning and improving public services (Local Government Act, 2014).

Community Places describes Community planning as “a new way for councils, the community, voluntary and statutory sectors to engage with communities in working together to improve services where change is most needed.”

## **Community involvement**

In relation to community involvement Councils and their partners must seek participation of and encourage ‘persons’ (residents, service users, groups, businesses) to express views and take them into account.

## **Proposed Community Planning Partners**

The proposed statutory Community Planning Partners include:

- The Education and Library Boards
- The Health and Social Care Trusts
- Public Health Agency
- Health and Social Care Board
- Police Service of Northern Ireland
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
- Invest Northern Ireland
- Tourism Northern Ireland

Sports NI and Council Catholic Maintained Schools are expected to be added as partners.

## **Mournes District Electoral Area (DEA)**

Catherine O’Connor from Newry Mourne and Down District Council presented a detailed area profile for the Mournes DEA. Interestingly, it is the only DEA that straddles the two legacy councils and operates across two Social Care Trusts and Education Authorities. It has the longest coastline of all the DEAs stretching from Murlough down to Killowen on the shores of Carlingford Lough. It neighbours both Slieve Croob and Crotlieve DEAs.

It is represented by 7 councillors: 2 SDLP, 2 Sinn Fein, 1 DUP, 1 UKIP and 1 UUP covering the following 7 wards: Lisnacree, Binnian, Annalong, Donard, Murlough, Kilkeel and Tollymore. Catherine outlined key area facts and figures relating to Demographics; Safety; Health and Well-being; Economic Development and Regeneration; Environment and Education. The detailed presentation is available in Appendix 2.

## **The Visioning Approach**

As part of the approach to the visioning process participants in the first workshop worked together to identify the strengths and assets within the Mournes DEA and to consider the challenges which are faced by those living in or visiting the area. Detailed responses can be found in Appendix 3.



## **Strengths and Assets**

The natural beauty and amenity of the area were highlighted as a key strength and asset. This included for example, the Mourne Mountains, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Silent Valley, Murlough, Greencastle, Forest parks and Coastal paths. It was noted that the area has enormous tourism potential with quality accommodation, a variety of restaurants and access to high quality produce, but that the area is in need of improved tourism infrastructure. Several participants highlighted the history and culture of the area. Others drew attention to the good sense of community, the people, the strong community infrastructure and networking between groups, the support provided through local sports and church clubs and a strong volunteer base.



A number of participants stressed the value of community transport, specifically Mourne Home to Hospital, Newry and Mourne Community Transport, and Down Community Transport. Participants felt that community transport projects were an excellent example of partners working together to develop a local solution.

Others noted that there are a number of existing local plans that should be drawn upon. Several responses related to the good school provision within the area and employment through BE Aerospace. It was felt that there were good levels of political cooperation and support for community projects.

A number of people noted that while some areas across the Mournes DEA do have access to good services and facilitates other areas are extremely isolated and have little local service provision.



## Challenges

Infrastructure provision was highlighted as a key challenge particularly in relation to roads; street lighting, public transport; and broadband, telephone and banking services (particular issue with a majority of cash businesses). The road infrastructure in particular was identified as on the one hand a tourist asset (coastal route) and on the other an impediment to tourism development and to accessing services.

The physical location was also seen as a challenge in relation to accessing hospitals and accident and emergency, being located approximately 20 miles from health services in both Downpatrick and Newry. In addition to this it was noted that many treatments are only provided further afield in Craigavon and Belfast. It was also stressed that it was difficult for non- car drivers to get to hospital and often very expensive if they had to rely on private taxis. Others noted that the area suffers from the highest rates of cancer yet it is one of the areas furthest away from treatment.

The lack of other services including mental health services, drug and alcohol support, childcare provision, vocational training, social care and social and affordable housing were also highlighted. It was felt that poor access to such services contributed to a deep sense of social isolation. Others noted that getting information and 'the message' out to people e.g. carers' grant was also difficult and made more challenging due to the fact that two Social Care Trusts and two Education Authorities operated within the area.

Some participants felt that the existing community transport provision needs to be extended to better meet the needs of people in the area and that it could be advertised more widely to increase awareness of the service and resultant usage.

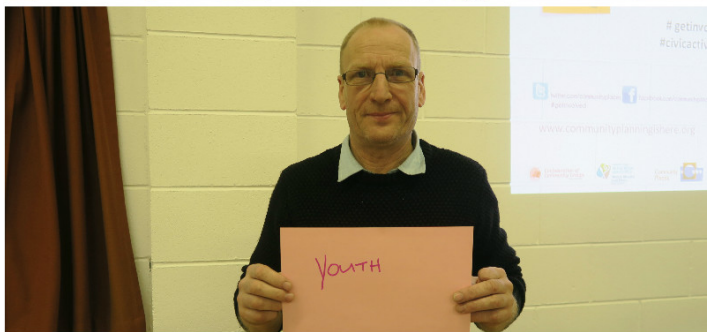
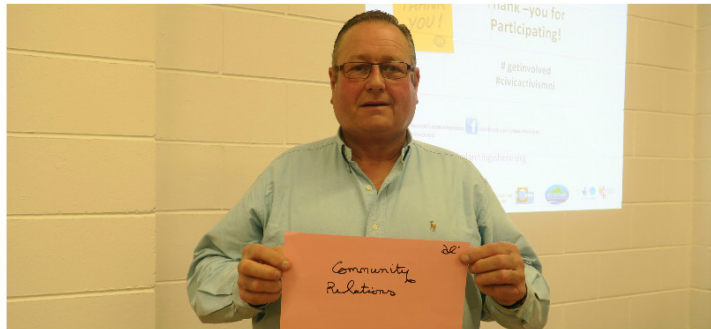
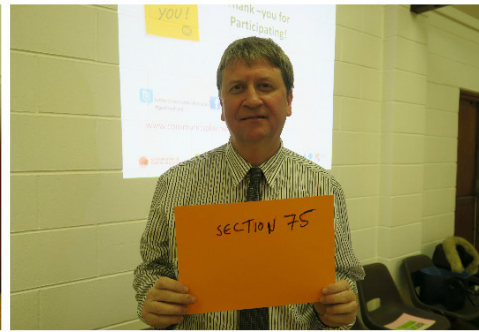
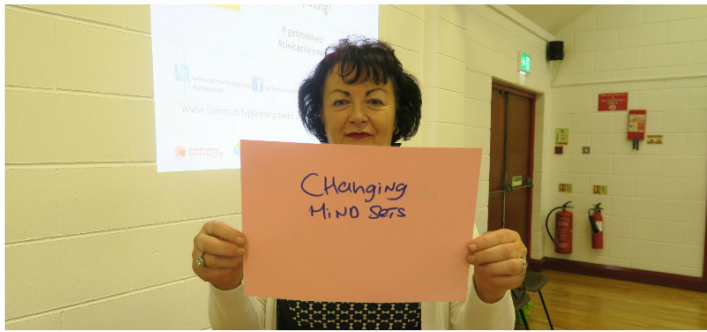
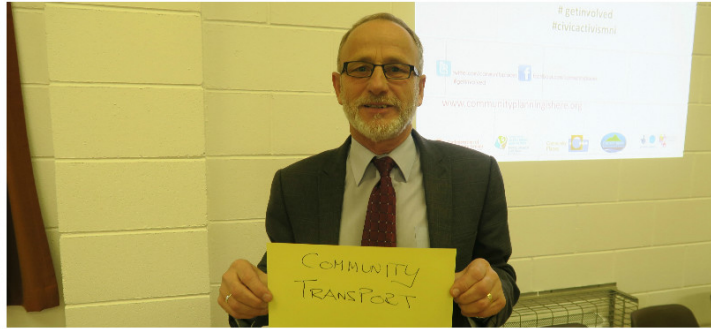
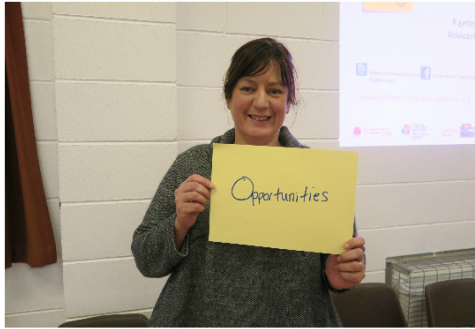
Employment was also identified as a central challenge however a number of participants noted there were job opportunities in some local industries e.g. tourism, granite, agriculture and fishing. Others felt that it was hard to get people and especially younger people involved in local activities. One participant raised the issue of segregated communities noting that the majority of areas are either predominantly Protestant or Roman Catholic.

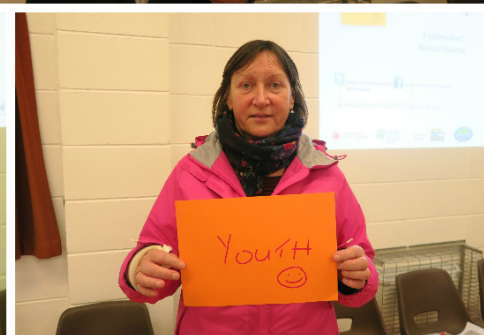
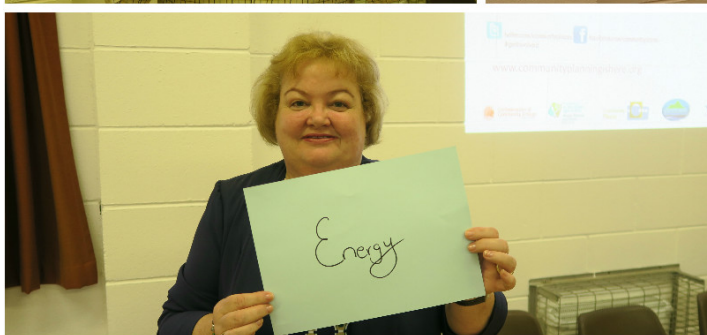
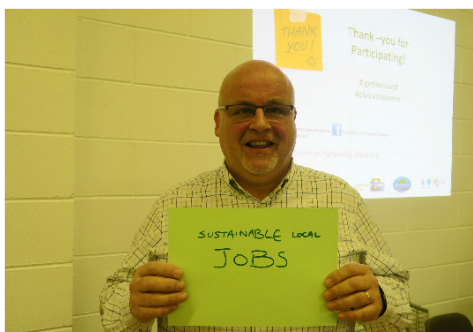
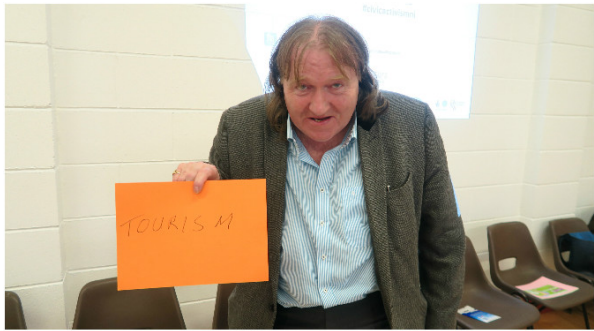
## **Citizen Reporting**

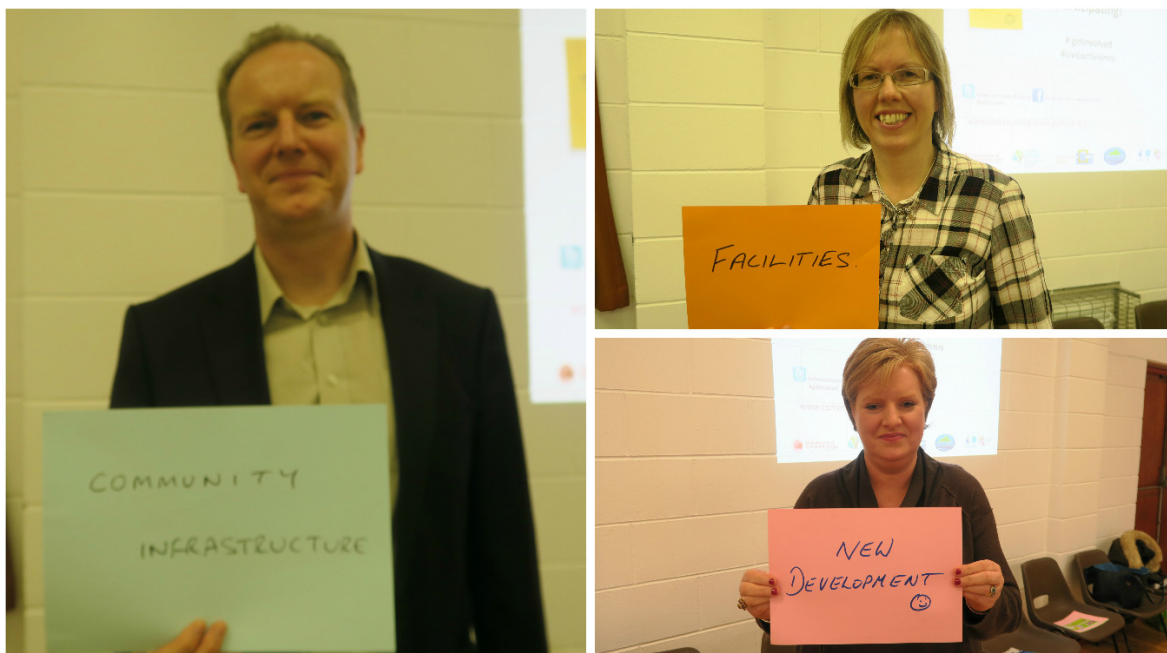
As part of the citizen reporting participants were invited to write one word which was important to them in relation to a strength, asset or challenge facing the Mournes DEA. The images are displayed below and have also been tweeted and uploaded to Facebook to highlight the issues and raise awareness.











## Next Steps

Participants were encouraged to tell other people about the opportunities to get involved in the project by traditional word of mouth and by using the project hashtags: #getinvolved and #civicactivismni on their social media accounts. The second community visioning workshop is planned for early in 2016.



## Appendix 1: List of Participants

| Name               | Group or Organisation                                 |
|--------------------|---|
| Allan Kilgore      | Annalong Community Development Association            |
| Allison Slater     | SPACE   |
| Ann Grant          | Kilcoo Community Association                          |
| Anne McArdle       | Mourne Home to Hospital                               |
| Anthony Corrigan   | Murlough Community Association                        |
| Aisling Rennick    | Newry Mourne and Down District Council                |
| Barbara Porter     | Public Health Agency                                  |
| Ben Anderson       | -   |
| Brian Groves       | Newry Mourne Community Transport                      |
| Cllr Brian Quinn   | Newry Mourne and Down District Council                |
| Catherine O'Connor | Newry Mourne and Down District Council                |
| Clare Sheils       | County Down Rural Community Network                   |
| Cllr Laura Devlin  | Newry Mourne and Down District Council                |
| Colette Burden     | Glasdrumman G.F.C                                     |
| Dan McCartan       | Glasdrumman G.F.C                                     |
| David Gordon       | Kairos Cares and Annalong Community Safety Initiative |
| David McCauley     | Annalong Community Development Association            |
| David Patterson    | Newry Mourne and Down District Council                |
| Fergal O'Brien     | Southern Health and Social Care Trust                 |
| Cllr Harold McKee  | Newry Mourne and Down District Council                |
| Ingrid Perry       | Newry Mourne Community Transport                      |
| Irene Quinn        | Ladies of Mourne                                      |

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Janine Connolly     | County Down Rural Community Network     |
| Louise O'Kane       | Community Places                        |
| Maire McKibbin      | Ballymartin GAC                         |
| Margaret Ritchie    | MP                                      |
| Margo Cunningham    | Ladies of Mourne                        |
| Marian Cully        | Southern Health and Social Care Trust   |
| Nicholas McCrickard | County Down Rural Community Network     |
| Odhrán Rodgers      | Shimna College (student)                |
| Pamela Houston      | Kilkeel Development Association         |
| Raymond Jackson     | Confederation of Community Groups Newry |
| Rosemarie McDonnell | Citizens Advice Newry and Mounre        |
| Willie Clarke       | Newry Mourne and Down District Council  |



## Appendix 2: Mourne DEA Profile presented by Catherine O'Connor NMDDC

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin  
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

www.newrymournedown.org



### BACKGROUND

The Mourne DEA is the only DEA that straddles the two legacy councils and operates across two Social Care Trusts and Education Authorities. It has the longest coastline of all the DEA's stretching from Murlough down to Killowen on the shores of Carlingford Lough. It neighbours both Slieve Croob and Crotlieve DEA's.

It is represented by 7 councillors – 2 SDLP, 2 Sinn Féin, 1 DUP, 1 UKIP and 1 UUP covering the following 7 wards:

- Lisnacree
- Binnian
- Annalong
- Donard
- Murlough
- Kilkeel and
- Tollymore

### The Mourne Community Centres

- Newcastle Centre
- Annalong Community Centre
- Kilkeel Community Centre
- Attical Community Centre

### Demographics

#### 2015 Population Estimates

|                     | The Mourne     |
|---------------------|----------------|
| All Persons         | 30,844         |
| Male                | 15,299 (49.6%) |
| Female              | 15,545 (50.4%) |
| Persons 0-15 years  | 6,961 (22.6%)  |
| Persons 16-39 years | 9,824 (31.8%)  |
| Persons 40-64 years | 9,725 (31.5%)  |
| Persons 65+         | 4,334 (14.1%)  |

### SAFETY

There were a total of 1,071 offences recorded in The Mourne DEA in the first six months of this year.

The highest recorded crime type was that of anti-social behaviour with 373 offences, accounting for 34.8% of the total.

Violent crime was the second highest offence recorded with 265 accounting for 24.7% of the total.

The Mourne had 198 offences of burglary and theft which is one of the highest recorded across the district, greater than Downpatrick, Slieve Croob, Rowallane and Slieve Gullion DEA's.

### SAFETY

Donard ward recorded the highest number of overall offences within the DEA with 346, accounting for 32.3% of the total.

Annalong ward had the lowest number of offences with 58, accounting for 5.4% of the total.

Donard recorded the highest number of offences across the DEA for criminal damage (35); vehicle offences (7); burglary & theft (54); violent crime (78); anti-social behaviour (150); public disorder (7) and Drugs (12).

Donard accounted for 40% of all ASB offences that occurred in the DEA in the first two quarters of this year.



## HEALTH & WELLBEING

Between 2009 - 2013, Newry, Mourne and Down experienced 794 incidents of cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) ranking it 4<sup>th</sup> out of the 11 councils. The incidents of cancer in The Mournes DEA were as follows:

| Ward            | Incidents of Cancer |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Murlough        | 58                  |
| Donard          | 100                 |
| Tollymore       | 67                  |
| Annalong        | 85                  |
| Binnian         | 68                  |
| Kilkeel Central | 103                 |
| Kilkeel South   | 58                  |
| Lisnacree       | 58                  |

We can see from the above table that Kilkeel Central has experienced the highest incidents of cancer during this period.



## HEALTH & WELLBEING

In 2015 there are an estimated 3,502 persons within The Mournes DEA with a limiting long term illness.

1,794 are estimated to have a chronic long term illness.

2015 estimates suggest that 1,629 persons with the DEA have an emotional, psychological or mental health condition.



## HEALTH & WELLBEING

### Domiciliary Care Services

50,426 contact hours were provided by the Southern Trust during the survey week in 2014, a reduction of 6% from 53,550 in 2013. This has changed the Trust from 2<sup>nd</sup> highest level of provision in 2013 to 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in 2014.

The Trust has a 40:60 ratio of statutory and independent care. It has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest level of statutory provision across all the Trusts.

The Southern Trust provided an average of 11.8 contact hours per client which is above the regional average of 10.4 and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest regionally.

Within the Southern Trust the number of clients in receipt of domiciliary care reduced from 4,461 in 2013 to 4,291 in 2014 (-4%).



## HEALTH & WELLBEING

The table below shows the number of carer's allowance claimants for 2014 within the wards of The Mournes DEA:

| Ward            | Carer's Allowance Claimants |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Donard          | 80                          |
| Murlough        | 140                         |
| Tollymore       | 110                         |
| Annalong        | 150                         |
| Binnian         | 110                         |
| Kilkeel Central | 150                         |
| Kilkeel South   | 160                         |
| Lisnacree       | 130                         |

We see that Kilkeel South had the highest number of carers allowance claimants in 2014 in The Mournes DEA while Donard had the lowest number.



## HEALTH & WELLBEING

### Diagnostic Waiting Lists

At 31 March 2015, 80,643 patients were waiting for a Diagnostic test across the Trusts in Northern Ireland, an increase of 16% on last year.

The Southern Trust accounted for 20.7% (16,697 patients) on the waiting list, an increase of 3,412 patients on the same time last year. The South Eastern Trust had 9,805 patients on the list representing 12.2% of the total.

In the Southern Trust 3,267 of its total patients waiting were waiting 9 weeks or longer, accounting for 14.2%. The South Eastern Trust had 2,629 patients waiting 9 weeks or more accounting for 11.4%.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

### 2015 Estimates:

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Population in paid employment               | 12,360 |
| Population economically active              | 14,283 |
| Population not in employment (16-74 years)  | 1,210  |
| Population not in employment (never worked) | 176    |

### Top 5 Employment Industries – 2015 Estimates

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1. Wholesale, Retail, Trade & Repair of Motor Vehicles | 2,357 |
| 2. Health & Social Work                                | 1,818 |
| 3. Construction  | 1,389 |
| 4. Education   | 1,313 |
| 5. Manufacturing                                       | 1,252 |



### ENVIRONMENT (SUSTAINABILITY)

| NIHE Housing Stock as at March 2014: |     | 5 Year Projected Social Housing Need: |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Newcastle                            | 278 | Newcastle                             | 150 |
| Annalong/Longstone/Glassdrumman      | 90  | Annalong/Longstone/Glassdrumman       | 4   |
| Greencastle/Ballyardle/Dunnaman      | 125 |                                       |     |
| Kilcoo                               | 12  | Kilcoo                                | 3   |
| Kilkeel                              | 187 | Kilkeel                               | 15  |

Newcastle has been identified by the NIHE as the area within Newry, Mourne and Down with the second highest projected need for social housing need, even higher than Downpatrick which is the second largest town in the district.



### EDUCATION

The figures below show the further and higher education enrollment estimates for The Mournes in 2015:

|                                      |       |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Further Education Enrollments</b> | 3,266 |
| <b>Higher Education Enrollments</b>  | 1,111 |

Higher education enrollments have been in decline these past few years while further education enrollments have been increasing. This decrease in higher education is becoming an issue for Northern Ireland as stated in the 'Success through Skills – Transforming Futures. This downward trend needs to be addressed as it impacts on many aspects including the economic sustainability of the area, the maintenance of people within the area, employment and much more.

## Appendix 3: Participant responses Hidden Gems; Strengths and Assets; and Challenges

### Hidden Gems

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mourne Coastline</li> <li>• St Mary's Church</li> <li>• Bloody Bridge</li> <li>• Annalong Harbour</li> <li>• Cornmill</li> <li>• Natural Environment</li> <li>• PHA</li> <li>• Space</li> <li>• Mill Bay and Brent Geese and wild fowl etc (should be pathways so much to learn about the place)</li> <li>• The Rock – Newcastle</li> <li>• Mourne Home to Hospital scheme</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Silent Valley or Dunny Water</li> <li>• The Coastal Route</li> <li>• Hanna's Close</li> <li>• Mourne Mountains</li> <li>• Mourne DEA (links the old councils)</li> <li>• Coastline seen from a secret location</li> <li>• Cornmill Quay Holiday and Conference centre</li> <li>• Annalong coastal path</li> <li>• Newcastle Harbour</li> <li>• Slievecroob</li> <li>• Greencastle Shoreline – Castle</li> <li>• Cranfield Lighthouse</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Castlewellan</li> <li>• Murlough (Dundrum walk old railway line)</li> <li>• The Longstone - Actual standing stone should be recognised for tourist and to other standing stones</li> <li>• Increased branding and awareness of the coastal route from Warrenpoint to Annalong</li> <li>• Mourne granite</li> </ul> |
|--|--|---|

### Group Exercise

| Group A<br>Strengths and Assets   | Group A<br>Challenges  |
|---|--|
| <p>Have an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Mourne – this needs to be developed.<br/>Great tourism potential – need better tourist infrastructure.<br/>Beautiful areas – Mill Bay, Greencastle, foot of the mountains<br/>History of the shoreline, history of the lighthouse.<br/>Culture of the area – songs, stories, music – could be improved.<br/>Mourne Mountain landscape partnership.<br/>Good community groups especially: Attical, Kingdom (Kilkeel), Glassdrumman, Ballymartin<br/>All sports clubs – Dunaviol, Attical, Ballymartin.<br/>Support for community groups through sports clubs, networks etc.</p> | <p>Poor road infrastructure<br/>High volumes of traffic on small roads – increased number of new houses built along small country roads. Dangerous and congested.<br/>Mindset of people and small communities has to change – if we are to develop Mourne for the benefit of everyone (schools, tourism).<br/>Historic community divisions<br/>Economic:<br/>– People leave area to work<br/>– Care homes closing, no hospital<br/>– Little/no investment in Mournes area.<br/>Lack of houses<br/>Difficult to get planning permission<br/>Difficult for non-drivers to get to hospital and expensive<br/>Community transport does not meet needs of people in area and does not cover urban areas.<br/>Also needs advertised better.<br/>Lack of/inadequate facilities.</p> |

| <b>Group B<br/>Strengths and Assets</b>  | <b>Group B<br/>Challenges</b>   |
|--|---|
| <p>Good relations<br/> Natural assets – Mourne Mountains, Silent Valley, Tourism<br/> Fishing industry/farming<br/> Strong CVS – good networks and groups<br/> History and culture<br/> Community groups<br/> Coastal paths/walkways<br/> Community transport- Mourne Home to Hospital<br/> Leisure centres/open spaces<br/> Existing local plans, community plans<br/> Annalong , Cornmill<br/> Chambers of Commerce<br/> Doctors (Annalong)<br/> Shops and Restaurants<br/> H&amp;SC – employment provided<br/> Good accommodation<br/> Good schools<br/> Older project (PHA, Trust and Council) SHIP<br/> 5 Pilot sites – Kilkeel – isolation</p> | <p>Employment<br/> Political co-operation<br/> Culture and language (BME)<br/> Community groups working together<br/> Funding<br/> Getting people involved (youth)<br/> Non domestic rates<br/> Getting the message out – carers’ grant (social workers)<br/> Poor infrastructure – roads<br/> Access to services<br/> Tourism<br/> Co-terminosity (lack of)<br/> Communication<br/> Mental health services/facilities<br/> ASB/Alcohol and drugs</p> |
| <b>Group C<br/>Strengths and Assets</b>  | <b>Group C<br/>Challenges</b>   |
| <p>Natural beauty/outdoor recreation<br/> Good human values – sense of community<br/> Strong skill set<br/> Variety of eating establishments/access to high quality produce<br/> Community/voluntary services<br/> Activity tourism<br/> Kilkeel leisure centre<br/> Strong sporting tradition<br/> Education (good schools)</p>   | <p>Infrastructure:<br/> – Roads<br/> – Broadband<br/> – Telephone<br/> Banking services (security – cash business)<br/> Local industry (few “good” job opportunities)<br/> Transfer - granite – supplied China<br/> Access:<br/> Health<br/> Public services<br/> Childcare provision<br/> Social care<br/> Double provision (not compatible)<br/> Poor public transport<br/> Social isolation<br/> Lack of integration</p>                           |



| <b>Group D<br/>Strengths and Assets</b>   | <b>Group D<br/>Challenges</b>  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Community Transport</b> (N&amp;M and DCT)<br/>Home to Hospital is limited to Newry and Mourne only<br/>Partnership with Translink (focus on Cranfield)<br/>Re-arrange appointment in Health Centre to maximise use of community transport<br/>Strong community infrastructure<br/>Great community assets:<br/>Annalong Community Centres<br/>Ballinran CC<br/>Attical plus many more<br/>sporting/cultural/church groups and assets<br/>Good volunteer base<br/>Physical<br/>All of the Mournes/coast<br/>Walking/tourism/pleasant place to live<br/>People live relatively close to Main Road (but the road is isolated) but some people are very isolated<br/>Political<br/>Councillors/politician will jointly support most community projects.<br/>Good project – N&amp;MCT/Annalong CC/Irish Group/CDRCN bought one bus and shared it – excellent example of local solution.</p> | <p>Segregated communities (areas are predominately Protestant or Roman Catholic) – lack of engagement by some groups<br/>Funding for most services (e.g. Community Transport)<br/>Physically Mournes is a Peninsula and Kilcoo/Bryansford are isolated from the rest – coastal road asset and challenge/virtually one road in and one road out.<br/>Access to hospital/urban services very challenging - sits in the middle of Downpatrick (20 miles and Newry 20 miles).<br/>Most regular treatments are Craigavon and Belfast (50/50%)<br/>Highest rate of cancer/furthest away from treatment<br/>Burren Meadows/170 social housing units/tightly packed and too many troubled families rehoused in one place – life is a misery for good families.<br/>Support to community groups – clarity registration/bureaucracy/funding/ideas generation/volunteer motivation.</p> |
| <b>Group E<br/>Strengths and Assets</b>   | <b>Group E<br/>Challenges</b>  |
| <p>Landscape (natural and built)<br/>Strong community infrastructure<br/>Slieve Roc House<br/>Access to education – limited<br/>Vocational training – limited<br/>Good Public Health infrastructure – but retaining is a challenge<br/>Improving tourism infrastructure<br/>Improved community relations<br/>High usage of sports facilities<br/>Sure Start<br/>Development Association – £10.50 million investment<br/>Services supplied by the Church<br/>Challenge for Business:<br/>Credit Unions/banks/Post Offices<br/>The people – entrepreneurs<br/>Be aerospace/construction/fishing</p>   | <p>Retaining funding across all sectors<br/>Isolation<br/>Access to schools and vocational training<br/>Health and access to health services<br/>Transport<br/>Street lights/poor roads<br/>Social outlets for young people/children<br/>Bureaucracy<br/>Planning<br/>Access to mental health services<br/>Leisure activities<br/>Access to information (MARA)<br/>Access to broadband<br/>Increasing visitor numbers<br/>Fear of change<br/>Shared spaces<br/>Drugs and alcohol abuse</p>   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Tourism events and attractions  |  |
| <b>Group F<br/>Strengths and Assets</b>   | <b>Group F<br/>Challenges</b>  |
| <p>Natural beauty<br/>Mourne Mountains<br/>Murlough Nature Reserve</p> <p>Forest Parks – Tollymore, Bloody Bridge, Silent Valley, Spelga Dam, Maggie's Leap's Leap<br/>Three harbours/fishing/tourism<br/>Good schools – community schools – Shimna, St Louis, St Columba's etc<br/>Kilkeel High School – most successful in UK<br/>Financial – good tourism infrastructure-<br/>Young people assets<br/>Golf courses<br/>Work – BE Aerospace<br/>Cultural Built heritage – Widow's Row<br/>Political:<br/>All parties work together – good mix of politics – cross party issues<br/>Cultural<br/>Drama – Colishe – Music<br/>Slee singer<br/>Rich Christian heritage<br/>Good place to live and work<br/>Main towns – retail/cafes/tourist shops (niche businesses)<br/>Islands park – Newcastle and Castle Park<br/>Credit Unions<br/>Agriculture sector in Mournes</p> | <p>Newcastle Beach<br/>Tourism<br/>Industry/jobs young people<br/>Affordable and Social housing<br/>Distances – Health Services – need an air ambulance<br/>Facilities young people<br/>Challenge traffic system in Newcastle<br/>Bypass Ballynahinch promised since 1950<br/>Dual Carriageway needed or decent road<br/>Downpatrick to Newry and link to services. Road infrastructure needed<br/>Broadband and rural areas poor<br/>Transport to services – remoteness e.g. health<br/>Hospital/health/A&amp;E infrastructure changes<br/>Need Newcastle leisure centre – tourist pool</p> |

For further information on the Community Planning is here: Get Involved! Project please contact Louise O’Kane, Community Places:

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[www.communityplanningishere.org](http://www.communityplanningishere.org)



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Confederation of  
Community Groups  
Newry & District



Comhairle Ceannas  
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agus an Dúin  
Newry, Mourne  
and Down  
District Council

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